

### Chapter 611 - Northmoon Arrives

Qiu Haitang originally felt extremely nervous, but she gradually calmed down as she gazed at the lantern light in the distance. Who knew how many times she had seen this sight growing up, but this was the second time she had found it so pretty.

She could still remember the first time. She was still a little girl dressed in simple clothes, leaning by the side of the roof. Amazement filled her face as her eyes shone, unable to believe such a bustling and beautiful sight existed in the world.

Today was probably the last time she saw this sight again!

In that moment, the memories of the past flooded through her head before drifting away with the night breeze. The young girl rapidly grew up into a woman like a budding willow twig, until now.

She smiled faintly. Having set aside life and death, she instead found solace. As she stood among everyone, she was like a goddess, awe-inspiring and forbidding.

The hideous grin on E Feng's face gradually grew heavier. Finally, he was unable to help himself anymore as he bent over and laughed aloud. His wild laughter was like the howl of a jackal. He spread his arms and spun around.

"Hah, tell me, just where is the wretched daemon? Didn't you say he would come and save you immediately? How come I don't even see a trace of him after so long?" Then he pressed himself into Qiu Haitang's face. "Don't tell me you were lying to us? C'mon, just admit it! Oi, little animal, how does it feel to be fooled by a woman?"

Everyone relaxed and began discussing among themselves. "Why would Northmoon come? She's only trying to keep up her appearance at the end of the day." "Forget it. This is a matter of the Sect of Clouds and Rain. This has nothing to do with us!" "But she has made commander Li look bad!"

Granny You was furious and displeased. "Children sure know how to be mischievous. Commander Li, this is an internal matter of our Sect of Clouds and Rain, so please step aside!"

Li Qingshan suddenly pointed behind E Feng and called out, "Northmoon!"

E Feng was momentarily surprised. He squinted his eyes. "Do you really think that I'm a kid? So much for using a trick like..."

Suddenly, he felt the rooftop become extremely quiet. Everyone looked in the direction Li Qingshan pointed towards before seizing up like the Freezing curse had hit them all. However, their expressions twisted and changed with alarm, fear, trepidation...

As for granny You, she was like a startled old hen. She shrank up, seeming even shorter.

E Feng slowly turned around...

Under the crescent moon, a flawlessly handsome man with scarlet hair and eyes stood on the edge of the rooftop. Even the moon seemed to be dyed red. Behind him was a resplendent sea of lantern light. His long hair and clothes ruffled in the night breeze.

Silently, the tsunami had arrived. Northmoon was here.

E Feng felt all of the blood in his body surge, but his heart immediately became icy-cold. His mouth hung agap, unable to say anything.

“Oi, woman, why’d you call me here?”

Northmoon glanced around the rooftop with his scarlet eyes before looking at Qiu Haitang.

Met with the red eyes, the cultivators all could not help but shrink back. With a swish, they cleared out a great space as if Northmoon’s gaze contained some kind of invisible spell.

“Northmoon.”

Qiu Haitang could not help but take a step over. She had no idea how to answer him. She had already prepared herself for death, yet the savior she had blurted out descended from the sky all of a sudden. She was thrown into a trance as well as if she suspected something had gone wrong with her memories from several years ago.

In the eyes of the spectators, this was obviously the behaviour of a woman meeting the lover they could only dream of, a display of emotion so intense that she could no longer control herself.

The cultivators in black were all shocked, while E Feng’s back became covered in cold sweat. He forced himself to calm down. He had to fight this battle with wit and not brute strength. He had to restrain Qiu Haitang as soon as possible and keep this wretched daemon at bay through fear!

He looked around from the corner of his eye. The heavens were smiling at him. Li Qingshan had already backed away to one side before he knew it. Qiu Haitang stood there alone, truly as delicate as a flowering crabapple. He communicated with his companions in a hurry. They only needed a single move, and they could restrain her!

Right when they were about to strike, a gust of warm wind swept past his face. E Feng widened his eyes. He felt like time had come to a standstill, with only a single person unaffected. Northmoon walked past him leisurely, arriving beside Qiu Haitang.

We can’t win! We definitely can’t win! We won’t even be able to escape! E Feng wailed inside.

Northmoon brought his hand around Qiu Haitang’s especially thin waist. “Why aren’t you talking?” He glanced at the pile of precious jewels and metals. “What’s this about?”

Qiu Haitang’s body stiffened as she opened her cherry lips slightly. As she gazed at Northmoon, her memories from a few years ago became extremely vivid. He seemed to have leapt directly out of her memories, but she was unable to read anything from his scarlet eyes.

However, having reached this point, she had no choice but to play along. She leaned against him and grumbled in a flirtatious manner, “These people wanted to force me into marrying E Dan. These precious jewels and metals were the betrothal gift...”

She told him everything that had happened patiently, going into special detail over how E Feng called Northmoon a wretched daemon. She mentioned everything and went into vivid detail over things like, "I won't be afraid even if the wretched daemon comes." and "He'll flee from the sight of my master." Although she did not tell any lies, she could not help but spice up the details, which made E Feng and the others seem even more despicable.

With each sentence Qiu Haitang uttered, E Feng and his companions would tremble. She basically attacked them with every single word. The delight of revenge flashed through Qiu Haitang's eyes. Regardless of why Northmoon had come, only death would await these people after he had heard all this!

Northmoon listened to the end silently and could not help but smile. "Oh? Now that's very interesting!" He extended his hand and touched Qiu Haitang's smooth, full cheek in a half-joking manner and said tenderly, "I've made you suffer."

"This is all just a misunderstanding. We have no intentions of opposing you, sir. Our master is great general E Dan, who has also admired you for a very long time, sir. We didn't think fellow Qiu actually had someone already. We thought she was trying to deceive us with some outrageous claims. If we've offended you in any way or form, please forgive us, fellow Qiu!"

E Feng changed his insolent demeanour in the blink of an eye, coming off as courteous. He addressed Northmoon respectfully as sir before bowing deeply towards Qiu Haitang in the end. He seemed extremely sincere, bearing absolutely no resemblance to the common thug who spoke carelessly anymore.

"Yeah, yeah. It's all a misunderstanding. I was just about to pass the position of sect master to Haitang and return to the mountains so that I could cultivate in seclusion!"

Granny You rubbed her hands and said with a smile. When Qiu Haitang told her story, she did not forget to mention her. Granny You dared not show the slightest discontent. She squeezed that old face of hers into a smile like a flower. When she looked at Qiu Haitang, she put on a pitiful guise, silently using the arts of charm.

Qiu Haitang could not help but feel, Granny You is already so old. Just how many years does she have left in her anyway? She's still my senior after all. She was only doing this for the sake of the Sect of Clouds and Rain!

Smack! There was a crisp slap.

Northmoon conveniently slapped granny You across the face. Her protective spiritual qi immediately crumbled under the powers of the Tremors of the Ox Demon. Her face twisted to one side, and her head was lifted into the air. Over a dozen teeth flew out of her mouth.

"Your smile is disgusting. Keep it to yourself!" Northmoon said restlessly.

Granny You was surprised, angered, and fearful. She clutched her swollen face and became even more afraid to attack him or smile. She murmured, "Yes, yes!"

Smack! There was another crisp slap.

Northmoon backhanded granny You. He waved his hand and said, "Forget it. You better keep smiling. You look even more hideous when you don't smile!"

The world spun around granny You. Not a single tooth remained in her mouth. She stood there awkwardly, unable to cry or smile.

Qiu Haitang returned to her senses and knew that she had been charmed. Originally, she felt very furious, but when she saw granny You's miserable state, she could not help but burst out with laughter. As she thought about how she had once swaggered around on her high horse and coerced her again and again, she felt great delight.

Smack! There was another slap.

Even the kindest of souls had a temper, let alone a mighty Golden Core cultivator. Granny You said in surprise and anger, "You- I-"

"If you like it, I can keep slapping her for you!"

Northmoon paid absolutely no attention to granny You as he spoke to Qiu Haitang softly. He was unable to imitate how King You of Zhou lit the warning beacons to fool his nobles, but slapping a person around was still very easy to achieve.

"There's no need."

Qiu Haitang lowered her head and replied softly. Her face was slightly red, knowing he was standing up for her. She was unable to describe whether this gesture had moved her or she was feeling something else. She felt slightly light-headed.

In the moment earlier, she was still being oppressed by granny You, harassed by E Feng, and cold-shouldered by everyone else, with only Li Qingshan willing to help her—when she thought up to there, she could not help but glance back, only to see that Li Qingshan had retreated far away, smiling and nodding at her.

When she looked around now, was there still anyone who did not look at her with a gaze filled with alarm? They were only afraid she would drag them into this mess with a single sentence. Even if they managed to survive through luck and only endured a few slaps, they would still be utterly humiliated. In particular, E Feng and his companions were ashen. They were as alarmed as stray dogs.

Then she saw Hua Chengzan's extremely mixed expression. She smiled brightly, no longer clinging onto him at all. She discovered she actually felt rather complacent inside. Hmph, go think about your Gu Yanying. I have someone who wants me too!

Qiu Haitang bit her lip, tugged Northmoon by the collar, and pointed at E Feng's group. "Them too!"

E Feng and his junior brothers cursed incessantly inside, calling her damn woman and wretched bitch. They smiled dryly.

"Sir, if you refuse to spare us, our master E Dan and prince Si Qing will never just let the matter be. Why must we make such a great mess out of a single misunderstanding?"

Northmoon waved his hand. "Since it's merely a misunderstanding, why don't you piss off now?"

Hearing that, E Feng and the others were overjoyed. They felt like they had just been spared. They thought, Hmph. Sure enough, he still has some qualms. This wretched daemon will definitely die a horrible death in the future! They wanted to toss out a few threats, but they were too afraid to do something like that, so they clasped their hands and turned around to leave.

Qiu Haitang was rather reluctant to simply let them go, but she did not forget it was all an act right now. If she fell out with him over something small and displeased him, it would not be worth it.

“Hold on!”

E Feng and his juniors had already arrived on the edge of the rooftop. They only needed to take a few steps forward, and they would be free, but Northmoon’s despicable voice rang out behind them. They gulped and turned around. “What’s the matter, sir?”

“You forgot your betrothal gifts!” Northmoon glanced at the pile of precious jewels and metals. E Feng’s group eased up inside and walked back over. Right when they were about to stow the mountainous pile of treasure away, they heard Northmoon say, “Wait, is this how you’re going to take it away?”

“Sir, how would you like us to take it away?”

Northmoon pointed at the pile of treasure with his chin. “Eat it!”

“What!?” E Feng exclaimed. How were they supposed to eat these gems and metals?

Northmoon smiled. “You have to eat the words you uttered, and you also have to eat the items you brought. I don’t even want to see a single sycee of silver remaining!”

PS: Woah! The dragon is so powerful! Congratulations to the envoy of the dragon, “?Precious Copernicium?”, for donating as much as three Alliance Heads, honorably elevated to Great Alliance Head and making my wish come true. Alright, I can’t go without expressing my gratitude. You know already, but I’m not made for things like mass releases and so on, but we will return to the “8 am, 6 pm” release schedule tomorrow!

## **Chapter 612 - Eat It**

Qiu Haitang immediately revealed an enchanting smile. She agreed and said, “Good idea!”

E Feng’s expression twisted. His forehead bulged with veins. “Northmoon, don’t go too far with the harassment!”

“Don’t go too far with the harassment? Are you talking about me?” Northmoon asked Qiu Haitang beside him, “Do you think I’m harassing them?”

“Of course not!”

“Then I’ll get a little more serious with the harassing. Eat it!”

Northmoon picked up a golden sycee and tossed it out casually. The mirror clone only possessed a portion of his power, but the strength of the ox demon was still terrifying despite the reduction.

The golden sycee contorted the moment he threw it out, turning into a streak of golden light and striking a cultivator in black’s protective arcane artifact before piercing through his body.

The cultivator in black lowered his head in disbelief and gazed at the hole through his chest. He let out a high-pitched cry, which was better described as out of fear than out of pain. He was not afraid of fighting others, but the feeling where he could be casually crushed had completely sapped his courage.

The golden sycee flew off into the distance, and only then did the sharp whistle arrive. Fierce wind rushed through the rooftop, and the expressions of all the cultivators changed. A single golden sycee could become a terrifying, lethal weapon in Northmoon's hands. He could butcher Foundation Establishment cultivators like how he butchered chickens.

"We'll go all out on him!" E Feng bellowed out, but there was not even a hint of confidence in his voice.

"Looks like you won't eat all of this obediently. All I can do is help you out."

A pair of beautiful, flame wings suddenly unfurled on his back. In the eyes of the spectators, he split into five in that moment, appearing beside E Feng and each of the four cultivators in black. Each figure only launched a single strike, either a convenient pat or a gentle poke.

The five cultivators in black who had leapt up to throw their lives at him all collapsed on the ground, but they were completely unscathed. Northmoon had only suppressed their spiritual qi and bodies with the power of the spirit turtle. All of them widened their eyes, completely immobilised. Their arcane artifacts and hundred treasures pouches had been taken away during the process.

E Feng was paralysed on the ground. "It's our misfortune to end up in your hands today. If you want to kill or cut us up, go ahead!"

Northmoon praised them. "Alright! I admire men like you. I won't kill you, nor will I cut you up. I just want you to eat!" He lifted up the wings of flames on his back, and the pile of precious gems and metals immediately melted away, hovering in the air and fluctuating around.

With a flick of his finger, five scorching balls of liquid gold and silver surged towards the five of them. They gritted their teeth and closed their eyes, but their lips and teeth immediately melted away as boiling heat plunged right into their chests.

The pile of treasure they had used to humiliate Qiu Haitang had instead become what hastened their deaths. Although their bodies were tough, and their life force was powerful, how could they contend with this scorching, liquid metal without using spiritual qi? Their powerful bodies only prolonged the pain.

With a hiss, white smoke rose up, and before long, a burnt smell appeared. The liquid metal poured down their throats, flowing through their bodies. Li Qingshan blew out, and the liquid metal immediately cooled and solidified, turning them into five gold and silver people.

The brutal methods of daemons made the cultivators present afraid to even let out a peep of noise. However, many of them cheered inside. So much for being arrogant and looking down on us. Sure enough, only a horrible death awaits you!

Northmoon turned around and asked Qiu Haitang, "Has that calmed your anger?"

Actually, he was calming his own anger. These mongrels called me little animal, little animal endlessly. Do you know how important it is to watch your mouth now? I'll butcher you pups and then I'll go butcher that old dog E Dan.

Qiu Haitang was extremely touched. "I'm calm now."

"Do you want this one dead too?" Northmoon pointed out, and granny You leapt up like the ground had scalded her. She cried out, "Spare me, sir Northmoon! Spare me!"

Qiu Haitang finally felt some reluctance. Even she had no idea whether this was the continued influence of the arts of charm. She bit her lip and shook her head gently.

"Let's spare her!"

Granny You was overjoyed. Northmoon arrived before her in a flash and grabbed her by the neck. With a gentle squeeze, an old head sailed through the air, calling out, "I'll take you down with me!"

She wanted to blow up her golden core, but Northmoon's other hand had already plunged into her body and fished out the golden core. Then he collected her hundred treasures pouch and shoved her corpse into his hundred treasures pouch conveniently. He wanted to save up a little as a gift for Xiao An in the future.

As for E Feng and his four junior brothers, they could stay as performance art for E Dan to study!

Then he scolded Qiu Haitang. "You sure are long in hair and short in wit. You can spare her, but will she spare you?"

Qiu Haitang said pitifully, "Then why did you ask me?"

"I was just asking around. Let's go!" Northmoon extended his hand towards her.

"Go?" Qiu Haitang seemed slightly lost.

"Don't tell me you want to stay here?" Northmoon tilted his head.

"I- I- I'll go with you!"

Qiu Haitang called out. She grabbed the hand before her, and Northmoon placed his hand around her waist, taking off into the air. She looked back, only to see the rooftop growing further away and smaller. The figures below faded away, becoming indistinct very soon. She only saw Li Qingshan waving his hand at her from afar.

The Clear River city's sea of lanterns gradually receded into the distance. Only when they arrived in the air, where the wind whistled past her ears, did she turn around and look at the side of his face. "Where are you taking me?" Her voice was so feeble that she even surprised herself.

"You'll know once we get there!"

"What are you going to do to me?"

"What do you want me to do to you?"

Northmoon could not help but smile. Qiu Haitang found his smile rather familiar, but the devilish aura inherent to daemons disguised it. She was unable to guess his real identity no matter what. Li Qingshan was straightforward, but Northmoon did whatever he pleased.

Qiu Haitang only felt her heart thump wildly, afraid to maintain eye contact with him. "I want to return to my dwelling and collect my things!"

"How troublesome. Where's your dwelling?" The two of them made a sudden turn and flew off in the south-western direction.

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Following Northmoon's departure, everyone on the rooftop could not help but let out a sigh of relief and ease up. Northmoon had not even looked at them more than he needed to from beginning to end, but his fierce, heavy aura weighed heavily on everyone's hearts.

Everyone discussed what had happened vigorously. Hua Chengzan said to Li Qingshan through his soul sense, "I hope you can take good care of her."

Li Qingshan directed all of his focus to the mirror clone, currently enjoying the sensation of Qiu Haitang's soft, delicate body. When he heard that, he only smiled. He called out, "Bring the alcohol!"

Granny You had been killed, and Qiu Haitang had left. The disciples of the Sect of Clouds and Rain were fearful and uneasy, so they did not dare to disobey Li Qingshan's order. They cleaned up the rooftop before delivering fine alcohol and delicious food. However, no one even approached the statues cast from gold and silver.

Li Qingshan raised his cup high into the air. "Everyone, the performance earlier was extremely fascinating. Let's keep drinking!"

Most of them had already lost the mood to drink after going through what happened earlier. However, when they heard Li Qingshan, they could only raise their cups, or they would come off as being scared out of their wits by Northmoon. They thought, This commander Li sure has quite the composure!

In the commandery city of Ruyi, E Dan's heart lurched. Something has happened to E Feng and the others! He immediately rushed over to the Parlour of Clouds and Rain in Clear River city.

On the rooftop, the banquet continued, except everyone seemed a little forced when it came to drinking and talking. Only Li Qingshan truly entered higher and higher spirits as he drank. He seemed like he was drinking alone, but the person who accompanied him earlier had not actually left his side. Instead, she had become even closer to him.

E Dan descended from above, destroying everyone's last bit of urge to drink. He stared at Li Qingshan viciously at first before looking at the five metal people. "What happened here? Who did this?"

There was silence. No one was bold enough to answer him. Li Qingshan stood up with a jar of alcohol in his hand and said drunkenly.

"Your disciples came looking for a wife for you. Unfortunately, fellow Qiu had already given her heart away to someone else. Your disciples went a little too far, and he came knocking, committing a bit of murder along the way, and that was how they ended up!"



“Who? Tell me exactly. I’ll definitely tear him to shreds!”

E Dan’s face was beet red, like a volcano that could erupt at any time. These disciples had all been the most capable under him. Nurturing them had not been easy either. Originally, he thought carrying out a mission like this would be a piece of cake to them, but he never thought they would end up murdered.

He did not believe that Li Qingshan was capable of such a feat. Logically speaking, if E Feng and the others worked together, they would not be entirely helpless even if they faced a Golden Core cultivator.

E Dan gave off a terrifying aura that was even stronger than Northmoon’s earlier. He was like a beast in human form, currently experiencing a fit of rage. The cultivators all worried for Li Qingshan.

Li Qingshan was unfazed. He let out a belch and spat out a name, “Northmoon! He’s probably at Moon Court lake. If you want revenge, you can probably still make it if you move a little faster!”

Liu Zhangqing could not help but sigh inside, Only those with valiance and courage can remain like this!

E Dan was very confident in his strength, but he had no confidence that he could triumph over that “Northmoon”. He could only eliminate his plan of immediately rushing over for revenge. The five contorted people of gold and silver Northmoon had left behind seemed to be mocking him. He was driven crazy by anger and resentment. With a wave of his hand, the five people were reduced to powder.

Li Qingshan comforted with a chuckle. “Sir, please calm down!”

E Dan was tempted to personally butcher this gloating little animal right now, but upon recalling Si Qing’s instructions, he held back this killing intent. I’ll let a little animal like you stay complacent for a few more days.

E Dan departed angrily. Li Qingshan lifted up his jar of alcohol and emptied it. “Now that’s satisfying! I enjoyed myself very much with the banquet today. I cannot express my gratitude for your attendance. Let’s disperse for today. We’ll get drunk together another day!”

The cultivators had long since wanted to leave. When they heard that, they complied gladly, all standing up and bidding farewell. Li Qingshan returned to the Academy of the Hundred Schools with everyone else, just in case E Dan was plotting something.

Liu Zhangqing stayed behind, but it was obviously not for some company with women. The Sect of Clouds and Rain could be regarded as one of the sects with a very deep foundation in the Clear River prefecture. They had not sustained particularly large losses during the war either, so they preserved most of their strength. Now that granny You was dead and Qiu Haitang had left, it was a good opportunity to swallow this force of cultivators.

Obviously, a leaderless group of Qi Practitioners could do nothing in response. However, Liu Zhangqing refused to go too far, as he truly was rather worried what would happen if Qiu Haitang returned to become the sect master some day!

Elsewhere, Li Qingshan returned to the academy and immediately began meditating and cultivating, as he had to concentrate on his clone. When he closed and opened his eyes again, he saw Qiu Haitang’s beautiful figure as she gathered her things.

## Chapter 613 - In the Dwelling

Li Qingshan had visited Ru Xin's dwelling plenty of times. Its layout was relatively simple and plain. There was basically no useless decoration, and the walls still had marks from being chipped away, while the chairs and tables were directly carved from rock. They only existed for one purpose, which was for the convenience of cultivation.

Despite being a woman as well, Qiu Haitang's dwelling had a completely different style to it. Although it was also carved out of a mountain, the stone walls were polished to the point where they were reflective. There were complicated and magnificent patterns everywhere, and the faint fragrance of flowers drifted through the air.

There was a thick carpet on the ground with large, delicate wooden furniture scattered throughout the different rooms in the dwelling.

Li Qingshan ignored Qiu Haitang's gaze. As if he was at home, he strolled around and opened a few cabinets, only to discover that they were mostly closets. They were divided into different types, with some specially for cloaks, some specially for dresses, and so on. If he had not witnessed it with his own eyes, he basically would have never believed there were so many different types of clothing to a woman, and she had over a hundred different pieces for each type.

Li Qingshan arrived in front of another closet. Right when he was about to open it, Qiu Haitang hurried over and leaned against it. "I've already made tea for you. Won't you just sit down and stay put for a while?"

"What's so great about tea? If you want to give me something to drink, I want alcohol!"

Li Qingshan raised his eyebrow as he spoke. Because of E Feng and E Dan, the banquet had been interrupted twice, even forced to end prematurely. He had yet to drink to his heart's content, or rather, he was in an even better mood to drink now. If there was anything more delightful than watching an arrogant enemy lose his composure out of anger, then it would definitely be personally killing the enemy.

Tonight, he had experienced both.

"Alright, I'll fetch some liquor for you."

Qiu Haitang was helpless before this powerful daemon. She could only lower her head and rummage through her hundred treasures pouch, finding a jar of spiritual alcohol and passing it to him. Li Qingshan removed the mud seal and took a few gulps.

"Are you happy now? Just go and sit down. I'm still tidying up! Ah!" Qiu Haitang felt her waist tighten as she entered his embrace involuntarily. Her proud, soft chest pressed firmly up against his chest. Although a few layers of clothes separated them, it struggled to block the wonderful sensation of softness and elasticity.

Li Qingshan waved his finger and the closet opened. He could not help but laugh aloud, as underwear filled the closet. It was no wonder why Qiu Haitang had been so nervous.

"Release me!"

Qiu Haitang became completely flushed as she struggled hard, but how could she break free? Li Qingshan only enjoyed the sensation even more as her breasts pushed against him. He casually removed a light pink undergarment from the closet. The tiny piece of clothing had been woven extremely delicately, and it was as light as silk.

He could not help but imagine how Qiu Haitang would look if she wore it. And which piece was she wearing right now? Li Qingshan lowered his head and gazed down, peering into the deep, snow-white cleavage.

“Stop touching my things!”

Qiu Haitang became even redder, and her struggle became even more intense. Her gaze was bashful and flustered, bearing no resemblance to the composure of sect master Qiu in the past, but she was more enchanting and charming than ever. Li Qingshan felt his crotch heat up and lowered his head. “If you keep moving, even I don’t know what I’ll do.”

“You- you-”

Qiu Haitang also discovered the response of a certain body part of his and immediately stopped squirming around. She felt like she had just escaped a den of wolves, only to end up in the mouth of a tiger. The vicious tiger could easily rip apart the wolves, but her situation of being a lamb to the slaughter had not changed at all. The only difference was she had voluntarily thrown herself into the mouth of the tiger.

Li Qingshan wrinkled his nose and caught a perfumy fragrance, but it also seemed slightly different from a floral fragrance. Actually, he had already caught the fragrance on her back then during the banquet when she drank with him. Originally, he thought it was from her cosmetics, but at a closer glance, she had not applied anything at all.

And, with his sharp sense of smell, the fragrance was not perfume either. Instead, it originated from her body. He buried his head into her neck, and the fragrance filled his nose. He could not help but suck in a deep breath, filling his lungs with fragrance. The tip of his nose and his lips made contact with her neck, which was as soft and smooth as jade.

He was like a vicious tiger gently sniffing a flowering crabapple. As a matter of fact, he was even afraid to use too much strength, just in case he destroyed the gentle petals. Suddenly, her body trembled slightly.

Li Qingshan raised his head, only to see her eyes firmly shut and her long eyelashes trembling like tiny fans. He could not help but smile. “It’s not like I’m going to eat you. What’re you afraid for?”

Qiu Haitang opened her eyes. “I’m not afraid!”

Li Qingshan brought the jar of alcohol to her lips with a smile. Qiu Haitang turned her head away stubbornly. Her large eyes became misty. Originally, she thought he would continue with trying to get his way with her, but she never expected him to release her. Li Qingshan smiled.

“You’re already a full-grown adult, so why’re you still crying like a little girl?”

"I originally thought you were a good daemon, but I didn't think... I didn't think you'd be so despicable. You're basically no different from that E Dan!"

Qiu Haitang covered up her neck and became bright red. She thought of when they first met. Back then, she had also been in dire straits, and he descended from the sky and saved her, even going as far as to console her emotions, nothing like what he did right now!

"Surely I'm a little better than E Dan? Go tidy up your things!"

Li Qingshan smiled and casually shoved the undergarment into his clothes. Lifting up the jar of alcohol, he continued to idle around. The dwelling was extremely large. He climbed up the steps, passed through a circular doorway, and arrived before the door to the highest room.

Opening the door, silver moonlight flooded the entire place. He could see the moon and stars in the night sky when he raised his head. The ceiling was made from a piece of transparent crystal that had been specially forged. As such, the sky was visible, but it was impossible to peer inside.

There was a soft bed in the centre of the room. This place must have been used for resting and cultivation.

Li Qingshan rested his head on his arms and crossed his legs, laying back on the bed. He sipped his alcohol as he gazed at the sky, his mind drifting very far away.

A while later, Qiu Haitang returned. "I've gathered everything. We can go now!" She pouted slightly as she seemed rather displeased. She thought, Apart from him, no one else can protect me. I have no choice but to follow him. However, she refused to admit she felt a little eager inside. Even she had no idea what she was eager about.

"What're you in such a hurry for?" The starry sky left Li Qingshan entranced.

"If we stay here, E Dan might catch up to us. He's probably already learnt about E Feng and his disciples' deaths." Qiu Haitang arrived before him.

"Then that would be for the best. Don't worry. As long as I'm here, no one will be able to hurt you." Li Qingshan suddenly tossed aside the jar of alcohol. He pulled her into his arms, rolling over and pressing down on her delicate body, whispering into her ear as he laid on top of her. His desires blazed brightly in his body.

"You might have saved me, and I have no other choice but to follow you right now, but if you want to humiliate me forcefully, I'd rather die!" Qiu Haitang shut her eyes as if she was ready to lay her life down for a just cause.

Li Qingshan found this to be extremely interesting. He held her chin. "Do you think you can die just because you want to? I said no one can hurt you, which includes you yourself!"

"Are you going to stand by your word?" Qiu Haitang suddenly opened her eyes, glistening from the moonlight.

"Of course!"

"Then what about you?"

“What about me?”

“What if you hurt me?”

Li Qingshan smiled. “How could I bring myself to?”

“But you’re hurting my heart right now.”

“How witty of you!”

Li Qingshan laughed involuntarily, pinching her nose and restraining his desires. He rolled over to the side and placed his arm around her shoulder, pulling her into his arms. “Am I still hurting your heart like this?”

Seeing how it was effective, Qiu Haitang felt slightly complacent inside, but she also understood if he truly wanted to unleash his powers in bed, a few words would never be enough to stop him. She could only lean against his shoulder obediently and think to herself, I’m just making do like this so that I don’t irritate him.

The room was silent. Li Qingshan gazed at the stars and began thinking about beyond the Nine Heavens again. He had no idea what kind of place that was. He thought of brother ox and Xiao An and wondered if they were well right now. In the end, the sky full of stars turned into Han Qiongzhi’s furious face, and he thought to himself, Qiongzhi, oh Qiongzhi. You gave me permission to visit the Parlour of Clouds and Rain anyway, though all I did was find the sect master to accompany me.

In the end, his thoughts returned to the present. E Dan and Si Qing were both great enemies of his. He had to increase his cultivation as quickly as possible. He would spend half a day at most with the matters of the academy before going to find Ru Xin and study the meaning of water with her.

Qiu Haitang opened her eyes, gazing at his face that was in thought. Gradually, she no longer objected to this posture, instead finding some peace.

“Why did you come to the Parlour of Clouds and Rain?” Qiu Haitang broke the silence and asked the question that weighed the heaviest on her mind.

“It was a coincidence.” Li Qingshan smiled.

“How was it so coincidental?” Qiu Haitang was unconvinced.

“I knew the new Marquis of Ruyi had arrived, so I’ve always been investigating him. I learnt you were harassed in the marquis’ estate and specially came to comfort you.”

Li Qingshan came up with some lies without much thought, but never did he think Qiu Haitang would be extremely convinced. She was touched. She pressed a little closer to him, “I didn’t think you’d still remember me. I thought you forgot about me long ago.”

Li Qingshan smiled inside as he said tenderly, “But it seems like you’ve already replaced me with someone new, so all I can do is watch on and protect you in secret.”

“Someone new? Since when?” Qiu Haitang widened her eyes as if she had been wrongly accused. When she heard how he had been secretly watching on and protecting her, she felt slightly touched.

“Didn’t you attend to the man beside you very eagerly?” Li Qingshan put on a jealous act.

“You’re talking about Li Qingshan? You don’t have to think too much about it. He’s my saviour. He risked his life for me and offended E Dan. I only felt sorry for him, so I held a banquet to thank him. I don’t feel anything else towards him. When I first met him, I wanted to kill him very much, you know?”

Then she mentioned how she became acquainted with Li Qingshan. She did not even hide the matter of him killing Wei Zhongyuan for her. Even Qiu Haitang herself had no idea why she explained everything so seriously, but when she saw how discontent he was, she could not help but smile. She no longer felt angry over how he took advantage of her earlier.

“In other words, I need to properly thank him too!”

Li Qingshan was originally joking, but he felt rather strange inside after everything she had told him so far. He could tell that Qiu Haitang truly had no interest in Li Qingshan at all. Instead, she held special feelings towards Northmoon, someone she had not seen many times at all.

Logically speaking, it had been a piece of cake for Northmoon to save her, but Li Qingshan had truly risked his life.

#### **Chapter 614 - Heart of Rouge, Thread of Lovesickness**

Li Qingshan could not help but sigh. The thoughts of women sure were unpredictable!

In truth, this was normal. When Qiu Haitang first met Li Qingshan, not only did she oppose Li Qingshan, but he was still a teenager. He seemed like a crude child from the countryside, so why would she think like that?

On the other hand, Northmoon had appeared when she experienced the greatest pain and was the weakest. He had presented himself as a young man of flawless handsomeness, and he played the role of “a friend of women”. Afterwards, the two of them worked together to destroy the Green Vine mountain, an event filled with excitement and romance. As a result, he left behind the deepest impression possible.

Qiu Haitang grumbled, “What’s that got to do with you? Even if he has to be thanked, it’s me thanking him. I’ve already promised to pledge myself to him to pay him back.”

“Then would you like me to send you over so that you can complete your promise?” Li Qingshan pulled with some force and Qiu Haitang laid on him. She turned her head away. “Whatever you want. I’m long in hair and short in wit anyway, and I have no free will either!”

Li Qingshan found this funny inside. Women sure could be petty. His face stiffened. “I think I better just kill him.”

Qiu Haitang said in a hurry, “Don’t! I owe him for his kindness!”

“It’s got nothing to do with me anyway.”

“Fine, it’s got something to do with you. Are you happy now? Thank him however you want to thank him, but you can’t harm or kill him!”

Qiu Haitang was truly afraid he would do something like that. He had been butchering people during both times they met, while the name "Northmoon" had never brought on a gentle, kind-hearted impression in the eyes of the cultivators. Instead, it represented flagrance and slaughter, where he was capable of anything once he lost his temper.

"That won't work. I'll be the one losing out otherwise." Li Qingshan set up a trap to lure her in.

"What do you want to do?"

Li Qingshan smiled. "I want you to properly thank me first, and then I'll give him some benefits. After all, you can't call that humiliating me forcefully or hurting your heart!"

"That's exactly what you're doing. You're using my words against me. You're saying all of that just to..." Qiu Haitang grumbled, thoroughly experiencing the craftiness of daemons. She had shut him off earlier, so he turned around and twisted her words against her.

"Just to what? Love between a man and a woman, assimilation between yin and yang, is perfectly justifiable. That's something you said!"

"I didn't."

"You just won't admit it, won't you?"

Li Qingshan raised his head and kissed Qiu Haitang's lips. He discovered that not only were not stiff, but they were so tender that they seemed like they could break from the slightest touch.

Qiu Haitang widened her eyes. She had no idea what to do. Who knew how many times she had witnessed something like this in the Parlour of Clouds and Rain already, but it was the first time she had experienced it personally. She felt like she had received an electric shock. Her entire body grew numb.

Li Qingshan did not go too far. He asked with a smile, "How does it feel?"

Qiu Haitang's mind was in a mess. She was unable to control herself, so how could she still answer him? Li Qingshan kissed her again, directly parting her lips and entangling his tongue with hers. Qiu Haitang was thrown into an even greater disarray, collapsing limply on Li Qingshan. Kissing until they were aroused, Li Qingshan placed a hand on her breasts that were so full that they seemed like they were about to rip her clothes, struggling to get a good grip over the sheer size. He smiled. "Let's see whether I've hurt your heart or not."

"Don't!"

Qiu Haitang grabbed his hand. Li Qingshan was already aroused, so he could no longer care so much anymore, but when he saw the pleading gaze in her eyes, he could not help himself as his heart softened. Harassing a feeble woman because of his momentary urges was not something a proper man would do. He had taken advantage of her already anyway, so he scooped up Qiu Haitang.

"Looks like no one's coming. Let's go!"

Leaving the dwelling, Li Qingshan did not travel off in the direction of Moon Court lake. Instead, he arrived in a mountain range, within a tranquil valley. There was a beautiful, little lake in there.

When Li Qingshan discovered this place when he was refining bodies of water, he found the scenery very nice, and the spiritual qi here was quite dense. It was not suitable for establishing a sect, but it was extremely suitable for carving out a dwelling and cultivating alone.

Li Qingshan made Qiu Haitang wait on the shore as he dived into the lakewater. A while later, the surface of the water parted into two, presenting a path. Qiu Haitang entered the lake through the path, following it until she reached the very bottom.

She only saw that a huge space had been hollowed out at the bottom of the lake. The ceiling was made out of the huge piece of crystal originally in Qiu Haitang's dwelling, so she could see the rippling light and swimming aquatic life when she raised her head.

Li Qingshan spread his arms and smiled. "How is it?"

Qiu Haitang was happy with it inside, but she said, "It's like a prison. I'm going to suffocate to death."

"Being in prison is still better than being someone's concubine, right? Isn't that cultivation in the first place? If you had cut out some of your random thoughts and properly focused on cultivation, you wouldn't have been so weak!"

"I'm still not..."

"You're still not what?"

Li Qingshan asked mischievously. He did feel a little like he was keeping a secret mistress. However, he probably would not have too much time to pay "visits" to this beautiful mistress, not to mention this beautiful mistress did not want any "visits" from him either.

"Hmph, nothing!" Qiu Haitang snorted coldly and did her best to recover her composure from when she was sect master Qiu.

"Here, take it!"

Li Qingshan took our granny You's hundred treasures pouch and golden core and handed it to her. He had glanced through the hundred treasures pouch, but there was nothing that caught his eye. She was not even as wealthy as E Feng and the other Foundation Establishment cultivators. Granny You had persisted for many years before finally making it to Golden Core, so any resources that she had would have been mostly consumed already. After becoming a Golden Core cultivator, she had been finished off before she could even build up anything.

The golden core could not truly be regarded as a "golden" core. Instead, it was completely pink and slightly gentle and charming in appearance. It was not a regular golden core. Instead, it was like the Ocean pearl that the Arts of the Boundless Ocean could condense, a special golden core condensed from a special cultivation method. With how unrelated their elements were, it would not bring much benefits even if he ate it.

Qiu Haitang was rather surprised. According to her knowledge, the golden core condensed from the Major Method of Clouds and Rain was not like this. If she refined it blindly, it would definitely lead to only detriment. Granny You must have had a fortuitous encounter elsewhere, so she shook her head. "I don't want it."



Their relationship right now was already rather strange. If she accepted something so precious from him, then she really would seem like a concubine.

“Cut the nonsense. I told you to take it, so just take it! If you dare to speak up to me again, I’ll give you a thorough spanking!” Li Qingshan glanced at her plump bottom that propped up her dress. It definitely would be quite the sensation, which instead made him rather eager for her to talk back. As it went, “Don’t say that I didn’t warn you”.

Under his scarlet eyes shining with a nefarious light, where would she find the courage to talk back? Shee accepted the golden core and hundred treasures pouch, which instead left Li Qingshan slightly disappointed.

In the end, Li Qingshan gave her a jade tablet and imbued it with a sliver of his soul sense. “It’s relatively reclusive here, and you’re protected by formations, so you shouldn’t be in any danger. If you really do face any critical issues, crush it. Even if I can’t rush over immediately, I’ll mobilise the water immediately and help you fend off the enemy. This is called helping someone to the end.”

“Will you be leaving?” Qiu Haitang suddenly became rather reluctant to see him go.

“If I stay for any longer, I can’t guarantee that I won’t do anything to you.”

Li Qingshan shrugged with a smile. He leapt up and shot out of the lake water without even looking back, unfurling his wings and taking off into the air.

Qiu Haitang gazed upwards for a while before lowering her head and sighing. She thought, If you could stay here forever and accompany me, so what if I let you do whatever you want to?

The moment the thought occurred to her, she leapt in fright. However, upon further thought, she realised that even if it were against her will, she would not allow a man to force himself on her. Even if it did happen, she would not feel a hint of resentment or blame either. She would only blame him for leaving too decisively and too heartlessly.

She refused to think too much about it. She cast down the formations first before arranging her new home under the lake and nodding in satisfaction. Although it was a little small, she did not have to bother with the matters of the Sect of Clouds and Rain anymore, nor would there be anyone to disturb her. Like he said, this was a good place to cultivate in peace.

Sigh, what am I thinking of him again for? He might not even come back in the future. She could not help but sigh inside, but immediately, another voice leapt out, He didn’t get his way today, so he’ll definitely come back. Hmph, men- no, male daemons!

Even if he does return, so what? With how he does whatever he wants, how can he be tied down by a mere woman? One voice said.

Aren’t you a little too unconfident in yourself? Didn’t he specially come to see you and feel jealous because of you? He came both times to save you from danger. You’re fated to be together! The other voice argued.

The two voices made a racket by themselves. Qiu Haitang lowered her head and checked granny You’s hundred treasures pouch. “Hmm? What’s this?” A pink jade slip appeared in her hand. Jade slips like

these were mostly used to record cultivation methods. The last thing that Li Qingshan lacked was cultivation methods, so it obviously did not catch his attention.

Qiu Haitang remembered the strange golden core that belonged to granny You. She shut her eyes and gathered her focus, directing her soul sense into the jade slip. Much later, she opened her eyes and became amazed.

As it turned out, the cultivation method was called the Heart Dyeing Art of Rouge. It was even more profound and wondrous than the Major Method of Clouds and Rain. The foundation of the Major Method of Clouds and Rain was still based on sexual intercourse and dual cultivation. The arts of charm were merely an extension of its functions. Both men and women could practise the cultivation method.

However, only women could practise the Heart Dyeing Art of Rouge, and it inherently came with an ability to charm.

Rouge was originally what mortal women smeared on their cheeks and lips, cosmetics that accentuated their beauty. However, unrivalled beauties like Qiu Haitang who were born attractive had naturally-painted lips and faces like flowers blooming in spring in the first place. Cosmetics instead became unessential.

However, the Heart Dyeing Art of Rouge was as its name suggested. It was like it applied rouge to the heart, increasing a woman's charm from their very basis. The further they cultivated, the more charming they would become. Even if they did not purposefully use arts of charm, they could still mesmerise everyone and everything. The golden core condensed was known as the Rouge Heart.

Simply avoiding sexual intercourse as a requirement had solved the greatest problem Qiu Haitang currently faced. She was reluctant to give her chaste to someone so easily, so she had never had a cultivation partner. She did not have to worry anymore with this cultivation method.

"It's no wonder granny You managed to undergo the heavenly tribulation successfully despite being so old and being in secluded cultivation alone. It's all thanks to this cultivation method!"

However, granny You had already become too old, so she was unable to unleash much of the cultivation method's charms anymore. On top of that, she confronted Li Qingshan who practised the Spirit Turtle's Method of Sea Suppression, so she was unable to escape death in the end.

To Qiu Haitang's joyous surprise, the Heart Dyeing Art of Rouge also recorded a few techniques with wondrous effects: Gentle Hands of Red—with merely a gentle wave of the hand, the opponent's body would become limp and immobilised; Rouge Beauty—the moment it was used, even the most vicious enemies, regardless of men or women, could not hurt or harm the user.

In hindsight, Qiu Haitang must have fallen for this move. She had never been a particularly softhearted person. After all, she had ordered Wei Zhongyuan's death without even batting an eye. Granny You who she was not even familiar with had coerced her into such a horrible position, yet she still could not help but speak for her when her life was at stake.

The technique that interested Qiu Haitang the most was called, "Lovesickness Dyes the Thread Red". With your chaste as the medium, it could only be used once in your life, but it could make a man fall deeply in love with you for the rest of his life, regretlessly infatuated and longing for you tirelessly.

Even forged steel would wrap around your finger at your whim. Even the unromantic would become the romantic!

### **Chapter 615 - The Meaning of Water**

Don't tell me this is the exact technique little Hua has fallen for with Gu Yanying?

Qiu Haitang shook her head and dismissed this absurd thought. Not only would the technique blind the man with love, the woman would be the same. If she still refused to be lovesick, the red thread would fade in colour, and she would waste her only opportunity for nothing.

She sank into her thoughts again. She could only use this technique once in her life, so she had to be extremely prudent. She became slightly excited inside. They all say that those who possess the Aspect of Peach Blossom Beauty never have their love reciprocated and will die in melancholy. I don't believe this at all. Master, oh master, watch as Haitang breaks this predestined fate!

If she had obtained this cultivation method a few years ago, she definitely would have used it on Hua Chengzan without the slightest hesitation, but it took her quite a lot of thought before she could make any decision now. After thinking long and hard, she decided to not think about this for now. She would grasp the cultivation method first.

Originally, changing her cultivation method was not this easy. However, the Major Method of Clouds and Rain and the Heart Dyeing Art of Rouge had many similar aspects. They both involved Profound Yin spiritual qi, and she happened to have a Rouge Heart in her possession.

Hmph, Northmoon, if you ever dare to force yourself onto me, don't even think about getting away scot-free, without taking any responsibility!

Qiu Haitang smiled proudly and immediately sat down. She held the Rouge Heart in her hand and began practising the Heart Dyeing Art of Rouge.

Gradually, a dense, red light spread out, permeating her surroundings and making the pitch-black bottom of the lake an extremely magnificent place.

.....

On one side, Li Qingshan controlled his mirror clone to continue refining the rivers and lakes of the Ruyi commandery. In the past, he had refined many large rivers and lakes, but he had done so in a hurry. Now, he was carefully experiencing the process. He wanted to refine all the bodies of water within the Ruyi commandery so that he could make preparations for breaking through to the fifth layer of the spirit turtle and the second heavenly tribulation.

On the other side, he spent half a day dealing with the majority of the matters in the academy before going to the school of Medicine to find Ru Xin.

In the alchemy room, Ru Xin had already refined the Jade Melting cauldron. She was currently refining a cauldron of pills, but her eyebrows were slightly furrowed. She seemed rather uneasy. Suddenly, she heard Li Qingshan calling for her outside, so she stood up and opened the door. A smile immediately appeared on her face.

“Congratulations, congratulations! Sir, you’ve conquered another beautiful woman! You’ve found your partner for life now!”

For once, Li Qingshan heard something that was not so horrible from her, but the sneer on her face was basically as clear as day. He could not help but smile. “Yeah. You have no idea. Her figure and her voice...”

Ru Xin interrupted him. “Then why have you come here?”

“Stop making me explain all the time. Didn’t we agree on it?”

“Tsk, looks like you didn’t end up getting your way.”

“I’m not as lustful as you think I am!”

Li Qingshan was not boasting with that. If he truly were lustful in nature, then the night roamers had all those women for him to enjoy. There was so much variety in type and age that even a harem of three thousand paled in comparison.

As long as the night roamers developed properly, he could easily sleep with a different one every day without doubling up, all the way until the end of time. However, if he spent all his time and energy on this, that would simply be stupid.

Ru Xin could not help but admit that too. Even the weaker Qi Practitioners of the academy would often do things like going drinking with women. It truly was anything but strange for them to have a few consorts outside the academy. Li Qingshan could already be considered as rather self-disciplined in this respect.

“Let’s go then, you lustless man!” Ru Xin stowed her cauldron away. She no longer had to attend to the cauldron at all times now.

“To where?”

“Obviously to a place of cultivation!”

Ru Xin took off into the air, and Li Qingshan followed closely behind. They left the academy and arrived in the sky.

Ru Xin shut her eyes as if she was sensing for something. A while later, she determined her direction and flew off towards the south.

Li Qingshan gazed into the distance. The horizon was a line of black clouds.

Gentle drizzle drifted down from the dark skies, swept about by the wind like white mist, silently nourishing the earth.

Ru Xin descended and landed on open plains. The verdant, green grass reached all the way up to her waist.

“So you were looking for a place with rain!” Li Qingshan landed close behind her.

“This is the first lesson!”

Ru Xin extended her right hand. The drizzle in the surroundings revolved and danced around, gathering in her hand and forming a white ball of water.

“How difficult can that be?”

Li Qingshan raised his hand, and all the drizzle within three hundred meters of him was violently drained away, forming a semi-spherical space without a single droplet of rain and condensing into a huge ball of water in his hand.

As long as he wanted to, even draining all the drizzle within five kilometers of him would not be difficult. In terms of control over water, even Ru Xin, a merfolk, paled in comparison.

“You idiot, not like that! Look closely!”

Ru Xin brought the white ball of water before Li Qingshan. Li Qingshan discovered that every single droplet of rain was flying around, but they did not merge together. They seemed to be dancing about randomly, but they did not collide even a single time.

Ru Xin’s gaze drifted like the light drizzle as if she had entered an extremely deep recollection.

Li Qingshan tossed away the huge ball of water and extended his hand again, gathering the drizzle once more. He discovered that maintaining the overall shape of the ball while maintaining the trajectories of the thousands of droplets of water at the same time was not easy.

“Let’s go!” Ru Xin casually tossed her ball of water at his face. It turned into mist mid-air and flooded Li Qingshan’s face. The moment he felt some of the moisture, the ball of mist dispersed. He asked in surprise, “Let’s go? But you haven’t even said anything yet.”

Ru Xin said, “What do you want to hear from a lesson that doesn’t even cost you a dime?”

Li Qingshan curled his lip. “How much do you want?”

“Forget about it. Hold onto that thing in your hand!”

Ru Xin took off and arrived in a small, fenced courtyard on the edge of a village. A guard dog barked madly at her. She shot a glance at it, and it immediately whimpered, scurrying back into its kennel with its tail between its legs.

Afterwards, she pointed at the tank of water in a corner and shot a glance at Li Qingshan in the same way. “Stick your head in there!”

“What kind of cultivation is this? I’ve even seen many large rivers and lakes, so what can a tank of water do? Don’t even think about fooling me!”

Ru Xin smiled, or more accurately, she forced out a smile. “Immediately!”

Li Qingshan stared at her for quite a while before walking over to the water tank helplessly and plunging his head in there.

In the house, a farmer’s wife with a kitchen knife in her hand had peered through the crack in the door fearfully and saw a strange sight. A woman in white as beautiful as a goddess stood in the centre of the courtyard as a large man plunged his head into the water tank.

Much later, Ru Xin knocked the side of the water tank and smiled. "Let's go!" She still did not give any explanation.

Li Qingshan rushed here and there with Ru Xin, witnessing all kinds of water, from wells to puddles, from small trickles to deep pools.

Only the ball of water that Li Qingshan still held in his hand since the very beginning felt a little like cultivation. The rest was all performance art, or more accurately, being fooled.

For example, the well he leapt in was actually a dry well. He said, "There's no water in here at all!" Ru Xin answered, "Exactly because there's no water." before sealing the well for a whole day. As Li Qingshan sat at the bottom of the well, he was even prepared to commit murder.

If anyone else dared to fool him like this, he would have smashed their heads in with a punch long ago. However, although Ru Xin's various demands truly seemed no different from performance art, very stupid and very pointless, they also seemed to be hiding great meaning.

For the sake of his great cause of cultivation, Li Qingshan could only put up with it.

He felt like Ru Xin seemed to be in a rather bad mood. She did not even joke around, her face overcast. Only when he finished cultivating, or in other words, when he had been successfully fooled, would she let out a smile as if the clouds had cleared up.

Of course, he was not a romantic who was willing to do various stupid things to make a beauty smile. All of this was for the sake of cultivation. Yep, exactly that! Even if he found the smile quite nice, he was only playing his role as her friend.

Several days later, under the dripping eaves of a ruined mountain temple, Ru Xin sat on the stone steps and propped up her face, gazing at the gloomy skies in a silent trance.

Li Qingshan sat beside her, gazing at the droplets of water. Just like all their predecessors, they landed on the groove in the tiles and were smashed to pieces.

And what was the meaning of this performance? She still did not explain it.

Li Qingshan listened to the sound of rain. His mind gradually settled down, and he recalled the various kinds of water he had come across during the past few days.

The water trapped in the tank silently seeped through every crack. The bottom of the dry well was filled with moisture. The deep pool seemed bottomless at first glance, while the muddy and shallow puddles clearly reflected the sky, as well as her face.

Ru Xin suddenly stood up and yawned. "Alright, it's about time to go back."

"Just what is the meaning of all this?" Li Qingshan could not help but ask.

"How would I know?" Ru Xin shrugged.

"In other words, you admit you spent the last few days fooling me!" Li Qingshan pushed closer to her in a confrontational manner.

"Do you know what you mean to me?"

“Huh?” Li Qingshan was taken aback, and his feet stopped.

“It’s just like how I don’t know what I mean to you either. Water has no fixed form, just like how all is impermanent. All I can do I get you to see and feel. As for the meaning, all you can do is ask yourself and look at your own hand.”

Li Qingshan gazed at the ball of water in his hand. Under Ru Xin’s request, he had maintained it the entire time. Before he knew it, it already began showing signs of stability. There was still a difference compared to Ru Xin’s, but he had already improved a lot.

“I’ll admit you have a point!”

Ru Xin quietened down. “Those words weren’t from me. My mother told me that!”

“Your mother!? Did she also make you plunge your head into a water tank or lock you up in a dry well?” The actual question Li Qingshan wanted to ask was not this, but he was unable to bring himself to ask that when he saw her expression.

“Why would my mother play tricks on me!?” Ru Xin stared at him in surprise like he was an idiot.

Li Qingshan rolled his eyes before smiling gladly. She’s finally back to normal at least.

Ru Xin suddenly took out a neatly-folded Communication talisman. She listened quietly for a while and said, “My master is calling me. Hmm? Chu Tian is awake!”

“I better see for myself too then!”

Li Qingshan smiled. He also knew that cultivation was not something that could be accomplished in a single stroke. Since he had already seen what he needed to see, what he needed to do next was comprehend in peace and search for the meaning within.

The two of them took off into the sky together. When they passed through the clouds, Li Qingshan suddenly asked, “If you don’t tell me, of course I wouldn’t know what I mean to you. And, if you want to know what you mean to me, you can just ask me. People aren’t water. They can help one another to understand!”

Above the clouds, the sun shone brilliantly as the blue sky stretched as far as the eye could see. The pure-white sea of clouds rose and fell, extending into the horizon.

Ru Xin was mildly taken aback. She smiled resplendently. “Perhaps!”

## **Chapter 616 - Awakening**

In the stack room under Benevolence island, Chu Tian floated in the Water of Recollection and shone with a faint glow; he seemed like a soaked sea sponge. His sea of consciousness that was as disordered as stagnant water began to bubble and surge with waves, churning forcefully.

Suddenly, Chu Tian’s eyes opened once again, gazing into the darkness before him. They were no longer hollow and empty, shining with a hint of intelligence.

Where is this?

Thunk! In struggle, he threw a punch at the glass, followed by a second punch, a third punch... His fist became a bloody mess very soon as blood spread through the faint, blue Water of Recollection.

Crack! The glass fractured! His strikes became even more forceful as the cracks rapidly spread. In the end, the glass shattered with a whoosh. The Water of Recollection poured out, and he fell onto the ground. He wanted to prop himself up, but he felt feeble for a moment, unable to move at all.

The light in the passageway approached from the distance, lighting up one by one. In the end, even the surroundings lit up. Hua Ci arrived before Chu Tian. "You've finally awakened!"

Chu Tian faltered for quite a while before barely making out. "Who are you? And who am I?"

.....

Qian Rongzhi gradually opened her eyes. She discovered that she was lying on a bed and covered with a thin blanket. She heard the sound of waves from below, and the smell of lotus flowers was everywhere.

In a daze, she felt like this tiny room was heaven, as she had just returned from hell.

This is... the Waterside Pavilion of Listening Wind!

After blanking out momentarily, her memories returned very soon, filling her head. She propped herself up, and the thin blanket slid off her body. Only then did she realise that she was bare. She subconsciously rubbed her skin. Her skin that had been ripped to pieces had already recovered, just as smooth and bright as before, but it did seem a little pale due to a loss of blood.

She climbed out of bed and walked over to the mirror, only to see an enchanting figure in the reflection with tall breasts, a smooth belly, and slender legs. Her appearance was not unrivalled, but it could be regarded as beautiful.

However, her face was gloomy, completely lacking the pride or dissatisfaction a woman would have when they checked themselves in the mirror. Her gaze was calm and unperturbed, like she was gazing at a rotting corpse.

She turned her body and showed her back to the mirror, but she continued to stare at the mirror. The posture was extremely strange, like a human gorgon.

A snake also existed on her clean, smooth back. It was still the colourful, tiny snake, but it had become much larger, forming a figure-eight and biting its tail as if it was trying to devour itself. However, it did not move at all as if it had fallen asleep.

A smile appeared on her pale face.

She recalled what had happened back then. Several dozen hell snakes bit away and wreaked havoc in her body. Originally, the tortures of hell would appear periodically, but several dozen snakes meant this pain would be endless. Now that was the most realistic situation of those souls that ended up in hell.

However, she would never simply await her doom. She maintained a sliver of clarity in the pain that almost collapsed her mind, urging the original, colourful snake to devour the other venomous snakes one by one.



Devouring mindlessly, the colourful, tiny snake even ended up treating its own tail as another venomous snake, trying its hardest to devour itself. It had only settled down and fallen asleep under her comforting. That was also when she fainted.

Qian Rongzhi looked away and made her way out of the door.

Gu Yanying sat on the edge of the terrace, holding a long fishing pole in her hand with the line dangling in the lake of lotuses. She looked back. "Have you slept well?"

Qian Rongzhi went up and knelt down formally, lowering her head. "Qian Rongzhi sincerely asks master to pass on the Illustrations of Naraka!"

Gu Yanying extended her hand and gently felt Qian Rongzhi's face, sliding down to her neck and gripping it gently. "Perhaps killing you right now would be the best choice, don't you think?"

"I concur, or your disciple will end up killing you sooner or later, master!"

"My foolish disciple, why must you torture yourself like this?"

Gu Yanying let out a long sigh and showed a hint of pity. This was not an act, but it made Qian Rongzhi even more furious than any humiliation or coercion. She straightened herself, and the hell snake on her back immediately awakened, flickering its forked tongue.

"And why must you torture yourself like this, master?"

"Then I'll wait and see what happens. Heh, I've caught one." Gu Yanying swung the fishing pole, and a carp leapt out of the lake. She swung it towards Qian Rongzhi. "Go cook it and treat your master to some filial respect!"

Qian Rongzhi was taken aback. She had never done something like that in her entire life. Although she had been harassed in the Qian family, she was still a Qi Practitioner after all.

"Go. I'll never pass the greatest, secret cultivation method of the school of Legalism to you so easily or casually!"

"Yes, master."

.....

Li Qingshan arrived in the underground stack room on Benevolence island with Ru Xin and saw Chu Tian wrapped in a blanket, sitting there quietly. His cultivation had been completely destroyed, no stronger than a mortal, but he gave off a feeling deep like an abyss and lofty like a mountain.

"I'll leave here up to you. He has recovered some of his memories from his past life, but the memories of his current life seem to be completely missing. However, you can't be too certain about that either."

Hua Ci handed things over to Ru Xin and made his way out. He had already completed his responsibilities as a doctor.

Li Qingshan and Ru Xin glanced at one another before looking at Chu Tian on the ground.

“Fellows, please tell me why I have lost the memories of my current life, as well as why I suffered such heavy wounds.”

Chu Tian asked. Actually, what he wanted to ask the most was where had the Heaven Climbing Vine buried in the depths of his soul had gone? Did the two of them take it?

Li Qingshan was unable to adjust to this. If the original Chu Tian was a rowdy primary schooler, then the person before him was a level-headed university professor. They were poles apart.

“Why? Heh, because you were a bastard!”

Chu Tian showed interest. “Please elaborate!”

Li Qingshan roughly explained all of the bastard things Chu Tian had done in the past. Chu Tian let out a long sigh and bowed deeply. “I didn’t think I’d be so unbearable in this life. It’s no wonder I ended up like this. If I have offended you, please forgive me.”

“To think that you can actually turn over a new leaf. You’re a Reincarnated Celestial, so just which celestial heaven did you come from, and how’s it like up in the heavens? Tell me!”

Li Qingshan crouched down and studied Chu Tian carefully. He was extremely interested in the world outside the well Golden Cicada mentioned.

“I have recovered some of the memories from my past life, but they’re incomplete. I probably won’t be able to answer these questions right now.”

“Who knows if you’re lying or not. You might even be faking your apology while holding onto your grudge against me, thinking about how to get revenge in the future. I might as well smack you to death right now.”

Li Qingshan raised his hand. He was about to swing down, when Ru Xin stopped him. “It took my master so much effort to awaken him!”

“I was the one who had been rude and provoked you in the beginning, so even if I get killed, I deserve it. I’ve only lost an arm, so how can I resent you? If I can recover my memories, I’ll tell you everything you want to know that is in my knowledge.”

Chu Tian silently eliminated the possibility of Li Qingshan taking the Heaven Climbing Vine. He found Li Qingshan’s voice to be extremely familiar. When he was unconscious, this seemed to be the voice that awakened him.

“Alright, I’ll spare you for now. You better start anew and watch yourself!”

Li Qingshan pulled back his hand. He was not afraid of revenge from Chu Tian at all. So what if he was a Reincarnated Celestial? His cultivation had been reduced to nothing. By the time he reached Golden Core, who knew how many years would have passed already. By then, finishing him off would still be the matter of a single strike.

However, what surprised him was Chu Tian had not even batted an eye before the solemn murderousness he had shown earlier. Instead, he seemed to be thinking about something else. Let alone

the original Chu Tian, even people like Liu Zhangqing were nowhere close in terms of willpower and disposition.

Ru Xin stepped aside. "Alright. Since you've already awakened, you can go. I must warn you that it's best if you conceal your identity and leave silently, or your life might be in danger."

Chu Tian asked, "Is it related to the woman called Qian Rongzhi?"

Li Qingshan was mildly surprised. In the past, he had only mentioned that Chu Tian well and truly deserved to become acquainted with Qian Rongzhi when he berated Chu Tian's various misdeeds. He did not expect him to remember it firmly.

"If it were simply qi deviation, why would I have been moved to such a secretive place for retreatment? I might have offended this fellow before me, but he's broadminded. He would never stoop to the level of making trouble for a cripple, so I must have another powerful enemy somewhere outside. Please tell me about her. Although I have nothing of worth on my right now, I'll definitely pay you back for saving my life once I recover some more of my memories."

Chu Tian said with great sincerity. He had already rained the original Chu Tian with curses. As his reincarnation, he had been born with talent greater than regular people, and he possessed an exotic treasure like the Heaven Climbing Vine, yet he had only undergone a single heavenly tribulation in the span of two decades. He was basically a piece of trash, and his behaviour was so atrocious that he would not even acknowledge the saviour of his life, wanting him to perish by himself.

Thankfully, he was very fortunate, facing such misfortune and somehow getting out alive, even awakening some of his past memories prematurely and avoiding the conflict between the memories of the two lives. It could even be described as a blessing in disguise. His priority right now was to understand the current situation and understand what kind of world this was. Only then could he gradually plan out his recovery.

Ru Xin roughly explained Chu Tian's origins, background, and basic relationship with other people in the Academy of the Hundred Schools. She basically supplemented Li Qingshan from an objective perspective, and she also mentioned how Qian Rongzhi came to visit him in the end.

In the end, she allowed Chu Tian to remain here and recuperate, leaving him with some food and books.

After Li Qingshan and Ru Xin left, Chu Tian murmured softly, "Qian Rongzhi!"

When Li Qingshan berated him for his numerous "misdeeds" and even threatened his life, he was able to remain calm. However, whenever he heard the name "Qian Rongzhi", his emotions would surge uncontrollably, leading to a sliver of deep hatred.

His memories were already lost, but the will actually still remained. The hatred was so deep that even he felt surprised.

"Looks like the Heaven Climbing Vine has probably been taken away by this Qian Rongzhi. I need to find a way to retrieve it. And, if I don't release myself from this hatred, it'll be detrimental to cultivation in the end. I need to resolve it!"

After leaving Benevolence island, Li Qingshan returned to the Qing Xiao dwelling and began a new round of cultivation. He wanted to look through what he comprehended during the past few days before converting it into actual cultivation.

Time passed bit by bit. Before he knew it, Chu Danqing's calls rang out from outside the dwelling.

"Qingshan, are you in there?"

One Year Anniversary

Legend of the Great Sage is turning one year old today, which makes me think about what I was doing this time last year. Ah, I remember now. I was writing! And for every day after that, I've remembered too. Yes, I was writing. Who said missing releases? Drag them out and rain them with bullets for five whole minutes. That was thinking about the plot~

Anyway, today is a special day. I've invited a special guest here, "Dark Dream Teller". Please welcome him with an applause!

"Dark Dream Teller, after a long year of writing, is there anything you want to say today?"

"I want to die."

"Woah, there are so many readers listening. You shouldn't say something so terrible!"

"There's nothing to say."

"How pessimistic. Why don't you share with us the greatest difficulties you faced during writing and how you conquered these difficulties and made it to today?"

"The greatest difficulty..."

"Oh, he's finally starting to answer the questions seriously."

"There aren't any women!"

"Huh? I was asking about your writing..."

"The greatest difficulty is there aren't any women, and the way I conquered it is to watch porn and then masturb- bzzzzz!!!!!"

"Hahahaha, there were some small issues with the signal earlier. Let's get back to the conversation."

"Women! Women! Women!"

"If you want women so much, then go fall in love, you bastard!!"

"I haven't finished typing it, and I still need to think of the plot. Even if I think of the plot, I don't even have an exact idea how to write it. Even if I know how to write it, I'll suddenly hit a block. Anyways, just who will read such a horrible plot? I've missed another release, hehehehe, I'm going to get cursed again. I can even recite it now. Damn trolls, if I were the emperor, I'd record your IDs and drag you all to the chopping block! If it's just writing a novel, then so be it, but the stupidest part about it all is that I still have to write some sh\*tty thoughts and feelings. Sigh, writing is so tiring. I better change my career! No, I better just go die, die, die, die, die!"

“Oi, oi. Alright then, Dark Dream Teller has already snapped. The interview will end here for now!”

“Hold on!”

“Hmm? Who’re you? You look so similar to Dark Dream Teller!”

“I’m Dark Dream Teller’s elder brother, Light Dream Teller. My disappointment of a young brother has really made a fool of himself.”

“A relatively more normal one has finally come! Cough, cough, Light Dream Teller, on this special day, what would you like to say to the readers?”

“Your dreams! You can have nothing in your life, but you can’t go without dreams. If a person doesn’t have any dreams, what difference do they have from nobody?”

“Then... what about women?”

“Things like women are completely unnecessary. All you need are dreams. The meaning of life is about constantly working hard and striving towards your dreams. Not to mention that I have so many dear readers accompanying me and encouraging me. There might be a lot of difficulties, but as long as I have you, I can definitely overcome them all and write a very, very fantastic novel and reach the other side of my dreams!”

“Then the trolls your brother mentioned earlier...”

“Shut up. How can you call my dear readers that? Their criticism is what spurs me on. In particular, those pertinent opinions bring me great joy when I read them! Hahahaha, friends, in the new year, I will offer up an even greater work for you, so please continue supporting me! I’m asking for subscriptions, I’m asking for monthly votes, I’m asking for recommendations, I’m asking for clicks. We will surpass all, until we reach beyond the Nine Heavens! We’ll break, break, break, break, break, break through everything! We’ll destroy everyone and everything that blocks our way!”

“Security, security! Get that madman out from here! Phew, there’s finally some peace and quiet. They sure are a pair of perplexing brothers!”

Life perhaps, roughly, probably has always been like this.

The dark night will never vanish, but daytime will arrive every single day. The courage lost at dusk will be revitalised at dawn. Sometimes, the endless gloomy rain will make you cry with the sky, and sometimes, in the darkest of nights, you can raise your head and see the sky full of stars.

Even if it’s just some thoughts and feelings, I want to make it full of wit and humour, completely different from the rest. Can you call this OCD? Such that I even often neglect the main function of this, which is asking for votes? But that’s fine. I can just unleash my great ability to beg for votes at the end of each chapter. As the three word mantra goes, give me votes!

And lastly, let’s hold an event! It’s been a year. Do you have anything you want to comment on regarding almost a million and eight hundred thousand characters of content? And are you anticipating the future developments? Please leave your voice in the comments section!

Even if it’s criticism, it’s fine! Sigh, who can I blame that I’m not the emperor!

## Chapter 617 - Late Foundation Establishment, the Hundred Beasts Formation

In the pitch-black centre of the mountain, Li Qingshan raised his head with his hair draping down. Specks of water circled around him, glowing with blue light in the darkness like fireflies.

He had witnessed the various forms of water. He possessed god-like talent. He was the lord of countless rivers and lakes. However, he had never considered the meaning of water.

Was the meaning of water softness? That seemed right.

Was it goodness? That was probably correct too.

Streams trickled, while rivers raged gloriously. The white clouds were soft, but the ocean was deep.

The water in the tank nurtured life, while the water under the eaves hid allegories.

It was as if every single form of water possessed a deep meaning. Because water was everchanging and took no fixed form, it only made it more difficult to find its meaning.

Li Qingshan waved his hand. Countless droplets of water condensed into a smooth mirror.

Innate ability, Watermirror's Image.

He stared at his reflection in the mirror for a long time before suddenly smiling. He realised that he was not searching for the meaning of water, but the meaning of "me". Just like the water mirror, if it reflected flowers, then it was flowers. If it reflected the moon, then it was the moon.

That was why Ru Xin had not answered his water. What good-natured like water? What triumphing force with gentleness? What others said was meaningless. Water could take on a myriad of forms, so all he had to do was ask himself, What type suits you the most?

Was it the gracefulness of the clouds? Was it the forcefulness of the rivers? Or the steadiness of dripping water?

No, none of them! There was only a single type that suited him. Ru Xin had never shown him it, but it had always been deeply embedded in his memory. It was the boundless ocean. It could surge violently, and it could be completely flat. Apart from the vague word "boundless", there was nothing else that could easily summarise the ocean.

The ocean was probably the most difficult to imitate.

All rivers converged in the ocean. It was boundless in capacity.

How much pain and setbacks did a person have to go through to be able to calmly accept all of the grit and sediment? And how much forbearance and intelligence was needed to suppress the ever-surgings sea of consciousness?

Li Qingshan was still unable to answer these questions. He was still too young, but he was not dejected, as he was still very young. He had plenty of time to experience it all. He believed even the ancient oceans began accumulating from a single droplet of water.

He spread his arms with a smile, and his mind expanded into the surroundings indefinitely, sensing the endless water spiritual qi and gathering it towards him. He lit up with blue light, shining brighter and brighter.

The Arts of the Boundless Ocean revolved rapidly, and the spiritual qi in his dantian became more and more abundant, cascading against his body as waves and shaking up his soul.

With a boom, all of the light dispersed. He had finally reached the sixth layer of the Arts of the Boundless Ocean, and at the same time, he had also broken through to late Foundation Establishment.

Outside the Qing Xiao dwelling, Chu Danqing happened to be running out of patience when the formation suddenly opened up, and Li Qingshan strode out. "I've made you wait. Let's go meet up with them!"

Chu Danqing was mildly surprised. He smiled. "Qingshan, congratulations on breaking through again! Golden Core is in sight!" The more powerful Li Qingshan was, the more confidence he had when meeting up with them.

Li Qingshan smiled. "That's called an Ocean pearl for me. Let's go! We can't make them grow reckless from waiting!"

Although he still could not break through to the fifth layer of the spirit turtle, he was no longer in a hurry either. He could already see the direction he had to head off in. There would be a day when he managed to merge fire and water.

The two of them travelled eastward and arrived at the boundary of the Clear River prefecture. The mountains stood like huge pillars or sharp swords, extending towards the sky. White clouds drifted between them, which formed a precipitous and beautiful landscape.

"Look, it's right there!"

Chu Danqing pointed at the tallest mountain among them. It was surrounded with sheer cliffs such that even monkeys would struggle to climb up them. Only birds could scale the mountain. However, two men and a woman sat at the very top, overlooking the other mountains as they sipped tea or alcohol. All three of them seemed graceful and unrestrained like immortals.

"Little junior brother, you're late. Who's this?" the eldest male cultivator asked.

The three of them gazed over from afar. The eldest male cultivator seemed to be in his forties or fifties. He gave off the greatest sense of maturity and level-headedness among them. No one could tell he was one to betray his master.

"First senior brother, this is my friend, as well as the Scarlet Hawk commander of the Clear River prefecture, Li Qingshan." Chu Danqing introduced.

"Friends? It's a gathering between juniors and seniors, yet you've called an outsider to come along. What is the meaning of this?"

The female cultivator squinted her eyes and studied Li Qingshan, finding the name rather familiar. She was in her thirties, with a thin and beautiful appearance. She wore a palace dress, and she was quite a beauty. However, her cheekbones protruded slightly, which made her seem rather mean.

Chu Danqing replied in a way that was neither rude or submissive, "Second senior sister, master told me before he passed away that if my seniors were to ever come and find me, I had to bring commander Li along to preside over the situation and ensure fairness."

"Li Qingshan. You must be that commander Li who triumphed over the otherfolk in the marquis' estate. I've long heard about you. Now that I've seen you with my own eyes today, you truly are valiant. However, we're dealing with matters between our seniors and juniors today, so it might be inappropriate for you to take part, commander. Our master has been senile, so if he's a little muddle-headed, please forgive him."

The last third senior brother said politely. He maintained a smile on his round face the entire time, but he seemed a little fake, like a merchant trying to sell a product. He spoke politely, but he wanted Li Qingshan to leave.

With his reminder, the first senior brother and second senior sister both stiffened in expression. No wonder it sounds so familiar. So he's that "Mad Tiger".

The news regarding the clash between Gu Yanying and Si Qing in the marquis' estate spread like wildfire, and with it, Li Qingshan made a name for himself. However, the main reason why he became renowned was not because he defeated the fire devourer Zhu Lie and helped Gu Yanying in winning the crucial round, but because he had openly cursed E Dan. With something that insane and reckless, everyone called him "Mad Tiger".

When the three of them studied Li Qingshan, Li Qingshan was also studying the three of them. The strongest was the first senior brother at late Foundation Establishment, while the second senior sister and third senior brother were both at mid Foundation Establishment. They were not exactly a threat. Chu Shidao was rather good at guiding his disciples. Unfortunately, all he managed to teach them was how to paint, not how to develop a decent moral character.

Chu Danqing wanted to introduce the three of them to Li Qingshan, but Li Qingshan interrupted him. "Even if you tell me, I won't be bothered with remembering it. If the three of you have anything to say, spit it out! I will make my personal judgement." What he hated the most was messing around with these empty gestures of courtesy and politeness, let alone when it was with three scums like them.

The first senior brother and second senior sister were mildly angered. Only the third senior brother managed to maintain a smile, but it was rather forced.

The second senior sister said, "You aren't very polite, are you, commander Li?"

Li Qingshan turned around and arrived on the edge of the cliff, gazing at the mountains below.

Chu Danqing said, "Seniors, just what do you have to say? You can be frank!"

"Little junior brother, master doted on you in the past, and we were envious of you too. All we could do was work hard on cultivating so that we didn't embarrass our master. Anyone who mentions us will all mention 'master Chu' in reverence too, so you better not think we're coveting master's property. You're more than welcome to keep those for yourselves, but you have to tell us what our master's final words and instructions were at the very least."



The first senior brother justified with fairness and reason. If an outsider were to hear this, they would have thought that not only did Chu Danqing want to keep all of the property for himself, but he even purposefully refused to tell them their master's last words and instructions because his master favoured him more.

However, Chu Danqing understood that these so-called "last words" and "instructions" were all regarding the secret of the Painting Tomb.

Before he could even answer, the second senior sister said, "What first senior brother said is perfectly reasonable, but there is something I cannot agree to. You are more than welcome to keep the other painting, little junior brother, but surely you have to hand over the painting of master's wife so that we can take turns in looking after and paying our regards."

"I've already told you! The mistress has already gone with master!"

Chu Danqing had once heard Chu Shidao vaguely mention that the first senior brother had betrayed him for the sake of fame and gain, while the second senior sister was a little different. In the past, she had been on very good terms with Chu Shidao, even exceeding what should have existed between a master and a disciple. However, only the painting existed in Chu Shidao's eyes, which led to envy and eventually hatred. Even with the temptation of the Painting Tomb, she did not forget about the painting, wanting to vent her anger and hatred.

"A painting committed suicide? Do you think that anyone will believe a lie as ridiculous as that? Don't tell me you plan on keeping it all for yourself so that you can appreciate it alone?"

"Y- you're shameless..." Chu Danqing was so exasperated that he became speechless.

"I'm shameless? So I'm not allowed to mention what you've done? I don't even want to hear those last words. Hand over the painting, and I'll leave right now. Do you really think you can keep it for yourself and turn it into a family treasure so that you can pass it down through your descendants once you're done with it? What a great fucking idea!"

Li Qingshan frowned. He skidded over and arrived before the second senior sister in the blink of an eye. He raised his right hand and landed a solid slap across her face. He had completed these movements like the flowing clouds and water, with indescribably smoothness and ease.

After reaching late Foundation Establishment, the strength of his human cultivation had increased drastically. Combined with his arcane artifacts, he was already standing at the apex of Foundation Establishment cultivators. The second senior sister was only at mid Foundation Establishment. And, painters had never been skilled in close combat in the first place, so she was unable to react at all. Although she was protected by spiritual qi, the endless spiritual qi in Li Qingshan's hand instantly dispersed it.

She clutched her face and glared at Li Qingshan in surprise and anger. "How dare you..." There was also a hint of fear. He's only at late Foundation Establishment, only a minor realm of cultivation higher than me, so how is he so powerful?!

“A slap across the face is already a light punishment for telling blind lies. If you utter another word of nonsense, would you believe me if I were to say I’ll make you stay behind and turn you into a family treasure, passing you down through my family once I’m done with you?”

With a wave of her hand, a series of painting scrolls flew out and unfurled behind her. There were many hideous monsters and beasts painted on them, ready to leap out at any time. The first senior brother and third senior brother also powered their spiritual and arcane artifacts to protect themselves in a hurry, taking out painting scrolls one by one. The strength that Li Qingshan had demonstrated had alarmed them.

The first senior brother said, “Looks like you simply insist on getting involved, commander!” The third senior brother said, “Don’t you know that those who talk much err much? Trouble comes from sticking your nose where it doesn’t belong!”

Li Qingshan sneered. “That’s right, and you plan on touching me?”

Suddenly, the surroundings twisted and distorted. Wild beasts leapt out from thin air, and their roars and growls echoed through the mountains.

“The Hundred Beasts Formation Diagram!”

Chu Danqing exclaimed. The Hundred Beasts Formation Diagram required a total of a hundred beasts. Every single painting was an extremely-common beast, like a beast of prey or a domesticated animal, but the strength of every wild beast was akin to early Foundation Establishment. Assembled in a formation, it only made their strength even more alarming. The formation had been activated so quickly, so it must have been prepared beforehand to be used against him.

The second senior sister flew into the sky and bellowed, “Li Qingshan, die!”

### **Chapter 618 - The Might of a Violet Talisman**

“Junior sister!” “Senior sister!”

The first and third senior brothers were both surprised. They never thought she would take action on a whim. When they set down this trap, they had planned to capture Chu Danqing and coerce him if he refused to oblige. However, Li Qingshan’s arrival had destroyed their plans right from the beginning.

They were not exactly afraid of how powerful Li Qingshan was. Instead, they were worried about his identity as a Scarlet Hawk commander. As soon as they began fighting, it would be opposing the Hawkwolf Guard. There was also that unfathomable commander Gu who he seemed to be in good graces with.

“The two of you can stop being so fussy like a woman. Ruthlessness is the mark of a truly great man. If you want the secret to the Painting Tomb, you better take action now. We’ll kill this bastard Li Qingshan, and then we’ll capture Chu Danqing. I have plenty of ways to make him spit out the truth!”

The first senior brother and third senior brother exchanged glances. Their eyes surged with killing intent. However, when they met Li Qingshan’s calm and indifferent gaze, they both shivered inside and backed out of the formation.

The first senior brother said, "We can discuss everything calmly. Why must we fall out with each other? Commander Li, do you understand the situation you're in now? When my junior sister is set off, no one can stop her!"

Li Qingshan said, "If I were to say I had changed my mind and no longer plan on becoming involved, will you let me leave in one piece?"

Chu Danqing was just about to fish out his painting scrolls. When he heard that, he could not help but widen his eyes. Don't tell me he wants to abandon me because the situation looks bad!

"Don't even think about it!" The second senior sister bellowed, and the hundred beasts roared together, leading to a gust of foul air and shaking up the mountains. It was a startling sight to behold. Li Qingshan simply stood with his arms behind his back, unfazed like before.

"About this..." The first senior brother hesitated, while the third senior brother became troubled too.

Li Qingshan evaluated the three of them instinctively. The first senior brother was level-headed and afraid to take risks. The third senior brother was flexible and slippery, thus lacking backbone and rigidity. Instead, the second senior sister was the most vengeful and possessed the greatest offensive power.

However, the primary methods of the school of Painting involved controlling the creatures in the paintings. This was equivalent to the difference between a commander and a military general. Intellect triumphed over courage, so the first senior brother and third senior brother were still a little stronger. When they began fighting, he had to kill them first.

The second senior sister continued to fan the flames. "He knows of the existence of the Painting Tomb. We can't let him leave here alive, or even if we find out about the secret of the Painting Tomb, we'll still be in trouble. Even if this gets divulged, we can still seek refuge from prince Si Qing. We can just say he attacked us first!"

The first and third senior brothers were finally persuaded. Taking this risk was worth it for the secret of the Painting Tomb!

The first senior brother let out a long sigh. "We've already reached a point of no return, just like how an arrow on a drawn bow must be shot!"

An evil smile appeared on the third senior brother's slippery face. "Commander Li, don't blame us for being cruel. You insisted on getting involved with this, seeking your own doom."

Since the three of them had already made up their minds, when they looked at Li Qingshan and Chu Danqing again, they were like sitting ducks in their eyes, posing absolutely no threat at all.

If the three of them worked together, coupled with the Hundred Beasts Formation Diagram and the scrolls they had accumulated, they would possess a crushing advantage. No matter how vicious and how powerful Li Qingshan's techniques and arcane artifacts were, only death would await him.

The second senior sister said, "Since your strike earlier was unable to kill me, then I'll kill you. If you drop to your knees right now and give me a hundred bows, followed by a hundred slaps across your face, I can still consider sparing your life."

“If I wanted to kill you all, it would be as easy as butchering chickens.” Li Qingshan let out a wide smile before bringing his hand in front of him. Light glimmered between his fingers.

“What are you holding in your hand?”

“It’s just a recording stone. A copy of what you’ve said has already been saved. I’ll basically be able to explain myself now with commander Gu.”

Li Qingshan stowed the recording stone away in his hundred treasures pouch. He never planned on discussing with them peacefully in the first place before he had even come to the meeting with Chu Danqing.

“Do you think you can still live?”

Li Qingshan did not answer. He patted Chu Danqing’s shoulder. “Stow the paintings away. All you have to do is focus on protecting yourself.”

“Ah!”

“Trust me.”

Chu Danqing stowed his painting away, only leaving behind a few defensive paintings that formed impenetrable walls around him. Li Qingshan also activated his defensive arcane artifacts and cast down a few defensive techniques, enveloping him and Chu Danqing.

“And I was wondering what you were capable of! Looks like you just want to hole up like a turtle!” The second senior sister let out a shrill laugh.

The first senior brother said, “Let’s not waste anymore time, just in case it leads to unnecessary trouble. Let’s do it!”

The hundred beasts lunged over, as well as the venomous insects and vicious beasts the three of them had summoned from other paintings. It filled their vision and swallowed them.

It had to be mentioned that painters truly did have outstanding aspects. As long as they had enough time, it was completely possible for them to build up an army. The painter stood alone, so he could only try and take out the painter first, but this was no longer possible now that he was trapped in the formation.

Li Qingshan raised his head slightly and wrinkled his nose, determining the location of the three people. If he only used what he was capable of as a human cultivator, he was confident he could break out of the formation, but the situation would definitely be extremely dangerous. He would not be able to look out for Chu Danqing, and he was reluctant to have another person learn about this secret of his.

Before anyone had realised it, he was already holding a thin talisman between two fingers on his right hand, a violet talisman!

He raised his right hand gently, and the violet talisman floated out. Under the control of his soul sense, it slipped through the cracks between the vicious beasts unbelievably, reaching mid-air before shattering and erupting!

A scarlet ball the size of a human head suddenly expanded by a hundred times, rising up from the mountains like a red sun. The scarlet light swallowed up all the beasts one by one. Before this violent power, the measly strength of early Foundation Establishment basically seemed insignificant. The impressive Hundred Beasts Formation Diagram lasted for a moment before being reduced to ashes.

The red sun shone brilliantly, illuminating the entire sky. Time seemed to come to a standstill in that moment. It felt like quite a long while had passed before they heard the thunderous boom.

A wave of air whistled past. The thick trees and shrubs were easily uprooted, torn apart in the air. The residual shockwave also bent and broke numerous trees, and many of the lush mountains seemed like they had been flattened.

Chu Danqing's head rang, temporarily blinded in both eyes. As he waited for his vision to slowly recover, he discovered a portion of the mountain beneath him had been shaved off. The defensive techniques Li Qingshan had used, as well as his several defensive paintings, had all been reduced to ashes. He was shocked. This is the power of a violet talisman!

Talismans were divided into yellow, scarlet, and violet. Violet talismans were the most valuable, as only Soul Nascence cultivators could create them. Basically only Golden Core cultivators possessed them, and it was virtually impossible for Foundation Establishment cultivators to obtain them. It went without saying how precious they were.

The power they possessed was obviously extremely great. In the past, when Gu Yanying clashed with the Soaring Dragon Elder, they had each used a violet talisman. Li Qingshan had only managed to get his hands on a few after killing a swathe of Golden Core cultivators. He never had the opportunity to use them, so now that he casually used one, the effects were quite nice.

The greatest downside with talismans was they had no concept of friend or foe and were difficult to control. If it were not for the hundred beasts on them that served as meat shields, probably even Chu Danqing would have been injured.

"Qingshan!"

Chu Danqing raised his head, searching for Li Qingshan's trace. He happened to see Li Qingshan smash through the first senior brother's panic-stricken face with a punch before flicking his finger and shooting a translucent bead of water, piercing the third senior brother's round head.

### **Chapter 619 - There's Alcohol Tonight**

Li Qingshan took action valiantly the moment the power of the explosion reached the limit. He used the blinding light to kill the first senior brother and third senior brother in a single stroke. The two of them had died without even knowing how they died. Their last thought was, "How can he possess a violet talisman!"

Even the several hundred paintings they had painted could not match a measly talisman. One was the handiwork of Foundation Establishment cultivators, while the other was the handiwork of a Soul Nascence cultivator. The two were basically worlds apart.

Li Qingshan turned around to search for the second senior sister, only to see a green streak of light rush off into the horizon, flying northward.

The second senior sister used a Fifty-kilometer Escape talisman and shot off into the distance quickly. Her ears continued to ring, and her mind had yet to settle down from the shock. No wonder he was so confident. The might of a violet talisman is far too terrifying.

If it were not for the fact that she was the furthest away from the mountain and had not been Li Qingshan's first target, she probably would have been slain on the spot before she could even use the Escape talisman.

"You think you can leave?" Waves surged beneath Li Qingshan's feet. With a gentle step, he shot off like an arrow, chasing right after her.

The second senior sister reached over fifty kilometers away immediately and violently coughed up a mouthful of blood. Although only the residual shockwave had reached her, the violet talisman still left her rather injured. Her entire body screamed in pain.

I can't stop. I have to go. I have to change my location and hide, or death will still be awaiting me when he follows my tracks and catches up to me!

She erased her aura and did her best to prop herself up, choosing a random direction. She was just about to take off. She glanced backwards, and her eyes narrowed, paling in fright. "How's that possible!?"

Li Qingshan's figure suddenly leapt out from the horizon, charging over aggressively.

"How can he be so fast? Oh right, he even has a violet talisman, so how can he not possess Escape talismans? Dammit!"

But this time, the second senior sister was wrong. Li Qingshan did not go out of his way to collect Escape talismans. He only flapped his wings of wind and fire a few times once he left Chu Tian's field of vision.

She gritted her teeth and took out another talisman, taking off as a streak of light.

"This bitch sure has a lot of Escape talismans. Hmm? Why'd she stop?" All Li Qingshan saw was before the streak of light had even vanished into the horizon, it had stopped.

As it turned out, Fifty-kilometer Escape talismans were quite rare after all. The second senior sister had only used a Five-kilometer Escape talisman, so it no longer bore any great significance in a battle at this level. The second senior sister remained where she was, without trying to escape as if she had accepted her fate.

Li Qingshan strode over on his waves and arrived before the second senior sister. "Why aren't you escaping?"

"Li Qingshan, what do you want me to do to spare me?"

It was not that the second senior sister did not want to escape. She had used Escape talismans consecutively while injured, so her injuries acted up, and her spiritual qi was in a mess. She was basically on the verge of qi deviation.

"If you drop to your knees and give me a hundred bows, followed by a hundred slaps across your face, I can consider it."

Although he had said he wanted to maintain a broad-mind, following the example of the boundless ocean, Li Qingshan could not help but admit his current nature was still very bad. He was very vengeful.

“You-”

The second senior sister gazed at Li Qingshan. His face was not twisted at all. A battle like this where he trounced the weak was unable to rouse his enthusiasm and fighting spirit. As a matter of fact, he even found it rather boring.

“You what?”

Li Qingshan extended his hand and opened his hands, reaching towards her left chest. However, his desires obviously had not been roused, as in the next moment, his five fingers pierced her rather lacking chest and dug out a bloody heart.

The Tiger Demon Digs Out the Heart. This move had always been his favourite!

The second senior sister only saw his lips curl slightly. His eyes seemed to flash with red light as an aura of malice directly filled her heart. Then she remembered the scene of when her first senior brother and third junior brother had been killed. He really will kill me without batting an eye, like butchering a chicken!

Fear drowned out everything. Her legs softened, and she actually knelt down, bringing her head to the ground. She felt a deep sense of humiliation as she called out, “Don’t kill me!”

Li Qingshan’s hand hovered in the air. He was very surprised. Just a moment earlier, you still acted like you were welcoming death, so why have dissolved like a pile of mud in the blink of an eye? Can you show a little bit of a Foundation Establishment cultivator’s backbone? With how shrewd she seems, doesn’t she know I’m just enjoying myself?

When people faced death, there were not a lot who could actually welcome it. She clearly did not possess that kind of courage. Even if she knew Li Qingshan was just enjoying himself with what he said earlier, those who were about to drown would still desperately clutch at a straw. Even merely living a moment longer would be fine.

Li Qingshan smiled. “Since you’ve already expressed yourself through this gesture, I’ll consider it!”

The second senior sister gritted her teeth. Her mouth was filled with the sweet, metallic taste of blood as she slowly raised her head before bringing it to the ground. She thought, Li Qingshan, if I survive today, I’ll definitely cut you to pieces in the future!

With that, Li Qingshan instead became rather embarrassed. He had killed countless people in this life, and he had plenty of brutal methods to do so, but this was the first time his enemy had actually dropped to their knees and lowered their heads. If a man had been so sickening, he would have kicked them across the face immediately. However, if it had been such a beautiful female cultivator with a special bearing, he could put up with it a little.

This is basically an eye for an eye for me. But don’t tell me she really thinks I’ll spare her just from bowing a few times and slapping herself across the face a few times!

The second senior sister bowed her head a few times. In the end, even her last bit of backbone vanished. She said constantly, "Commander Li, I had been thoughtless, so please, spare my life! I won't ever do it again!"

"We'll talk once you're done with what you have to do!" Li Qingshan grinned as his demon heart began to show signs of rousing.

The second senior sister finished with kowtowing and began slapping herself left and right.

Then, Li Qingshan ordered, "Raise your head!"

The second senior sister raised her head. Her hair was a mess, and her eyes were misty. She was begging for mercy, and her cheeks had become bright-red from the slapping.

"Who told you to stop? Continue!"

"Y- yes!"

The demonic nature in Li Qingshan's heart blazed brightly, and his gaze also began to burn invasively, basically wanting to peer through her clothes. Under these circumstances, the second senior sister instead raised her chest, perhaps intentionally.

Li Qingshan licked his lips and thought, If I make these thoughts in my mind into reality, it'll be interesting.

Just like how the things that laws forbid us from doing would often be very interesting, if absolute authority led to absolute corruption, then absolute strength was absolute cruelty. If the Great Xia empire and the Hawkwolf Guard did not exist, this would definitely be a world where demonic cultivators ran amok!

When the second senior sister completed her hundred slaps across the face, Li Qingshan crouched down and placed his left hand on her shoulder. He smiled. "I've considered it seriously... You better just die!"

He held a bloody heart in his right hand. The second senior sister lowered her head and discovered a bloody hole in her chest. Her expression twisted madly as she extended her hands and grabbed Li Qingshan's shoulders. She said hoarsely, "Li Qingshan, I curse you! I curse you to a horrible death!"

"Perhaps there really might be a day when I die a horrible death, but at the very least, I won't lower my head to someone else or slap myself across the face when I die! Thank you for offering up such a great performance before your death."

Li Qingshan casually took her hundred treasures pouch. The reason why he had not acted on his demonic nature was definitely not because he had suddenly found his conscience. Instead, Chu Danqing had appeared on the horizon, currently hurrying over quickly.

With how soft-hearted kiddo Chu is, he probably won't be able to bring himself to do something like this when he sees how pitiful and dishevelled she is. By the time she bows her head and slaps herself across the face a few more times, he might even try to speak for her. If I kill her then, I'll come off as too cruel instead, so I might as well just finish her off. Though, I do miss Lolth a little all of a sudden. If I have the time, I need to pay a visit.



Chu Danqing arrived nearby, and sure enough, he let out a long sigh. He saw his second senior sister kneeling on the ground with her cheeks bright red and could not help but say, "Qingshan, you could have killed her in a single strike. Why must you..."

"I'm not that boring. She was the one who strongly insisted on this, wanting me to spare her. Stop being so fussy. I've dealt with your trouble, so let's go back and drink in celebration!"

Li Qingshan took absolutely no offence from that, patting Chu Danqing on the shoulder with a smile. Everyone had their own nature. If Chu Danqing had not been the type of person to treat enemies with sympathy, he would not have been so honest with him earlier. Li Qingshan had resolved another grievance, so he was in a very good mood.

Chu Danqing silently collected his second senior sister's corpse. "Sigh, killing my own seniors has never been what I wanted, but they were up to no good, so it served them right. Qingshan, if it weren't for you, I probably would not have been able to escape from their murderous scheme."

"Does anyone else know about the secret of the Painting Tomb?" Li Qingshan asked.

"This... is a matter of great significance, so they shouldn't have told anyone else, right? Speaking of which, even if others know, as long as they don't come after me, why would I silence them with death over a single secret?"

Chu Danqing saw that Li Qingshan radiated with murderousness, so he was afraid his murderous nature had been roused and wanted to carry out a massacre, refusing to even spare his three senior's family and disciples.

"What are you thinking? I'm a mighty Scarlet Hawk commander after all. How can I do something like that? I'm just asking so that we can make preparations beforehand!"

Li Qingshan had indeed considered eliminating all possible future troubles earlier, but it was merely a thought. At the end of the day, this was still Chu Danqing's matter. Since Chu Danqing had already said something like that, why did he have to go out of his way to do something unnecessary?

The two of them returned to the academy. Li Qingshan's breakthrough to late Foundation Establishment spread like wildfire and shocked the Academy of the Hundred Schools once again. His cultivation speed was basically astounding. As it turned out, he was not boasting when he said he wanted to break through to Golden Core before the age of thirty!

Li Qingshan dealt with everyone who had come to congratulate him. Afterwards, he called Hua Chengzan, Han Tieyi, and so on and simply sat down on the ground in the bamboo forest on Cloudwisp island, drinking away with them.

Li Qingshan raised a toast. "There were far too many unnecessary people last time, and E Feng and his groups of pups had come to make trouble. We couldn't drink to our satisfaction. Today, we'll drink until we're drunk!"

After three rounds of drinking, Li Qingshan had already polished off several jars of alcohol. Seeing Hua Chengzan falter again and again, he pulled him aside to the lakeshore. "You're worried about her, right?"

“Yeah. Is she well?”

“Don’t worry. I’ve already arranged a safe place for her to settle down in. If you want to know, I can tell you. Don’t worry, I still haven’t gotten around to doing anything yet. By the time I really do something, it’ll really be too late.” Li Qingshan sniggered.

“That won’t be necessary. I’m burdened with far too many responsibilities, and I’m far too weak. Please pass on a message for me. Tell her... That I’ve let her down. In the next world, I’m willing to work like a horse to pay back her love,” Hua Chengzan said in guilt.

## **Chapter 620 - An Omen of Warning**

“What’re the two of you lurking around there and talking about?”

Chu Danqing walked out of the bamboo forest with a flushed face. His drinking capacity had improved by a lot. He also found tonight extremely satisfying. Having killed his three seniors, he did feel some sympathy and pity, but his excitement and joy still gained an upper hand over him.

Chu Shidao’s retirement in the mountainous forests out of dejection was closely related to these three wretched disciples. He had basically cleaned them up for his master.

“We’re obviously talking about the women that you love the most! C’mon, let’s keep drinking!”

Li Qingshan let out a great laugh and put his hands around their shoulders, returning to the clearing in the forest.

The bamboo forest was dim as moonlight shimmered about.

Han Teyi rested his hand on a jar of alcohol as he sat before a grey rock. His expression was frosty and serious, silently drinking cup after cup.

The zither music was quiet and beautiful. Qin Xin sat at a table, playing the zither. Her ten fingers plucked and played the strings gently and slowly, producing music endlessly. It was like a clear stream, enough for people to forget about their worries. After a period of arduous cultivation, she had finally reached Foundation Establishment, becoming the leader of the school of Music.

Mind Enlightenment held prayer beads in his hand as he listened closely, but what he drank was water. Everyone present was a Foundation Establishment cultivator of the younger generation, while the seniors like Liu Zhangqing and so on conscientiously avoided joining in. When they saw the three of them return, they all greeted them.

In particular, they paid special attention to Li Qingshan. Although everyone present was talented, who knew how far off they were from Golden Core. They could not even be certain whether they could face the second heavenly tribulation or not. He was the only one who had truly touched the boundary of Golden Core, and he was still so young.

Originally, he was the youngest among them, but everyone seemed to follow him as their leader. Although they were all reserved, not exactly currying favour or trying to get on his good side, they did intentionally befriend him.

“The three of you were gone for a while, so you missed most of the song. Do you want me to play it again?” Qin Xin smiled as she stroked the zither. She said “the three of you”, but her eyes were fixed on Li Qingshan.

Wei Yangsheng said, “That’s unfair, Qin Xin. Why do we have to listen to it again?”

Qin Xin said, “You’re welcome to seal off your sense of hearing for now. I’ll call you when I’m done!”

“Definitely not. Then I’ll be losing out even more.”

Li Qingshan smiled. “Qin Xin, if you hadn’t mentioned it, I really wouldn’t have been able to tell whether I heard a part or missed a part. You’re welcome to continue playing like this.”

As for Hua Chengzan who had always been so refined, he actually made his way over to the alcohol jars and drank to the three of them, leading to a great cheer.

Chu Danqing said loudly, “With such beautiful scenery on a fine day and such outstanding people, it’s perfect for painting!” As he said that, he took out his paints and brushes and began painting. Right when he was about to bring his brush to the paper, he stopped again and shook his head. “Something’s still missing!”

“What’s missing?”

“There’s only zither music. There’s no sword qi.”

“There’s also poems!” Wei Yangsheng drew his sword and stood up, reciting poems as he wielded his sword. He kept his sword qi and might withdrawn, moving about gracefully.

Li Qingshan nodded. The swordsmanship of the school of Confucianism truly was extraordinary. He walked over to Han Tieyi’s side and sat down. “Tieyi, I heard you’ve been experiencing some good fortunes with respect to love! You better not use up too much of your vitality, or you’ll embarrass the Han family when it comes to the Exhibition Matches of the Nine Prefectures!”

Han Tieyi glanced at him in disdain. “If you’re envious of me, you can be like this too.”

Li Qingshan replied, “But no one is forcing me to have a lot of children. The Exhibition Matches of the Nine Prefectures probably won’t be simple this time round. You gotta be prepared.”

“You have to be the same too. With the Great General King’s orders, E Dan won’t be able to do anything to the Han family for now, but if the opportunity ever arises, he’ll definitely try and find a way to kill you. He’s most terrifying exactly when he bides his time and does nothing. I wouldn’t want my elder sister to become a widow before she has even moved in with her husband.”

“Don’t worry, I’m a son-in-law of the Han family after all!”

At this moment, Chu Danqing completed the last stroke and finished the Night Banquet in the Bamboo Forest painting. Everyone gathered around to take a look, only to see that the painting had vividly captured everyone’s voice and countenance. The most wonderful part of it all was they could even hear the zither music and see the sword qi fly about.

Qin Xin could not help but ask, “Danqing, you’re in such a great mood tonight, so why don’t you tell us what you went off to do with Qingshan?”

Chu Danqing’s mind cleared up; he could not help but glance at Li Qingshan. Li Qingshan nodded in response. The deaths of three Foundation Establishment cultivators was anything but small. If they purposefully tried to hide it, they would come off as guilty instead.

Chu Danqing roughly told them what had happened, but he hid the secret of the Painting Tomb, as well as the matter of the violet talisman. He finished the story in a single breath, and the bamboo forest fell silent completely. Only the rustling bamboo in the wind could be heard.

Everyone’s gazes gathered on Li Qingshan once again. Apart from respect, there were also hints of fear. He had faced off against three Foundation Establishment cultivators together and killed them all before coming back and holding a jolly banquet like nothing had happened at all.

“It’s not because I was bloodthirsty, just that I was left with no other choice. If I did not kill, then I would be killed.” Li Qingshan took out the recording stone and played what the three people had said again helplessly.

“I didn’t think they’d be so bold! They’ve gotten off easy by just dying!” Wei Yangsheng fumed and everyone else chimed in too. However, no one present was an idiot. They all thought inside, You even prepared a recording stone, so you were probably left with more than one choice!

Under his straightforward appearance was plenty of strategy and scheming. As it seemed, he also had something to rely on to be bold enough to oppose E Dan openly. However, if they could have a powerful friend like him, that would be for the best!

“Danqing, why didn’t you call us too? We could have helped you out.” “With Qingshan taking action, does he even need us?” “Haha, fair enough!”

Compared to poem recitals, zither performances, and paintings, the most primitive slaughter was still better at winning over people at the end of the day. This was the exact reason why duels prevailed in the Dragon province.

They did not disperse until deep into the night.

Li Qingshan was already mostly drunk, with only a bit of clarity left, while his clone continued refining bodies of water. He left the Academy of the Hundred Schools and was about to return to the Qing Xiao dwelling.

But he thought of something else and flew into an underground cave, transforming and concealing his aura, turning back into Northmoon. He smiled. “Ma’am Spider Queen, I’m coming!”

He flapped his wings of wind and sped through the twisting caves, finding Lolth’s aura very soon. He smiled and directly dove through the rock and soil, arriving in a huge, open space. Spider silk entwined together into a huge web.

A frosty, beautiful woman in a black tight suit stood at the centre of the web, staring at him with hostility. “Northmoon, why have you come?”

“Obviously because I’ve been thinking of you.” Li Qingshan smiled drunkenly and studied the surroundings. “Hmm? This is Cobweb city!”

Or more accurately, it was the cavern where Cobweb city once stood. During the battle before, Cobweb city had been destroyed, and the cavern had caved in before water flooded in. However, as time went on, the water receded once more, and the cavern stabilised again. Lolth returned here and turned it into her nest.

Li Qingshan arrived before Lolth in a flash and pushed her against the web. Laying on top of her, he smiled. “They say that a night together as husband and wife leads to a life of endless devotion. Have you been thinking of me?”

Lolth said coldly, “I’ve been thinking about killing you!”

“It’s best if you don’t try something like that again. I’m afraid I won’t be able to hold back my killing intent. It’ll be bad if we fall out completely.”

Li Qingshan touched her beautiful face, gently sliding down to her chest and grabbing a handful, fiddling around with it freely. Although it was still a little lacklustre compared to Qiu Haitang’s grandness, it was much firmer and more elastic, where it seemed to push back with a slight squeeze.

His desires were immediately set alit. His lust that had not been completely released with Han Qiongzhi, his drive that Qiu Haitang had roused, and his demonic nature and cruelty that the second senior sister had stirred all erupted in his body while he was drunk.

“Ah!” Lolth moaned gently as she felt her breast ache. Li Qingshan’s fingers dug in deeply. The strength of the fifth layer of the ox demon was so great that even her body struggled to endure it slightly, but he completely ignored it, using some more force.

When he embraced Han Qiongzhi intimately, he still had to be careful, afraid of hurting her, even when the spirit turtle had already suppressed most of his strength. That was even more significant when he made love to her, but he no longer had to worry about so much if he was with Lolth.

He lowered his head and kissed her scarlet lips as his hands explored every single part of her body. Every bit of contact would cause her pain, but lust gradually filled her eyes.

A while later, Li Qingshan raised his head and asked, “Do you want me to rip it apart, or are you going to take it off yourself?”

Lolth spread her arms, and the black tight suit she had woven together carefully unraveled like silk connected to a loom. Her white, smooth body was completely exposed to Li Qingshan. The two specks of red trembled slightly on the snowy peaks as her slender legs overlapped together, sitting in an extremely enchanting pose.

After Li Qingshan forcefully conquered her, she could no longer freely search for sacrificial offerings like in the past until she killed him. Her body had also become filled with lust. As a daemon, she was mostly unable to hold back on her desires, not to mention that yielding to the strong was a part of her nature.

Regardless of whether she still felt hatred or discontent, he had already demonstrated his great strength, so he possessed this right. Moreover, he was the only male that possessed the right to procreate with her right now.

“Northmoon, I will definitely kill you with my own hands. As for now... Ah!” Before Lolth could even finish, Li Qingshan had already struck her swiftly, beginning a new round of battle.

After going for a few times, Li Qingshan yawned in satisfaction. He had completely sobered up. Lolth slept soundly to his side.

I’ve found a moment of peace in my busy lifestyle for once, but while this place is nice, it’s not where I belong. Once I rest up, I can continue cultivating!

At this exact moment, he suddenly sensed a great danger and immediately raised his guard. It’s a warning from the spirit turtle. Someone is coming after me! Don’t tell me Lolth wants to use some sort of trick against me again? I can’t spare her this time.

Li Qingshan waited for a while, but nothing happened around him. No, this isn’t it. It’s the mirror clone!

In that moment, he devoted all of his attention to the mirror clone hundreds of kilometers away. His mirror clone was currently controlling the Water God Seal and refining a river.

Although he was still unable to see any trace of the enemy, he could vaguely sense an invisible net being cast around him. For the spirit turtle to sense such great danger, the enemy was definitely much greater than the three idiots of the school of Painting!

So it’s them!