

Martial 2941

Chapter 2941, Brother and Sister

Zhu Lie coldly snorted, "Probably means I'm not sure! Are you stupid?"

Yang Kai opened his mouth, but he was speechless, his mood instantly becoming terrible.

Zhu Lie glanced at him and chuckled, "You seem concerned about her. Are you curious to know her situation?"

Yang Kai snickered, "It's not like I'm that close with her, so why would I be concerned? Whether she lives or dies has nothing to do with me. Naturally, that's the business of your Dragon Island, so enough with the nonsense."

Zhu Lie shrugged, "The last time she contacted Dragon Island was two months ago, and it's precisely because we were sure that she was in a dangerous place and would most likely lose her life there that I came out from Dragon Island to look for you."

"What are you looking for me for?" Yang Kai asked, dissatisfied.

Zhu Lie answered, "Her mission hasn't been completed, so naturally, someone has to complete it for her!" Shaking his head, he sighed, "Only, it seems like I, too, will not be able to bring you back to Dragon Island. But remember, Dragon Island won't give up. You won't be so lucky next time."

Yang Kai coldly snorted, "Go back and tell your Dragon Clan that if anyone dares to disturb this Young Master again, send one and I will kill one, send two and I will kill two. I just don't know how many Dragon Clan members you have on Dragon Island for me to kill."

Zhu Lie's face turned dark and he gritted his teeth, hissing, "Shameless boasting!"

"Off you go!"

With a flick of his sleeve, Yang Kai turned around and went back into Spirit Sword Peak. Zhu Lie stood in place and stared for a long time before his body moved, flying away in a stream of light.

No one intercepted him on the way. Right now, the temple was busy with the Demon Banishment Order and the search for Wu Kuang, so most of the Sect's Masters were outside and it was naturally impossible for those who were left to try to stop a Dragon.

Zhu Lie moved very quickly and left Azure Sun Temple in just a short while, but just as soon as he left the Azure Sun Mountain Range, he paused, his eyes staring coldly at a figure in front of him. It was Yang Kai.

Zhu Lie had no idea when he had run past him, or how long he had been standing there with his hands behind his back, but he was annoyed and shouted angrily, "What do you want now? You're not thinking

of going back on your word, are you? This Dragon is not even thinking about starting trouble with you, but if you dare to go against your word..."

"Don't be so nervous!" Yang Kai interrupted him with a cold smile on his face, "I just want to ask how your Dragon Island is prepared to deal with Zhu Qing's matter."

"Zhu Qing is already dead, what else can we do?" Zhu Lie frowned.

Yang Kai said, "Didn't you say probably, and that you weren't sure just now? So why are you so sure now that she's dead?"

Zhu Lie told him, "Even if she's not dead, she won't be alive for long. The place that she went to is the Frozen Earth. You should know how dangerous that place is."

"I know. If it wasn't dangerous, then it would have been impossible for one of your Dragon Clan to have been lost there to begin with. I just wanted to ask, is your Dragon Island not planning to save her?"

Zhu Lie sneered, "She's an Eighth-Order Red Dragon, if even she lost her life there, then there aren't many Dragons on the island who can guarantee their own safety. Dragon Island will not risk the lives of other clansmen just to save a fellow clansman who they're not even sure is dead or alive!"

Yang Kai shouted, "Even if she's dead, you should go and collect her corpse! She's one of your clansmen after all!"

Zhu Lie scoffed at him, "She did not know the immensity of Heaven and Earth and decided to trespass into the Frozen Earth, so why should others join her in taking this risk? If she's dead, then she's dead. No one will go and save her either."

"Is this what you think, or is this what Dragon Island thinks?" Yang Kai's expression was dark.

"It's what I think and it's what Dragon Island thinks!" Zhu Lie turned his head away, not meeting Yang Kai's eyes.

Yang Kai was silent for a moment before muttering, "I really feel like punching you."

Zhu Lie sneered, "Haven't you beaten me enough these days? This Dragon will surely return the shame that you gave a hundred times in the future!"

"Talk to me after you can beat me." Yang Kai looked in contempt at him and turned around, flying back to Azure Sun Temple.

He returned to Spirit Sword Peak in just a few breaths, coming straight to the back of the mountain. Even though they had just experienced the escape of the Demon Spirits at Spirit Sword Peak, the back of the mountain did not suffer much damage, so the Cross-Territory Space Array he placed there was perfectly undamaged.

It wasn't until he stood in front of the Space Array that Yang Kai suddenly came back to his senses. His mind was so filled with other thoughts earlier that he didn't even notice his own movements, and by the time he realized, he was already here.

"Follow your heart, huh..." Yang Kai muttered softly and said helplessly to himself, "How troublesome."

Despite that, the hesitation on his face disappeared without a trace, replaced with a look of determination.

A noise whistling through the air was approaching from the distance. Yang Kai turned his head around and saw a fiery red light flying in. Seemingly able to sense Yang Kai's location, it came straight to the back of the mountain, landing not far away from him.

"What?" Yang Kai looked at Zhu Lie who decided to turn back without much enthusiasm, looking as if he wanted to fight with him.

Zhu Lie asked, "Are you planning on going to the Frozen Earth to look for Zhu Qing?"

"None of your damn business!" Yang Kai scoffed.

Zhu Lie's face distorted a little. Turning away, he said, "If you're going to go, count me in."

"Oh?" Yang Kai raised his brow, looking at him with interest, "Give me a reason, and don't tell me it's because you found your conscience or some other nonsense. I'm not going to believe such a childish reason."

Zhu Lie scratched his nose and said, "Zhu Qing is my Elder Sister!"

Yang Kai was slightly surprised, but he soon relaxed.

He had a vague feeling prior to this that Zhu Lie and Zhu Qing shared some sort of blood relationship because of certain similarities in their appearance and characteristics. Only, since he asked once and didn't get an answer, he didn't bother to get to the bottom of things.

But only now did Yang Kai find out that his guess was correct. These two Red Dragons were, in fact, siblings.

"Is that reason enough?" Zhu Lie looked at Yang Kai with a serious expression.

"En, it's enough." Yang Kai nodded before stepping onto the Space Array and calling out, "Get on."

Zhu Lie frowned. Even though he had no idea what Yang Kai was going to do, he didn't sense any hostility from him, so with utter confidence in his own strength, Zhu Lie mounted the array.

"Don't resist!" As Yang Kai shouted, Space Principles began to fluctuate. The Void seemed to collapse in on itself in that instant, and if Yang Kai had not warned him, Zhu Lie would likely have tried to struggle, and would perhaps have been exiled to the Void as a result.

With a flash of light, the two figures disappeared.

At the same time, the Northern Territory's High Heaven Palace.

At the Space Array, both Yang Kai and Zhu Lie appeared at the same time. Seeing their arrival, the two disciples who were keeping watch at the side quickly saluted, "Greetings Palace Master!"

Yang Kai nodded before taking out his communication artifact and pouring a message into it. Then, he stood in place, waiting.

Zhu Lie had already recovered from the side effects of the cross-territory teleportation and was now looking around, frowning as he asked, "Where is this?"

Yang Kai answered without even turning back, "The Northern Territory, High Heaven Palace!"

Zhu Lie was stunned for a moment before he began observing the Space Array, pondering, "Zhu Qing said you had a Cross-Territory Space Array here. So it's true."

Yang Kai fumed, "Why does that damn woman report everything to Dragon Island? Do I have no secrets at all over there?"

Zhu Lie frowned, "Watch your words, Human. That's my Elder Sister you're talking about!"

Yang Kai sneered, "Elder Sister? I didn't see you taking the initiative to save your Elder Sister. If I had a brother like you, I would have strangled him a long time ago, what would I need him for!"

"What do you know?!" It was not known which one of Yang Kai's words struck a sensitive nerve in Zhu Lie, sending him into a rage as he gnashed his teeth, "You think I don't want to save her? You think I'm willing to just watch her die out there!?"

"Then why didn't you go? Wherever the heart leads, the body should follow. Cultivators like us should tread upon the path we determine for ourselves, bravely, without hesitation or regret. The only thing we should fear is being over cautious and indecisive. If Zhu Qing is really your Elder Sister, then you shouldn't have sought me out at Azure Sun Temple. You should have looked for her in the Frozen Earth. Even if you died, you should die together with her. Now, with time delayed, you may have cut off her only chance to survive."

Zhu Lie's mouth opened and closed, looking extremely angry, and even his eyes seemed to burn.

But for some reason, those fires suddenly died down. Face hazing over, he sighed, "Wherever the heart leads, the body should follow. Is that the reason you want to save her?"

Yang Kai curled his lip, "What else? I don't know her well enough to risk my life for her, and I'd rather she have gone and died sooner rather than later... But since the thought of saving her appeared in my heart, I'm afraid this thought will haunt me and become a heart demon if I don't take action."

Zhu Lie said, "No matter what, I thank you in Zhu Qing's place."

"No need to thank me, just don't bother me in the future." Yang Kai coldly snorted.

A beautiful figure flew over from afar at that time and landed in front of the pair. It was High Heaven Palace's Head Manager, Hua Qing Si. Cupping her fist, she spoke, "Palace Master, you've returned!" While speaking, she glanced curiously at Zhu Lie who was standing next to Yang Kai, but asked no questions about him.

Naturally, Zhu Lie did not bother to say anything. Members of the Dragon Clan had always been arrogant, and if he had not suffered so much at Yang Kai's hands, he wouldn't even look at the latter either.

"We'll be leaving immediately." Yang Kai looked to be in a hurry.

“Where are you going?” Hua Qing Si asked.

“I have to make a visit to Fire Dragon Palace. Are we connected to Fire Dragon Palace’s Space Array?”

Hua Qing Si responded, “I proposed it before, but Li Jiao wasn’t too willing, so I didn’t force the issue.”

“Of course he wouldn’t be...” Yang Kai smirked. Even though Fire Dragon Palace and Full Sky Sect were established top Sects in the Northern Territory, both of them ate a big loss at Yang Kai’s hands and now owed a huge debt to High Heaven Palace that they would not be able to pay back even after a few dozen years, so how could they be willing to connect their Space Arrays with their debtors? Wouldn’t this just make it more convenient for debt collectors to come and demand payment?

“No matter, I’ll just fly there directly. Point me in their direction.”

Hua Qing Si quickly pointed in a certain direction and said, “Fire Dragon Palace is that way. With Palace Master’s speed, it should only take about three days. Does Palace Master need me to accompany you? I’ve been to Fire Dragon Palace once.”

“No need.” Yang Kai waved his hand. But then, he changed to Divine Sense transmission, “How is the situation with the Thousand Illusions Dreamworld?”

Hua Qing Si adopted a serious countenance and replied, “Everything has been arranged and Chi Yue and the others have gone in once already, gaining much from the experience. However, the scope and scale of the Thousand Illusions Dreamworld are too big. I’m afraid it will take some time to map out the rules. I’m preparing to choose some disciples from Thousand Leaves Sect for the next batch to enter.”

Chapter 2942, Life is Not Easy

More than half a month ago when Nanmen Da Jun returned to High Heaven Palace from Azure Sun Temple, Yang Kai passed him the Thousand Illusions Butterfly for him to bring back. The reason Yang Kai attached so much importance to the Thousand Illusions Butterfly was that he himself was able to benefit greatly from his adventures inside it.

The Thousand Illusions Dreamworld was sure to become one of High Heaven Palace’s foundations. Compared to it, the Heavenly Tone Temple, which was set up with the Heavenly Music Treasure Box as the core, seemed much less useful.

But the Thousand Illusions Dreamworld was not a static thing. Each cultivator that entered it may encounter a different illusion, and not only were those illusions real enough to pass off as genuine, they were also born out of reality, so truth and falsehood were almost indistinguishable. However, the benefits they are able to gain in the illusion were enough to allow a person’s strength to receive a significant boost.

In particular, the Thousand Illusions Dreamworld had the amazing ability to distort time, which was simply invaluable. Chi Yue and the others were Yang Kai’s elders and relatives, so Hua Qing Si chose

them to be the first group to enter the Thousand Illusions Dreamworld. As proven by facts, each one of them was able to gain something from inside.

The Thousand Illusions Dreamworld was a huge treasure, and it was impossible for them to extract everything about it at once, so they could only take it step by step and uncover its mysteries gradually.

After a few words with Hua Qing Si, Yang Kai set off with Zhu Lie.

Moving quickly in the Flowing Clouds Shuttle, one man and one Dragon sat inside and shuttled through the air.

Zhu Lie was puzzled by Yang Kai's actions.

"If Zhu Qing is trapped in the Frozen Earth, why are we going to Fire Dragon Palace?"

While controlling the Flowing Clouds Shuttle, Yang Kai glanced at him, "Have you been to the Frozen Earth before?"

Zhu Lie shook his head, "I've rarely left Dragon Island ever since I was born; members of the Dragon Clan aren't allowed outside very often. I've heard of the Frozen Earth before, but I've never been there before."

"Me neither." Yang Kai laughed and asked, "Then, do you know where we should go to find your Elder Sister?"

Zhu Lie shook his head again, "I don't. I tried to contact her these past few days, but I never got a response. I'm afraid she may really be..."

Yang Kai interjected, "If they're alive, see the person, if they're dead, see the corpse. Reserve your conclusions for after you see her."

"That's how the saying goes, but..."

"There are no buts!" Yang Kai swept him a stern look, "Neither you nor I have been to the Frozen Earth, not to mention the fact that we don't even know where to begin searching for her, but there is someone who should be able to help."

Zhu Lie thought for a moment, "And that person is in Fire Dragon Palace?"

"I guess you still have some brains!" Yang Kai grinned, "A chef should sharpen his knife before he begins to make a meal. Even though it will delay us for a bit to seek him out, it will at least be better than diving into the Frozen Earth and searching blindly." After a pause, Yang Kai said, "But that person's status is not ordinary. So I may need your help when the time comes."

Zhu Lie snickered, "Can't you beat him?"

Yang Kai shook his head slowly, "It's not a matter about who is stronger or weaker, but a matter of cooperation. I want that man to accompany me to the Frozen Earth, but he definitely won't be willing. If I use force, then I'm afraid it will create conflict and he would try to resist or revolt, which would not help in finding your Elder Sister at all. But if you can make an appearance, then things will be much easier to settle."

“Oh?” Zhu Lie was now curious. He had no idea what sort of person would be as Yang Kai described, but he didn’t ask too much. He would find out when they met regardless.

Fire Dragon Palace, which had been established for tens of thousands of years in this part of the Northern Territory, was one of the four top Sects alongside Ice Heart Valley, Seeking Passion Sect, and Full Sky Sect. The reason it could be a top Sect was that it always had a Third-Order Emperor Realm Master assuming command.

And Fire Dragon Palace’s Palace Master Li Jiao was even a Half-Monster Master with a trace of Dragon Clan bloodline in him. In its most prosperous years, Fire Dragon Palace used to dominate the other three Sects, so their influence was second to none.

But ever since High Heaven Palace emerged in the Northern Territory, Fire Dragon Palace’s days had not been easy.

No one knew how their Palace Master offended High Heaven Palace, but since last year, eighty percent of the Sect’s annual revenue had to be handed over to that abominable place, leaving them with only a meagre twenty percent.

Fire Dragon Palace was a large Sect with many industries under its command, but its disciples numbered more than ten thousand, and a trivial twenty percent would only equate to ten million High-Rank Source Crystals. How could that amount be enough for their consumption? In the Sect, from Li Jiao at the top to the common disciples at the bottom, they suddenly fell to the ground at once from enjoying all sorts of benefits. All of them had to tighten their belts to live on these days.

Because of this, many of Fire Dragon Palace’s Elders were very dissatisfied with High Heaven Palace and would try to fan the flames by Li Jiao’s ear from time to time, hoping for him to bring them over to High Heaven Palace in order to avenge their past shame.

But how could Li Jiao have such guts? The Elders and disciples under him had no idea what sort of heritage High Heaven Palace possessed, but he couldn’t be clearer. The last time he followed Ji Ying over to watch a good show, he ended up losing almost all of the Sect’s business. Now, even hearing mention of High Heaven Palace was enough to get his heart pounding, so how could he dare to knock on their door?

Fortunately, Fire Dragon Palace wasn’t the only Sect to suffer this misfortune. Full Sky Sect was also in a similar situation. The two top Sects could now be considered brothers in misfortune, and there was nothing they could do but huddle together for warmth.

On this day, inside Fire Dragon Palace’s main hall, many Elders were gathered. As usual, the hall was filled with noise as many Emperor Realm Masters, completely throwing away the calm temperament and mild demeanour Masters of their station should have, made the room as noisy and foul as a vegetable market.

This situation was not common in the past, but since last year it had been happening often. Many Elders were fighting for nothing more than a single word: Benefits!

Fire Dragon Palace’s annual revenue was about fifty million High-Rank Source Crystals, and if there were no special circumstances, such a large amount would have been more than enough to cover the Sect’s

expenses. Even after meeting the needs of each Elder and department, there was still a surplus saved to expand the Sect's reserves in case of future needs.

But since last year, fifty million had been reduced to ten million, and a problem was then exposed. Each Elder wanted to secure more benefits for the spirit peak or hall they controlled. Alchemy required Source Crystals, Artifact Refining required Source Crystals, and even cultivating required Source Crystals. Who was willing to eat a loss?

But there were only ten million Source Crystals in total now to go around, and they had to last for the whole year. With each hand that reached out and snatched a crystal, one crystal would be missing from the pot.

If the storehouse still had a surplus, then it would be fine. At most, they just had to open the treasury and take out the Source Crystals from there to ease the crisis, but the problem was, Fire Dragon Palace's storehouse was practically empty. Almost all the reserves the Sect had been accumulating for so many centuries had already been given to High Heaven Palace to pay off their debts, and the situation would not be improving within the next fifty years.

In view of all this, the Elders gathered in the hall refused to back down half a step. Each of them argued until their faces were red and their veins bulged, all so they could argue for the greatest amount of benefits for their side.

Li Jiao sat at the head of the room, listening to the noise below with a grim expression, not saying a word or showing any intention to intervene.

He could only blame himself for following Ji Ying to High Heaven Palace back then. If he had simply stood by and watched, that would have been that, but he actually had to make that accursed bet with Yang Kai. Not only did he make a bet, he even gambled so much of the Sect's resources.

[I must have been possessed!] Li Jiao sighed and slowly closed his eyes.

But all of a sudden, the noise below stopped. An elderly man with an all-white beard cupped his fists and declared, "Palace Master, Spirit Pills cannot be removed from the cultivation of our disciples. The operation of my Pill Room is a top priority for the entire Sect, so I would like to please ask the Sect Master to allocate three million High-Rank Source Crystals for the Pill Room's Alchemy use each year."

"Three million? Elder Xu, aren't you trying to take the lion's share!? The palace only has ten million source crystals available to spend each year, and you're actually asking for three million? What do you expect us to do? Drink the northwestern winds?"

"He's right! Three million is too much. I think half a million sounds better. One can cultivate even without pills, the speed will only be slower. We just have to make it through these next fifty years."

"Fifty years? The younger generation will have been ruined in those fifty years! Without enough pills to support them, how can their potential possibly be tapped? Our Fire Dragon Palace's younger generation will definitely reveal an enormous fault line. Once our Sect's foundation is weakened, who will take responsibility?"

“Brother Xu, don’t make it sound so serious. It’s only fifty years. Who out of us here has not already cultivated for more than a thousand years? When you were young, did you always have plenty of pills to take? Weren’t you able to cultivate to the Emperor Realm all the same?”

“That is why this Old Master is only in the First-Order. If this Old Master had enough pills available to me when he was younger, then this Old Master definitely wouldn’t be merely at this level.”

After a short moment of silence, a new argument broke out.

Li Jiao finally could not take it any longer. He slammed his fist down in anger, crushing the arm of his chair into dust.

The bustling hall suddenly fell silent and all eyes were turned towards Li Jiao.

With their Palace Master angry, none of them dared to act recklessly anymore.

“Enough!” Li Jiao swept his eyes across the bottom and finally gritted his teeth, “Every single day I sit here, listening to you bicker, but you never come up to me with a solution! You are all Elders of my Fire Dragon Palace, Emperor Realm Masters! This constant bickering is highly improper! If the lower disciples were to see this, would we have any dignity left!?”

All of them felt embarrassed being admonished by the Palace Master and lowered their heads.

The Pill Room’s Elder Xu pondered for a moment before saying, “Palace Master, the matter of Source Crystals must be resolved as soon as possible. Otherwise...”

“You think I don’t know that?” Li Jiao glared at him impatiently, “This King was negligent that day and fell into the trap of that petty thief, involving everyone in my Fire Dragon Palace.”

Elder Xu said, “Palace Master does not have to blame himself too much. Sect Master Mi was also unable to see through the truth on that day. We can only blame that little brat from High Heaven Palace for being too cunning. As long as our Fire Dragon Palace’s Palace Master survives, then we will surely be able to rise up again.”

The group of Elders nodded their heads in approval.

Li Jiao said, “As things have come to this, this King has a proposal. I hope that all Elders can cooperate with it to their best ability. If it can be done, then our Fire Dragon Palace will definitely be able to make it past these difficult times.”

Elder Xu asked, “May I ask what wonderful plan Palace Master has come up with?”

Li Jiao glanced around and lightly coughed before announcing, “Everyone present is an Emperor and has been an Elder of my Fire Dragon Palace for more than just a year or two. Surely you must have some personal savings on hand. What this King means to say is... he hopes you can first take out your savings for the Sect’s public use, as a loan to the palace. After fifty years, you will be paid back with interest. This King will definitely not let any of you suffer a loss. I wonder what everyone thinks about this idea?”

No one responded, and wherever Li Jiao’s eyes swept past, the Elders would lower their heads.

Li Jiao coldly snorted, "Do none of you have any savings? It's not possible that every honourable Elder of my Fire Dragon Palace is actually a poor beggar, is it?"

Chapter 2943, Quarrel

"It's not that we don't have savings. Only, compared to what the Sect is lacking... it will only be a drop in the bucket, Palace Master," Elder Xu looked at Li Jiao timidly with a troubled look on his face.

"That's right, Palace Master. Even if we, the older generation, were to take out all of our money, it still won't hold us up for long."

"However long it holds us is still time spent supported," Li Jiao tried his best to persuade them, "We just have to get through this moment of difficulty. Once the Sect is well-off again, your contributions will surely not be forgotten."

Since Li Jiao had already put it this way, then the Elders were also too embarrassed to argue further; after all, what Li Jiao said was true. Everyone had already been in the Emperor Realm for so long that they should more or less have some savings on them. If these assets were taken out, then it could really help to ease the Sect's crisis.

Everyone looked at each other, and it was Elder Xu who broke the silence first, "Sect Master has a point. In that case, this Old Master will set an example. This Old Master contributes 5 million..."

When they heard this, everyone's eyes lit up and Li Jiao was also looking at him with a hot gaze.

Elder Xu smiled embarrassedly, "Mid-Rank Source Crystals! This is almost everything that this Old Master has."

Li Jiao's face turned pitch-black in an instant.

5 million Mid-Rank Source Crystals, when converted, only equalled 50,000 High-Rank Source Crystals. What could they do with this amount? Moreover, as an Emperor Realm Elder and an Emperor Alchemist who had been refining pills for hundreds of years, it was simply impossible for him to have so little money.

"That doesn't seem right, Elder Xu," a dark-faced man jumped out and yelled, "That pot of Myriad Flower Wine you served to your guests alone was already worth 30,000 High-Rank Source Crystals. That was a Peak-Rank wine that came out from Medicine Pill Valley. If you had only that bit of money, then how could you possibly afford that?"

Having his lie exposed to his face, Elder Xu blushed red and tried to defend himself, "That... This Old Master didn't buy that, it was a friend who brought it and invited this Old Master to try it. How could I be the one who bought it? The amount this Old Master earns each year is also just a small amount. It's just barely enough to cover this Old Master's cultivation requirements, so how could I have so many Source Crystals to buy that Myriad Flower Wine? Don't try to slander others!"

The dark-faced man coldly snorted, "Elder Xu doesn't have Source Crystals? Who would believe that? Elder Xu, you control the Pill Room of Fire Dragon Palace. You take countless Source Crystals from the Palace Master each year. Not mentioning the past, you took 6 million High-Rank Source Crystals last year alone, and more than 7 million the year before that! Going further back, there were even years you took 8 million! The Sect's total revenue is only 50 million, while the Pill Room directly consumes ten to twenty percent of it!"

Elder Xu waved his sleeve and argued, "This Old Master has already said that the Pill Room is the most important part of Fire Dragon Palace. How can our abundance of disciples cultivate without Spirit Pills? It's normal for the consumption to be large."

The dark-faced man sneered, "If only those Source Crystals were really all spent on buying herbs... Can Elder Xu guarantee that all the Source Crystals you take from the Palace Master are truly put into the operation of the Pill Room?"

Elder Xu instantly felt a little angry out of shame and shouted at him, "What... What are you trying to imply!?"

The dark-faced man snorted, "You know exactly what I'm implying. If Elder Xu had been embezzling funds to fill his own pocket when the Sect was rich, then so be it, but now, when the Sect is in crisis, shouldn't Elder Xu show a little more sincerity?"

"Embezzling funds to fill my pockets!?" Elder Xu jumped up like a cat whose tail had been stepped on, his Emperor Qi surging as if he intended to fight it out with the dark-faced man to prove his innocence right then and there. Turning to Li Jiao, he pleaded indignantly, "Palace Master, this man slanders this Elder! I ask Palace Master to please seek justice for this Elder!"

Li Jiao stood there with a numb expression, as if he did not hear what Elder Xu said.

Elder Xu turned back and sneered at the dark-faced man, "My Pill Room's financial income and expenditure are available for inspection, so this Old Master will not argue with you here. Whether there is any embezzling going on, Palace Master can make his own decision. As for your Artifact Room, who knows whether your bottom is clean or not!"

"You old thing, you dare try to turn this around on me?!" The dark-faced man was furious.

"How dare you call me an old thing, you bastard!"

"So what if I call you that? Old thing old thing old thing!"

"..."

The two of them immediately began another quarrel. Some of the remaining Elders would try and back one of them up, but others tried to quell the fight. The hall was instantly sent into chaos. If Li Jiao were not still here at this moment, a brawl would most likely have broken out.

Li Jiao gazed coldly at the crowd, wishing only to sweep all these annoying bastards out of the room to end all the trouble to return peace to his ears. But he was still the Palace Master after all. At the thought that the survival of his ten thousand disciples rested on the decisions that needed to be made here, no

matter how angry he felt in his heart, he had no choice but to force it down and find a way to solve the immediate crisis first.

At that moment, a creak emerged, the door was pushed open, and in walked a disciple.

The noise came to an abrupt halt as everyone turned their attention to the disciple.

The disciple clearly did not expect such exciting things to be happening inside the hall either. As far as his eyes could see, the prominent and aloof Elders were all red-faced with bulging veins while the Palace Master stood at the head with a mirthless smile on his face. The disciple was immediately so frightened that he did not even dare to take a breath.

“What is it?” Li Jiao asked impatiently.

“Reporting to Palace Master, someone is seeking an audience!” The disciple responded, trembling.

“I’m not seeing anyone!” Li Jiao was in a bad mood, so he refused without even thinking about it.

As if he had received a pardon, the disciple quickly excused himself.

But Li Jiao suddenly asked, “Who is asking for an audience?”

The disciple thought for a moment and answered, “He called himself Yang Kai!”

“What!?!” Li Jiao was shocked to hear that answer. The group of Elders below were also stunned.

Elder Xu asked, “Yang Kai? Isn’t that High Heaven Palace’s Palace Master?”

“If it really is him, then this will be interesting!” The dark-faced man who was arguing with Elder Xu just now had a dangerous gleam in his eyes. He raised his head and said, “Palace Master, why don’t you let this Yang Kai come in? Isn’t he the creditor of our Fire Dragon Palace? Perhaps now we can have a proper ‘discussion’ about our debt with him.”

“Yes, that’s right! What a coincidence for him to visit at this time. Just let him in. Palace Master, what do you... think?”

They all turned to their Palace Master, only to see Li Jiao’s face as black as the bottom of a pot. He clearly didn’t think what they were suggesting was a good idea.

Li Jiao sighed, “High Heaven Palace is not to be provoked. And that Yang Kai... is also not to be provoked.”

But the group of Elders were unconvinced because they’d heard that High Heaven Palace’s Palace Master was only a First-Order Emperor. Last time, their Palace Master and Full Sky Sect’s Sect Master suffered a great loss in their territory, but since this Yang Kai daringly sent himself to their doorstep, then they really had no idea what their Palace Master was afraid of. As long as they got him into this hall and shut the doors, then they could settle that huge debt in mere moments.

“Tell that man that this Palace Master has gone out to wander the world and is not in the palace.”

The disciple answered his command and was just about to turn around when a sneer emerged from outside the door, "What an interesting man you are, Brother Li. This Palace Master has come to visit, but you won't even see me?"

At the end of that sentence, two more figures appeared in the hall.

Before the two men appeared, none of the many Emperor Realm Masters inside even noticed them, as if they simply appeared out of thin air. Both the newcomers looked young. One of the men had a frivolous appearance with sharp brows and bright eyes, a slight smile on his lips. The other man had hair as red as fire and a cold, condescending gaze. Despite standing on the ground, he gave off the feeling that he was in the clouds, as if he belonged to a different world from everyone present.

The Elders were all shocked and each paled in unison.

Li Jiao was also so shaken that he almost turned around and fled. It took a lot of effort before he was able to hold down that impulse in his heart to flee and turn his eyes to Yang Kai with a speechless face.

Yang Kai looked up with a smile, "Brother Li is going out to wander the world?"

Li Jiao laughed dryly, "That was what I was planning, yes, but it's nothing important, just a whim. However, since Palace Master Yang is here, this Li naturally cannot leave."

Yang Kai stroked his chin, "If Palace Master Li still has the mind to go out on a trip, then it seems like life has been going pretty well."

Li Jiao's face suddenly looked bitter, "Don't be ridiculous, Palace Master Yang. Right now, this Li's life is... worse than death."

When the Elders heard this, all of them lowered their heads apologetically.

Yang Kai laughed, "Brother Li is really interesting. Fire Dragon Palace is so big, and Brother Li is so strong and holds so much power, how could his life be worse than death?"

Li Jiao thought to himself, [Isn't this all your fault?] But he kept a smile on his face as he changed the subject, "I wonder what Palace Master Yang is here for today?"

Yang Kai did not answer and merely looked at him with a smile.

Li Jiao wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and said, "This... This... Palace Master Yang isn't thinking of collecting money, right? There's no need for Palace Master Yang to come personally for such a trivial matter, is there? Matters like these can just be left to subordinates. What's more, my Fire Dragon Palace has not forgotten this year's payment. However, I will need some time to prepare... Once everything is prepared, it will be sent to High Heaven Palace immediately without delay. And besides... The deadline is not up yet!"

"How could I not know when the deadline is? I think today is the deadline."

The cold sweat on Li Jiao's forehead was now flowing freely as he stammered, "P-P-Palace Master Yang r-r-really came to collect money?"

He simply couldn't believe it. Even though it was true that Fire Dragon Palace owed High Heaven Palace a large amount of Source Crystals, it was a bit too much for Yang Kai to come himself without informing anyone.

"The one surnamed Yang, don't be arrogant!" The dark-faced man stepped out of the crowd and pointed at Yang Kai with his finger, "Even though I don't know what means you used to cheat our Palace Master and put Fire Dragon Palace in such a tight spot, you should remember that you are at least a Palace Master. We are considered peers in the Northern Territory that are sure to come across each other in the future. As long as you can put things down in writing here and nullify the debts between our Sects, then we can let you go this time. Otherwise... Heh heh!"

Many of the Emperor Realm Masters were looking towards Yang Kai with ill intentions.

After seeing Yang Kai in person and confirming that he was indeed just a First-Order Emperor, they all naturally had nothing to fear. Regardless of how strong High Heaven Palace's heritage was, as long as they could confine Yang Kai here, that was equivalent to gaining control over High Heaven Palace, and their so-called debt would also turn into nothing more than a joke.

Li Jiao on the other hand was now standing in a puddle of sweat and almost fainted when he heard this.

Yang Kai looked at the black-faced man, then back at Li Jiao, asking, "Is this one of your Elders?"

"No!" Li Jiao flatly denied it.

Chapter 2944, Wish You The Best Of Luck

A group of Emperor Realm Elders turned to look at him, dumbfounded. That dark-faced man clearly did not expect his own Palace Master to answer that way either and for a moment, his jaw dropped and he appeared stunned.

Li Jiao did not stop there, however, and continued in a forceful tone, "I don't know when this trash got in here and dared to masquerade as one of my Fire Dragon Palace's Elders! No need to bother about the offences of lowly people, Palace Master Yang. There's no need to pay men like him any heed."

Yang Kai said coldly, "Since he's trash, then he should be cleaned up."

Li Jiao quickly agreed, "Palace Master Yang is right!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, he raised his hand and palmed towards the dark-faced man, instantly stirring up the air inside the hall.

Clearly, the dark-faced man hadn't been able to react when that huge palm print came down on him, but even if he had, there was no way for him to be Li Jiao's opponent with his First-Order Emperor Realm cultivation.

There was a scream, and the dark-faced man fell to the ground. Countless bones were broken and fresh blood was spilling out of his mouth and nose. The impact had caused him to pass out directly.

The entire hall was so silent that even a pin drop could be heard. All the Fire Dragon Palace's Elders were dumbfounded, never expecting that their own Palace Master would actually raise a hand against his own Elders. In an instant, chills seeped through their hearts and bodies.

Li Jiao was not a man who was subject to shifting moods, and every Emperor Realm Elder present had been following him for at least a hundred years, making great contributions to Fire Dragon Palace, but simply to not displease an outsider, Li Jiao would actually go as far as to all but waste one of his own men. Their hearts couldn't help but sink at his actions.

Suffering that blow, even if the dark-faced man did not die, the injuries were still severe. At the very least, it would take a month or two of recuperation to recover from them.

In front of everyone's eyes, Li Jiao waved his hand again, tossing the dark-faced man straight out of the hall before looking around with a stern gaze, "If you have no eyes in your own home, you will lose face, but if you have no eyes outside, you will lose your lives. I hope all of you remember this."

When the thinly veiled warning in his words entered their ears, the Elders couldn't help but feel stunned, each one with a different expression.

Li Jiao turned back around and smiled dryly at Yang Kai, "I wonder if Palace Master Yang is satisfied with this?"

Yang Kai smiled, "Brother Li is handling his own Sect's business, it doesn't matter whether I'm satisfied or not."

Only then was Li Jiao relieved and exhaled a light breath, "May I ask what Palace Master Yang has come for?"

Yang Kai responded in a cheerful tone, "To collect money, of course. Didn't Brother Li guess it just now? Why ask if you already know the answer?"

Li Jiao paled in shock and tried to wipe the cold sweat from his forehead as he said, "Palace Master Yang, please don't joke with me..."

"Do I look like I'm joking?" Yang Kai looked indifferently at him.

Even now Li Jiao could not understand what Yang Kai was here for. It was reasonable to say that the annual debt payment of 40 million Source Crystals was simply not worth Yang Kai making the effort to come here personally, but from his expression, it didn't seem like he was joking either. This made Li Jiao's heart pound.

With such a huge debt hanging overhead, he constantly felt as if he was on his back foot and didn't even have much confidence to object. If High Heaven Palace did not have such a shocking heritage, Fire Dragon Palace might be able to resist to a certain extent, but after gaining a first-hand understanding of the depths of High Heaven Palace's background, Li Jiao couldn't even think of resisting.

This man was able to associate himself with Grandmaster Ji Ying and had three Monster Kings protecting his Sect, while even a True Dragon was among their ranks... How could Fire Dragon Place compare to

such a lineup? If Li Jiao really did annoy these people, then Seeking Passion Sect's yesterday would be Fire Dragon Palace's tomorrow.

For a moment, Li Jiao forced out the ugliest smile imaginable, having no idea what else to do.

Yang Kai suddenly said, "Is Brother Li having difficulties turning over the payment?"

Li Jiao answered embarrassedly, "I will have to ask Palace Master Yang to give me more time!"

"How long?"

"Half a year... No no no, three months. Three months will do," Li Jiao answered him hurriedly.

"Three months? Isn't Palace Master Li rushing too much?" Yang Kai smiled, "What if this Palace Master gave you three years?"

"What?" Li Jiao was stunned. He couldn't understand what Yang Kai was implying.

Yang Kai went on, "This Palace Master will give you three years. For three years, your Fire Dragon Palace will not need to make any payments to my High Heaven Palace. After three years, our agreement will continue as usual. With these three years as a buffer, life for your Fire Dragon Palace should be much better!"

Li Jiao didn't feel pleasantly surprised by this sudden grace and instead was shocked and asked hesitantly, "What is Palace Master Yang... asking for in return?"

Nothing was free in this world, and there was no way this High Heaven Palace's Palace Master would be so kind either. Li Jiao had been alive for so many years, so he was clearly aware of such worldly matters.

Yang Kai chuckled, "I need Brother Li to accompany me to a place."

Li Jiao suddenly became alert and his expression changed, "What kind of place?"

Yang Kai next sent his voice directly to Li Jiao's ear.

There was a dramatic change in Li Jiao's expression as if he had heard some shockingly terrible news and he instantly shook his head like a rattle, "Palace Master Yang, it's not that this Li is not willing to help, but..."

"Then pay me back the money now!" Yang Kai held out his palm before Li Jiao could finish speaking.

Lips twitching, Li Jiao fumed, "Palace Master Yang, this Li treats you with sincerity, so please don't bully others too much! I, Li Jiao, am not scared of you!"

Yang Kai smiled, "No need to be so unreasonable, Brother Li. All you have to do is accompany me there. It's not like I'm asking for your life."

Li Jiao shook his head, "Any other place is fine, only that place is..." He seemed to recall something from the past and was unable to help himself from shivering, "Palace Master Yang should ask for something else instead. If this Li can fulfil it, this Li will surely meet your demands."

"You really won't?" Yang Kai's face sank slightly.

Li Jiao gave his silence in response.

Yang Kai sighed, "Forget it. A forcefully picked melon is not sweet. Since Brother Li is unwilling, then this Palace Master will not force it. It's just that this Palace Master intended to help Brother Li solve a crisis, but since Brother Li is unwilling to cooperate, then I wish you the best of luck."

Li Jiao's heart jumped and he asked in astonishment, "Crisis? What crisis?"

Yang Kai shrugged.

Zhu Lie, who had been standing silently at the side, finally spoke at this moment, "He knows where Zhu Qing is?"

"No one knows better than him," Yang Kai nodded.

The reason why Zhu Qing went to the Frozen Earth in the first place was because of Li Jiao. Many years ago, Li Jiao was able to obtain a Dragon Blood Flower from the Frozen Earth and brought it back to his Fire Dragon Palace to cultivate it with his own blood. According to him, the reason why a Dragon Blood Flower could appear in a desolate place like the Frozen Earth was because a Great Dragon lost its life there, and it was by drawing on the vital essence of that fallen Great Dragon that a Dragon Blood Flower was able to survive.

Zhu Qing had asked Li Jiao about the location, hoping to head into the Frozen Earth to retrieve the Dragon Source left behind by that Great Dragon.

So, if anyone else in this world knew where Zhu Qing was in the Frozen Earth, it had to be Li Jiao. Making him lead the way would be the fastest way to find her.

"Good!" Zhu Lie nodded at his words and walked towards Li Jiao.

Li Jiao's chest tightened suddenly as an inexplicable sense of danger welled up in him. He had noticed this red-haired young man before and also sensed his might. That was the reason he repeatedly tolerated Yang Kai's attempts to trouble him. Now, as he had disagreed, Li Jiao was naturally even more wary of him.

Li Jiao asked in a deep voice, "May I ask who Your Excellency is?"

Zhu Lie sneered, "A lizard like you is not qualified to know my name."

"Li... Lizard!" Li Jiao was furious. Naturally, he was afraid of Yang Kai because there were countless Masters behind him that he could not afford to provoke, especially that female Dragon. She was an existence that he couldn't even lay eyes on. Though this red-haired young man was certainly powerful, it was not to the extent that he would fear him.

Li Jiao was still a Third-Order Emperor Realm Master, so there weren't many people who could beat him in this world.

"Filthy bloodlines like yours disgust me the most. You should have been exterminated a long time ago!" Zhu Lie's eyes were overflowing with contempt.

This statement angered Li Jiao completely as the impurity of his bloodline had always been a thorn in his heart, so anyone who mentioned it was sure to draw his ire.

So, with a roar, Li Jiao was ready to teach this red-haired young man a lesson. No matter how powerful this man was, as long as he was not a Great Emperor level existence, then they couldn't be his opponent here in Fire Dragon Palace.

Li Jiao occupied favourable conditions and an advantageous position, allowing him to exert force far beyond his own strength.

But Li Jiao's raging roar abruptly caught in his throat the next moment while the surging Emperor Qi inside his body froze. Standing on the high platform, his eyes trembled as he gazed down below, shaking like a leaf and nearly falling on his butt as he stammered, "D-D-Dragon Clan!"

Below, behind Zhu Lie who was approaching him step by step, the manifestation of a vibrant red Great Dragon suddenly emerged. The pair of huge dragon eyes floating above his head was staring at Li Jiao without any emotion, causing him to feel as if all energy had been sucked from his body. The blood in his veins felt like it had stopped flowing and even his Emperor Qi couldn't circulate.

Now, even if the man approaching was in the Dao Source Realm, he would still be able to slaughter him casually right then and there.

A loud dragon roar finally sounded, and the deafening call sent shivers down everyone's spine.

Fire Dragon Palace's many Elders were all ashen-faced and panicked at the sight, all of them staring at the figure of the Great Dragon behind Zhu Lie's back with lost eyes, each of them feeling a deep sense of inferiority and insignificance before it.

Only now did they realize how wise their Palace Master truly was.

When Li Jiao knocked out that dark-faced man and threw him out, they thought that their Palace Master was cold and unfeeling, but now they deeply understood that it wasn't that Li Jiao was timid and cowardly, but that he had far greater foresight than they.

Without even mentioning how strong that High Heaven Palace's Palace Master who was watching the show from the side was, a member of the Dragon Clan like this one alone would be enough to sweep away everyone present. If any conflict truly broke out at this moment, then only Fire Dragon Palace would suffer.

That was a True Dragon! A living breathing member of the Dragon Clan! The Dragon Clan that had always existed only in legends and ancient books actually appeared so suddenly in front of their eyes. The situation almost didn't feel real to the people here.

Only after witnessing it with their own eyes did they realize how subdued the descriptions in those ancient books were. The might of the Dragon Clan could not be described in words alone.

When a Dragon became angry, who could oppose them? Not to mention, clashing with a Dragon meant opposing Dragon Island. Fire Dragon Palace did not have the courage, nor the ability.

In a flash, Zhu Lie had already walked up the platform, reached out, and grabbed Li Jiao by the neck, lifting him up.

Even though he had Third-Order Emperor Realm cultivation, Li Jiao was just like a baby in front of Zhu Lie, having no power to resist in the slightest. Even if he tried to struggle, he could not break free from his restraint and soon his face was turning blue as his breathing became difficult.

Chapter 2945, Three-Peaked Mountain

“He... Help me!” Li Jiao couldn’t break free from Zhu Lie’s hold and his neck felt like it was going to be crushed, while the cold murderous intent in Zhu Lie’s eyes filled him with overwhelming fear. He could only turn his head towards Yang Kai creakily and beg for help.

Since they came together, Yang Kai’s words must carry some weight.

But Yang Kai just shrugged, “I apologize, Brother Li, but there’s nothing I can do about this situation.”

Li Jiao was gasping and could no longer spit out any words. The group of Fire Dragon Palace Elders were also anxious, all of them watching their Palace Master suffer this humiliation, but none of them daring to go up and help. Not that they could help with their strength even if they tried. It was an extremely awkward situation.

“I forgot to tell you. This Dragon is Zhu Qing’s younger brother, he also came from Dragon Island. You still remember Zhu Qing, don’t you? She was the female dragon that headed to that place. Speaking of which, Brother Li must also take some responsibility for this matter.” Yang Kai made a long sigh, “Zhu Qing has not returned since she set off for that place, so it seems like she has encountered some kind of danger. After that, her younger brother came out from Dragon Island hoping to save his Elder Sister. Tsk tsk, such a touching sibling love, but since learning that Brother Li was the source of the matter, his impression of you hasn’t been very good...”

Li Jiao’s eyes were almost rolling to the back of his head and only the white of them could be seen.

“Ah, that’s right,” Yang Kai continued piling wood to the fire, “This Brother also seems to not be very fond of those who are not of pure blood. He sees one, he’ll kill one, sees two, he’ll kill both. When I mentioned Brother Li’s situation to him previously, I’m not sure if he heard me or not, but in any case, this is a matter between Dragon Island and your Fire Dragon Palace. It’s really not appropriate for me, an outsider, to interfere.”

Only at this moment did Li Jiao understand what Yang Kai meant by crisis.

This was indeed a big crisis for him. He couldn’t understand how the Dragon Clan that was hard for normal Masters to see even once in their lives would appear in front of him time after time. And it was always related to this damned High Heaven Palace Palace Master!

More and more, Li Jiao was beginning to see Dragon Island’s shadow lurking behind High Heaven Palace, and in the current situation, even if this Dragon really did kill him, he was in no position to argue, much less expect those subordinates of his to avenge him.

He wanted to speak, but no matter how he tried, he couldn't spit out a single word. Left with no other choice, he could only raise his hand and put up three fingers, shaking it constantly.

"Brother Li, what are you trying to say? I can't understand the gesture you're making." Yang Kai had a bewildered look on his face.

Li Jiao continued shaking.

But Yang Kai turned a deaf ear to it.

Three fingers turned into two, and then finally into one.

Only then did Yang Kai say, "I think I understand now. Since Brother Li is so sincere, I think we can negotiate." He turned to Zhu Lie and said, "Let him go for now. If you really kill him, then don't even hope that you can find your Elder Sister anymore."

Zhu Lie coldly snorted and threw Li Jiao out like a loose sack.

With a bang, Li Jiao fell heavily to the side and rolled a few times before he came to a stop. Quickly crawling up, he coughed violently for a while.

It took him a lot of effort before he was able to steady himself, but he didn't even have the courage to glare at Zhu Lie. His eyes were dodging left and right, nerves overwhelmed by fear. If any other Third-Order Emperor Realm Master was placed in front of him, then he wouldn't behave this way, but in front of a Pureblood Dragon, he just couldn't find it in his bones to resist or even feel resentful. He just felt inferior in every way, and that he deserved this mistreatment.

"Brother Li, matters can't be delayed. We should depart now," Yang Kai said to Li Jiao.

Li Jiao nodded helplessly.

Yang Kai responded with a smile, "Don't look so aggrieved. It's not like we really want your life, we just want you to lead the way. What's more, it's not like you're not gaining anything from this. This Palace Master can give you a grace period of one year to repay your debt."

Li Jiao could not stop his face from twitching, feeling so much regret that his stomach was doing flips. If he had known that Yang Kai would bring a True Dragon with him, then he would have agreed to anything he said from the start. How could he have tried to bargain with him? Now, it was done. The original three-year deadline extension had been cut to just one year, and it was by his own request.

Li Jiao turned around and instructed the many Emperor Realm Masters present, "Please take care of the palace. This Li will be out for a while."

The Elders nodded repeatedly and looked at Li Jiao with pity in their eyes. They knew Li Jiao's situation as well, and knew that he was not a fearful man, he simply had no choice in front of his natural enemy.

Frightened to delay any longer, Li Jiao urged Yang Kai to hurry on their way.

After the Flowing Clouds Shuttle was summoned, the three men entered it and shot off towards the north.

Each territory had its own Forbidden Zones and Restricted Areas.

The Southern Territory had the Southern Swamp, the Eastern Territory had the Ancient Wild Lands, the Western Territory had the Western Desert, while the Northern Territory had the Frozen Earth. These were only the most famous spots, however, as there were countless other dangerous places of varying sizes.

But in terms of the degree of danger and fatality rate, if the Northern Territory's Frozen Earth were placed second, then no other place could be named first.

The Frozen Earth's reputation as the most dangerous place in the entire Star Boundary was recognized by all. Even Great Emperors did not dare to venture casually into this Forbidden Zone. Other places such as Southern Swamp and Ancient Wild Lands contained many different treasures. Though these places were extremely dangerous, they held many hidden opportunities; however, there was nothing beyond cold death in the Frozen Earth.

No one knew what the Frozen Earth looked like inside because everyone who entered its depths, died.

The first reason Li Jiao was able to come out of the Frozen Earth alive was because of luck, and the second was because he did not delve too deep. The place that he went back then was but the outer periphery.

That was several hundreds of years ago, when Li Jiao had just advanced to the Third-Order Emperor Realm. He was in vigorous spirits and reckless, feeling that there was nowhere in this vast world he could not go.

On a whim, he took a trip to the Frozen Earth.

After narrowly escaping death on that trip, Li Jiao swore that he would never go to the Frozen Earth again. It was also during that time that Li Jiao brought the Dragon Blood Flower back to Fire Dragon Palace.

He never thought that he would have to go there again several hundred years later.

Despite it being such a long time ago, Li Jiao still remembered his experience vividly. On the way, he revealed a lot of information about the Frozen Earth to Yang Kai and Zhu Lie, and even though it was not much, it was still useful.

According to Li Jiao, the Frozen Earth's greatest feature was its frigid temperature. The cold there was not ordinary by any measure and could extinguish all vitality. It was a kind of cold that could not be described, nor could it be resisted.

That damned place seemed to have a natural restraint on all life, and any existence with vitality would not be able to survive there for long.

Very soon, they were able to confirm that information.

The further north they went on the Flowing Clouds Shuttle, the colder the temperature got outside. There was a blanket of white as far as the eye could see, making it impossible to distinguish between the four directions.

Snowflakes the size of goose feathers were constantly floating around the sky, and the entire world seemed to be frozen. Besides white, there was simply no other colour to be seen.

Despite hiding in the Flowing Clouds Shuttle, the three of them could still feel some chill. Even though it was weak, this was still extremely rare.

The Flowing Clouds Shuttle may be a flight type artifact, but it was still an Emperor Artifact after all, one refined by Hou Yu's hands personally, having many defensive features equipped. If even an Emperor Artifact like this could not withstand the severe cold, it was not hard to imagine how harsh the environment was outside.

Li Jiao's face grew more and more terrible, and if not for Zhu Lie standing nearby as a deterrent, he would probably have fled and ran back.

Ten days after their departure from Fire Dragon Palace, the three men barely reached the edge of the Frozen Earth.

Li Jiao had a vivid memory of the location where he found the Dragon Blood Flower, so he was constantly leading the way forward.

And so, after another two days passed, Li Jiao suddenly said with excitement, "Over there! See that three-peaked mountain? That's where I found the Dragon Blood Flower back then."

Yang Kai glanced at Zhu Lie, whose brows knitted slightly and he slowly shook his head.

He and Zhu Qing were brother and sister, and they were both Red Dragons, so there was more or less some connection between them. If Zhu Qing were still there, he would have been able to sense it.

But at this moment, he could not feel any of Zhu Qing's aura at all.

Regardless, Yang Kai steered the Flowing Clouds Shuttle towards the three-peaked mountain. At the depressions between the peaks, the Flowing Clouds Shuttle landed, and the three came out in turn.

As soon as they left the Flowing Clouds Shuttle's protection, a cold that penetrated deep into the depths of both their bones and their Souls came over them from all directions, causing them to be unable to help themselves from shuddering and circulating their strength to resist it.

This was only the edge of the Frozen Earth, and it was already so cold that an ordinary First-Order Emperor Realm Master probably couldn't last more than a day or so. It was hard to imagine how things were like in the deeper areas of the Frozen Earth.

Zhu Lie's Dragon Aura seemed to have some subduing effect on this type of cold though, so when Li Jiao saw this, he couldn't help but lean closer. But when he was met with Zhu Lie's cold stare, he chuckled embarrassedly and backed two steps away.

Yang Kai swept out his Divine Sense and scanned through a hundred-kilometre radius, only to retract it after a short while and shiver slightly.

In that short amount of time, it felt like his Divine Sense was going to freeze completely. If he did not retract it then, he would have suffered damage to his Soul.

"This is where you pointed Zhu Qing to that day?" Yang Kai turned to ask Li Jiao.

Li Jiao hurriedly responded, "Yes, I'm sure of it. I remember this place. Unless there exists another location in the Frozen Earth that is exactly the same as this one..."

The three-peaked mountain was a good landmark, so even though it happened several hundreds of years ago, Ji Liao's memory wouldn't be wrong.

While speaking, he beckoned them, "I remember it was in this direction that I found the Dragon Blood Flower back then."

Yang Kai and Zhu Lie followed behind him, and soon, Li Jiao stopped at a certain spot. Looking up at the direction of the three-peaked mountain, he silently calculated and verified it for a long time before nodding, "This is the place, it has to be."

Zhu Lie also said, "I can feel a weak Dragon Aura here."

As he spoke, he raised his hand and a flame erupted on his palm, turning into a vivid Fire Dragon that crashed straight onto the snow on the ground.

The hot fire melted the snow and very soon, a deep depression of several hundreds of meters quickly appeared, revealing the dirt hidden underneath the ice.

The dirt was frozen solid, and was even stiffer than steel; however, there was a very obvious trace of what appeared to be a huge claw mark on top of it.

Li Jiao said excitedly, "See? I was right! This is where that Great Dragon died."

The huge claw marks were clearly left behind by the claws of a Dragon. Even after hundreds of years, it was perfectly preserved under the cover of the snow.

Chapter 2946, Frozen Tide

The trio moved together and soon removed all the snow covering the area. At once, the huge marks left behind by the Great Dragon appeared in front of them.

As Li Jiao said before, there were only traces left here, but not the Great Dragon's corpse. The reason for that was because the Great Dragon's physical essence and even bones had become nutrients for the Dragon Blood Flower.

There were no traces left by Zhu Qing here, so none of them knew whether she had been here before.

Yang Kai sensed the area silently for a long time and shook his head, "The Source isn't here."

Even though he wasn't a member of the Dragon Clan, the Golden Divine Dragon Source had truly begun to merge with his body ever since he began cultivating the Dragon Transformation Secret Art that Zhu Qing passed to him. Both his bloodline and physical body were gradually transforming towards being that of a Dragon. So, if there was a Dragon Source here, he would surely be able to sense it.

Zhu Lie glanced at him and said, "I'm going to perform a Dragon Clan Secret Technique. Stand guard for me."

Yang Kai nodded and stepped aside. Li Jiao's face also changed, and he looked over at Zhu Lie with both curiosity and eagerness.

The Dragon Clan's Secret Techniques were a type of profound Secret Techniques that could only be performed by those with the Dragon Clan bloodline. Yang Kai could suppress Zhu Lie and Zhu Qing in Bloodline Power, but not through systematic study. Still, he couldn't perform the Dragon Clan's Secret Techniques because they involved the use of Dragon Essence and the Dragon Language.

Li Jiao had a hint of the Dragon Clan's bloodline, so he was naturally curious and eager to learn about this.

Closing his eyes, Zhu Lie focused his mind.

A few moments later, he opened his eyes. Like a knife, he drew his fingers over his palm, breaking the skin with his sharp nails. Immediately, the air was filled with the rich smell of blood.

Zhu Lie clenched the hand with the wound and raised it high. Dragon Essence surged within his body as a quiet incantation spilled from his mouth. The spell was both profound and complicated. To the ears of others, it sounded very difficult and awkward to pronounce, as if Zhu Lie were speaking with his mouth full.

Li Jiao who had pricked up his ears had a bewildered face, and he scratched his ears anxiously. It was such a rare chance for him to encounter a Pureblood Dragon performing a Dragon Clan Secret Technique in front of him, so he had the heart to learn. Unfortunately, he couldn't even figure out what he was saying, so how could he learn anything?

Yang Kai couldn't understand it either, but he felt that this Dragon Clan Secret Technique that Zhu Lie was performing had some similarities to the Shamanic Spells performed by the Shamans of ancient times. Both of them required incantation and circulation of strength.

Under the gazes of the two, drop after drop of fresh blood dripped down from Zhu Lie's palm. His Dragon Blood was different from normal blood and, just like a ball of hot flame, it gave off a scorching aura.

When it landed on the ground it began to sizzle before melting into the ground and disappearing.

The wind rose and the snow flew. Zhu Lie's incantations grew higher and higher in pitch until they gradually began to resemble a dragon roar or rolling thunder. It shook one's eardrums until they hurt and the way his red hair danced wildly and his robes fluttered, the world seemed to be filled completely by this dragon roar.

All of a sudden, Zhu Lie's voice stopped. As he climbed to the very peak of his momentum, he seemed to deflate like a ball, instantly losing much of his spirit. Some sweat had also gathered on his face.

Even though it was not known what sort of Dragon Clan Secret Technique he performed, it undoubtedly consumed a lot of his energy.

Both Yang Kai and Li Jiao were looking at him with anxious eyes, but Zhu Lie just lowered his gaze and stared at the ground.

After his fresh blood had been poured onto the ground, the surrounding area had been dyed red, and as the burning energy collided with the cold air around them, it began emitting a steaming heat.

Then, Zhu Lie's eyes flashed, while at the same time, Yang Kai and Li Jiao were also able to sense a change.

The earth that was dyed with Zhu Lie's fresh blood was writhing, as if something was going to break out from the ground.

Under the watchful gazes of the trio, a little bit of the crimson red sprouted from the ground and quickly rose up, spreading out branches and leaves. In just a moment's time, a one-third-of-a-meter-tall plant appeared on the ground that looked red as if it were made of fresh blood. No matter how they looked at it, this thing looked just like a blood coral.

Zhu Lie sucked the blood coral into his hand. A dense red glow gathered at its crown, and it began to drift towards one direction as if it had a mind of its own, like a red string that was tied to the top of the plant.

Strangely enough, the direction in which the red band drifted was completely different from the direction of the wind.

Zhu Lie pointed in the direction the red band was moving and said, "Zhu Qing is there. She's still alive."

Even though they had no idea how he could possibly figure that out, it was undoubtedly related to the Dragon Clan Secret Technique he just performed.

Without a word, Yang Kai summoned his Flowing Clouds Shuttle and shouted, "Get in!"

Li Jiao, however, stood in place and did not move. He looked at Yang Kai and said in a fawning tone, "Palace Master Yang, this Li has already brought you to this place. For the rest of the journey... Hey, gentlemen use words not fists! This Li is at least..."

Before he could finish his sentence, he was grabbed by Zhu Lie and tossed into the Flowing Clouds Shuttle directly, and his expression instantly twisted into one of bitter resentment.

He had no idea why this Dragon was still unwilling to let him go. He had already completed his task of bringing Yang Kai and Zhu Lie to their destination, so what happened next should have nothing to do with him. He should be able to leave this damned place and return to Fire Dragon Palace, but things just didn't work out how he hoped they would.

As a Third-Order Emperor, it had been many years since he had tasted this feeling of powerlessness. Li Jiao made a vow in his heart that if he made it out of this trip alive, he would never have any dealings with a True Dragon ever again. They were simply unreasonable bullies.

The Flowing Clouds Shuttle broke through the air, but its speed became slower and slower the further they went.

After performing the Secret Technique, Zhu Lie became very weak, so Yang Kai was the one holding the blood coral and using the direction of the drifting red light to lead them to Zhu Qing.

After entering only two thousand kilometres into the Frozen Earth, the Flowing Clouds Shuttle, which was in flight, suddenly shook violently and plunged headlong into the ground.

Yang Kai was stunned. He thought it was some sort of attack, but he soon realized what had happened. While kicking Li Jiao out, he woke up Zhu Lie who was sitting cross-legged and meditating to restore his energy.

Then, he put away the Flowing Clouds Shuttle and stood in the air.

The cold wind that blew over enveloped them with a chill that could seemingly freeze their Souls.

In such a treacherous environment, even Masters who had cultivated Ice Principles may not be able to last long.

Li Jiao flew over, shivering and asking in a sullen face, "What happened?"

When they were taking shelter in the Flowing Clouds Shuttle, they at least had a layer of protection around them. Now that his body was making direct contact with Frozen Earth's environment, he could clearly feel his vitality slowly flowing away. Even though staying here was no problem for a short time, staying here for any longer may just reduce his lifespan.

"It's nothing. We just have to walk the rest of the way ourselves," Yang Kai glanced at Zhu Lie as he spoke.

A flying Emperor Artifact like the Flowing Clouds Shuttle was actually frozen in this place and unable to function properly. If one did not experience it for themselves, then one probably would not be able to believe it.

Zhu Lie was unperturbed, but Li Jiao's face became snow-white in an instant. He hesitated for a while before speaking up, "Two Sirs, this Li has a presumptuous request!"

Zhu Lie looked at him, his expression even colder than the coldness of Frozen Earth, causing the words in Li Jiao's mouth to change at once, "This Li will cover the rear."

"Very good," Yang Kai smiled. Holding the dragon blood coral in one hand, he led the way in front.

Zhu Lie reached out and grabbed Li Jiao, throwing him forward so he could follow closely behind Yang Kai while he took up the rear himself.

Flying in the Frozen Earth definitely wasn't a pleasant experience, but soon, Yang Kai noticed an interesting phenomenon. That is, the higher he flew, the more energy it consumed, and the more terrifying that vitality-extinguishing cold became.

After noticing this, he immediately flew down. When he stuck close to the ground, the resistance he felt was much weaker.

Only, their trip was much slower this way, though it was also much safer in relation.

After a full day's work, the three of them had only moved several kilometres forward, which was simply unbelievable for a group of Emperor Realm Masters.

During that one day, all three of them were shivering, and both their hair and faces were covered in frost. No matter how the three of them circulated their Qi, they could not resist the invasion of coldness into their bodies.

There were many times when Li Jiao wanted to leave, but as soon as he met Zhu Lie's gaze, the courage that he tried so hard to build up would fall apart again. Unable to say a word, he could only try his best to keep up with Yang Kai's pace.

He could not understand how Yang Kai could withstand this cold for long, being only a First-Order Emperor. It was reasonable to say that he, as a First-Order Emperor Realm cultivator, should have frozen to death long ago, and yet, it seemed that among the three of them, he was in the best condition. Even Zhu Lie, a member of the Dragon Clan, could not compare with him.

Another day later, Yang Kai, who was leading the group, suddenly stopped and perked up his ears to listen.

He vaguely sensed something.

Li Jiao, who was behind him almost bumped into him, and when he saw Yang Kai's grave expression, he couldn't help but feel nervous, "What's wrong, Palace Master Yang?"

Yang Kai's eyes crossed over Li Jiao and looked straight at Zhu Lie, "Something's coming!"

Zhu Lie nodded lightly. He noticed it too. There was in fact something coming at them and the air and the chill around them were showing less-than-normal signs of fluctuation.

"What is it, what is it?" Li Jiao asked with a pale face. The Frozen Earth was devoid of life, so what could possibly be approaching them? However, with how serious Yang Kai and Zhu Lie looked, he couldn't help but worry.

"It must be that!" Yang Kai raised his head and squinted into the distance.

Li Jiao followed his gaze and gulped.

Something dark had suddenly appeared on that side of the sky, like a curtain that covered the horizon and was rapidly moving towards them.

"Frozen Tide!" Li Jiao seemed to have recalled something and called out in alarm while quickly backing away at the same time.

In a life or death crisis, he finally suppressed his fear of Zhu Lie and ran back the way they came without even looking back. He just wanted to get as far away from the so-called Frozen Tide as soon as possible.

Yang Kai and Zhu Lie were right behind him though, as the fear of death offset any other disadvantages. This time, Li Jiao took the lead and ran faster than anyone else.

"What's the Frozen Tide?" Yang Kai asked as he fled.

“A Heavenly Manifestation!” Li Jiao answered with a hideous expression. He could only grieve that his parents birthed him with only two legs and caused him to run so slow, “It’s a Heavenly Manifestation specific to the Frozen Earth!”

Chapter 2947, Life or Death is Uncertain

Li Jiao escaped from a brush with death in the Frozen Earth back then, so he naturally paid more attention to it afterwards. Only, there was simply too little information about the Frozen Earth. Even though he had the heart to collect information, there wasn’t much for him to discover.

He knew that there was a type of Heavenly Manifestation called the Frozen Tide in the Frozen Earth, and knew that no one could survive it; however, how the Frozen Tide was formed, how one should avoid it, or what it looked like, he wasn’t sure.

It wasn’t until he saw it with his own eyes at this moment that he was immediately sure that this had to be the Frozen Tide.

The trio had their speed greatly hampered in this environment, so even though they exerted all their strength, they could not escape the Frozen Tide’s approach. Watching it get closer and closer, both Yang Kai and Zhu Lie’s expressions did not look too good.

In front of a life or death crisis, no one could remain calm.

Yang Kai tried to use his Space Principles, but found it incredibly difficult. The coldness in the Frozen Earth seemed able to freeze even space itself, forcing him to set aside any idea of escaping with instantaneous movement.

As the Frozen Tide grew closer and closer to the three, the bone-chilling cold seemed to hit their back like a huge hammer, causing them to not be able to stop from shivering all over.

Li Jiao’s face suddenly turned fierce as he roared, “If this Li dies here because of you, then I won’t forgive you even if I become a ghost!”

The days of grievance and anger gathering in him finally burst out at this moment. They were going to die anyway, so why should he still have so many scruples? “Yang Kai, aren’t you supposed to be powerful? You even have Monster Kings and Divine Spirits serving you! Find a way to do something about this situation!”

Seeing Yang Kai remain silent, Li Jiao went on angrily, “You’re nothing more than a fox borrowing a tiger’s prestige! Do you think this Li is really afraid of you? If not for Grandmaster Ji Ying’s sake, this Li would have led his men over to flatten your High Heaven Palace long ago! This Li will give you a life worse than death! A trivial First-Order Emperor Realm cultivator dares to act arrogant in front of this Li? Ridiculous!”

Seemingly not satisfied with his scolding, he turned to Zhu Lie next and continued, "Dragon? So what if you're from the Dragon Clan!? Do you think you can look down on all others just because you were born lucky? This King's bloodline may not be pure, but so what!? This King was birthed and raised by his parents! This King cultivated to the Third-Order Emperor Realm with his own efforts! If you didn't have your Dragon Clan bloodline, then you probably wouldn't even be able to reach this King's height! All day long, you go around putting on airs; I don't even know who you're showing off to! If you have the skill, then don't use bloodline suppression and face this King head on! This Li will definitely show you this King's power. Damn, damn... How did this Li get caught up in your mess? Two stars of calamity... I'd known that following you to the Frozen Earth wouldn't end in anything good... I should have left early on. This is all your fault! This Li had already brought you where you needed to go, so why drag this Li along afterwards? You really think this Li is so easy to bully? Just you wait! If we get out of this alive, this Li will definitely lead his Sect to attack High Heaven Palace and Dragon Island. There will be blood..."

He was ranting on and on as if he had lost his mind, becoming somewhat hysterical, but no matter how he vented his anger, neither Yang Kai nor Zhu Lie paid him any attention.

The two men exchanged glances suddenly, and Zhu Lie said, "If you have any trump cards, better bring them out now! Any later and it'll really be too late."

Yang Kai curled his lip, "You Dragon Clansmen have so many Secret Techniques, why are you looking at me? I'm just a First-Order Emperor, what sort of trump card would I have?"

Zhu Lie gave him a deep look and sighed, "Fine. Since you don't feel like showing your cards, I won't force you. I'll do it."

Li Jiao's cursing stopped abruptly as if a large invisible hand was pinching his lips closed. Looking at Yang Kai, then at Zhu Lie, he asked carefully with a smiling face, "Sir, do you have a way to get out of this crisis?"

Zhu Lie answered coldly, "I can give it a try."

Li Jiao urged him with immediacy, "Then what are you waiting for? Quickly!"

While flying, Yang Kai smirked at him.

Li Jiao couldn't help his frozen white face from flushing with embarrassment, "Sir must take me as well. Just now... I don't know what possessed me. It was surely a bout of madness. Those definitely aren't my true thoughts, so please don't take it personally, Sir!"

He just wanted to slap himself for letting his tongue slip. He didn't expect to get himself into such big trouble, and he didn't even know whether this Dragon was willing to help him out now.

But his worries were superfluous. When the dragon roar came out, the figure of a vibrant red Great Dragon appeared above Zhu Lie's head. The Great Dragon circled around and wrapped around the three of them at once.

They seemed to be isolated from the bitter cold, giving them a sense of security.

Letting out a cry, signs of Dragon Transformation appeared on the surface of Zhu Lie's body. Then, he turned straight around and actually began rushing in the direction of the Frozen Tide.

Li Jiao was so frightened that his Soul almost left his body and he screamed out loud. Still, he didn't dare to move away from the Red Dragon's protection and could only watch himself getting closer and closer to the Frozen Tide.

Yang Kai was also slightly surprised by this, but he quickly understood Zhu Lie's plan.

It was simply impossible for them to escape from the Frozen Tide's advance with their current speed, so rather than let it catch up to them and struggle through it, they might as well turn back and face it. With the three of them, they may be able to break through it with their strength.

This was not the best idea, but it was worth a try. Perhaps they might actually get out of this crisis this way.

The cold wind howled, and the Frozen Tide grew closer and closer to the trio. Li Jiao's face was already shocked to a ghastly colour, and if not for his firm mental temperament, he would probably have fainted then and there.

A dozen breaths later, the three of them finally collided with the Frozen Tide head-on and were enveloped by the pitch-black mass.

Zhu Lie's face changed dramatically as he discovered that something was wrong at that moment.

Unlike what he expected, this Frozen Tide did not seem to be some natural disaster caused by the convergence of World Energy. Rather, the feeling it gave him was of an indescribable existence, causing him to be unable to use any of the methods he had prepared, swallowing him up directly and whisking him away.

Yang Kai was also taken aback as he muttered, "Space Principles?"

He would never have thought that the Heavenly Manifestation, the Frozen Tide, that existed on the Frozen Earth, actually contained extremely rich Space Principles. The instant they were enveloped by the Frozen Tide, the space around them fluctuated chaotically, and it actually gave them a feeling that they were being teleported. Moreover, this feeling was even more violent than cross-territory teleportation. It felt like they were being completely torn into a fine powder as they were thrown through the Void.

Almost instinctively, Yang Kai pushed his own Space Principles.

In the next moment, Yang Kai became dazed and he could no longer sense Zhu Lie and Li Jiao's presence, having no idea where the two of them had gone. Yang Kai just felt himself falling endlessly, and that dizzy feeling was growing stronger and stronger. Only by circulating his Space Principles was he able to feel a little better.

It was not known how much time passed when that dizziness finally disappeared all of a sudden. Yang Kai fell heavily onto solid ground, then he bounced up and rolled a few times before he came to a stop.

All the bones in his body felt like they had been broken and he was hit by a feeling of nausea that he had never experienced before, causing him to gag a few times.

The surrounding area was quiet and still snow-capped as usual, but Li Jiao and Zhu Lie were nowhere to be seen.

Slowly getting up, Yang Kai's expression gradually became grave.

Even though the surrounding scenery did not look much different from earlier, the coldness that penetrated deep into his Soul was no longer present. He could keenly sense the differences in this place. It felt like a completely new world, a world that did not exist in the same plane as the Frozen Earth.

Yang Kai tried to examine the World Principles around him next, and after a few moments, his suspicions were confirmed.

This was indeed another world. Though the World Principles here were complete, they were also somewhat confused, very different from the Star Boundary's World Principles. In other words, he was not currently in the Star Boundary.

Yang Kai thought back to what happened earlier and was able to muster a faint guess, but he wasn't too sure.

The only thing he could be sure of was the fact that the place that he arrived at was greatly related to the Frozen Tide. Perhaps the Frozen Tide was the entrance to this world, and its Heaven-destroying and Earth-shattering might was merely a mirage.

Suddenly, a red light appeared in the corner of his eye. Turning his head over, Yang Kai saw the dragon blood coral he was holding in his hand glowing a hundred times brighter than before.

The dense light coming from the crown of the coral had coalesced into a thick red band that was drifting in a certain direction, guiding Yang Kai.

"Zhu Qing!" Yang Kai raised his brows and shouted, immediately understanding why these changes happened to the dragon blood coral.

This was something Zhu Lie had created using his Dragon Blood in conjunction with a Dragon Clan Secret Technique, and its main purpose was to find Zhu Qing's whereabouts. When they were searching for her in the Frozen Earth, it did in fact guide their way.

But its light was nowhere near as strong as now.

Zhu Qing was here! And she was probably not far from him.

When the Frozen Tide washed over him, it clearly swept across a wide area, and he was brought to this world by that Frozen Tide. If Zhu Qing was also swallowed up by the Frozen Tide, she would also appear in this world, which was why these changes happened to the dragon blood coral.

At this thought, Yang Kai hurriedly pulled himself together, picked up the dragon blood coral, and rushed in the direction it led.

In the vast snowy mountains, Yang Kai walked alone.

Sure enough, an hour later, Yang Kai discovered that familiar figure less than three hundred kilometres away from where he emerged.

Blood red long hair like flames, a small and delicate body, lying on her side on the snow, her life or death uncertain.

Yang Kai hurriedly ran over to pick up this figure, and brushing her hair from her face, sure enough, it was Zhu Qing. Letting out a soft sigh of relief, even though he had no idea where they were at right now, Yang Kai was finally relieved to have some good news.

Zhu Qing was found, and as for Zhu Lie and Li Jiao, Yang Kai guessed that they probably weren't in any danger either. That Frozen Tide was indeed quite frightening in appearance, but it didn't seem to bring much harm.

The reason they were split up was completely because he instinctively used his Space Principles the moment they were enveloped by the Frozen Tide.

However, Zhu Qing's condition didn't seem right. She was a Dragon after all, and one on par or even stronger than a Third-Order Emperor. There was no reason for her to be unconscious on the ground. Perhaps it had something to do with being swallowed up by the Frozen Tide just now; after all, even Yang Kai, who was proficient in the Dao of Space, felt nauseous for a long time after being swallowed up.

But that was clearly not the main reason.

Her body felt as cold as a block of ice, and even her vitality felt extremely weak.

Chapter 2948, It's a Misunderstanding

Picking up Zhu Qing, Yang Kai propped her up against himself before extending two fingers to her wrist and pouring his Emperor Qi into her body to check her condition.

A moment later, Yang Kai's brows knitted into a frown. The aura inside of Zhu Qing's body was in disorder, but it was not likely the cause of her injury. Instead, it seemed more like dissonance in her cultivation. It puzzled him and made him wonder what it was that Zhu Qing encountered in the Frozen Earth to end up facing such an odd crisis. She was a member of the Dragon Clan, after all.

In addition, Zhu Qing's physical condition was also very bad. She must have stayed in the Frozen Earth for too long, causing her vitality to be drained by the cold. Most of her body was astonishingly weak, and if she was not provided proper treatment soon, she could very well die.

Yang Kai did not dare to delay. Releasing his Divine Sense, he quickly found a nearby cave, lifted Zhu Qing up, and sped over.

The cave was probably left by some beast as a pungent smell remained inside, but it had clearly been abandoned for quite some time. From the looks of it, no living creature had visited this place in years.

In order to avoid any unnecessary disturbances during the treatment process, Yang Kai directly summoned the Sealed World Bead and brought Zhu Qing into it.

In an environment that was beautiful and refreshing like a spring day, Yang Kai laid Zhu Qing flat on the ground before taking out a large handful of Spirit Pills from his Space Ring and prying her mouth open, stuffing them in without a second thought.

Zhu Qing's current situation was a little tricky to deal with. Under the effects of the Frozen Earth's cold, her physique had been severely corroded, and the Dragon Essence in her body had somehow been thrown into dissonance. So, if she were to be saved, the chill first had to be forced out of her from the inside. Only then would she be able to bring order to the rioting Dragon Essence inside her body.

Most of the pills Yang Kai had on hand were good-quality Spirit Pills, worth millions of High-Rank Source Crystals, but he still stuffed them into her mouth without reservation.

The effects were naturally remarkable. Under Yang Kai's assistance, the Spirit Pills' medicinal efficacies soon came into play. As they travelled through Zhu Qing's limbs and bones, a biting chill gradually seeped out from her pores, the same cold as the one permeating through the Frozen Earth. As it flowed out from her body, the surrounding vegetation soon withered and died.

Gradually, her cold body regained a trace of warmth and her snow-white face also began to show some signs of vitality.

Yang Kai kept on calling out her name and even broke into her Knowledge Sea with his Divine Sense in an attempt to wake her up.

But despite his efforts, Zhu Qing showed not a shred of reaction. It seemed as if she were unable to detect any sensations from the outside world and both her eyes were tightly shut, as if she had already passed on.

Yang Kai could only constantly circulate his Emperor Qi to ease her out of her current danger.

Yang Kai lost track of how long had passed, but the situation never improved. After the medicinal efficacies of the Emperor Pills wore out, the coldness inside Zhu Qing's body reared its head again. The cold seemed to have a life of its own and was able to divide and multiply within her body. As long as a trace of it remained, it would flare up again.

Yang Kai withdrew his hand and sighed, staring at her exquisite face, and only after a long bout of hesitation did he make up his mind and grabbed something from the void.

A verdant glow suddenly appeared on his palm, a glow of bright jade green. Even though it was only a glow, it contained an unimaginable surge of vitality.

The essence of the Immortal Tree!

This time, Yang Kai did not pick a leaf of the Immortal Tree directly since there were not many left. If he picked any more, the Immortal tree would become bare. Extracting the essence of the tree this way was sure to cause damage to the Immortal Tree, but Yang Kai did not care because a life was at stake.

"It's up to your luck now. If this doesn't bring you back, then your fate must have run its course." After muttering to himself, Yang Kai pried apart Zhu Qing's delicate lips and stuffed the green light into her mouth.

The green light turned into a drop of pure green water and rolled down Zhu Qing's throat, into her belly.

A dazzling light burst out in the next instant as the surface of Zhu Qing's body was instantly steeped in green, as if glowing moss was growing over it. At the same time, her faint vitality also burst out like a pot of oil splattered over a blazing fire.

Chi chi chi chi...

The cold spilled from Zhu Qing's pores like a flood, melting with the green light on her body, emitting dense sparks of noise.

Yang Kai watched quietly while constantly checking her condition with his Divine Sense.

As time passed, there was less and less cold pouring out of Zhu Qing's body, and the green light on the surface of her body also gradually weakened. It seemed as if both the cold and the essence of the Immortal Tree were running out of energy.

Meanwhile, Zhu Qing's flesh also gradually regained its vitality, and her exposed skin was slowly getting rosy.

Yang Kai breathed out a sigh of relief, feeling that his efforts had not been in vain.

When the last trace of coldness was expelled from Zhu Qing's body, the green light that was enveloping her form also slowly faded away. The essence of the Immortal Tree was not exhausted, but it would now become capital for Zhu Qing when she grew stronger.

She lay on the ground, seemingly able to sleep until the end of time.

Crossing his arms, Yang Kai stood beside her and looked down at her, eyes sweeping from head to toe without restraint. He recalled the time when he held her before and could not help but feel a little excited.

"As expected of a Dragon, such a figure... Tsk tsk." Yang Kai commented as if he were admiring a work of art. Suddenly, a trace of evil began to surge in his heart. After suffering such a big loss, shouldn't he collect some interest too?

Anyways, it wasn't like he'd never done anything frivolous to this girl before. They were strangers in their first meeting, friends the next, and they already knew each other so well by their third meeting. If not for her, he wouldn't have risked danger to come to the Frozen Earth, much less be swallowed up by the Frozen Tide, now not even sure where he was.

There was even a chance he may not be able to leave here for the rest of his life and would end up with her here to live like birds flying and nestling together, then raising a family of little dragons.

An excited voice was screaming in his mind, telling him to collect interest. He had to collect some interest for all this!

As such a thought sprung up though, Yang Kai realized in shock that his suppressed desires were cropping up again. He hurriedly tried to suppress the urges, but suddenly, he felt an enchantingly soft feeling on his hands.

Looking down, Yang Kai's mouth couldn't help but gape in shock.

His two hands had somehow ended up pressed onto the two great peaks on Zhu Qing's chest. It was exactly that lofty softness and amazing elasticity that made it impossible for him to kneed and massage these mountains a few times.

His nostrils flared up, and Yang Kai could feel the blood boiling in his body. The quiet voice in his mind now began screaming loudly. Eyes locked below Zhu Qing's slender and fair neck, he gulped. Just like a traveller walking in the desert for months and finally coming across an oasis of fresh water, he wished for nothing more than to dive in.

It was at that moment that the woman in front of him suddenly opened her eyes and stared at Yang Kai with a blank face.

Four eyes suddenly met, and Yang Kai felt as if he had been drenched with a pot of cold water from head to toe. He instantly came back to his senses and with his mouth twitching wildly, he smiled in embarrassment and stuttered, "If I told you that this was a misunderstanding, would you believe me?"

Zhu Qing did not have the slightest response as her clear eyes continued to stare blankly at him.

Yang Kai stood up and pondered for a moment with a frown on his brow before, like a dead pig that did not fear boiling water, he puffed up his chest and declared proudly, "Yes, I touched them, so what? It's not like they'll fall off if I touch them. Speaking of which, I saved your life! If I hadn't gone through the trouble of coming to the Frozen Earth to find you and save you from that predicament, you would have lost your life, so just take what happened as me collecting some payment for services rendered and let's call us even. What do you think?"

Zhu Qing still did not respond.

Yang Kai was annoyed, "Could you at least give me a reaction?!"

As if in response to Yang Kai's noisy chatter, Zhu Qing finally gave him a response, but it wasn't quite as Yang Kai expected. She opened her mouth, and a long groan of pain was emitted from her throat, as if she were going to die. Then, her body curled up abruptly while at the same time, an extremely cold aura radiated from her body.

Yang Kai was shocked, "Still no good?"

Seeing this scene, he was worried that even the essence of the Immortal Tree was unable to dispel the coldness that had encroached into Zhu Qing's body, but he soon realized that something wasn't right. This was not the Frozen Earth's cold. Even though it was cold enough, it was different from the cold from the Frozen Earth. They were not from the same source.

Just as Yang Kai was at a loss, a dragon roar erupted, followed by the illusory phantom of a Great Dragon emerging from Zhu Qing's body.

"Huh?" Yang Kai looked at the Giant Dragon's manifestation in a daze and wondered if his eyes were playing tricks on him.

Zhu Qing was a Red Dragon from the Dragon Clan, so her Dragon Source should be the same as Zhu Lie's. If she were to show her true form, then it would definitely be a vibrant red Great Dragon, but now,

the one appearing before Yang Kai's eyes actually turned out to be a crystalline snow-white Dragon's phantom.

No matter how he looked at it, the Great Dragon looked just like a vivid ice sculpture, a masterpiece without the slightest flaw; however, it was completely different from a Red Dragon. This was an Ice Dragon, and the chill emanating from Zhu Qing's body was precisely matching this Ice Dragon's aura.

Yang Kai wondered if he was mistaken. He wondered if Zhu Qing had any twin sisters or something. There could be similarities in appearance, but as Dragons, their Source Strength couldn't be mistaken.

At that moment, another high-pitched dragon roar erupted.

When Yang Kai looked over, he saw the expected Red Dragon's phantom emerging, and this second Great Dragon actually came out from Zhu Qing's body as well.

Yang Kai's expression changed as all kinds of thoughts flashed through his mind and he instantly understood many things.

"Two Sources?"

There were actually two Sources inside of Zhu Qing's body, and they were both of different attributes! The Red Dragon that emerged after was clearly Zhu Qing's own Source, while the Ice Dragon that appeared before that was just an invader. The reason why Zhu Qing's Dragon Essence was in a state of dissonance was because of the two Source Strengths clashing with each other inside her body.

Even though Yang Kai checked her condition earlier, he overlooked this point, not because he didn't check carefully enough, but because this Source was hidden too deeply, and with the severe damage to her body, he ended up neglecting it.

No wonder Zhu Qing was still not awake despite her body recovering. It turned out the problem was not with her physical body, but rather with the battle between the two Sources.

The next question, however, was where did this Ice Dragon Source come from?

Chapter 2949, Be Gentle

A normal Dragon Clan member couldn't have two Sources, and especially two diametrically opposed Source Strengths. Ice and Fire simply could not coexist in one body. If these two Sources had naturally formed inside Zhu Qing long ago, she likely wouldn't have made it till today.

In a flash, a bold guess emerged in Yang Kai's mind.

The Ice Dragon Source could have been the one left behind by the Great Dragon who died in the Frozen Earth.

The reason why Zhu Qing came to the Frozen Earth was not so she could seek out the remains of her fallen clansman. Li Jiao had said clearly back then that the Great Dragon's bones had long withered away without anything left behind. The reason why Zhu Qing insisted on coming here was so she could bring back the Source left behind by her fallen clansman.

It seemed now that she had found it, but ended up becoming impaired by the Ice Dragon Source.

Sources had no sentience of their own, it was essentially just a mass of power with the lowest level of instinct. As two powers attempted to coexist in Zhu Qing's body, they greatly repelled and confronted each other naturally. With Zhu Qing's body as the battlefield, the two Sources fought each other endlessly.

Yang Kai could not see this internal battle unless the two powers directly revealed themselves as they did in front of him now.

While he was still taken aback by the situation, the two Great Dragons roared again in unison and disappeared back into Zhu Qing's body.

Zhu Qing wailed in pain. At the moment, she had fallen completely unconscious, and even the way she opened her eyes earlier was not a conscious effort, but rather an instinctive reaction.

A thin layer of ice could be seen forming over Zhu Qing's body as a trace of cold seeped out from her body, seemingly intent on freezing her completely.

But very soon, a burning aura rose up, lashing out at the coldness, shattering the ice. This caused Zhu Qing's entire body to burn as if it were on fire. Her skin had become red and hot. Even the ground she was laying on was scorched.

Zhu Qing's moans seemed to grow more and more painful as the two forces appeared alternatively in a cycle that seemed to go on and on.

Yang Kai was at a loss as he had no idea what to do at this point.

If it were just an injury, then it wouldn't matter how severe it was, he would have a way to solve it, but Zhu Qing had been saved by the Immortal Tree's essence, so there weren't any real physical traumas left. The problem now was the two competing Sources.

Her body, which had been turned into a battlefield, was bound to be damaged severely.

Source versus Source... Yang Kai's eyes lit up as he quickly stepped forward and picked Zhu Qing up again, propping her against his body. Then, he silently circulated the Golden Divine Dragon Source Strength in his body.

The phantom of a dazzling Golden Dragon appeared behind him before disappearing into his body in a flash.

The temperature of Zhu Qing's body changed quickly. One moment it was as hot as fire, but then it became icy cold the next as if it had just been fished up from a world of ice and snow.

When the aura of the Golden Divine Dragon Source revealed itself though, the alternating speed between hot and cold slowed down instantly.

[It works!] Yang Kai was ecstatic. He was just trying to see whether his Golden Divine Dragon Source would be able to suppress the conflict somehow, and now it seemed it was effective.

Right now, the most important thing was to wake Zhu Qing up. Only when she was awake would she be able to fully activate her Source Strength and suppress the Ice Dragon's Source, either driving it away or exterminating it.

So, gritting his teeth, Yang Kai circulated his Spiritual Energy and was just about to act when Zhu Qing suddenly turned around and clung to him in a tight embrace. Seemingly having savoured the sweetness of relief, the aura coming from Yang Kai's body caused Zhu Qing to make a subconscious reaction.

Zhu Qing's body may be small and delicate, but she was a member of the Dragon Clan after all, so her raw strength was no lesser than Yang Kai's. When they first met, Yang Kai had already experienced how immense her power was.

While she clutched onto him, Yang Kai almost felt as if his body was going to be snapped in half and even his face was starting to become blue.

However, the soft feeling around his chest made his heart flutter.

Things didn't end there though as Zhu Qing actually began to rub her body up against his like a puppy, constantly sniffing his fragrance as strange noises began to leak from her lips. It seemed as if she had found a delicious meal and was eager to dig into the feast.

As if struck by lightning, Yang Kai's body stiffened in an instant. He was only brought back to his senses by a burst of pain coming from his chest. Angrily, he pried Zhu Qing's head away, holding her at a distance with his palms as he hissed, "What are you, a dog? What did you bite me for!"

Zhu Qing's eyes looked unfocused, and they were covered in a strange glow. Her breathing had also somehow become hurried and Yang Kai could clearly feel that the breath coming out from her nostrils was burning hot. The exquisite delicateness of her features was exuding a charm that made it so one could not help but approach it like a moth to a flame.

It felt as if ten thousand ants were crawling around Yang Kai's heart, so itchy he found it hard to restrain himself.

Zhu Qing opened her mouth once more, sinking her white teeth onto the hollow of Yang Kai's thumb. It was a forceful bite that left a mark on his skin and drew Golden Blood from the wound.

His blood was just like the greatest delicacy in the world to her, and Zhu Qing devoured it in large gulps, her dainty and warm tongue actually lapping at Yang Kai's palm, sending shivers through his body.

Yang Kai had originally thought of retracting his hand, but he suddenly thought it would be a pity if she were to stop.

But very quickly, Yang Kai discovered something strange. After swallowing his blood, Zhu Qing's condition seemed to have improved a lot. The frequency of the alternating hot and cold flashes slowed more and more. Moreover, the icy aura only lasted for a fleeting moment before it was suppressed by the fiery heat.

His blood seemed to be of great help to her current state!

After a moment of contemplation, Yang Kai vaguely understood something.

Though he was born Human, his body had begun truly merging with the Golden Divine Dragon Source ever since he began cultivating the Dragon Transformation Secret Art. In other words, the blood flowing through his body was not merely that of an ordinary Human, but also that of a Dragon. What's more, it was the bloodline of an extremely high ranking Dragon.

The Masters among the Dragon Clan's bloodline had a strong suppressive ability towards those weaker than them.

If the aura of the Golden Divine Dragon Source could help ease Zhu Qing out of danger, then his own half-Dragon blood would naturally have an even greater effect. It was no wonder why Zhu Qing bit him, it must have been because she had realized this fact that she did such a thing.

Of course, Yang Kai could have broken free from her, but he just stood there and allowed Zhu Qing to drink his blood.

Zhu Qing was still in a muddled state and her consciousness was not restored. Her hazy eyes were filled with seductive charm and while gulping down Yang Kai's blood, her deft tongue was constantly drawing circles around his palm.

Yang Kai's body was about to explode with wicked thoughts. He had to try desperately to suppress them and maintain his calm. He turned away from Zhu Qing's eyes, and he stopped paying attention to the numb feeling coming from his palm for fear of an accident breaking out.

It was not known how long had passed when he suddenly felt Zhu Qing let go of his hand.

Opening his eyes, the first thing he saw was Zhu Qing, who was looking red-faced at him. He quickly asked in pleasant surprise, "Are you better now?"

He could see that Zhu Qing must have regained consciousness now because the signals he got from her eyes were different from before.

In response, he received a Dragon Clan's Secret Technique. Zhu Qing opened her mouth and an arrow of blood was shot out. The blood belonged to Zhu Qing herself as it was crimson in colour, like a burning flame. Mid-air, her dragon blood transformed into a strangely-looking talisman seal that stuck on Yang Kai's forehead.

Bewildered, Yang Kai fell straight down.

This Dragon Clan Secret Technique seemed to have an extremely strong binding power, so much so that Yang Kai was unable to move even a finger. Surprised, he tried to circulate his Golden Divine Dragon Source Strength by instinct.

The Dragon Clan Secret Technique that Zhu Qing performed may be strong, but Yang Kai believed that he should be able to break free from it using the suppression of his Golden Divine Dragon Source. He had only been taken by surprise earlier as he never expected her to make a move against him.

But before he could make a move, he froze up once again, because a fragrance suddenly wafted over. Zhu Qing was kneeling between his legs, both hands on his chest, staring at him from above. Her fiery

red hair was draped over her smooth back like the finest silk, and the way it covered her perfect bottom only served to add to her fascinating charm.

Her breathing was rapid, as if she were about to die from hyperventilation, and her towering peaks were constantly rising and falling, swaying with her body in soul-stirring arches.

The fragrance that made Yang Kai feel restless was growing stronger and stronger, as if it was being emitted from each and every one of Zhu Qing's pores, trying to fill the world around them.

Her long lashes were trembling. She was clearly nervous, but her big eyes were just like a stirred pond. He could see the desperate struggle and unrest within.

"What... are you doing?" As soon as the question left his mouth, Yang Kai realized how stupid it was.

He recognized those eyes. Naturally, they were the eyes of a starved beast. Long ago, Shan Qing Luo would often show him a similar look.

It felt like his blood had been set alight in an instant. The meridians inside his body had begun to boil and it was as if the evil thoughts he had been suppressing desperately finally found a place to vent, burning away his reason.

With force, the delicate hands on his chest ripped away his clothes.

Yang Kai drew a sharp breath, opened his mouth, but no words came out.

Their clothes were quickly sent into disarray as the fabric covering their bodies was soon turned to shreds that danced in the air. A strange noise was constantly being emitted from Zhu Qing's throat while she straddled Yang Kai with her hot tender body, squirming restlessly.

She knew what she wanted, but she had never experienced this feeling before, so it took her a long time before she was able to get the hang of it.

Her fair body arched down, teeth biting lightly against her red lips, her brow furrowed into a frown.

Yang Kai closed his eyes and spread his arms apart, grasping at the grass around him, whispering, "It's my first time, be gentle..."

Zhu Qing's suddenly pounced, snow-white skin flushing an abnormal red. She threw her head back as if she were suffocating, hair cascading down like a waterfall. She made no response for a while, and only after a long time did she let out a roar that tore the heart and rent the lungs.

Yang Kai also hissed, feeling as if he had fallen into a pit of lava. An unimaginable heat was wrapping him up from all directions, seemingly trying to melt him.

He had never experienced such a feeling in his life, and it gave him an indescribable sense of thrill.

Inside the Sealed World Bead, with the Heavens as their quilt and the Earth their bed, they lay with dishevelled hair and interlocked fingers, asking not for a lifetime of glory or wealth, nor the company of each other in the next life. When desires are laid bare, who could be blamed?

Chapter 2949.5, Zhu Qing's release

Written by: Silavin

With their bodies exposed, Heaven being the only witness, a mighty grip clenched Yang Kai's large member.

The female beast straddled on top of him looked at this piece longingly. She felt as if everything in the world would become Heaven if this piece of Yang Kai were to fit into place.

Eyes burning hot with desire, she could not wait any longer. Zhu Qing took it and placed it, barely touching her tight slit. She could feel the rod getting hotter and something slimy started to come out of her vulva.

Zhu Qing looked at her partner, who seemed to look back at her in anticipation. His eyes were obviously that of a predator. However, at this moment, the predator had become prey, awaiting to be devoured.

She bit her lips and took the plunge. His large member quickly filled her insides. She could immediately feel pain spreading from lower abdomen as red liquid slid down Yang Kai's tower.

"Take it slow." Yang Kai whispered but for some reason, his voice just seems to make her want to devour him even more.

Yang Kai could immediately feel his member being wrapped even tighter, with more love juices being accumulated at his nether region.

He wanted to steal away the initiative, but Zhu Qing was the first one who lifted herself up before slamming her whole body down.

"Ahhh" A growl-like roar came out from her soft lips. It was just the second thrust and Zhu Qing could already start feeling the pleasure of having someone deep inside her.

Her hips stop for a second before lifting up again. The feeling of emptiness when Yang Kai was about to disconnect from her made her slam her body down again.

It was not long before she started to bob up and down on top of him. Making him pierce her repeatedly without stopping.

"Ergh" Even Yang Kai could no longer hold back his voice. He could feel his legs stiffening as his whole body was trying to match her tempo. He could feel Zhu Qing's hands clawing at his chest, as though she wanted to dig into him.

As both their nether regions slam into each other, their moaning seemed to intertwine.

Both their gazes met, and they instinctively moved their lips closer together.

It was Zhu Qing's first time, but she was extremely explorative. Her tongue explored every inch of Yang Kai's mouth. After marking every inch inside of him, Zhu Qing started to mark him using her lips. It first started with his tongue and then to his lips. Soon, she would mark his neck and chest.

Receiving such service, Yang Kai could not help but put her in his embrace. His arms initially wrapped around her back, but it quickly moved down to her bottom.

He could feel his fingers sink in once he touched the two marshmallows of hers.

Unable to hold back, he started to forcefully make her piston him harder.

“Mmm” “Mmm” “Mmm”

Biting on his lips, Yang Kai let off soft groans. Meanwhile, Zhu Qing would let off an occasional “Haa”

She seemed fully intent on marking every inch of Yang Kai with her lip to claim him as hers.

However, that goal would never come to pass as once she started to move to his ears, she could feel her whole lower abdomen being filled by a fiery blaze.

The pumping of liquid inside of her did not seem to stop as she felt like her whole body had been electrocuted. Losing control of her lower body, she felt something bubbling inside of her which released itself onto Yang Kai.

Zhu Qing could not help but scream “Ahhhh!” as her mind completely turned white. Her lower body had completely been soaked in their love juices.

Once both gifts had been delivered, Zhu Qing’s excitement quickly died down as if a hungry ghost had been satiated. Her whole body turned limp as she slid down Yang Kai’s chest and closed her delicate eyes. It did not take long before Yang Kai could feel her breathing soften.

“I guess that’s enough...” Yang Kai said with a soft smile on his face. He looked up into the sky, reminiscing for a moment before shutting his eyes as well. Naturally, feeling comfortable that they were still connected.

Chapter 2950, I’ll Never Believe You Again

Amidst a gentle spring breeze, the sweet charm and soft whispers, the bits and pieces of what happened last night felt just like a dream.

Long eyelashes quivering, Zhu Qing slowly opened her eyes to see another pair in front of her that was filled with amusement.

The man who appeared in her dream was lying on the grass, pillowing his head with his arms and looking up at her with a smile. His eyes were filled with a mysterious light while she actually turned out to be lying on top of his body; as for how long she had been sleeping there, that was impossible to say.

Without a single article of clothing, they could feel the warmth of each other’s skin through their naked bodies.

Zhu Qing couldn’t help but scream and scrambled to get up.

But as soon as she moved, she fell back down again. She clutched her underbelly involuntarily, feeling so much pain that sweat covered her forehead.

“Don’t move!” Yang Kai reached his arms behind her waist, hands moving unreservedly over her bare back and waist.

Zhu Qing let out a stifled grunt whilst a fiery red crawled up her cheeks like two sunset clouds. The intimate touch and caress between two of the opposite sex caused her to feel limp and unable to exert any strength.

“What did you do to me?” She asked through clenched teeth, tears welling in her eyes.

“Hey...” Yang Kai’s hands stopped. Whether intentional or not, they just happened to stop on her perky round bottom, and he asked with a sulk, “That’s not the right question to be asking, is it? Don’t you remember what you yourself did?”

“I...” Zhu Qing’s mouth gaped and her expression changed. As the scene inside her dream gradually became clear, the rosiness of her cheek slowly receded and her tender body couldn’t help but tremble.

She remembered. All the memories from before were slowly coming back to her.

She came to the Frozen Earth and found the fallen Great Dragon’s Source, but an accident occurred when she was collecting it. For some reason, the Ice Dragon Source refused to cooperate with her and fled deeper into the Frozen Earth. Her pursuit came with many hardships and she finally caught up to it, but just as she was about to subdue it, the Ice Dragon Source rushed into her body instead and began clashing with her own Source.

She had no choice but to find a quiet place to resolve this crisis. If there had been no interference, then she would have been fine.

However, a sudden disaster disrupted her plans. She felt a terrible force approaching, and before she could escape, she was plunged into darkness.

Then, everything went on just as it did in her dream.

“Your blood!” Zhu Qing figured it all out.

“What?” Yang Kai asked.

Zhu Qing gritted her teeth with tears rolling down her cheeks, “Why is there so much wickedness and obscenity in your blood? What do you think about all day?” If she hadn’t drank his blood and become affected by his evil thoughts, then how could she possibly have done such shameless things as what she did in her dream?

“So now it’s my fault?” Yang Kai was speechless, “I didn’t ask you to drink it. You were the one who bit me and wouldn’t let go. I was...”

“I’ll kill you!” Zhu Qing was about to attack him as soon as she said that, but with just a slight movement, the pain from her lower abdomen would flare up again. She was simply unable to bring up any of her power.

Seems like they went a little overboard yesterday...

Yang Kai snickered, "You've had your meal and now you don't want to pay the bill? And you're even trying to kill me? It's the first time I've ever seen a woman like you!"

As he said that, he flipped Zhu Qing over and with some light force, held himself up with two hands on each side of her.

Zhu Qing looked nervously at him and asked in a trembling voice, "W-W-What... What are you doing?" His aggressive posture made her uneasy and kept her from putting on the airs of a Dragon Clan member.

Yang Kai rested a hand on her belly, stroking it gently as he poured his Emperor Qi into her body through his palm, easing her discomfort.

"It's a first for both of us so it's inevitable that we don't know restraint. Things will get better once we slowly familiarize ourselves with this in the future. En, I don't know what you think about this situation, but what's done is done, so there's no use complaining about it. Look at me, even though I'm a Human, I'm not bad, right? I've been looking at myself for several dozen years, and the more I look at myself, the more handsome I become. But you... Even though your temper isn't very good, it's not so bad either. So, can't we be a little more accommodating to each other? Everything must have a beginning and an end after all."

His serious look made Zhu Qing feel a little lost in thought for a moment.

Ever since she met Yang Kai, it was the first time Zhu Qing had ever seen such an expression on his face. The hand caressing her lower reaches also seemed to have some amazing power that could break through all her rigid defences and cause endless ripples in her heart, making it impossible for her to think calmly.

"You... want to take responsibility?" Zhu Qing also had no idea why but she couldn't muster up any anger and instead asked him in a soft voice.

"No no no, you're the one who should be responsible for me!" Yang Kai argued in earnest.

This answer was both hilarious and aggravating to Zhu Qing, so she did her best to put on a cold face, "Why should I take responsibility for you? Who do you think you are?"

Yang Kai did not answer, but instead asked, "Are you feeling better now?"

"Much better." Zhu Qing nodded, but abruptly realizing that the topic had been steered away, she couldn't help but glare at him.

Yang Kai began again, "Do you want to... try it again?"

The topic was changing a little quickly, and all the momentum Zhu Qing had gathered up earlier suddenly dissipated. The warmth in her underbelly was spreading like a wildfire, quickly spreading out and causing her entire body to heat up.

Her long eyelashes quivered, and before Zhu Qing could give any answers, Yang Kai had already let out a shout, got on his horse, raised his spear, and charged into the city. Soon, the defenders of the siege had tossed away their helmets and armour and were pleading for mercy.

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Half a day later, Zhu Qing lay on the ground with her face looking as if she'd lost her soul. She was just like a living corpse with her hair in disarray, and she heaved, "Please, let me put on my clothes."

"I'll help you!" Yang Kai grinned widely.

"No! That's what you said earlier. I'll never trust you again!"

"It's true this time, I promise."

"Don't lie to me again."

"No more lies, absolutely."

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A day later, Zhu Qing lay curled up in Yang Kai's arms, as quiet as a sleeping kitten, breathing softly. Suddenly, she said, "The future is still far. Let's end this session here."

"En," Yang Kai responded.

"Let go of me. I'm getting dressed."

"En."

"What do I have to do before you'll let me go?"

"One more time!"

"The last time?"

"The last time!"

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Another day and many 'last times' later, the pair finally cleaned their bodies and dressed themselves.

Zhu Qing still felt a bit of discomfort inside her as she sat quietly on the ground, combing her long hair while facing the clear pool of water in front of her. The mirroring figure in the water seemed a little melancholic, but her delicate brows could not help but rise a little.

Yang Kai stretched his body and a crackle sounded through all his joints. He could feel an indescribable sense of relief going through his being now. Looking down at the person in front of him, he reached his arms out to her and gently encircled her body from behind.

Zhu Qing's body trembled faintly, but when she realized that Yang Kai showed no signs of taking advantage of her and only buried his face in her hair, breathing in deeply, she relaxed.

"How many?" Zhu Qing suddenly asked.

Yang Kai nuzzled his chin against her shoulder and looked at the figure reflected in the pool of water, asking blankly, "What do you mean how many?"

Zhu Qing sighed, "How many were there before me?"

"You're the first. Didn't I tell you before?" Yang Kai answered her in a serious manner.

Zhu Qing scoffed, "With all the tricks you have, you can't tell me you learned all of that by playing with yourself, right? What's more... After what happened these past few days, do you think I'd trust you so easily?"

Yang Kai said with a sad face, "We're already so close, why can't you trust me? That makes me sad."

Zhu Qing pinched the hand that was slowly moving towards her chest and turned her head around with a cold smile on her lips, "You have one chance to be honest with me. Think it over before you answer."

Yang Kai blinked his eyes, looking at the delicate face so close to him, and immediately moved in for a kiss.

"Hey... you bastard!" Zhu Qing tried to struggle, but the force of her hand grew smaller rapidly.

The clothes they had just neatly put on were thrown into disarray again.

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"I've really had enough of you," Zhu Qing, who had dressed herself once more, complained. Seeing that Yang Kai still wanted to come over, she quickly pointed at him, "You're not allowed to get close to me for ten days. Otherwise, I'm cutting you off and we'll never meet again until our deaths."

"Alright, alright," Yang Kai raised his hands up and surrendered, "No need to be so nervous. I won't get close to you."

Zhu Qing furrowed her brows, sulking by herself for a while before her face cleared up again.

In fact, she was angrier with herself than with him. To think she could hardly even think of resisting this man whom she was having skin-to-skin contact with for the first time. A member of the Dragon Clan shouldn't be taken advantage of like this!

"I won't ask about the past, but the future... No one can say what's going to happen. You have to do what you have to do, but I have only one request. If I don't consent, do not use force on me." Zhu Qing eyed Yang Kai with a serious face.

Yang Kai nodded, "I'll do whatever you say."

The bit of grievance in Zhu Qing's heart instantly disappeared.

"How are you feeling now? That Ice Dragon Source won't cause any more danger, right?" Yang Kai asked with concern.

Even though Zhu Qing's condition had been stable for the past few days, the Ice Dragon Source was still inside her body after all, and they had no choice but to keep their guards up.

"It's fine now. I've already suppressed the Ice Dragon Source. It will be put in the Dragon Tomb once I return to Dragon Island." A blush suddenly appeared on Zhu Qing's cheeks, which puzzled Yang Kai.

After a pause, she asked, "Did you come especially to find me?"

Yang Kai answered, "What else would I run over to the Frozen Earth for? This damned place is really worthy of being called the most dangerous Forbidden Zone in the Star Boundary. If I hadn't been as lucky, who knows how long it would have taken for me to find you."

He spoke casually, but a sweet feeling suddenly welled up in Zhu Qing, filling her chest with warmth.

"Oh, by the way, your younger brother is here, too."

Zhu Qing frowned, "My younger brother? Zhu Lie?"

"Yeah, that little brat. If he hadn't used a Dragon Clan Secret Technique, then I would never have been able to find you."

"He didn't ask you to go to Dragon Island with him?"

Yang Kai snorted, "He tried to, but he became much more obedient after I'd taught him a good lesson. The little brat is fierce, but his strength isn't much. I, your husband, beat him crawling in just a few hits."

"What... What husband!" Zhu Qing's face reddened instantly and she couldn't help but glare at him with an appearance filled with fascinating charm.

Yang Kai once again found himself gazing wolfishly at her.