

Martial 3281

Chapter 3281, The Woman in the Void Crack

The ceremony only lasted for a day, but it wasn't until 3 days later that Luo Sha Sect sent away all the guests and finally quieted down again. For the past 3 days, Yang Kai had been mingling among the various Emperor Realm Masters. He had no other choice. Since he was now the High-Rank Guest Elder of Luo Sha Sect, he had to act as befitting his position, becoming a bridge to create many connections between Luo Sha Sect and the other Sects here to attend this ceremony.

These results made Tao Ying Ruo and the others beside themselves with joy. It could be said that things had already exceeded their reasons for hiring Yang Kai as a High-Rank Guest Elder in the first place. Nobody in the entire Southern Territory would ever dare to touch Luo Sha Sect again in the future. With Yang Kai as their golden signboard, Luo Sha Sect need only take its time to develop in a steady manner and would definitely get a chance to make its comeback in the future.

This was something Yang Kai no longer needed to consider. He had High Heaven Palace already and it was only because of Yu Zhuo that he offered protection to Luo Sha Sect, so it was impossible for him to stay here for long.

He originally planned to leave immediately after the ceremony. In any case, he had left a Cross-Territory Space Array here, so if Luo Sha Sect were to run into some sort of problem, Tao Ying Ruo could head to High Heaven Palace for help. However, he had to delay his departure a little longer because of the matter in the mountain valley of the Restricted Area. Yang Kai planned to wait until the next full moon to thoroughly study the phenomenon before leaving.

On the other hand, Tao Ying Ruo went to Luo Sha Peak with a few of her Junior Sisters in the Dao Source Realm. After Ran Yi Rou announced their arrival, Yang Kai received them in the guest hall. The five Dao Source Realm Masters lined up and bowed.

Then, Tao Ying Ruo said, "Elder Yang, Luo Sha Sect will never forget the great kindness you showed us. If you ever need anything in the future, Luo Sha Sect will never refuse your requests."

Yang Kai helped them up and waved his hand casually, "Acting Sect Master, you are being excessive. I am also a member of Luo Sha Sect now, this is just a part of my duties."

Tao Ying Ruo shook her head and gratefully exclaimed, "Luo Sha Sect is truly lucky to have you, Elder Yang." While speaking, she shot a glance at Qin Pei.

Qin Pei stepped forward and held out a Space Ring with both hands to Yang Kai.

"This is..." He took it and gave her a curious look.

Qin Pei replied, "These are the congratulatory gifts from all the guests at the ceremony. The disciples have made a record of the gifts on this jade slip so Elder Yang can browse through it to see if there is anything missing."

Luo Sha Sect was technically gifted these things, but Tao Ying Ruo and the others knew their place. Those people had not given these gifts out of respect for Luo Sha Sect but rather out of respect for Yang Kai, so they could not keep any of them and decided to hand everything over without keeping a single item.

"There really are quite a lot of good things in here," Yang Kai casually glanced through the items and smiled, not refusing the gifts and putting them into his Space Ring. This was an unimaginable wealth for Luo Sha Sect, but it was nothing much in his eyes. High Heaven Palace was now in charge of the entire Northern Territory and its annual income was beyond imagination, so what was this single ring in comparison?

He had no intention of sharing these gifts with Luo Sha Sect because he knew that even if he mentioned it, Tao Ying Ruo and the others would never agree to accept them. These women were not that brazen. Besides, as the saying went 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime'.

If Luo Sha Sect wanted to expand in the future and obtain sufficient cultivation resources, then they needed to have a stable long-term income source. Of course, Yang Kai had already planned for this and spoke up, "Acting Sect Master, you should take a trip to High Heaven Palace when you have the time and meet with my Head Manager there. Perhaps, you can discuss with her to find a way to benefit Luo Sha Sect. That way, you won't lack resources for your disciples' various cultivation needs in the future."

Tao Ying Ruo's eyes lit up when she heard those words, "Many thanks, Elder Yang. I will visit in a few days."

He nodded, "When you go there, please let her know that I will be staying here for another month and will return after."

"Good."

For Tao Ying Ruo and the others, it didn't matter how long Yang Kai wanted to remain in Luo Sha Sect; after all, they had already given him unfettered access to even the mountain valley of the Restricted Area. What else was there that they could not give to him? In fact, it was best if something could spark between him, Ran Yi Rou or Yu Ke Ran. It was a pity that this wish was never realized.

For the next twenty days, Yang Kai remained behind closed doors. Forget Tao Ying Ruo and the other Dao Source Realm Elders, even Ran Yi Rou and Yu Ke Ran did not see him at all.

In the blink of an eye, one month had passed and it was once again the night of the full moon.

Yang Kai arrived at the mountain valley of the Restricted Area early that evening, looked around, and couldn't help frowning. The last time he came here, the moon had been bright, and the skies were clear. Unfortunately, the weather was not good today and dark clouds covered the sky, making the whole world dark. There was no moonlight coming down at all.

Seeing this, Yang Kai couldn't help feeling a little worried. He did not know whether the changes in the weather would have any impact on the Restricted Area; however, if it was as he had guessed, then the weather wouldn't make much of a difference.

He waited quietly for night to fall, and soon that familiar feeling appeared again. Yang Kai's expression brightened as he became more and more certain that his previous conjecture was correct. This time around, he didn't pay any attention to the smooth cliff because there was nothing unusual about it since there was no moonlight tonight. Instead, he came directly to the place he noticed last time near the end of the phenomenon.

It didn't take long before another weak energy fluctuation appeared. This was the moment he had been waiting for. Thus, he widened his eyes and stared intently at the forming Void Crack in front of him, his heart filling with a sense of excitement. It turned out to be exactly as he had guessed! When the fluctuations appeared, an almost undetectable tear in space appeared at this location. It was just that this tear was so fleeting that the fluctuations ended abruptly and became unnoticeable as a result.

Yang Kai noticed this anomaly previously, but his mind had been immersed in the smooth wall cliff and it wasn't until the last moment that he shifted his focus. As a result, he had failed to track the source of those fluctuations.

There must be something hidden in the Void Crack here. That unknown existence would break through space on the nights of a full moon, causing a tear to appear in the mountain valley. Then, under the refraction of the moonlight, it would project some of what was happening inside the Void Crack onto the smooth cliff wall. In other words, the root cause of this phenomenon was not in the cliff wall but in the Void Crack.

Yang Kai couldn't help feeling excited as he was looking forward to discovering the mystery hidden in this Void Crack. Even if other people had noticed this anomaly, they probably couldn't do anything about it, but it was different for him, he was proficient in the Dao of Space. As long as he could trace the source of the phenomena, he could directly tear space open and enter the Void Crack to investigate.

Although he had also torn an opening in the space previously, the Void Crack was an unpredictable place and he could not follow the faint trail. Even if he tore open space in the same spot at another time, he still couldn't find the root cause of the phenomena.

After several more fluctuations, the fleeting space tear could finally be traced back to its source. It was as fine as a strand of hair, and if it had been anyone else, even a Third-Order Emperor Realm Master, they would not have noticed anything amiss if they came here.

Yang Kai no longer hesitated. Space Principles flared up and he inserted his hands into the tear and violently pried it open before slipping into the Void Crack.

Inside the Void Crack that was filled with chaos and nothingness, he was stunned for a moment as he stared blankly at something straight ahead and almost couldn't believe what he was seeing.

Many signs had led him to form a conjecture that there might be something hidden inside the Void Crack and his guess turned out to be correct. He did indeed discover something when he followed the trail and investigated the source; however, what was hidden in this place was not some unique treasure

or mighty weapon that he had imagined. It turned out to be a person. Moreover, it was a woman! At least, she should be a woman... A man wouldn't wear such flowery robes.

This woman was sitting cross-legged in the Void. She was so emaciated that she was practically just skin and bones; her eye sockets were sunken inward; her hair was greyish white; and her eyes were dim and dull like those of a dead fish. Even the life aura coming from her body was so weak that it felt like she could die at any time.

Yang Kai was shocked, extremely shocked! [How can there be a woman in this place!?!]

He knew well just how dangerous the Void Crack was as even someone like him might die if he lost his way, much less someone who knew nothing about the Dao of Space. Therefore, he never imagined that there would come a day when he would encounter a random woman in the Void Crack!

Judging by her appearance, she was probably one of those unlucky people who got lost in the Void, just like how it was depicted in the rumours. Who knows how long she had been lost in this place for her to become so thin? It must be said that a person who could enter a Void Crack should not be that weak, and since they were relatively powerful, they would naturally carry some Spirit Pills or Source Crystals for restorative purposes.

From the looks of this woman and the traces he could sense around him, Yang Kai hazarded a guess that she had been trapped in this place for more than ten thousand years. At the very least, it had been several thousand years. If not, her body would not have shrunk so badly. He could practically imagine what had happened to her with just a single glance. She had been trapped in the endless Void and over the years, every single resource inside her Space Ring had been consumed. With no other options, she could only rely on the vitality of her physical body to stay alive. Who knew how many years had passed since then? Almost all of her flesh and blood had been consumed as a result, leading to her current starved and emaciated appearance.

[Who is she? And, how did she get trapped in this place?] What shocked Yang Kai even more though was that she was still alive! The vitality coming from her body was weak indeed, like a candle in the wind that could get snuffed out at any moment, but she was certainly still alive. That was because when he looked at her, those dull eyes suddenly moved. The movements were very stiff, as though they had not moved in a very long time; nevertheless, they immediately fixed on him.

When their gazes met, those eyes shone with a desperate look of joy and disbelief. At the same time, a gurgling sound came from her throat. Under those circumstances, Yang Kai couldn't help feeling rather shaken by the situation.

The woman in front of him parted her lips that were as dry as tree bark several times, but no sound came out of her mouth. Even so, that slight movement caused her already weak vitality to be exhausted at an incredible pace. The light in her eyes instantly dimmed as a result. Yang Kai couldn't help breaking out in a cold sweat, scared that this woman might die just like that. After a moment of hesitation, he took out a Spirit Pill from his Space Ring, held it between his fingers, and walked over to her.

The woman's gaze was immediately attracted to the Spirit Pill in his fingers. She looked like a starving ghost that had spotted food and even her weak breathing became ragged.

Yang Kai secretly sighed to himself. Even though he could barely feel any power coming from this woman now, she had managed to persist in the Void for thousands of years. That indicated that her true strength must have been absolutely terrifying at its peak. Be that as it may, a mere Origin King Grade Spirit Pill could now make her show such a desperate look. She no longer had any form of elegance that came with being a powerful Master, which made him sigh in pity at the sight.

Chapter 3282, Sheng Yu Zhu

If Yang Kai had to be honest, for a moment, he didn't know how to deal with this situation where he encountered a woman in the Void Crack. He didn't even know if she was good or evil. If this woman turned out to be a heinous and evil existence, then wouldn't he be helping a tyrant by rescuing her? But, if the other party had accidentally fallen into this place and was trapped as a result, then it would be too cruel to just sit and watch without doing anything.

For this woman in front of him, he was definitely her last chance for survival. If he decided to ignore her and walk away, she would die without a doubt; therefore, he decided to restore a little bit of her vitality first before anything else. It would not be too late for him to make his decision after learning more about her origins and temperament.

Walking over, he handed the Spirit Pill over to the woman. That woman that was all skin and bones, stared at the Spirit Pill desperately. She tried hard to swallow it but didn't even have the strength to open her mouth; thus, she could only look up at him beggily.

Yang Kai didn't know whether to laugh or cry and suddenly felt that he was being overly cautious. It didn't matter even if the woman in front of him used to be incredibly wicked. In her current state, she wouldn't recover even if she spent hundreds of years recuperating. With no other choice, he stretched out his hand, pried her mouth open, and stuffed the Spirit Pill into it. Then, he used his Emperor Qi to help her swallow it. The woman's eyes flashed with gratitude before she closed them and adjusted her breathing.

Yang Kai didn't remain idle, pressing a hand against her shoulder and carefully pouring his Emperor Qi into her body to help her refine the medicinal efficacies of the Spirit Pill, regardless of her consent. At the same time, he immediately gained a full understanding of the condition her body was in. What he discovered was extremely shocking, to say the least. He did not know what kind of cultivation this woman had back in her heyday, but right now, her entire body was withered, and her meridians had almost completely atrophied. There were many parts that were obstructed, and he needed to focus so that he could carefully direct the flow of his Emperor Qi; otherwise, he could inadvertently cause her to explode and die.

Needless to say, a mere Origin King Grade Spirit Pill was not enough for this woman to recover fully. Even if he helped to refine all of its medical efficacies, it only allowed her to stabilize her wavering vitality. There were no changes whatsoever to her emaciated appearance, but her dead fish eyes brightened considerably.

Yang Kai suddenly felt rather emotional. It was said that even ants would fight desperately to survive; so what more needed to be said about a Human? Even so, he felt that it might be better to die if a person were to be trapped in such a place for thousands of years. At the very least, it would end things quickly. Being trapped in this place was simply an endless life of suffering, and yet, this woman had survived. What kind of indomitable will and determination would be needed for her to do so? This woman's mental strength must be unimaginably strong for her to persevere under such conditions.

When the Origin King Grade Spirit Pill was completely refined, the woman stared straight at him again with eyes that were full of longing. It was obvious that she was hoping he would give her more Spirit Pills, but Yang Kai pretended not to understand and simply stood there scratching his face.

Seeing that her pleading gaze was not going to yield any results, she did not pressure him further and simply closed her eyes again. After recuperating for some time, she opened her mouth and an unintelligible sound came from within. It was clear that it had been too long since she last spoke. Even with a Spirit Pill to help stabilize her vitality, she was still incapable of forming a full sentence and only after trying for a long time did she finally force out some broken words, "Ma... many... thanks!"

Even though it was only two simple words, they seemed to exhaust all her strength and she fell silent again after uttering them.

Yang Kai nodded and smilingly said, "It was nothing. May I know how I should address you?"

The woman was startled, and a confused look appeared in her eyes. Yang Kai observed her reactions and thought to himself, [It can't be that she has been trapped in this place for so long that she forgot her own name, right?]

Fortunately, she soon forced out a few words with great difficulty, "Sheng... Yu... Zhu!"

Something like a name was a brand that existed throughout a person's life. Even if it had been momentarily forgotten, the memory of it would always return with some thought. Yang Kai was taken aback by her name for a moment as it was somewhat peculiar to him. Thinking about it carefully though, none of the people that he had ever interacted with had this surname, nor had he heard of it before today.

"This Junior's name is Yang Kai," He cupped his fists and continued, "I currently serve as the High-Rank Guest Elder of Luo Sha Sect. By coincidence, I found something strange in the Restricted Area of the Sect and followed the traces to this place. I did not expect to meet you here. Is the abnormality in Luo Sha Sect's Restricted Area caused by you?"

Sheng Yu Zhu nodded in response. Yang Kai could not tell if she was a person of few words or if it was just difficult for her to speak at the moment.

"As I thought..." Yang Kai failed to stifle his laughter. Various instances in the Restricted Area had led him to guess that the root cause was within the Void Crack, and upon seeing Sheng Yu Zhu in this place, he immediately concluded that the anomaly had indeed been man-made. Trapped in this place, she had used some kind of powerful Divine Ability to send clues out of the Void Crack. If anybody were to come across these clues, they would surely become curious about it, and if they could trace them back to the Void Crack, then they would surely encounter her.

It was just that the only person in this world, aside from Yang Kai himself, that could notice such a subtle clue would have to be Li Wu Yi of Spirit Beast Island. That was because they were the only two proficient in the Dao of Space and were capable of perceiving such a tiny tear in space, much less enter the Void Crack.

If this weren't the case, Yu Luo Sha, the former Sect Master of Luo Sha Sect, would not have been oblivious for so long. She simply thought that the anomaly in the Restricted Area was a blessing from the Heavens that was bestowed upon her.

It could be said that whatever Yu Luo Sha learned from the smooth cliff wall was deliberately left behind by Sheng Yu Zhu. By all accounts, Yu Luo Sha could be considered Sheng Yu Zhu's unofficial disciple. In fact, all disciples of Luo Sha Sect could be considered Sheng Yu Zhu's disciples.

Looking at Sheng Yu Zhu's current condition, it was obvious that she no longer had the ability to execute such a plan, so Yang Kai was certain that this was something she had done thousands of years ago. It had been maintained through some mysterious means all this while, allowing it to appear whenever there was a full moon and cause inexplicable changes in the Restricted Area.

"How long have you been trapped in this place?" Yang Kai asked the question he was most curious about.

Sheng Yu Zhu slowly shook her head. "I can't... remember..."

That truly was a saddening answer and Yang Kai couldn't help sighing on her behalf. The fact that she no longer remembered how long she had been trapped in this place indicated that it had been a very, very long time.

"Do you understand Space Principles?" Something else came to mind suddenly. That space tear couldn't appear in the mountain valley of the Restricted Area for no reason. It could only be man-made.

Sheng Yu Zhu replied, "I was... trapped... for... too long... so... I could... only... think of... a solution... myself."

After a long pause, she continued strenuously, "I only... understand... a little."

Yang Kai nodded in understanding. The tear in space had been far too small, as fine as a strand of hair. Yu Luo Sha had been cultivating in the Restricted Area for several hundred years and still failed to notice it. If Yang Kai had not been proficient in the Dao of Space himself, it would have been impossible for him to discover it.

It was reasonable for Sheng Yu Zhu to claim that she only comprehended some small bits of the Dao of Space. If she had zero understanding of it, she could not have created that space tear, while on the other hand, she would have widened the tear enough so that she could escape from this place had she been more proficient in it. Yang Kai had the feeling that Sheng Yu Zhu only had the barest understanding of the Dao of Space and was far from grasping its essence.

"Little Brother..." Sheng Yu Zhu called out.

"Do you have something to say?" He looked at her.

She continued, "Since... you managed to come here... that means you... can tear open space. Can you... bring me out of here?" As she spoke, her ability to express herself gradually became smoother and her hoarse voice also became more and more fluid. It was just that she was still very weak. Nevertheless, her eyes were burning with hope when she asked that question. A person finally appeared in front of her after so many years of waiting; moreover, it was obvious at a glance that this person was proficient in the Dao of Space. If she wanted to get out of this place, she could only put her hopes in him, so how could she not grab hold of such a good opportunity?

When he heard her question, Yang Kai rubbed his chin with a troubled look, "But I don't know whether you are a good person or a bad person."

Sheng Yu Zhu blinked, "Will you believe me if I say that I'm a good person?"

Yang Kai shook his head and replied seriously, "Naturally not."

Sheng Yu Zhu replied, "If I were a bad person, I would not have been deceived back then nor exiled to this place to never see the sky ever again."

Yang Kai shook his head once more though, "You don't have any proof. What if you turned out to be a heinous villain? I can't let you out."

Sheng Yu Zhu sighed, "How can I prove whether I am good or evil? I don't even know how many years I have been trapped in here. The people I used to know are probably all dead by now. Even if they are still alive, you might not necessarily know who they are. Don't tell me you plan to go out and inquire about my origins?"

"Why not?" Yang Kai raised his brow, "May I know the names of the people you used to know? Uhh... If you think they couldn't have survived until now, then don't mention them. Just choose a few of the ones who seem like they are long-lived."

Sheng Yu Zhu let out a light laugh, "You certainly are being cautious."

Yang Kai could only solemnly reply, "Forgive me, but this is necessary."

After considering the question for some time, the first name that came out of Sheng Yu Zhu's mouth shocked Yang Kai to his core, "Is Wu Kuang still alive?"

Yang Kai's eyes bulged and a myriad of expressions flashed across his face, "Wu Kuang? Which Wu Kuang?"

She glanced at him pensively, "You seem to have heard his name before. Does that mean he succeeded?"

Yang Kai was drenched in cold sweat as he asked once more, "Which Wu Kuang are you referring to?"

Looking at him with a profound expression, she replied, "The one you're clearly thinking of, the one who cultivates the Heaven Devouring Battle Law."

Yang Kai was so shocked that his complexion paled and he couldn't help shouting, "Are you acquainted with Wu Kuang!?"

Sheng Yu Zhu chuckled in response, "Of course. It's all thanks to him that I am trapped in this place."

"What?" Yang Kai felt as though he had lost his ability to think. This woman in front of him, who was all skin and bones, was trapped in this Void Crack by Wu Kuang!? In other words, wouldn't that make her a person from the same generation as Wu Kuang!? For a while, Yang Kai couldn't help feeling a chill all over.

He had previously guessed that she had been trapped in this place for a very long time, at least a few thousand years, maybe even ten thousand years; however, ten thousand years was nowhere near long enough if she truly turned out to be from the same era as Wu Kuang. She would have been trapped in this place for several tens of thousands of years!

Just thinking about the possibility made him shudder in fear. How could a person not go mad after being trapped in this chaotic nothingness for tens of thousands of years? Moreover, she constantly tried to send out messages to the outside world in hopes of attracting a person to rescue her. This woman named Sheng Yu Zhu was definitely an extremely old monster!

All of a sudden though, Yang Kai felt something amiss about her words and sneered, "Do you think I'm easy to deceive just because I'm young?"

Sheng Yu Zhu was puzzled, "What do you mean?"

She did not understand the reason why Yang Kai seemed to have suddenly turned hostile to her.

Yang Kai scoffed, "Wu Kuang was known as the Heaven Devouring Great Emperor. He was the most powerful Master in the history of the Star Boundary, his cultivation unrivalled. How are you still alive if he really plotted against you? Are you going to tell me that you are also a Great Emperor?"

i-am-the-fated-villain-cover

I Am the Fated Villain

Pretty sure many of you have read the manhwa. A few guys asked me to pick it up and one even offered a commission.

Well, I took it as an experiment to see what would happen if I uploaded at quite an impressive release rate from the start. Will be in red for this one. Humanity's Great Sage

Same author as Martial Peak. MoMo. We have been translating for awhile and it seems to be slowly gaining traction. Like Martial Peak, starts out slow and it is building up quite well.

Chapter 3283, Old Monster

That was clearly impossible. If Sheng Yu Zhu was truly a Great Emperor, she would have ripped open this Void Crack and escaped a long time ago. Great Emperors inherited the blessing of the world and were existences recognized by the Heavenly Way itself, so they could not be trapped in the Void Crack.

“He really succeeded,” Sheng Yu Zhu murmured, the expression on her face seemingly a little strange. Pausing for a moment, she continued, “It’s not strange for you to misunderstand. It’s just that... when he trapped me in here, he wasn’t a Great Emperor yet.”

Yang Kai’s mouth fell open so wide an egg could easily be stuffed into it. The amount of information in those words was simply overwhelming. Wu Kuang had been famous for tens of thousands of years and his title as Heaven Devouring Great Emperor was known to everyone across the entire Star Boundary. Just how long ago did he become a Great Emperor? Yet, what Sheng Yu Zhu was saying was that she had been trapped in this place since before Wu Kuang even became a Great Emperor.

Now, the question was, how long had she been trapped in this place? It had to be said that the Great Emperor War took place nearly twenty thousand years ago, and it only happened a long time after Wu Kuang rose to the position of Great Emperor.

In other words, Sheng Yu Zhu had been trapped in this place for at least thirty thousand years, likely even longer. She had been unable to escape from this place for such a long time, and even after painstaking effort, she could just barely scratch the surface of the Dao of Space to open a tear in this Void Crack to pass a message to the outside world.

Yang Kai almost suspected that she was lying. How could anyone possibly survive for so long in a place like this all alone!?

Unexpectedly, Sheng Yu Zhu ignored him and continued talking to herself, “Back then, Wu Kuang and I were equals in terms of strength and we both aspired to become Great Emperors. It was precisely because of this that I was set up by Wu Kuang.”

Yang Kai’s eyes shone with a brilliant light, “You were competing with Wu Kuang for the position of Great Emperor?” [What a heroic act that is! To think that this woman was such a supreme Master! It’s hard to imagine. In her era, she must have been quite a prominent figure.]

Sheng Yu Zhu smiled bitterly, “I was tricked by him before I could get that far and I’ve been stuck in the Void ever since.”

Yang Kai looked at Sheng Yu Zhu sympathetically, “Your grudge must run deep...”

Disputes on the Grand Dao typically had a no-holds-barred approach, so what Wu Kuang did could not be considered despicable or shameless. Although Wu Kuang was by no means a decent person, in this case, it could only be said that Sheng Yu Zhu made a blunder.

The hatred formed from having one’s Grand Dao stolen away was absolutely irreconcilable. Nevertheless, Sheng Yu Zhu spoke about this matter in quite a bland manner. She didn’t seem to hold any resentment or hatred, which made Yang Kai’s opinion of her rise significantly. If she had such a broad mindset, he felt she couldn’t be that bad.

Through her words, Yang Kai was certain of what her cultivation had been in the past. She was probably one of those existences Yang Yan mentioned before, the ones half a step away from becoming a Great Emperor. The only reason such Masters failed to become Great Emperors was that they could not receive the recognition of the world. They were by no means comparable to ordinary Third-Order

Emperors and could target the position of Great Emperor at any time to replace one of the current Ten Great Emperors if the conditions were right.

Sheng Yu Zhu swept her gaze over Yang Kai and stated, "Seeing that you are in the Second-Order Emperor Realm even though you don't look that old, you will probably compete with those just below the top of the world given enough time."

Yang Kai responded in a dead serious manner, "That is what I am working towards."

She nodded, "Good. With an ambitious nature like that, you will surely earn a place in the world in the future."

Pausing for a moment, she continued, "You didn't answer my question. Is Wu Kuang still alive?"

Yang Kai sighed and shook his head, "He's dead!"

Of course, this was a lie. Although Wu Kaung's body was destroyed, his Soul endured and was now locked in a strange partnership with Duan Hong Chen. They were sharing the same body and it could be said that he was not quite alive but not quite dead either. The reason Yang Kai answered this way was to see how Sheng Yu Zhu would react to the news. If she showed any abnormal reaction whatsoever, he would have to seriously consider whether or not to bring her out.

Sheng Yu Zhu was obviously stunned for a time upon hearing his answer and asked in a daze, "He's dead?"

Yang Kai solemnly replied, "Heaven Devouring Great Emperor brought chaos to many Lower Star Fields. Everywhere he went, innocents perished and countless Stars were destroyed. The other Great Emperors could not bear watching any longer, so they banded together to slay him in the Shattered Star Sea."

She looked directly at him and asked, "When did all of this happen?"

"About twenty thousand years ago."

"It's been so long..." Sheng Yu Zhu wore a complicated expression on her face for a time before she sighed sadly, "He succeeded as the Heaven Devourer and died as the Heaven Devourer. Such is the cycle of cause and effect, the consequences of his actions."

Yang Kai commented, "You should be happy, Senior."

To which Sheng Yu Zhu nodded, "I should be happy... I knew he would suffer a tragic fate one day, but I never imagined that he would die under the besiegement of all other Great Emperors... Forget it, since he is dead, whatever grievances I had with him are now behind us. Let's not talk about him anymore. What about Duan Hong Chen, Yao Jun, Zhan Wu Hen, and Chu Tian Ji? Do you know any of them?"

Yang Kai vividly felt cold sweat dripping down his back as his expression twitched slightly as he replied, "Senior Hong Chen is a role model for all cultivators in the Star Boundary, and I have had the honour of meeting him a few times. I have also met Senior Serene Soul Great Emperor, Yao Jun, once before. But who are Zhan Wu Hen and Chu Tian Ji?"

Of the four names that popped out of her mouth, two of them were Great Emperors, and although Yang Kai had no idea who Zhan Wu Hen and Chu Tian Ji were, he had a vague guess of their identities.

Sheng Yu Zhu elucidated, “Zhan Wu Hen cultivated the Iron Blood Record and was the most combative of those four. Perhaps he is known by another name now while his real name has been forgotten by the world. As for Chu Tian Ji... He’s a no-good scammer as far as I am concerned, but it seems he gained some insight into Heaven’s secrets.”

The cold sweat was now practically raining off Yang Kai’s back when he heard her explanation and he weakly said, “Senior, the people you mentioned might be referring to Iron Blood Great Emperor and Heavens Revelations Great Emperor.”

At the same time, Yang Kai lamented in his heart. [There’s no doubt that she is an Old Monster who has lived for tens of thousands of years! All the people she knows are Great Emperors! But that’s not that surprising either. I asked her to mention people that might still be alive after all, so it’s only natural that she chose to name the strongest amongst those she once knew. And the most powerful people she knew back then would not be little known existences if they managed to survive until today.]

With this level of contacts, how powerful her cultivation was didn’t matter anymore. Who would dare to slight her after she left this place? Even if the Great Emperors ran into her, they would probably have to show her some respect as a peer.

“So, they have all become Great Emperors...” A nostalgic look appeared in her eyes as if she was recalling her past memories from a long, long time ago. Nevertheless, she quickly recovered from her reverie and smiled, “They aren’t dead yet, right? You only need to ask one of them what kind of person I am. They will surely tell you.”

“They are indeed all still alive.” Yang Kai wiped the sweat away from his brow before continuing bitterly, “But, the Great Emperors rarely show themselves to the world, so someone like me won’t be able to meet them on a whim.”

Of the four Great Emperors, Duan Hong Chen was probably still confronting Wu Kuang in the Ancestral Domain.

On the other hand, Iron Blood Great Emperor was an elusive person who rarely made an appearance even though he was currently in charge of the Star Court. The last time he made an appearance was in the Western Territory. Unfortunately, he refused to meet Yang Kai and even destroyed his Cross-Territory Space Array while intercepting Lin Yun’er during the teleportation.

Yang Kai had the feeling that even if he encountered Iron Blood Great Emperor again, the latter would not be happy to see him; after all, he almost abducted Lin Yun’er from him back then.

As for Serene Soul Great Emperor... It went without saying that Yang Kai would never meet him voluntarily. Yang Kai had some friction with Yao Jun’s daughter, Yao Lin, in the Ancient Wild Lands of the Eastern Territory previously and nearly killed her as a result. In the end, the Soul Descend of Serene Soul Great Emperor appeared to resolve the incident. The feud between them was neither too big nor too small, and it was quite magnanimous of Serene Soul Great Emperor to not pursue the matter. How could Yang Kai deliver himself up to Serene Soul Great Emperor on a silver platter now though?

Finally, Heavens Revelations Great Emperor supposedly lived in seclusion in Heavens Spying Valley; however, Yang Kai didn’t even know which Territory Heavens Spying Valley was located in.

When it came down to it, Sheng Yu Zhu's contacts were simply too high for him to reach. One should not be fooled by her emaciated appearance and her weak manner of speaking. Even if she had fallen from her peak, she was still no ordinary person. Her connections spanned tens of thousands of years, and all the people she knew were now extremely influential figures in the Star Boundary.

"Then what are we to do? I don't think anyone else can verify my identity..." Sheng Yu Zhu felt a little helpless. Too much time had passed. If it had only been thousands of years, or a little under ten thousand years, things would have been much easier. The lifespans of Emperor Realm Masters were long, so she might have been able to name a few others for Yang Kai to check with, but it had been tens of thousands of years since she was trapped here, so how many of her contacts would have survived until the present? Almost all those who lived until the present were Great Emperors.

Yang Kai pondered for a while before declaring, "It's alright. I'll bring you out, Senior."

Sheng Yu Zhu was astonished and asked, "Weren't you afraid I might be a wicked person?"

To which he smiled at her in a carefree manner, "Even if you are an evil person, you have been trapped in this place for tens of thousands of years, so how much of your strength could possibly be left? Even if Senior wanted to wreak havoc, you are powerless to do so. Besides... If you turn out to be a heinous villain, then Wu Kuang's fate will be your future."

Since she knew so many of the Great Emperors, those Great Emperors would also know what kind of person she was. If there really came a day when she tried to turn the world upside down, the Great Emperors would not sit idly by; hence, there was no need to worry about her causing any trouble as far as Yang Kai was concerned.

Sheng Yu Zhu was extremely grateful, "Many thanks!"

Pausing for a moment, she added, "But, I'm not the kind of person who likes owing other people favours. Since you saved my life, I must give you some form of repayment."

Yang Kai solemnly replied, "This is just a slight effort for me, Senior, please don't worry about it."

He wasn't trying to act modestly as what he said was simply what he truly thought. On top of that, Yang Kai felt that Sheng Yu Zhu would not have anything valuable on her. Even if she had some sort of precious treasure, did he really need them? The Mountain and Rivers Bell in his possession was priceless enough to attract even the interest of Great Emperors, so it was impossible for her to produce an artifact more precious than that.

Sheng Yu Zhu shook her head with some difficulty and continued, "Let me finish speaking. It won't be too late for you to reject me afterward."

Her expression seemed to say that it was something so tempting that he would not refuse.

This aroused Yang Kai's interest, so he cocked his ears and listened intently.

"I mentioned this before, but your cultivation is quite impressive despite how young you are. Given enough time, you will surely compete for a position at the summit of this world. As such, have you ever wondered why there are only Ten Great Emperors in the world?"

Yang Kai answered promptly, "This Junior once heard from someone that the world is like a bottle filled with sand and stones, and that bottle has a limited capacity. It is unable to accommodate the existence of more than ten Great Emperors at a time as they are the biggest stones of all, but I don't know if it is true or not."

This time, it was Sheng Yu Zhu's turn to be surprised as she exclaimed, "You actually know about this..."

"It's just something I heard." Yang Kai smiled lightly.

She nodded affirmatively, "Indeed. This world is a bottle that can only hold ten Great Emperors at a time. If you want to become a Great Emperor, you can only wait for a position to open up and then compete against the best in the world to obtain that spot!"

Yang Kai sighed, "Only the Heavens know when that will happen."

The lifespan of a Great Emperor was incredibly long, to the point where, unless they died of some unexpected circumstances, no position would be vacated for thousands or tens of thousands of years. Several Great Emperors were born after the Great Emperor War, but that was only thanks to Wu Kuang. Several Great Emperors died at Wu Kuang's hands in that great battle. Wondrous Pill Great Emperor, Flower Shadow Great Emperor, Night Shadow Great Emperor, and Bright Moon Great Emperor all rose to their positions after that battle.

Chapter 3284, Reciprocating the Favour

When it came down to it, these people had Wu Kuang to thank for their positions. If not for Wu Kuang's rampage in the past, they would never have gotten the chance to become Great Emperors.

"But, there will always be a chance, right? A Great Emperor is not immortal after all," Sheng Yu Zhu smiled. She might have been a beauty with a sweet smile back in her heyday, but her current appearance was not suitable for showing a smiling face. It only made her look uglier than if she had cried instead, "Your greatest advantage lies in your youth."

Yang Kai nodded, "What Senior says makes sense." Up until today, it had only been a little over a hundred years since he started cultivating; moreover, it was not a problem for him to reach the Third-Order Emperor Realm or even the stage that was half a step away from becoming a Great Emperor with his aptitude. He had a long life ahead of him, so it was not impossible for him to stand at the top when the time came.

Sheng Yu Zhu leisurely stated, "If such a day really comes... I'm just saying; if such a day really comes, I will tell you how to become a Great Emperor."

Yang Kai's entire body stiffened for a moment at those words and his eyes gleamed brightly as he stared at her, "Senior, you know the secret to becoming a Great Emperor?"

This had been a question he had always been wondering about. He only knew that he had to master World Force in order to become a Great Emperor but he didn't know anything more than that. Nevertheless, what kind of existence was a Great Emperor? Even if he could master World Force, he might not succeed in becoming one. On the contrary, what Sheng Yu Zhu just said gave him an infinite sense of hope.

Sheng Yu Zhu replied, "I might have stood a chance if I had not been plotted against by Wu Kuang back then. I've experienced something similar once before, so how could I not know something?"

Yang Kai suddenly had the impulse to grab at his ears and scratch at his cheeks. He was itching to know more, so much so that he was tempted to use force to pry the secrets out of her mouth. If he could understand the secrets to becoming a Great Emperor, then he would be one step ahead of the others when the time came. Be that as it may, he was not a person who could not distinguish between right and wrong. Sheng Yu Zhu was simply reciprocating a favour, so how could he go against his original intentions? Nevertheless, he had to admit that the repayment she was giving him was extremely valuable. It might sound rather vague and unreliable, but it was still worth more than any artifact in the world.

Yang Kai grinned sheepishly, "Can't you just tell me now?"

Even though he knew the possibility was slim, he still had to try asking. Who knows? She might teach him everything out of goodwill.

Unfortunately, Sheng Yu Zhu just slowly shook her head, "There's no point in telling you if the time isn't right. You should just focus on cultivating for now. Opportunities will come to those who are prepared."

Nodding, he did not force the issue. Then, his expression suddenly changed as he asked, "I might be competing against Senior when that time comes. Aren't you worried that you might raise a strong contender against yourself?"

Even if an opportunity presented itself, it was a very slim chance. It was impossible for something like the battle at the Shattered Star Sea to occur again where several positions for Great Emperor suddenly became vacant. For somebody as superior as a Great Emperor, the death of any one of them was a world-shaking matter in itself; therefore, even if an opportunity presented itself in the future, chances were that it would only be for one spot. What Sheng Yu Zhu was doing was equivalent to creating a strong rival for herself. Moreover, this rival would know everything she knew.

Sheng Yu Zhu laughed when she heard his question though, "Disputes in the Grand Dao are matters of life or death. Besides, did you really think that you and I will be the only ones fighting over that spot? When that time comes, all those qualified in the world will sense it. We might even be able to work together against them when the time comes."

"So that's how it is, Senior," Yang Kai's doubts were assuaged. He had to admit that what Sheng Yu Zhu said was reasonable. When the time came, all the hidden Old Monsters cultivating in some corner of the world would swarm towards this chance, so what difference would one more person make? On the contrary, forging a friendship now might allow them to work together to fend off their enemies in the future before having a final showdown between themselves at the last moment.

Taking all this into consideration, Yang Kai no longer hesitated. Cupping his fists, he said, "Senior, this Junior is grateful for the kindness you have shown me. Now then, let's leave this place."

"Thank you," Sheng Yu Zhu nodded gently. Despite doing her best to suppress the trembling in her voice, it was still shaking noticeably. It could be seen just how emotional she was at the moment. She had been trapped here for tens of thousands of years after all, and if she did not leave soon, she would really turn into a pile of bones.

Knowing that it was difficult for her to even move, Yang Kai did not act reservedly. He walked over, apologized slightly, then reached out to pick her up. Sheng Yu Zhu was extremely light, making Yang Kai sigh in pity as he felt as if he was carrying a mere skeleton.

To think that an existence that was only half a step away from becoming a Great Emperor would find herself in this position. Just how much hardship had she suffered over the years? She didn't even know what she did to offend Wu Kuang so greatly that he would set such a trap for her before she even had the chance to fight for the position of Great Emperor.

Space Principles surged as Yang Kai opened a corridor along the path he came from and returned to the mountain valley in the blink of an eye.

When the rich World Energy rushed in from all sides, Sheng Yu Zhu couldn't help but moan in his arms. Her dull gaze immediately bloomed with a shocking brilliance. [How many years has it been!? How many years has it been since I last felt the existence of World Energy!?!]

There had only been an endless nothingness and chaos in the Void, and if not for her Secret Techniques that protected her body, she would not have survived for so many years in there.

Yang Kai clearly felt her body trembling slightly in his arms and could at least somewhat understand her feelings; thus, he deliberately brought up a different topic, "This place is Luo Sha Sect, which is located in the Southern Territory. Senior, you would not have heard of it before, but this Sect has just been attacked and the majority of its Masters fell as a result. I had some connections with a certain member of this Sect, so I came here to serve as a High-Rank Guest Elder to shelter them. Senior, if you don't mind, you can stay here for the time being to recuperate. Why don't you figure out your plans after you recover a little more?"

"This body is barely alive, so anywhere is fine." Sheng Yu Zhu didn't seem to care about such matters as she breathed in the surrounding air greedily, as if she had just been reborn.

Yang Kai nodded, "Since Senior doesn't mind, I will make the arrangements."

"Wait a moment," Just as Yang Kai was about to leave this place, Sheng Yu Zhu suddenly patted him on the arm to stop him. Even though he didn't know the reason why, he still stood there motionlessly.

At this moment, it was almost dawn and the sun was rising from the East. After waiting for a short while, a gentle light slowly enveloped the land. Sheng Yu Zhu was staring into the distant horizon at that moment, and when she saw the first rays of sunlight, her eyes were filled with a miserable and slightly emotional look as she muttered, "I never thought I'd have the chance to see this again."

Yang Kai felt a little dumbfounded when he heard those words. He thought she had something important she needed to do immediately upon returning to the outside world, but how could he have

known that she wanted to stay here to watch the sunrise? It had to be said that no matter how long they lived, women would always be women...

Having said that, Yang Kai truly admired her. If he had been trapped in the Void Crack for tens of thousands of years, he was certain his personality would have warped dramatically, or more likely, he would have gone insane even if he somehow managed to survive through various means. However, Sheng Yu Zhu had held onto who she was throughout all those aeons of suffering. It could be seen just how strong her mental fortitude and perseverance were.

Yang Kai had no doubt that as long as she recovered to her peak, he might not be a match for her when the battle for the Grand Dao occurred. [Perhaps, nobody in the world will be able to stand against her. But, so what? She doesn't even mind sharing one of her greatest secrets with me, so how can I, as a man, cower now? As someone also pursuing the Grand Dao, one who understands things thoroughly should simply forge straight ahead.]

Looking to the East, Yang Kai suddenly felt a sense of pride. The small exchange he had with Sheng Yu Zhu made him feel a kind of urgency. Opportunities were indeed for those who were prepared. Although he had no idea when that ethereal opportunity would appear, he had to obtain the qualifications to fight among the best in the world before that happened. If he didn't even have the qualifications to join that battle, then he could only watch as the opportunity passed him by. In the end, strength was the key to everything.

Yang Kai spent some time watching the sunrise with Sheng Yu Zhu before bringing her back to Luo Sha Peak. Ran Yi Rou and Yu Ke Ran were shocked when they saw him coming back with a woman who was nothing but skin and bones. The main reason was that Sheng Yu Zhu's current image was too horrible to look at. Even so, they didn't dare to ask anything and respectfully arranged for Sheng Yu Zhu to be settled in one of the rooms under Yang Kai's instructions.

When the two young women left, Yang Kai finally said, "Senior, please recuperate here. Let me know if there's anything else you need."

Sheng Yu Zhu did not act pretentiously and asked bluntly, "Can you lend me some Source Crystals and Spirit Pills? I will pay you back in the future."

Yang Kai's top priority was to swiftly improve his strength and finish his preparations in advance; on the other hand, Sheng Yu Zhu wanted to restore her strength as quickly as possible. Yang Kai did not know if her cultivation had experienced regression after being trapped for tens of thousands of years, but after surviving such an ordeal, she would certainly gain some benefits as well. With her perseverance and determination, it would not be too difficult to regain her former might.

Sheng Yu Zhu spoke in a light-hearted manner, but Yang Kai did not mind her attitude. Taking out an empty Space Ring, he placed a few million High-Rank Source Crystals and some useful Spirit Pills into it for her before handing it over.

When Yang Kai came out of the palace, he encountered Tao Ying Ruo, who had rushed over in a hurry.

"Elder Yang," Tao Ying Ruo bowed and glanced inside the palace. It was obvious that she had received some news and came to get a better understanding of the situation.

Yang Kai lightly replied, "Acting Sect Master, you came at just the right time. There's something I need to tell you."

He was just about to tell her about Sheng Yu Zhu so that she knew Sheng Yu Zhu would be recuperating in Luo Sha Sect for the foreseeable future, but before he could even say a word, he received a Divine Sense transmission from Sheng Yu Zhu, "Tell her to come in."

Yang Kai was slightly taken aback for a moment before he smilingly said, "Acting Sect Master, please go inside. Senior seems to have something to say to you."

"Senior..." Tao Ying Ruo was shocked. In her opinion, Yang Kai was already a superior existence, but to think that he would call somebody else by the title 'Senior'! Could it be that he brought back a Third-Order Emperor Realm Master from somewhere!? According to the report from Ran Yi Rou and Yu Ke Ran, that person seemed to have trouble moving about and her aura was very weak. Moreover, she is so emaciated that she was practically just skin and bones. How can a person like that be Yang Kai's Senior?

Although those thoughts went through her mind, Tao Ying Ruo did not dare to be disrespectful. Asking to be excused, she hurriedly walked inside.

Meanwhile, Yang Kai waited outside quietly. Ran Yi Rou and Yu Ke Ran walked over at that moment, knelt at his feet, and firmly declared, "Please forgive us, Elder." They both lowered their eyes demurely and looked extremely pitiful.

Yang Kai looked down at them in surprise, but after some slight thought, he couldn't help chuckling lightly. He guessed that these two girls were afraid that he might blame them for reporting to Tao Ying Ruo. Having said that, even if they had not done so, he would have had to visit Tao Ying Ruo anyway. This place was Luo Sha Sect after all, so it was not appropriate for him to bring a stranger here for no reason. Helping them up, Yang Kai casually comforted them with a few words and eventually got them to relax.

Chapter 3285, The Weight Of One's Words

Translator: Silavin & Jon

Tao Ying Ruo only came out after a long time.

Yang Kai turned to look at her, and he was surprised to see that her face radiated a healthy glow, as if something good had happened to her.

A curious Yang Kai asked, "Why does Acting Sect Master look so happy?" He wondered in his heart what Sheng Yu Zhu had told her that made her appear so elated.

Without answering his question, Tao Ying Ruo saluted him elegantly and uttered, "Many thanks, Elder Yang, you are truly the greatest fortune of Luo Sha Sect."

Yang Kai rubbed his nose and asked doubtfully, "What do you mean?"

A smiling Tao Ying Ruo replied, "Elder has brought our Ancestral Founder back with you, so you are truly our lucky star."

"A-Ancestral Founder?" Yang Kai was shocked, while Ran Yi Rou and Yu Ke Ran widened their mouths in disbelief. They didn't understand why an Ancestral Founder had appeared out of nowhere. Wasn't the Ancestral Founder of Luo Sha Sect the previous Sect Master, Yu Luo Sha?

While they were puzzled, Yang Kai immediately understood what had happened. If he wasn't mistaken, all the cultivation techniques of Luo Sha Sect were passed down to them by Sheng Yu Zhu. Although she had only intended to attract others' attention to save herself, the inheritance she had passed down was undeniable. Yu Luo Sha was considered her disciple, so all the people in Luo Sha Sect were her descendant disciples as well.

Nevertheless, Yu Luo Sha wasn't aware of this fact.

The reason Sheng Yu Zhu pointed it out to Tao Ying Ruo was that she wanted to make use of this place to restore her strength. Although Luo Sha Sect wasn't powerful, it was still a Sect, and with the support of so many people in the Sect, she would be able to restore her power quicker.

"This Mistress has confirmed that Senior is indeed the source of all the Secret Arts and Secret Techniques of our Sect. Previously, Senior was trapped inside the Restricted Area by some wicked criminal. Although our previous Sect Master learned all her techniques, she couldn't find out where Ancestral Founder was held captive, which caused her to have to keep suffering hardship for many years. Elder Yang, it is thanks to you that Ancestral Founder was saved. All of us from Luo Sha Sect are grateful to you."

Nothing else in a Sect was more reliable than the relationship between a Master and Disciple. Tao Ying Ruo had confirmed that their previous Sect Master, Yu Luo Sha, was able to reach the Emperor Realm because she had learned techniques from Sheng Yu Zhu. Thus, the fact that Sheng Yu Zhu was the Ancestral Founder of Luo Sha Sect was undeniable. Therefore, even though it was the first time they met, and Sheng Yu Zhu appeared very frail, Tao Ying Ruo still immediately acknowledged her identity and treated her politely as their Ancestral Founder.

"It's just a coincidence. Congratulations," Yang Kai put on a smile.

"To you as well." Tao Ying Ruo winked at him, "Elder Yang is also a part of our Luo Sha Sect."

"Quite right." Yang Kai guffawed. After the Grand Canonization Ceremony, Luo Sha Sect's Brand had been imprinted on him, and no one could deny this fact.

Following that, Tao Ying Ruo turned solemn and uttered, "I hope that Elder Yang can keep this whole matter a secret. Our Ancestral Founder doesn't have much strength at the moment, and it will take her a long time before she can restore herself."

"Of course," Yang Kai nodded and secretly heaved a sigh of relief. Initially, he was worried that if he left Sheng Yu Zhu in Luo Sha Sect, Tao Ying Ruo and the others might be against it. He had planned that if Tao Ying Ruo showed any signs of displeasure, he would send Sheng Yu Zhu to High Heaven Palace for her to recuperate; however, he didn't expect that Sheng Yu Zhu would play such a card and make it

known to them that she was their Ancestral Founder. It seemed that she was willing to stay in this place as well.

Certainly, there was no way Luo Sha Sect wouldn't welcome her now. Tao Ying Ruo must have realised that since Sheng Yu Zhu was able to help someone reach the Emperor Realm despite the fact that she was going through such hardship at that time, her cultivation must have reached the top of this world. If she was willing to give them a hand, Luo Sha Sect would definitely rise rapidly and in the future, they would even grow into one of the top Sects.

"The two of you are forbidden to speak of what you've seen and heard here today on pain of death!" Tao Ying Ruo turned around and shot a glare at Ran Yi Rou and Yu Ke Ran.

"Yes," They immediately saluted her as they wouldn't dare to disobey. At the same time, they realised that they had stumbled upon possibly the greatest secret of their Sect.

After chatting with Yang Kai for a bit, Tao Ying Ruo hurriedly left this place. She was probably going to share this news with the other Dao Source Realm Elders. This was indeed top secret, but Luo Sha Sect had only five Dao Source Realm Masters now, so while some secrets must never be revealed, some matters needed to be known.

After Yang Kai was done with the matters in Luo Sha Sect, he didn't have the intention of remaining any longer. Although it would take Sheng Yu Zhu a long time to recover, everyone knew that Luo Sha Sect was under his protection, so no one would dare to find fault with them.

The next day, he bid farewell to Sheng Yu Zhu and Tao Ying Ruo.

What surprised him was that after only one day, Sheng Yu Zhu's condition had improved tremendously. Although she still looked skinny, and her vitality was still weak, she already looked much better than one day ago. The relationship between Luo Sha Sect and her ensured that Yang Kai could leave this place with peace of mind.

Since Sheng Yu Zhu had acknowledged that she was the Ancestral Founder of Luo Sha Sect, she certainly wouldn't harm this place.

Yang Kai then returned to High Heaven Palace in Northern Territory.

Atop High Heaven Peak, Yang Kai summoned Hua Qing Si and asked her about the recent situation in the Sect and the Northern Territory. He was told that it was business as usual in the Sect, and the more than one hundred thousand disciples had been diligently cultivating. Although they had brought some people to assist the Southern Territory previously, High Heaven Palace only sent a small number of individuals; therefore, many of them were not even aware of what had happened.

On the other hand, after those who were hesitating still in the Northern Territory witnessed Yang Kai's inconceivable influence, none dared to oppose him anymore.

Previously, Yang Kai had joined forces with the other three top Sects to establish dominance over the Northern Territory. Given their incredible power, they were able to suppress all those unwilling with ease, but many people were still unresigned. However, after what happened in Southern Territory, these people wouldn't dare to make a fuss again, though they were still unresigned. Now, almost

everyone in the Northern Territory had kowtowed to Yang Kai and it could be said that High Heaven Palace was the only superpower in the Northern Territory right now.

Meanwhile, Dragon Tiger Sect and Profound Cloud Pavilion had been wiped out.

These two Sects were on par with the former Luo Sha Sect in terms of strength, each having a single Emperor Realm Master as their leader with about one or two thousand disciples each. They were considered second or third class Sects; however, one month ago, both of the Sects were uprooted. The Emperor Realm Masters and their disciples were all killed.

“Was this our doing?” Yang Kai gazed at Hua Qing Si seriously and asked.

With a helpless smile, Hua Qing Si shook her head and replied, “It has nothing to do with High Heaven Palace directly, but it is somewhat related to you.”

Yang Kai repeatedly blinked, “Me? Why don’t I even know that it has something to do with me?”

He had been staying in the Southern Territory during this period of time, and he had not returned to the Northern Territory, so what did these people’s deaths have to do with him? If it was someone else who told him this, he would have refuted them immediately; however, the person who spoke was Hua Qing Si, and she wasn’t someone who would spout nonsense.

Hua Qing Si went on to explain, “Palace Master, don’t you remember that when the Emperor Realm Masters in the Northern Territory gathered up some time ago, the people from those two Sects were absent? At the time, you said that they never needed to appear again if they were reluctant to do so.”

Yang Kai touched his chin and mumbled, “Did I say that?”

At that time, he was in quite an anxious state, enraged by the fact that Yu Zhuo was dead, so it wasn’t strange that he had said something out of anger; however, he really didn’t remember what he had said at that time. Moreover, even if he had said so, it shouldn’t be an issue. The people from those two Sects were able to reach High Heaven Palace within the time limit, but they didn’t show up, which went to show that they had no regard for his orders at all. They had practically disobeyed High Heaven Palace’s command even though they had sworn to do so just before.

Yang Kai had indeed intended to settle accounts with them after everything was settled, but that was just his personal thoughts and he had not given any orders regarding it. At this point, he had even forgotten about it, but he had never expected that the two Sects had been already destroyed.

Hua Qing Si continued, “About a month ago, Mi Qi rallied the forces of more than ten Sects of different sizes to uproot the two Sects. They even beheaded the two Emperor Realm Masters and sent us the wealth that the two Sects had accumulated over the years.”

“What!?” Yang Kai bellowed, “Who told him to act so boldly!?”

Hua Qing Si hung her head low and replied, “Palace Master, even though you might not really have meant it when you said those words, some people might have taken them seriously.”

At that, Yang Kai was lost for words. If that was the case, the two Sects had indeed been destroyed because of him.

Hua Qing Si went on to ask, "So, you didn't intend to settle accounts with them and Mi Qi was simply overstepping his bounds? Do you think we should punish him?"

The corner of Yang Kai's mouth twitched, "How should I punish him?"

She replied, "That's up to Palace Master. If you think Mi Qi has crossed the line, you can cripple his cultivation and make him apologise to bring justice to the deceased. Or, we can release an official statement to say that this matter has nothing to do with High Heaven Palace, and it was all Mi Qi's doing."

Yang Kai uttered dispassionately, "What's the point of cultivating if apologies are useful? Moreover, Mi Qi has already done it, so if we cripple his cultivation now, it's akin to telling everyone that we were in the wrong." He paused for a moment, "Sister Hua, you seem somewhat displeased."

Hua Qing Si lowered her head and replied, "I wouldn't dare to. Nevertheless, thousands of people lost their lives."

With a frown, Yang Kai said, "Sister Hua, please don't beat around the bush. You're making it look like we're not close to each other."

After a sigh, Hua Qing Si raised her head to look at him and uttered, "Palace Master, you've made a name for yourself since young, and your cultivation is powerful. Now, you're also the leader of the entire Northern Territory, so I'm worried that you'll be blinded by your successes and fail to adjust your mindset appropriately. Just like what has happened this time, you might believe that the deaths of those people have nothing to do with you."

Yang Kai quietly listened without interrupting her.

Seeing this, Hua Qing Si went on to explain, "In truth, those people were killed because of you, even if you didn't mean what you said. Do you now understand the weight your words carry through this incident?"

Upon hearing this, Yang Kai was stunned.

Just like what she had said, he didn't think that the demise of those two Sects had anything to do with him. He simply felt that Mi Qi had crossed the line by misinterpreting what he had said; however, upon listening to Hua Qing Si's explanation, he realised that he was at fault as well.

Given his current power and prestige, a simply off-handed comment from him was enough to destroy two Sects and kill thousands of people. Nevertheless, he couldn't accept the fact that so many had lost their lives just because of what he had said. At that instant, it was as if he could see that his hands were drenched in the blood of innocents.

Hua Qing Si then uttered, "Palace Master is now a leader of so many, so I hope that you'll be more careful with your words and meticulous in your work in the future. Please take this incident as a learning experience."

Yang Kai's expression changed as he replied, "I'll take your words to heart."

Chapter 3286, All by Himself

Translator: Silavin & Jon

Seeing as Yang Kai was willing to accept her advice, Hua Qing Si heaved a sigh of relief. Even though she might appear disrespectful, she still had to point it out to him. She was worried that while Yang Kai had gained immense power, he'd also go through some unexpected changes. The increase in power and authority could awaken the dark nature in some people; however, now it seemed that Yang Kai hadn't changed one bit.

Therefore, Hua Qing Si directly advised, "If we want to unite the entire Northern Territory, we can't rely solely on our immense power. That is the tactic we have to use in the initial stage, but if we want to be respected as a leader, we have to gain the people's trust. Although violent suppression might be effective at first, it will cause the people to be resentful of us. The demise of two Sects is no trivial matter. Recently, many Sects in the Northern Territory have been worried that we might target them next. Even though we don't have that intention, they might not believe it."

Narrowing his eyes, Yang Kai uttered, "Mi Qi has truly crossed the line by acting recklessly this time, so he should be punished."

Hua Qing Si cupped her fists and replied, "Palace Master, you've indeed made a wise decision. How do you plan to punish him?"

Yang Kai questioned her instead, "Sister Hua, do you have anything in mind?"

After giving it a thought, she uttered, "Despite Mi Qi's intentions, he still misinterpreted your will and committed a mistake. If we punish him too severely, the others might think that we're too timid. However, if we punish him too lightly, that will be meaningless. I think that we can force him to resign from his post and have him spend his retirement years in Full Sky Sect from now on."

Yang Kai pursed his lips, "Sister Hua, your consideration is indeed comprehensive..."

Hua Qing Si pouted, "Just tell me straight away if you think I'm trying to remove a person who has contributed a lot to our Sect. It's written all over your face."

"That's not what I meant." Despite what Yang Kai had said, that was truly what he felt in his heart. Two reasons contributed to their successful occupation of the Northern Territory. First, they were powerful enough. Second, they had joined forces with three other top Sects to suppress resistance in the Northern Territory. During the process, Mi Qi had made significant contributions. After witnessing the power of Yang Kai and High Heaven Palace, he even personally went into action, leading Emperor Realm Masters from Full Sky Sect to suppress the other great forces.

Now that everything was settled, if they forced him to resign, it was akin to removing a contributor to their success.

Hua Qing Si uttered, "Mi Qi isn't a particularly conniving man, but he's too aggressive, so it's hard to control him. If we can take advantage of this incident and deal a blow to him, we can plant a puppet in Full Sky Sect and gain full control of it."

This was her true intention.

Among the four top Sects in the Northern Territory, Ice Heart Valley was close to Yang Kai, while Fire Dragon Palace regarded him as a true leader. The only variable was Full Sky Sect. If they could remove Mi Qi and support a Sect Master that they could control, they'd be able to rule over the Northern Territory without any further worries. By then, whatever order High Heaven Palace gave, the other three top Sects would follow, and the other great forces would never dare to go against them.

Certainly, Yang Kai had seen through her intentions. At that instant, he felt that he had made the right decision by appointing her to be Head Manager. Although her cultivation wasn't the greatest, she had grown up in Star Soul Palace and learned a lot from there; therefore, she was able to handle such matters with ease.

Without any opposing views, Yang Kai let her deal with this matter.

After the discussion, Mi Qi's fate was decided. Hua Qing Si would bring the three Monster Kings to Full Sky Sect, and Mi Qi wouldn't even dare to resist them.

Then, Hua Qing Si stated, "You also have to personally visit Orthodoxy Temple."

Yang Kai asked, "Does it have something to do with the Outer Astral Wind?"

Every top Sect had their own foundational secrets. In the Southern Territory, Star Soul Palace had the Five Coloured Treasure Pagoda, Azure Sun Temple had the Divine Ascension Mirror, Orthodoxy Temple had the Outer Astral Wind, and Heavenly Martial Holy Land had the Martial Intent Temple. All of them were precious.

Although Orthodoxy Temple had been destroyed, and all their disciples were killed, their heritage wasn't ruined. Besides the Cultivation Paradise and the wealth they had accumulated over the years, the Outer Astral Wind was also highly valuable.

However, after consulting with Star Soul Palace's Elders, they had taken out all of Orthodoxy Temple's wealth and distributed it to the Sects in Southern Territory to compensate for their losses.

Meanwhile, Yang Kai was granted the land upon which Orthodoxy Temple was built.

In the battle against Orthodoxy Temple, Yang Kai had single-handedly saved tens of thousands of cultivators from the Southern Territory, so his contribution was undeniable. If he had any demands, those from the Southern Territory would have to give it serious consideration.

At that time, Yang Kai didn't ask for anything else other than Orthodoxy Temple's territory.

Although Star Soul Palace was reluctant, they still had to give in to Yang Kai. On the other hand, Azure Sun Temple wouldn't hold Yang Kai back. If he took over Orthodoxy Temple's territory, they would gain some benefits as well. Since the other two Sects had agreed to it, the opinion of the Holy Master of Heavenly Martial Holy Land, Ma Qing, didn't matter anymore.

Therefore, Orthodoxy Temple's land was Yang Kai's private property now.

He had thought about relocating Luo Sha Sect to Orthodoxy Temple; after all, Orthodoxy Temple had many grand Spirit Mountains which were comparable to the Main Peaks in High Heaven Palace. If Luo Sha Sect could move to that place, it would be beneficial for their future development.

However, after giving it a thought, he decided to give up on that idea. In fact, the future prosperity of the Luo Sha Sect had nothing to do with him. He wanted to protect them because he wanted to set his mind at ease, and now that they had Sheng Yu Zhu, that burden was completely lifted.

Furthermore, High Heaven Palace had too many disciples. Although their foundation was robust, having more than a hundred thousand disciples was still unbearable for them. There were no other Sects that had this many disciples.

Orthodoxy Temple could help share their burden; moreover, they had a precious area like the Outer Astral Wind, which could help cultivators temper their bodies.

Yang Kai knew better than anyone the importance of having a robust body. When there was an attempted assassination previously, if he hadn't had a sturdy physique, he would have been killed instantly, unable to turn the situation around.

Anyone else wouldn't be able to make use of such a precious piece of land even if they had obtained it; after all, High Heaven Palace's base was in the Northern Territory, while Orthodoxy Temple was located in the Southern Territory, making it virtually impossible for one force to manage both places.

However, it was a different case for Yang Kai. He had connected the North and the South via Space Arrays, so no matter which side was in trouble, the other side could come to the rescue quickly, unless hostile forces somehow snuck in and destroyed the Space Arrays.

During Yang Kai's stay in Luo Sha Sect, High Heaven Palace had been slowly assimilating Orthodoxy Temple's foundation, building a Branch Sect in the Southern Territory.

Preparations were needed if they wanted to achieve this goal, so Hua Qing Si had sent Nanmen Da Jun over first to build a new Sect Defending Array around Orthodoxy Temple. When the Spirit Array was ready, they could start moving their disciples over.

Hua Qing Si intended to relocate about fifty thousand people to that place to alleviate the burden on High Heaven Palace; after all, these cultivators had followed Yang Kai from Heng Luo Star Field to this place, so their cultivations were rising rapidly and they had an insatiable need for World Energy. With more than a hundred thousand people within the palace, there just wasn't enough for everyone. By diverting half the disciples to this new space, the burden on High Heaven Palace would ease.

"The Outer Astral Wind is indeed very mysterious. I've been there once and realised that it is the perfect tool to help temper our bodies. Monster King Xi Lei is guarding that place now, so its safety isn't an issue; however, Palace Master still needs to personally arrange a Space Array there."

"En, good," Yang Kai nodded.

After a sigh, Hua Qing Si went on to state, "We have too few Emperor Realm Masters in the palace. A Branch Sect has been set up in the Southern Territory, but I'm worried that we don't have enough powerful Masters to watch over both places. Some people might try to snatch our territory from us if we cannot show enough strength."

There were more than ten Emperor Realm Masters in High Heaven Palace. Besides Yang Kai and Liu Yan, they were the three Monster Kings, Ji Ying, Hua Qing Si, Bian Yu Qing, Nanmen Da Jun, Hou Yu, and Ye Hen, who had just recently reached the Emperor Realm. This number of Emperor Realm Masters was already inconceivable for such a young Sect, so anyone in Yang Kai's shoes would be over the moon. However, strictly speaking, Ji Ying, Nanmen Da Jun, and Hou Yu were specialists, so Yang Kai wouldn't let them go to war unless there was no other choice as they were more valuable acting behind the scenes.

On the other hand, the three Monster Kings were fairly powerful, but they were from the Ancient Wild Lands in the Eastern Territory, not raised in High Heaven Palace. Moreover, they were from the Monster Race. As for the others, they were all First-Order Emperors.

Apart from that, High Heaven Palace had a limited number of Dao Source Realm cultivators, so although it appeared mighty, only insiders knew the limits of its power and it would take them a long time to rectify this.

"I'll settle this issue," Yang Kai darted his gaze around as an idea sprang into his mind.

Hua Qing Si took a glance at him and understood what he was thinking, so she put on a smile.

After the discussion, Yang Kai decided to head to Orthodoxy Temple the next day. Then, he moved and disappeared from the place.

The next day, Yang Kai, whose expression was dark, and Hua Qing Si set off on their journey together.

"Palace Master, didn't you get a good rest last night?" Hua Qing Si observed his expression and teased him with a smile.

Yang Kai shot her a glance and grinned at her, "Of course, I couldn't take a rest with a beautiful woman in my embrace."

Hua Qing Si blushed and rebuked, "Shameless!"

Nevertheless, she didn't expose his lie. As the Head Manager of High Heaven Palace, Hua Qing Si was aware of everything that was going on in the palace. Last night, Yang Kai had indeed wanted to spend the night with one or more of his wives; after all, he had just come home after a long period working outside, so he wasn't willing to leave his wives alone. However, as far as Hua Qing Si knew, all his attempts failed miserably last night.

Xia Ning Chang was engrossed in learning the Alchemic Way from Ji Ying, so she had no time for Yang Kai at all. In fact, after Yang Kai arrived on Medicine Pill Peak, he was immediately chased out by Ji Ying. If anyone in High Heaven Palace had the guts to disobey Yang Kai, it would be Ji Ying. Alchemists hated it when they were interrupted during Alchemy, and Ji Ying was Wondrous Pill Great Emperor's disciple, so although he was normally a benevolent person, his attitude became vastly different when it came to Alchemy.

On the other hand, Su Yan had gone to Ice Heart Valley, so they couldn't meet up as well.

Under the arrangement of Ying Fei and Xie Wu Wei, Shan Qing Luo had gone to the Ancient Wild Lands where the environment was better suited for her to cultivate.

And as for Xue Yue, she was currently in the middle of a secluded retreat.

Yang Kai had four wives, but he had to spend the entire night by himself, so he was indeed quite pitiful. However, he wasn't willing to let anyone know what had happened, and in order to not hurt his dignity, Hua Qing Si decided not to expose his little lie.

Chapter 3287, Outer Astral Wind

Translator: Silavin & Jon

Yang Kai and Hua Qing Si arrived in the Southern Territory nearby Orthodoxy Temple through the Space Array. After they stepped off, Yang Kai turned around and destroyed the array that he had spent quite some effort building.

Since he was going to set up a new Space Array within Orthodoxy Temple, this one didn't have to be kept.

Following that, they entered the Temple together. After scanning the place with his Divine Sense, Yang Kai realised that many people were moving around inside the grounds, about a thousand in total. These people were all sent by Hua Qing Si to assist Nanmen Da Jun in surveying the area and arranging the new Sect Defending Array.

At this moment, Nanmen Da Jun was floating in mid-air as he looked around and gesticulated. He also seemed to be muttering something as he appeared focused.

Realising that a few people were approaching him, he turned to look at them and turned solemn in an instant, "Palace Master, Head Manager."

After a nod, Yang Kai stood beside him and looked down at the view as he asked, "How is it?"

Nanmen Da Jun asked, "What do you mean?"

Yang Kai explained, "How long will it take before the new Sect Defending Array is set up?"

After giving it a thought, Nanmen Da Jun replied, "The Spirit Array of Orthodoxy Temple is already quite powerful, so we don't have to tear it down and start from scratch. Just give me a month and I'll be able to arrange a prototype array. Then, we'll modify and adjust it within six months."

"Good. You're the expert in this field, so please take care of it. If you need anything, just ask our Head Manager."

Nanmen Da Jun grinned at him, "Without the Head Manager's support, I wouldn't have been able to give you this promise." He was the Chief Array Master in High Heaven Palace now, and whenever he was arranging Spirit Arrays for the Sect, Hua Qing Si basically gave him all the people and materials he needed; otherwise, it wouldn't have been so easy to arrange new arrays for a top Sect.

Although Nanmen Da Jun was fairly famous in the Northern Territory in the past, he was only one man, so there were many things he couldn't achieve despite the fact that he had the skills and knowledge.

Now that he had the support of High Heaven Palace though, there were no Spirit Arrays in this world that he couldn't arrange, unless it was beyond his imagination.

All of a sudden, Nanmen Da Jun felt that his life had been great so far. He could work towards achieving his goals, and nothing else gave him greater pleasure than that. Having stayed in High Heaven Palace for several years now, he had already decided to settle down permanently.

Even if Yang Kai wanted to chase him away now, Nanmen Da Jun would have to give it serious consideration before leaving; after all, without High Heaven Palace's unlimited support, even an Array Master like him wouldn't be able to achieve much alone. Going to another Sect was an option, but no other Sect in this world was able to give him the support High Heaven Palace could offer.

It was the same case for Hou Yu. In the past, after she was 'captured' by Yang Kai, she had attempted to flee many times. Nevertheless, as time passed, she had also decided to settle down in High Heaven Palace. That was because everyone in High Heaven Palace was polite to her and gave her enough respect and authority. She and Nanmen Da Jun were also fully supported in pursuing their respective fields. It would be hard for them to look for another employer that offered such favourable terms.

Both Nanmen Da Jun and Hou Yu had even taken in some disciples from High Heaven Palace to nurture them. They searched for the most talented people to inherit their skills, and as such, their connection with High Heaven Palace had become even tighter.

There were three special Spirit Peaks in High Heaven Palace now. Medicine Pill Peak, Artifact Peak, and Spirit Array Peak. Each peak had outstanding disciples studying on it. Taking those from Thousand Leaves Peak who cultivated the Dao of Puppetry into consideration as well, the disciples from High Heaven Palace were spoiled for choice. If they didn't want to pursue the Martial Dao, they could still choose to follow the Alchemic Dao, Dao of Artifact Refining, Dao of Spirit Arrays, or Dao of Puppetry.

After motivating Nanmen Da Jun for a bit, Yang Kai left the place alone.

There were quite a few Restricted Areas in Orthodoxy Temple, but the most heavily guarded one was undoubtedly the Outer Astral Wind. This place was protected by layers of arrays, so anyone who tried to break into it would be severely injured or even killed.

Nevertheless, after Nanmen Da Jun arrived, he immediately cracked these Spirit Arrays; therefore, at this moment, Yang Kai was able to walk around the Restricted Area without any hurdles as he was amazed by the view. He had heard about how wondrous the Outer Astral Wind was, but this was his first time seeing it.

The Restricted Area was located in a long valley. Looking from above, one could see nothing else but a grey world that didn't seem to have an end. Wind could be heard howling through the valley, and anyone would be horrified by just listening to it. Many marks were left on the cliffs that seemed to have been formed by sharp weapons, but in fact, these marks were all left by the Outer Astral Wind.

Yang Kai sized up the place with narrowed eyes for a bit before probing it with his Divine Sense. At that instant, he could feel countless blades cutting into him. The omnipresent Outer Astral Wind seemed able to slice his Divine Sense into dust, and if it weren't for his Divine Sense being unusually strong, Yang Kai would have been injured already.

Without any hesitation, he stepped into the valley, after which, it seemed like he had entered a different world. The air around him was moving rapidly as it screeched. The invisible wind seemed to have turned into a million sharp blades that repeatedly slashed at him.

The clothes he was wearing couldn't protect him at all, and even the Emperor Qi around him was useless as the wind passed right through it to cut his skin.

Yang Kai was amazed by this discovery. It was no wonder that this place was said to help temper the body. Even someone like Yang Kai was unable to protect himself with his Emperor Qi, let alone others. If anyone wanted to endure this pain, they would have to rely on the strength of their own body to do so. The question was, where did this Outer Astral Wind come from?

Yang Kai had a sturdy physique, so he wasn't afraid of these wind blades as he endured and stepped forward.

The further he went, the stronger the wind became. Holes of different sizes started appearing on the cliffs. The big holes could accommodate seven to eight people, while the small ones could only allow one person in.

Yang Kai deduced that these caves were left behind by the previous generations of disciples from Orthodoxy Temple. It was quite dangerous to cultivate here, so if a disciple realised that they couldn't take it anymore, they could seek shelter in these caves to recuperate.

As Yang Kai proceeded further, the wind became more violent; however, he remained unperturbed as a glint flashed across his eyes. [This is indeed a good place. With this, the disciples from High Heaven Palace can conveniently practise Body Tempering. If they come here to cultivate for some time, their bodies will become robust, and as long as their bodies are strong, they will have an easier time cultivating and fighting.]

The valley was long. Yang Kai had been walking for an hour, but the end was still nowhere in sight. Nevertheless, the Outer Astral Wind around here was starting to feel a bit painful. Sometimes, it even caused some minor cuts on his skin, but such cuts would soon disappear thanks to his incredible restorative abilities.

Just then, a suppressed roar could be heard from the front. Yang Kai listened to it and put on a smile as he quickened his pace.

A moment later, a gigantic figure that was about 70 metres long and 50 metres tall came into sight. Lightning could be seen flashing around its body as it exuded a ferocious aura. This humongous figure looked like a rhino at first glance with a pointed horn on its head as it kept writhing about. As the wind whisked across it, blood was seen streaming down its huge figure, but it remained standing tall and roared in a deafening voice.

As the huge figure was panting heavily, it noticed someone approaching and immediately turned to look at him. Its eyes which were as large as two washbasins had turned bloodshot.

When their eyes met, Yang Kai nodded gently and stepped into the cave on the side. What was strange was that right after he entered the cave, all the wind attacking him seemed to disappear.

A moment later, a burly figure entered the cave as well. It was none other than Xi Lei. Appearing embarrassed, Xi Lei uttered, "Sir, what are you doing here?"

It was embarrassing for him that Yang Kai had accidentally seen his true form. He was from the Monster Race, but he had rarely revealed his true form since he gained the ability to assume Human Form. Only when he was in a life-or-death battle with mortal enemies would he revert to his Monster Beast Form.

Although he wasn't in a battle against anyone just now, he still appeared battered as he had to resist the ravages of the Outer Astral Wind. Naturally, he didn't want anyone to see him in such an embarrassing state.

"I'm here to see what the Outer Astral Wind is about," Yang Kai put on a smile and hinted at him with his hand.

After that, Xi Lei sat down with his legs crossed as he shook his head and uttered, "This is a nice place. Sir indeed made a wise decision to take over this whole area."

Yang Kai arched his brow, "You think this place is good?"

Xi Lei replied, "Of course. Given more time, my body will become even more robust."

Yang Kai nodded, "If it's also useful for a Monster King, then it's indeed a good place."

With a grin, Xi Lei uttered, "However, this place is quite dangerous. Anyone who tries to enter without enough strength is simply asking for death." Upon finishing his words though, he appeared shocked as he recalled that Yang Kai had been standing not far from him earlier, but the latter appeared calm and collected, unlike how battered he was.

It was then he realised that Yang Kai's body was much sturdier than his, which made him feel dejected. He was a Monster King from the Ancient Wild Lands, and his power was among the top three of the thirty-two Monster Kings, so it was inconceivable that his body wasn't as strong as a Human's.

The reason he, Ying Fei, and Xie Wu Wei regarded Yang Kai as their leader was that the latter was close to the Heavens Order's descendant. After the Blood Gate reopened, they could probably get close to her through Yang Kai.

However, as they came into contact with Yang Kai more and more, they realised that he was no ordinary Second-Order Emperor Realm Master himself. If they got into a one-on-one battle with him, none of them were confident they could defeat him.

Furthermore, he had even subdued a woman from the Dragon Clan! At the thought of this, the three Monster Kings were convinced that he was truly powerful.

After a nod, Yang Kai replied, "Since this place is useful for you, then please stay here to cultivate and keep watch over it."

A smiling Xi Lei said, "That's exactly my intention."

Suddenly, Yang Kai changed the topic by asking, "I'm only familiar with the three of you among the thirty-two Monster Kings of the Ancient Wild Lands. What are the temperaments of other Monster Kings like?"

Xi Lei stroked his chin for a moment before he replied, "Those guys... Are difficult to deal with. For example, Xiong Kai Shan might appear simple-minded, but in fact, he's extremely sinister." It seemed that he was conned by him before, so he appeared resentful of him. Then, Xi Lei put on a licentious grin, "Nevertheless, those female Monster Kings are attractive, especially Hu Fei. I heard that she has a Nine-Tailed Heavenly Fox's bloodline. Tsk..."

Suddenly, his body shook as he straightened his face, "Sir, if you come across that devilish woman, you must be careful and not be deceived by her. Her skill in seduction is unrivalled in this world."

Chapter 3288, Supreme Treasure

Translator: Silavin & Jon

One hour later, Yang Kai stepped out of the cave and continued moving forward.

Xi Lei watched him from behind until the latter disappeared from his sight, after which he heaved a sigh.

In this valley Restricted Area, the further one went, the more pressure one would feel. The pressure in the place he sat was the maximum of what Xi Lei could endure; otherwise, it wouldn't be useful to temper his body. Nevertheless, he wasn't strong enough to go any further.

On the other hand, Yang Kai was still able to amble into the distance and leave him behind, so it was apparent that his body was unbelievably robust. Xi Lei secretly heaved a sigh of frustration; after all, he was a Monster King, but he was no match for a Human. Stimulated, he growled and stormed out of the cave before he turned back into his true form and continued resisting the ravages of the Outer Astral Wind.

In the deepest part of the valley, Yang Kai was bleeding incessantly from innumerable cuts on his skin. Nevertheless, the wounds healed quickly thanks to his amazing restorative power, forming an endless cycle.

As he explored further into the valley, there were no more caves on the cliffside. He made a guess that no one had actually reached so far into the valley since the founding of Orthodoxy Temple, so it was not strange that there were no more caves.

After walking for one more hour, he reached the true end of the valley. At that instant, Yang Kai could feel a strange fluctuation of Space Principles coming from the front.

Realising something, he raised his head, only to see that a thousand metres away from him, there was a Void Crack that was several tens of metres long hovering above the end of the valley. It looked like a scar in the world that could never be healed.

Horrible wind could be felt coming from the Void Crack as it stormed towards the valley.

Yang Kai realised where the Outer Astral Wind in this Restricted Area was coming from: It blew out of this Void Crack. The World Principles were self-restorative, for example, if Yang Kai tore space apart, the torn space would be rapidly healed by the World Principles.

However, the Void Crack before his eyes seemed to have been around for a very long time, and it wasn't clear what place it was connected to. The Outer Astral Wind just kept blasting out of it, and World Principles here weren't even able to repair this tear, which allowed the Void Crack to remain indefinitely.

The sight amazed Yang Kai and he had the urge to go in and explore. He wanted to find out what place the Void Crack was connected to that allowed this harsh wind to keep blowing out of it incessantly.

Having made up his mind, Yang Kai manipulated the Space Principles and appeared before the Void Crack before plunging in without hesitation.

A short moment later, he rushed out of the Void Crack, his entire body drenched in blood. Golden blood splattered mid-air as Yang Kai retreated several thousand metres before he finally felt safe again. Turning to look at the Void Crack, he was still reeling from the shock, but at the same time, he was extremely excited.

After he rushed into the Void Crack earlier, he realised that it was filled with Outer Astral Wind, and the power of this wind was more potent than what filled the valley. As soon as he came into contact with the wind, Yang Kai was severely injured. If he hadn't immediately retreated, all his flesh would've been peeled from his bones in a short moment. Regardless of how sturdy his body was, he would have lost his life if that happened.

Although he only remained in the Void Crack for a moment, Yang Kai could feel an extraordinary aura inside. It was an aura that seemed able to destroy everything in this world, and it was clearly the source of the Outer Astral Wind.

Orthodoxy Temple had been around for more than ten thousand years, and the Outer Astral Wind existed far before the founding of the Sect. Nevertheless, everything happened for a reason in this world, and it was the same for the Outer Astral Wind. There was no way it would blow through the valley for tens of thousands of years without a reason.

The source of the wind was hidden in the Void Crack.

Unfortunately, Yang Kai wasn't even sure what this source was, nor did he have the ability to seize it. However, undeniably, that must be a supreme treasure inside that might even be able to make Great Emperors wary.

Yang Kai was tempted to take it out, but after evaluating his own power, he still decided to leave in a dejected manner. He wasn't powerful enough to take the treasure out. Perhaps he had to wait for his cultivation to reach the peak of this world sometime in the future before he could do that.

A moment later, he returned to where Xi Lei was. Seeing him, a shocked Xi Lei asked, "Sir, what happened to you?"

At this moment, Yang Kai appeared battered as his dried Golden Blood was caked around his body like a layer of gold. Even his aura was unstable, making it apparent that he was injured.

Yang Kai coughed lightly and replied, "Just a small accident happened. It's too dangerous further down the road, so I suggest that you be extra careful." Upon finishing his words, he snuck into a nearby cave and adjusted his breathing.

Xi Lei appeared solemn and didn't suspect his words at all. Even Yang Kai had suffered such a setback up ahead, so what would happen to him, an individual weaker than Yang Kai?

After Xi Lei was warned, he decided not to move further into the valley before he was fully prepared.

Half a day later, Yang Kai stepped out of the cave in a clean set of clothes and left the Restricted Area in a crestfallen manner after bidding Xi Lei farewell.

Upon meeting Hua Qing Si and Nanmen Da Jun, they chose a suitable location in Orthodoxy Temple to set up a Space Array. A passionate Nanmen Da Jun decided to assist him and put aside his own task.

In the past, the reason Nanmen Da Jun decided to stay in High Heaven Palace was that he had witnessed how Yang Kai was able to arrange a Cross-Territory Space Array, so he wanted to study under him. Unfortunately, even though he had grasped the basics of arranging a Space Array, and he could make a proper-looking one, the array wasn't able to transport people through the Void.

Nanmen Da Jun only realised that he had fallen into a pitfall after years of studies, that only Masters in the Dao of Space were able to arrange functional Space Arrays.

Nevertheless, this didn't dampen his enthusiasm to study it. On the Grand Dao, one principle led to many others. An Array Grandmaster like Nanmen Da Jun was able to figure out many things from seemingly unrelated studies and the experience and information he gained were useful to him in many ways.

With his help, the Space Array was arranged far more easily. Since this place would be the Branch Sect of High Heaven Palace, and more than fifty thousand disciples would stay here, the Space Array couldn't be too small. Yang Kai consumed countless Space Spirit Crystals and Space Spirit Jades to build a large-scale array that could transport more than a hundred people at once.

It took Yang Kai an entire day to get everything done, and after he connected the Space Array to the network, he bid farewell to Hua Qing Si and Nanmen Da Jun.

When his figure appeared again, he was already in the Ancient Wild Lands. After leaving the humble Tree Cave, he paid a visit to Elder and Mu Na to thank them for their help previously. At the same time, he had also brought many gifts for the two clans.

In the war against Orthodoxy Temple, the Stone Spirit Clan and Wood Spirit Clan had made tremendous contributions. During the initial perilous situation, they tracked down and killed a number of Demon Spirits, causing the other demonified cultivators to lose their ability to act. After the battle ended, the Wood Spirit Clan also used their Secret Techniques to suppress the Demon Qi within the bodies of more than ten thousand demonified cultivators, which allowed Yang Kai purify the Demon Qi corrupting them and save many of the top cultivators in the Southern Territory.

These two clans were peace-loving, so if it weren't for Yang Kai's request, they wouldn't have stepped out of this land place where they had been living for generations and gotten involved in such a conflict. Certainly, Yang Kai would never forget this favour of theirs.

After some small talk, he got to the main topic. "Elder, you're a knowledgeable man, so I want to ask you about someone."

Elder replied with a smile, "I've merely lived for a long time. Who is it that you wish to know about?"

"Elder, have you heard the name Sheng Yu Zhu before?" Asking about Sheng Yu Zhu wasn't the main reason for Yang Kai's visit, but he believed that he should inquire about her anyway. Although he didn't think Sheng Yu Zhu was a wicked person, he still had to be careful; after all, she had made him some promises so finding out more about her would also be beneficial for their future cooperation.

Stone Spirit Clan members enjoyed a very long life, and Elder could even be said to be the oldest living being in the entire Star Boundary, which was why Yang Kai decided to ask him about it.

"Sheng Yu Zhu?" Elder repeated the name and shook his head. "I've never heard of her name before."

"You've never heard of her?" Yang Kai was stunned.

Elder replied, "If it's a unique name that shook the world, as long as I had heard of it before, I will never forget it. What's special about her that makes you so concerned?"

After a sigh, Yang Kai uttered, "This is what happened..."

He went on to tell them what happened in Luo Sha Sect, but he left out the promises Sheng Yu Zhu had given to him. Despite that, Elder and Mu Na were still startled upon hearing his narration.

A shocked Elder exclaimed, "I can't believe such a person exists in this world!"

An amazed Mu Na covered her mouth and said, "She survived in the Void Crack on her own for tens of thousands of years? That's very shocking indeed." She paused for a moment, "She's quite pitiful..."

After a nod, Yang Kai uttered, "I find it shocking as well, that's why I've decided to ask Elder about it."

Elder shook his head, "I've indeed never heard her name before though."

A glint flashed across Yang Kai, "Elder, you mean something is off about her background?"

Elder, however, chuckled and replied, "Not really. Although I've lived for a long time, I don't know everything in the world. Since who knows how many years ago, our Clan have been living in seclusion in the Ancient Lands. I don't know much about the struggle to reach the peak of the Grand Dao, as I've only heard of some rumours about it. I don't even know who took part in the battle at that time. However, since she was able to name several Great Emperors, she is probably not lying. So, she might really be from that period of time. Do you think she's a good or evil person?"

After shaking his head, Yang Kai replied, "I can't sense any ill intentions from her."

Elder uttered with a smile, "It'll be alright, then. She'd been confined for several ten thousand years, so I'm sure not much of her cultivation is left. Even if she's an evil person, she's still not a Great Emperor. If she dares to commit any outrageous crimes, those who stand higher than us will deal with her."

Yang Kai bowed his head, "That's what I thought as well, which was why I decided to bring her out of that place; otherwise, I wouldn't have dared to do such a thing. I would have tried to find out more about her first."

Chapter 3289, Scram As Far as You Can

Translator: Silavin & Jon

After bidding farewell to Elder and Mu Na, Yang Kai headed to Luan Feng's palace.

Outside Phoenix Nest Palace, two majestic-looking Monster Commanders were guarding the place as they exuded thick malevolent aura. All of a sudden, a figure flashed across their eyes and landed on the ground in front of them.

Upon seeing that, one of the Monster Commanders, who had a large mouth and nose, growled, "Who goes..."

He gulped down what he was about to say though as he made out Yang Kai's face.

Yang Kai was a famous figure in the Ancient Wild Lands. Besides the Monster Kings, their subordinates such as Monster Commanders, Monster Generals, and other soldiers also knew who he was.

Furthermore, he had broken into Phoenix Nest Palace several times, but Luan Feng had never been able to do anything to stop him. That was why everyone in the palace was aware of a scourge like him.

Previously, after Luan Feng returned to the palace, she gave the order that if they saw Yang Kai again, they should kill him immediately while she would take full responsibility.

Despite her order, the Monster Commanders would never have the guts to do this. Even those who were able to battle against him wouldn't dare to do so, let alone those who were no match for him.

Therefore, upon seeing Yang Kai, the two Monster Commanders, who were guarding the palace, directly ignored Luan Feng's order and cupped their fists before one of them said with a fawning smile, "So it is Senior Yang."

If Luan Feng saw this sight, she would probably be enraged.

After a grunt, Yang Kai put his hands behind his back and calmly walked past them. If any outsider saw this, they would have thought that Yang Kai was just returning to his own home.

Seeing this, the Monster Commander who spoke earlier hurriedly raced after him and uttered in a fawning manner, "Sir, what might be the purpose of your visit?"

As he spoke, he quickly hinted at the other Monster Commander with his gaze, telling him to immediately inform Luan Feng about this.

The problem was that Yang Kai would always come to Phoenix Nest Palace every time he arrived in the Ancient Lands, and his arrival would certainly mean disaster. Luan Feng was still raging over what had happened during his previous visit, so they didn't expect that Yang Kai would come again after only a short period of time. Hence, they were worried that he would stir up trouble again.

Although Yang Kai wasn't afraid of Luan Feng, it didn't mean that they were just as fearless. If Luan Feng decided to vent her anger, they were the ones who would suffer.

“Why should I tell you?” Yang Kai shot him a look and pushed him away as he walked forward. Upon being pushed, the Monster Commander almost fell to the ground, but he didn’t dare to get mad. Left with no choice, he followed Yang Kai around and tried to delay him as much as possible.

Naturally, he wasn’t able to hinder Yang Kai, but this Monster Commander’s attempts still angered Yang Kai who grabbed his collar and hurled him away. A group of maidservants who were coming over when that happened saw this and widened their eyes as they scattered away in all directions as they screamed.

Yang Kai rubbed his nose and muttered with a dark expression, “What’s wrong with them?”

He looked around and realised that no one else was in sight, so after a sneer, he inhaled deeply and shouted, “Lady Feng, this Yang has come to see you!”

His loud and clear voice spread across the entire Phoenix Nest Palace. Anyone who wasn’t deaf should be able to hear him; however, it was apparent that Luan Feng didn’t want to see him, so she didn’t reply.

With a grin, Yang Kai darted his gaze around and checked the surroundings with his Divine Sense. Following that, his figure flickered and he appeared again in a certain courtyard.

In the courtyard, a delicate-looking young girl was playing by herself. Noticing something, she looked up to see Yang Kai staring at her with a grin and was shocked. Upon closer inspection though, she uttered, “Oh! I know you!”

After a nod, Yang Kai replied with a smile, “I remember you as well. Nice to see you again little girl.”

The young girl before his eyes was none other than Luan Feng’s daughter. In the past, not long after he arrived in the Star Boundary, Yang Kai had to flee from Blue Feather Sect to Maplewood City. Sometime after, while hunting for treasure, he happened to come across Luan Feng’s daughter, who was surrounded by a group of people. It was when he witnessed the power of Divine Spirits and saw Luan Feng’s true form for the first time, which left a lasting impression on him.

However, Yang Kai had never expected that their fates would be intertwined in such a way, as they were still in regular contact with each other now. Luan Feng was noble and aloof existence in the past, but now, they could be considered equals.

It had been several dozen years since the incident, but Luan Feng’s daughter still hadn’t grown up. It wasn’t that she was suffering from arrested development but rather that it would take her a long time to reach maturity as a Divine Spirit.

Yang Kai had always wondered who her father was, as he had never heard that Luan Feng had a partner. The question now was where her daughter came from. It wasn’t like she broke out from a boulder.

“Your name is Tian Long, right?” Yang Kai asked her with the best kindly smile he could manage.

Tian Long nodded and pointed at him, “Your Yang Kai, the wickedest evilest bad bad man in the world!”

Yang Kai’s smile froze as his face twitched, “Who told you such nonsense!”

“Mother told me!” Tian Long replied with an innocent expression.

A frustrated Yang Kai uttered, "She was spouting nonsense. How am I the evilest bad man in this world?"

Tian Long tilted her head and grinned at him, "Mother told me that when I grow up strong I have to beat you up. Are you powerful?"

Yang Kai drew a deep breath. [Don't mind her. She's just a child... But Luan Feng, just you wait!]

He replied with a forced smile, "You'll find out whether or not I'm strong when you grow up." His eyes flashing a cunning light, he swiftly changed the topic, "Are you on your own?"

Tian Long darted her gaze around and replied with a beam, "Do you have your eye on me or something? You better be careful or I'll burn you!"

Pretending to be shocked, Yang Kai exclaimed, "Oh no no! I might be burned to death!"

"Hehehe!" Tian Long covered her belly and giggled, "You look funny when you lie!"

The corner of Yang Kai's mouth twitched as he thought he was indeed foolish. Tian Long might appear to be a little girl, but she had actually lived for several dozen years, so he only had himself to blame for the humiliation he received by treating her as if she was an ordinary kid.

After a nod, he uttered, "Tian Long, you come from a noble background, and you have a bright future ahead of you. However, you're still a child now so you really should have a companion to play with. Why don't I help you with that! I have a little friend who could play with you, so you won't feel lonely anymore."

Tian Long curled up her lips and replied in a haughty manner, "That will depend on whether she's qualified or not."

A smiling Yang Kai said, "Would a Fire Phoenix be qualified?"

Tian Long was stunned for a moment before she replied with a smile, "You're lying. How are you able to look for a Fire Phoenix to keep me company?"

Yang Kai shook his head, "I'm not lying to you. We have a Fire Phoenix in High Heaven Palace. She's a little girl who is about the same age as you, so I believe both of you will have many common interests; after all, you two come from the same Race."

"Is that true?" Tian Long appeared tempted.

"Of course."

After giving it a thought, Tian Long pressed her lips together, "I know what you're up to; however, if what you've said is true, I'll forgive you."

"You'll find out whether or not it's true after you follow me to High Heaven Palace." Yang Kai kept persuading her, "We have a lot of fun stuff in High Heaven Palace as well."

Tian Long grunted, "I'm not interested in playing games, but..." She appeared hesitant. Apparently, she was attracted to the idea of meeting the Fire Phoenix he had just told her about.

“Enough!” A cold voice suddenly shouted. Hearing that voice, Tian Long raised her head before leaping up and throwing herself at the beautiful woman, who was clad in an imperial dress, with a grin. After wrapping her arms around the woman’s thigh, she lifted her head and called out, “Mother!”

Luan Feng’s expression was so cold that it was as if a layer of frost could be scraped off her face. As she stroked her daughter’s head, she shot a contemptuous look at Yang Kai, “You would even target a child? How can you be so shameless!?”

Yang Kai replied with a faint smile, “Lady Feng, what are you talking about? I didn’t do anything to little Tian Long. I just think that she’s quite lonely, so I want to get her a playmate.” Then, he turned to look at Tian Long, “You can ask your mother whether what I’ve said is true or not.”

As expected, Tian Long turned her eyes up and asked, “Mom, he said that there’s a Fire Phoenix in his palace that’s about my age. Is that true?”

An infuriated Luan Feng bellowed, “He’s a vile liar! How can you believe him?”

Yang Kai’s expression darkened, “Lady Feng, I can’t pretend that I didn’t hear that. You know the truth as well. It’s not like you haven’t met her before. Apart from you, the Monster Kings from the Ancient Lands, Brother Fan, and Cang Gou have all seen her. It’s fine if you want to educate your child, but you shouldn’t slander me to do so.”

Luan Feng said through clenched teeth, “You only have yourself to blame!”

Yang Kai replied, “If I hadn’t done this, how would I be able to meet you? You’ve decided not to see me this time, right?”

Luan Feng was so enraged that her chest was heaving, “Do you think you can bully me just because I’m a woman? Is that why you come to Phoenix Nest Palace every time?”

A surprised Yang Kai asked, “What do you mean? I feel like we are good friends and have many common interests, which is why I always come to see Lady Feng first.”

Luan Feng yelled, “Who is friends with you!? Go bother Fan Wu or Cang Gou if you want to make friends!” She was exasperated at the fact that during Yang Kai’s previous visits to the Ancient Wild Lands, he had always headed to Phoenix Nest Palace instead of going to look for Fan Wu and Cang Gou, so she couldn’t tolerate it anymore.

After a sigh, Yang Kai continued, “I’ve always been sincere to you, but you just don’t seem to treasure our friendship.”

To that, Luan Feng snorted disdainfully, “Haha...”

Yang Kai straightened his face and uttered, “You shouldn’t get mad, it will ruin your beauty.”

Luan Feng bellowed, “It’s none of your damn business!”

She was a Divine Spirit as well as a woman, but she was so enraged at the moment that she even uttered some foul language, which went to show how annoyed she was.

Yang Kai rubbed his nose, "I'll have some tea served, then. We'll talk about other things after you calm down."

"Scram as far as you can! We don't welcome you here!" Upon finishing her words, Luan Feng brought Tian Long away.

Yang Kai pressed his lips together and decided not to tell her about the purpose of his visit for now, as Luan Feng was on the brink of blowing her top. If he irritated her further, he might lose more than he could gain, as women could be unreasonable when they became enraged; therefore, he decided to wait for her to calm down first.

With this thought in mind, he went on to stay in Phoenix Nest Palace without any invitation. Nobody served him, as all the maidservants and guards in the palace stayed away from him as if he was air. Nevertheless, he was unperturbed as he entered a room to meditate and just waited.

After a few days, Luan Feng was still nowhere in sight, but Yang Kai wasn't in a rush and would just take a stroll sometimes, as though this was really his home.

Naturally, Luan Feng couldn't really ignore his presence and had instructed some people to keep an eye on him, but upon learning what he had been doing, she was truly incensed.

Chapter 3290, I'll Need Three More Monster Kings

Translator: Silavin & Jon

"Do you have nothing better to do?"

Luan Feng only decided to meet Yang Kai in the side hall after a month. With a cold expression, she asked, "I heard that you have High Heaven Palace in the Northern Territory. As a Palace Master, shouldn't you be taking care of your Sect instead of coming to the Ancient Wild Lands?"

Yang Kai replied with a grin, "It's business as usual in the palace, so it makes no difference if I'm not there."

Luan Feng went on to question, "What about the Southern Territory? What happened there had some serious implications, as even Demons appeared. Perhaps there's a secret plot brewing. Don't you want to get to the bottom of it?"

Yang Kai slowly shook his head, "My foundation is in the Northern Territory, and what happened in the Southern Territory was just a coincidence. Whatever plot is brewing over there, I'm sure the Masters of the South will deal with it, so I don't have to worry about it."

Luan Feng glowered at him, "Spill it. What do you want?"

"Let's drink some tea first," Yang Kai lifted his teacup and hinted at her.

She grunted, "Stop beating around the bush! I have no time to waste on you!"

After taking a sip, Yang Kai put the cup down and appeared hesitant, "Lady Feng, if you insist, I'll tell you the truth."

Luan Feng sneered and had the urge to curse at him, but she eventually managed to hold it in thanks to her noble temperament. She had never met such a shameless person before and even suspected that his skin was thick enough to fend off her Innate Divine Abilities.

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With a solemn expression, Yang Kai replied, "The reason I'm here is that I have a request for you."

"Out with it already," Luan Feng closed her eyes and waited for him to make some ridiculous demand, desperately trying to contain her urge to roast him alive with her World Extinguishing Black Flames.

"I need to borrow some people from you," Yang Kai uttered.

"Who do you want to borrow? How many people?" Luan Feng narrowed her eyes.

Yang Kai directly said, "I want to borrow some Monster Kings. Just three of them will do. There are three Divine Venerables, so you each only need to lend me one. I guess it should be alright."

"Haha..." Luan Feng laughed.

With a straight face, Yang Kai asked, "What are you laughing at?"

Luan Feng replied seriously, "If I don't laugh, I might not be able to contain the urge to kill you." Despite her smiling face, her tone was horrifying.

"En," Yang Kai uttered.

Peng...

Luan Feng broke the table in front of her with her palm as the tea splattered everywhere. After that, she said through gritted teeth, "Yang Kai, don't go too far! Do you think you can do whatever you want in the Ancient Lands just because you have the support of that Heavens Order's descendant?"

Yang Kai rubbed his nose, "That's not what I think..."

"How dare you say so!" Luan Feng was exasperated, "If that's not what you think, why do you have no regard for this Queen and the Ancient Lands at all? Humans have always been prohibited from entering this place, but you just come and go as you please! You've even left a Space Array here so you can appear at any time! I can ignore all that, but how can you break into this Queen's palace and squat here like it's your own house!? Do you have no regard for this Queen at all!?"

Yang Kai just hung his head low and waited for her to vent out her anger. After she calmed down, he flashed a grin at her, "Lady Feng, it isn't as serious as you think. That's not what I meant. I truly respect you."

Luan Feng sneered, "Do you think I will believe you?"

A solemn Yang Kai replied, "I only speak the truth." As he said so, he patted his own chest as if he wanted her to believe that he was sincere.

Luan Feng's chest heaved as she had the urge to slap him to death. She wouldn't have been so enraged if she could do just that of course. Earlier, she said that Yang Kai was arrogant because he had the support of Heavens Order's descendant, but she simply said that out of anger. In reality, she knew that even without that Heavens Order's descendant, she still wouldn't be able to expel him.

During her last meeting with Ying Fei and the others, she had heard a shocking piece of news. Yang Kai seemed to have gotten together with a Pureblood Dragon Girl. Furthermore, he had visited Dragon Island and come back alive.

Luan Feng had no idea what had happened on Dragon Island, but the fact that Yang Kai was even still alive meant that he couldn't be taken lightly. After a snort, she swung her sleeve and uttered, "Whatever you say, this Queen will never grant your request."

With a bitter expression, Yang Kai said, "Lady Feng, please don't be so stingy. I just need three more Monster Kings. There are still 29 Monster Kings in the Ancient Lands. If you lend me three more, there'll still be 26 of them. This is just a small favour, and it wouldn't affect your rule over the Ancient Lands."

Luan Feng was so angered she started laughing, "How do you have the nerve to say that you just want three more? We already lent you three previously! What do you regard Monster Kings as? The Ancient Wild Lands is vast, but we only have 32 Monster Kings in total, if you keep asking for more, we won't have any left in the end! No, I'll never lend you more of them!"

Yang Kai cupped his fists, "This is the last time I'll borrow them from you, I swear. If I come here to make such a request again in the future, you can call me a liar or whatever you want."

Luan Feng shot him a glare as she didn't believe him before suddenly asking, "This Queen is curious about why you need three more Monster Kings. Aren't Xi Lei and the others enough to help guard High Heaven Palace?"

After a sigh, Yang Kai explained, "They are enough to help protect High Heaven Palace; however, you already know what happened in Orthodoxy Temple. I happened to take over its lands in the Southern Territory after that incident and plan to make it into a Branch Sect of my palace. Therefore, I need more Monster Kings to assist me in ensuring its security. If this wasn't the case, I wouldn't have come over to bother you."

A shocked Luan Feng asked, "You've taken over Orthodoxy Temple? How did those from Star Soul Palace even agree to it?"

Yang Kai replied with a smile, "It's just a plot of land with no owner, why would they be unwilling to let me have it?"

After a nod, Luan Feng uttered, "Boy, you're quite ambitious. You're doing well in the Northern Territory, but now you're even expanding your power to the Southern Territory."

A helpless Yang Kai replied, "I'm left with no choice." In this, he was telling the truth. If it weren't because there were too many disciples in High Heaven Palace, he wouldn't have tried to acquire Orthodoxy Temple.

Seeing that Luan Feng was showing some signs of compromise, he hurriedly went on to persuade her by saying, "That's what happened. Lady Feng, please agree to my request. I only need three more Monster Kings."

Luan Feng replied dispassionately, "This Queen has made herself clear, I will never agree to it. You've already asked so much from us, and each time we've agreed, don't go overboard!"

Realising that she was determined, Yang Kai frowned, "Are you really not going to lend them to me?"

She uttered coldly, "Don't make me repeat my words."

After a nod, Yang Kai replied, "Since you've said so, I won't force you."

Luan Feng was suddenly at a loss for words, as she didn't expect that he would back down so easily. Before she could even celebrate her victory though, Yang Kai asked, "By the way, who were the Monster Kings that had sworn allegiance to Divine Venerable Shi Huo in the past?"

"Why are you asking..." Before Luan Feng finished her words, she suddenly thought of something, and with that, she narrowed her eyes and clenched her teeth.

Yang Kai grinned at her as he summoned out his Embodiment, who played along with him and carried himself in a majestic manner. Yang Kai pointed at him and said to Luan Feng with a smile, "Although Shi Huo is dead, his inheritor is right here, and he intends to regain control of the northern part of the Ancient Wild Lands. Please help me inform Fan Wu and Cang Gou about it. Also, tell those Monster Kings and Monster Commanders who are originally from the North to return."

The Embodiment grinned at Luan Feng at the right moment, and when she saw this, her expression darkened as she said through clenched teeth, "So, this was your plan."

After a sigh, Yang Kai replied, "I'm left with no choice. Please forgive me."

Luan Feng raised her blemish-free chin and said, "But so what? Do you think he can gain a footing here in the Ancient Lands just because he has refined Shi Huo's Source? Yang Kai, don't be so naive." If she gave in to him now, those from the Ancient Lands wouldn't have the courage or strength to ever oppose him again. That was because their persistence and defence had been repeatedly shattered by him.

Yang Kai said impassively, "This King is eternally grateful to the Ancient Lands and the three Divine Venerables for your help in the battle against Orthodoxy Temple, and I am willing to be on good terms with you all; however, if you insist on hindering me, then don't blame me for being ungrateful. Everyone in this world strives to achieve greater heights. I'm curious to find out how the other 29 Monster Kings will react once they find out that you three are stopping them from reaching a brighter future."

Luan Feng was incensed as the colour drained from her alluring face, "Do you have no conscience at all? How dare you threaten me!?"

Yang Kai went on to remind her, "Lady Feng, I only need three Monster Kings to help protect my Branch Sect in the Southern Territory. I don't think that's too much to ask for."

Luan Feng was lost for words as she darted her gaze between Yang Kai and the Embodiment. Feeling bitter in her heart, she knew that she would be unable to stop him. Yang Kai had threatened her with this Shi Huo inheritor, who did have the right to occupy the northern part of the Ancient Wild Lands.

Once that happened, if Yang Kai demanded that the eight Monster Kings return to the North, Luan Feng and the others were powerless to stop him. Moreover, to the Monster Kings, working under Yang Kai would mean a better future for them. If the Divine Venerables insisted on hindering them, they would be displeased, and it'd be disastrous for the Ancient Lands.

Seeing as her expression had flickered, Yang Kai knew that he had achieved his goal and said with a grin, "Lady Feng, there's something I'm not sure if I should tell you."

Luan Feng bellowed, "You've delighted in slighting this Queen all along! Is there anything in this world that you don't dare to this Queen!?"

After a cough, Yang Kai replied, "It seems that you have some misunderstandings about this King. In any case, I'm sure you'll come to recognize my sincerity as time goes by. Let's stop talking about me and discuss Tian Long."

Luan Feng's expression turned cold in an instant as murderous intent exuded from her figure, "If you dare to do anything to her, this Queen will never let you off!"

She could give in to him on many issues, but her daughter was her reverse scale. The fact that Yang Kai even mentioned Tian Long was enough to enrage her.

Yang Kai threw his hands in the air and uttered, "Lady Feng, please don't misunderstand. I don't intend to do anything to Tian Long. No matter how despicable you think I am, I would never threaten a mere child. I just think that even though she was born by you, it's not guaranteed that she'll be able to inherit everything from you. Yes, she has a noble bloodline, but there are exceptions to everything in this world, right?"

Luan Feng said in a haughty manner, "She is this Queen's daughter, so there's no way she'll turn out to be weak."

After a nod, Yang Kai went on to say, "Good, but even if Tian Long was able to inherit everything from you, would that truly satisfy you? Don't you want her to stand on your shoulders and achieve even greater heights?"