

My Crown 1061

Chapter 1061: An Oddball Gatekeeper

Dou Fengchi and the others behind her were agitated when they saw this. *Aiyah, if the crown prince consort entered first, then wouldn't she be gaining all the benefits?*

They watched as that small agile figure slid into the white circle of light all at once.

Dou Fengchi, Ying Jian, and the others all kicked at the water frantically.

However, even though their activated defensive barriers could block out the water, the deeper they swam, the greater the water pressure. Hence, they could only coast down very slowly.

At this time, everyone felt that their defensive barriers were about to burst.

Little Sixth Zheng and Baili Wu were the first to make it to the circle of light, and they slid towards it in relief.

Once they slipped past the light, they entered free-fall.

Pulled down by gravity, their bodies plummeted.

Shocked by this development, Little Sixth Zheng and Baili Wu protected their bodies with mystic energy, doing their utmost to stabilize their speed of descent.

Boom! Baili Wu's fist hit the ground, and he crouched while sighing in relief.

Little Sixth Zheng's situation was a bit better than his. Upon landing, he stabilized himself after merely wobbling left and right several times.

When he looked up, he saw an entrance to a valley that looked like an inverted gourd, and verdant foliage entered his sight.

He then saw a gray giant ape sitting at the entrance like a small hill, and it just so happened to be blocking up the gourd valley entrance.

Jingle! Jangle... The sound of light, fragmented jingles accompanied a newcomer's arrival.

On the other hand, Sikong Fuling's slender figure appeared beside that pool of water, and she studied it with a smile. "So the entrance is here."

"Yes, Your Eminence." A veiled female cupped her hands in a bow. "Does Your Eminence wish to enter right now?"

"I detest water the most. It makes my clothes dripping wet every time." Sikong Fuling grumbled softly, but she had already entered the water in a blur.

Meanwhile, Dou Fengchi, Qin Susu, Hong Bawei, Ying Jian, Wei Nanshu, etc., all entered this tranquil and luxuriantly green valley after treading into the circle of light.

They naturally also saw this gray giant ape that just so happened to block up the entrance.

Dou Fengchi practically shifted her gaze toward Qiao Mu at once.

The crown prince consort was the first to enter the valley, yet what was she doing?

She was leisurely sitting on top of a big rock, gnawing on a corn cob...

She had already finished half of the corn cob, obviously showing that she had started eating it before they had even arrived!

After blinking her eyes, Baili Zhen giggled while covering her mouth. "Miss Qiao, why aren't you thinking of a way to get in, instead eating here nonstop?"

Qiao Mu cast her an unconcerned glance. "I'm a bit hungry."

It was true. Just now, she swam across the pool with no worries, but she felt her belly growling in hunger upon entering this secret realm.

Was it because fusing with water expended water spiritual energy, and she unwittingly expended a bit too much?

This, however, was merely her own conjecture, so it wasn't accurate.

As for the specific cause, she had no idea.

In any case, she'd just eat since she was hungry!

After she finished gnawing on this corn cob, Qiao Mu took out a banana from her inner world.

Just as she peeled some of the skin, she heard a shuffling sound from up ahead. That giant ape had shifted its butt to the side, exposing a small path that only allowed one person to pass.

Qiao Mu's hand just froze in the middle of peeling the banana as she gazed at that giant ape in astonishment.

Chapter 1062: Entry Pass!

The young crown prince consort trotted over to the giant ape while holding the banana.

Suddenly, she stuffed the banana into the crook of the giant ape's hanging arm as she entered the valley with a flash.

Everyone was flabbergasted, only feeling a gust of wind blowing over their heads.

*The f*ck! The entry pass was a banana?? This was too eccentric!*

Wanting to follow in Qiao Mu's footsteps, Dou Fengchi also ran over hastily.

However, that giant ape had blocked up that passageway again by this time.

The giant ape's small black eyes glared at Dou Fengchi vigilantly, as if warning: 'I'll immediately tear you apart if you dare come one step closer.'

Yet the eyes of the two Akedo youths lit up, and they hurriedly walked up while they each took out a banana from their inner worlds.

They had kept this in their private stash for a long time.

Ever since this world mutated, bananas, this once common fruit, practically couldn't be found.

Nevertheless, it was rather worth it to exchange a banana for a ticket into the secret realm!

This young boy and girl pair handed their bananas over happily, thinking that the giant ape would definitely make way for them in joy.

Yet who would've known!

"Grrr, grrr. Roar, roar!" This giant ape very angrily slapped the two bananas that were handed to it flying.

Its two gray, furry long arms beat the ground forcefully, instantly stirring up a cloud of dust and gravel.

These hateful human juniors, actually daring to use a single banana to con this ape!

Everyone looked at it in bewilderment.

Even Little Sixth Zheng couldn't resist twitching his mouth.

Wasn't this difference in treatment too huge!

The crown prince consort could pass through this entrance with a single banana, yet the giant ape found it distasteful when someone else did it.

Little Sixth Zheng walked up and bowed toward this giant ape senior. Afterwards, he took out two pieces of mid-grade spirit stone from his inner world.

This was what he obtained by chance during his practical training, and although the spirit stones weren't of high quality, these were the most precious items he had on hand presently.

The giant ape, after sweeping those two pieces of spirit stone a glance, reluctantly scooped them up with its long arm before making a small passageway for Little Sixth Zheng to also pass through.

Once everyone saw this, they all took out various treasures from their inner worlds and sincerely handed them to the giant ape.

The giant ape accepted some while rejecting others. When it was Dou Fengchi's turn, she offered a high-rank pill.

Yet in the end, the giant ape didn't even look at it, directly slapping it flying with its palm.

Dou Fengchi yelped in shock and ran to pick up her pill. Yet by the time she retrieved it, her teammates had all entered the valley, leaving her pacing about outside by herself.

She couldn't help but be frantic, and she shrieked "What do you want exactly" as she tried to rush into the valley.

However, the giant ape didn't hold back and directly slapped down its palm. If Dou Fengchi didn't drop and roll, evading in time, then those shattered rocks right now would have been her brain's sorry state.

Dou Fengchi glared at this giant ape with an ashen face, so panicked that she was about to cry.

Everyone else had gone in, while only she was barred outside!

Wasn't this a joke? She had gone to great trouble to trek through the Mystic Beast Forest and finally found the secret realm. However, she was barred outside the door, only able to stare at the concentrated mystic energy inside.

"Keke, did I arrive late?" The sound of crisp laughter caused Dou Fengchi to turn around.

That Saint of the Demonic Cult was slowly treading over with a faint smile on her lips.

At this time, Qiao Mu had already run inside the valley with the little white squirrel to frolic.

Chapter 1063: Differential Treatment

When the other people entered, all their youthful faces smiled in excitement when they sensed the concentrated mystic energy flowing unceasingly inside.

Oh my Heavens!

The mystic energy was so concentrated that cultivating here for a month would be equal to cultivating in the outside world for a year.

Even so, Wei Nanshu's brows were creased as he circled through the valley with the others.

"Brother Nanshu," Jin Honglun called softly. "We've already successfully entered, so why do you still look unhappy?"

When he recalled the heavy loss they incurred to enter the valley, Wei Nanshu was disgruntled.

Anyone could see how drastically different the giant ape's attitude was toward them versus Crown Prince Consort Mo!

This young crown prince consort was too peculiar. Only she was able to exchange a ticket to the valley with a banana.

While the other people all used their most valuable items to exchange for their tickets.

For instance, he used a spiritual shortsword weapon to exchange for entry.

"Roar, roar. Roar, roar!" The giant ape's roars echoed through the valley, seemingly bellowing in wrath.

Soon afterwards, a lithe figure wrapped up in a thin crimson robe glided through the air with a chortle.

"Senior Giant Ape, I have already paid the toll, so I will have to trouble you to let me pass!"

When Wei Nanshu looked up, a faint astonishment flashed past his eyes.

It was that incomparably gorgeous Saint of the Demonic Cult. When he briefly caught a glimpse of her at the base entrance back then, this girl's misted and penetrating gaze stabbed fiercely like a thorn into the depths of his heart.

This really was an... extraordinary beauty, tut tut!

Wei Nanshu clenched his fists while lowering his head. He was very aware of this trip's most important mission.

Feminine charms incurred calamity. As a lofty prince with self-control, he naturally wouldn't make such an elementary blunder.

"Brother Nanshu?" Jin Hongluan looked at him suspiciously.

"It's nothing, let's go make another round of the valley." Truthfully, this valley wasn't large. Wei Nanshu had already wandered around it earlier.

The valley's entrance was narrow, while the interior was spacious, forming the shape of a gourd.

The valley's interior was filled with mystic energy year-round, making it misty with white fog. There were craggy rocks everywhere, and fragrant grass carpeted the ground. Far away, there was a crude stone gazebo with nothing inside.

Other than this, there was only a cottage hidden in the depths of the sea of flowers.

However, when they tried to approach that area, they would be pushed far away by a great energy. They could only watch from afar, simply unable to get close.

This cottage was the destination of his goal.

Wei Nanshu sucked in a breath as he clenched his hands: *If nothing unexpected had occurred, the cottage should house that item—the ten thousand-year Xuanji Core!*

Boom, boom, boom! The giant ape's heavy footsteps approached from afar.

Gathering again after entering the valley, everyone could not help but exchange glances when they witnessed Dou Fengchi's tussled state, with damaged clothes and missing hairpins.

The giant ape's contemptuous gaze was suffused with mocking as it swept over Dou Fengchi.

This giant ape was too human-like!

Everyone muttered this in their hearts. Nevertheless, they didn't know what Dou Fengchi had offered to cause this giant ape senior to be so scornful.

The giant ape didn't pay attention to them, merely carrying over a thick and heavy stone tablet with thunderous footsteps.

Boom! After the giant ape used its long arms to set the huge stone tablet in the ground, everyone hastily crowded over to take a look.

They only saw a row of small, eye-catching characters carved on the stone tablet...

Chapter 1064: Special Training

'Any junior that advances their cultivation by one level within 10 days, you can obtain an opportunity to meet the Venerable Xuanji and pick out a peerless rare treasure at the cottage!'

Everyone's gazes lit up when they saw this.

Wei Nanshu, especially, could feel his breathing getting labored.

This was an opportunity that was hard to come by!

No, it should be the only chance for them to approach the cottage!

Probably, even if the cottage didn't contain Senior Xuanji's ten thousand-year Xuanji Core, this item that defied the natural order, there would still be other treasures too.

However, while everyone was beside themselves with excitement, the giant ape's gray, furry arms once again knocked against the stone tablet.

Only after looking down carefully did everyone discover several lines of fine print that were inscribed into the bottom of the stone tablet.

They had been too excited earlier, so they simply didn't see the fine print at all.

They read the inscribed fine print:

'This secret realm will separate you all, sending you each into closed training spaces. They will automatically generate mystic beast phantoms according to your cultivation.'

'Once you are killed in combat by the mystic beast phantoms, your physical body will die!'

'Do remember this!'

'Once the training starts, with ten days as one cycle, there is no way to leave the closed space before time is up.'

'Those who wish to participate in this training can imprint your palm against the stone tablet, which will immediately number you off to record your progress.'

'Those who do not participate in the training will be forcibly transferred out when five days have passed.'

'Note: Those who still are unable to break through their current cultivation level after twenty days will also be forced to end their training and will be transferred out of the secret realm!'

'Those who enter my Mystic Beast Forest secret realm and participate in the training will be deemed outer school disciples of my Xuanji School.'

'Those who can persist inside the secret realm for fifteen days will each be rewarded with one Xuanji Pill that can increase your cultivation and augment your mystic conscious!'

'Work hard! Try hard! Strive harder! This Venerable One will be at the cottage awaiting your arrival!'

'There is every spiritual weapon and secret treasure you could wish for! What are you still waiting for?'

Everyone looked at each other in bewilderment, dumbfounded for some time.

Why did this feel so not reliable? This Senior Xuanji's last sentences sounded like he was shouting slogans...

Sikong Fuling chortled twice. "Ah ha ha ha, Heavens, it really is out of expectations that this Senior Xuanji is such an amusing person."

“The Xuanji School seemed to have perished three hundred years ago...” So if they may ask, *What benefits could they obtain by becoming outer school disciples of the Xuanji School?*

“You all still don’t admit that you are ignorant and inexperienced! The pills that Senior Xuanji can give out will certainly be out of the ordinary. This is the almighty senior from a hundred years ago that we’re talking about!” Baili Wu this guy was the first to run up, pressing his palm lightly against the stone tablet. “This lord will be the first to sign up for the training!”

At this, a ray of white light shone on him, numbering him off as number one, and Baili Wu promptly vanished before everyone’s eyes.

“Your Highness?” Two Southern Baili youths couldn’t resist shouting.

“Haha, Fourth Brother really does give credit to our Southern Baili! He deserves praise for his courage! This princess will also contribute a handprint.” Baili Zhen’s eyes turned mischievously with a sly smile as she put her small hand on the stone tablet. The next second, she became number two and was transferred away, as well.

The remaining two Southern Baili youths also quickly pressed their handprints, yet they forgot that they couldn’t chase after Their Highnesses’ footsteps but instead... were directly isolated into closed training spaces.

When our dear Qiao Mu finished strolling around with the little white squirrel in her arms, she discovered that no one else was around in this valley anymore!

Where did the whole group of people go?

Yet Qiao Mu wasn’t anxious. In any case, the beautiful scenery and environment in this valley were rather exquisite, and the mystic energy was concentrated. She could cultivate wherever she sat.

Chapter 1065: Expecting Better From Her

She was also hungry after her long stroll, so she sat down on a random mound and took out a bowl of rice, two meat and veggie dishes, plus a small pot of soup from her food box. After deliciously eating her fill, she then hugged her little white squirrel and just... Fell! Asleep!

This slumber lasted more than six hours.

After waking up, she immediately felt that her spirit was rejuvenated. While stretching lazily, she turned her small face around, but her small hands instantly froze in mid-air!

Wasn’t this Eastern Ying Kingdom’s eldest crown prince Ying Jian? What was he standing so sneakily behind her for?

After taking a closer look, however, Qiao Mu couldn’t help but be amused.

It turned out that Ying Jian was fighting against several roaring mystic beasts in a flurry. Several mystic beasts were pouncing after him, but the strange thing was that Ying Jian seemingly couldn’t run out of a certain area no matter how he tried.

He was repeatedly kept on the run in the same area.

Suddenly, a mystic beast pounced onto him...

“Roar!” That mystic beast chomped down on his arm, causing Ying Jian to go pale from the pain. He rolled about the floor twice before finally shaking off the mystic beast and getting up to flee again.

Qiao Mu swiped out a fresh and juicy apple, chomping down on it as she enjoyed the spectacle. Nevertheless, she got bored after watching for a bit.

This Ying Jian was so constrained in his movements and fought like a sissy, prioritizing defense. He didn't look like a brave man!

Qiao Mu turned on her heel and left. Soon after, she saw Little Sixth Zheng beside a creek. Similarly, he was also fighting with several huge mystic beasts.

However, Little Sixth Zheng was much more brisk in killing them. His long sword flew about like a butterfly flitting about flowers, disposing of the mystic beasts on hand with several moves.

Yet after he disposed of those mystic beasts, the mystic beasts transformed into a cloud of white mist before condensing into one mystic beast after another again. They were ferocious beasts that were one level higher than before, and they pounced over again with a roar.

Focusing his gaze, Little Sixth Zheng coated his sword with mystic energy before piercing towards those mystic beasts' throats with a ray of white light.

Qiao Mu stared at this sight on the sidelines, even forgetting to chomp down on her apple now. After watching Little Sixth Zheng disposing of those mystic beasts once again, the white mist dispersed before slowly condensing into a large winged beast. When it shrieked as it took to the air, she instantly understood the situation.

Ying Jian, Little Sixth, and the others had all been isolated into independent spaces that were filled with mystic energy to undergo combat cultivation by slaughtering mystic beasts.

These mystic beasts were probably all condensed from the secret realm's concentrated mystic energy, so as long as they weren't released from their spaces, there would be no end to killing these mystic beasts!

Qiao Mu couldn't help but click her tongue. *Such a savage cultivation method!*

She wondered how long they would be confined for. *What to do if they exhausted their mystic energy?*

No wonder she hadn't seen Little Sixth and the rest earlier. It turned out that they were busy cultivating.

The strange thing was that her eyes could actually see all the people inside the closed spaces.

She repeatedly walked and stopped as she observed each person's training.

When she saw Dou Fengchi screeching in despair, forcefully pounding against the invisible “boundary wall” to escape from the savage independent space, Qiao Mu automatically stopped to admire the sight.

Boom, boom, boom! This was until a series of heavy footsteps rang out beside her.

When Qiao Mu looked back, her lips couldn't resist twitching.

This giant ape was actually looking at her with a gaze that looked like it expected better from her, as if she was terribly naughty.

“Roar, roar, roar!” The giant ape bellowed at her, as if reprimanding a disobedient child. Afterwards, it stretched over its long, furry, gray arms and picked her up.

Huh? What did it want to do? Qiao Mu instantly had a bad premonition!

Chapter 1066: All-Out Absorption

After feeling her head spin, Qiao Mu instantly felt that the mystic energy in her surroundings was much more concentrated and abundant than before.

Hell, she had been directly thrown into a closed training space by the disappointed giant ape senior to forcibly accept training!

Narrowing her eyes, Qiao Mu cautiously reached out to summon her ferule from her conscious.

The next instant, the mystic energy drifting near her swiftly condensed, abruptly transforming into a large snake that was covered in steel thorns. It then opened its jaws to bite at her.

Wah!

It was such a large snake, practically filling up this entire closed space.

Furthermore, as it slithered, those rows of steel thorns on its body were about to stab her small figure.

It was such an ugly snake, turning and slithering about on the ground, making Qiao Mu feel nauseous.

With a wave of her hand, a streak of fire flew out from her ferule, instantly attacking the large snake's back. However, only a faint sizzle was heard. This had merely incinerated a dozen of its steel thorns as well as scorched a bit of coarse snakeskin black.

A level-12 mystic beast! Or perhaps even level-13!

It was clearly condensed from mystic energy, yet it was as tough as a real large snake.

Qiao Mu sucked in a deep breath.

This closed space ignored the aura-repressing talisman on her body and generated a mystic beast of equal ability for her.

Upon realizing this, Qiao Mu slightly raised her hand, and a circle of shining, hovering, ebony talismans instantly circled about her silently.

Mystic-guiding talisman matrix, activate!

For two hours, it would unceasingly absorb all the mystic energy in her surroundings into her body, replenishing her rapidly expended mystic energy.

This was a matrix assembled from 60 high-rank blue mystic-guiding talismans, so its might was not the same as the mid-rank talisman matrix from before. Let alone the doubled time limit, there was also a great change in the speed at which it absorbed the mystic energy.

Once the talisman matrix appeared, all the dormant mystic energy inside the secret realm tremored before simultaneously surging over toward Qiao Mu at lightning speed.

While watching outside the closed space, the giant ape's two black beady eyes suddenly brightened, abruptly clapping its furry palms. It seemed to be very happy.

This little fellow really was intelligent, instantly comprehending the principle behind the endlessly generating combat mystic beasts inside this closed space.

The mystic beasts in the closed spaces were condensed from the mystic energy inside this place.

In other words, the more and faster their party of 21 absorbed the mystic energy, the thinner the mystic energy stored inside the secret realm would get.

Thereby, the speed at which the mystic beasts condensed would get slower and slower with the loss of the secret realm's mystic energy, until—

Should the mystic energy be absorbed to exhaustion, then the closed space would naturally be undone. There would be no need to wait the entire 10 days.

An unending stream of mystic energy gathered into a vortex above Qiao Mu's head, forming a concentrated mystic energy nebula that enveloped the closed space Qiao Mu was in.

At the same time that her ferule flew out from her hand, Qiao Mu summoned the Startled Swan Dagger.

The two's minds were linked, and the Startled Swan Dagger abruptly shot toward the large snake's vitals from mid-air, promptly skewering it.

That snake instantly transformed into a cloud of white mist, slowly dispersing.

Soon after, the concentrated mystic energy around Qiao Mu churned, gradually revealing another sinister snake head.

However, Qiao Mu shut her eyes and sat down, eliminating distracting thoughts and focusing on channeling her mystic energy to her dantian. Her spiritual conscious and the Startled Swan Dagger fused as one—the Startled Swan Dagger was her, while she was also the Startled Swan Dagger. They reaped the lives of the mystic beasts inside the closed space with an unstoppable force.

On the stone tablet, her score was continuously overtaking everyone else's records.

Chapter 1067: Hellish Training

Qiao Mu's ranking was originally a big fat zero. After all, while other people were working hard to slaughter mystic beasts in their closed spaces, she was still sauntering about outside. In truth, her accumulated points lagged behind the others by a considerable amount.

However, right now, her accumulated points were shooting upwards at an insane speed.

If Dou Fengchi and the rest were present to see such a shocking record, they would definitely be dumbfounded from shock.

The Startled Swan Dagger was a spiritual weapon with extremely mighty destructive power.

So Qiao Mu didn't need any showy tricks or mystic techniques when wielding it. From beginning to end, there was only one maneuver—straightforward killing moves!

As such, the mystic beasts that appeared in the closed space were all massacred by the Startled Swan Dagger. As time passed, Qiao Mu fought while also absorbing the mystic energy inside the secret realm. Sure enough, with her as the center, the speed at which mystic beasts condensed slowed down.

As Qiao Mu freely wielded this Startled Swan Dagger with her spiritual conscious, she got in her element, with her mind linked with the Startled Swan Dagger's.

After two days and one night.

Dou Fengchi was woken up with a start from the sharp pain in her arm. She blankly opened her eyes and suddenly saw a ferocious mystic beast tearing at her arm with its large mouth. It was so piercingly painful that she instantly shuddered, also clearing up her brain.

Just now, she was too tired. After fighting for two or three days nonstop, her limbs were so sore that she couldn't even lift them!

This led to her actually fainting in the middle of her fight with a mystic beast. Luckily, the mystic beast hadn't bitten her head off, or else she would be deader than a doornail by now.

Actually, Dou Fengchi and the others could perceive that the speed at which mystic beasts were condensing in their closed spaces was evidently much slower than before.

Previously, the closed space would condense another batch of mystic beasts in a flash after you defeated the current batch. There basically wasn't even time to take medicine.

However, it wasn't the same now.

While propping up her body with difficulty, Dou Fengchi hacked at this virtual mystic beast's head with her sword.

When Dou Fengchi saw that the mystic beast transformed into a cloud of white mist, fading away and not generating any new beasts, her heart eased a bit as she sighed in relief. She hastily took out her remaining few pills from her inner world and swallowed one.

This pill was a low-rank mystic-returning pill that she purchased from the pill house. Even though its effects were very ordinary, it was expensive as hell.

After swallowing it, she would only recover at most 10 percent of her mystic energy in a short period of time. Hence, she was still gasping for breath as she lay on the ground like a dead dog.

Dou Fengchi even had the feeling that ten years had passed inside the closed space.

If possible, she really didn't want to lift a finger right now!

Yet the truth was, only three days had passed.

Furthermore, besides the first day when mystic beasts were churned out endlessly at extremely quick speeds, they had at least a bit of time to rest starting from the second day.

Little Sixth Zheng had also discovered that the situation had turned for the better. After killing this batch, he panted, the sword in his hand dipping downward. He focused his attention, making the best use of this time to adjust the mystic energy inside his body for recovery.

According to his estimate, merely three days had passed at this time.

Yet they still had to stay inside the closed spaces for around seven more days before they could leave.

He was very tired, but he couldn't slacken his efforts.

Meanwhile, Eastern Ying Kingdom's eldest crown prince was also panting heavily while lying face-up on the ground, looking at the azure sky with wide eyes.

He didn't expect the sky in this secret realm to be so azure, but he felt like he was in hell right now!

If he could choose all over again, he wouldn't descend into this hell even if it meant death...

Chapter 1068: Cult Master

Jade Hue Parlor.

As the most famous courtesan house in the eastern district of Guanlan City, it usually entertained high officials, noble lords, and wealthy merchants.

No matter how bad the times were, there were still many rich people who would spend money like water for Jade Hue Parlor's lead courtesan, Miss Ran.

At this time, a drinking party was being held inside a private room on the third floor.

"Cult Master, here, here. Let this humble one first give you a toast." The person holding the cup was bleary-eyed and somewhat drunk.

This person in his forties was the typical boorish beer belly, with a pair of particularly small eyes. One probably couldn't even find those two eye slits if they weren't looking carefully.

The man referred to as "Cult Master," however, looked to be in his early twenties. Wearing a resplendent purple robe, he rested his chin in his hand while reclining on the big wooden armchair. He smiled with narrowed eyes as a seductive aura emitted from his body.

Right, it was seductive!

He was a male with feminine features, possessing bright and animated eyes.

Those eyes were too seductive, as if they innately contained an unending affection that made people's hearts thump restlessly.

It had nothing to do with gender, simply bewitching people of all ages.

It could even be said that this Cult Master's facial features were more exquisite than all the female drinking partners present, and it also flustered the young ladies' hearts as they fell into a stupor.

This truly was a fine example of how 'wine does not intoxicate but the drinker gets himself drunk,' and 'lust does not blind but the person blinds oneself.'

“Today, this old man is fortunate to have invited Cult Master. This truly is this humble one’s honor,” Zheng Cao said subserviently with a big smile. He then turned to look at the tipsy Second Manager Qi, shouting, “You dolt, hurry and fill His Excellency’s cup with wine! Why are you only thinking of filling your own?”

“Ah, yes, yes, yes.” Second Manager Qi hastily stood up with a big smile, his small eyes squinting into slits that made them even harder to find.

The young man whom they called “Cult Master” casually raised his cup and emptied it in one gulp.

Afterward, he pushed away the two female attendants beside him. His Excellency seemingly felt irritated toward these women who desired to throw themselves at him.

Zheng Cao chuckled, “It looks like Cult Master is dissatisfied with these women who cover themselves with garish makeup. Quite understandable, how could hussies who have been slept by who knows how many men be to Cult Master’s liking?”

Clap, clap. Zheng Cao clapped his palms lightly.

Soon afterwards, an attractive middle-aged procuress with bright-colored fingernails walked in while swinging her slim waist. She performed a curtsy with a smile. “Honorable guests, is there something you wish to instruct this humble servant?”

“Go and find some more presentable goods. Remember that they must be clean. Our Cult Master loathes those dirty things the most.”

“Yes, yes, yes.”

The cult master sat there with a spurious smile as he squinted at those fat and bulky officials.

They had already gone through three rounds of wine. By this time, these sleazeballs had disregarded ceremony and propriety, each holding a beauty in their arms and fondling them nonstop.

He tapped his fingertips on the table, as if used to these dinner parties that were suffused with a debauched air.

Actually, if it weren’t for State Uncle Zheng informing him today of a big transaction that he wanted to carry out, then he wouldn’t have come personally to discuss matters.

It was quite boring, but whenever he thought of that big transaction, he couldn’t resist getting excited.

Oh, it wasn’t State Uncle Zheng, but former State Uncle Zheng, the cult master curled his lips up in slight mockery.

Even a broken ship had salvageable parts: This former State Uncle Zheng may have been stripped of his property, but from the looks of the remuneration he was offering, it was obvious that he was still hiding a private stash.

“This is the former Minister of Works.”

scribable flirtatiousness. “This cult master is already aware of your identities, so you can get straight to the point.”

Weren't these old fellows just a motley crowd that had fallen from power after losing out to the crown prince?

To put it bluntly, the cult master actually didn't want to pay them any attention. He had only made a trip here in consideration of those treasures he had received.

Moreover, he himself quite wanted to square off against that man again.

As if having thought of something, he subconsciously rested his chin on his hand as a dim light surged past his eyes.

"Cough, cough." State Uncle Zheng naturally wasn't so dumb as to discuss that "big transaction" with the cult master directly in front of these courtesans.

Instead, he took out a letter and slid it toward the cult master. "Cult Master will know after reading the letter. Today, we will only be chatting about affairs of the heart and nothing else."

With this, State Uncle Zheng laughed heartily, but a malicious light was flickering in his eyes.

Their Zheng Family had been forced to this state by Crown Prince Mo. If they weren't going to wait for an opportunity to strike back, then they truly wouldn't be able to make a comeback!

As a chill slipped past the cult master's black eyes, he smiled before remarking with a nod, "Fine! Then let's just chat about affairs of the heart."

"Hahaha! Cult Master is truly a wonderful person!!" Zheng Cao bellowed with laughter.

On the side, the group of fat and bulky former officials had gotten wasted from the wine, and they all hooted with laughter while embracing the courtesans in their arms.

The former Minister of Works boasted with a stutter, "Th-This official had been the Minister of Works back then! If it weren't for th-that person, blot-blotting out the sky with a single hand, wanting to promote his people to higher-ranking positions, how would th-this official end up like this! Sent away to, to... the Office of Cer-Ceremonies, and be a low-lowly deputy minister! Burp!"

"Hahaha! Sir Huang, you've had too much to drink!"

"Di-Did not!" The former Minister of Works, Sir Huang, flung his sleeves in anger, and he kept fondling the courtesan's face with his large chubby palms in lust. "If-If it weren't for that good-for-nothing youngest brother of mine, from wh-whom that person seize-seized leverage! How w-would I have been driven, driven out from that seat of power! Burp..."

Everyone all urged for this Sir Huang to drink more wine.

However, wine made one even more sorrowful. When the former Minister of Works, Sir Huang, compared his former glory with his situation today, he became more and more depressed instead.

"Cult-Cult Master, if this succeeds!" Sir Huang shouted while patting his chest. "Count this brother in! Remuneration will definitely be generous!"

"Oh my! Honored guests! Our Jade Hue Parlor's lead courtesan, Miss Ran, has come to greet everyone!"

The squinty-eyed Second Manager Qi had originally been teasing the pretty 18 to 19-year-old girl whom he was holding in his arms; however, when he heard the procuress's cry, he quickly turned around for a look.

When he saw the picturesque appearance of Zhao Qiran, who had only applied light makeup, his soul promptly flew off beyond the highest heavens as he started to drool.

Sir Huang and the others also stood up and swarmed over like a horde of flies. "Oh my, our Miss Ran has come."

"Long time no see, yet Miss's bearing is still graceful as before! Ahahaha!" As Sir Huang spoke, he reached out to embrace Miss Ran.

The procuress tittered as she went up to separate that Sir Huang from Miss Ran. "Honored guests, our Miss Ran only sells her performances and not her body. How about letting her play the zither and perform a dance so as to liven up the drinking mood?"

Zheng Cao's face darkened, and he threw his wine cup onto the table with a bang.

Chapter 1070: Beautiful Women Suffer Unhappy Fates

"You don't know how to appreciate a favor! This is His Excellency the Cult Master! Hurry over and wait upon him!" Zheng Cao berated with a frigid expression, turning to smile obsequiously at that cult master afterwards. "Please do not mind, Cult Master."

The cult master indifferently looked up at the doorway where Miss Ran stood.

She was an 18 to 19-year-old young lady. Unlike the other gorgeously dressed females in this parlor, she dressed tidily in simple colors.

Her light-colored robe was unlike the other courtesans' that exposed their fair and slender thighs.

This Miss Ran covered herself up very modestly.

Her eyes weren't all that pretty, but when combined with her other facial features, they exuded an attractive charm.

It seemed this Miss Ran possessed a different kind of proud and graceful bearing.

The procuress's expression froze, and then she immediately mediated with an ingratiating smile, "Honored guests! Our Jade Hue Parlor's Miss Ran is not one of the other girls in the parlor. Miss Ran is like her name denotes, clean and untainted by even a speck of dust. It is fine for her to play the zither and sing, but as for anything else..."

Clang! Sweeping the wine flask to the ground in anger, Zheng Cao stood up and cursed at the procuress, "Why are you brothel keeper so untactful! I'll let it pass when you shirk us off ordinarily! But you dare be so impudent in front of the cult master? You truly don't want your life, is that it?"

"A mere courtesan of a parlor dares to be so pretentious?" Sir Huang also chimed in after burping.

The procuress paled in fright.

She was merely a normal person. Even though she had seen her fair share of nobles, State Uncle Zheng's wrath terrified the procuress due to the presence he had accumulated from his former power and influence.

Zhao Qiran spoke faintly, "Withdraw first. I can take care of things here."

The procuress promptly nodded, glancing at her worriedly before leaving the private room. Afterwards, she rushed toward the backyard.

Raising his gaze, the cult master stopped on her leaving figure for a moment.

Subsequently, he retracted his gaze and scrutinized Zhao Qiran, yet he involuntarily found it amusing when he saw that this young lady had stiffened her body and pulled her lips into a frown. He then flicked his sleeves lightly with untrammelled spirit. "Pour the wine."

Zhao Qiran sat down stiffly beside the cult master and obeyed his instructions, pouring him a cup of wine without averting her gaze.

The other people all looked at her in astonishment.

As Sir Huang lecherously fondled the woman in his arms, he looked back and couldn't help but guffaw. "Cult Master actually likes this kind of girl? I see that she is not as good as the one in my arms. Look, look, she is dull and wooden without displaying the slightest emotion. While this Luye beside me is so nice: obedient, lovable, and sensible. She totally knows what it means to wait upon someone."

That woman called Luye peered at Miss Ran with slight awkwardness.

Her status couldn't even be compared to a single strand of Miss Ran's hair, so it was not surprising that Miss Ran's expression was a bit unsightly.

The cult master chuckled, standing up after three cups of wine. "This cult master and Ran'er will be leaving first."

While wagging their eyebrows, the other people exchanged a "everyone understands" look and chortled vulgarly. "Okay, okay. Miss Ran, you had best serve His Excellency obediently. If there are any mishaps, careful with this dainty and lovely body of yours."

Zhao Qiran's body was super taut.

Cult Master found the sight amusing, but he didn't say more, directly dragging Miss Ran away.