

My Crown 2001

Chapter 2001: Compassionate

“Once the competition ends, I’m going to seek you people out!” Qiao Mu’s eyes glinted sharply, and two explosion talismans shot toward the two people’s bodies.

This instantly caused two thunderous explosions.

She pulled Crown Prince Mo along with her to leave, not even turning her head to look at them.

“Qiaoqiao.” Mo Lian gently pulled her petite hand and brought her to his side. He looked down at her with a deep gaze. “The people from Clear Sky Faction are like sewer rats that come out to disgust you every so often. Leave them to me to deal with, okay?”

Qiao Mu shook her head stubbornly and gritted her teeth. “No, I must deal with Fan Gu and Fan Qiuhe personally.”

She wanted to end this past nightmare with her own hands. No one else could do it in her stead.

“Okay, since you have already decided.” Mo Lian caressed her slightly messy hair. “Then I will support you. I’ll first have people investigate the location of Wuwang Mountain’s Clear Sky Gorge in the Shuntian Prefecture. As long as we have an exact location, we won’t have to worry about them escaping. I will send people to first control them. You can then personally deal with them when you go over.”

Qiao Mu leapt into his arms and nuzzled her head against his chest. She said in a muffled voice, “Am I being too willful?”

“Nonsense.” Mo Lian caressed her head while smiling.

“My Qiaoqiao is so compassionate. How are you willful?” Mo Lian held her petite hand as they walked toward Anping Inn.

By the time the couple reached the inn, the sky had already turned bright.

Feng Chen and the others were also descending the stairs one after the other.

Feng Chen was leaning against the wall. When he looked up, he just so happened to catch a glimpse of the couple walking in from outside hand in hand.

“Oh? So early! What mischief were you up to outside?” Feng Chen smiled at Qiao Mu while standing in the morning light.

Qiao Mu lifted up two boxes of pastries. “We ran into someone selling meat puff pastries at the street corner. One spirit currency could only buy three. Since there’s not many, first come first serve.”

“Oh my, it’s still my Qiaoqiao who’s considerate.” The Venerable Peach Blossom Immortal’s eyes curved into smiles as he glided up to Qiaoqiao and took the two boxes of pastries from her.

“I just so happen to be a bit hungry! Hey, innkeeper, I’d like a bowl of porridge too!”

Ha! Your Qiaoqiao! Like hell she is yours. Mo Lian rolled his eyes at the Venerable Peach Blossom Immortal. Afterwards, he sat down with Qiao Mu at the table and took the millet porridge the innkeeper served.

“Eat.” Qiao Mu also took out another two plates of hibiscus cakes from her food box and placed them in front of Feng Chen.

“Hm.” The little fellow propped up her chin and mixed the piping hot porridge in the bowl. She said wistfully, “If Duan Yue was here, he’d definitely be able to eat these two plates of hibiscus cakes all in one go.”

Mo Lian paused, and then he picked up a hibiscus cake with his chopsticks to eat it. “Oh.”

Feng Chen pursed his lips with a spurious smile. He patted Qiao Mu’s arm. “Why did you suddenly think of that dolt for no reason?”

“I didn’t. I only thought of him seeing these hibiscus cakes.” Qiao Mu pointed at Mo Lian and explained, “Hubby doesn’t like sweets, but Duan Yue loves them.”

“Men who like to eat sweets are usually sissies.” Mo Lian tried the hibiscus cake, but it wasn’t to his liking, so he tossed it aside.

A certain venerable immortal who had already eaten two hibiscus cakes instantly felt that he shouldn’t pick up another with his chopsticks!

Could you freakin’ watch what you say?

Who are you calling a sissy?

“Qiaoqiao, don’t listen to Mo Lian say nonsense! This is all about one’s taste preferences!” After some contemplation, Feng Chen still picked up his third hibiscus cake with his chopsticks.

Chapter 2002: Little Fourth Duan’s Predicament

Qiao Mu turned to look at Crown Prince Mo while propping up her petite chin. “Lian, do you have something you want to say?”

“No.” Mo Lian calmly finished his porridge and set down his bowl.

Qiao Mu puffed out her cheeks and pouted while looking at him. “Liar! You clearly froze up earlier wanting to say something but then changed your mind! Don’t you treat Qiaoqiao like a dummy!”

Crown Prince Mo couldn’t help but break out into a chuckle.

Feng Chen curved his eyes as he nodded in agreement. “Qiaoqiao, it’s right that you think this way! He’s a liar. Look, he hides even trivial matters from you, let alone those big matters?”

“Shut up.” Crown Prince Mo promptly stuffed a bun into Feng Chen’s mouth. He then turned to say to Qiao Mu, “It’s not anything big, just that I heard a rather interesting rumor that has to do with Duan Yue.”

“What rumor?” Qiao Mu asked curiously.

“Fourth Duan comes from the Rong Clan of the Ultramarine Province.”

“The Rong Clan of the Ultramarine Province. What place is that?” Qiao Mu expressed her puzzlement.

“The Ultramarine Province is one of the Upper Three Provinces.” Feng Chen filled her in with a smile, “The Divine Province, the Ultramarine Province, and the Nether Province make up the Upper Three Provinces. My Qiao, you don’t even know this?”

Qiao Mu pursed her lips and nibbled on a hibiscus cake. “How can I remember that much.”

Whenever they talked about the Six Prefectures and Three Provinces and the like, what went in one ear would go out the other...

The little lady stirred the porridge with her spoon and asked curiously, “The Rong Clan of the Ultramarine Province? Duan Yue?”

Mo Lian nodded. “I received news that not long ago, Duan Yue already returned with the Ultramarine Province Emperor to Phoenix Imperial City, the capital of the Ultramarine Province.”

“The Ultramarine Province Emperor has promoted his mother, the youngest daughter of the Duan Clan patriarch, to Noble Consort Duan.”

“Doesn’t the Divine Province have a concealed weapon patrician family?”

“Mhm.” Mo Lian nodded. “Fourth Duan’s lineage can be said to stem from the Duan Clan of the Divine Province, but they probably haven’t interacted in centuries.”

Qiao Mu frowned. “If it were me, I wouldn’t want this kind of dad.”

“Oh? My Qiao!” The Venerable Peach Blossom Immortal squinted his pretty eyes. “That is the Ultramarine Province Emperor! He, along with the Divine Province Emperor and the Nether Province Emperor, make up the three emperors of the Upper Three Provinces. My Qiao wouldn’t want this kind of dad?”

“Why would I want him? He ditched Duan Yue and his mother on Sikong Planet and neglected them for 20 years. The old patriarch of the Duan Clan brought him up with much difficulty, yet a single word from the emperor brought them away! Ha, how is there such a wonderful thing in this world. Even if you handed this kind of dad to me on a platter, I would refuse!”

Not only would she refuse, it was best to cut off all ties to that kind of family!

Qiao Mu thought of something, and a sharp light flashed through her eyes.

Mo Lian chuckled as he caressed the little fellow’s head in understanding.

His little lady’s temper was just this earnest. You had to put in tremendous effort before she treated you wholeheartedly in return.

Otherwise, the little fellow would bury her thoughts deep inside, prohibiting you from even inching toward her.

The Venerable Peach Blossom Immortal clicked his tongue and remarked with repeated nods, "What Qiaoqiao says makes sense. Then in that case, is that Fourth Duan someone who is greedy for wealth and rank?"

Qiao Mu pressed her lips lightly and kept mum.

"Qiaoqiao, regarding this matter, Fourth Duan can't not go back just because he doesn't want to." Crown Prince Mo mused it over and still couldn't help but speak up for Little Fourth Duan.

When Qiao Mu thought of the Ultramarine Province Emperor's power and influence, she could understand him now.

Chapter 2003: Game Plans

After all, Fourth Duan could not win over the Ultramarine Province Emperor with his current power and influence.

The Ultramarine Province Emperor was most likely able to exterminate everybody in the Sikong Planet's Duan Clan 18 times over with his pinky!

Could Little Fourth Duan win over them?

Wrath smoldered in Qiao Mu's heart. She had mentally associated this with her own birth, and she thought of those people from the Upper Three Provinces who were domineering and unreasonable.

"If they force me to go back no matter what, I'd definitely make their lives a living hell with no peace to be had!" Crown Prince Mo and Feng Chen both detected a strong emotional fluctuation from her when she uttered this sentence with intense loathing.

Feng Chen quickly patted the little fellow's head. "Don't worry, with me here, no one can force you to do anything."

Mo Lian glared at Feng Chen's hand, while Feng Chen just swept a glance back at him. The latter took his hand away only when he saw Duanmu Qing and the others coming down the stairs out of the corner of his eye.

"Hey, you guys are so early." The little fatty descended the stairs quickly and pulled up a stool to their table.

"Say, we'll be in the top 30 after two more days of competition." Ma Ta took a bun and tore off a piece before popping it into his mouth.

"I wonder if they'll come up with some ploy for their finals." Zhou Danjin looked at the students with an indescribable expression.

"Mentor Zhou, why don't you tell everybody what you're worried about?"

Zhou Danjin looked at everybody. "I'm thinking that since everybody knows about Xiao Qiao, that she has a sacred beast. Most likely, the finals will not be pitting the teams against each other."

Everybody understood this point.

They were well aware that Qiaoqiao had a sacred beast, and perhaps more than one. If they still rushed over to snatch first place from her, then they truly had no sense of judgment.

“Then Mentor Zhou, what kind of ploy do you think the geezers from the various prefectures’ top-ranked academies will cook up?”

Zhou Danjin shook his head with a sigh. “We’ll just have to wait and see.”

Thinking about it, if the other party came up with a particularly unreasonable request, their Apex Academy wouldn’t be the only one dissatisfied.

“They wouldn’t make us eradicate some zombie base right?” The little fatty yowled while biting on a pastry.

Wei Xu shook his head. “They wouldn’t be that dumb. They didn’t say that you couldn’t use mystic beasts while eradicating the zombie base either.”

That’s right. Everybody nodded hearing this.

If those fogeys from the academies were going to target this, they would probably put a restriction on using mystic beasts in the rules for the finals.

Qiao Mu was indifferent. She deadpanned, “Do they think that without summoning Bloodfire and them, our hands would be tied?”

If those famed academies’ mentors were thinking this way, their students better watch out.

Mentor Hu said with a smile, “Xiao Qiao had also demonstrated her medical skills in front of everyone. If they intentionally target our academy, they will also take this into account.”

Qi Xuanxuan sneered. “Then they might as well go with their trump card and seal everybody’s inner worlds!”

Mentor Zhou smacked his lips and cleared his throat. “Perhaps this time, they will stipulate that talismans are prohibited.”

Everybody raised their eyebrows.

“Don’t worry, Mentor. This kind of hardship we had already experienced in the Qianluo Underground Battle Arena.” Lu Yu chortled.

Ma Ta also chimed in beside him. “That’s right. Speaking of which, we have to thank the mentors for your strict training!”

“That’s right.” Zhou Danjin nodded. “All the pains we mentors take are for you.”

Chapter 2004: Sure Enough

“You’ll naturally have nothing to fear after surviving the most precarious of environments.”

Everybody rolled their eyes silently.

“That’s why everybody should carry medicine and the like on yourself just in case they really do implement new rules for the finals to catch you off guard.”

“Got it, Mentor.”

“We understand.”

“Alright, since everybody has eaten, let’s head out.”

Everybody got up and walked outside, heading toward the Shenghua Battle Arena in pairs.

“There should be no issue with drawing lots from now on. I reckon the capabilities of the remaining teams to be pretty much the same.” Zhou Danjin continued, “Xuanxuan, you go draw lots today and tomorrow.”

Qiao Mu cast Mentor Zhou a look: *She didn’t expect this mentor to be so considerate. He actually realized that drawing lots was annoying her to no end!*

Qi Xuanxuan naturally nodded without objections.

The majority of teams that got eliminated did not leave the arena.

Even though they could not continue competing, they still chose to stay and observe the remaining matches. After all, they could learn a lot from observing actual battles.

This opportunity was hard to come by, so no one was willing to let go of this chance to study and improve. Furthermore, the students that got eliminated from the competition were also indignant and wanted to know which academies would make it on the podium this year.

Qiao Mu sat down and watched Qi Xuanxuan walk up onto stage.

There were 170 teams competing in this round. Upon stepping on stage, the head referee Elder Hong announced, “The Six Prefectures’ top 10 academies have decided at the last minute that the top 30 teams that will advance to the finals must be determined today. It must happen even if the fighting has to last until dawn! Does everybody have the confidence to continue competing?”

“Yes!” The representatives of the 170 academies responded loudly.

Qi Xuanxuan griped in her heart: *Mentor Zhou and them guessed right. Look, wasn’t this ploy about to unfold?*

Qi Xuanxuan drew a bamboo stick with the number 18, and she met the gaze of the representative who had also pulled the same number. She didn’t say anything and directly hopped off the stage, making her way back to her seat.

—My Qiao’s section break—

The Ultramarine Province.

Our dear Duan Yue headed out before the sky even brightened. He kept yawning drowsily as he sat inside the imperial carriage that swayed side to side.

The junior eunuch accompanying him sat in a kneeling position beside him. He would intermittently have to support his master's head to prevent the latter from knocking on the window.

The afternoon sunlight streamed through the heavy carriage curtain and onto his exquisite face that was as translucent as jade.

Even the Qing Vassal Prince, who was known as the prettiest man in Phoenix Imperial City, was wholly inferior to His Fourth Highness when comparing facial features.

The junior eunuch was musing this over when he heard a low voice come from outside the carriage. "Your Highness, we have arrived at Taiyuan Mountain."

"Your Highness, Your Highness." The junior eunuch was supporting his master's drooping head, and he couldn't resist twitching his mouth. "Your Highness, we will be ascending the mountain."

Duan Yue opened his misty peach-blossom eyes, which were in a daze.

He heard a rather shrill voice announce, "The Qing Vassal King and the Qing Vassal Prince request an audience with His Majesty."

Duan Yue was instantly wide awake. When he thought of that Qing Vassal Prince rumored to have eight heads, his eyes flickered. "Let's go take a look."

"Uh, Your Highness, please slow down."

Before waiting for the junior eunuch to pull open the curtain, Duan Yue had already jumped off the carriage.

Looking up ahead, he saw the crown prince of the Ultramarine Province, Rong Li, slowly descend from his carriage with assistance from two attendants.

Chapter 2005: The Demon Emperor's Blood

Even though Rong Li's physique was rather feeble, he was refined and courteous. He could be regarded as a fine and elegant young sir.

Duan Yue cupped his hands toward him and walked up in front of his carriage.

He watched as the Qing Vassal King who was wearing a green-furred overcoat strutted his stout legs up to the Ultramarine Province Emperor's imperial carriage. He gave a salute and said, "Your Majesty, thank you for having this younger brother."

Duan Yue was promptly disappointed when he saw this Qing Vassal King's rotund physique.

Sure enough, rumors were rumors. Judging from this Qing Vassal King's looks, how good-looking could that Qing Vassal Prince be?

Rumors couldn't be true. It was just all hearsay that indulged in exaggeration.

Duan Yue pursed his lips and looked away.

Upon turning his head, he saw a tall and handsome young sir with an indifferent expression walk up with a bright blue cape draped around his shoulders.

He was wearing a light green robe with sleeves that was embroidered with green bamboo, a symbol of refinement. The lustrous green hairpin in his hair gleamed under the sunlight, complementing his aloof expression and snow-like complexion.

When his gaze fell on Duan Yue, he paused and bowed in greeting. "Your Fourth Highness."

Duan Yue opened his mouth when he saw the other party. However, he hesitated for a bit before confirming, "Qing? Qing Vassal Prince?"

"Yes." The young sir nodded with a distant expression.

Duan Yue instantly took back his earlier comment and quipped: *The old man is the old man, and the son is the son.*

It was almost certain that the Qing Vassal Prince's facial features resembled his mother...

However, this father and son pair were dressed too festively. They were both wearing green, and the Qing Vassal Prince was even wearing a bit of green on his head. This was... how much did he yearn to be cuckolded¹!

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The Ultramarine Province Emperor had also alighted from his carriage by this time.

The emperor had a stalwart physique and emanated an aggressive heroic spirit. From their looks, Duan Yue naturally resembled his beautiful mother more.

Yet he was secretly dissing someone else...

In reality, from head to toe, only their sword-like brows were a bit similar. Even their temperaments were different.

The Ultramarine Province Emperor said with a nod, "Let's quickly ascend the mountain. We do not want to miss the auspicious time."

This Taiyuan Mountain was where the ancestral temple of the Ultramarine Province's imperial clan was located. From the beginning of the dynasty to the present, it didn't matter how highly-ranked of a prince, princess, or consort you were. Even the emperor had to walk up the mountain himself without using a carriage as transport.

Fortunately, everybody had a bit of cultivation background. Even if their talent was not that outstanding, and they were only a grand mystic cultivator at worst, climbing a mountain was of no effort to them.

Half an hour later, several royal maids and eunuchs with no cultivation caught up to their masters at the imperial ancestral temple on Taiyuan Mountain.

The Ultramarine Province Emperor was somewhat excited. He turned to say to Duan Yue, "Ah-Yue, go enter the imperial ancestral temple together with Qing'er."

Hm?

Duan Yue looked at the Qing Vassal Prince, Rong Qing, curiously.

Wasn't it said that one person could at most enter the imperial ancestral temple twice in one lifetime? Whether they obtained the demon emperor's inheritance all depended on fate and could not be forced.

How come then?

Rong Qing did not say anything. He didn't even give Duan Yue a glance.

The two of them walked up the winding stairs in the imperial ancestral temple. They walked for at least half an hour before finally entering the main hall of the temple.

There had long been an elder with white hair and a white beard awaiting them in the main hall.

When he saw Duan Yue and Rong Qing walk through the entrance of the imperial ancestral temple one after the other, he smiled at both of them and said, "Qing'er has also come! Your Fourth Highness please wait, Qing'er come inside with me first."

Duan Yue didn't really care. In any case, he had never really taken this whatever demon emperor's blood to heart.

Chapter 2006: Inheritance

Duan Yue was not perturbed in the slightest watching the elder lead Rong Qing inside first.

The Qing Vassal Prince was probably still unwilling to give up, so he wanted to cut in front of him and try if he could inherit even if it be one drop of the demon emperor's blood.

Inside the inner hall, a bright light suddenly surged.

The elder's excited voice was heard from within. "Vassal Prince? Does this mean success?"

Just as the elder finished saying this, that light suddenly vanished.

The white-haired elder shook his head and gave a long sigh. "It still isn't successful."

Even the elder felt anxious watching from the side, seeing that it was always just that tiny bit every time.

When the two of them exited the inner hall one of the other, Duan Yue paid particular attention to the Qing Vassal Prince Rong Qing's expression.

Yet that guy was still unruffled, without any change in his expression. He got disinterested looking at him.

What was up with this expression that looked as if he possessed no desires?

If he had no desires, then why would he come seek the demon emperor's blood inheritance time after time?

That's why appearances were superficial.

"Your Fourth Highness, please." The elder finally walked to Duan Yue and gestured respectfully.

Duan Yue nodded and followed the elder to the inner hall. When he looked up—

He saw that this inner hall was empty save for a colossal stone stage at the center.

A transparent crystal ball emitting purple light floated high above the stone stage. The obscure glow from the surrounding candles made the round crystal ball look mystical.

As the purple crystal ball sparkled, a dash of crimson seemed to dart through the center.

The elder motioned Duan Yue forward. The latter strode up quickly and turned around to smile at the elder. “Elder, what if when I inject spiritual energy into this crystal ball, it explodes from the overload? Then whatever should I do?”

Duan Yue winked and drawled, “At that time, where would I go to find another such sealing sphere that carries the demon emperor’s blood inheritance for you.”

The elder couldn’t help laughing. “You just have to put in your best effort, Your Highness. To shatter this inheritance sealing sphere in one go...”

You doing that is impossible!

The elder swallowed his thoughts.

This kind of shrewd person naturally wouldn’t speak out of turn in front of Duan Yue.

Duan Yue shook his sleeves to reveal his hands.

A stream of water spirit generated from his hands and shot straight for the inheritance sealing sphere opposite.

When the spiritual energy hit the inheritance seal, the entire ball burst with blinding light.

This kind of light was thousands of times brighter than the light Rong Qing produced earlier!

The elder was completely dumbstruck!

The Qing Vassal Prince Rong Qing who was standing in the outer hall abruptly turned around. His impassive face finally showed slight surprise.

Sure enough, this world never lacked prodigies!

Meanwhile, for the people standing outside the imperial ancestral temple awaiting results of the inheritance.

The Ultramarine Province Emperor and Crown Prince both looked up at the streams of blinding light shooting up to the sky from the imperial ancestral temple.

Rong Li furtively suppressed the gloom in his eyes as he looked up meaningfully at the source of that bright light.

“Ha, hahaha!” The Ultramarine Province Emperor couldn’t resist laughing out loud. “Could it be my son?”

“Your Majesty! Congratulations, Your Majesty!” The elder bolted down the long stairs heading to the imperial ancestral temple. He congratulated ecstatically, “His Fourth Highness has started to proceed with the inheritance!”

“Where is my son?” The emperor’s hands shook from rapture.

The elder was naturally thrilled as well, and he explained, “His Highness has been isolated right now! No one can approach for the time being!”

Chapter 2007: Reforging Blood Vessels

“According to ancient texts, juniors of the clans have spent at least seven days, some even several months, to obtain the paramount inheritance.”

“Congratulations, Your Majesty. Congratulations, Your Majesty!” The elder smiled obsequiously. He was a bit apprehensive because he had given His Fourth Highness the cold-shoulder earlier.

Once this most honorable Fourth Highness came out after assimilating the demon emperor’s blood inheritance. He would become the strongest and preeminent person in the entire Rong Clan!

He simply couldn’t imagine the success this Fourth Highness, who had just returned to the clan, would achieve in the future.

The Ultramarine Province Emperor Rong Yuan was especially ecstatic.

After more than a millenium, his fourth son had become the only person in the Rong Clan who could obtain the demon emperor’s blood inheritance.

How could he not be thrilled and gratified?

On the other hand, Duan Yue, who was inside the inner hall, felt as if he was getting immolated by a raging fire. It was unspeakably... painful!

He had been sucked into the transparent inheritance sealing sphere, and he mustered up all his internal energy to resist the heat that was boring into his body.

A scarlet glow seeped deep into the area between his brows.

Duan Yue abruptly opened his eyes and yelled uncontrollably.

*D*mmmit, this was too fr*ckin’ painful!*

*Was this d*mned inheritance trying to tear open his conscious pool?*

At this moment, only he could understand his own pain. It felt as if his conscious pool was about to evaporate from the heat waves. The billowing heat waves plunged his whole divine conscious apparition into unbearable agony.

Duan Yue suddenly held his right arm tightly with his left hand.

When he looked down, he saw a particularly distinct red streak of blood inching up his left wrist. It was as if it was forging all the meridians in his body in fire. This pain of getting his blood vessels reforged would truly be unforgettable!

*D*mmmit!**

He did not need this kind of inheritance, okay.

Ow, ow, ow! He was gonna die of the pain! Duan Yue felt like a trapped beast locked up tightly in that inheritance sealing sphere. He was in an extremely passive and helpless state while accepting this kind of inheritance.

“Ah!!” A harsh cry shot through the roof of the Ultramarine Province’s imperial ancestral temple.

Outside the imperial ancestral temple, the crown prince, Rong Li, had an overcast expression. He lowered his eyes to conceal the abnormal look in his gaze.

He really didn’t expect that his father’s illegitimate son actually had the good luck to catch the fancy of the demon emperor’s inheritance. It hadn’t been long since he entered the palace, and yet he had easily obtained an inheritance!

Rong Li shut his eyes. By the time he turned to the emperor again, he had already recovered his soothing smile. “Imperial Father, the fact that Fourth Brother had such a fortuitous encounter is enough to prove that he is someone who carries great fortune.”

Rong Yuan was still beside himself in rapture, and he quickly nodded when he heard the crown prince’s words. “Correct. According to the rules, Old Fourth will move to Taiji Palace!”

What?

Rong Li was caught off guard by his father’s declaration, and he looked up, dumbfounded. “Rather, you don’t plan to have Fourth Brother move out into his own estate?”

All these years, which adult prince besides the crown prince of the Eastern Palace could continue living inside the palace?

A faint sense of crisis sprouted in the crown prince’s heart.

The emperor shook his head. “Old Fourth has obtained the demon emperor’s blood inheritance, so he is naturally unlike other people.”

“Come, relay Our decree.”

Rong Li silently shut his mouth and lowered his eyes when he heard his imperial father’s jubilant voice.

He silently curled his fingers into fists and clenched tightly.

It was only after feeling a twinge of pain that Rong Li loosened his grip.

Chapter 2008: There Really Is a Challenger?

It was only after feeling a twinge of pain that Rong Li loosened his grip.

The common people all exalted the inheritance, but they were unaware of the inhuman pain that Duan Yue was “enjoying” while receiving the inheritance.

When it got to the point where he could no longer stand the pain, Duan Yue's hands shook as he tried to take out a medicinal solution from his inner world to replenish his energy.

Yet he soon discovered that he couldn't accomplish this.

The present him probably couldn't even lift a single finger...

On the other hand, outside, the emperor was declaring joyously, "It has only been several days since Old Fourth moved into the palace, so he won't have too many things in the Nanqiao Palace he has originally been staying in. You all go and move his belongings to Taiji Palace for him first. Remember, prepare all items according to the highest standard."

"Yes!"

While standing beside his father, the crown prince Rong Li said with a smile, "If Fourth Brother knows how well Father is treating him, he will certainly be extremely happy."

How could he not be happy?

That Taiji Palace was second only to the Eastern Palace!

Father was now regarding Fourth Brother highly...

He didn't see Father favoring that illegitimate son all that much all those days prior.

Father was most likely full of expectations for this illegitimate son after this trip to the imperial ancestral temple today tapped into his potential.

The crown prince of the Ultramarine Province turned his face aside and did his utmost to compose himself. He said with a bright expression, "According to the elder, Fourth Brother will probably need to be in closed-door cultivation for many days. How about this son first accompanies Father back to the palace?"

"Might as well." The Ultramarine Province Emperor nodded.

They would just be waiting around here anyways, so they might as well return to the palace first. Moreover, they didn't know how long his fourth son would stay in closed-door cultivation inside the imperial ancestral temple. There was not much use in waiting around.

Upon thinking of this point, the Ultramarine Province Emperor turned to say to the elder, "Have someone keep watch at the entrance of the imperial ancestral temple. You must not let anyone slip in and disturb my fourth son's cultivation."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

—Sleepy's section break—

Night had already fallen.

The matches to decide the top 30 of the academy ranking competition had reached a fever pitch.

While leaning against Mo Lian's arm, Qiao Mu got sleepy from boredom.

Ever since they finished competing against number 18, their team had been on the bench the whole time, sitting for nearly the entire day!

“Might as well go back to sleep,” Qiao Mu grumbled in displeasure.

“Ay, I wonder how much longer it’ll last for?”

The mentors of the Six Prefectures’ top-ranking academies were rather capricious.

With a single sentence, everybody had to accompany them to fight by torchlight!

Mo Lian caressed her head. “Qiaoqiao can nap for a bit first if you’re sleepy.”

From the looks of it, it seemed like they wouldn’t be needed in the matches.

There probably wasn’t any sensible team who would challenge their Apex Academy to fight a decisive battle on stage.

Qiao Mu nodded and closed her eyes while leaning against Mo Lian’s arm.

She really did fall asleep.

It wasn’t until it was late at night that a loud shout woke her up with a start. Qiao Mu then opened her glazed eyes and looked at the brightly lit Shenghua Battle Arena. She rolled her eyes exasperatedly.

“They still haven’t finished competing?”

“They could totally decide the top 30 tomorrow.”

“Why the need for the rush to go to Blinsheet Island?” Qiao Mu yawned while covering her mouth with her hand. She shifted to a new position while still leaning against Mo Lian’s arm.

“Shuntian Prefecture’s Celestial Light Academy challenges Apex Academy!”

Suddenly, a loud announcement entered everyone’s ears.

Chapter 2009: Breaking New Ground

This was like eating chilled watermelon in summer. Everybody’s eyes suddenly lit up.

“Holy cow, someone really is challenging us!” The little fatty jumped up excitedly. “Go, go, go, go, go! We’re going up on stage!”

It truly wasn’t fun at all just sitting here!

It wasn’t easy for that whatever Celestial Light Academy to happily challenge them. Only fools wouldn’t go up!

Qiao Mu rubbed her eyes, but Mo Lian gently pulled her hands away.

“Then I’m going!” The little fellow swayed as she stood up. She had only taken one step forward when a young referee on the stage clarified awkwardly, “Wrong, wrong! Celestial Light Academy is not

challenging Apex Academy. Celestial Light Academy has just said that, they will be challenging... cough, Starlight Academy.”

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Bai Xia’s group of three quickly stood up and followed their upperclassmen seniors to the stage.

When they passed by Qiao Mu’s group, they glanced at the latter speechlessly.

The little fatty was even more speechless. He wilted and plopped back into his seat. “Morons!”

It turned out that academy wasn’t challenging them! Made them excited for nothing

“What is our academy’s overall ranking in the competition at the moment?”

“I have no idea how they are tallying these points. How can Qiaoqiao only be seventh place in the individual ranking competition?”

“Isn’t that right! I suspect there are some shenanigans with the way they are counting points.”

Qiao Mu couldn’t care less about how they were tallying those darn points.

She only had one purpose—to go rob the spiritual domain on Blinsheet Island of its spiritual energy for her Qiuqiu.

At that time, whether those three pitiful spiritual domains could continue existing in the long run would depend on her mood...

They sat idly for another two hours.

The head referee, Elder Hong, finally walked up onto the stage personally and announced with a smile, “Thanks to everybody’s tireless efforts in fighting matches round the clock, the top 30 teams that will be advancing to the finals have finally been decided.”

“Elder Hong! We should rest one day before the finals. How about we continue the day after tomorrow!” A student from Moonlight Academy couldn’t help but suggest loudly.

He truly was unable to endure it anymore!

After so many days of competition, today’s rules actually permitted them to chose their opponents freely.

Their Moonlight Academy really was unlucky, getting chosen three times. Everybody had no idea how they made it through the last match!

*Those f*cking scoundrels bullied the weak and feared the strong. They just knew to make trouble for their Moonlight Academy. How come he didn’t see them going up against Apex Academy?*

Elder Hong smiled amiably. “Rest assured, the mentors have also considered this point.”

“Everybody will temporarily have the day off tomorrow, so that you can compete in the finals full of vigor the day after tomorrow.” Elder Hong explained with a smile, “The finals this time will differ from the competitions in the past to some extent.”

Elder Hong waved his hand, a written document enumerated with the rules for the finals appeared in his hand. He then presented it before everyone with a shake.

“The Six Prefectures’ top 10 academies have reached a consensus to proceed with a finals that will break new ground.”

Everyone: ...

So we have to thank you for it!?

“There will be three elements to this round of finals. One, testing cultivation. Two, testing your mystic conscious or spiritual conscious. Three, which is the most important exercise.”

“The competition committee will release various birds above the battle arena. You will need to control them using your mystic conscious.”

Chapter 2010: Killing the Young One Brings Out His Old Man!

“The rules are extremely simple. The person who controls the most birds will be victorious in this round of finals.”

Everyone looked at each other in bewilderment.

Zhou Danjin slapped his thigh as he stood up and yelled, “Everyone, aren’t these outlandish rules treating the competition as an overly trifling matter??”

Some of the mentors from the other academies concurred. “It truly does make it a trifling matter!”

“The past years’ victories were all determined by everybody’s actual strength, while this time it’s actually...”

Sunlight Academy’s Mentor Cao Dan also shook his head and remarked, “This kind of competition has truly been unheard of before.”

“What can testing one’s cultivation and spiritual conscious do? Isn’t that just idle theorizing! Some people’s inferior cultivation and spiritual conscious does not necessarily prevent them from defeating other people?”

“We are basing the competition purely on cultivation and spiritual conscious this time.” Celestial Light Academy’s mentor stressed sternly, “Students will not have any external assistance! This will fully demonstrate their own capabilities, no?”

Qiao Mu turned her petite head around in amusement and glanced at Zhou Danjin. “Mentor Zhou, you jinxed it.”

As expected, those mentors from the Six Prefectures’ top academies got restless.

Unfortunately for them... she was still second to none in her age group, no matter if it be cultivation or spiritual conscious.

Qiao Mu shook her head. She didn't know whether she should pity those mentors from Celestial Light Academy for failing even after coming up with this machination, or if she should jeer at their stupidity.

"The first part of these finals is a test of cultivation." Mentor Cao Dan protested, "What is the use of just testing one's cultivation? There are a lot of people whose cultivation is not on par with their actual strength! What about them..."

"Where is the person who killed my son!" A sudden roar cut off Cao Dan's grumblings.

Everybody turned to look in surprise. They saw a spirited elder appear in the air above the battle arena with forty plus level-seven spiritual cultivators.

The elder's face was contorted as he swept his gaze back and forth through the battle arena. "Where are the people from Apex Academy? Quickly get out here and prepare to die!"

Qiao Mu was confused. She blanked out for a moment and couldn't resist asking in a low voice, "Who is this old geezer looking for?"

Qi Xuanxuan and the others couldn't help but be speechless. It turned out that this little fellow completely forgot the existence of this Zhao Li after killing him!

"This should be, Zhao Li's dad!" Ma Ta couldn't resist twitching his mouth. "Qiaoqiao, don't you remember that Zhao Li from Catkin Academy who surprise attacked you in the back?"

Qiao Mu promptly recalled with this vivid description. She exclaimed with a nod, "So it's him!"

What was going on? Killing the young one caused his old man to come knocking on their door?

Crown Prince Mo grasped her petite hand. Qiao Mu turned to wink at him, gesturing for him not to worry.

Afterwards, she left her seat and strutted toward Zhao Li's dad. "You are Zhao Li's dad, right."

Zhao Li's dad stared coldly at this little lady, seething with anger!

The little lady's calm and composed expression was truly an eyesore.

He wished for nothing more than to immediately lunge over and tear this girl to shreds. He would then crush her bones to dust and toss it to the wind in order to allay his hatred.

Zhao Li, Zhao Li was his treasured only son!

"You have come to seek vengeance?" Qiao Mu deadpanned while beckoning to Zhao Li's dad with her petite hand, "Come! It will be good for you two to have each other as company on the path to the underworld!"

The masses of mentors and students: ...

"You ignorant young'un have gone too far!"