

My Crown 271

Chapter 271: Violent Beating

Qiao Mu had no idea her accomplice, Ao Ye, sought compensation for her.

She was currently sitting on the back of Qingluan, her face aching from being whipped by the intense gales.

She promptly opened her eggshell shield and blocked the winds from assaulting her.

Qiao Mu pursed her lips and solemnly sat in a kneeling position on top of Qingluan. Her hands were placed on her knees, her posture incredibly proper.

Although Qingluan's flying speed was astonishingly fast, it flew very steadily. It was not long before it flew out of the largest city in the Qiu Kingdom, Five Moon City, and landed outside of the city, retracting its wings.

They were truly too flashy as they flew across the Qiu Kingdom though and provoked a big commotion within Five Moon City.

However, no one ran out and chased after them.

Qiao Mu had no desire to know the reason because right now... she was about to explode from her immense rage!

What met her eyes as she looked up was a long stretch of rippling mountain ranges.

Snow covered the surface year-round without melting.

This should be the Great Snow Mountains that Master mentioned.

After Qingluan placed her down and put away its wings, its entire figure shrunk down.

Qingluan transformed into a shaggy chick.

If its cyan fur turned bright yellow, it would become a little yellow chick without a doubt!

The tiny figure flapped its stubby wings and flew to Qiao Mu's shoulder. Its little head bumped into her neck, innocently expressing its goodwill.

However—

It was flattering the wrong person!

Qiao Mu promptly clouted the weak chicken with a dark expression and relentlessly pursued the weak chicken that was wildly flapping its wings.

'I'm gonna beat you to death!' Qiao Mu angrily chased after it, serving it a round of punches.

The weak chicken frantically called in fright and ceaselessly flapped its little wings, pitifully fleeing.

“Get over here!” ‘This freaking lousy chicken dared to pretend to be weak and cute! I’m gonna freaking kill it!’

‘Ha ha, it crushed so many people in a single breath just now but then turned around and put on an act to face her!’

‘Why don’t you ascend to the heavens?’

‘Oh right, you already ascended to the heavens!’

“Caw.” The little chick fled quickly, flapping its tiny wings and jumping up and down.

The duo of a human and a chicken bounded up the mountain.

The chick’s head suffered two punches and it pitifully stopped running after an angry shout from the child. It collapsed its wings, cowered against a rock, and lowered its head, putting on a guilt-admitting posture.

The pursuing child’s face was flush with red, and she was panting for air.

“You.”

“Master, why are you hitting me?” The little chick was bewildered. “I really don’t understand Master’s world” was written all over his furry, adorable face.

He originally thought that Master would definitely like him after he revealed his true self and strength!

However, the reality was so stingingly tragic!

“You won’t pretend anymore?” Qiao Mu berated. Her hands unconsciously propping on her hips as she angrily said, “If you deceitful thing wasn’t pretending, why would I have to endure such a long, strenuous journey? You can achieve this tiny distance in several hours by flying, am I wrong?!”

“Caw?” The little chick donned on a cutesy “I don’t understand” expression.

‘Caw your ass! You clearly know human speech, yet you feign incomprehension!’

The child was fuming with anger. She randomly pulled a branch and slapped it toward the chick.

“Caw! Caw!” The little chick flew and flew, swiftly dashing up the mountain along the chalk-white path.

“Caw!” The chick stopped, causing Qiao Mu to stop as well.

A lot of people appeared in the mountainous path ahead of them, forming a queue along the path. Looking up, Qiao Mu could vaguely see an imposing gate.

“Holy Water Sect” was carved at the top, impressive and majestic.

But what was going on with this queuing crowd?

Chapter 272: Line-cutter, Go to the Back

“Excuse me! Uncle! Aunt! Sister! Ah, ah! Excuse me, please let me pass! Excuse me...” The little fellow was tiny and short, so she nearly drowned in this sea of people.

The adults who were clapped all turned around and had to look down to see the taut-faced girl running past them.

“Eh? Child! Stop! Child, why are you cutting the line? Line up in the back!”

“Right, right! Get in line! Don’t think you can cut the line just ’cause you are young!”

“We’ve been waiting here for very, very long!”

“That’s right! This child doesn’t have any manners! Go to the back, the back! Line up!”

Qiao Mu was immediately blocked by several middle-aged women. She tilted her head and looked at the distant gate of the Holy Water Sect.

There were at least a thousand steps before she could get there!

Every step of the snaking mountainous path was crammed with people—old and young, large and small. For some reason, the line was so long that the end could not be seen!

Speaking of which, she was returning to her sect, so how was she line-cutting? Qiao Mu took a step back and stared at the women blocking her way, her brows unconsciously furrowing. “Why are you queuing here?”

“Huh? This child!”

“She’s still pretending to not know what’s happening!”

“My my, she’s so young, but she’s quite cunning!”

“Why are you here then?” a woman asked Qiao Mu with a glare while clutching the shy girl around 12 years old next to her.

“I came to find my master!” Qiao Mu impatiently wanted to squeeze through the crowd.

“Huh? Stop, stop!”

“Who isn’t here to find their master?”

“That’s right! Aren’t you too much, child? Where’re your parents? They aren’t with you?” A middle-aged woman fumingly glanced at Qiao Mu while holding her granddaughter, who was around eight or nine years old.

“You are all here to find Master?” D*mn... Murong Xun claimed that she was exceptionally talented and would only take her on as her final disciple for the rest of her life. She begged and cried to carry her back to the sect and even had no scruples against using that mystical treasured land to bait her to the sect.

‘So what in the world is this? So many people are here to find her, and she actually accepted so many disciples?! Giant liar! She lied to me!’

“My master accepted you?” “That’s impossible, right?! These women don’t look like mystic cultivators at all! Why the heck did Master accept them? To do her laundry and cook and clean for her?”

“What are you saying, huh?”

“Didn’t you also come here for the Holy Water Sect’s annual open-gate disciple recruitment?”

More people surrounded the short child, and a bunch of old and young women extended their arms to block Qiao Mu’s path.

A woman snorted, “You’ve even started calling ‘Master, master’ already! Who’s your master?”

“My master is Murong Xun from the First Peak,” the little stoic earnestly replied.

“Pft!”

“Hahahahaha...” The audience burst into laughter.

“My my, this child might be young, but she even knows Peak Master Murong of the First Peak.”

“This is too hilarious. Who knows how many years it has been since Peak Master Murong accepted a personal disciple? She can’t even make up a more believable lie!”

“That’s right, that’s right! If you told us Peak Master Yang of the Second Peak or Peak Master Lu of the Third Peak was your master, it would be slightly more believable.”

“Aha!”

The crowd was delightfully guffawing from the joke while Qiao Mu was at an utter loss for words.

“Caw!” The little chick kneeling on Qiao Mu’s shoulder suddenly jumped, about to fly into a rage.

Qiao Mu quickly grabbed the little cyan chick.

These uncles and aunts were just a bit asinine and foul-mouthed, but they were not those evil-doing Qiu soldiers, so they did not deserve a mouthful of icicles from Qingluan...

Chapter 273: The Water-Drop Test

The child did look rather adorable as she held the little chick. It was just that her face was a bit stoic and did not have any drastic expressions.

“Anyhow, no cutting in line! Go line up!” A chubby woman made a motion with her mouth and waved her hand at Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu turned to look at the gates which seemed as distant as the sky and inwardly released a big sigh.

How come she did not see a single senior sister? There should be a lot of disciples who were tasked with receiving duty for an important matter like opening the gates and accepting disciples, right?!

Where was Eldest Senior Sister and Second Senior Sister? She also did not see any of the senior sisters that she was familiar with from the Second and Third Peak!

The child looked down at the red, fish jade pendant in her hand. This was the sect pendant that Murong Xun tossed to her before leaving, and “First Peak Xun” was engraved onto the back.

She could just show it to any senior sister that she met... right?

Qiao Mu looked up and saw a girl dressed in red, who was around 10 years old, madly waving at her from about 20 steps ahead of her.

Soon, a female servant in blue clothes sprinted down and took her hand. She told the glaring women around them and said, “This is our family’s child. Excuse me, let me through. Excuse me.”

The female servant pulled on Qiao Mu and squeezed back to the girl in red.

“Little Sister, are you alright?” The girl patted Qiao Mu’s shoulder and smiled at Qiao Mu, revealing a little dimple in her left cheek.

Qiao Mu dully shook her head.

“You also came for the Holy Water Sect’s gate test, right? Don’t worry, just follow me!”

“Are... are you from the nearby Qiu Kingdom?” The girl was young but was valiant looking and dressed in clean red riding clothes, which did not look like the Qiu Kingdom’s attire.

“No,” the girl shook her head with a smile. “We’re from the Alava Tribe in the west. My name is Doya, what about you? What’s your name?”

“M-my name is Qiao Mu,” the little stoic answered. Inwardly, she thought, *‘News of a large matter like the Holy Water Sect opening its gates and accepting disciples must have traveled far and wide. No wonder there are so many people here waiting in line.’*

Doya smiled, her left dimple growing bigger. She pinched the little stoic’s icy face. “Little Sister, stop frowning. It should be our turn to test soon.”

However, the “soon” that Doya spoke of did not come until the freaking sun started setting in the west. Alas, there were only three people in front of them, and it was their turn soon.

Qiao Mu was so bummed that she wanted to crouch on the ground and draw circles in the dirt.

After queuing for so long, she finally saw her sect’s gate before her. If she knew this would happen, she should have asked her senior sisters for their sect’s messenger talisman.

“Extend your left hand.” Two female disciples were sitting behind a long table situated in front of the gates.

The sky was a bit dim, but roaring flames were already ignited in the rows of rock troughs on the two sides of the gate, clearly illuminating everyone’s faces.

Qiao Mu glanced and discovered that she did not recognize any of the disciples at the gate, whether it was the two sitting female disciples or the several disciples standing behind them.

It made sense though. The only disciples of the Holy Water Sect that she knew were the seven celestial maidens. They were the top disciples of the Holy Water Sect, so they probably did not do such boring receiving tasks.

Qiao Mu decided that she would flash her identity pendant as soon as she went up later!

Who went through so much trouble just to return to their sect?!

However, wasn't the Holy Water Sect's test too sloppy? Earlier, that senior sister asked the nine-year-old girl to extend her hand and then dripped a drop of water on her hand from the jade porcelain bottle.

A few seconds later, she took back that drop of water and expressionlessly said, "Fail! Next."

Chapter 274: Gloriously Radiant

The next few girls also failed and ran away bawling while covering their faces.

Doya and Qiao Mu looked at each other, bewildered.

Doya could not resist asking, "I wonder how that drop of water tests us? How can they obtain results as soon as they drip a drop of water on our hands?"

Who the heck knew what kind of lousy test this was?! Qiao Mu's face was bereft of any emotion, but she was undeniably looking down on her sect in her mind...

Wasn't this a waste of time?! A drop of water on each person's hand was considered a test?

If she had to do it, she might not pass this insane test!

"Next!"

Doya suddenly squeezed Qiao Mu's hand hard and took a deep breath before quickly walking forward.

A drop of water landed on Doya's left palm.

A second later, the water bead actually started rolling in Doya's palm and emitted a soft light.

It was as though Doya was holding a ball of bright moonlight in her hand. It illuminated her clean and flawless face, making a beautiful sight.

Qiao Mu dazedly looked at that light.

Oho! There was actually more than meets the eye to this drop of water! There was not any reaction with the previous people because...

This drop of water scorned them!

The two senior sisters sitting behind the long table revealed a faint smile and nodded at Doya. "Great! Pass! Stand behind us."

Oh, it turned out the four girls standing behind these two senior sisters were the ones who passed the test.

Wow, then there were only five people in total, including Doya! They probably tested more than 10,000 people before Doya, right?!

They accepted 5 out of 10,000 people. Wasn't this probability... too low?

Doya's dimples deepened from her smile, and she made a "Good luck" gesture at Qiao Mu before cheerfully moving to stand behind the two senior sisters.

"Next!" When the two senior sisters saw Qiao Mu walking forward, they were startled.

Wasn't this child too young?

A lot of people behind them had rushed up the stairs and squeezed in the first and second step to watch the test. They were all whispering to each other and exchanging information about the contents of the test.

When the women who previously blocked Qiao Mu saw her, they contemptuously curled their lips.

"This child is so young, she definitely won't pass."

"That's right! If it's so easy to pass, so many people wouldn't have failed."

Qiao Mu sprinted to the front of the two senior sisters and reached for the red, fish jade pendant in her pocket.

"Extend your left hand. You don't need both hands," a senior sister gently said.

"Yes, don't be nervous. It won't hurt." The other senior sister also nodded. They thought Qiao Mu was so nervous that she did not know where to place her hands and legs.

Qiao Mu: "..."

"Hm? There are still so many people who haven't been tested yet?"

"Master." The two female disciples stood up in unison and respectfully bowed toward the newcomer.

The newcomer looked like she was 26 or 27 years old. She wore radish-purple clothes with purple bamboo leaves embroidered on the ends of her skirt. Her face looked like she perpetually smiled and would not frown at anyone.

"It's fine. Continue. Master just came to take a look." The Peak Master of the Second Peak, Yang Xirong, covered her smile.

Chatter erupted from the crowd. Every woman and man with a child turned excited. This was Peak Master Yang of the Second Peak. If she saw their child's outstanding performance when they tested, she would definitely accept them as her disciple on the spot!

"Alright, let's begin the test. Little Sister, extend your left hand."

Qiao Mu had a clueless expression as her left hand, which had reached into her pocket to take out her jade pendant, was pulled out by a senior sister.

A bone-chillingly icy drop of water dripped onto her palm.

Ah...

Suddenly, the drop of water emitted a flawlessly bright light, and the blinding white light radiated from her palm!

In contrast to Doya's faint and gentle light, this was the true definition of... gloriously radiant!

The light instantly pierced the night sky and brightly illuminated their surroundings!

Chapter 275: Taken to the Second Peak

Yang Xirong's eyes shot open in shock!

Her perpetually gentle expression was long gone!

What replaced it was shock! Shock! And more shock!

"H-he'er, q-quickly give her another drop!" Yang Xirong's eyes were narrowed from excitement as she intently stared at the dumbstruck child, as though she was afraid the child would be immediately snatched away by someone else!

Han He hastily stood up and walked to the child. She gently grasped the child's left hand and dripped another drop of water on her hand.

Instantly, everyone's vision was blinded by a piercing white light.

The brilliant light could not be covered by anything in the world. It was not until the two drops of water slowly seeped into the child's palm that the terrifying and blinding light gradually receded.

Yang Xirong was startled with her mouth wide open for less than a second before she pounced at the child like a starving wolf throwing itself at its food.

The child jolted in fright and reflexively retreated a few steps backward with wide eyes.

However, how could she be a match for Peak Master Yang? Her tiny figure was firmly pulled into Peak Master Yang's arms in the next second.

"Good disciple, quickly return to Second Peak with Master! Us master and disciple were truly brought together by fate! Look at how late it is, but Master still managed to pick you up! Hahahahaha! This was worth Master's trip here!" Yang Xirong's arms were deathly tight around Qiao Mu as though she was hugging a treasure.

"Um... My—Master—is..." Qiao Mu had just uttered a few syllables when she was interrupted.

"Ah! My good and wonderful disciple, don't say anything! It's very late, so you must be tired. Master will take you back to the Second Peak to rest." Then, without waiting for the child to say anything else, Yang Xirong swiftly flew into the sky and disappeared from everyone's sight, as though something was chasing after her...

"Why was it so bright just now? Did the holy water have some especially large reaction to someone?" White clothes drifted across their vision as a coldly beautiful woman abruptly appeared in front of everyone.

“Greetings to Aunt-Master.” Han He and her fellow disciple hastily bowed in greeting when they recovered from their shock.

“Who had such good talent?” They managed to provoke such a blindingly bright light. It was something that had never happened before.

Han He choked. “Yes, um, well, it was the disciple that Master just accepted. She’s been brought back to Second Peak by Master already.”

Lu Yun heavily harrumphed.

Han He did not dare to tell Aunt-Master Lu the astonishing talent of the little junior sister who Master had just snatched back to their peak. Their junior sister actually absorbed both drops of holy water into her body!

“Pft, so what if she accepted a disciple? She’s acting like someone wants to steal them from her and snatched them back to Second Peak without allowing us to see their face.” A teasing voice announced itself.

They did not need to see who it was and could tell Eldest Aunt-Master Murong Xun had arrived judging from that bright laugh alone.

“Greetings, Aunt-Master Murong.”

Murong Xun casually waved her hand. “This peak master saw the liveliness here and came for the fun. There’s nothing special. Do what you need to do.”

Then, she leaned against the long table with a grin and winked at Han He. “Xiao’he’zi, what kind of disciple did your master just accept? She ran away in such a panic. It’s not like it’s something shameful!”

“Um, an especially talented little junior sister!”

Murong Xun was displeased as soon as she heard this. She snorted and turned her head away, waving her hand as she said, “No matter how talented she is, she can’t be better than my little disciple! That master of yours thinks she got a treasure just ’cause she picked up a decent disciple. I’ll show her what’s a true exceptionally talented, clever, bright, and cute disciple later!”

Chapter 276: Oddball Father and Son

Lu Yun suddenly snorted, her sight landing behind Han He. “These ones passed the test?”

“That’s right, Aunt-Master.”

Lu Yun waved her hand at Doya and the short girl standing next to her.

The two girls were blushing with excitement and immediately sprinted over.

“What are you two called? How about you follow me to the Third Peak?”

Doya promptly smiled, revealing her big dimple, and hastily nodded. “Master, this disciple’s name is Doya.”

“This disciple’s name is Zhang Yue.”

The girl named Zhang Yue was half a head shorter than Doya, but she was a lot chubbier than Doya. Her grape-like eyes rolled around, bright and witty.

“Yes, follow me back to the Third Peak, you two.” Lu Yun aloofly nodded.

“Wait, that little fellow.” Murong Xun’s figure flickered and arrived in front of Zhang Yue, picking her up off of the ground.

Lu Yun’s cold face slightly darkened and she glanced at Murong Xun. “Senior Sister Murong, what are you doing? I’ve accepted these two disciples. You can take your pick from the rest.”

Murong Xun rolled her eyes at Lu Yun. “I’ve already accepted a young final disciple, I won’t accept any more disciples.”

Who cared! Compared to her little stoic disciple, this and this and that one’s talent were all too terrible! It did not meet her eyes at all...

“G-greetings, Aunt-Master Murong Xun,” Zhang Yue asked with trepidation as she hung from Murong Xun’s hand.

“Don’t call me Aunt-Master so quickly.” Murong Xun narrowed her eyes and shook Zhang Yue. “You little brat want to deceive me? You’re a boy, right!”

Her words provoked waves in the sea of people.

The watching audience were all bewildered.

They had yet to recover from the news of “A seven-or-eight-year-old child just notoriously passed the Holy Water Sect’s strange and difficult entry exam and was carried away by Second Peak Master Yang like a treasure,” and were dumbstruck by another shocking piece of news.

What??? Everyone knew that the Holy Water Sect did not accept male disciples. Could it be that this boy planned to pretend to be a girl and sneak through the Holy Water Sect’s gates?

Zhang Yue started crying and daintily exclaimed, “I’m not a boy, I’m not a boy.”

Murong Xun pointedly glanced at Zhang Yue and sardonically smiled. “Should I pull down your pants and take a look?”

A blush immediately crept over Zhang Yue’s face.

A commotion stirred in the crowd as they all angrily spat, “A boy like you wants to sneak into the Holy Water Sect?!”

“Just how did your parents raise you? How can they come up with something as absurd as pretending to be a girl?!”

Wasn’t he forcibly taking up a quota...

Based on the current situation, a peak master accepted one or two disciples at most, but this darn punk wanted to come and snatch a spot! It was absolutely unforgivable!

At this moment, a rotund middle-aged man sprang out from the crowd and gestured at them, flying off the handle, "Such a nosy group! My son clearly passed the exam! How could you not allow him to enter the sect?"

"My son has been raised as a girl since he was young, so why can't you just treat him like a girl?! Anyhow, he clearly passed the exam already! You can't! No way can you throw us out! You can't throw us out..." The rotund middle-aged man was picked up by two female disciples and was kicking his stubby little legs and angrily raving.

Zhang Yue was hugging Murong Xun's arm and kept wiping his tears while bawling at the top of his lungs, "Aunt-Master, accept me, accept me! I'm a girl! I'm a girl!!!"

Murong Xun: "..."

Lu Yun: "..."

Everyone: "..."

What a pair of oddball father and son! A truly unprecedented pair...

Chapter 277: Level up

Murong Xun did not know whether to laugh or cry and waved her hand. "Escort them down the mountain."

The first rule of the Holy Water Sect was: We don't accept male disciples! We won't even if you can paint a pretty picture!

Zhang Yue was bawling like the sky had collapsed and slid onto the ground. He adhered to the principle of hugging the thigh of someone powerful and had a death grip around Murong Xun's thigh, unwilling to release her.

"Ah, Aunt-Master, accept me, accept me..." The little fellow beat his chest and stomped his feet while wailing and howling.

Murong Xun: '...How did this peak master run into an oddball like you?'

Third Peak's Peak Master Lu was somewhat embarrassed and hurriedly pointed at another girl before bringing her and Doya back to the Third Peak.

Murong Xun glared at Lu Yun's fleeing figure and snorted. Then, she forcefully ripped the strange child from her body. "Hurry and escort these two down the mountain already."

How could Murong Xun still have the mood to stay and watch some test? Murong Xun swiftly left the gates with a flash of her figure.

As expected, out of all sorts of children, only her own disciple was not annoying and made her happy with just a look.

Meanwhile, how could Qiao Mu know about the eventful matters at the gates after she left? She was even more unlikely to know that her unreliable master, Murong Xun, visited the gates.

While she was being carried back to the second peak by Peak Master Yang Xirong, she felt the mystic energy within her mystic meridians rolling tumultuously.

This feeling felt like...

She was about to level up!

She had been stuck at the initial success stage of level-four mystic cultivation for a long time without any budding, so what in the world was happening right now?

Although she felt a very dense amount of mystic energy as soon as she stepped through the gates of the Holy Water Sect, wasn't this too absurd? She had not even started sitting in meditation and cultivating, and she oddly felt like she was going to level up?

The child quickly focused and activated her inner sight to look at her dantian.

Her mystic domain, which was previously tightly enveloped by a countless number of roots underneath the tree, was currently exposed and was endlessly absorbing the rush of mystic energy swimming through her mystic meridians.

Milk-white mystic energy was rapidly flowing through her distinctly different mystic meridians, causing her mystic meridians to slowly swell and expand.

Qiao Mu could feel that her mystic meridians were gradually thickening under this minute expansion.

Her mystic meridians which were originally only half a finger wide now expanded to nearly a finger's width.

Her mystic meridians expanding meant that they could absorb more mystic energy, so her cultivation speed was definitely going to be faster than before.

"Disciple, you're about to level up!" Peak Master Yang exclaimed in shock and hastily landed on Second Peak.

Qiao Mu did not have time to examine Second Peak's appearance before Yang Xirong swiftly brought her to the cultivation room that was richest in mystic energy on Second Peak.

"Disciple, don't worry. Master will be right outside. Level up properly, don't be too impatient and advance too fiercely at once. Maintain a calm mind. Us cultivators must have an estimation and bottom line, so advancing to a particular level will do even if you still have remaining energy.

Hm? This child still looked like she did not have any cultivation just a moment ago, so why did she suddenly show level-four cultivation in the next second?

Yang Xirong could not have possibly known that the mystic energy rushing around Qiao Mu was too ferocious since she was about to level up, so it bluntly barraged through the power of her aura-repressing talisman.

After the cultivation room closed its doors, Yang Xirong paced back and forth outside with unease.

This child looked too young. Who knew whether she understood her words just now? Yang Xirong was worried that the child would be too rash and fiercely level up without holding back. This would not benefit her future cultivation at all.

The child absorbed both drops of holy water, so it would definitely cause her leveling up to be very terrifying...

Yang Xirong wished for everything to go smoothly!

Chapter 278: Exploding on the Spot!

Qiao Mu was still caught in a foggy daze. She still did not associate the trigger for her level advancement to those two strange drops of water.

She had thought it was because of the rich mystic energy in the Holy Water Sect that her trapped cultivation state started loosening.

Qiao Mu sat inside the cultivation room and held her breath. She instantly felt mystic energy endlessly rushing in from the outside and rapidly flowing into her mystic domain through her electrified mystic meridians, the speed incredibly terrifying.

Qiuqiu happily extended its branches inside her dantian and quickly absorbed the mystic energy rushing in from the outside world in large gulps. Her absorption speed could hold a candle to her little master's speed, and she fought over the incoming mystic energy with her little master.

Qiao Mu was already used to the cunning tree's bandit ways, so she was completely unfazed and could ignore it just fine.

She was currently shaking to the core as mystic energy burst into her mystic domain at an astonishing speed.

The barrier around her initial success level-four cultivation realm crumbled instantly.

Qiao Mu soon experienced firsthand what was called freakish advancement...

She looked on helplessly as the barriers to the phenomenal success and peak ranks of level four were all barraged through, and she triumphantly soared into the realm of level-five mystic cultivation.

This type of advancement speed evoked wariness in Qiao Mu.

She assessed her body's condition again with her inner sight and saw that there were traces and strands of some silver unknown substance flowing inside her one-finger-wide mystic meridians beside the milk-white mystic energy. It was rippling up and down inside her mystic meridians.

These silver threads were pitifully lacking in comparison to the rich mystic energy.

However, it made Qiao Mu's brows furrow together. She never saw this silver substance in her mystic meridians in her previous life.

Nonetheless, this was not the time to think about this.

The most important task on her agenda was to suppress her fierce advancement as soon as possible.

Aunt-Master Yang was right. A mystic cultivator had to set a limit to their mystic cultivation and could not rashly level up for the mere sake of advancement. It was better to stabilize for a while before advancing again.

She broke through to the phenomenal success rank of level-five mystic cultivation from the initial success rank of level four in a spurt of energy. Her mystic energy furiously grew in leaps and bounds and did not show any signs of slowing down.

This truly caused some panic in her...

She absorbed so much mystic energy at once and was full from the absorption! Her entire mystic meridians and mystic domain were expanded to the max already!

If this persisted, it would be too easy for something unlucky like exploding and dying to happen. Moreover, advancing her cultivation too quickly could cause her cultivation to be unsteady and was detrimental for her future cultivation.

However, she could not restrain it... Her cultivation was advancing like a ferocious tiger that leaped out of its den and fiercely charging upward.

The barrier to peak-rank, level-five cultivation and the boundary of level-five cultivation were shattered, then entry-rank level-six and progress-rank level-six cultivation...

Qiao Mu was about to cry. She subconsciously called, "What should I do, Qiuqiu? I can't stop the advancement."

"Qiuqiu!" Did that crafty tree disappear again?

The sapling, Qiuqiu, was silent for a moment and uncontrollably asked, "Master, what are you worried about?"

"I'm leveling up so fast and absorbing so much mystic energy! Will I explode on the spot?!"

Qiuqiu: "..."

"Master, are you an idiot? Why do you keep having these strange notions infesting your mind? If you don't want to absorb the mystic energy, tell me! I can suck all of this mystic energy away! This large amount of mystic energy will be enough for me to grow two leaves!"

"Moreover, why do you think your cultivation is bursting so explosively? Because you were triggered by the mystic energy in the outside world? No! It's because you absorbed two drops of holy water!"

Qiao Mu: "..."

Chapter 279: Alarming the Whole Sect

"What should I do now? Hurry and help me stop it!"

She did not want to advance any more levels! This advancement speed was too terrifying! She did not feel like she was a normal human anymore...

When Qiao Mu saw how she surpassed the initial success and phenomenal success ranks and charged toward the peak rank of level six, her heart was about to leap out of her chest!

“Master, won’t you consider directly breaking through to level-seven cultivation?” Qiuqiu persuasively tempted its little master. “Let me tell you, if you break through to level seven, Qiuqiu can immediately assimilate the Heart of Paradise into...”

“Quick! Absorb the remaining holy water essence! Hurry hurry hurry! I don’t want it anymore!” Wahhh, what was this useless tree still haggling about?!

“I refrained from snatching those two drops of holy water precisely because I wanted to let Master break through to the realm of level-seven cultivation,” Qiuqiu secretly grumbled before using her branches to envelop Qiao Mu’s mystic domain again and buried it deep into its roots.

The tiny bit of holy water essence left behind was completely absorbed by the sapling’s roots.

This process was very rapid, and two lusciously green leaves immediately grew on the sapling’s barren branches.

Qiao Mu instantly felt her body lighten, and all of the mystic energy rushing into her body was drawn away by Qiuqiu in the blink of an eye.

As she relaxed, she quickly concentrated and calmed her breathing, gradually sifting through the mystic energy flowing inside her normal meridians and mystic meridians.

Originally, her mystic meridians composed of only one vessel that led to the depths of her dantian, her mystic domain. To her surprise, however, she now discovered that branching had occurred to this vessel, and the branches were thin like drawn lines, but there were threads of mystic energy slowly swimming in these branches that stretched toward her mystic domain.

Although it was very strange, Qiao Mu did not have time to carefully contemplate it.

She had leaped from the initial success rank of level-four cultivation to the phenomenal success rank of level-five cultivation and had scarcely a small step before she broke through to the peak rank of level-six mystic cultivation.

This jump was too immense!

Her heart was still chaotically pounding in her chest, unable to settle.

Qiao Mu tried her best to restrain her sprinting heartbeat and calm her mind. She took a deep breath before shutting off her senses and forced herself to enter a completely blank world.

Bit by bit, she stabilized and strengthened the tumultous mystic energy inside her body and suppressed her cultivation which had risen too quickly.

This combing process was extremely slow, and it did not take long for Qiao Mu to sink into the process, unable to pay attention to anything else.

At the same time, the sapling wantonly intensified its extraction of the rich mystic energy in the outside world.

It joyously discovered that luscious green leaves started to peek out from its branches one after another and quickened its absorption rate.

'Mystic energy, come toward me with everything you've got!' Qiuqiu screamed in its mind.

Meanwhile, in the outside world, the dense mystic energy of the Holy Water Sect's Second Peak endlessly rushed toward the cultivation room that Qiao Mu inhabited in a very peculiar manner.

Then, the mystic energy from Second Peak was far from being able to satisfy the bandit, Qiuqiu.

Everyone from the three peaks of the sect, including the Sect Master's Main Peak, was alarmed.

Everyone rushed outside and were shocked as they stared at the ball of mystic energy that was so dense it turned gray in the sky.

Such a large amount of mystic energy all rushed toward a certain spot without any lingering.

"Oh d*mn! All of the mystic energy is being attracted toward Second Peak?"

"What the heck is Second Peak doing?!"

The mystic energy in the sect was originally equally divided amongst the three peaks and the main peak.

Today, this equilibrium was utterly shattered!

Chapter 280: Wicked Disciple!

White snow covered the main peak of the Holy Water Sect. There was a row of simple bamboo buildings sitting in the depths of the light green bamboo forest.

The bamboo forest remained exuberantly green even in this world of ice and snow.

"We only have enough food to last three months." Murong Xun languidly laid on the brocade divan and expressionlessly stared at her sect master who sat across from her.

The sect master of the Holy Water Sect was 60 years old with ordinary looks. She wore an extremely simple blue and white robe and had an amiable appearance with a smile on her lips. She was holding... a large cattail-leaf fan that was used to light a fire for cooking.

It could be said that this elderly woman would not cause a splash if she was thrown into a crowd. She was completely like a normal elderly grandma from a peasant family.

The sect master's hand paused in her fanning as she sighed and said, "Ah, there's nothing to be done. It's a difficult world right now, and the common people's lives are even harder than ours. How about this? Murong, tell the 800 disciples in our sect that we'll change from one meal every three days to... one meal every five days from now on!"

The sect master showed five fingers and waved it.

Murong Xun's lips fiercely twitched. "..."

She just knew that this unreliable sect master could only come up with these rotten ideas!

"What's most important to us cultivators is to train our body's endurance. Enduring hunger is also a mission in our cultivation." The sect master earnestly said, "This old woman has not eaten a grain of rice in 10 days already. My body feels very light and extremely well..."

"Rumble!" The sect master's stomach produced a very striking noise.

Murong Xun nearly chortled out loud and she mockingly looked at the old woman.

Eh!

The sect master nearly could not stay composed. She lightly coughed and said, "Master isn't hungry. Master is about to enter secluded cultivation and enter a subconscious state immediately, so Master naturally won't feel hunger at that time."

Murong Xun stood up and opened the bamboo doors, shouting, "Someone, prepare a meal for Sect Master."

"You wicked disciple." The sect master angrily placed down her fan.

"In reality, the more realistic solution is to go to nearby cities and accept some missions as needed," Murong Xun said with an exasperated expression as she turned around and leaned against the door frame.

Mystic cultivators also needed to eat, so they could not fully abstain from eating.

However, they could restrain their body from exhausting any energy every time that they entered secluded cultivation, so they were able to endure hunger a bit better than normal people.

"No no no." The sect master furiously waved her hand. "The children are ambitious to improve and work hard at cultivating every day, so how can we bother them with some mundane matters?"

This again! This naive sect master! Murong Xun exasperatedly rolled her eyes. "Master, entering the secular world is also a type of training. They are cultivating their mind and training their ability to adapt and react. Their reaction ability is also a vital component of their strength in a battle."

"Master, the world has already turned into a battleground now. None of us can stay protected and safe!" Murong Xun sent the sect master a deep and meaningful look.

She could understand the sect master's practice but did not agree with it.

The sect master wanted to protect all of their sect's disciples, but this blind protection was, in reality, weakening the strength of their sect.

How could young buds that did not grow in bloody battle endure the battering of the world later?

The old woman was pensively silent for a long time before suddenly looking up and asking, "Ah-Xun, when will you accept the sect master position?"

Bang! The bamboo door was violently slammed shut by Murong Xun and nearly fell off of its frame.

The disciple who was walking toward the room with a bowl of porridge in her hand dazedly paused in her spot and looked back at the back of Aunt-Master Murong's fleeing figure.

"Wicked disciple!" The sect master leaped up in anger and slapped the brocade divan.

At this time, the porridge-bringing disciple looked up at the sky and called in shock, "S-sect Master, come and take a look! Hurry!"

The sect master lividly ran out of the bamboo building and set her eyes on the dense ball of mystic energy in the sky, shock overcoming her expression.