

My Crown 401

Chapter 401: Conspiracy

Liu Yizhi flung away her face and humphed coldly. "Would this old man be interested in an artificial face?"

"Elder!" Chou An crawled forward and hugged Liu Yizhi's left leg forcefully. Her wails became more sad and shrill, and her eyes were filled with a fervent hope. "Elder! Please fulfill my wish, please fulfill my wish, Elder!"

Liu Yizhi pulled out a wooden box from his chest fold and flung it on the woman's face. "Since you can't bear it and crave it so, then this old man will fulfill your wish! I want to see a bare faced and crystal clear you when I return to my room to rest later! In addition, this old man is not interested in fallen women!"

Chou An's single eye contracted abruptly, and her hands clenched the wooden box tightly. She hadn't even realized that her fingernails had embedded into the chinks of the wooden box and left a trace of blood.

"Junior Sister!" Peng Zhang truly cared for this junior sister.

The whole time, he had witnessed her cultivating assiduously with difficulty. She was unafraid of hardships and perils and trained in all sorts of adventurers' holy lands to condition her physique and abilities. Yet he was the one who personally chopped off the left hand of such a hardworking her, however reluctantly!

Now, just to obtain a mystic breakthrough pill, she voluntarily debased herself and sold out her body, willing to serve that ugly elder who was even older than her own grandfather.

Ah! Peng Zhang bellowed explosively before he was forcefully restrained by two disciples near him.

"Junior Sister, you can't do this! Junior Sister, Junior Sister!!!"

However, the two disciples firmly muffled Peng Zhang's mouth so that he couldn't let out another sound.

Peng Zhang struggled on the floor, and his eyes erupted in fury due to heartache from underneath his gray headscarf.

Chou An turned her head to look indifferently at Peng Zhang with her single eye. She then tightly clenched the wooden box in her hand and abruptly turned her head aside, not looking at him anymore.

Senior Brother, you care about me very much, but this is far from enough. What I need is a powerful person by my side to protect me, forever shielding me from any harm!

You! Are too weak, and simply do not deserve to stand by my side!

That night, Chou An trudged into Elder Liu's room. She blew out the lamp and lay her chilly body down on the icy divan. Her eyes looked directly at the black canopy overhead, and a tear fell out from the corner of her eye.

Father, the family clan, and him—since no one could become her backing, then she could only work hard to seize it herself!

She wanted to become strong! She wanted to become a great level-12 mystic cultivator! She wanted to trample that sl*t to death justly and honorably in the competition!

She wanted that cold and ruthless man to know, even if it were his heart's most precious, life and death was up to their own fates once they entered the arena. It was impossible for him to be in control of everything, and this time, she wanted him to be powerless to reverse the situation!

She just didn't know if she could still see the unperturbed and indifferent him at that time...

—-My Qiao's section break—-

It was midnight, and Qiao Mu was sleeping when she suddenly heard a clamor outside and saw the lamps lighting up one by one.

However, Doya simply turned over and set her calf onto her other leg. She continued to sleep after smacking her lips and did not show a hint of arousing.

Qiao Mu looked at her exasperatedly. How come they were such sound sleepers? They were already about to turn the world on its end outside!

She had just wrapped herself up and gotten out of bed, yet just as she opened the door, she saw two figures sprinting over one after another. One held her left hand, while the other tried to hold her right hand.

In the end, the youth holding her left hand slapped away the hand of the youth trying to hold her right hand and queried incidentally, "What are you doing?"

Chapter 402: Breaking and Entering

Duan Yue glared at him. "Only you are allowed to hold her hand?"

"Of course." Mo Lian irritably swept Duan Yue a glance and directly pulled Qiao Mu towards the main courtyard.

"I wonder what they are fussing about outside." Mo Lian spoke quietly. "I saw that even the three peak masters came out from their courtyards."

"Can't even have a sound sleep." A senior sister with a morning attitude grumbled while rubbing her eyes by the side.

Before long, Yang Xirong walked in with a darkened face and waved her hand at the group of Holy Water Sect disciples. "Go to sleep! Don't bother about it!"

The disciples looked at each other in dismay. How could they sleep when the racket outside was so loud?

They heard a male disciple from either Daybreak Sect or Heavenly Dao Sect say gloomily, "Your Coitus Faction[1] said you lost your pet just upon arriving and insisted on inspecting other people's courtyards

one by one. What kind of logic is this? No one's as unreasonable and overbearing as you! Couldn't you wait until morning?"

"Gosh! This handsome brother, why are you so vicious! I'm so scared! Do you want to feel and see how my heart got frightened so much by you that it's still thumping without pause!" When the Holy Water Sect disciples heard that charming voice, they instantly felt their hairs stand on end.

F*ck, that gang of harpies from the Coitus Faction had come! As always, they spoke so sickeningly and had to change and bend several pitches every time they spoke.

"Scram!" The Coitus Faction female disciple throwing herself at the male disciple probably provoked his spurn and his subsequent growl.

"Ah, why are you being so vicious! If you don't like me, then I won't lean against you, alright!" That woman spoke cutely with a suave and seductive voice.

Suddenly, she used a delicate voice that caused people's goosebumps to pop out onto the floor to say shrilly, "Oh my, it's Brother Situ. I didn't even see you. Brother Situ, why didn't you call Mei'er if you were here?"

Duan Yue already felt his whole body shuddering from listening on the side.

Why were the women from Coitus Faction each more sickening than the other? He had to hurry and look at his little stoic more to flush his eyes to feel better!

Yang Xirong's complexion turned even more unpleasant, and she waved at the disciples to say, "Don't worry about it and return to your rooms."

The little stoic silently turned around and wanted to listen to her second aunt-master and be a very obedient darling.

However, the speed at which things developed were completely out of your expectations. With a boom, the main door to the Holy Water Sect's Second Southern Courtyard was kicked down just like this.

Qiao Mu turned around and saw Situ Yi, that handsome and graceful youth, flee behind her and Mo Lian with two steps in place of three, as if he were chased by a ghost.

"Hey, don't run, Brother Situ! My heart feels frantic when you run!" The little stoic finally saw the girl called Mei'er clearly. She was dressed in bright yellow and had a fairly impressive figure, which could really cause someone's something to boil with one look. Her waist was so slender that it seemed like it would break with just a grasp.

She really would be a peerless beauty if not for her garish disposition!

After Situ Yi hid behind the little stoic and Mo Lian, he shuddered and briskly soothed the tiny goosebumps protruding on his arms.

He really couldn't stand it anymore!

Duan Yue was in dismay. He had no idea that things would change so dramatically. He had just wanted to find a place to hide, but it was too late now.

That Mei'er was originally throwing herself at Situ Yi. When she missed, she suddenly saw the two youths, Duan Yue and Mo Lian. She was immediately shocked by their celestial bearing and covered her small mouth with her handkerchief before letting out a shriek.

[1] Coitus Sect will now be translated as Coitus Faction.

Chapter 403: Sent Flying with a Kick

Duan Yue jolted in fright and simply shrunk behind the little stoic reflexively.

Mo Lian, on the other hand, was not that cowardly. He just instinctively stood closer to the little stoic and firmly gripped the little girl's small hand.

Seeing that Mei'er was about to throw herself at them again, the stoic face raised a leg and kicked Mei'er in the stomach to send her flying, leaving everyone's mouths twitching.

Well done!

Our dear Duan Yue and Situ Yi both gave the little stoic a thumbs up in their hearts.

Heavens, they only thought that they would feel awfully filthy and unbearable if their limbs grazed that woman from the Coitus Faction!

The little stoic could obstruct evils and shield against prattle. Her stoic and icicle face was practically a basin of unrivalled cold water that could directly cool you inside out, from head to toe!

"What are you squabbling about in the middle of the night? Are you still letting people rest?" Wei Nanfeng walked in drowsily, followed by Baili Xi and Princess Mi.

Qi Mei'er struggled to crawl up from the floor, her charming face long flushed red in anger. She spun around and stomped over to Qiao Mu in a huff and yelled, "Who are you?"

"You're so stinky! Go farther away!!" With a frigid face, the little stoic fanned away the scented fumes wafting to her nose using her hand.

Duan Yue and Situ nodded repeatedly. The little stoic could do what others couldn't. Just one sentence was enough to directly berate Qi Mei'er into stiffening her face.

"You!" Seeing that Qi Mei'er was about to jump into hot water, Xixia Valley's Valley Master, hurried over and shouted as if extinguishing a fire, "Stop! Miss Qi, didn't this Valley Master have people send you all back to your courtyard? Why are you still stirring up trouble in the Second Southern Courtyard! You arrived late enough tonight and shouldn't be disturbing other people's rest in the first place!"

Qi Mei'er stomped her feet and instantly cried on demand, her beautiful face becoming stained with tears. "My small pet, which is extremely poisonous, swam away. I only ordered all my senior and junior sisters to search the courtyards because I was worried about everyone and afraid that it would hurt other people! I didn't expect to be misunderstood by everyone, sniff, sniff, sniff."

Upon hearing her speak, the little stoic felt her hairs wanting to stand up. She glared at Qi Mei'er and snapped, "What kind of small pet?" Requires using 'swam' to describe it?

“My! My lavender snakelet.” Qi Mei’er said while sobbing and sniffing, “Its poison is really strong! If it were to bite someone by accident, I wouldn’t be able to save that person either.”

Everyone was immediately alarmed. They carefully observed the area around their feet and sighed in relief only after not finding anything.

Suddenly, a bright laughter travelled out from the rooms inside, and they saw Murong Xun, who was dressed in a brocade garment, strutting out.

She was gripping a slim stick skewered with a slightly burnt snakelet in her hand, and she smiled at a person behind Qi Mei’er. “Old hag, long time no see! I didn’t think that you would gift me with food upon arriving! Besides, it’s rather difficult to obtain food these days! Thanks, old hag! It’s quite crispy and tasty after a roast. Do you want to try a bite, too?”

Everyone was stupefied.

Peak Master Murong was truly a powerful person: she actually roasted and ate an extremely poisonous snakelet from the Coitus Faction immediately.

An old lady’s creased and drooping face appeared before everyone at a creeping pace.

Everyone was then enlightened to the fact that Coitus Faction’s Faction Master Granny Witch had also come. They heard that when this Granny Witch was young, she had flirtatious and voluptuous curves, and was incomparably beautiful. Many disciples from the sects and factions were infatuated with her feminine charms, but in the end, she treated them all as vessels and absorbed their cultivation one by one.

Chapter 404: Show of Strength

Later on, Granny Witch seemed to have offended someone, which caused her to be disfigured entirely into this abominable appearance now.

It was unknown what kind of grudge she had with Murong Xun that she would arrange for her disciples to enact such a farce upon arriving in Xixia Valley.

Murong Xun ate that lavender snakelet with great relish, while Granny Witch had scrunched her creased old lady face together.

It could be seen that the old lady was fuming right now. She turned around to snap at her disciple, Qi Mei’er, “You don’t think it’s shameful enough? Come back!”

Qi Mei’er aggrievedly pattered back to stand behind Granny Witch, yet she kept intently sweeping across the several outstanding youths with her bashful and beautiful eyes.

“Murong Xun, long time no see.” When Granny Witch finally opened her mouth, her voice was unexpectedly quite melodious, like a nightingale flying out of a valley. This contrast between her voice and her appearance rather caused people to feel like shuddering in fear.

“Tsk. It has been quite a long time.” Murong Xun casually threw the roasted snake she finished eating onto the ground. She studied Granny Witch’s sagging and creased old face with a grin. “Old hag, your face seems to be more wrinkled than from a few years ago!”

Everyone: “...”

Everyone could see Granny Witch’s face twitching slightly and could discern that her mood was not necessarily as calm as it seemed on the surface. In her heart, she had probably long wanted to butcher and eat Peak Master Murong’s flesh raw.

“This old woman’s disciple has disturbed everyone today.” Granny Witch said dryly, “This old woman apologizes to everyone on her behalf. Mei’er, Huo’er, let’s go.”

Not mentioning Qi Mei’er, that anomaly, the beautiful and white-clothed Huo’er, whose head was adorned only with a small beaded flower, was not quite the same as the colorful senior sisters surrounding her as she stood behind the old woman.

Her expression was placid, and her eyes were lowered. When she occasionally lifted her head to look at everyone, her gaze would be tinged with compassion.

This really was a white daisy untainted by the mire that it sprouted from!

Everyone said silently in their hearts as they all gazed sympathetically at that Miss Qi Huo’er.

What a pity for a good and respectable girl to mingle with the batch of Coitus Faction harpies! Sigh, it really caused their hearts to ache.

“Wait!” Murong Xun called out. This immediately scared Xixia Valley’s Valley Master Luo Jinyang, and he rushed forward with an apologetic smile. “Peak Master Murong, seeing as it’s already quite late now, can we leave everything else until tomorrow?”

Murong Xun swept a glance at this good old fellow who already tried to please everyone, and waved her hand to say, “I didn’t have any other objections. Since the misunderstanding was already cleared up, you all can leave if you want! But, our sect’s main door was kicked down by who knows which dunce. You have to repair it immediately, or else don’t even think about sleeping!”

“Repair it!” The Holy Water Sect simultaneously rebuked!

Xixia Valley’s Valley Master, the good old fellow, hastily nodded repeatedly. “Okay, okay, okay. I’ll immediately have someone repair this courtyard door and guarantee that it’ll be repaired right away.”

Murong Xun glanced at this miserable Valley Master and humphed. She muttered quietly, “So meddlesome!”

She had wanted the old hag to personally repair the door for her! This Valley Master, as a good old fellow, acted like a firefighter all day. Wherever there was a spark, he would douse that place with water!

Valley Master's inner thoughts: I don't want to either... Who knew you Three Sects and Five Factions would persistently be at each other's throats and flare up more crazily each time than the last!

Granny Witch resentfully led the Coitus Faction disciples out.

She was displeased that she was not able to show Murong Xun up today!

Chapter 405: Don't Look at Me Like This!

Before parting, Miss Qi Mei'er continued to ogle each youth, her longing gaze even averting from Mo Lian with some difficulty.

Suddenly, the little stoic raised her arm and shot a crow-gold arrow flying through the air directly at Qi Mei'er's pair of leering eyes, prompting everyone to twitch their mouths simultaneously.

When she saw the arrow coming, Qi Mei'er bent her supple waist backwards. With a whoosh, that crow-gold arrow quickly passed above her face in a close shave.

"What are you doing!!" Qi Mei'er wanted to yell just as she straightened her body, but she heard a dreadful sound coming towards the back of her head. With a casual push from Granny Witch, her body floated one step to the left, and she stared blankly at that crow-gold arrow, which she initially evaded but then attacked the back of her head after making a turn.

If Master hadn't saved her just now, that crow-gold arrow would have blown out her brains by now, her life gone.

When she considered this, Qi Mei'er's entire body shook uncontrollably, and she stared venomously at the expressionless Qiao Mu who was putting away the crow-gold arrow.

"You!!!"

Xixia Valley's Valley Master was simply speechless!

He was starting to regret it! Why did he promise back then to permit the Three Sects and Five Factions to hold this lousy competition in his valley?

Wuwuwu, as a good old fellow, he couldn't decline other people's requests. He was always agreeable and was easily persuaded into acquiescing.

If he had been able to stick to his principles back then and not agree to host it in the valley, he could have avoided all these quarrels and troubles now, sniff, sniff.

"Little girl, you're so young, yet your heart is so malicious." Granny Witch creased her old face and sneered, "You really are a disciple taught by Murong Xun, so cruel."

"Thank you for the praise!" Murong Xun's mouth twitched.

"You d*mn girl!" How could Qi Mei'er swallow her anger? She pointed angrily at Qiao Mu and interrogated, "Why so vicious?"

The little stoic glimpsed at her, then said dryly, "Don't stare at me like this! It will make me kill!"

Everyone: "..."

"Pfft!" Wei Nanfeng really couldn't stifle his laughter.

Duan Yue and Situ Yi, who were standing behind the little stoic, were even more unable to resist facepalming.

Little Junior Sister, aren't you being too egocentric? When did she even look at you!

Qi Mei'er was so enraged that her flushed face turned green, and she glared at her resentfully, rebuking, "Who was looking at you!"

"You were!" The little stoic gestured back and forth between their eyes with two outstretched fingers as a matter of course. "You were staring at me ever since earlier! I dislike your gaze! And your eyes are too ugly! Drawing them to look like a ghost—it's better if you don't come out at night to scare others!"

Not only was Wei Nanfeng this dunce laughing uncontrollably, but even the other people present, including Baili Xi, this fellow who normally didn't show much of an expression, couldn't help twitching the corner of their eyes upon hearing this.

All of a sudden, Mo Lian, who had been at a loss for words the whole time, looked down to glimpse at the little fellow's serious expression.

Alright, his darling was being very serious!

She really felt that that Coitus Faction disciple was looking at her the whole time...

For some reason, everyone couldn't stifle it anymore and laughed loudly when they saw Little Junior Sister's serious stoic face.

Murong Xun twitched the corner of her mouth slightly. She coughed lightly to remind the Holy Water Sect disciples that wanted to go with the flow and laugh out loud. "Your little junior sister is still young, so don't laugh at her."

Qiao Mu was baffled, so she raised her head to look at Mo Lian.

Chapter 406: The Unbearable Past

Although she lived until 26 in her previous life, she had in fact never experienced love.

She had fought tooth and nail for the lesser half of her life, persistently struggling and striving her hardest the whole time.

Back then, her mother had passed away, and her little brother was only two. Her father could not resist her stepmother's hounding and dragged their whole family to the main Qiao Clan in Guanlan City.

At the beginning, they couldn't enter the Qiao Clan's door at all and were arranged into a small dilapidated courtyard outside the main clan's house. Their entire family suffered from the Qiao Clan's scorn, and they scolded her as trash the whole time. The situation only turned better at age 16 when she triggered her mystic meridians.

At that time, everyone thought that since she was already past 15 years old, it would be impossible for her to trigger her mystic meridians successfully in this lifetime. However, she just kept stifling in her indignation, and one day after she turned 16, she just suddenly triggered her mystic meridians successfully on her own. It even stirred up quite a commotion throughout the entire Qiao Clan at that point.

After all, her situation could be considered rather unusual.

Afterwards, even though she had successfully triggered her mystic meridians, she still didn't dare to take it easy. At the time, she thought that since she was dumb, she had to put in double others' efforts.

Because of that, she proactively participated in various missions. She could earn money for living expenses while continuously tempering herself through battle.

She wanted to enhance herself, she crazily wanted to enhance herself!

She survived mission after mission, peril after peril, and she later joined an extremely ordinary team.

This team was unlike those others that consisted entirely of mystic cultivators and superhumans and even looked down on body cultivators.

This team that Qiao Mu joined even had normal people.

Every time this team that was made up of almost 20 mystic cultivators, body cultivators, superhumans, and normal people undertook a mission, everyone did their utmost to help each other and survive through vile circumstances.

It wasn't until her second year of carrying out missions when she saw her little sister Xiao Lin'er's ragdoll-like corpse in the wilderness that she broke down and wept bitterly for the first time.

She had never cried, not even when the main clan had constantly scorned and scolded her as a good-for-nothing trash all those years.

However, Xiao Lin'er's body at that point was just too tragic, and her tears just started streaming after a lapse in concentration.

She only remembered kneeling next to Xiao Lin'er's tattered body and tightly clutching a ragdoll that she had gifted her sister back in the day, crying so much that she choked with sobs.

Ever since Xiao Lin'er was sent away, she had secretly ran over to that affluent Dou Family and had checked up on Xiao Lin'er several times. She had given her some snacks, and even a ragdoll.

Mother had embroidered the ragdoll for her when she was young, and she later gifted it to Xiao Lin'er. In her previous life, she didn't even dare tell Xiao Lin'er even until her death that she was her older sister.

However, when they finally met once again, she only saw her little sister's pitiful corpse.

At that moment, as if she had lost her mind, she pieced her back together scrap by scrap, wanting to piece her fully together so that Xiao Lin'er could at least pass on with a complete body.

But she was unable to do even this.

Xiao Lin'er's corpse had been thrown out into the forest for too long and had long been mutilated after being gnawed on by wild dogs.

Like a lunatic, she killed all those wild dogs and then sobbed uncontrollably while hugging her pitiful sister.

Later, she realized that there was not a bit of use in crying. What could crying do? Other than being able to vent her emotions, there was no use at all!

Three years later, her teammates were eliminated one by one due to vile circumstances.

In the end, only she and Fan Qiuhe were left.

Fan Qiuhe! Upon reciting this name in her mind, dark clouds shrouded Qiao Mu's frosty eyes.

Chapter 407: My Qiaoqiao Is the Best

She thought she could forget, but reality proved that no matter how difficult it was to recall the past...

This name was still engraved deeply in her heart, as if it were incised with a sharp blade.

Fan Qiuhe was an extremely gentle man. He was eight years older than Qiao Mu and had maintained an image of being an always-smiling older brother all along.

As the eldest son of the Fan Clan in Guanlan City, he was of remarkably noble birth, but he was quite approachable. He was gentle and refined and extremely friendly, a good person in general.

Fan Qiuhe had always assumed the position of leader in the team. He had led everyone out of predicaments multiple times, causing everyone to hold him in high esteem. He was one of the few people Qiao Mu sincerely befriended in her previous life as a good! friend!

If other people could only be considered Qiao Mu's teammate, then he hands down could be considered a teammate plus good friend.

After they interacted with each other more, Qiao Mu relied considerably on this "good friend" and trusted him more deeply over time, even to the point of being able to sacrifice her life for him in a life-and-death friendship!

Yet it was this man who always wore a gentle smile on his lips, this friend that she viewed most importantly in her previous life, who, on the day their team got wiped out with only the two of them left, gave her a most fatal stab.

For two years, she was locked up that whole time in the dark room he had meticulously prepared for her. She stared on blankly at this good friend she trusted in the past as he knocked and hit her body throughout the entire day so as to investigate her inner world.

The one sentence this person kept repeating back and forth: Ah, it's so strange, Qiao Mu. Why is it that your cultivation is clearly so much lower than mine, yet your inner world is bigger than mine? Your apparition is so strange compared to others, too! Can you seriously tell me, why? I'm a person who has

an apparition, too! You can't lie to me and say that this is all the fruits of your apparition's labor! Your body has secrets, right, Qiao Mu? Please tell me! I really will be unable to thank you enough!

It was so ludicrous. If she were in the know, she wouldn't have ended up in such a passive situation.

She didn't understand anything at all!

She was duped into such a situation because she was a foolish girl that didn't understand anything at all!

"Qiaoqiao!" She suddenly felt her body lighten. It turned out that that fellow Mo Lian had actually carried her before the watchful eyes of the crowd.

They looked face to face at eye level. Her pair of large, dark, and round eyes stared straight at him, stared straight at him!

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"You're lost in thought, my Qiaoqiao." Mo Lian knitted his brows and whispered, "Your expression makes me feel uncomfortable."

It was like it had concealed an unfathomable number of sorrows, and it was so heavy that it anguished people on the inside.

"You must be tired after being disturbed for half of the night. Go to sleep, Qiaoqiao." Mo Lian simply shifted to a princess carry and turned around to stride towards her room.

Everyone: "..."

Murong Xun fumed with anger and scolded dryly, "This punk is really taking more than a mile after being given an inch now!"

"What did the chicken-clawed miss mean by her words just now?" Our dear Qiao Mu's puzzled voice rang out. "Could it be that she wasn't looking at me?"

Everyone: ... The lady was only used to making orchid-shaped fingers[1] while walking, but you called them chicken claws. How was the lady supposed to stand it!

"She was looking, she was looking at you!" Mo Lian said with a smile, "My Qiaoqiao is the best-looking."

Well said! Qiao Mu nodded, thinking that the youth was extremely spot-on.

She had said that she was looking correctly! That gaze was clearly aimed in her direction. The vile woman actually dared to fixate on her with such a repulsive gaze. It was already a light punishment to shoot her with an arrow just now.

Chapter 408: The Three Sects and Five Factions Congregate

The next morning, Myriad Faction's Faction Master Fei Pengyi had rushed over with his son, Fei Qing. Xixia Valley's Valley Master had thought that the Three Sects and Five Factions had all arrived, so he convened everyone to discuss holding the competition in advance.

Everyone could actually understand the valley master's frame of mind very well, and were extremely sympathetic.

He very much wanted to send them, this batch of gods of plagues, away earlier! Hurry and scam after competing! Don't stir up trouble in this Xixia Valley anymore!

Who knew—

"This disciple is Zhou Chao! We were informed by Faction Master two days ago that our Omni Faction still needs to wait for our Eldest Miss to rendezvous. She is estimated to arrive the day after tomorrow." The Omni Faction disciple who was in his 20s was ill at ease speaking in front of so many people from the other Three Sects and Four Factions.

"Ha, haha, ha!" Granny Witch laughed crisply. Disdain was written all over her old creased face. "This scaredy cat Ning Guilai drags his feet every time. Wanting to be a good person and not offend either side—how is there such a good bargain!"

"Isn't that right!" Myriad Faction's Faction Master Fei Pengyi was over 50 years old and had a wizened, long, and narrow horseface. He squinted his small eyes and sniggered, "There wouldn't be so much trouble had he decided to send the Eldest Miss Ning to participate in the competition from the very beginning."

"Humph!" Granny Witch humphed coldly. "Forget it, it's not like we care about waiting for those two more days."

"Many thanks for the seniors' understanding." This Omni Faction disciple wiped his sweat and bowed respectfully towards them.

Omni Faction's Faction Master Ning Guilai's second younger brother Ning Guidong sat within the Omni Faction's team. However, he didn't even dare let out a peep, let alone daring to bicker with Granny Witch and Feng Pengyi.

His small-mindedness was on the contrary not even as natural and unrestrained as that young disciple Zhou Chao. It really caused people to look down on him.

"It doesn't matter much to us. It's only August 7th right now anyways, and it's still early compared to the originally set date of August 14th. It's alright as long as the Eldest Miss Ning arrives on time!" Daybreak Sect's Sect Master Liang Wanshan waved his hand to say with a candid smile on his square face.

This was Daybreak Sect's Sect Master Liang Wanshan, the sect master that was always on Father's lips! After Father was expelled from Daybreak Sect, he still held the greatest esteem for this sect master. Seeing him today, Liang Wanshan looked to be a rather straightforward person.

Qiao Zhongbang was not Liang Wanshan's disciple back then. His master was an elder of the sect.

Qiao Mu once set aside time to intentionally ask her father about his situation back then. After a thorough discussion, she learned that the name of her father's master back then was Wei Cheng. He was an extremely unsympathetic person, which was why he heartlessly expelled him out of Daybreak Sect after her father's mystic meridians were damaged.

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As for the person who set up Qiao Zhongbang back then, Qiao Mu had also learned his name.

That person's name was Mu Liangde[1]. He had entered Daybreak Sect at the same time as her father. They stayed in the same room and were once the best of friends, eating and living together.

But it was precisely this disciple and friend from the same sect who Qiao Zhongbang totally did not guard against that poisoned him in secret.

He put a slow-acting poison in his drinks, which he would slowly feed Qiao Zhongbang every day and night. After the poison had accumulated in his body over time, it totally damaged his mystic meridians.

If it were not for the sapling's leaf helping Dad, allowing him to perceive mystic energy anew, Qiao Zhongbang would be an utterly useless person again and would never be able to recover his identity as a mystic cultivator.

Seeing that Miss Qiao was staring fixedly at Daybreak Sect's Sect Master Liang Wanshan without averting her gaze, Xixia Valley's Valley Master Luo Jinyang's eyelid twitched abruptly.

Chapter 409: I Want to Challenge You

"Cough." Valley Master Luo said hastily, "Since there aren't any objections, then let's just wait two more days for the Eldest Miss Ning! When she arrives, we can hold the competition in advance!"

It was Liang Wanshan, rather than the Omni Faction disciple Zhou Chao, who continued the conversation. "It's better to discuss this after the Eldest Miss Ning arrives! At that time, she will be weary from travelling and will definitely need to rest for one or two days. Valley Master, it doesn't hurt to wait a bit for the competition."

His words were truly reasonable. The Omni Faction disciple Zhou Chao cupped his hands towards Liang Wanshan with an exceedingly grateful expression.

The valley master was very impatient to have them speedily finish competing and then have them scam immediately! You could realize it as long as you weren't blind!

Xixia Valley's Valley Master Luo Jinyang chuckled in embarrassment, but he was sighing sulkily on the inside: How much longer will this gang of gods of plagues have to stay here? I just hope that they won't stir up trouble again these few days!

Due to the Three Sects and Five Factions, he kept feeling that he was aging rapidly and had even sprouted many white hairs from merely just these few days.

"Sect Master Liang, could I ask if there is a disciple called Mu Liangde in your sect?" Qiao Mu suddenly asked, her eyes still staring unblinkingly at Sect Master Liang Wanshan.

Liang Wanshan had long realized that this Holy Water Sect child was staring at him the whole time.

When he and Heavenly Dao Sect's Sect Master Situ Min went to call on the three peak masters yesterday, he had already noticed that this small child kept her eyes locked on him the whole time.

Sect Master Liang was adroit in world affairs and had long secretly ordered someone to inquire about her. He learned that this small child was Holy Water Sect's youngest disciple and was also the final disciple that Peak Master Murong adored the most.

As long as no one provoked the little girl, she would normally be extremely courteous.

Liang Wanshan smiled faintly at Qiao Mu and said with a nod, “Mu Liangde—there is indeed such a person. Was Miss formerly acquainted with him? Liangde, stand up.”

All the disciples were either seated behind their Sect or Faction Master. There were basically about 30 disciples in each of the Three Sects and Five Factions’ team. Fortunately, Xixia Valley’s conference hall was quite large, but it was still packed with people.

Mu Liangde, fitted in the Daybreak Sect’s distinctive white robe, stood up respectfully after hearing his sect master’s call. Although over 30 years of age, he was still clean-shaven and had handsome features, while his posture was confident and at ease. He was immediately well-received by the female disciples of the Coitus Faction, and many of them gave him coquettish glances.

Mu Liangde gave the little girl what he thought to be an elegant and graceful smile. “Who is this little miss? Liangde seemed to have never seen you before.”

The little girl nodded and said seriously, “It’s correct that you don’t know me! I want to challenge you in the first round of the competition! You just only have to remember that I am the person who is about to beat you to death!”

Everyone: “...”

Xixia Valley’s Valley Master’s mouth twitched incessantly! He just freaking prayed in his heart for the Three Sects and Five Factions to absolutely not stir up trouble, to not stir up trouble, these two days, but here trouble came again!

On the contrary, Mu Liangde was not angry and rather smiled extremely confidently. He said modestly in decorum, “Since Miss wants to challenge me! Then I can only comply! It’s just that we still need to await confirmation whether you and I will battle in the first round of the competition.”

When Qiao Mu stood up, the corner of everyone’s mouths kept involuntarily twitching continuously...

Qiao Mu tilted her small face towards Xixia Valley’s Valley Master Luo Jinyang, who had turned his head aside. “Good person Valley Master, I want to challenge Mu Liangde in the first round! Is that alright?”

Chapter 410: A Successful Draw or Not

The good person Valley Master really wanted to cry.

You could say that this little girl was cruel, yet she was such a soft, tiny thing and was more fair and adorable than anyone else.

If you said that she wasn’t serious! But she spoke more seriously than anyone else with that expressionless face of hers. Each of her sentences would sound quite serious when disassembled, but would be incredibly hilarious when strung together...

And that sentence, ‘I am the person who is about to beat you to death,’ really was totally comical.

“We still have to draw lots according to the competition’s rules, since this will be more fair to everyone.” Xixia Valley’s Valley Master gave out the pretext he had long thought of.

As soon as he finished speaking, he saw the little girl’s brows knit together in slight annoyance.

Xixia Valley’s Valley Master was inwardly distressed and hurriedly smiled amiably at the little girl. “However, you don’t have to be impatient, Little Miss. Even if you don’t draw Mu Liangde as your opponent for the first round, it doesn’t mean that you won’t be able to draw him for the subsequent rounds!”

Mu Liangde: ... What was this? He kept feeling like the valley master’s words made it seem like he was a prize! A successful draw or not? With a successful draw, you’ll win the prize. Don’t be discouraged either if you’re not successful; hang in there and continue to draw!

She continued to ask good naturedly, “Then will the results be publicized? Will the name of the person who draws the number tile that will do battle with Mu Liangde be publicized?” The little girl seemed to be especially willing to reason things out today.

The valley master instantly felt like the little girl was really protecting his pride, and he nodded delightedly. “That’s right, that’s right! The list of all the contestants that will do battle with each other will be publicized the day before. At that time, I will let the valley’s disciples prepare it properly!”

“Okay!” Our dear Qiao Mu didn’t say anything more and sat down docilely.

Only the Three Sects and Five Factions’ disciples kept feeling that some kind of gloomy atmosphere was faintly encircling the top of their heads.

Something was amiss! The little girl’s actions today were a bit queer.

Shouldn’t she immediately start lashing out at Mu Liangde?

Why did they feel that it was so strange when she abruptly asked the valley master if whatever list would be publicized or not?

On the other hand, it was like Mu Liangde was unaware of his impending doom and smiled unaffectedly. He gathered his white robe and sat down with an upright posture. He sensed a gaze on him and followed it to meet Duan Yue’s eyes.

Mu Liangde naturally did not dare to slight the sect master’s eldest personal disciple and smiled with a nod at Duan Yue. However, he was completely puzzled by why the other party would send him a meaningful gaze.

Seeing that everyone was in preliminary agreement, the valley master’s tense mood finally improved slightly. He said to everyone with a chuckle, “Since we still need to wait two days, then everyone can feel free to do their own thing! You can go take a walk outside the valley if you would like, while those who want to engage in closed-door cultivation can make the most of this time.”

The valley master’s implication: it didn’t matter if you took a hike outside or closed your doors to cultivate, just please do not stir up trouble in Xixia Valley!

Everyone only pretended to not understand the valley master's implication and all nodded with a smile before following their sect or faction back to their lodgings.

The valley master was greatly comforted that the Three Sects and Five Factions all closed their doors and did not go out during the following two days, choosing to rest in their courtyards instead.

The valley master's nerves that had tensed up for a good two days finally relaxed slightly when Xixia Valley's disciples brought back news that all was quiet each time after they sent over everyone's meals.

That night, Ning Bihuan finally arrived at Xixia Valley with the team of 20 or so people she was leading.

Because everyone's behavior had been extremely good the past few days, the valley master decided to treat everyone to a small feast out of his own pocket as a welcome reception for everyone.

When everyone went over, Ning Bihuan and her party had already arrived.