

My Crown 981

Chapter 981: Battling with the Old Daoist

"It's you?" Qiao Mu sneered at the cyan-clothed old Daoist.

In reality, even though this Daoist priest looked to only be in his forties, he gave people a hoary impression.

Qiao Mu was very aware that this Daoist priest's actual age definitely wasn't as young as he looked like at the moment.

Perhaps, he was almost a hundred years old.

In addition, after having previously exchanged blows with this person in the royal palace, she was very clear about his strength.

Yet she didn't expect that this darn Daoist priest, whom they couldn't find after searching through the entire city, would actually appear inside Qiaotou Village.

Although Qiao Mu was puzzled, she reacted extremely rapidly. Before that old Daoist could retreat, she closed in with her ferule that was coursing with an ink-colored glow and struck it directly at his neck.

A streak of fire then abruptly shot towards the old Daoist.

Qingluan also drew his sword, leaving an icy gust in his wake as he thrust it at the old Daoist, but he was blocked midway by a hawk-faced ferocious beast.

The hawk-faced beast was very grotesque, and it bore two pairs of innately asymmetric wings. The shorter pair, like deformed wings that hadn't fully developed, folded up before the chest, exceedingly ugly.

Qingluan didn't even bat an eyelid when he saw this hawk-faced ferocious beast, directly attacking it with several ice slashes.

Simultaneously, the Startled Swan Dagger that was hovering in mid-air flashed as it abruptly released a dazzling light.

Before it, four sealed transparent barriers suddenly emerged in the originally empty and shattered stone forest.

The little monk hastily rushed forward and slapped four to five seal contracts around the barriers. Subsequently, he turned around and blasted out a flame attack with his fist as he cutely cried out, "Benefactress, hurry inside!"

In order to dodge that flame attack, the old Daoist twisted his body slightly to let it pass.

Qiao Mu took this opportunity to rapidly rush toward the transparent barriers.

Yet how would the old Dao allow her to escape? A raven-black huge claw shot out of his chest, grabbing straight for Qiao Mu's shoulder.

Slap! In a moment of desperation, Qiao Mu pulled out a green vine and whipped the huge claw with it.

The old Daoist was momentarily caught off guard, so he took the hit. The claw shrunk back in pain, and Qiao Mu seized this chance to dart straight for the transparent barriers.

“Where are you running!” The old Daoist hollered, and then he laughed coldly, “This old man really underestimated you little lass! You have quite a lot of secrets on you. You can draw advanced-level summoning talismans, and also possess wood spiritual energy? Ha ha. Watch this old man catch you...”

Boom!!

The entire mountain ferociously quaked three times from a terrifying tremor.

This huge tremor had also shaken the prattling d*mn old Daoist into retreating several steps backwards before he spurted out a mouthful of blood.

“You darn lass!” The old Daoist hollered. *Just wait until he caught this crafty d*mn lass. He was definitely going to dismember her corpse so as to vent the hatred in his heart! /*

It was Qiao Mu who had precisely tossed out the Core Ravaging Thunder that Duan Yue had given her, being enough to give the old geezer a painful trouncing.

What better time than now when he was swiftly retreating to avoid the quaking!

Qiao Mu immediately slipped inside the transparent barriers.

Qingluan also cleanly broke free of his entanglement with the hawk-faced ferocious beast before charging inside the transparent barriers after Qiao Mu.

The little monk promptly formed several Buddhist hand seals to seal the pathway immediately, and the trio’s figures instantly vanished inside.

The old Dao wiped away the blood at the corner of his mouth before ferociously turning around. As he helplessly watched the trio flee like rabbits, he was instantly overwhelmed with such hatred that he roared at the sky, “Qiao Mu!”

*This d*mn lass, let him see where she was able to flee to!*

He didn’t expect that letting the d*mn lass off would allow her to grow up to this extent. *It was simply abominable.*

Chapter 982: An Inexplicable Sorrow

By the time the trio’s figures appeared again, a peaceful, small bamboo grove was before them.

This secret inheritance realm wasn’t large. There were just three small thatched cottages in the rear of the bamboo grove, with a shallow brook flowing past their doorsteps. It truly looked like an otherworldly place of seclusion.

It was lonely and tranquil, secluded and peaceful.

Upon entering this place, Qiao Mu took a deep breath and only felt a peacefulness flooding her heart.

All the fighting and killing outside had nothing to do with this place at all.

“Benefactress, what should we do next?” The little monk’s expression showed faint worry.

Yet when Qiao Mu saw this, she immediately rubbed his small face. “You’re so young, yet you act like you’re a fossil. There’s Sister here no matter what happens. What are you worried for. Let’s first go and see this senior.”

With this, she pulled along the round-faced little monk as she walked into the small bamboo grove and arrived before the three small thatched cottages.

When she pushed open the master bedroom, a faint pill fragrance wafted over.

Qiao Mu’s body suddenly froze, dazed, as she stared blankly at the skeleton on the bed.

The skeleton was covered with a crimson outer robe, and it was sitting upright with perfect posture.

For an instant, Qiao Mu seemed to see that female in fluttering red robes, who had wiped out the ten-thousand men army all by herself in bygone times.

“Benefactress.” The little monk shook the hem of her clothes.

Qiao Mu returned to the present, but when she looked down at Kongkong, Qiao Mu was still in a daze.

“What’s wrong?”

Qiao Mu shook her head as she subconsciously clutched her chest: *Why did she suddenly feel like she couldn’t breathe? It was just like a formless claw was gripping her heart tightly, preventing her from speaking at the moment.*

At that instant, her heart seemed to be suffused with indescribable pain, and it felt like she wanted to vent it out by weeping.

Her eyes subsequently reddened.

But, why did she suddenly want to cry?

“Your expression is very sorrowful, Benefactress.” The little monk hugged her leg and nuzzled it. “Carry me, okay.”

Even though Qiao Mu was still a bit dazed, she listened to the little baldy and carried him up.

The little monk then hugged her neck and stuck a small hand to her face, exclaiming in all seriousness, “Don’t cry. This young monk can’t bear the sight of women crying the most!”

The misery and heartache permeating the atmosphere basically vanished into thin air with the little monk’s remark.

Qingluan rolled his eyes speechlessly when he saw this.

“Do you feel a bit better?” The little monk’s palm possessed an endless warmth, and it did warm up her bone-chilling cheeks somewhat as it nestled against her face.

“This senior should have died many years ago.” The little monk turned back to look at the bed. “Look at her. Her expression is peaceful, with a hint of a smile. She must have already known that her time had come.”

Qingluan wanted to ridicule the little baldy. *What kind of eyesight do you have to be able to see that this skeleton has a peaceful expression?*

“Every person will eventually come to this day. Unless you can escape heaven’s will, and are able to defy Heavenly Law.”

“Benefactress, don’t grieve.” The little monk comforted in his baby voice, “We’d better go and see what kind of good inheritance this senior left behind for you! Since senior opened up her cave abode and let us enter, then she must have left something for you.”

Qingluan nodded. “Master, don’t feel sad anymore. You better go and take a look.”

Qiao Mu’s eyes reddened slightly. Actually, she also didn’t understand herself.

It wasn’t like this was the first time she faced death directly, so why did she get so emotional?

Chapter 983: Pill Inheritance

Indeed, after so many years, hadn’t she long witnessed many lives and deaths?

So why did she get so abnormally emotional when facing a stranger?

After setting down the little monk, she walked up and opened a yellowing letter that was placed beside the skeleton.

Qiao Mu read through it line by line:

‘My disciple:’

‘Master does not know your name, so I’ll call you this for the moment.’

‘The fact that you were able to set foot into this secret inheritance realm is the result of luck and good fortune, and that you and I were fated to become master and disciple.’

‘If you wish to inherit my mantle, then kneel down and wholeheartedly kowtow three times towards Master.’

Qiao Mu promptly set down the letter and knelt before the skeleton. Lowering her head with reddened eyes, she kowtowed three times towards this senior with utmost respect.

Afterwards, she picked up the letter again and kept reading.

‘Master’s name is Long Chengyun, a pill alchemist with rich experience.’

‘You need not know who I am.’

‘Take away the space ring on Master’s left hand. Inside contains the inheritance Master left for you.’

‘Additionally, inside the concoction room on the left, there houses the pills that Master has concocted over the years.’

'The thatched cottage on the right houses the medicinal herbs that Master has nurtured for years.'

'Take them all away with you.'

'Master doesn't have much to request of you. I only hope that in consideration of our master-disciple relationship, should you encounter any merfolk in the future, you can treat them kindly.'

The letter came to an abrupt end here. *As expected, Teacher didn't request anything of her./*

Teacher only hoped for her to treat merfolk kindly should she encounter them in her travels in the future.

But this simply didn't count as much of a request.

Qiao Mu only felt depressed in her heart. There were way too many doubts she had and things she wanted to know.

Such as, why did Shuntian Prefecture hunt Teacher down back then, and why did she end up dying inside this secret realm?

Once again, she was practically unable to suppress the sorrow in her heart.

Long Chengyun wasn't like the other people who took in disciples, who required their disciples to take revenge for their master and whatnot.

From the start, she didn't mention her foe's name, nor did she even mention Shuntian Prefecture.

When she removed the shining white ring from Long Chengyun's skeleton, she seemed to be able to sense a faint energy fluctuation while holding it in her hand.

Generally, such items as space rings couldn't be found in the Lower Star Domain.

As everyone knew, mystic cultivators possessed an inner world. Well, it was another matter whether or not they were able to open it.

Apart from this, if people wanted to store items conveniently, then they could only rely on the lockers that engineers forged.

Lockers were placed inside all the large cities as a convenient way to store items. Naturally, one had to pay a certain amount of magnetite as the storage fee.

Moreover, just a normal small section of storage space costs a lot of magnetite. Hence, unless the person was super rich, no one would do something so wasteful.

As for those villages and towns, there was no need to think about it. They simply didn't have lockers.

That's why in practical application, these lockers were expensive and inconvenient.

As for Qiao Mu's storage talismans, those were items that were hard to come by even on the black market, so there was naturally no need to think about those either.

Space rings were items that most people in the Lower Star Domain had never heard of.

This went to show that her teacher's identity indeed was special.

Unfortunately, her teacher didn't explain anything, so Qiao Mu could only put away Long Chengyun's letter in puzzlement. Afterwards, she got up and walked towards the thatched cottages next door.

Master had said that she left items for her in both the left and right thatched cottages.

Qiao Mu sighed lightly in low spirits: "Why isn't Teacher willing to be frank with whom her foe is?"

"Senior Long is a person with great wisdom and knowledge." The little monk murmured to himself.

Qiao Mu blinked, and a dark glint swirled in her eyes.

Chapter 984: You Aren't Indulgent?

If Teacher requested that she eradicate Shuntian Prefecture, she would actually be very much happy to oblige.

Qingluan nodded. "Perhaps this senior didn't want her disciple that she had never met to be exposed to danger."

Qiao Mu simply walked towards the thatched cottage on the left.

On the other end.

When Mo Lian went to pay his respects to his grandmother at the Queen Dowager's Longevity Palace, she affectionately pulled him along to a seat, gazing at him kindly as she said, "My good grandson, let Grandmother take a good look at you. Did you get thinner?"

"It's all Royal Father's fault. He just tosses a whole bunch of trivial matters for this grandson to take care of! This grandson got thin from being so busy." Our dear Mo Lian quickly pushed the blame to his father without any hesitation.

At this, the king, who had originally been sitting beside them, nearly leaped up from his chair.

The Queen Dowager couldn't resist chuckling, and she turned to glare at the king. "My king, since the crown prince is busy with his wedding, don't push so many things onto him during this period of time."

Biased! So nakedly biased!

As the crown prince of a kingdom, what was there to be busy with for his wedding? Wasn't it just a matter of giving orders?

Even though the king couldn't help but look at his mother sourly, he still nodded without daring to rebut. "This son understands."

Crown Prince Mo also immediately displayed his obedience. "It's still Grandmother who loves this grandson most dearly."

The Queen Dowager laughed out loud before turning to look at him with a grin. "Where's your wifey? Quickly summon her so that Grandmother can take a look! The little lady that my grandson took a fancy to is definitely the best of the best."

Upon speaking of this, Crown Prince Mo felt crushed, and he said with a light cough, "In, in a few days, Grandmother."

“What happened?” Seeing that he was hemming and hawing, the Queen Dowager couldn’t help but be a bit curious, after which she then remarked, “Oh, that’s right. I heard that after the competition a few days back, your wife suffered a light injury? Then let her recuperate properly for a few more days. Grandmother isn’t in a hurry either.”

Crown Prince Mo hesitated before confessing, “My wife will probably not come to the palace lately.”

On the side, Queen Zhao shook the teacup in her hand, nearly spilling the tea to the floor. Afterwards, she grumpily glared at her son with her beautiful eyes.

“What happened exactly?” The Queen Dowager hastily inquired, “Could it be that someone made my granddaughter-in-law suffer grievances?”

“Correct, she was truly wronged!” Crown Prince Mo hastily continued, “Grandmother, you must back up your granddaughter-in-law.”

“But of course.” The Queen Dowager nodded quickly and said, “How could the child my grandson took a fancy to be bad? Rest assured. Tell me all her grievances, and Grandmother will help you both pursue responsibility.”

However, the king bitterly made a dejected expression. “Cough, Royal Mother, you had better not pamper the children too much.”

“How am I pampering!” The Queen Dowager instantly retorted, “This grandson of mine has never made me worry while growing up. How have I pampered such a good child?”

“Tell Grandmother, and Grandmother will help you couple uphold justice,” the Queen Dowager gave the final word.

The king’s entire face was a bit green as he hastily interrupted, “There’s nothing, there’s nothing, there really is nothing. Royal Mother, since you’ve just returned, then you must be fatigued from the long journey, so how about taking a rest first?”

“Rest for what.”

“The twelfth prince has arrived.”

When Queen Zhao heard that her youngest son had arrived, her gaze instantly became sharp.

“Greetings to Grandmother, Royal Father and Royal Mother! Brother!” Mo Yu, that lad, could be heard before one saw him, and his voice made people particularly energetic.

“You still know to come back.” Queen Zhao muttered pettishly.

Chapter 985: Still Hankering After It

The youth’s raven hair was hidden underneath his small jade coronet. He wore a light-colored, narrow-sleeved equestrian suit, paired with a wide, purplish-gold belt. Even though his body was still growing, he was handsome and had good posture.

A faint smile was on his lips as he trotted inside, and it seemed as if star fragments were twirling within his eyes, making them sparkling and dazzling beyond compare.

“Greetings to the twelfth prince.” The row of junior royal maids simultaneously made their salutations.

After waving his hand, Mo Yu flashed to Mo Lian’s side and excitedly called, “Eldest Brother, the moment I entered the capital, I heard that you got engaged to a crown prince consort! I want to see my sister-in-law. I knew it was her! Now I can finally have my peach...”

There definitely wasn’t anyone else like this brat, who was still hankering after a peach seven to eight years later.

Mo Lian twitched his mouth, yet before he could say anything, Queen Zhao reprimanded with a stern face, “Yu’er, you have been misbehaving more and more recently. Not to mention your lack of manners and how you’ve been running around all over the palace, this time you even went to disturb your grandmother’s peace at the mountain villa.”

Mo Yu hastily pressed close to his mother. “Mother, Grandmother has been praising me during this entire way back. If I didn’t run off to the mountain villa to accompany Grandmother, how bored would Grandmother have been celebrating this new year?”

Queen Zhao cast him a glance before poking his head with a harrumph. “Don’t tell me that it wasn’t that Grandmother found you too noisy, which was why she brought you back in advance?”

“Of course not.” It was as if Mo Yu’s mouth had been smeared with honey, and he said with a grin, “It was that this son missed Father, Mother, and Eldest Brother, hence entreating Grandmother to return. Royal Mother, Royal Father, Eldest Brother, Yu’er has been missing you all the entire time even while outside the capital.”

Even so, his father chuckled ironically, evidently not believing his youngest son’s pack of lies.

On the contrary, Queen Zhao was coaxed into merriment even though she still maintained her stern face. Nevertheless, as she swept her youngest son a glance, the corner of her mouth involuntarily curled up.

Afterwards, the old queen dowager remarked with a smile, “You don’t say, if it weren’t for Yu’er coming to accompany me at the mountain villa, this new year would’ve indeed been lacking some festive ambience.”

Queen Zhao commented while smiling, “Observing from your rosy and healthy complexion, Royal Mother must have rested extremely well at Ziyu Mountain Villa.”

“Correct.” The queen dowager smiled benevolently as she praised with a nod, “Ziyu Mountain Villa is quiet and secluded, and the mystic energy is rather dense there, truly making it the best location for cultivation. Should the opportunity arise, the king and the queen could pick a day to make this trip. Treat it as a way to drive away your cares and to recharge for a period of time.”

“Your Majesty is absolutely right.”

The old king peered at his mother cautiously before inquiring anxiously, “Has Royal Mother’s cultivation progressed?”

“It could be considered a small accomplishment.” Back in the day, the queen dowager had fought together on a horse with a spear alongside the former king and the old Vassal King of An’nan to conquer the kingdom. Hence, her kung fu was naturally outstanding.

She had been stuck at the level-14 great mystic cultivator initial success realm for nearly 10 years.

After heading to Ziyu Mountain Villa and quietly cultivating there for half a year, the queen dowager finally progressed one small step forward, entering the level-14 mystic cultivator phenomenal success realm.

Upon hearing this, the king’s face lit up with delight. “Congratulations to Royal Mother for having progressed in your cultivation.”

“Congratulations, Your Majesty.”

People with cultivation at the queen dowager’s level had long been indifferent to this, so she only waved her hand with a smile. “Let’s not talk about this anymore.”

She turned to look at Mo Lian. “Today, upon entering the capital, we and Yu’er heard rumors flying about. Pacification Pagoda is our Mo Kingdom’s state protection pagoda. What do they mean by a witch has come into the world, so disaster will befall from heaven? And they even said that Pacification Pagoda has an unstable foundation and seems to have swayed? What kind of ridiculous gossip is this. It’s simply a load of hogwash.”

Chapter 986:

The King Feels a Bit Crushed

“Rest assured, Grandmother. These are all rumors spread by people with nothing to do. This grandson will deal with them appropriately.”

“Right, right, Royal Mother, you can rest assured.” The old king also chimed in, “It’s all because there was a disastrous rat infestation near Pacification Pagoda a few days ago. A large rat had gnawed at a brick in the back of Pacification Pagoda, which got falsely reported as the pagoda having an unstable foundation, a witch coming into the world and whatnot.”

A flash of insight flitted across the old queen dowager’s eyes. “Why would the capital encounter a rat infestation out of the blue? We fear that there’s someone secretly behind all of this. My king, you must pay more attention to this matter. Don’t just toss everything to the crown prince. Look at how busy you made my grandson.”

While coughing in embarrassment, the king criticized inwardly.

He just knew it!

As long as his Madam Mother came back, she was sure to defend the crown prince to the very end. There really wasn’t anything he could say...

He felt like he was a son that got picked up off the streets!

When the king was young, there was the queen dowager to help attend to state affairs. Now that he was old, his son was also super capable, so the king was very accustomed to being a hands-off leader.

After hearing the queen dowager indicating that he should deal with the rumors surrounding the rat infestation, the king felt very vexed, stealthily casting a glance at his son.

Crown Prince Mo's handsome face was extremely solemn, and he actually didn't spare a glance at his old father.!

This unfilial son who just dug pits for his dad to jump into...

The king gritted his teeth. "Cough. Royal Mother, you really are worrying too much. The crown prince has nearly finished dealing with this small matter."

"You don't have to worry about this. Let the young'uns train themselves!" The king quickly helped his Madam Mother up and over to the inner room with a guilty conscience. He kissed up to her the entire way, completely ignoring the fact that the royal queen dowager was rolling her eyes.

Daddy was so cowardly!

Mo Yu pursed his lips, and then his large, sparkling eyes suddenly lit up as he hopped before Mo Lian and pleaded, "Eldest Brother, bring me to see Sister-in-Law right now!"

"You child are too hyperactive all the time. How can your Eldest Brother be as free as you. Don't fool around." Queen Zhao gruffly chastised Mo Yu.

Upon recalling that his wife had run off without a trace, Mo Lian was a bit frustrated. After asking Queen Zhao to excuse himself, he walked out the door.

"What's wrong with Eldest Brother?" Mo Yu automatically asked while blinking his eyes.

Queen Zhao beckoned toward him.

"Mom." Mo Yu was grinning from ear to ear as he hopped before Queen Zhao, plunging his head into his mother's embrace at once.

The temper that had been building up in Queen Zhao's heart over the days dispersed at once with her youngest son's wheedling. She poked his head and chided, "Humph, how fortunate that you still remember your mom in your heart. Otherwise, who knows when on earth you'll return to the palace."

"Of course not. This son is constantly thinking about Mom wherever he goes. I also brought back many special local products for Mom, and will have it sent over to Mom later!"

Queen Zhao was amused by her son, and she held his hand as she inquired, "From your tone of voice earlier, you were readily calling the young lady from the Qiao Family 'Sister-in-Law' in quite an affectionate manner. You were acquainted with her since long ago?"

"I have never seen her, but have long heard of her." Upon speaking of this, our dear Mo Yu unhappily griped, "When I was five, Eldest Sister-in-Law gifted Eldest Brother a peach. Eldest Brother treasured it so much! He wasn't even willing to let Yu'er eat it. That peach looked so delicious!"

Queen Zhao was stupefied. *What peach? To the extent that her youngest son had been hankering after it ever since he was five years old...*

“Mom, you’ve seen my eldest sister-in-law before, right. What does she look like?”

“She is indeed good-looking.” Queen Zhao nodded affirmatively.

Except that she was cruel and heartless, and had a chilly, proud, and aloof temper. She really wasn’t all that great as a person...

Chapter 987: Departure

The little lady that Queen Zhao deemed as not all that great was currently inside the secret inheritance realm that the Startled Swan Dagger had triggered, meticulously studying the pill inheritance that her teacher Long Chengyun had left behind.

Her teacher had left a large amount of spirit stones, as well as an inheritance jade tablet, inside the space ring.

After Qiao Mu absorbed the inheritance jade tablet into her conscious, it conferred the inheritance inscribed on the jade tablet to her, just like how the Golden Talisman Jade Tome did.

Hence, these two days inside the secret inheritance realm, Qiao Mu had been quietly immersing herself in the pill concoction art that her teacher had left behind.

The knowledge regarding pills that Long Chengyun had collated was very systematic and comprehensive. It started from the elementary before progressing to the profound, making it easy to understand.

Qiuqiu had said that she had once memorized countless medical and poison texts like the pharmacopeia, medical scriptures, and the thousand poison holy scroll. However, there were many pieces of knowledge in them that weren’t coherent with the pill recipes and medicine drugs here.

For example, regarding the names of herbs, she would remember herbs as one name, but in reality, it was probably called by another name here.

Hence, it made things rather confusing.

She wasn’t too clear about it previously, but thinking about it now, the reason why she had such an enormously complex and formidable pharmaceutical foundation was probably that she had learned it from Master Xuan Huang when she was a soul.

She had probably learned quite a lot during her soul state.

Perhaps even the Golden Talisman Jade Tome was related to this.

Now, after inheriting Great Master Long Chengyun’s pill inheritance, she could make judgments after making comparisons side-by-side, and it would also facilitate her herb cultivation and pill concoction later on.

She could indeed make accurate judgments by relying on the herb’s characteristics, shape, size, etc.

However, as the herb names here were different from what she had learned in the past, it was still a bit troublesome in practical application.

After carefully straightening out Long Chengyun's inheritance and referencing, comparing, and learning around 80 to 90 percent of it, she temporarily set it aside.

She had promised Mo Lian that she would return in three days. If she were to return late, he would probably get anxious.

Following this, she went to the concoction room on the left side and saw rows of pill bottles arranged on the shelves, randomly opening a bottle and taking a sniff.

"Hundred rarities pill." Qiao Mu was visibly moved.

This was a pill that could nurse the qi and blood in one's body, and even a thousand taels of gold wouldn't be able to purchase it. Normal people could prolong their lives after consuming it, which made everyone fight and scramble for it.

"Life-extending Pill."

"Level-12 mystic breakthrough pill."

Qiao Mu kept muttering as she collected the small medicinal bottles on the shelves. Her intuition told her that this Great Master Long Chengyun was filthy rich.

As the little monk followed beside her, he asked cutely, "Benefactress, could it be that we'll be going out after you finish packing these up?"

"Mhm. If we're not going out, could it be that we'll keep on staying here?" After collecting all the medicinal bottles inside the space ring that her teacher gave her, she stroked this shining white ring on her finger.

"But there's that old Daoist priest covetously eyeing you as his prey outside!" The little monk exclaimed with deep worry, "Benefactress, you make people worry too much."

Qiao Mu couldn't help but twitch her mouth as she rubbed the little baldy. "Look at how mature you're trying to act. You're four years old, not forty years old."

"The new year has passed, so I'm five already!" The little monk immediately corrected her, with an 'I'm not a child anymore' earnestly written all over his face.

Yet Qiao Mu found the sight amusing. After collecting the pills here, she held his small hand and walked towards the thatched cottage on the right.

After opening this thatched cottage, a wave of medicinal fragrance immediately assaulted her senses.

Qiao Mu stood at the door, gazing at the large medicinal herb garden before her.

Chapter 988: The Little Monk's Stroke of Genius

She stepped backwards, out from the doorway, and took a look at the building.

Mhm, it was just a rundown thatched cottage!

Yet after entering, it was as if she had stepped into a fantastic medicinal garden, with patches upon patches of spirit herbs and exotic flowers in full bloom.

This time, Qiao Mu was slightly at a loss.

This medicinal garden was at least 20 mu[1], right? How long would it take for her to finish digging up all these spirit flowers and herbs all by herself?

But the big question was, where should she keep them?

Some of these herbs couldn't survive for long after being dug up, withering shortly afterwards.

In that case, wouldn't she have wasted her time and energy if she couldn't store them after painstakingly digging them up?/

If only the sapling were awake, it would be great.

At this moment, Qiao Mu missed Qiuqiu from the bottom of her heart.

Unfortunately, Qiuqiu was still in closed-door cultivation, and she didn't hear from it at all.

Exhaling a long breath, Qiao Mu sat down cross-legged, attempting to refine the mystic energy inside the secret realm.

Since she was going to leave, then she shouldn't waste the mystic energy here.

Would she be able to refine this secret realm without relying on Qiuqiu?

It would be great if she could successfully refine it like with the paradise.

She could temporarily leave these herbs here, then have Qiuqiu transplant them into the medicinal garden inside the paradise after it woke up.

As Qiao Mu pondered over this matter, she had already blocked off her five senses, silently entering a mystic energy-refining state.

The little monk and Qingluan squatted beside her to watch.

"Big Bro Qingluan, Benefactress isn't thinking of directly refining this secret inheritance realm, right?"

Qingluan couldn't help but glance at him with a raised eyebrow. "You little monk know quite a lot."

"But of course. This young monk can be considered to have read ten million scriptures, and is somewhat knowledgeable about various notable figures, anecdotes, magic weapons, and famous tools of the pugilistic world," stated the little monk collectedly.

Qingluan instantly lost the desire to converse with him.

This child wasn't cute at all. It felt like he was so intelligent that he could outmatch adults. He was simply too precocious!

Yet the little monk couldn't stay idle. "Big Bro Qingluan, will Benefactress succeed?"

"Of course."

“You have such confidence in her?”

“She is Masta! Of course I’m a hundred percent confident in her.” Qingluan gruffly swept him a glance before retracting his gaze, silently keeping watch over Qiao Mu without a sound.

“What to do about the old Daoist outside?” The little monk exclaimed with knitted brows, “I can guarantee that he must be outside, waiting for us to walk right into his trap!”

At his reminder, Qingluan was reticent.

Afterwards, the little monk sweetly shared, “I heard Master say this before. That not even great spiritual cultivators of the spiritual realm would be able to deal with the explosive energy generated from crushing a refined secret realm.”

“That old Daoist’s cultivation has most likely been suppressed to around level-15 mystic energy cultivation. He certainly wouldn’t be able to withstand a secret realm’s self-detonation.”

Qingluan stared flabbergastedly at this soft and adorable little monk that had rosy lips and pearly teeth.

Aren’t you a monk with mercy at heart?

Could I ask what you are talking about now? Are you trying to instigate murder...

Why could he understand each individual character, but couldn’t comprehend their meaning after stringing them together?

The little monk was still as calm and collected as before, and he blinked his eyes as he looked at Qingluan. “Why do you look surprised?”

He was merely stating the truth!

It was already strenuous enough to battle the old Daoist with just the three of them, not to mention that the old Daoist also had a hawk-faced ferocious beast with him.

As he spoke, the entire secret inheritance realm quaked slightly.

The little monk abruptly stood up.

Qingluan also jumped up. “It’s about to collapse.”

Chapter 989: Relentless Pursuit

Since this secret inheritance realm’s size didn’t amount to even a tenth of the secret paradise realm, the mystic energy contained within it naturally couldn’t match up to the secret paradise realm either.

After activating her inner sight, Qiao Mu could see mystic energy continuously pouring into the star domain in her dantian from all directions before the sapling absorbed it all away.

Qiao Mu’s heart jolted.

Perhaps, even if the sapling had entered a deep slumber, it was still able to absorb mystic energy from the outside world, as well as refine a secret realm, by instinct.

Sure enough—

As time went by.

About 80 to 90 percent of the mystic energy in the entire secret inheritance realm had entered the sapling's tummy.

Soon enough, the secret inheritance realm started to collapse bit by bit with a series of tremors.

Having experienced the secret paradise realm's refinement and collapse, Qiao Mu wasn't worried at all.

After opening her eyes, she grabbed hold of the little monk, and the three people's figures instantly vanished from the slowly collapsing secret realm.

Qiao Mu was now holding a shining white bead in which one could observe a small bamboo grove, as well as three indistinct thatched cottages, tumbling around inside.

Nevertheless, Qiao Mu did not have the time to get emotional or excited at the moment. She first put the heart of the secret inheritance realm away in her inner world.

At the same time, she swiped out the Startled Swan Dagger and gave it a spin before directly slashing it towards a certain direction in the air.

The old Daoist's robe was sliced open by Qiao Mu's sharp dagger, making him glower at her incisively.

Cutting to the chase, Qingluan also instantly spread out its wings, swiftly grabbing its Little Masta as well as flinging the little monk onto its back. It then rapidly fled the scene, charging high into the heavens with a shriek.

The old Daoist simply didn't expect for Qiao Mu, this little fellow, to actually run off on Qingluan without a second word!

His nostrils immediately flared up in rage.

He had been circling the forest on this mountain for nearly three days. Ultimately though, he dared not stray too far away from this area, waiting at the location where the three of them had disappeared into the secret realm.

In the end, he did catch them coming out as expected.

But he didn't expect that these three people would actually be so uncouth as to immediately run off without saying anything at all after getting out!

Did this seem like something a great talisman practitioner plus great mystic cultivator would do?

It was sheerly improper!

The old Daoist was fuming with anger as he stepped onto his hawk-faced ferocious beast and commanded it to attack.

*This d*mn Qiao Mu, let me see where you can escape to!*

An ominous glint flashed past the old Daoist's eyes, and he shouted at the hawk-faced ferocious beast to pursue the three people in front. He also raised his hands slightly, accumulating mystic energy around him in preparation for an attack.

His entire body swelled up like an inflating balloon and bulged with formidable power.

Meanwhile, his cyan-colored Daoist robe fluttered in the fierce wind.

Standing on Qingluan's back, Qiao Mu naturally noticed the old Daoist's malicious pursuit.

She nonchalantly activated her eggshell shield as she coldly gazed back at that relentlessly pursuing darn Daoist priest.

Waves of ferocious mystic energy also surfaced in her body, and a small water trickle even emerged from her palm before congealing into lustrous strings of shattered ice crystals.

In the blink of an eye—

The ice crystals melded into six-cornered snowflakes, which she abruptly shot at the old Daoist with a horizontal sweep of her arm.

Since she started fleeing after exiting the secret realm, the old Daoist thought that she was a scaredy cat and was afraid of fighting with him.

He didn't anticipate that right now, she actually...

Made her move!

He watched as this handful of snowflakes bore down menacingly as they dispersed and gyrated over.

Soon afterwards, they directly struck his billowing cyan-colored Daoist robe.

"Ha!" The old Dao roared angrily.

Chapter 990: Let's Fight Then

The muscles underneath the old Daoist's robe bulged as he instantaneously mustered up his level-15 cultivation and discharged mystic energy.

This discharge ended up colliding with the snowflakes that Qiao Mu had shot over.

Instantly, several slicing sounds were heard, and the old Daoist's eyes bulged in disbelief as he looked at his slashed robe. Not to mention...

The snowflakes had also cleanly lacerated his two arms through the robe, and they were bleeding.

Upon exchanging blows, a small level-12 mystic cultivator injured him?

Qiao Mu didn't speak a word. Her battle approach was that she absolutely wouldn't waste a single breath on you once the fight began.

She flicked her fingers, and the dozen advanced-level attack talismans she was guiding flew over head-on, simultaneously bombarding the old Daoist's face as if they didn't cost anything.

At the same time, following Qiao Mu's intention, Qingluan turned around and flew toward the hawk-faced beast, spewing icy winds and hail straight at the beast's head.

On the side, the little monk was also forming several Buddhist seals silently. At this moment, Qingluan and Qiao Mu couldn't keep an eye on him either.

One charged towards the hawk-faced beast as it initiated an attack.

While the other instantaneously jumped off Qingluan's back, activating her defensive shield. She took several large strides in mid-air before rushing towards the old Daoist.

The old Daoist was simply flabbergasted.

*Wasn't this d*mn lass fleeing just earlier?*

He thought that she was scared. *Yet what was with her turning back around and rushing over as if she didn't care for her life?*

How would he know that at the beginning, Qiao Mu didn't want him to see her putting away the heart of the secret inheritance realm, which might attract unnecessary troubles. Therefore, she planned to leave this area and return to the capital as soon as possible.

Moreover, she had promised Mo Lian that she would return to the capital in three days. By this time, three days had passed. If she returned any later, her family members would be sure to nag at her nonstop, as well.

She hadn't wanted to bother with the d*mn old Daoist, yet the result—

She saw that old Dao trailing behind her, pursuing relentlessly like a fly that one just couldn't get away from.

Consequently, her rage flared up.

What the heck? Could it be that she was scared of this wicked old Daoist?

Let's fight then!

For now, let's see who'll have the last laugh.

She really hadn't been scared of anyone during these years after her rebirth. *He thought that she couldn't kill him?*

Seven to eight years ago, she had already dared challenge a multitude of strong enemies all by herself, so was it even possible for her to be scared of a mere Daoist right now? What a joke!

The little monk was correct, yet not quite correct.

The true cultivation of the three of them added together indeed couldn't measure up to this old Daoist and the hawk-faced beast's.

But was it possible that she only had this paltry bit of cultivation to rely on?

She was a person who, besides her cultivation, possessed various divine weapons and spiritual treasures!

Her true standard in actual combat really couldn't be determined by her cultivation.

By this time, Qiao Mu had already leaped before the old Daoist, and she suddenly turned a black ring on her finger.

Because she was so close, the old Daoist could clearly see her action. For some reason, his eyelid jerked abruptly!

“Ha ha.” Qiao Mu let out a nearly unfeeling and dull laugh before suddenly raising her hand, activating and encasing the defensive thunder barrier around the old Daoist and the hawk-faced beast.

Being suddenly trapped inside a semi-transparent light barrier, the man and beast were momentarily confounded.

“Spiritual weapon!!” The little monk cheered, exclaiming in his sweet voice, “Benefactress, since you have a spiritual weapon on hand, why didn’t you take it out earlier!”

“Masta originally had no desire to bother with him!” Qingluan commented with a harrumph, “Yet he just had to come and seek death.”

Inside the defensive thunder barrier, the old Daoist and the hawk-faced beast roared furiously from the thunderbolts that struck down on their bodies.

The old Daoist’s eyes were fiendish as he glowered at Qiao Mu through the semi-transparent barrier. “You think you’ve won?”