

## **Noble Ruler 1211**

### Chapter 1211: Explanation

Seven-story pagoda, Fengmin Mountain.

After a temporary silence, that voice finally rang again. "Since you've already decided, just go in."

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled. He didn't let me choose again this time.

She smiled, thanked him, and walked toward that door.

The moment she put her hand on the door, that person suddenly asked, "You came here on purpose this time?"

A ray of faint light quickly flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes that were looking down slightly. When she looked up again, they were completely calm.

"What do you mean, Elder?" she asked strangely with a face filled with confusion.

After a pause, that voice sounded. "Nothing, go ahead."

The tone was calm.

Chu Liuyue nodded and didn't ask further as she pushed open the door and entered.

Kada.

The door closed, and the hall recovered its initial silence.

After a long while, a faint voice sounded. "I must be old and foolish..."

This incident was just an accident. If this kid really has the ability to plan such a huge operation, it would be too shocking. I must be thinking too much. However, Chu Yue does seem rather fated with that person... Choosing it once might be out of chance, while twice might be coincidental. Then... What about the third time?

"Perhaps I should check on the child's background..."

...

Chu Liuyue didn't know about what was going on outside, but at this time, she couldn't be bothered to deal with it. This was because she only wanted to stay at this place and properly cultivate!

Looking at the messy lines on the four walls, Chu Liuyue felt very close to them for some reason. It was clearly only her second time here and there were only a few days in between, but she felt like she had reunited with them after a long while.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath. The surrounding force silently came up and surrounded her as if it had missed her for a long time.

Chu Liuyue was slightly dazed, and something seemed to flash across her heart at that moment. However, this feeling quickly disappeared. Before she could clearly capture what it was, it had already disappeared.

She flung her head, trying to wake herself up, before she sat cross-legged and directly started cultivating.

The moment she closed her eyes to focus and circulate her bodily force, the surrounding force fought to enter her body!

Chu Liuyue's aura started strengthening at an incredible speed!

...

"Sigh..." Elder Wan Zheng sighed again.

At the side, Elder Hua Feng couldn't continue listening, and he couldn't help but say, "Wan Zheng, you've been sighing here ever since you came back from there. Can you not do this anymore? I'm frustrated just from listening to you!"

Elder Wan Zheng looked up and glanced at him lazily. "Sigh... What do you know? Your disciple isn't locked up."

“...Wan Zheng, if you continue talking in such a manner, there’s no need for us to talk anymore!” Elder Hua Feng acted as if he were going to leave. I can’t argue with someone like this! At this point, he still doesn’t forget to flaunt!

“No matter what, Chu Yue is already locked up. Do you think you can convince Bo Yan to release him?”

Elder Wan Zheng didn’t accept his words as he grunted. “One month... Do you know how much I can teach him in a month?!”

Such a good talent is delayed just like that!

“What else can you do? Things have already ended up in this state!” Elder Hua Feng stroked his beard. “However, I think you shouldn’t sigh like this. Can’t you look at the positive side? Upon deeper thought, that kid didn’t lose out! Supreme Yuan instrument... Do you think everyone has a chance to get one?”

Even they didn’t have such a treasure!

“That’s true!” When this was mentioned, Elder Wan Zheng finally looked elated. “He was originally very talented. With this, it’s like adding wings to a tiger!”

“It is a good thing, but you shouldn’t be happy too early.” Elder Hua Feng shook his head. “It’s a crime to hold a precious item. With such a treasure, Chu Yue might be the target of jealousy.”

Originally, this item should be the academy’s. In the end, it became Chu Yue’s because of some twist of fate. It was fine if the students didn’t know, but... Not all of the elders were convinced.

“Although he’ll suffer when he’s locked up at Fengmin Mountain, he’s safe at the very least. But when he comes out...” Elder Hua Feng revealed looks of worry.

Upon hearing this, Elder Wan Zheng suddenly laughed. “Haha, don’t worry! All of these aren’t problems! That kid... has a backer!”

“Oh? It seems like this kid has an extraordinary background? I knew it! With his aura and movements, he didn’t seem like a kid from an ordinary family—”

“No, no, I don’t know his family background.” Elder Wan Zheng smiled and shook his head. He said mysteriously, “I only know that even if he gets into more severe trouble, he won’t have to worry about his life.”

Someone would definitely protect him till the end!

Elder Hua Feng was confused for once, and his expression turned stern. “You mean—”

Elder Wan Zheng chuckled, but he didn’t want to reveal it further. “I can’t talk about this, but all you need to know is that although the kid seems gentle and harmless with not much background, in actual fact... Heh, he’s a true steel board! Whoever causes him trouble... tsk!”

They’d just be courting their own death!

...

The news of Chu Liuyue being locked up at Fengmin Mountain quickly spread around the academy.

The crowd had varied reactions. Some were worried, and others gloated.

Even the people who initially disregarded this name started to view him in a different light. This new student is such a troublemaker, which also proves his uniqueness in another area, right? If he doesn't have true abilities, how could he survive that intense battle? Besides, rumor has it that he blocked an attack for Rong Xiu.

Additionally, he beat Liu Zi'an, a stage-eight warrior, with his stage-seven warrior skills. Everything proves that this new student has more potential than everyone else previously predicted!

But no matter what, Chu Liuyue's name had finally risen in the academy after this incident! Everybody was familiar with the name 'Chu Yue,' and it became a common topic for a period of time.

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However, this situation didn't last for long because an incident worthy of more concern took place—Golden Wings Sect's leader Jin Minyao came to the academy personally.

Hall on the third floor of Dong Huang Clock Tower.

The situation was tense.

Two rows of chairs were placed within the hall.

Elder Bo Yan was sitting on the first seat on the right, while the other academy elders sat on the other seats respectively. Sitting opposite him was a muscular middle-aged man.

He had a squarish face with a black mustache. He wore a dark gown and sat upright with a harsh aura! This person was exactly the Golden Wings Sect leader, Jin Minyao!

His face darkened as he questioned, "This means that the academy isn't planning on giving an explanation for my beloved disciple's death?"

Chapter 1212: Recall

Elder Bo Yan suppressed his anger and explained, "Sect Leader Jin, I've already told you clearly that Ling Xiao Academy isn't in the wrong for this issue. If you want to blame somebody, you can only blame your disciple for being too greedy!"

"Logically speaking, that Yuan instrument belongs to my Ling Xiao Academy. But as it descended at Ancient Feather Abyss and there were many people who wanted to snatch it, we didn't say much and just fought for it fairly. However, Jin Lei still relentlessly chased us after we got the item, even coming all the way to Fangzhou City!"

A hint of anger surfaced on Elder Bo Yan's face, and he raised his voice. "Sect Leader Jin, I believe I don't have to explain further what Fangzhou City is, right? He caused havoc all the way to our territory. Are we supposed to be polite all the way?!"

Jin Minyao snorted coldly. "Even so, you could just punish him. Why must you do it so harshly!?"

“How are we harsh? It was clearly Jin Lei who sought his own death!” Elder Bo Yan was so furious that he laughed. “From start to end, he single-handedly requested for the alliance with the other clans to go against Ling Xiao Academy! In the end, he saw that he was on the losing end and tried to hold my academy’s disciple hostage! He even risked everything and burned his bloodline power to snatch the Yuan instrument!”

Hearing this, shock flashed across Jin Minyao’s face. He clearly hadn’t known beforehand that Jin Lei had used such harsh methods to snatch the treasure, even risking his own life on the line!

“Even if we didn’t kill him, he wouldn’t have survived!” Elder Bo Yan said rudely.

Jin Minyao was stumped. After a momentary pause, he defended his disciple. “He was in the wrong at first, but he didn’t have to die for it. Now, he has died in Fangzhou alone. At the very least, I have to bring his corpse back! If not, how do I explain it to everyone else?! Also, I must have the person who killed my disciple! An eye for an eye!”

At this moment, the other elders present couldn’t continue listening. But before they could speak, they heard a voice come from outside the door. “I killed Jin Lei.”

This voice was cold and elegant with a hint of unparalleled pride, causing one to be unwittingly nervous.

The crowd turned around.

A large and tall figure stood before the crowd.

Elder Bo Yan asked, “Rong Xiu, why are you here?”

Jin Minyao was first stunned before he squinted his eyes dangerously. "Sky-Cloud Empire... Rong Xiu?"

"This incident is related to me, so I naturally need to be here." Rong Xiu shot Elder Bo Yan a reassuring gaze before he walked in.

He walked to the innermost seat and sat opposite Jin Minyao. "Jin Lei tried to kill me, so it's reasonable that I defended myself and killed him instead. What, Sect Leader Jin... are you thinking of taking revenge?"

Jin Minyao's face turned ugly. I only knew that Jin Lei was killed in Fangzhou City, but nobody knew the details. I originally thought that it was some elder from Ling Xiao Academy, but who would've thought the culprit was Rong Xiu?!

Honestly, he would rather offend an elder from Ling Xiao Academy than be Rong Xiu's enemy. This was because Rong Xiu... was a ruthless character!

Rong Xiu had no background at all and was bullied by everyone, but he still held it in and ascended to the His Grace position years later, even controlling the entire Sky-Cloud Empire...

Just this alone proved what kind of person he was!

Besides, although Ling Xiao Academy had a deep foundation and great power, it was still an academy. When it met with incidents, it had a lot of restrictions and boundaries. In extreme scenarios, Ling Xiao Academy would always choose to use a gentler method to solve the problem. This was also one of the reasons why he dared to come up to them directly.

However, the Sky-Cloud Empire was different! After Rong Xiu ascended the throne all these years, he made a lot of moves, and the soldiers under him were very strong.

Jin Minyao knew without a doubt that with Rong Xiu's single command, the entire Sky-Cloud Empire would become a sharp sword of his! He could manipulate them as he wished!

Jin Minyao took a deep breath in. "Rong Xiu, I know that you're capable, but how can you not show any form of remorse for killing my disciple?"

Rong Xiu stood with one hand behind his back and looked very calm. His thin lips curled up slightly, but he didn't have much smiling intent in his cold eyes. "So what if I killed him?"

He didn't explain further, only leaving this sentence behind.

"Oh. As for his corpse, Sect Leader Jin, you don't have to think about it. When he died in my hands, his corpse wasn't left behind," said Rong Xiu nonchalantly.

Jin Minyao finally couldn't hold himself back as he harshly slammed the table and stood up! "Rong Xiu, don't be too much of a bully!"

Rong Xiu glanced at him with an extremely cold gaze.

Elder Bo Yan also stepped forward and scolded, "Sect Leader Jin, don't forget what place this is!"

Even though they didn't want to fall out with the Golden Wings Sect completely, there was nothing much to say if the other party continuously pushed their bottom line!

Jin Minyao suppressed his anger and changed his tone. "The person who snatched the Yuan instrument with Jin Lei isn't here, right?"

Rong Xiu squinted his eyes dangerously.

Elder Bo Yan and the rest were collectively stunned.

Jin Minyao coldly laughed. "Although I wasn't present back then, I'm not completely ignorant. I know some things very clearly! The reason why Jin Lei died in the end is largely due to the person snatching the Yuan instrument from him at the very last moment! If it weren't for that person, Jin Lei wouldn't need to burn his bloodline power, and the remaining things wouldn't have happened!"

His dark gaze scanned across the crowd. "As long as you hand that person over, I'll let this matter rest!"

...

Fengmin Mountain.

Time slowly trickled past.

Chu Liuyue sat cross-legged and completely focused on her cultivation.

The surrounding force kept entering her body, and her aura continuously strengthened.

This time, she could clearly feel that her cultivation state here was different from outside.

The force here seemed endless, and it had a strange connection to her body. Not only could the force rapidly enter her body, but it could even smoothly flow to her limbs and combine with her strength.

Of course, this force ultimately gathered in her dantian.

The water droplet floated quietly, and the seven lines became increasingly bright.

Here, Chu Liuyue almost forgot about time.

When she focused on cultivating, the lines on the four walls started moving again in a strange rhythmic way that followed Chu Liuyue's breathing.

The accumulated strength within her body increased. At some point, a crisp breaking sound was suddenly heard!

Chu Liuyue was stunned and later shockingly discovered that the sound came from the black pagoda!

Perhaps it was because the force kept flowing around repeatedly, causing it to break silently!

Seeing the fourth crack that suddenly appeared, a scene instantly appeared in Chu Liuyue's mind!

Chapter 1213: She Went Before!

It was a cliff, and there was an octagonal pavilion on the cliff.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows slightly. She was very familiar with this scene because she had seen it more than once!

She still remembered that she had once played chess with Rong Xiu here. This was also the place where the two of them agreed to wait for her to go back to Tianling and discuss the marriage with her father.

However, Chu Liuyue quickly discovered that the scene this time was much clearer than before. The more important point was that she finally saw the scenery around the mountain!

She seemed to be standing in the octagonal pavilion again.

Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings and saw many mountains with lush greenery. Below the cliff was an emerald-blue lake that flowed around.

She vaguely found the place familiar as if she had seen it before. Then, she walked to the edge of the octagonal pavilion and looked in another direction.

Suddenly, her movements stiffened as her heart beat crazily when she saw the distant scene.

It was a lake that surrounded a group of mountains. For some reason, the lake didn't look low and seemed to be on the same ground as the middle of those mountains.

As the mountain peak she was located was higher, the varying heights of the mountains before her didn't affect her vision. This allowed her to see the lake and its surroundings very clearly.

Bright sunlight shone down on the lake, reflecting the water surface.

Above it were pinkish translucent flowers blooming. They floated quietly on the water surface as they swayed with the movement of the lake. Some branches spread out and waved even more animatedly with the wind.

Beside the lake were other types of herbs that looked very healthy. They were clearly taken good care of.

The light mist surrounded everywhere, causing the scene to look more fairy-like.

Everything was as beautiful as a paradise.

Chu Liuyue opened her mouth and didn't know what to say at that moment as her heart plunged into deep shock. The moment she saw this scene, she knew that it was the medicinal garden!

So it looks like this... So if one stands here, they can see such a scene if they look up! Chu Liuyue surveyed her surroundings again, suddenly recalling that this mountain peak was in the middle of this academy.

This was the region that connected the Xuan Master area and the heavenly doctor area. The straight-line distance wasn't very far away from Medicinal Valley, but due to the land formations, one had to walk a huge round to get to that area.

Most people had to take that round, but she wouldn't. This was because... She had been to that medicinal garden!

...

Dong Huang Clock Tower.

Jin Minyao's sudden suggestion caused the entire room to fall into a deadly silence.

Silently, a murderous cold intent spread.

Everyone present was strong warriors, and they naturally could swiftly feel that the murderous intent's source was... Rong Xiu!

His expression didn't change much, but people felt fear for some reason.

"Sect Leader Jin." Rong Xiu spoke in an extremely cold voice that was even colder than his usual tone. "Jin Lei deserved to die. If you continue to make a scene... I'll wait for you at the Sky-Cloud Empire any time!"

Jin Minyao was stunned before he realized the severity of the matter. What does Rong Xiu mean?

The corner of his lips twitched. “Rong Xiu, are you challenging me? For someone who doesn’t matter?” I’ve already made it very clear earlier that as long as they hand over that person, I will let the matter slide. But seeing Rong Xiu’s reaction... It seems like he is bent on protecting that person!

Jin Minyao looked curious. “Interesting... I wonder who that person is. How can he have the Sky-Cloud Empire’s His Grace protect him to this extent?”

Rong Xiu’s thin lips curled up slightly into a cold smile. “He’s someone you definitely can’t offend.”

“You—” Jin Minyao’s expression changed. But seeing Rong Xiu’s cold and stern gaze that didn’t seem like he was lying, he couldn’t help but hesitate.

Elder Bo Yan also took a step forward at this moment, and his suppression spread! “Sect Leader Jin, do you still want to continue talking about this?”

The warning intent was obvious!

Jin Minyao knitted his brows. This is Ling Xiao Academy’s territory, and I came alone. If we really fight, I’m not these people’s match!

After much thinking, he decided to give in. Okay, okay! Since you’ve decided to protect him to the end, then... I’ll let him off this time, but I’ll definitely find out that person’s identity! If he meets me...”

He scoffed coldly. “It’ll be time for him to pay everything back!”

Then, he whipped his sleeves harshly and walked toward the door in big strides.

“Sect Leader Jin.” Rong Xiu suddenly called him.

Jin Minyao stood still and turned around in frustration, yet he saw an extremely faint smile appearing on Rong Xiu’s face.

“You can try all you want.”

...

Jin Minyao left furiously.

The crowd in the hall felt exhilarated as they shot Rong Xiu increasingly comforted and admiring gazes.

Elder Bo Yan glanced at Rong Xiu and was hesitant with his words. Actually, I really want to ask what Rong Xiu’s relationship with Chu Yue is. Brothers? Rong Xiu’s mother only had him, and she passed on not long later. His mother’s clan also doesn’t seem to have any other descendants either.

Friend? But they seem much closer than that... At the very least, I have never seen Rong Xiu get angry because of someone else. As long as it is related to Chu Yue, he will easily be affected emotionally. This is quite weird.

Friend-like mentor? That seems closer to the truth. If not, Rong Xiu wouldn't have taught Chu Yue how to activate the academy's barrier.

After much thinking, Elder Bo Yan arrived at a conclusion: The two of them must be more compatible.

Rong Xiu had a personality that made it hard for outsiders to get close to him. But when he was with Chu Yue, he seemed especially relaxed as he let his guard down.

Given that Chu Yue willingly risked his life to save Rong Xiu, the two of them must have a deep relationship. Elder Bo Yan didn't ask in the end.

The crowd quickly left on their own.

Rong Xiu returned to his residence once again.

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In the blink of an eye, it was the beginning of the month.

The monthly assessment was held as usual. Like before, a few new students were recruited, and the old students continued to take their assessments.

After a month, Luo Shishi and the rest had basically adjusted to life at the academy, and they all achieved decent results in the assessment. But because Chu Liuyue didn't appear for a long time, the few of them weren't too happy.

“Sigh, if only Chu Yue was here!” Zhuo Sheng stroked his chin and said regretfully, “Without him, I just feel that something is off. Originally, I wanted to see what he’d achieve in this month’s assessment!”

Too many things had happened in the past month. Now, they all knew very clearly that the kid had hidden his true abilities previously.

They originally wanted to take this chance to ask him properly, but it was a pity that he was locked up at Fengmin Mountain again!

“I heard that Fengmin Mountain’s environment is terrible and that the punishment is harsh. I wonder how he is doing...” muttered Luo Shishi.

Chapter 1214: Do You Dare?

“Shishi, I don’t think you should be too worried. That kid got into so much trouble but is only locked up at Fengmin Mountain for a month. He’s already very lucky. Besides, I heard Elder Wan Zheng say that he was going to break through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor but didn’t succeed because he was delayed by the incident that day. However, he should be able to break through without much time after he comes out.” Luo Yanming could see past this very well.

He looked up at the Qing Yun Ranking. “Perhaps he can directly get onto the Qing Yun Ranking in no time! If we’re not there by that time, it won’t look good on us!”

“That’s true! Shishi, we should take the time to cultivate!” said Zhuo Sheng in agreement.

Luo Shishi’s lips pressed against each other slightly, and she nodded seriously.

...

At the same time, Dong Huang Clock Tower.

Elder Bo Yan and the others were gathered here once again. The students who had joined in the fight for the supreme Yuan instrument were also here.

Everyone sat in their own seats, but they all had ambiguous expressions.

“Everyone is here. Rong Xiu, you previously said that you had something important to announce. Can you say it now?” Elder Bo Yan glanced at Rong Xiu.

That’s right. They were here today because Rong Xiu gathered them.

Normally, the academy students didn’t have such power, but Rong Xiu was clearly different. And from Rong Xiu’s previous interaction with Elder Bo Yan, the latter faintly felt that this issue was related to that supreme Yuan instrument. Thus, he didn’t delay it further and called everyone over.

Amongst them included the students who had already left a few days ago.

“Pfft. I thought Elder Bo Yan had something urgent to tell us, so I came back without stopping. Who knew it was actually because of Rong Xiu?” Strange mockeries could be heard within the quiet room.

Wei Xiping leaned against the chair and had a smile of contempt. "I didn't expect Rong Xiu's current status in the academy to actually be higher than many elders. He can call us to come and go as he wishes?"

"Wei Xiping." Elder Bo Yan knitted his brows tightly. "Today's issue is related to Ancient Feather Abyss, so I gathered all of you. You don't have to target Rong Xiu."

Wei Xiping was indifferent as he smiled nonchalantly. "That incident? Didn't it already end? Rong Xiu single-handedly snatched the treasure back and made a huge contribution! What does it have to do with us?"

The atmosphere was even stiffer. Everyone could hear the mockery and contempt in his words.

Quite a few people looked at Rong Xiu.

Unexpectedly, Rong Xiu didn't seem to be angry as his lips curled up into a smile with deep meaning. He looked at Wei Xiping and said, "This incident doesn't have much to do with the rest, but it has a lot to do with you."

Wei Xiping's heart skipped a beat. "Rong Xiu, what do you mean?"

Rong Xiu said lightly, "That day, Elder Shu Feng and the others set up the barrier to open the space forcefully, wanting us to return to the academy directly. This was something that the elders had long planned in advance, and it was carried out smoothly then. Logically speaking, we should've been able to come back successfully, but... Jin Lei and the rest still chased us. Wei Xiping, don't you find this strange?"

Wei Xiping's heart started beating wildly, and anxiety quickly flashed across his eyes. He tried his best to calm himself down as he had a cold expression and questioned, "Rong Xiu, are you doubting me?"

"That Xuan formation was built with everyone's strength. If it weren't because something went wrong somewhere, Jin Lei and the rest wouldn't have been able to seize the opportunity." Rong Xiu's slender and white fingers knocked against the chair lightly. Then, he looked up directly at Wei Xiping. "I'm not doubting you. I'm calling you out."

"Rong Xiu!" Wei Xiping suddenly stood up from his chair and looked furious. "This incident is serious. Don't blame it on me without evidence! I know you have always hated me, but the elders are all here. Don't even think of putting the blame on me!"

He was very agitated, and his voice was much shriller. Perhaps he was angry, or maybe there was another reason.

The many elders present were also taken aback as their gazes jumped between Rong Xiu and Wei Xiping doubtfully.

"Rong Xiu, are you saying that... Wei Xiping played some tricks that day?" asked Elder Shu Feng anxiously with tightly furrowed brows.

Actually, he also felt that something was amiss. Originally, that Xuan formation was almost slashed open by Jin Lei, but it was still successfully completed with Rong Xiu's help. Normally, they could've completely used the Xuan formation to fling those people behind away. However, this didn't happen.

The situation was urgent at that point in time, so he couldn't think about it in detail. But after the incident was over, he found it weird every time he thought about it. It wasn't that he didn't have such a doubt, but because the people there were all academy elders and students that were very trustworthy, he really didn't want to doubt them. Thus, he instinctively hid it.

Now that he heard Rong Xiu's words, Elder Shu Feng immediately recovered his senses.

"You must have evidence when you speak!" Seeing that the elders were about to be convinced by Rong Xiu, Wei Xiping hurriedly yelled. "Rong Xiu, you must produce evidence!"

I did it extremely discreetly back then, so I shouldn't have left behind any traces! Thinking of this, Wei Xiping sneered. Rong Xiu has no proof, so I have to take this chance and attack him in return!

However, Rong Xiu's next sentence caused his lips—which didn't even have time to rise—to freeze.

"Since I dared to say it in front of so many people, I naturally would have evidence," Rong Xiu smiled slightly and said leisurely.

Wei Xiping's heart skipped a beat. Impossible... Impossible!

He quickly recalled the scene once in his head and didn't discover any loopholes. Is Rong Xiu... lying to me?

"Okay! Then, take out the evidence!" shouted Wei Xiping harshly.

Rong Xiu lifted his chin. "The evidence is on you. You take it out."

"What?" Wei Xiping was dazed.

Rong Xiu patiently explained, "Back then, the Xuan formation was slashed by Jin Lei and was on the brink of breaking, so I used my own force to repair the Xuan formation and complete it. Hence, every line of the Xuan formation has my force."

Every word Rong Xiu said caused Wei Xiping's face to turn paler by a shade.

"The reason why Jin Lei and the rest could catch up to us is naturally due to the Xuan formation being damaged. And the force that was purposely left behind... it's still in the culprit's body now."

Wei Xiping's lips started trembling.

"If you want to prove your innocence, you just need to draw a Xuan formation now. We'll then see if it has my force." Rong Xiu leaned back and shot him an almighty gaze as if he were looking at an ant. "Wei Xiping, do you dare to do it?"

Chapter 1215: Pushing to Death

Rong Xiu ended his sentence.

The room was completely silent, and everyone stared at Wei Xiping.

As Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace, Rong Xiu had already forged Your Grace's Golden Body. Due to this, his force was very special and was presented in an extremely bright and golden color, so it was very easily recognizable.

“Wei Xiping, what do you think?” asked Elder Bo Yan in a low voice.

Wei Xiping kept breaking out into a cold sweat, and it almost drenched his inner shirt.

The shirt stuck to his body, making it very stiff and uncomfortable. He opened his mouth and found his voice with much difficulty. “I... I...”

He suddenly looked up and was furious. “This is humiliating to me! I reject it!”

However, this move didn’t work on the elders present.

Elder Shu Feng sneered. “If you reject it, it means it’s a tacit agreement. We’re just asking you to draw out a Xuan formation—is it that difficult?”

Wei Xiping swallowed a mouthful of saliva and defended himself. “There were so many people present that day. Anyone could’ve done it! Why do you only suspect me? Everyone has to be checked then!”

Seeing his behavior, Elder Shu Feng increasingly confirmed his suspicions. Thinking of the dangerous scenario that day, his blood boiled. We finally managed to work together to bring the item back, but because of Wei Xiping’s selfishness, it caused so much trouble afterward! If it is really Wei Xiping who did it, I will be the first person to punish him!

“Why don’t we start from you before we go to the rest!? If not, we can start with me!”

Things had already developed to this stage, and Wei Xiping couldn’t defend himself any longer. He stood there with his two hands hanging low. His face was white, and his entire body trembled slightly.

These few days after he came back, he had been busy recuperating and secretly regretting that he didn't injure Rong Xiu during the chaotic battle. The only comfort was that Rong Xiu would have a complete grudge against the Golden Wings Sect from that day on.

Even if it seemed calm on the surface, he knew that Jin Minyao was petty. Now that Rong Xiu had killed his most beloved disciple in public, he definitely wouldn't let it go.

However, Wei Xiping didn't expect that Rong Xiu completely defeated him before Jin Minyao could attack! Also, it was in front of so many elders!

All those present, including the students, were people of power!

His behavior was undoubtedly a betrayal to the academy! Once he admitted to it, there was no turning back!

Countless gazes landed on him like sharp blades that scraped his body as if they were about to scrape his skin off, leaving only his naked, bloody self! It was as if there was a hand that clutched his heart tightly, blocking his airway and causing him to be unable to breathe.

Actually, even if he didn't speak, his reactions were more than words.

Elder Bo Yan shook his head and sighed. "Wei Xiping, do you know how serious it is to betray the academy?"

“I didn’t!” Wei Xiping instinctively retorted in a sharp voice, but his face and eyes couldn’t conceal his emotions and panic. “I-I really didn’t! Elder Bo Yan! Mentor! Mentor, you must put in a word for me!”

It was useless to beg Elder Bo Yan. His only hope now was his own mentor, Elder Jiang Lei!

However, Elder Jiang Lei wasn’t stupid. It is clear that Wei Xiping did this, and the academy definitely won’t let him off easily. Not to mention that my status in the academy isn’t like Elder Bo Yan and the rest, so I don’t have much right to speak. Even if I did, I wouldn’t stand up for Wei Xiping!

It’s the mentor’s fault if the disciple does wrong! Previously, it was reasonable because he was hidden in the dark. But if I speak for Wei Xiping now, I will be intentionally hiding him! At that point, I’ll also be implicated!

All these thoughts quickly flashed across his mind. After calculating the pros and cons, Elder Jiang Lei immediately made a decision. He suddenly stood up and pointed at Wei Xiping, furious. “Just say if you did this or not! Did you do anything to let the academy down?”

Wei Xiping’s heart went cold.

He knew his mentor the best. Since his mentor said such words, it was clear that he was on the academy’s side.

He clenched his teeth tightly, and his expression immediately changed. “Mentor, even you don’t believe me?”

Elder Jiang Lei flung his robe and coldly said, “My trust depends on evidence! How do you want me to believe you now?! You have left the academy for more than a year, and now that you finally came back, how could you do such a thing behind my back?”

Wei Xiping sneered. Is he... completely removing himself from the picture? Now that I'm in trouble, my closest mentor isn't thinking of how to protect me but how not to be implicated!

1

"Okay, Jiang Lei, you don't have to be so angry. Even though he's your disciple, he has his own hands and feet. Can you control him in everything that he does?" Elder Bo Yan looked very calm as he raised his hand, gesturing for Elder Jiang Lei to calmly sit down.

Elder Jiang Lei turned around furiously with a hint of guilt. "Bo Yan, I failed to teach my student. I also play a part in this—"

"This has nothing to do with you." Elder Bo Yan shook his head. "If it weren't because Rong Xiu is so meticulous to leave evidence behind, even I wouldn't expect him to do such a thing... Like you said, he has left the academy for some time. So even if he really planned to do something, you wouldn't have known about it."

Elder Jiang Lei secretly heaved a sigh of relief, but his facial expression was increasingly anguished as he held his forehead with one hand, like he was heartbroken.

"It seems like we need to tell Qinggu Slope about this."

This finally made Wei Xiping's tense emotions collapse! "Elder?!"

Overwhelmed with shock and anger, he stared at Elder Bo Yan in disbelief. “This is my own matter. Why is there—”

“Until now, you still refuse to admit to it! In order not to accuse you then, we’ll also invite the people from Qinggu Slope over to investigate the matter. The academy has always been on good terms with Qinggu Slope. I believe they won’t find it a problem,” said Elder Bo Yan lightly.

Wei Xiping’s heart sank harshly! This is pushing me to death!

Chapter 1216: Removal of Name!

Wei Xiping clenched his fists tightly and felt like he was stuck in a difficult spot! If this matter is blown up, I will definitely be gravely affected! The reason why I can be one of the strong contenders to be the next family head is largely due to the fact that I have always had an outstanding performance at Ling Xiao Academy! If other people from the Wei family learn that I’ve done this and that I am hated by the academy, then...

Will the Wei family choose such a traitor to be the next family head? Of course not!

“I did it!” Something seemed to overwhelm Wei Xiping’s chest, which made him frantic. “I admit to it! Back then, I did purposely allow Jin Lei and the rest to come over! However, I didn’t want to betray the academy! I-I just wanted to teach Rong Xiu a small lesson—”

When he said this, even Wei Xiping himself found it funny.

Lesson? The person who truly learned a lesson wasn’t Rong Xiu but him!

Ever since Wei Xiping entered the academy, he disliked Rong Xiu. This was because the latter was always the most outstanding one.

No matter how hard others worked and how much they sacrificed, they could never be on the same level as him. Rong Xiu could always easily get the things that others desired the most and tried their best but couldn't obtain.

They were clearly around the same age, and they entered the academy only a few months apart! But from the start to now, Rong Xiu never seemed to be on the same level as the rest. He had outstanding talent and was extremely strong, not even mentioning that he currently controlled the Sky-Cloud Empire.

Wei Xiping felt that it was unfair.

1

Based on what? Why can Rong Xiu already achieve everything when I'm still racking my brains to think of how to please the people from the Wei family so that they will support me in becoming the family head?

And Rong Xiu never ever took those things into consideration, so Wei Xiping naturally hated him! Hence, he was overwhelmed by his emotions at that moment and did such a stupid thing!

Hearing that he finally loosened up and personally admitted to it, the entire room fell silent for a moment.

A significant portion of the people here were those that had been to Ancient Feather Abyss. The remaining people had basically all participated in the chaotic battle at Fangzhou City.

Thus, when everyone heard this sentence, almost all of them glared at Wei Xiping with furious gazes.

“Elder Bo Yan, I’m willing to accept all the punishments at this moment! However, I hope you won’t spread this incident!” Wei Xiping quickly resigned himself to his fate and immediately started begging for mercy after he admitted to his wrongdoing. “Please take into account that I’ve contributed quite a bit to the academy and give me a chance!”

Elder Bo Yan said, “There are no secrets in the world. Besides—”

“As long as you and the rest are willing to try your best to seal the news, I can do anything!” said Wei Xiping anxiously.

Now that the entire situation has collapsed for me, the most important thing is to control my losses. As long as they are willing, they will definitely be able to keep this news a secret! If they really can’t, they can just drag it for half a year!

One had to know that the competition for the next Wei family head had reached its final intense contest during this half-year! Any flaw would definitely be expanded limitlessly by the other party, let alone such a harsh flaw!

At this point, Wei Xiping didn’t know that his behavior was akin to a clown in front of the crowd.

“Wei Xiping, do you really think you can keep this incident under wraps?” Elder Bo Yan was still nonchalant.

“You! Rong Xiu, you wanted to push me to death from the start, right?!” Wei Xiping suddenly realized something as he abruptly looked at Rong Xiu. How did I forget that Rong Xiu is still here!? Even if the rest are willing to keep this a secret, what about Rong Xiu?

Rong Xiu leaned against the chair and folded his arms, exuding an indescribable elegance.

This was the pride and honor that he had in his bones since he was born! No matter where and what happened, such a person would always seem confident.

Rong Xiu smiled faintly and said, “Ditto.”

Wei Xiping wanted to deal with me, but didn’t allow me to retaliate? Besides, I’ve only exposed his wrongdoings. I didn’t personally kill him. Of course, this is only because I know that such a method is much more painful than directly killing Wei Xiping!

“The academy won’t tolerate anyone who betrays us.” Elder Bo Yan stood up.

A very bad feeling surged up in Wei Xiping’s heart. “Elder Bo Yan—”

“From today onward, you’re no longer a student at Ling Xiao Academy. Later on, I’ll personally erase your name from our booklet. From today onwards, you’ll have nothing to do with Ling Xiao Academy!”

Wei Xiping’s face was scarily pale as his entire mind went blank. Am I... getting expelled from the academy?! Without the connection with Ling Xiao Academy, I will lose a huge advantage in the competition to be the next family head! Those people will definitely ridicule me!

“Elder Bo Yan, you really can’t give me another chance?” asked Wei Xiping with much difficulty.

Elder Bo Yan squinted his eyes and said, “You deserve this punishment since you committed such a crime. I’ll only retract my decision if you can convince the director to speak for you.”

The director had a higher status than Elder Bo Yan, so he naturally had the authority to change the latter’s decision. However, this sentence was undoubtedly a huge mockery to Wei Xiping.

The director had left the academy a few years ago, and Wei Xiping didn’t know where he had gone! How could he find the director to get him to speak up for him!? Besides, according to the director’s temper, he would only give him a harsher punishment!

Wei Xiping closed his eyes defeatedly.

...

Wei Xiping left. Nobody asked him where he was going, and nobody sent him.

The news of him being removed from the academy roster would be quickly spread around, and his reputation in the God Residence Realm would thus be severely affected.

The situation on the Wei family’s side would only get worse, but all of this wasn’t what the academy had to care about. Because of his selfishness, he committed the sin in secret and almost landed the academy into huge trouble. Such a punishment was already very light.

After the others gradually left, only Elder Bo Yan and Rong Xiu were left at Dong Huang Clock Tower. “Rong Xiu, luckily we have you for this. If not, it will ultimately be bad for us if we leave such a bad seedling behind.”

Rong Xiu smiled. “His target was me, not the academy.”

“With his mentality, he can’t be kept.” Elder Bo Yan shook his head and took out a book.

It was a booklet that looked very ancient. Its cover was a copper-colored hardboard carved with Ling Xiao Academy’s totem. It glowed with a faint golden light, looking solemn and holy.

This was the academy’s booklet.

Elder Bo Yan opened it and quickly flipped to Wei Xiping’s name. He then stretched out his hand and gradually slid it across the book’s surface.

Wei Xiping’s name silently disappeared! At the same time, the Qing Yun Ranking suddenly appeared on Dong Huang Clock Tower’s four walls!

The Qing Yun Ranking glowed brightly! On it, Wei Xiping’s name gradually dimmed until it completely disappeared!

Chapter 1217: Bring Junior Brother Along

The Qing Yun Ranking's movements attracted quite a few people's attention. When they saw Wei Xiping's name disappear, everyone was taken aback.

"What happened? Why did Senior Brother Wei Xiping's name disappear?"

"Only the director and Elder Bo Yan can summon the Qing Yun Ranking. What's... going on?"

"Ah, did Elder Bo Yan want to erase Wei Xiping's name—like the number one person on the heavenly doctor list..."

"It's not the same. That name was just covered by the director using some special means, but it didn't actually disappear. However, this... Look quickly—the ones below all rose by one rank!"

"...This means that Elder Bo Yan has completely removed Wei Xiping from the Qing Yun Ranking. This situation will only happen for one reason: Wei Xiping has been expelled?!"

A tone rippled thousands of waves!

Even though they didn't talk about it openly, many students in the academy could directly infer what had happened. This was also the reason why everyone was especially stunned.

A student being expelled from Ling Xiao Academy was actually not something rare. During the monthly assessment, those who continuously failed would meet with such a situation. But all those people were expelled because they weren't good enough and couldn't adjust to the academy's rhythm and environment.

However, Wei Xiping was different. He was a very famous and talented student in the academy. Of the four Qing Yun Ranking lists, he was on two and in the top ten for both! Such talent and results were amazing, so it caused such an uproar when his name disappeared from the Qing Yun Ranking.

Outside the square, countless people saw this scene and partook in heated discussions.

“I haven’t seen such a scene in a while,” said Elder Bo Yan suddenly. “The last time was because her name was suddenly erased by the director.”

The commotion caused back then was even worse than the current one. After all, she was number one on the Qing Yun Ranking.

Her every movement and action attracted a lot of people’s attention.

Elder Bo Yan sighed deeply. “I wonder... where she is now and how she’s doing.”

It was as if she suddenly disappeared as her traces never appeared within the God Residence Realm again.

Rong Xiu looked at the Qing Yun Ranking and faintly said, “Perhaps... she changed to a different identity.”

Elder Bo Yan looked down, and his old fingers gently swiped across the page as if he wanted to flip it. But eventually, he still stopped his actions.

He took a deep breath and closed the book. “Maybe!”

He sighed deeply. "But that child... Hiding her name and changing her identity doesn't seem like something she would do..."

That person always causes trouble. It's hard to imagine her staying around peacefully.

Upon hearing this, Rong Xiu raised his brows slightly. That's true. Even if she has changed her appearance and even lost relevant memories, her behavior is still the same as before.

"Oh right, there's something I want to ask permission for," Rong Xiu turned around and said. "I want to bring Chu Yue around for a while."

"Bring him around?" Elder Bo Yan was rather shocked. "You want to accept him as your disciple? But your mentor hasn't been in recently, and..."

Rong Xiu coughed. "Chu Yue has his own mentor, so there's no need to trouble him to be under the same mentor as me. However, he's rather playful and frequently gets into trouble, so I want to bring him around during this period and teach him the rules. If not, he'll just impulsively cause trouble again like this time."

"Oh?" Elder Bo Yan's gaze suddenly turned strange. "Are you sure?"

Rong Xiu's personality is very cold, and he hates all kinds of trouble the most. But this time, he actually took the initiative and wanted to bring Chu Yue around. This is rare—it is akin to the sun rising from the west!

“Rong Xiu, what relationship do you and that kid exactly have for you to be so concerned about him?” Elder Bo Yan’s interest was piqued, and he couldn’t help but ask. Those who don’t know might even think that Chu Yue is his younger brother! No, according to Rong Xiu’s temper, he might not even treat his biological younger brother in this manner. How strange!

“We go way back, and he did save me this time. Besides... If it weren’t because I had taught him those nonsensical things before, he wouldn’t have gotten into such huge trouble. I should teach him properly now.” Rong Xiu’s thin lips curled up slightly, and he had a faint smile.

Elder Bo Yan felt his heart itch as he couldn’t find anything out, but he also knew that if Rong Xiu didn’t want to say it, nobody could pry his mouth open. Hence, he swiftly gave up. “Since you’ve already said so, I have no reasons to object to it! When he comes out from Fengmin Mountain, he’ll go to your place to learn!”

Rong Xiu nodded, paused for a moment, and said rather unintentionally, “His place is rather far from mine, and it’ll waste quite a bit of time to travel back and forth every day. Coincidentally, I have a few empty rooms on my side, so I’ll let him stay there.”

“Up to you!” Elder Bo Yan was used to his strange behavior, so he waved his hands. Anyway, the two of them have known each other for a long time. Rong Xiu even took the initiative to say that he would teach Chu Yue, so what does this count for?

“That kid has a bright future. You must teach him properly!”

Rong Xiu smiled with a deep meaning. “Definitely.”

...

Seven-story pagoda, Fengmin Mountain.

Chu Liuyue sat down cross-legged in the weird room. The surrounding Heaven and Earth Force rhythmically entered her body according to her breathing.

She could clearly feel the force flowing through her limbs and bones. A portion of it immersed into her muscles and silently increased her physical strength. The remaining portion gathered in the water droplet in her dantian.

The lines on the surrounding walls also moved around Chu Liuyue in a special rhythm.

After a long while, that old voice sounded again. "One month is up. Kid, come out!"

Everything rapidly returned to normal!

Chu Liuyue opened her eyes slowly, and a sharp and cold gleam flashed across her eyes!

She then stretched her body, and cracks could be heard from her body. "This place is indeed extraordinary..."

She had only stayed here for a month, but she faintly felt that she was about to break through again. According to the normal process, even if she had a Tianjing Yuan meridian, she would still need roughly three months to break through and become a peak stage-seven warrior from an intermediate one.

Cultivating here was two or three times faster than outside!

She had greatly benefitted this time. The more important thing was that she had recalled many things.

It was a pity that the black pagoda didn't move much after she recalled the medicinal garden. Afterward, she didn't remember any other content.

Perhaps... I'll recall more matters when I break through again. Chu Liuyue collected her thoughts, briefly tidied up, and prepared to go out.

When she walked to the door, she turned around and took a look.

The familiar and longing feeling overwhelmed her again. This time, it was obviously more intense than the first time.

Her gaze flickered slightly before she turned around to leave.

Chapter 1218: Rong Xiu is Waiting for Us

Walking out from that space, Chu Liuyue arrived at the hall. She stood in her spot and turned to cup her fists in the direction of the seven doors. "Thank you for taking care of me during this period, Elder."

The other party sneered. "Don't let me see you again next month, kid!"

Hearing the intense disdain, Chu Liuyue rubbed her nose. She originally wanted to say that she would try her best, but after some thinking, she just acknowledged it obediently. "Yes."

“Quickly leave! Quickly leave!”

Chu Liuyue bowed and obediently left.

Walking out of the door, Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in.

The fresh and cooling air entered her lungs, rejuvenating her entire self. Not to mention others, but this place seemed even more comfortable during this month than before...

Suddenly, she focused her gaze and saw a familiar figure standing outside the barrier—it was Elder Wan Zheng.

Seeing Chu Liuyue come out, Elder Wan Zheng’s eyes lit up as he hurriedly said, “Chu Yue, I’m here! Come over quickly!”

Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears. Why does this scene seem like I just came out of prison...

But seeing Elder Wan Zheng’s overjoyed behavior, Chu Liuyue couldn’t help but be influenced as she moved her feet and quickly walked toward Elder Wan Zheng.

...

“Mentor, why are you here?” Arriving in front of Elder Wan Zheng, Chu Liuyue couldn’t help but ask.

Elder Wan Zheng sized her up and said, “Hehe, I have been waiting here since morning!”

A month was really a tad too long. He was worried, so he directly came over. Anyway, he’s my own disciple. If I don’t dote on him, who will?

Suddenly, his gaze focused as he widened his eyes slightly and asked in disbelief, “Y-you seemed to have strengthened again?”

Chu Liuyue pressed her lips against each other and smiled. “I haven’t officially broken through yet.”

That means it’s soon! Elder Wan Zheng blinked, and his eyes flashed with overwhelming shock as he didn’t know what to say. Normally speaking, students who get locked up at Fengmin Mountain will mostly be exhausted when they come out. Some might even be injured. However, not only does Chu Yue look fine, but his surrounding aura even seems to be stronger than before!

Elder Wan Zheng glanced at the pagoda suspiciously. What kind of situation is this?

“Did that old fella give you some convenience because you’re my disciple?” muttered Elder Wan Zheng softly.

Once he said that, he heard an old and deep voice. “Wan Zheng! What are you dreaming about?”

Give you face? Dream on! I might not even give Bo Yan this face if he came, let alone Wan Zheng?!

Elder Wan Zheng looked awkward for once. "Alright, alright. If it's a no, you can just say so! Why must you scold me!? The kid is listening over here!"

Chu Liuyue was speechless.

"Ahem, um... Disciple, let's ignore him! It's even better if he didn't give you convenience on purpose!" Elder Wan Zheng arranged his collar. What does this prove? It proves that my own disciple is capable! Look at how energized he looks! Look at his gradually strengthening aura! He's doing great!

"Let's go! Follow me back!"

If his abilities as a warrior have improved, perhaps his heavenly doctor skills did as well! Elder Wan Zheng wanted to see if his disciple had broken through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor!

Chu Liuyue nodded and surveyed her surroundings in a seemingly casual manner.

Elder Wan Zheng was dazed and asked, "Disciple, who are you looking for?"

Chu Liuyue retracted her gaze and smiled. "Nothing much. Let's go."

Elder Wan Zheng didn't care about it either as his figure moved, and he left first.

Chu Liuyue followed him closely.

...

After journeying halfway, Chu Liuyue realized that the academy's atmosphere was quite strange. "Mentor, what happened in the academy during this period of time?"

Elder Wan Zheng acknowledged his disciple. Then, he realized what the latter was asking and explained, "Nothing much. It was just that Wei Xiping was expelled by the academy a while ago."

Chu Liuyue had some impression of this name. That man seems to have an honorable background and was thought of highly by the academy. If not, they wouldn't have allowed him to go to Ancient Feather Abyss this time. Why did he suddenly get expelled?

"What did he do?"

"Hmph. Of course, he did something he shouldn't have." Elder Wan Zheng coldly snorted. "At Ancient Feather Abyss back then, he purposely let Jin Lei and the rest chase us in order to deal with Rong Xiu. Expelling him is already too easy for him!"

His few sentences were very succinct and clear.

Chu Liuyue quickly understood what went on. "I see... It seems like the people in the academy already know about this?"

"Of course. When Bo Yan personally removed his name from the Qing Yun Ranking, quite a few people saw it!" Elder Wan Zheng shook his head. "In the past, I already felt that he was petty, arrogant, and

someone who got jealous easily. In the end, he really did such a thing! If it weren't because Rong Xiu left some evidence behind... We wouldn't have even known how many times he lied to the academy!"

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled slightly. "Rong Xiu... discovered this?"

Elder Wan Zheng nodded.

The two of them walked a distance, and Chu Liuyue then realized that the direction seemed wrong. "Mentor, this doesn't seem like we're going to your place?"

"Yeah! We're going to yours!"

Chu Liuyue was dazed. I thought that Elder Wan Zheng came over early in the morning to fetch me and bring me back so that he could test my heavenly doctor standards.

As if seeing through her thoughts, Elder Wan Zheng chuckled. "Don't worry, kid. I do intend to test you, but I chose the venue to be at your place."

Chu Liuyue smiled and asked, "Why did you suddenly think of going to my place, Mentor?"

"Of course, it's because you're going to pack your things!" Elder Wan Zheng stroked his beard. "You need to turn another bend to get to my place, so it's more convenient if we come to yours directly!"

Chu Liuyue was confused. "Pack my things? Me?"

“Ah, yes—you don’t know about this yet!” Elder Wan Zheng hit his head. “From now on, you’re going to move to Rong Xiu’s place and stay with him!”

...

Chu Liuyue couldn’t react in time as she instinctively asked, “Me? Stay with Rong Xiu?!”

Why didn’t I hear of this before at all? I just made a trip to Fengmin Mountain. Why am I suddenly moving house now that I’m out? And it’s to stay with Rong Xiu... As one of the top few existences amongst the students in the academy, doesn’t Rong Xiu always stay alone?

“Hehe, I think Rong Xiu was the one who took the initiative to talk to Bo Yan about this. He said that he planned to bring you around the academy during this period of time, so it’ll be convenient if you stay at his place.”

As long as one doesn’t snatch my disciple, I welcome them greatly, not to mention that it is Rong Xiu. If my precious disciple can learn from Rong Xiu for a period of time, she will definitely benefit greatly!

Such an opportunity is very rare, and others couldn’t have it even if they wanted to. Why does this kid look so shocked? Elder Wan Zheng smiled and said, “Disciple, although Rong Xiu mainly specializes in the warrior aspect and the Armory Refinement aspect, he is pretty good as a heavenly doctor. This chance is rare. You must learn from him properly, okay?”

While they were talking, the duo had already reached a familiar mountain.

Elder Wan Zheng laughed out loud. "See! Rong Xiu is already waiting for us!"

Chapter 1219: Worried About You

Chu Liuyue had mixed emotions when she saw the man in white standing tall halfway up the mountain. Just a month ago, he was a high and mighty senior, and I was a freshman who had just joined the academy. But we're going to stay together now, and he even wants to 'guide me along?!' What on earth happened in the past month?

Elder Wan Zheng didn't notice her expression. With a laugh, he speedily flew over to Rong Xiu's side and landed in front of him.

Chu Liuyue had no choice but to follow him.

"That's early of you, Rong Xiu!" Elder Wan Zheng greeted Rong Xiu cheerfully.

Rong Xiu smiled and nodded. "I had nothing to do, so I came straight here to wait for you after hearing that you had gone to fetch Chu Yue. I can't possibly make you wait for me, right?"

Elder Wan Zheng couldn't be more pleased to hear that. Hear that?! He's saying how much he respects my precious student and me! Nobody else in Ling Xiao Academy can receive such treatment from him. Chu Yue will surely learn a lot under his wings!

"Hey, Chu Yue. Why aren't you saying anything?" Elder Wan Zheng urged his disciple to come forward. "Aren't you guys acquainted?"

We're more than just acquaintances. Chu Liuyue maintained a smile on her face. "Hello, Senior..."

Rong Xiu's deep, warm gaze swept over her face. "It looks like you've spent a pretty good time at Fengmin Mountain." Not only is she looking better than before, but her strength has also increased. She also probably... remembers a lot more things now.

Chu Liuyue raised her eyebrows. "Not as well as you, Senior, seeing how you managed to make so many arrangements in just the span of one month."

Although Elder Wan Zheng could feel the slightly strange atmosphere between the two, he didn't dwell on it. Instead, he excitedly said, "Hurry up and refine the pill now, Chu Yue. Let me see how much you've improved!"

Actually, he had a feeling that Chu Yue could do it when he saw the latter coming out of Fengmin Mountain earlier, but he wanted to confirm it for himself so that he could have peace of mind.

Knowing that her master was hung up over this matter in the past month, Chu Liuyue nodded. "Okay."

...

Chu Liuyue chose to refine the pill that she didn't manage to finish refining the last time. One reason was that she could save herself a great deal of trouble since she could use the herbs she hadn't used up the last time. Another reason was that Elder Wan Zheng thought she could only refine one type of ninth-grade pill, so it only made sense to refine that particular pill.

Once she was done preparing, she started refining the pill. The process was so much smoother than last time since her ability in all aspects had improved over the month. From gathering the herbs to refining them, everything was done in an orderly manner, much to Elder Wan Zheng's satisfaction.

I knew it! This kid is obviously much calmer and more skilled when handling the herbs this time. His control over the flame is basically perfect too. To think I was a little worried that he'd forget everything after getting locked up at Fengmin Mountain for a month. I can finally put my mind to rest now! Elder Wan Zheng couldn't resist showing off to Rong Xiu, who was right next to him. "Rong Xiu, what do you think about my new student?"

Rong Xiu raised his eyebrows slightly and smiled. "Very good. He's... indeed better and much more outstanding than many other people."

Elder Wan Zheng chuckled. "Oh right, both of you have known each other for a long time! Then, I guess you've long found out about his talent in this area!"

Rong Xiu didn't say anything, but the smile on his face was a clear acknowledgment.

"I never heard you mention that you knew such a talented junior! You should've asked him to join the academy long ago!" said Elder Wan Zheng with a stroke of his beard. Of course, it's not too late now. Chu Yue is only 16, so he still has a lot of potential!

Just then, a faint herbal fragrance permeated the air. It turned out that Chu Liuyue was already beginning to form the pill.

As Elder Wan Zheng stared at the fist-sized pill hovering quietly in the red flame, he couldn't help but rub his palms together. It looks like he's going to succeed this time!

At the thought of that, his smile widened as he said to Rong Xiu, "You don't know this, but Chu Yue actually almost succeeded on his first attempt at refining this pill! It was a shame that blabbermouth Hua Feng suddenly came over and said that you had been besieged. In his moment of distraction, that

pill was destroyed at the last step! Sigh... He could've broken through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor back then!"

Rong Xiu narrowed his phoenix eyes slightly while smiling in amusement. His usually cold expression became more alive in that instant.

"Oh, is that so?" His deep voice was pleasing to the ears. "It turns out that Chu Yue is so concerned about me..."

"Of course, he is! Otherwise, he wouldn't have failed the last time!" Elder Wan Zheng didn't notice anything wrong with Rong Xiu's tone and nodded in agreement. "He lied to me back then, saying that he wanted to go back and work on the pill on his own, but he snuck out in the end. Now that I think about it, he was obviously worried about you!" If not, he wouldn't have appeared at Rong Xiu's side at the time. There's no way he didn't know how dangerous that melee was to him—a seventh-grade warrior—but he went into it all the same. That is already enough to explain everything!

Rong Xiu's smile deepened slightly.

Bam!

Chu Liuyue slammed a palm against the cauldron.

Chapter 1220: Isn't It Only Right for Us to Stay Together?

A pill as big as a dragon's eye shot up to the sky! With a sweep of her hand in the air, Chu Liuyue grabbed the pill and put it into a jade box, leaving behind only the lingering rich herbal scent in the air.

Elder Wan Zheng returned his attention to Chu Liuyue and stared unblinkingly at the box in her hand. He was even more nervous than when he was refining the pill himself.

Chu Liuyue walked over and handed the box to him. "Master."

Elder Wan Zheng reached out for the box, only to hurriedly wipe them down on his clothes before carefully taking it from her. He then took a deep breath to calm himself down.

Creak...

As the jade box opened, a refreshing medicinal scent hit his nose. Lying quietly in the middle of the box was a rich-blue round pill with nine lines on it.

Elder Wan Zheng's eyes lit up in delight. "It's a ninth-grade pill! It's a ninth-grade pill!"

Even though it was slightly inferior, it was still a ninth-grade pill. Despite having expected this outcome, Elder Wan Zheng couldn't help but feel excited and happy when he saw the pill. "You've succeeded! You didn't disappoint me, Chu Yue! Hahaha! It won't be hard for you to get a place on the Qing Yun Ranking next month!"

A 16-year-old ninth-grade heavenly doctor! That's an incredible feat even across the entire academy! Many people will be shocked and envious of this!

"Rong Xiu, what do you think about Chu Yue's skills?" asked Elder Wan Zheng excitedly. It was understandable that he wanted to show off his outstanding student, not to mention that the person he was showing off to was Rong Xiu.

“Excellent.” Rong Xiu smiled and nodded his head. “Congrats, Elder Wan Zheng. I’m sure Chu Yue will have a bright future under your guidance!”

“Hahaha! He sure is good!” As Elder Wan Zheng held the pill in his hand lovingly, he couldn’t help wanting to let everyone in the academy know that his precious student had broken through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor.

Most people experienced multiple failures when attempting to get past this hurdle, but Chu Yue managed to succeed in just less than five tries.

“Hehe, it’s not easy to find a student I like these days! The last one I liked was taken away by the director. Good thing I didn’t let this kid get away this time!”

Rong Xiu blinked. “Master, who are you referring to... when you said: ‘the last one you liked?’”

Elder Wan Zheng’s laughter died off instantly. It was only then that he realized he was so carried away that he had accidentally mentioned the past again. He coughed and tried to gloss it over. “Nothing—that was just stuff in the past. I was just mentioning it in passing... I didn’t mean to compare you with anyone!”

Elder Wan Zheng felt somewhat guilty when he looked at Chu Liuyue. He hurriedly explained, “I promise, you’re the best student to me!”

Knowing that he had mistaken her, Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears. However, she was heartened to hear that.

Although she wanted to ask more questions, she couldn't bring herself to do so when she saw his slightly flustered look. With a nod, she said, "Thank you, Master."

"There's nothing to thank about!" Seeing that his disciple didn't seem to mind about this, Elder Wan Zheng heaved a sigh of relief and secretly told himself not to shoot his mouth off again. "Actually, I didn't teach you anything at all. It's all thanks to your own intelligence and hard work that you managed to break through!"

He knew very well that he hadn't actually done much for Chu Yue since it had only been less than two months since the latter joined the academy. Chu Yue had also spent most of his time locked up at Fengmin mountain, so the time he had spent teaching Chu Yue wasn't a lot.

Even though Chu Yue managed to break through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor so quickly largely because of his own efforts, he was still immensely pleased and proud of his disciple. He had a feeling that his student would make something of himself in the future.

"Alright, that's it for today since you've broken through and managed to refine the pill! It's getting late. You should go back with Rong Xiu now. Go familiarize yourself with the surroundings and learn from him. In the meantime, I'll adjust your curriculum." Since Chu Liuyue turned out to be more outstanding than he thought, Elder Wan Zheng had to make tweaks to his lesson plans.

Chu Liuyue looked at Rong Xiu with a cock of an eyebrow.

"Rong Xiu is also quite accomplished in the heavenly doctor path. You'll definitely learn a lot of things from him." Elder Wan Zheng patted Chu Liuyue's shoulder and looked at her with great expectations.

Chu Liuyue narrowed her eyes.

Rong Xiu was basically perfect in the academy elders' eyes, so whatever he did... Not only would it not arouse their suspicion, but he would also receive their strong support. All Chu Liuyue could do now was agree with what her master said, so she nodded. "In that case... Please guide me along, Senior."

...

After returning the pill to Chu Liuyue, Elder Wan Zheng quickly left.

Chu Liuyue had a rough idea of what he was about to do from his hurried and gleeful departure.

"It looks like many people will know that you've become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor in no time." Rong Xiu raised his eyebrows.

"Before that happens, I believe more people will know that I've moved to stay with you." Chu Liuyue looked at him with a smile. I'm sure there will be as much commotion as when people find out that I've refined a ninth-grade pill, if not more.

Rong Xiu didn't deny it, and he laughed instead. "Isn't it only right for us to stay together?"