

## Noble Ruler 1411

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The Liang family rushed to the Sky-Cloud Empire at the fastest speed and coincidentally met Jiang Hetian, who was about to leave.

When enemies met, their eyes would turn especially red. Due to Liang Shaokang's death, Liang Yiye and Liang Xiaoxiao now treated everyone from the entire Fairy Water Mound as their enemies. This naturally included the Jiang family head, Jiang Hetian!

Seeing them come ferociously, Jiang Hetian had mostly understood what happened. This was because before they came, he had already made Jiang Zhiyuan tell him in detail about whatever happened in the Flood-Desert Northern Region.

Jiang Zhiyuan also knew that her father was the most dependable at this time, so she said everything. That included Liang Shaokang's incident.

"Master Liang." Jiang Hetian cupped his fists in a very polite manner.

However, the other party didn't fall for this.

Liang Yiye surveyed his surroundings and realized that only Jiang Hetian was here without Jiang Zhiyuan. His heart sank. "Where's Jiang Zhiyuan?!"

"You're asking about my daughter? Oh, she has just followed 36 Respected Elder Ming and Respected Elder Yu Jing into the Sky-Cloud Empire to accompany the clan leader at Wan Zhong Mountain." Jiang Hetian described it relaxingly. However, his words had another meaning as he revealed an important piece of news—Jiang Zhiyuan now had the Sky-Cloud Empire protecting her!

Liang Yiye and his daughter had a slight change in expression. We quickly rushed over as we were afraid that such a situation would happen. We didn't expect—

"Hah, that's really weird. Jiang Zhiyuan has already been expelled from Ling Xiao Academy. Logically speaking, it's not very possible for the Sky-Cloud Empire to accept her at this time, right? Why... would they let her in?" Liang Xiaoxiao didn't have such good patience, and she directly spoke coldly.

Jiang Hetian was displeased, but as the other party had a higher status, he could only hold it in and laugh. "Even though Zhiyuan is my—Jiang Zhiyuan's daughter, she has grown up in the Sky-Cloud Empire since she was young and has a close relationship with the clan leader. The venerables in the Sky-Cloud Empire also treat her as their closest junior. What's so strange about this incident?"

Liang Xiaoxiao sneered. Even that Jiang Zhiyuan is worthy? The Sky-Cloud Empire's clan leader is still in seclusion. It is impossible for him to stand up for Jiang Zhiyuan now, not to mention that the current situation isn't like before. The Sky-Cloud Empire now has a true and legitimate princess consort around! How could Jiang Zhiyuan trample around like before? I really don't know what kind of tricks that b\*tch used...

"Master Liang, if you want to see Zhiyuan, it's not impossible. You can directly ask the guard to announce your arrival. However... Zhiyuan came all the way here to accompany the clan leader until he

is out of seclusion. I'm not sure if she can come out." Seeing that this matter was settled, Jiang Hetian was much bolder.

"You—" Liang Xiaoxiao was enraged and was about to go forward.

"Xiaoxiao," Liang Yiye was still calm and boomed after her.

Liang Xiaoxiao then forcefully suppressed the fire in her heart.

"Since she has already entered the Sky-Cloud Empire, we shan't disturb further." Liang Yiye was very decisive. The Sky-Cloud Empire won't be ignorant of the consequences of doing so. Yet, they still did it. There must be a problem!

"Father—" Liang Xiaoxiao was filled with indignation.

Liang Yiye glanced at her with deep meaning before he turned around to leave.

Liang Xiaoxiao stomped her feet and could only rapidly follow.

Looking at their backs filled with failure, Jiang Hetian's uneasy heart finally relaxed. No matter what... At least we managed to avoid this rather big problem. With the Sky-Cloud Empire, our Fairy Water Mound... will be fine!

...

"Father, why did you stop me just now? I want to ask if the people from the Sky-Cloud Empire are crazy! Why would such a b\*tch be worthy of their protection?!" On the way back, Liang Xiaoxiao was still enraged.

In comparison, Liang Yiye was much calmer. "If you know all of this, why do you think the people from the Sky-Cloud Empire don't know?"

Liang Xiaoxiao was dazed. "You mean—"

"The Jiang father-daughter duo clearly has more trump cards, which caused the Sky-Cloud Empire to give in. But I don't know... what exactly it is," Liang Yiye muttered and was very confused. "Xiaoxiao, you were on good terms with her in the past. Do you know?"

Liang Xiaoxiao chuckled. "That person does everything for herself, and she's very meticulous. If she really has such an amazing trump card, do you think she would let me know about it?"

Liang Yiye knitted his brows tightly. "If that's the case... it will be hard to cause trouble for her. Who knows when the Sky-Cloud Empire's clan leader will come out of seclusion? And when he does, what should we do if he protects Jiang Zhiyuan even more?"

Liang Xiaoxiao kept quiet for some time before she said, "That's strange. At the end of the day, Jiang Zhiyuan is just a subordinate in the Sky-Cloud Empire. How does she have her current status? I heard that the Sky-Cloud Empire's clan leader doted on her a lot since she was young and specifically brought her to the Sky-Cloud Empire to raise her up. If it weren't because of this, she definitely wouldn't be in the spotlight."

Liang Yiye shook his head. "I'm afraid only they know the secrets behind this mystery."

"Father, what should we do next then? We can't just let her off like that, right?!" No matter what, Liang Xiaoxiao wasn't willing to do this.

Liang Yiye thought for a while. "First, send someone to investigate and see if they can find any evidence. Also... there have been quite a few people checking Chu Yue lately. Do you have any understanding of him?"

"Chu Yue? Doesn't he have a good relationship with Rong Xiu? As for the rest... I don't know either."

Even though Chu Yue was quite famous in the academy during this period of time, his background was still a mystery.

"It seems like Rong Xiu wants to protect him... However, I heard that Chu Yue broke through as a stage-eight warrior to become a stage-nine warrior in the Flood-Desert Northern Region in a mere few days. Then, he was even brought away by a group of mysterious people. You need to know that quite a few aristocratic families have suffered a loss there this time..."

Without obtaining the Heavenly Square Cauldron, how would they be convinced? Perhaps this trouble would land on Chu Yue in the end.

Liang Yiye thought for a long while. "Go back to the academy first and see what exactly is up with that Chu Yue. I'll go and ask the other aristocratic families and see what they're planning. Perhaps... I might be able to get some clues about Shaokang from them."

Even though Liang Xiaoxiao wanted to settle Jiang Zhiyuan immediately, she knew that with the Sky-Cloud Empire around, this wasn't something that could be done in a day or two. Now, the only thing she could do was to re-strategize.

"Okay."

...

Ling Xiao Academy.

Dong Huang Clock Tower.

Elder Bo Yan sat in the room alone and held a thick booklet in his hands.

Ever since the director left, the academy's booklet was in his charge.

This booklet recorded the names of every elder and student in the past 10,000 years of Ling Xiao Academy. Of course, there were the directors as well.

He stared at the booklet's totem for some time before he took a deep breath in and chose to open it.

On the first page were the recorded names of every director.

Elder Bo Yan's gaze swept past them one by one and finally landed at the top. There was no name there, only a purple scale.

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That purple scale was the size of a nail and glowed faintly. Upon closer look, there was an engraved pattern that protruded out slightly—it was Ling Xiao Academy's totem!

And this scale was left behind by Ling Xiao Academy's first director!

Different from the other directors after him, this director didn't leave his name behind. He only left this purple scale to signify his status.

In actual fact, even though Ling Xiao Academy was the top academy in the God Residence Realm with a famous reputation, nobody knew the name of the first director. Back when he journeyed through the mainland, he had used many names, and nobody knew which were real and which were fake.

After creating Ling Xiao Academy, everyone only addressed him as 'director.'

Tens of thousands of years had passed, and everything had changed. Legends and rumors of that person had mostly been drowned out in the passing years, and nobody brought him up again.

Only the appointed directors of Ling Xiao Academy had the right to know this person's real name. Even though Elder Bo Yan was helping to take care of everything in the academy, he still had no power and right to see the name behind this purple scale.

He stared at it for a while before he averted his gaze and glanced at the last name on the page.

This person is still gone without a trace... Elder Bo Yan couldn't help but sigh internally. "Director, you must come back quickly..."

Knock knock!

Knocks were suddenly heard, interrupting Elder Bo Yan's thoughts.

"Bo Yan, we're in trouble!" This was Elder Wen Xi's voice with rare anxiety and nervousness.

Elder Bo Yan's heart sank slightly. He closed the book, put it away carefully, and turned around to open the door.

"What's the matter?" Once he opened the door, he met Elder Wen Xi's gaze filled with worry. I have never seen Wen Xi reveal such an expression.

Elder Wen Xi swallowed a mouthful of saliva with much difficulty. "They're here!"

"They?"

"The top-tier aristocratic families that went to the Flood-Desert Northern Region previously!" Elder Wen Xi spoke very quickly. "They said that... they have some things to clarify with Chu Yue, and they asked us to hand him over!"

"Ridiculous!" Elder Bo Yan's blood boiled. "This entire incident was planned meticulously by someone. They can't find out who the mastermind is, so they came to cause trouble for Chu Yue?!"

This is really illogical!

"Bo Yan..." Elder Wen Xi took a deep breath in. "You also know that every single one of their families has people who died in the nine gullies. Chu Yue was the only one who went in and had clearly benefited from it. T-they feel that Chu Yue should give an explanation for this..."

Strictly speaking, Jiang Zhiyuan had gone in as well. However, she was chased out by Chu Yue not long later.

Back then, quite a few people had seen this clearly. Right after that... Chu Yue had somehow sealed the barrier, stopping others from entering.

These were all facts that couldn't be changed. In that case, it didn't seem baseless for them to push all of this to Chu Yue.

If not, they wouldn't work together and storm Ling Xiao Academy.

Elder Bo Yan furrowed his brows tightly. I haven't seen this incident personally, but I did hear Elder Hua Feng mention it. Back then, I already faintly felt that it was inappropriate. Now... trouble has really come!

"I'll meet them personally!"

...

Fangzhou City.

Compared to the bustling streets, it was empty and quiet now. Only the place where Ling Xiao Academy's barrier connected was dark.

Everyone in the city had heard the news and carefully went back to hide. They were terrified that they would be implicated.

There were only a few dozen people standing here, but the factions they represented were all the top-tier aristocratic families and clans in the God Residence Realm!

With a random stomp of their feet, the entire God Residence Realm would shake!

Ordinary people naturally wanted to avoid this, but they had suspicions in their hearts. I wonder what happened that caused these people to make an alliance and confront Ling Xiao Academy? This is the first time this has happened in hundreds of years!

...

The crowd stood at the side, and all of them were quiet.

The atmosphere was suppressive, and the air was stiff. It was suffocating.

Not far away on the other side, the few elders in charge of the barrier had dark expressions.

The two parties were in a stalemate and would explode with a touch!

When Elder Bo Yan rushed over, this was the scene he saw. Although his blood was boiling, he had to calm himself down first.

He took a deep breath in and was about to walk out of the barrier.

"Bo Yan..." Elder Wen Xi called him rather hesitantly. The incoming people aren't friendly, and it would be dangerous for us to go out abruptly.

Elder Bo Yan gave the few of them a reassuring gaze. These people only want to use their authority to force us to hand Chu Yue over. They don't really want to go against Ling Xiao Academy completely. I currently represent the entire academy. They won't dare to do anything against me casually.

After comforting them, Elder Bo Yan stepped out of the barrier.

He stood in front of the barrier and cupped his fists toward the crowd. Then, he smiled and said, "Everyone, you've come a long way to get here. Why didn't you tell us in advance? It won't be good if we can't host you properly."

As he spoke, he silently scanned these people's faces. Mm, they are mostly familiar appearances. Quite a few of them even have personal grudges. Today, they actually all stand on the same side so that we can hand Chu Yue over. How ridiculous.

"Elder Bo Yan, we're all old acquaintances, so let's lay our cards on the table!" A middle-aged man spoke. "I believe you already know why we're here. Whether you want to hand the person over is up to you!"

Elder Bo Yan laughed, but there was no smiling intent in his eyes. "Since this is so, I won't have to say any more nonsense. However, there has to be a reason if you want our Ling Xiao Academy to hand the person over, right?"

"Reason? Elder Bo Yan, you should know this reason, right? Do you dare to say that Chu Yue has nothing to do with the Flood-Desert Northern Region incident?" A slightly younger man spoke out loud. His face had a few hints of anger. "So many people died, and only Chu Yue has benefited greatly. Also, he clearly has something to do with the gully... You should just ask him to come out and speak to us clearly!"

Elder Bo Yan's brows undetectably furrowed as he glanced at that young man. Many parties have collaborated, and their capabilities are formidable. This has even caused them to think too highly of themselves.

"Chu Yue is my Ling Xiao Academy's student. If he really has done something wrong, we will let this go. But if someone wants to smear his name and bully him... We definitely won't agree!"

Elder Bo Yan's tone wasn't high, but every word was determined. There was a strong aura in his words!

The crowd immediately fell silent.

Elder Bo Yan then stroked his beard and slowly said, "Besides, you came at the wrong time. He has just been locked up in Fengmin Mountain. I'm afraid... he won't be able to come out in a short period of time."

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Once he said this, the crowd burst into an uproar. They didn't send him there earlier or later, yet he sent him there right at this time. Isn't this clearly protecting him?

"Elder Bo Yan, if I haven't recalled wrongly, Fengmin Mountain seems to be a place where Ling Xiao Academy specifically punishes students. Why is Chu Yue locked up there for no reason?" A rather sharp voice was heard.

The scene fell silent for a moment. All pairs of eyes looked at Elder Bo Yan with much intuition and doubt.

Elder Bo Yan stroked his beard. "He has indeed broken quite a few of the academy rules. Originally, he should've been immediately locked inside after he came back, but he was unconscious back then. Hence, we let it slide. We only sent him over when he woke up and was feeling better."

The other party was relentless. "Oh? Elder Bo Yan, is it convenient for you to reveal what rules Chu Yue flouted so that we can know a thing or two?"

Upon hearing this, Elder Bo Yan's smile faded slightly. "This is my Ling Xiao Academy's matter. No matter if it's a punishment or a reward, it seems... to have nothing to do with outsiders, and I don't have to give others an explanation, right?"

We are normally just more discreet, but it doesn't mean that Ling Xiao Academy can be bullied by anyone! If anyone wants to interfere in the academy's business, the world will be in chaos!

Elder Bo Yan's words caused the crowd to be unable to retort.

He controlled the entire Ling Xiao Academy at the moment. Whoever he said was in the wrong would be in the wrong. Whoever he wanted to punish, nobody could say anything about it.

Detecting the coldness and anger in Elder Bo Yan's words, the other party curtly shut his mouth.

However, the others didn't plan on letting the matter slide just like this.

"Elder Bo Yan, we have no intention of intervening with your academy's matters. But for Chu Yue... We came here, and we must have an explanation."

"That's right. We've known each other for so many years, and you also know that we're not unreasonable. If not forced, we wouldn't want to offend the academy as well and suddenly pop up here. Today... we really don't have a choice."

"In the Flood-Desert Northern Region, all the clans suffered great losses, and only Chu Yue benefitted alone. It is really hard for one not to suspect him. Actually, Elder Bo Yan, you don't have to be this nervous. You just have to call Chu Yue over and ask him to give an explanation for this incident in front of everyone. In that situation, everyone can speak openly, and it would be good for everyone, right?"

Everyone chipped in a word or two, and many things were said.

Yet, Elder Bo Yan heard it and sneered in his heart continuously. I have lived for so many years. What kind of scene have I not seen before? It looks like these people are indeed considering our relationship. But in actual fact, this isn't the case! If they really are this reasonable, they wouldn't directly rush to Fangzhou City and put up such a formation. In other words, the sword is already on their shoulders, yet they pretend like they want to communicate properly. How is this believable?

How laughable!

Elder Bo Yan also had very high endurance. Even though he was fuming mad, his expression didn't change as he still controlled himself and was courteous.

As the other party spoke, he listened. It was only until the other people kept chipping in sentences and words, spoke until their throats were dry, and had finished everything that had to be said that he then slowly nodded. "Everyone makes sense."

Quite a few people had their eyes light up.

"However..." Elder Bo Yan's words took a turn. "I also have some things to say to you. The Flood-Desert Northern Region is very dangerous. From ancient times to present times, many strong warriors have gone there without returning. Everyone, you should've known this when you first brought people over, right? Not to mention you guys, even my Ling Xiao Academy was in perilous situations. We lost three elders and many students! You come and ask our Ling Xiao Academy for an explanation, then... Who should we find?"

The crowd was stumped.

"Besides, at the very beginning, everyone risked their lives to go to the Flood-Desert Northern Region most probably for the Heavenly Square Cauldron. Now, every single thing has proven that this was just fake news purposely released by someone, and the motive was to lure everyone there and harm us. You're not investigating who the mastermind is, yet you come to my Ling Xiao Academy and interrogate a teen? Do you feel that he has planned all of this on his own?"

Quite a few faces from the other party started turning ugly.

"I know why you're not letting go of Chu Yue. It's just because he obtained a twist of fate in the Flood-Desert Northern Region, so you think he's problematic. However... Nobody can be sure about luck. Just because he coincidentally gained something, he has to be surrounded and attacked in this manner. Isn't this... too unfair? You might not know, but Chu Yue originally didn't go on this trip to the Flood-Desert Northern Region. It was because someone used some tricks later on to lure Hua Feng and the rest over, so he followed."

Elder Bo Yan laughed, and his old and deep gaze swept past the crowd. "And there's one last thing I want to ask everyone. You want to ask Chu Yue for an explanation, but can you produce a single piece of evidence that proves that your people's deaths are related to Chu Yue at all?"

Once he said this, the entire place was silent.

Actually, they also knew that they were being unreasonable on the basis of them being the majority. At the end of the day, they were just indignant.

Yet, they couldn't find the culprit, so they could only find a substitute to unleash their anger on.

Everyone thought that Ling Xiao Academy would hand Chu Yue over when they saw that they stepped forward in unison. However, they didn't expect Elder Bo Yan's attitude to be so stubborn and that he wanted to protect Chu Yue to the end.

This caused some people to start doubting Chu Yue's identity.



After a temporary stalemate, Elder Bo Yan softened his tone and harmoniously said, "Actually, I can understand everyone's feelings. After all, it's not easy for any aristocratic family to produce a strong warrior, not to mention that everyone has suffered a great loss on the Flood-Desert Northern Region trip. Why don't we do this? We can first work together to investigate this matter. Power lies in numbers—perhaps we might be able to find something out. Besides, when Chu Yue comes out from Fengming Mountain, I can then ask him to give everyone an explanation."

Elder Bo Yan took a step back to make progress and give them an out.

Quite a few people hesitated. They originally weren't willing to completely go against Ling Xiao Academy. If they could discuss and come up with a solution, that would be for the best.

Besides, even if Chu Yue could hide in Ling Xiao Academy for a while, it was impossible for him to hide there forever. As long as they wanted to find him, there would be a chance.

Since Elder Bo Yan had said so much, perhaps they should also take a step back.

"Since this is so, then—"

"I'm afraid this won't do." An objection suddenly sounded.

Elder Bo Yan knitted his brows and looked over.

The person speaking was Jin Di.

"Elder Bo Yan, everyone present came from distant places just for Chu Yue to come out and explain everything. If we just go back now, when will we have to wait until?"

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Elder Bo Yan's voice became much colder. "But Chu Yue is already locked in Fengmin Mountain now—"

"Won't he be locked or released with your one word?" Jin Di stroked his chin and smiled in a sinister manner. "We still can't trouble him to show his presence with so many of us here?"

He didn't care what other people thought.

Anyway, since he was already here, he wouldn't be chased away so easily!

Others were afraid of offending Ling Xiao Academy, but he wasn't! After all, they already had a grudge before this.

Once Jin Di spoke, it instantly caused the people on the fence to change their minds again. Yeah! We've spent quite a bit of effort to come this time. If we really let it slide, won't we have made a futile journey?

"Jin Di's words make sense. Elder Bo Yan, think of the bigger picture. Why don't you get Chu Yue to come over?"

"Yeah! Anyway, we're all here, and we won't do anything to him."

"Besides, he should know the most. Won't directly asking him be much more efficient than us investigating like headless flies?"

The crowd was influenced once again.

Elder Bo Yan had his hands behind his back and slowly clenched his fists. These people... It seems like they aren't so easy to chase away!

His gaze turned slightly cold.

Just as he was about to speak, a low and melodious voice sounded from behind. "Chu Yue can't come here for now. Everyone, if you have any questions, just ask me."

The crowd looked at the incoming person, and the scene fell silent for a moment.

The man that slowly walked in stood upright with a demonically handsome appearance. From head to toe, from inside to out, he seemed to have stolen all the glory in the world, and every part of him was perfect. He was really breathtakingly handsome.

Elder Bo Yan was stunned. "Rong Xiu, why are you here?"

Rong Xiu's thin lips curled up slightly at an extremely faint angle. "It's rare for this place to be so crowded. Besides... it's not that easy to see so many important characters in the God Residence Realm at once. Of course, I have to come here and take a look."

He said 'I' in a distinguished manner. He wasn't speaking as a student from the academy but as the Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace!

Elder Bo Yan's gaze flickered.

Rong Xiu had already stepped forward. His cold and nonchalant gaze silently swept across the crowd.

The crowd had various expressions.

Most of them actually hadn't seen Rong Xiu before. This famous Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace came to the world with nothing and only used a few years to take control of everything. And they had always seen his deeds but not his face.

In the God Residence Realm, the top-tier families had their residences very far away from each other. If there was nothing major, they would basically not interact. Hence, there naturally weren't many chances for them to see him personally.

Now that they saw him, he indeed lived up to his name. Even though he was young, his aura didn't lose out to all of these characters that had been in command for many years!

"Rong Xiu, are you saying that... you can speak for Chu Yue?" Jin Di's voice was filled with doubts. "This means that you know everything that happened to him in the Flood-Desert Northern Region and that you can say it clearly?"

Rong Xiu smiled and faintly retorted, "Are you doubting me?"

Jin Di was stumped. Just as he was about to retort angrily, he met Rong Xiu's pair of deep and icy eyes.

At that moment, coldness filled his heart, and more than half his anger had subsided for some reason. That pair of nonchalant, imperious, and mighty eyes caused him to suddenly recall that with the other party's identity, he did have the right to speak to him in this manner!

Rong Xiu was the Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace. The most important thing was that he had authority in his hands!

Only the Golden Wings Sect's sect leader could be on par with him. And he, Jin Di, didn't have this right at all. Even if he was older and more experienced, it was still not enough!

The atmosphere became stiff, cold, and strange.

They might've dared to threaten Elder Bo Yan, but they didn't dare to do so to Rong Xiu. This was because Elder Bo Yan wouldn't dare to bet the entire academy, but Rong Xiu could use his power in the Sky-Cloud Empire to fight with them till the end!

This was a harsh character who killed without blinking! All these years, there had been many rumors regarding His Grace, and most of them were filled with blood, gore, and violence.

He could even exterminate one of the 28 divisions in the Sky-Cloud Empire, Peerless Palace, let alone others.

After a while, someone curtly asked, "Rong Xiu, what identity are you using... to help Chu Yue answer these questions?"

Everyone straightened their eyes.

Even Elder Bo Yan's heart tightened. This is actually asking about the relationship between the duo. Rong Xiu's reply will decide what attitude they will have toward Chu Yue, so it is very important.

Amidst the silence, Rong Xiu raised his sharp brows slightly, and the corner of his lips had a few hints of a smile. "If I must categorize it... I'm his direct kin. Now, you can ask whatever you want to know."

...

Red Moon Desert.

At this point, it was daytime, and the sun was high in the sky.

The yellow sand rolled, and the air seemed to be distorted by the heat waves.

A curvy and muscular figure suddenly appeared on a sand ball!

Suddenly, the surrounding yellow sand rapidly gathered. In the blink of an eye, it turned into many sand balls and rushed toward that person from all directions!

Whoosh!

That figure instantly disappeared from the spot! These sand balls smashed into each other and rapidly crumbled.

The next moment, that figure appeared again on another sand ball about a few yards away.

Shoo!

A ball of yellow sand formed a fist and suddenly came out from the empty air, going straight for the back of that person's head! However, there seemed to be eyes on the back of that person's head as she bent her body and rapidly pounced forward!

She barely managed to escape that attack! At the same time, her feet quickly moved, and her long legs kicked!

Thump!

The fist-sized yellow sand ball was instantly kicked and exploded.

At this point, that figure seemed to have heaved a sigh of relief. She straightened her body and smiled brightly as her pair of almond-like eyes lit up.

This person was precisely Mu Hongyu, who Chu Liuyue had specifically sent over to cultivate here! After staying here for a few months, her originally white face had become tanned, and she was malt-colored now.

Facing high-intensity training every day, she almost had no time to rest. But luckily, she still gritted her teeth and persisted through it.

"Senior Diwu, I've finally passed the test this time, right?"

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Only the Heavens knew how much she had suffered for this day. However, what comforted her was that her abilities truly strengthened rapidly during this process!

Just yesterday, she had just broken through to become a stage-nine warrior! This was also the reason why she could handle such a difficult and complicated assessment in such a relaxed manner.

Before she came here, even she didn't expect to complete such a major breakthrough in such a short period of time.

"Yeah." Elder Diwu's voice that contained laughter sounded.

Not far away, light ripples appeared on the clear lake.

"Before you broke through to become a stage-nine warrior, your abilities had strengthened greatly. This is nothing to you now."

Receiving an affirmative compliment, Mu Hongyu smiled even brighter. "Thank you, Senior Diwu! Then—"

She blinked and asked rather uneasily, "Previously, you said that you'd send me to see Liuyue if I passed the test..."

"Haha, I knew you'd bring this up! Don't worry. I definitely won't go back on what I promised you!" Elder Diwu replied very heartily. "However, you can't rush this matter, and you must wait for an opportune time."

Mu Hongyu was rather confused. Opportune time? What kind of opportune time?

At this time, an ear-piercing sound was heard!

Mu Hongyu turned around.

A ray of purple light flew from the sky! In the blink of an eye, it had already reached her.

Mu Hongyu widened her eyes slightly and found this aura very familiar. Hang on! Isn't this—

Whoosh!

Before she could see clearly, the other party's figure had disappeared! Only a scarce shadow that gradually dissipated was left behind!

In the lake not far away, a soft sound could be heard.

Mu Hongyu instinctively held her breath in. It should be... that person who came back, right? But why does it seem like Liuyue didn't come back with him?

Mu Hongyu surveyed her surroundings uncertainly. She was rather disappointed when she indeed didn't see that familiar figure.

"Hongyu, go and rest first." Diwu Zhangze's voice sounded.

Mu Hongyu was very confused, but she still acknowledged it obediently. "Yes."

She took a few looks in the lake's direction before her figure flashed, and she disappeared into thin air!

...

Below the lake, there was an extremely discreet space.

The four walls were made from black Xuan metal. Each of them was engraved with a strange pattern that exuded faint light.

Rays of light intersected and overlapped each other, forming a gigantic and complicated symbol.

Heavy suppression kept exuding from it—it could almost suppress everything!

Below these two symbols, two faint figures were suppressed. They were Diwu Zhangze and Lan Xiao!

These symbols passed through the top of their heads and bodies, nailing them to this place! Other than during the night of a red moon, they couldn't leave this place at all.

This was a cage!

A purple light glowed, and Dugu Mobao's figure gradually appeared. Then, his gaze calmly and silently swept across the two.

When he saw Lan Xiao, he knitted his brows. That was because Lan Xiao's figure was clearly much fainter than that of Diwu Zhangze, and his aura was slightly weaker. Additionally, his ever-handsome face was half-rotten!

He sat down cross-legged with his brows tightly furrowed, clearly not in good condition.

"Big Baby, you're finally back!" Diwu Zhangze sighed deeply.

"What happened to him?" asked Dugu Mobao with a boom.

Lan Xiao thought very highly of his own face, so he definitely wouldn't allow his face to end up in this state. This showed that something must've happened.

Diwu Zhangze sighed helplessly. "Isn't it because he wants to leave this hellhole! After you left, he also wanted to try to reform his Holy Body, but he didn't succeed... and ended up like this."

Lan Xiao wasn't as strong as Dugu Mobao.

Dugu Mobao failed once and still had the energy to try the second time, but Lan Xiao didn't. Additionally, Dugu Mobao could succeed because he relied on the help of Rong Xiu and Chu Liuyue together.

How could Lan Xiao succeed when he was alone?

"Stupid! Impulsive!" Dugu Mobao was enraged. "Does he not know how dangerous it is?! He has waited so many years. Why can't he just wait a while longer?"

Diwu Zhangze laughed bitterly and shook his head. "I tried to advise him too, but... you took action previously, right?"

Dugu Mobao paused. "I've already sealed the news—"

"As long as you take action, the other party can detect it. It is just a matter of time." Diwu Zhangze interrupted Dugu Mobao for once. "If it weren't because you met with great trouble, you definitely wouldn't take action. Lan Xiao was anxious, so—"

Dugu Mobao kept silent for a moment. "It's all because I wasn't considerate enough. Back then, the situation was too anxious, so I didn't think so much."

"You're always meticulous, so how could you not consider things? You must've reached a dead end, so you had to do this."

They had known each other for many years and understood each other very well. Others might believe his words, but he couldn't trick the other party.

After a momentary silence, Dugu Mobao then said, "Forget it. Let's talk about this later; I'll treat his wounds first."

Diwu Zhangze nodded.

During this time, he had also spent quite a lot of effort trying to stabilize Lan Xiao's injury. But without the Holy Body, he had no independence, and his abilities were limited.

He only could rely on Dugu Mobao.

"Oh right, how is Yue'er Girlie?" asked Diwu Zhangze concernedly.

They had gone for a few months, and they didn't know how their situation was there.

Dugu Mobao's brows moved slightly. "She... should be able to break through and reach the Apotheosis Realm soon."

...

Ling Xiao Academy.

Chu Liuyue had no idea about whatever was happening outside. She had closed her eyes tightly, and her entire person seemed to enter a certain special state.

And her aura started strengthening at a shocking speed!

### [Chapter 1416](#)

"Hm?" Elder Meng—who was sitting cross-legged on the highest floor—suddenly widened his eyes, and his face had a strange expression. "Why is that kid... cultivating at such a high speed?!"

He hasn't come in for a long time, but why is his surrounding aura strengthening by so much?

Elder Meng faintly felt that something was amiss, so he retracted the ashes floating in front of him. Then, he walked down and wanted to personally see what was going on.

The moment he took two steps out, he paused in his tracks and turned around to take a look.

In that empty room, that door floated quietly. It seemed no different from before, and the uneasy commotion didn't occur again.

There shouldn't be... any more problems, right... he silently thought.

Suppressing his tumultuous uneasiness, Elder Meng went downstairs.

His figure quickly disappeared.

A strange pattern quickly flashed across the door that was floating alone! Then, it immediately disappeared!

...

The pagoda at Fengmin Mountain had a total of seven floors.

Normally, Elder Meng would stay on the top floor. He would only come down when there was a special situation. However, there weren't many such situations, especially... because of a student.

Elder Meng followed the stairs down, and his steps made no sound. Without incurring any commotion, he silently came down.

When he reached the second floor, he finally stopped for a moment and looked down at the young man sitting cross-legged in the middle of the room.

That young man had his eyes shut, and his appearance was calm and motionless.

Compared to before, he didn't seem to have changed. However... his surroundings faintly had rich force moving about—it was about to overwhelm him!

This was the movement that would only occur when a cultivator was crazily absorbing force and when their capabilities were rapidly strengthening!

Elder Meng knitted his brows slightly. Although the Heaven and Earth Force in this pagoda can be considered rich... it doesn't seem to be to this extent...

He stared at Chu Yue for quite a while and finally noticed something amiss. A portion of the force moving in Chu Yue's body seems to be coming from within his body! As he absorbs the force from outside, he is digging the force within his body and completely merging it with himself! With attacks from both inside and out, he can improve his skills rapidly!

Elder Meng squinted his eyes. It seems like this kid has some abilities... Previously, I felt that Chu Yue was definitely not as simple as he seemed. Now, it is truly the case!

Suddenly, a ray of brilliant light flew out of Chu Liuyue's left palm!

The strong suppression spread toward the surroundings!

Whir!

That is... Elder Meng widened his eyes slightly. "Holy force?!"

I've long known that Chu Yue has a holy force in his body, but in this situation... Chu Yue wants to merge this holy force? Elder Meng was caught between laughter and tears. During these few months that Chu Yue has been in Ling Xiao Academy, even though his abilities have strengthened rapidly, and he even directly broke through to become a stage-nine warrior after he came back from the Flood-Desert Northern Region... A stage-nine warrior is still a stage-nine warrior. Only a legendary warrior can merge holy force. Chu Yue is still far away from this step!

Elder Meng could not help but shake his head. It seems like this kid is very ambitious. It's right for him to want to become stronger, but he has to be reasonable, right? At the end of the day, he's still a young and ambitious kid...

Elder Meng watched Chu Yue for a while and felt that his previous worry and uneasiness were unnecessary.

He thought for a moment and didn't disturb Chu Yue. Young people have to suffer first before they will grow! I should just do my own things!

Thinking of this, Elder Meng turned back. Like the way he came, he still left without a sound.

...

That ray of brilliant light encircled Chu Liuyue's palm.

The bright light shone on her face and made her white porcelain-like skin look even clearer.

Within her body, an immeasurable amount of force rushed around in her Yuan meridian, almost becoming the wind!



Her body seemed to be surrounded by warm spring water. The warmth and her force passed through every part of her body and silently rejuvenated it. Every inch of her bones and muscles was undergoing a shocking change silently!

At one moment, she 'opened' her eyes.

When she saw that she was still in the squarish and strange space, Chu Liuyue knew that she wasn't seeing this with her physical eye.

A ray of bright light flashed before her—it looked very charming. That seemed to be the holy force hidden in her body.

Chu Liuyue felt rather strange because she didn't know how it came out by itself. However...

A thought suddenly surfaced in her mind. If I can completely merge this holy force, it will definitely be very beneficial to my cultivation.

Chu Liuyue faintly felt that she was guided by something as she raised her hands and grabbed that ball of light.

The ray of light was like flowing sand as it flowed between her fingers.

It's naturally impossible for a stage-nine warrior to absorb holy force. Chu Liuyue recovered her senses and laughed at herself in self-mockery, wanting to retract her hand. But right at this moment, something changed on the wall in front of her.

She felt something and looked up. She saw that the strange lines suddenly moved!

The lines gathered together. In the blink of an eye, a strange pattern was formed.

Chu Liuyue looked at it, knitted her brows, and felt that this pattern was rather familiar. The next moment, that ball of holy force suddenly floated toward that pattern.

That pattern moved lightly, and every line was intricate, elegant, charming, and agile. During this process, that ball of holy force was actually silently crushed—it formed many stars!

Hu!

A light breeze blew over, and these stars moved like the tide, flying toward Chu Liuyue and merging with every part of her body.

Chu Liuyue was dazed for a moment, and deep shock filled her eyes. T-this space... actually wiped away that holy force's holy consciousness so easily, and it became mine?!

### [Chapter 1417](#)

This holy force was snatched from Beiming Ancestor. All along, Chu Liuyue thought that she wouldn't be able to completely merge it before she broke through and reached the Apotheosis Realm. But now, such a shocking scene actually happened, and... it seemed like it was done so easily!

Chu Liuyue instinctively held her breath. She could feel that the holy force had already merged into her Yuan meridian, bones, and blood, and it was with the addition of this force that Chu Liuyue's aura intensified!

She was just a step away from becoming an intermediate stage-nine warrior!

She closed her eyes, yet the tumultuous feelings in her heart could hardly relax. What kind of place is this, and where does this terrifying suppression come from?! The key is, why is everything here helping me so naturally?

Countless thoughts flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind.

...

The arrival of the top-tier aristocratic families and clans made the entire academy's atmosphere very nerve-wracking.

Many students had gathered at Qing Ming Square on their own, while some chose to stay in their own places and waited quietly for the matter to develop.

On some mountain peak, Luo Yanming and Luo Yanlin were standing opposite each other. In the middle of both of them was a gigantic, translucent chessboard.

The rays of silver light had an outline as they shone with an iridescent light.

Xing Luo Chessboard—it seemed like half was already complete.

Luo Yanming crossed his arms and knitted his brows as he stared closely at the chessboard in front of him, looking like he was in a difficult spot.

He had maintained this posture for 15 minutes already.

On the opposite end, Luo Yanlin looked much more relaxed as he waited patiently and relaxingly.

Time slowly trickled past. Tiny beads of sweat slowly appeared on Luo Yanming's forehead.

Luo Yanming raised his arm and tried to take action, but every time he hit a crucial point, he hesitated and moved back.

He was indecisive.

Finally, after another eight minutes or so, he laughed bitterly in defeat. "Fourth Brother, I've lost."

Luo Yanlin waved his wrist, and the chessboard rapidly shrunk. Finally, it became a translucent, palm-sized, and thin piece of paper.

It then flew to Luo Yanming.

Luo Yanming was dazed for a moment and accepted it with both hands.

"Study it properly when you go back." Luo Yanlin walked past and patted his shoulders. "Your understanding isn't bad. You should be able to solve it in half a month's time."

Luo Yanming's lips moved, and he smiled rather helplessly. "I am useless and have disappointed you, Fourth Brother."

Compared to an average person or even most Xuan Master cultivators, he was considered a top elite. But compared to a true elite, he knew that he was much weaker.

This talent was something he could never catch up with.

Luo Yanlin laughed out loud. "My cultivation level is originally higher than yours. If you win, won't I be embarrassed? Besides, if you want to become a strong warrior, it won't do if you just have talent. Yanming, you must remember this—hard work prevails!"

Luo Yanming took a deep breath in and nodded forcefully. "Thank you, Fourth Brother."

As he spoke, he put away the item in his hand carefully.

"Fourth Brother, are you guys done with your chess?" A gentle and curt voice sounded—it was Luo Shishi.

She originally came to spectate today, but she left when she heard that there was a commotion outside the academy.

"It just ended." Luo Yanlin walked over. "How's the situation outside?"

Luo Shishi saw that Luo Yanming's face was slightly pale, and she knew that he had definitely lost in the previous chess game. But luckily, Luo Yanming had experienced too many such situations before and was used to it, so he returned to normal after being disappointed for a moment.

Luo Shishi retracted her gaze and knitted her sharp brows slightly. "The situation... isn't very good."

Following this, she briefly explained what had happened outside.

Actually, her knowledge was limited as she wasn't present after all. She only heard a little.

"...Anyway, both parties are in a stalemate now, and it's hard to say what will happen later." Luo Shishi was very worried and confused. Why would these people want to cause trouble for Chu Yue out of nowhere? It is his luck to be able to gain a twist of fate, so what does it have to do with other people? These people are important people in top-tier aristocratic families after all. Are they not embarrassed to force a young man like this?

After hearing this, Luo Yanlin could not help but laugh. "Don't worry. This commotion will definitely be loud thunder but small raindrops in the end. The big matter will be reduced to a small one, and a small one will turn into nothing. Nothing will happen to that kid."

Luo Shishi was dazed and hurriedly asked, "Fourth Brother, how do you know? I saw that those people's formation is really huge..."

Seeing her reaction, Luo Yanlin was instantly upset. Even though he already knew that his sister liked that kid, seeing her so worried over this, he still had some thoughts as her elder brother.

He lightly grunted, walked to the stone bench at the side, and sat down. Then, he poured himself a cup of tea and muttered to himself, "That kid has such a tough life. Who can do anything to him?!"

In the few months Chu Yue has been in the academy, has he gotten into any less trouble? It felt like his life was at risk those few times, and he was in a very dangerous situation. What happened in the end? Isn't he living well?! Also, he has even strengthened himself at a terrifying speed!

If it were someone else, they wouldn't have done it. Yet, this kid could endure it every time. Now, I can finally say that one cannot use a normal gaze to look at Chu Yue.

"Besides, now that both Elder Bo Yan and Rong Xiu are speaking for him, they are clearly backing him up. With Ling Xiao Academy and the Sky-Cloud Empire as his backers... These people won't dare to do anything casually."

No matter if it were Ling Xiao Academy or the Sky-Cloud Empire, they weren't one to be trifled with, let alone when they worked together and stood on the same side! As long as those people weren't crazy, they wouldn't completely offend these two powers for one Chu Yue!

Upon hearing this, Luo Shishi also felt that it made sense. "Fourth Brother, you're right..."

"All these people are just jealous of Chu Yue because they didn't obtain anything from the Flood-Desert Northern Region. If I had to say anything... It's the people who started this incident who have ill intentions, and the people who foolishly went because of them are even more stupid!"

It really wasn't worth it to offend Ling Xiao Academy and the Sky-Cloud Empire over a matter without evidence.

They thought that they could absolve themselves of responsibility just because they joined hands, yet they didn't realize that it was never too late for a gentleman to take revenge!

After knowing Rong Xiu for so long, he had never seen Rong Xiu stand up for anyone. He would probably remember this grudge for life!

"Oh right, what did Rong Xiu say about his relationship with Chu Yue?" Luo Yanlin had always been very curious about this. Now that Rong Xiu has personally admitted to it, we naturally have to check it.

Luo Shishi's expression was rather strange. "He said... direct kin... but he didn't say the specifics."

Luo Yanlin stroked his chin and thought for a long time. When he spoke again, his voice was a little hazy. "I didn't hear that Rong Xiu's mother had given birth to a younger brother for him back then..."

## [Chapter 1418](#)

Boom!

A loud sound suddenly came from the mountain peak at the side!

Luo Yanlin and the rest looked over in shock. "What's happening?"

As Luo Yanlin told them to relax, he quickly walked over and took a closer look. He saw that a cave had suddenly collapsed at the opposite mountain's midway point.

A few large rocks rolled down, and dust flew everywhere, almost sealing the cave entrance.

"That's... That's Lin Zhifei's residence." Luo Yanming followed him and knitted his brows after taking a look. "He seems to have been cultivating in seclusion during this period of time. I wonder what happened to result in such a huge commotion."

Lin Zhifei was one of the most outstanding students out of all those the academy had recruited during this half a year. Additionally, he was also a Xuan Master, so Luo Yanming paid more attention to him.

"Lin Zhifei?" Luo Yanlin raised his brows. "I haven't seen him in a while."

Previously, Lin Zhifei didn't follow the rest of the academy to the Flood-Desert Northern Region and had been peacefully cultivating in the academy.

After he defeated Jiang Zhiyuan in public the previous time, he stayed in his own place and didn't really come out. He was very discreet.

Many people didn't know what Lin Zhifei was thinking, including Luo Yanming. Luo Yanming wanted to duel with the other party several times later on, but he couldn't find a suitable time.

"Is he in trouble? Should we go over to take a look?" asked Luo Shishi rather worriedly. This commotion doesn't look like nothing is wrong!

Luo Yanlin was about to take action when he suddenly stopped. "No need."

Once he said that, the pile of gigantic rocks was suddenly pushed away by someone! A slim and tall figure came out from within—it was Lin Zhifei, whom they hadn't seen in a long time.

He had quite a lot of dust on his face, and there seemed to be bloodstains at the corner of his mouth. He looked rather disheveled.

Seemingly choked by the dust, he started coughing while walking. However, Luo Shishi and the rest were relieved.

"It seems like he's fine..." Luo Shishi heaved a sigh of relief.

Even though they weren't familiar with each other, they were all schoolmates. They naturally didn't want to see the other party in an accident, especially when Lin Zhifei had such good talent as a Xuan Master.

Wouldn't it be a pity if he was in trouble?

"Hm?" Suddenly, Lin Zhifei's gaze focused. He stared at Lin Zhifei and squinted his eyes slightly.

"Fourth Brother, what's the matter?" Luo Shishi and Luo Yanming detected that something was amiss and looked at him strangely.

"This Lin Zhifei..." Luo Yanlin spoke hesitantly as if he were guessing something, and there seemed to be ripples in the depths of his eyes. If I didn't guess wrongly, the commotion that came from the cave seems to be... caused by building a transportation formation? Even though it was very tiny, my abilities are strong, and I have experience in building transportation formations with the elders in our clan. Hence, I could sensitively notice it. Was Lin Zhifei trying to build a transportation formation on his own inside that cave?!

This sudden thought caused Luo Yanlin to be uneasy. That was because building a transportation formation was a very complicated and difficult task.

Normally speaking, even ordinary King Xuan Masters would only know a thing or two. Lin Zhifei is actually trying this now... What exactly are his true abilities? Judging from the previous situation, Lin Zhifei should've failed. However... being able to cause such a commotion proves that he has at least found a way or two. Luo Yanlin was rather shocked. He had always known that Lin Zhifei was very talented and mature.

After entering the academy a few months ago, other than the monthly assessments at the beginning of each month and the duel with Jiang Zhiyuan where he had proven his existence... He seemed like he had completely disappeared at other times and focused on his own cultivation.

Such a person didn't have to worry about not succeeding! Hence, Luo Yanlin always thought highly of him. But it was only today that Luo Yanlin then realized that perhaps... he had underestimated the other party!

As if detecting the few people's gazes, Lin Zhifei stopped in his tracks and looked over.

After seeing their appearances clearly, Lin Zhifei was honest and nodded toward them politely and smiled slightly. It was like... everything was normal, and he didn't feel embarrassed because he was discovered doing something secretly.

Luo Yanlin nodded and retracted his gaze. "It seems like he's fine."

Luo Yanming stared at that side and took a few more looks. As a Xuan Master, he instinctively felt that something was wrong, but he couldn't pinpoint it.

"Alright, we'll end here today. The two of you, go back and cultivate properly. When we go home after a while, we still have assessments."

"I understand, Fourth Brother."

...

Fangzhou City.

The two parties were still in a tug of war.

"So... you mean that you also don't know who exactly took Chu Yue away? Then, at the end of the day, only Chu Yue knows himself?" Jin Di asked coldly.

Rong Xiu raised his brows slightly. "He doesn't know either."

Jin Di coldly grunted. "Who knows if that's true or false!"

The corners of Rong Xiu's lips were raised slightly, and it outlined an extremely cold smile. "If he knew, he would definitely tell me. Everyone, do you think that I'd still be talking here if I knew who that person is?"

His voice was originally low and cold. Now that he dragged his ending syllables a little longer, it was even colder and caused one's heart to feel cold.

Silent.

Quite a few people glanced at each other awkwardly.

Rong Xiu's words did make sense. Everyone could tell how protective he was of Chu Yue.

If he knew Chu Yue was bullied by someone and knew the culprit behind it, with his unreasonable personality, he definitely wouldn't hold it in until now.

It seems like he really doesn't know...

### [Chapter 1419](#)

Elder Bo Yan came out to ease the situation. "Everyone, regarding this, we also want to quickly find out the truth. After all, no matter if it's us Ling Xiao Academy or the Sky-Cloud Empire, we have all suffered a loss. If you were to say that he obtained some twist of fate—yes, that's right. However, it's not like he wasn't in trouble at all. If not, he wouldn't have been taken away by those people, right?"

He sighed. "To be honest, actually when Rong Xiu saved Chu Yue, he was severely injured and unconscious. During this period of time, he was in a coma and woke up with much difficulty. If not, we wouldn't have sent him to Fengmin Mountain only now, right?"

These words caused many people to waver. Could it... Chu Yue entered that place alone, so he was brought away by the mysterious people? If they put it this way, it does make sense...

"In my opinion, we should work together and find out the truth!"

After a series of intense debates, someone finally started to compromise. "Then... Since Elder Bo Yan has said so, let's... wait and see first?"

"I think that works too. If not, we can wait for Chu Yue to come out and explain to us."

"There's not much use if we struggle here. Why don't we go back first and find some clues..."

Since Elder Bo Yan had willingly given them an out, there were naturally people who wanted to come down.

Originally, some people wanted to haggle further. But seeing that the tides had turned, they chose to keep quiet.

At this point, Jin Di suddenly thought of something. He took a step forward and asked, "Wait! I still have one last question!"

The people in the surroundings fell silent, and all looked over.

Rong Xiu nodded. "You can just speak directly."

Jin Di laughed, but there wasn't much smiling intent in his eyes. "I want to ask... The sword that Chu Yue used—is it the one that he stole from Jin Lei?"

Once he said this, quite a few people revealed strange expressions.

The entire God Residence Realm knew about the incident that happened between Ling Xiao Academy and the Golden Wings Sect.

Logically speaking, the people from the Golden Wings Sect would really hate to bring up this matter in front of the public. After all, they had lost. Therefore, why did Jin Di suddenly talk about this now?

Elder Bo Yan's heart tightened, and he silently glanced at Rong Xiu.

Rong Xiu's expression didn't change as he said nonchalantly, "So what if it is, and so what if it's not? Anyway, that item is hers. There doesn't seem to be a difference here, right?"

Jin Di laughed out loud. "Why wouldn't there be?! There's a huge difference! Rong Xiu, that sword should be... a true supreme Yuan instrument, right?!"

Once he said this, the entire surroundings fell into a deadly silence! Supreme Yuan instrument—even in the entire God Residence Realm, it is still a top treasure! It is a rare item that all the top-tier aristocratic families in the world would fight for! How many years has it been since a supreme Yuan instrument appeared in the God Residence Realm? What is Jin Di talking about? Chu Yue used a supreme Yuan instrument?!

At that moment, everyone's gazes toward Rong Xiu changed. Even though they had tried their best to hold it in, they still couldn't conceal the curiosity and fire in their eyes.

In the beginning, they did not think so. But once Jin Di mentioned it, they found it weird.

In the Flood-Desert Northern Region, quite a few people had seen Chu Liuyue use a sword personally. At the very least, the mysterious region in the middle of the nine gullies and the door that seemingly could never be opened was slashed open by him!

Upon deeper thought, probably only a supreme Yuan instrument could do such a thing, right?

Rong Xiu looked at Jin Di, and his phoenix-like eyes deepened slightly. This question really has bad intentions.

In the silent atmosphere that seemed to be freezing, Rong Xiu finally spoke. "Won't you know if she shows it to you personally the next time?"

Jin Di's smile suddenly froze. "Are you threatening me?"

"Yeah." Rong Xiu softly laughed. Since the other party is so harsh and mean, there is no need to be merciful. If it were the Golden Wings Sect sect master, I might still be polite. A mere Jin Di... What is he!?

"You—" Jin Di's face instantly flushed to the color of pig lungs.

"But you have to see if she's willing," said Rong Xiu with a faint smile. "If she finds it troublesome, then... I might have to do it for her."

Every single word was nonchalant, but it had the aura of a thousand lightning bolts, which made one's heart shudder!

Jin Di was furious and immediately went forward.



Rumble!

A ball of fire suddenly exploded before him! The terrifying heat wave came over, and the scorching hot temperature caused him pain!

Jin Di let out a miserable cry, and his body flew backward!

Thump!

His body fell onto the floor harshly and let out a loud sound!

The sound of his bones being crushed could be clearly heard, and his face and body were covered in blood. He looked disheveled, and his aura was weak, looking very miserable.

Everyone was taken aback!

Nobody expected Rong Xiu to take action, and once he did, he did it so harshly!

The other party was the Golden Wings Sect's second-in-charge—Jin Di!

Jin Di wanted to say something, yet blood kept coming out of his mouth, and he couldn't stop coughing.

A terrifying and sinister suppression instantly overwhelmed him! It caused him to be unable to move!

At this point, Jin Di detected an extremely sharp murderous intent! Without a doubt, as long as he said another word, Rong Xiu would execute him on the spot without hesitation!

He shrunk his body, forcefully looked up, and glanced at Rong Xiu. However, he saw the demonically handsome young man—who looked like a spirit and yet a fairy—smile slightly. "You think of having ill intentions toward him in front of me... Do you think I'm dead?"

### [Chapter 1420](#)

That man's voice was as cold and melodious as usual, and the corner of his lips showed a faint smile. It was as if it were just a light joke between friends, but at this moment, the crowd viewed his current appearance exactly the same as the Grim Reaper walking out of hell!

Every single word revealed his absolute power and domineering self!

At this point, some people then suddenly recalled this man's identity—the Sky-Cloud Empire's His Grace!

From an illegitimate child that was bullied and looked down upon by the clan, he turned into a leader that stably sat on the head seat of the Sky-Cloud Empire. How could he be easily bullied?

Firstly, his attitude was polite, which made everyone let down their guard, and they started to become nonchalant. It was only now, when he suddenly took action, that everyone shockingly realized that he was indeed someone who killed people without blinking!

"Second Master!" When the few Golden Wings Sect subordinates saw this, they gradually cried out in worry and anxiously rushed to Jin Di. "Second Master, are you okay?"

How could I be okay! Jin Di was enraged. "Quickly, help me up!"

Even though his tone was fierce, he was currently injured, and his aura was slightly weak. Hence, this admonishment had no authority at all.

However, the people below him still didn't dare to treat him lightly as they carefully supported him.

Jin Di's entire body trembled.

Quite a few bones were broken. When he took a light breath, his chest would hurt continuously. It was as if someone used a few knives and kept stabbing his insides.

Once he stood up, Jin Di pushed the people beside him away. "Get lost! Blinded things!"

The few subordinates were pushed until they staggered backward and almost fell to the ground. Yet, they didn't dare to show any signs of being upset as they stared at Jin Di nervously and kept begging for mercy, terrified that they would be reprimanded.

There was a fire burning in Jin Di's heart. In front of so many people, my reputation is totally tarnished after being beaten into this state by Rong Xiu! The key point is that Rong Xiu only used one move from start to end!

One had to know that he was much older than Rong Xiu! Anyone would feel upset if they were beaten by their juniors in public until they couldn't retaliate at all, let alone an arrogant Jin Di that looked down on everyone!

However, he didn't dare to rage at Rong Xiu. For some reason, he had some fear toward Rong Xiu in his heart.

He couldn't state where this feeling came from, but it kept entangling his heart, and it couldn't go away. This made him increasingly frustrated, so he could only release all these grievances toward his surrounding subordinates.

"Rong Xiu, I will remember this grudge!" Jin Di still had to save the last bit of his reputation, so he mustered his courage and ferociously left that sentence behind.

Rong Xiu disregarded it. He had heard such words many times before, but almost nobody had the chance to avenge themselves.

"This is Ling Xiao Academy, and I'm also a student of the academy, so I don't want things to turn too ugly here. Everyone, if you want to discuss this properly, let's talk peacefully. If anyone wants to cross the line and offend anyone as they wish... Don't blame me for not giving you face." As Rong Xiu spoke, he cupped his fists toward Elder Bo Yan at the side and said rather apologetically, "I dirtied the academy's floor. Elder Bo Yan, please forgive me."

The corner of the crowd's lips twitched in unison. This man is harsh to the extreme! It's fine that he beat Jin Di up until he was covered in injuries, yet he still wants to harshly stomp on the latter's face! However, he makes it look like he is innocent and was helplessly forced by all of the matters.... Th-this...

Elder Bo Yan coughed. "Ahem! I-it's fine!"

In actual fact, he didn't expect Rong Xiu to take action.

Originally, he wanted to stop Rong Xiu, but this thought just flashed across his mind once before he directly ignored it. Why should I stop it? At this point, someone has to stand up to show their temper and shock all these people! This is to set a precedent! If not, the others will really think that Ling Xiao Academy and the Sky-Cloud Empire are easy to bully!

Jin Di was so angry that his entire body trembled. He turned around furiously and limped away.

The other people from the Golden Wings Sect hurriedly left.

The group's figures disappeared very quickly.

With such a commotion, the remaining people had no interest in continuing to stay here, so they bade farewell respectively. Even if they really had some thoughts toward Chu Yue, they knew that they definitely couldn't present this now.

Did you not see how Rong Xiu was bent on protecting that Chu Yue?!

Ling Xiao Academy wasn't one to be trifled with, and Rong Xiu was even worse! They could only suppress their indignation and curiosity and leave on their own.

...

After they all left, Elder Bo Yan couldn't help but sigh and shoot Rong Xiu a complicated gaze. "Rong Xiu, today's matter is all thanks to you."

If Rong Xiu didn't stand up, these people would continue haggling until no end.

"No problem." Rong Xiu smiled. "Besides, I'm also quite upset with the Golden Wings Sect."

Today was just a brief show. If the other party really continued with their actions, he wouldn't spare them so easily.

Elder Bo Yan glanced at Rong Xiu and saw the ice-cold murderous intent in his eyes that wavered like crushed ice, appearing from time to time. He couldn't help but be secretly shocked. Rong Xiu... He shockingly protected Chu Yue and thinks even more highly of him than I expected! Even if those people used the same methods against Rong Xiu himself, he wouldn't even be this angry. Chu Yue... is clearly Rong Xiu's Achilles heel!

Elder Bo Yan recalled what Rong Xiu previously said again. He and Chu Yue... Are they really biological brothers? I really couldn't tell that Rong Xiu treated his family in such a... All along, I thought that with Rong Xiu's cold and nonchalant personality, he wouldn't care about anyone.

Oh right, I heard that his birth mother had passed away when he was very young. Perhaps that is the exact reason why he cares so much about Chu Yue? After all, if Chu Yue really is his younger brother, he is Rong Xiu's only bloodline kin. It is no wonder Chu Yue is so mysterious about his identity and refuses to say anything further... Thinking of this, Elder Bo Yan's heart ached for Chu Yue again.

"You've done well. After today's incident, they should stop for a while." Then, Elder Bo Yan turned around to leave. "Oh right, when Chu Yue comes out from Fengmin Mountain, comfort him properly. Don't let him feel aggrieved."

At the end of the day, being locked up at Fengmin Mountain was a punishment. Chu Yue really didn't do anything wrong, yet he had to be locked up. It was indeed rather aggrieving.

Rong Xiu paused in his tracks, and a smile flashed across the corner of his eyes before it disappeared. "Okay."

She probably won't feel aggrieved about going to Fengmin Mountain... right? As Rong Xiu thought, he accompanied Elder Bo Yan to cross the barrier and return to the academy.

He looked in Fengmin Mountain's direction—peaceful and calm. But under the seemingly calm lake surface, there seemed to be secret currents crazily surging around.

Nobody knew when it would suddenly explode and shock the world with a storm!