

Nobel Ruler 401

Chapter 401: Break

“You can come out; he’s already gone,” said Situ Xingchen softly.

Some movements happened in the empty space not far behind her. Then, an elder came out from the middle.

It was Elder Lian Ning.

“I really don’t know how Rong Jin managed to stably stay as the Crown Prince for so long.” Elder Lian Ning used a mocking tone. “Does he think that he can really enter the imperial mausoleum with his abilities and take what he wants?”

“After all, he’s Heaven’s Chosen Son, so he must be different from the rest,” said Situ Xingchen nonchalantly.

Elder Lian Ning glanced at her and laughed. “You seem like you don’t really care about this identity of Rong Jin’s.”

“Of course not. I simply just look down on Rong Jin.”

So what if he’s Heaven’s Chosen Son? Rong Jin might not have enough luck to succeed!

Elder Lian Ning turned around and looked in the direction where Rong Jin disappeared to as he said thoughtfully, "You're right. I really don't know why a person like Rong Jin is Heaven's Chosen Son."

Situ Xingchen's lips curved up coldly. If she didn't personally hear the Empress say those words and witnessed what happened in Heptagon Alley, she wouldn't have believed it either.

"Even though Rong Jin is useless... am I not here already?" Situ Xingchen brushed her loose strands of hair behind her ear, and her usually watery eyes suddenly looked cold. "With my help, he naturally doesn't need to fret about it."

Elder Lian Ning nodded. "Your Highness, what should we do now? Should we quietly observe what happens, or..."

"Let's go to the imperial mausoleum," said Situ Xingchen swiftly.

Elder Lian Ning acknowledged it, and he whipped his sleeves as a white mist spread out, enveloping the duo.

Immediately after, the duo's figures disappeared on the spot.

...

On the other end, Rong Jin went to Golden Inheritance Peak alone.

When he was near it, he quickly discovered that the guards here were even stricter than usual.

I wonder what exactly happened in the imperial mausoleum... Rong Jin carefully trod forward as he thought to himself.

His surroundings were deadly quiet. The further he walked, the clearer he could hear his own heartbeat.

Situ Xingchen's words kept replaying in his mind.

"...Inside the imperial mausoleum is a precious treasure that has been passed down for thousands of years. Rumor has it that the treasure was unwittingly obtained by Country Yao Chen's ancestor, but he didn't completely solve the treasure's secret in the end. Hence, nobody else knew that he had such an item with him. In the end, he brought it into the imperial mausoleum."

"Only Country Yao Chen's emperors have the right to know about this. Originally, Her Majesty also didn't know about this until she saw some godly signs when they paid respects at Golden Inheritance Peak once. She then confirmed that you, the Crown Prince, were Heaven's Chosen Son. You're destined to enter the imperial mausoleum one day and obtain the treasure, becoming its new owner."

"Once you obtain that treasure and solve its secret, you will have the ability to access the heavens."

Rong Jin swallowed his saliva as he looked at Golden Inheritance Peak with unconcealable desire and excitement.

Access the heavens—these words alone were enough to excite anyone!

Even though he had heard this quite a while back, Rong Jin still felt crazily elated every time he thought of it.

He had lived for more than 20 years, but he never knew he had such a destiny lying ahead of him.

Why did Mother hide it from me for so long? If I knew about it earlier, I would've come here a long time ago. Previously, Rong Jin encountered continuous setbacks and almost thought that he had no chance of making a comeback. Who would've thought that he had such a trump card?

Thinking of this, Rong Jin felt upset with his mother. *Since I'm Heaven's Chosen Son, why didn't Mother tell me early on? She was only willing to speak about it now, when I've landed in a perilous situation void of hope.*

Coincidentally, something happened to the imperial mausoleum, so it was even more inconvenient for him to enter the place silently.

"Go over there and look! The rest, follow me!" Suddenly, a group of people on horses came over.

Rong Jin immediately hid his figure and aura carefully.

At this point, he heard the cries of the crane in the sky.

Rong Jiu knitted his brows. *Father is already here?! This will spell more trouble... If Situ Xingchen came with me, she might be able to distract these people...*

But he only thought of it. If he had another chance, he would still leave Situ Xingchen there.

He was always a suspicious person. Now that the incident implicated something so serious, he would never be assured enough to let her follow him.

After waiting for a while at the same spot and confirming that the guards on patrol had left, he carefully walked forward.

Just like that, even though the entire way was dangerous, Rong Jin still managed to reach the foot of Golden Inheritance Peak successfully.

While looking at the barrier in front and facing the tremendous suppression coming from it, Rong Jin's throat felt dry. He couldn't help but lick his lips nervously.

Then, he took out a box and whispered, "Mother, you must help me this time..."

After that, he carefully opened the box.

An engraved jade pendant lay in there quietly.

Rong Jin picked the pendant up and slowly injected his force.

Stars gradually glowed on the pendant, forming a strange pattern in the end.

If Emperor Jiawen was here, he would know that the pattern on it was exactly the same as the key to Golden Inheritance Peak's barrier in his hands.

The box that the Empress so meticulously hid only had this one thing! This was the thing she spent so much effort to secretly take from Emperor Jiawen and replicate in private.

She hid it for so many years, just for this day!

Buzz!

Ripples suddenly appeared on the barrier. Then, an entrance appeared in front of Rong Jin.

His heart beat crazily, and it almost jumped out of his mouth. Then, his figure disappeared as he entered the barrier.

However, he didn't see that the barrier didn't immediately close after he entered. Instead, a strange ripple pattern appeared—it was as if some wind moved in.

After a while, a faint light appeared on the barrier, and it closed once again.

Everything returned to normal.

At this point, a group of men coincidentally walked past the area. When they saw that the barrier was unharmed, they didn't stop and proceeded forward.

...

In the imperial mausoleum, Chu Liuyue sat on the throne.

The golden walls had already been built high in all directions. They stopped when it was about to reach the river.

The entire space seemed to have frozen, and only the barrier surrounding Chu Liuyue was burning crazily.

Chu Liuyue estimated that 15 minutes had passed, but this barrier was too strong, so progress was very slow.

After a long while, a crack finally appeared in the barrier in front of her.

Kacha!

The barrier cracked!

Chapter 402: Danger!

After the first crack appeared, the remaining things progressed much more smoothly.

With the transparent karmic fire burning, the surrounding barrier—which was glowing gold—quickly melted like ice.

The fire landed and instantly ignited the golden walls.

Huala!

With this sound, the transparent fire started spreading. At the same time, the entire golden castle was wrapped within the transparent fire.

Chu Liuyue could clearly see that the heptagonal crystals accumulated on the surface area had gradually become sand again.

Slowly, the same thing happened to the other golden walls.

Chu Liuyue felt like she was surrounded by the endless fire. She was lucky that she didn't feel much of a burn. Perhaps it was because the Heavenly Square Cauldron had already recognized her as its owner.

However, Tuan Zi really couldn't take it toward the end, and it hid back inside again.

When the first golden wall thoroughly disappeared and became sand, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt a strange strength—which followed the transparent fire and entered her body.

She blinked her eyes in shock. *This is...*

“The golden crystals have very rich strength. If you use the karmic fire to burn the crystals, it’s equivalent to squeezing all the strength out of them.” The legendary three-eyed eagle suddenly spoke, and its tone was as nonchalant as usual. But if one listened closely, they would feel a sense of indignance.

I have only followed Chu Liuyue for a while, and I’ve already witnessed her having so much good fortune! Her luck is heaven-defying! Even I can’t help but feel tempted. I’ve lived for so long, but I’ve never seen someone luckier than Chu Liuyue!

Normally, people thought that cultivators had to have talent first and diligence next. But in actual fact, the most important thing was luck!

And Chu Liuyue had all three of them!

Now, it started to understand why the Heavenly Square Cauldron chose Chu Liuyue as its owner.

The legendary three-eyed eagle even started to think that it wasn’t as ridiculous as it once seemed when Chu Liuyue agreed to help it recover its physical body.

If this continued, Chu Liuyue might really become the person at the top!

However, Chu Liuyue didn’t know that the legendary three-eyed eagle had thought of so many things within such a short period of time. She reacted and asked with uncertainty, “Are you saying that... this is equivalent to me cultivating?”

The legendary three-eyed eagle sneered. “Are you so efficient when you cultivate?”

Chu Liuyue was speechless. *Is it praising me for having good luck, or is it saying that I cultivate slowly? However, all of this doesn't matter. What matters is that there are more than a few hundred golden walls here. If I burn all of them, won't my capabilities be greatly enhanced?*

Her uptight feelings—which appeared ever since she entered the imperial mausoleum—finally relaxed a little.

Chu Liuyue clenched her fists and felt the rich force flowing in her body. She couldn't help but smile. *I didn't expect to meet such a good thing accidentally! I will definitely break through if I absorb all of this strength! Thinking of this, I should thank Mu Qinghe.*

Oh, yeah. Where is he? Chu Liuyue's gaze darkened.

The duo fell from the circular plate at the same time, but she hadn't seen Mu Qinghe's figure until now.

Did he meet with trouble? This idea momentarily flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind before she quickly placed it at the back of her mind. *Even if Mu Qinghe has ended up in a perilous situation, it isn't up to me to worry about him. With his abilities, he should be more than capable enough to handle the troubles in the imperial mausoleum.*

Chu Liuyue shook her head and flung her unnecessary thoughts away as she swiftly sat down on the throne, gathered her focus, and started to cultivate.

She closed her eyes and placed her hands on her knees.

The Heavenly Square Cauldron returned to her dantian again.

Chu Liuyue thought of something and abruptly raised her hand.

Transparent karmic fire flew out.

The thick force kept flowing in from the surroundings and entered Chu Liuyue's body continuously.

Her entire body seemed to be soaked in a sauna—warm and comforting.

The strength followed her limbs and entered her dantian, finally gathering in the water droplet.

It looked like a small water droplet, but it was like a black hole that kept silently swallowing all the strength flowing into it.

Gradually, a pattern appeared on the water droplet.

Chu Liuyue thought of something, used more force to burn the fire even more intensely, and absorbed the strength.

Perhaps it was an illusion, but she vaguely felt that the fire in the Heavenly Square Cauldron was burning even more intensely than before.

This feeling was strange, but Chu Liuyue quickly confirmed her thoughts. The Heavenly Square Cauldron did absorb the golden walls' strength.

Its overall aura clearly seemed to have enhanced, and even the legendary three-eyed eagle was shocked. “Why did this... The Heavenly Square Cauldron is actually absorbing the strength here?”

Chu Liuyue wasn't sure, but it knew. The Heavenly Square Cauldron was a distinguished treasure, and it wouldn't touch ordinary Heaven and Earth Force. Therefore, even though it had been suppressed for thousands of years and was greatly damaged, the Heavenly Square Cauldron never moved much.

Other than a type of power!

But... Why would there be such a thing here?

Chu Liuyue didn't know what the legendary three-eyed eagle was thinking of and just thought that it was surprised by this scene.

There was a strange connection between her and the Heavenly Square Cauldron, so she knew clearly that, although the Heavenly Square Cauldron looked perfectly fine, it wasn't so.

Doing this was akin to repairing its body itself.

This was naturally a good thing for Chu Liuyue.

After confirming this, Chu Liuyue quickly gathered her thoughts and focused on her cultivation.

The surrounding golden walls kept melting as the transparent karmic fire burned.

Piles of golden sand appeared on the floor as Chu Liuyue's aura kept strengthening.

After some time, Chu Liuyue suddenly realized that she had touched a barrier that she couldn't see.

Her heart beat wildly. *This is the sign of breaking through to become a stage-three warrior!*

At this point, the second line appeared on the water droplet in the dantian.

Chu Liuyue became increasingly calm at this point.

She continued to absorb the strength at a regular pace.

She knew that she was different from other cultivators. With the restriction from the water droplet, she had to spend much more effort than others to break through and become a stage-three warrior.

However, Chu Liuyue gradually discovered another problem—the Yuan meridian in her body seemed unable to tolerate the impact from so much strength, and it started to hurt faintly.

In the beginning, it was just a slight, sharp pain. However, it quickly became an excruciating pain in her entire body.

That terrifying strength kept rushing to her Yuan meridian, almost as if it wanted to break it.

Chu Liuyue tried to reduce the amount of strength flowing in, but she shockingly discovered that she couldn't stop.

Chapter 403: Stage-Three Warrior!

She tried again but to no avail. It was as if she had opened a gigantic floodgate. The water kept pouring out, but it wasn't that simple to close the gates again.

That terrifying strength kept rushing toward Chu Liuyue's Yuan meridian. Following this process, her surrounding pain became increasingly intense.

Chu Liuyue clenched her silver teeth, and some blood slowly dripped out from the corner of her lips.

She finally became slightly worried.

If this continues, my Yuan meridian won't be able to take it. It would be injured at best and damaged at worst.

It wasn't easy to recover the Yuan meridian, and Chu Liuyue didn't want to damage it again.

"Legendary three-eyed eagle, do you have any way?" Out of anxiety, Chu Liuyue couldn't care about much.

The legendary three-eyed eagle also noticed that something was wrong, but its reply was even colder after hearing Chu Liuyue's words. "You're the Heavenly Square Cauldron's owner. If even you can't control it, what can I do?"

I'm trapped here! Even if the legendary three-eyed eagle didn't want to admit it, it really couldn't compare to Chu Liuyue on this.

Chu Liuyue's heart gradually sank. *Do I really need to sit around and wait?*

"The Heavenly Square Cauldron isn't the only thing you can't control, right?"

The legendary three-eyed eagle's single sentence immediately enlightened Chu Liuyue.

She carefully sensed her body and shockingly discovered that the reason why she couldn't stop the process was due to the Heavenly Square Cauldron, as well as the water droplet in her body.

No matter if it was the Heavenly Square Cauldron or the water droplet, they seemed to desire the strength in the golden walls very much. Thus, they kept absorbing it.

If she wanted to stop, she would be hurt in all directions.

Chu Liuyue tightly clenched her fists, and her entire body was tense.

This isn't the first time I can't control the water droplet. No—I should say that I never possessed control of it since the start.

Chu Liuyue finally couldn't take it anymore. She clenched her teeth and yelled to the water droplet, "Hey! Care about my survival, please!"

Even though she really wanted to break through, she didn't want to explode to death.

The two lines on the water droplet started moving lightly.

For some reason, Chu Liuyue felt a sense of contempt from it.

The next moment, a tiny water droplet flew out from the surface.

Bang!

It transformed into millions of ripples and flew toward Chu Liuyue's limbs.

Chu Liuyue suddenly felt that this scene was rather familiar... *Hang on! Didn't this happen when I was recovering my Yuan meridian? At that time, I managed to get my Dijing Yuan meridian because of this extra step!*

Chu Liuyue's heart beat even quicker. Then, she clearly felt that those crushed water droplets were incorporated into her Yuan meridian.

The light stars started to dazzle clearly, and that pain immediately disappeared as expected.

Chu Liuyue instinctively held her breath. *This water droplet can indeed train one's Yuan meridian!*

Very quickly, her surrounding Yuan meridian was immersed into the water once, and it became even clearer and harder.

Her previous pain had completely disappeared, and the foreign strength started entering Chu Liuyue's body at even higher speeds.

Chu Liuyue could feel the Yuan meridian in her body, and her heart kept beating.

In actual fact, Dijing Yuan meridians were split into three grades—inferior, intermediate, superior.

Even though she had the Dijing Yuan meridian previously, it was only inferior-grade at best when it forcefully passed the Dijing Yuan meridian's criteria.

But now, she could clearly feel that her Yuan meridian was much stronger than before. *If I continue training it, perhaps... One day, I'll own a Tianjing Yuan meridian again!*

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue connected her mind and soul and controlled the force that flowed in, moving it toward the dantian.

Ka!

A crisp sound rang in her head.

The third line gradually appeared on the crystal-clear water droplet.

Stage-three warrior!

Chapter 404: Lake

When the third line appeared, Chu Liuyue suddenly felt her surrounding Yuan meridian light up. *I actually broke through and obtained an intermediate-grade Dijing Yuan meridian.*

Everything happened so quickly that Chu Liuyue couldn't even react as she instantly felt that her body was filled with strength.

There was something moving in her chest and stomach, which caused her to unwittingly look up at the sky and moan.

The ferocious strength dispersed from her body.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

The numerous waves of strength dispersed in all directions, and the transparent fire kept burning, destroying the remaining golden walls in an instant.

Golden sand flew everywhere!

Chu Liuyue suddenly heard movements above her head.

She looked up and saw that the floating river's current had suddenly increased in speed. Gradually, a spiral appeared in the centermost position.

Chu Liuyue suddenly had an instinctive thought. The next moment, her body flew up uncontrollably and disappeared within the spiral.

After Chu Liuyue's figure had completely disappeared, the entire space became quiet again.

The next moment, the golden sand on the floor started to roll back to the cracks.

The lone throne suddenly cracked and turned into countless shards before being utterly destroyed.

...

On the other end, even though Chu Liuyue was forced to enter the spiral, she didn't feel much discomfort.

The current was slow and warm as if it had no form of offense. However, the strength hidden in it made Chu Liuyue stay on guard.

Chu Liuyue looked at her surroundings and discovered that she was in the middle of the water. There also seemed to be a transparent barrier in her surroundings, which blocked everything.

After examining for a while, she only had one word to describe the current scenario—bewildering.

Then, she clearly saw that the silver light dazzling in the river was actually individual heptagonal light pieces.

They were mixed within, and they sparkled brightly, shining light on each other. They caused the entire river to be as dazzling as a silver river in the dark night.

Chu Liuyue suddenly noticed that the current seemed to be bringing her forward, but she didn't know where she was going.

She leaned in curiously and stared at the light.

Suddenly, she focused her gaze as if she saw something flash past one light piece. However, that light piece quickly floated far away, so Chu Liuyue couldn't see it clearly.

She was intrigued and looked at the other light pieces.

After a long while, she saw a figure appear on one of the light pieces.

It was a pity that this light piece seemed to be covered by a layer of mesh. Thus, she couldn't see that person's appearance.

Chu Liuyue stared at it for quite some time, but she still couldn't see it clearly.

She suddenly recalled the previous scene. *When the man in black appeared and told me to look up, I saw a strange but familiar scene. Could that... be related to these?*

Chu Liuyue pondered, and her eyes suddenly brightened up.

A surge of force came from behind and carried her up.

Her body finally left the river and landed on concrete ground.

When she stood still, she was instantly shocked by the scene in front of her.

It was a lake. The lake water was as clear as ever, and it was quiet, without any ripples.

A gigantic, golden dragon head was engraved on the side of the lake in front of her.

At this time, the glowing river quietly streamed out from the middle and entered the lake.

I seem to have come from there just now. Chu Liuyue turned back, and her nostrils flared.

She was currently standing on a square platform built in the middle of the lake!

Chapter 405: Your Highness

This platform was made from black jade.

Chu Liuyue lowered her head, and she could see her clear reflection.

In the middle laid a pyramid-shaped, silver crystal.

Chu Liuyue stared at it. She could feel that the previous unknown calling was coming from this silver pyramid.

At this point, she was only tens of steps away from the silver pyramid.

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in and stepped forward.

Her footsteps reverberated throughout the entire space. Chu Liuyue could even hear the water behind her gradually flowing into the lake.

No—not just behind her. The sounds also came from other directions!

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue realized something, and she turned her head to look at her surroundings.

As expected, other than the golden dragon head, the other three cardinal directions all had a similar existence.

There was a red dragon head on her left and a green one on her right. On the opposite end of the floating silver pyramid was an orange dragon head.

Chu Liuyue suddenly understood something. Everything here was indeed placed according to the five elements.

Gold, wood, fire, and earth were all gathered here. The remaining 'water' was unquestionably the never-ending flow of water from before!

The five elements were all gathered together. They lived and counteracted each other, creating a perfect locked space!

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *If I previously dropped to the 'gold' section, what about... Mu Qinghe?*

She surveyed her surroundings closely, but she didn't see Mu Qinghe's shadow. *That's weird... According to Mu Qinghe's abilities, he should have no problems dealing with such situations. He should've reached here earlier than me.*

Chu Liuyue pondered for a while and decided to set this aside first as she continued to walk ahead.

When she was three steps away from the silver pyramid, she finally felt a strong suppression!

She immediately stopped, and her pair of eyes were glued to the floating pyramid.

It was the size of a palm, but Chu Liuyue felt that this item could contain millions of things for some reason. She also didn't know where the feeling came from, but it became increasingly strong.

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue focused on something. On one side of the mirror on the silver pyramid, she actually saw a familiar figure!

It was Mu Qinghe! Currently, he was standing in a strange space and was surrounded by intertwining green vines.

Chu Liuyue suddenly realized something. *Mu Qinghe actually entered the 'wood' section.*

Mu Qinghe stood in the middle and held a longsword in his right hand while countless broken branches were next to his feet. He looked like he had just experienced a very tough fight as he looked bloodied and very unkempt.

He had his head lowered, so Chu Liuyue couldn't see his face or his current expression. However, he was trembling slightly.

Even though he wasn't trembling much, it was easily noticed by Chu Liuyue, who knew him the best.

Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *What's... going on with him? All along, Mu Qinghe has been harsh and decisive. Even in the face of death, he won't show any signs of fear. When he presents such an appearance, it normally means that he's on the verge of breaking. But... this is just a rather strange space, which might not even threaten his life. So, why is he behaving like this?!*

"Y-your Highness..." muttered Mu Qinghe as he spat out two faint syllables.

Chu Liuyue spent much effort to recognize what he was saying, but she became even more confused. *Your Highness?! Who is Mu Qinghe calling? Given his current status, there aren't many people that he can call in that way. Is it Jiang Yucheng or Shangguan Wan?*

Chu Liuyue held her breath and listened in even more intently. However, Mu Qinghe didn't say anymore as he abruptly raised the sword in his hand.

Chu Liuyue instantly gasped and widened her eyes in shock! She saw that Mu Qinghe's wrist was already pierced through by a green vein that was as thick as a thumb.

That green vein tightly wound around his wrist and extended to his shoulders.

Chu Liuyue could even see his palm that became swollen and red because his blood couldn't circulate.

Fresh, red blood started oozing out of his wound, but the green vein absorbed it very quickly.

An emerald leaf quickly wilted and fell down. The second and third pieces followed closely after.

Chu Liuyue was shocked. *Is there something wrong with Mu Qinghe's blood? Why are the green leaves wilting so quickly?*

Before she could find out what was going on, an even more shocking thing happened—a small greenish-yellow leaf grew out of the place where the wilted leaf had dropped from. Also, that green vein seemed to be winding even more tightly!

Chu Liuyue then realized how the broken branches and leaves on the floor came about.

The excruciating pain from his right arm almost made Mu Qinghe's mind blank. But in actual fact, the thing that tortured him the most at this moment wasn't the relentless green vein. It was...

Mu Qinghe exhausted the last bit of his strength as he waved his longsword and harshly slashed down.

Clang!

The ferocious sword aura made all the broken branches and wilted leaves on the floor rise up.

Even the veins on the wall in front of him were thoroughly slashed apart from the middle!

However, the green vein extended very quickly. After it was broken, it immediately started winding again and even grew out new leaves. The leaves were lush green, and they moved along with the wind as if nothing had happened.

But on Mu Qinghe's side, as he had forcefully waved the sword, the wound on his wrist was harshly opened again.

Suddenly, Mu Qinghe let out a desperate and sorrowful howl. "Ah!"

Chu Liuyue watched on as her heart skipped a beat. *What exactly is Mu Qinghe doing? Does he want to break through the green vein and escape? But if it's only so, why is he overwrought? It seems like... something has been weighing on his heart for a long time!*

Plop!

Mu Qinghe's voice gradually became softer. In the end, he knelt down on the floor defeatedly.

The sword in his hands also landed on the floor helplessly.

The room fell into terrifying silence once again.

The surrounding green veins looked very alive and well, but Mu Qinghe was enveloped by an intensely crazy aura in the center.

Chu Liuyue had never seen him in such a manner before.

After quite some time, Mu Qinghe finally looked up.

Chu Liuyue covered her mouth—*Mu Qinghe's face is actually filled with tears!*

Hopelessness, loneliness, anger, sorrow, regret, and hatred...

Chu Liuyue didn't know how to describe the current Mu Qinghe. It was as if he were a trapped fiend in a hopeless situation.

Mu Qinghe had followed Chu Liuyue for so many years, but she had never seen him cry. It was as if a gigantic hammer harshly smashed Chu Liuyue's heart.

Chu Liuyue didn't know if it was because of the silver pyramid, but Chu Liuyue could see his face clearly, even... his eyes.

For a moment, Chu Liuyue almost thought that Mu Qinghe was looking at her.

"...Your Highness..." Blood flowed out from the corner of his lips as he softly muttered those words in an unconcealable longing and dependent manner.

Chu Liuyue's heart jumped. *He's actually calling me!*

Chapter 406: Entrance

I would never be mistaken. Mu Qinghe is indeed calling me! At that moment, Chu Liuyue felt very conflicted.

Shocked, comforted, suspicious, hopeful, nervous... She didn't know how to describe her current feelings. This was because she had never expected Mu Qinghe to use this tone to call her.

It was like... when she brought back the poverty-stricken youngster, who didn't know anything and could only beg her sorrowfully.

"Your Highness, what is this..."

Your Highness, why is that..."

"Your Highness, will I really not cause you trouble..."

"Your Highness..."

Chu Liuyue still remembered how Mu Qinghe looked when he said those words. At that time, she actually liked his bashful appearance a lot.

Those people in the palace were all very smart and cunning. When they talked to her, they would always put on their best behavior to suck up to her, but they were equally cold and nonchalant.

At that time, she thought that Mu Qinghe was different from the rest. She always thought that he genuinely and thoroughly trusted and depended on her.

Mu Qinghe had once said that he would always be loyal to her and that he would give her his all, not only his life. It was also because of this that Chu Liuyue treated him with extra patience and tolerance compared to others.

But in the end... Chu Liuyue clenched her fists and unwittingly bit down.

The sharp pain woke her up.

Chu Liuyue abruptly shook her head, wanting to erase those memories. The more she did so, the clearer the pictures in her mind.

Facing the sorrowful Mu Qinghe filled with tears, Chu Liuyue felt it ever so ironic, and her lips curved up into a mocking smile. *Mu Qinghe, were you ever so sad before when you knew that Shangguan Yue died? Or perhaps you already knew everything that was going to happen?*

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes.

When she opened them again, they had already regained their composure.

Mu Qinghe was probably like this because he had seen something and suffered a great setback, similar to her.

This made Chu Liuyue even more curious about his objective in coming here. He definitely didn't come all the way here to be tortured and feel remorseful.

Chu Liuyue looked at the silver pyramid in front of her. *Could it be... because of this?!*

...

Chu Liuyue didn't know that when she previously left the space and stood in the lake, one-quarter of the slow-moving circular plate at the top of Golden Inheritance Peak suddenly lit up.

When Emperor Jiawen—who tried very hard to go in but to no avail—saw this, his eyelids harshly twitched.

It was already humiliating enough to be rejected outside his own ancestor's imperial mausoleum. Now, he even had to watch on as other people had gone in and cracked one of the challenges.

How could he take this lying down?

Besides, other people didn't know, but he clearly knew the imperial mausoleum's secret!

Once the circular plate completely lights up, the imperial mausoleum... Thinking of this, more wrinkles appeared on Emperor Jiawen's forehead.

Detecting his aura, Elder Zhong Qi and the rest were all on their toes, and they didn't dare to make any sounds.

Elder Ye stood at the side, and his gaze changed when he saw this scene. "Your Majesty, we can't wait any longer. We must immediately find a way to go in! If not—"

"Of course, I know! But I've tried many times just now, and I just can't go in!" Emperor Jiawen was filled with frustration, and he almost couldn't control his tone in front of Elder Ye.

Elder Ye could understand the emperor's current emotions, so he didn't take it to heart. He knitted his brows and said, "If we can't go in from here, then... what about somewhere else?"

Emperor Jiawen was dazed. Suddenly, a thought popped up in his mind. *Right! There's a second entrance to the imperial mausoleum!*

The imperial mausoleum existed for thousands of years, and it normally wouldn't be activated. But with the passage of time, it needed to be repaired occasionally. Hence, the imperial mausoleum had a small entrance specifically for these people to enter.

Even though it would be unbecoming for him to enter from there, he couldn't care so much now.

Emperor Jiawen immediately said, "Elder Ye, follow me and let's go!"

The imperial mausoleum had now been invaded, and they didn't know how good the other party was. Thus, he would feel more at ease with Elder Ye around.

Elder Zhong Qi wanted to request to go along as well, but Emperor Jiawen quickly commanded, "The rest of you, guard this place! If anything strange happens, tell me immediately! If the two of them leave from here, you must catch them no matter what!"

Elder Zhong Qi and the rest could only agree hurriedly.

When Emperor Jiawen mounted the Black-necked Crane's back again, it flew toward the middle of the mountain.

Elder Ye turned around and looked at the circular plate determinedly. For some reason, he felt slightly uneasy. Then, he turned around and followed Emperor Jiawen.

The duo's figures quickly disappeared.

...

At the same time, Rong Jin had already quietly climbed to the middle of the mountain.

Emperor Jiawen and the rest were at the mountain peak, and he didn't dare to use the stairs in fear of exposing his tracks. Hence, he chose to slowly feel his way up from the lush greenery.

Even though this was a lot slower and he would be cut by sharp rocks from time to time, it was safer overall. Besides, he didn't dare to go to the mountain peak.

From what he knew, there was a small entrance in the middle of Golden Inheritance Peak. He was planning to enter from there!

His surroundings were quiet, and Rong Jin could even hear his own breathing and heartbeat.

The climb upward was very treacherous, and it exhausted quite a bit of his strength. But his heart was filled with excitement and hope, without any tinge of tiredness.

As long as I can obtain the treasure in the imperial mausoleum, I won't be afraid of anything! Even Father can't stop me! Based on this thought, Rong Jin actually climbed all the way up the mountain.

When he reached around half of the total steps, he finally stopped and started traveling horizontally to find the small entrance.

But after searching around the middle of the mountain for half a day, he still couldn't find anything, not even a suspicious-looking place.

Other than rocks and trees, there was nothing else.

Rong Jin gradually became anxious. *If I really can't find—*

Shoo!

Suddenly, he heard a distant cry!

Rong Jin's heart hung in his throat as he looked up. *The Black-necked Crane is flying toward here! Who else can be on its back other than Father?! Elder Ye is right behind him too!*

Rong Jin was extremely anxious as he hurriedly found a gigantic rock and carefully hid his figure.

Then, Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye landed on a small space not far away.

Emperor Jiawen breathed out. "It's here!"

Elder Ye lightly nodded, but he suddenly noticed something and looked in Rong Jin's direction.

At that moment, Rong Jin's heart seemed to stop beating. He didn't notice that there was a tiny movement covering him.

Emperor Jiawen saw that Elder Ye looked strange, so he couldn't help asking, "Elder Ye, what's wrong?"

Doubt flashed across Elder Ye's eyes as he shook his head. "Nothing much. I think I saw wrongly."

Emperor Jiawen nodded in understanding and didn't take it to heart. After that, he looked solemn as he raised his hands.

Buzz!

Chapter 407: Punishment

The pile of fallen leaves in front of Emperor Jiawen suddenly flew up. Then, a circular plate—which was much smaller than the one at the mountain peak—appeared in front of him.

Not only was it small, but even the engravings were much simpler.

A weird pattern appeared on Emperor Jiawen's palm, and it slowly landed on the circular plate.

Following a soft buzzing sound, the circular plate finally started turning.

Emperor Jiawen was elated. "It's open!"

Elder Ye also heaved a sigh of relief.

Emperor Jiawen was very meticulous. When the circular plate slowly opened from the middle, he held his breath and walked in.

Elder Ye followed closely after.

The duo's figures disappeared very quickly.

The next moment, the surroundings quietened down again.

Looking at the circular plate that was about to close, Rong Jin—who was hiding in the dark—immediately rushed over. *How can I miss such a great opportunity?*

Luckily, he moved very quickly and managed to enter before the circular plate closed.

The moment Rong Jin stepped in, he felt like he had stepped on a layer of stone, and his surroundings immediately fell into darkness.

Rong Jin actually was thankful for this. Even though it made it very hard to see his surroundings clearly, at least he wouldn't be discovered by Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye, who were ahead.

Forget about Emperor Jiawen, but Elder Ye was very capable. He might just expose himself to Elder Ye if he wasn't careful.

He secretly came here this time, so he didn't dare to make a big fuss out of it. Once he was discovered, the consequences were unimaginable.

As long as he obtained that treasure, he would feel more confident.

Rong Jin stood at the same spot for quite a while until the sound of the duo's footsteps gradually disappeared. When he confirmed that they were adequately distant, he started moving.

Even though he couldn't see anything clearly, after hearing the duo's movements previously, he realized that it seemed to be a flight of stairs leading downward.

Rong Jin felt around the sides and wanted to walk down while holding a wall, but his palm suddenly felt a sharp pain.

He was shocked; then, he realized that the surrounding walls were filled with sharp nails. His hand had been cut accidentally, and fresh blood kept dripping out.

Helpless, Rong Jin could only randomly tear off a piece of cloth from his shirts and tightly wrap it around the injured hand.

Now, he didn't dare to randomly touch the things around him, and he could only walk down even more cautiously.

...

When Emperor Jiawen and the rest entered the imperial mausoleum, Chu Liuyue—who was standing in the middle of the lake—saw the scene from one of the silver pyramid's faces.

Chu Liuyue slightly raised her brows because she hadn't expected the imperial mausoleum to have another entrance.

But... Emperor Jiawen came a little later than expected. She and Mu Qinghe had already been in here for quite some time, yet Emperor Jiawen only came in at this point and from an isolated small entrance at that.

Of course, she didn't know that Emperor Jiawen and the rest had waited at the mountain peak for a long time to no avail and that they found this path to enter with much difficulty.

The path they used was clearly very dark, but for some reason, Chu Liuyue could clearly see what was happening. She could even see Emperor Jiawen's anxious gaze as clear as day.

Chu Liuyue's gaze turned, and it landed on Elder Ye, who was behind the emperor.

She rubbed her glabella, plagued by a headache. I'm not worried about Emperor Jiawen coming, but Elder Ye is here too... This will be a little hard to deal with. I can't let them reach here...

Chu Liuyue thought of this in her heart and suddenly saw Rong Jin, who was following behind them.

She raised her brows. *This person is actually here? Moreover, it looks like he came here secretly... That's true. He has been grounded and confined to Crown Prince Mansion recently, so, of course, he can't let Emperor Jiawen know that he's here.*

Why did he even come? A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind, and a bold guess surfaced in her heart. *Could his secret... be related to the imperial mausoleum?*

Previously, Rong Zhen had said that Rong Jin was Heaven's Chosen Son, which was why the Empress doted on him very much and invested all her efforts in him, placing high hopes on him.

When Chu Liuyue heard this, she didn't care about it much at first. That was the case until she saw everything that happened in Heptagon Alley.

The Empress clearly cared about Rong Xiu's identity as Heaven's Chosen Son more than she had imagined. Si Huijing had even prepared quite a bit for it, even using cruel and ruthless methods to help Rong Xiu improve his cultivation.

It was a pity that she was discovered before the plan could mature.

Now that Rong Jin came here recklessly... this was the only logical explanation for it.

Chu Liuyue casually sized Rong Jin up. This distinguished Crown Prince had clearly suffered quite a bit the whole way as he looked quite unkempt.

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue's gaze focused, and she saw two figures behind him. *He actually didn't come here alone?!*

Very quickly, Chu Liuyue saw the duo's appearances clearly.

The person in front was actually Situ Xingchen. Behind her was an elder in black. As he was wearing a hat, Chu Liuyue could only see half of his face and that he seemed to be an elder.

Chu Liuyue had never seen this person before, but judging from the surface, this elder was clearly Situ Xingchen's man.

Chu Liuyue stared at them for a while and quickly discovered that Rong Jin didn't seem to know that there were two people behind him.

Situ Xingchen and the elder also followed him very carefully. Their every action and word was also done deliberately to avoid being discovered by Rong Jin.

Did they... secretly follow Rong Jin in? This is interesting. Chu Liuyue couldn't help smiling.

Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye were in front. Rong Jin was in the middle, while Situ Xingchen and that elder were at the back. They actually all came in together.

I really don't know what they will look like if they see me standing here.

Ka!

A soft sound suddenly came from the silver pyramid.

Chu Liuyue's heart jumped, and she immediately looked over. However, she didn't see anything strange.

That tiny pyramid was still quietly floating in the air as if the sound was just Chu Liuyue's hallucination.

She knitted her brows. *It can't be that I heard that sound for no reason...*

But after waiting for a while, she didn't hear anything else.

Chu Liuyue could only temporarily set it aside and look at Mu Qinghe again.

Once she looked at him, the scene immediately made her heart beat wildly.

Mu Qinghe was kneeling on the floor, and he had raised the longsword in his hands. But this time, the blade was pointing toward his neck.

Mu Qinghe actually wants to commit suicide? Chu Liuyue shouted without thinking, "Stop!"

Mu Qinghe seemed to have heard it as he stopped in his actions, and disbelief flashed across his eyes. *That voice... Even though it was unclear... the tone was really like that person's...*

He immediately scanned his surroundings, but he didn't see anything other than the numerous green vines.

Mu Qinghe laughed bitterly as he dropped the longsword defeatedly. *If she were here and knew that I didn't die on the battlefield but chose to commit suicide instead, she would be utterly disappointed, right? Even I didn't expect myself to be trapped here and have such a mindset.*

But... it really hurts too much! I admit that I'm scared. Every single day and every single moment, I suffer from the terrifying torture. I'm better dead than alive.

When he wanted to lift the sword again, Mu Qinghe felt that his entire body was trembling violently.

Even if it was a hallucination, it seemed like he couldn't disobey her.

After a long time, he closed his eyes, and tears dropped down from the corner of his eyes.

He muttered softly, "Your Highness, is this... the punishment you're giving me?"

Chapter 408: Overturn

Suddenly, Chu Liuyue didn't know what to say. *Punishment? Shangguan Yue is already dead, and she died so miserably. What punishment can she give him?*

Chu Liuyue also wanted to tell herself that Mu Qinghe didn't betray her. But when she saw the scene in front of her, it repeatedly proved that Mu Qinghe had already been standing on the opposite side before she died.

If not, it couldn't explain what happened later.

Mu Qinghe was still the respected and distinguished lieutenant. It was as if her death had no impact on him at all.

Even the pair of boots he was wearing...

Chu Liuyue felt sour.

Mu Qinghe looked like he was in a lot of pain, to the point where Chu Liuyue almost thought that he was truly feeling regretful and sorrowful toward her.

However, how could this compare to all the torture she had suffered?

Chu Liuyue once again suppressed her turbulent heart. *No matter what, I can't trust Mu Qinghe again. Luckily, he didn't seem to recognize my voice earlier. If not, it would spell trouble.*

This silver pyramid was indeed special. From here, she could see what was happening in almost the entire imperial mausoleum, and the people inside could hear her voice.

It seemed like this small item had control over the entire imperial mausoleum.

An urge welled up in Chu Liuyue's heart as she raised her hand toward the silver pyramid.

Ka!

Before she could touch it, she heard the strange sound again.

Chu Liuyue paused in her movements. *I heard it clearly this time. This sound indeed came from the silver pyramid!*

An idea popped up in her mind as she walked to the other side.

From where she was standing previously, she could only see three faces of the pyramid; she couldn't see the last one.

And that sound... seemed to be coming from that direction.

Chu Liuyue focused on it and was stunned. *There's nothing on the last face! No, to put it more accurately, the last face is thoroughly covered in black.*

The other three faces were clean and pure, and she could see any scene clearly. However, this...

Chu Liuyue turned back and realized this was the 'fire' position.

The red dragon head still had water circulating within the lake as if nothing was wrong.

However, Chu Liuyue felt uneasy for some reason.

This pyramid should be able to see the entire imperial mausoleum, but one face is blocked. This also means that I won't be able to know what's happening in the 'fire' position. This is definitely not a coincidence. A ridiculous idea surfaced in Chu Liuyue's mind. Could it be... Someone has already entered that place and did something to stop me from seeing what is going on?

Upon thinking of this, Chu Liuyue's heart squeezed together. *Even with Mu Qinghe's abilities, he can't do this. Therefore, who else can? What is the other party afraid of me seeing?*

Chu Liuyue entered deep thought. The next moment, she clenched her teeth and took the silver pyramid.

It was extremely cold to the touch.

The coldness spread from within, and it started extending its reach at an observable speed, completely covering her palm.

Chu Liuyue was shocked, and she immediately wanted to let go.

But at this point, the water droplet in her dantian started turning crazily.

A red fire suddenly exploded in Chu Liuyue's palm.

Hong!

The two forces harshly smashed against one another.

Shards of ice flew everywhere.

Fire sparks went up.

Chu Liuyue felt that her entire palm was completely numb, and she couldn't feel anything. It was as if she was harshly dragged in front uncontrollably.

The pyramid was finally fully captured by her, and it left its original position.

The red fire poured out, completely covering the pyramid.

With this layer of protection, Chu Liuyue was finally separated from the terrifying aura.

Chu Liuyue heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that the item was finally trapped within the fire.

The coldness within wasn't normal! If she were any slower, her palm would've been frozen.

But the moment her lips curled up, they froze.

The position that the pyramid previously occupied actually froze. Also, the frost kept spreading toward the surroundings.

Chu Liuyue immediately backed away, but the area was freezing at very high speeds. In the blink of an eye, it had already extended to the black marble floor from mid-air.

The frightening suppression came toward her.

Chu Liuyue was suppressed until she couldn't breathe.

Very quickly, she was forced to the edge of the platform. One of her legs was in mid-air, which made her body wobble.

Chu Liuyue stabilized herself with much difficulty, but as her actions were too hurried, the hairpin on her head fell into the lake.

Chu Liuyue instinctively looked down. However, the scene she saw made her heart stop beating.

The hairpin didn't make any sound when it fell into the lake. This was because the hairpin quickly froze the moment it touched the lake.

In the blink of an eye, that hairpin became a floating ice cube on the lake before it sank to the bottom silently.

Everything happened rapidly.

The clear lake water was still peaceful as if the falling of the hairpin had no effect on it.

It was also at this point that she saw the bottom layer of the lake sparkling brightly.

Chu Liuyue focused on it, and she was immediately shocked.

At the bottom of this clear lake were ice cubes in all sorts of shapes. Those stars were actually reflected from these shards of ice.

Chu Liuyue suddenly felt coldness spreading from the bottom of her feet. *If I really fall from here...*

Kacha!

The sound of something cracking came from behind.

Chu Liuyue immediately looked behind and shockingly discovered that the upper side of the black marble platform was completely frozen. It had even spread to under her feet.

That sound was made because the platform couldn't withstand such strength, so it started cracking.

The fire in Chu Liuyue's hand was still burning intensely, but she could still feel her entire body turn cold.

The entire space seemed to turn into a gigantic ice ball as the terrifying coldness spread in all directions.

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth and forced the fire to form a barrier around her. By doing this, she finally blocked the harsh air outside.

However, everything in the surroundings didn't freeze slower because of what she did. The area was still being frozen, and it finally spread to the lake.

After a temporary silence, the lake began freezing, starting from the black platform in the middle.

When thick ice covered the lake, Chu Liuyue's heart seemed to be tightly squeezed.

The next moment, the ice layer was filled with cracks.

All the ice started dropping silently. At the same time, the clear lake crashed forward and quickly swallowed the ice pieces.

The black platform below Chu Liuyue's feet finally collapsed, and her body fell down uncontrollably.

Chapter 409: Suspect

But when Chu Liuyue was about to drop into the lake, a sudden force came over and lightly helped her body up.

Without thinking, Chu Liuyue used strength and jumped toward the wall. At the same time, the silver light in her hands flashed.

Choo!

She harshly stabbed her dagger into the wall.

Her entire body was hanging in midair.

Chu Liuyue looked in the direction of the red dragon head—the force that mysteriously helped her had come from that direction.

“May I know your name? I have no way of repaying you for saving my life. Kindly step out so I can meet you!” said Chu Liuyue loudly as she stared at that place. However, she saw no movement at all.

It was as if she was alone in the entire space.

Chu Liuyue looked at the lake surface.

The previous black marble platform had frozen into a gigantic ice cube before it quickly shattered and silently landed in the lake.

The water below kept coming up, and the ice above kept falling down. The cycle continued on and on.

The silver light flashed in dazzling coldness.

If Chu Liuyue didn't see it for herself, she wouldn't dare to believe it.

Ice always floated on the water surface. She had never seen such a strange scene before.

There is clearly something wrong with the lake water! Detecting the shocking coldness that spread from it, Chu Liuyue was traumatized. *If I really fell into it...*

Undefeated, she raised her voice and asked again, "Since you're already here, why must you hide?"

Then, she looked at the pyramid in her hands. One of the faces was still indeed black.

Chu Liuyue couldn't help but be filled with doubts. *We have already reached this point, and the other party has even willingly saved me. So why won't they come out to meet me? They don't even want me to know what's going on in this space.*

Finally, a lazy voice sounded. "Hand me the thing in your hands, and I'll send you out."

Chu Liuyue was dazed. *The other party actually came for the silver pyramid?*

She had never heard this voice before, but she could feel the distinguished aura of the superior person. *This person has a special identity! He is clearly very capable as well! If not, he wouldn't be able to willingly help others in this situation.*

However, Chu Liuyue knitted her brows. *I got this pyramid with much difficulty. If I hand it over now... I'll be indignant. Besides, I feel that this pyramid is very important to me for some reason. It seems like... it originally belonged to me.*

She knew that her feeling was too ridiculous, but since the item was already in her hands, how could she give it over?

"I can't fulfill this request of yours. Please change to another one!" After all, the other party had saved her, so Chu Liuyue didn't want to make the situation tense.

Moreover, she was very sensible. Even though she was already a stage-three warrior now, it didn't mean that she was willing to go against such a strong warrior. In such a situation, she would just be digging a grave for herself.

"No." That man seemed to expect that Chu Liuyue would reject him. He wasn't frustrated and spoke calmly. "That's something that my wife likes. I have to get it back."

Chu Liuyue was dazed. *Madam?! Why does this sound vaguely familiar?*

She clutched the dagger tightly as an idea popped up in her mind. *Hang on! I remember that there's this one person...*

The words escaped from her mouth. "May I know if you're Zhen Bao Pavilion's Master?"

...

When Chu Liuyue took the pyramid, the entire imperial mausoleum was severely affected.

The green vines around Mu Qinghe suddenly wilted, leaving behind a ground filled with broken twigs and wilted leaves.

The scene that kept replaying in front of his eyes finally disappeared.

Mu Qinghe's body shook, and he finally woke up from the terrifying state.

He dazedly knelt down on the floor as the mist in front of him gradually faded away, and he could finally see what was going on.

Mu Qinghe looked at the broken leaves and twigs and raised his hands to wipe his face.

His hands were filled with tears.

His heart suddenly trembled.

Everything that had happened before started to replay in his head.

Mu Qinghe didn't return to his senses for a long time.

After some time, he finally looked down and laughed bitterly. However, this laughter was even worse than a painful cry. *I thought that I had buried everything, but I didn't expect to remember all of it so clearly. Every single item, every single word, and even every single gaze... They are all deeply etched into my memories.*

Mu Qinghe's expression slowly faded away, and he recovered his original calmness. It was as if he put on his armor again and wore his mask, covering everything perfectly.

He picked up the fallen sword and started cutting at the vine that pierced through his wrist. Then, he expressionlessly pulled it out.

Blood spurted on his face, and the wound looked even gorier after being tugged at.

He took out some gauze and medicine as he familiarly attended to his wound.

This seemingly serious wound wouldn't actually threaten his life. He had very high physical strength, and he could recover very quickly. As long as... he didn't fall into that horrifying hallucination.

After tidying himself, Mu Qinghe walked forward.

But just as he was about to slash the wall in front of him, he stopped in his tracks. *The situation here shouldn't have changed for no reason. The only explanation is that someone has already gotten ahead of me!*

A thin and petite figure appeared in his mind. *Only Chu Liuyue came in with me! Could it be...*

He looked tense, and the scar on his wound seemed to be more ferocious-looking. However, he suddenly recalled a scene the next moment. *When I couldn't withstand the torture and planned to end it once and for all, I seemingly heard someone call for me to stop. I always thought that it was a hallucination, but thinking about it now... It sounded very similar to Chu Liuyue's voice...?*

His heart started beating wildly.

...

Hong long!

Before Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye could walk out of the passage, the rocks in front fell down and blocked the duo's path.

Hearing the loud sounds coming from far away, Emperor Jiawen suddenly realized something and gasped. "The imperial mausoleum is collapsing!"

Chapter 410: Demanding Woman

“Your Majesty, don’t be anxious. The imperial mausoleum has been built for many years, and this has never happened before. It definitely won’t collapse now. It’s just that... there’s something amiss inside.” Elder Ye comforted Emperor Jiawen as he sent force inside to check what was going on.

Emperor Jiawen saw the completely blocked pathway and was filled with fear. *If this stone landed on me...*

“B-but the surrounding paths have started to collapse. I’m afraid that the inside will also be affected before long!” Once Emperor Jiawen thought of this happening to the imperial mausoleum at this time, his head started to ache. *If word gets out, what will others think of me? How am I supposed to face my ancestors?*

Elder Ye shook his head. “Your Majesty, there’s a reason for the imperial mausoleum being built under Golden Inheritance Peak. Kindly step to the side first and let me make a path here.”

Emperor Jiawen knew that he could only trust Elder Ye now, so he immediately moved to the back obediently.

Elder Ye stared at the gigantic stone in front and furrowed his brows. *I’m not worried about whether the imperial mausoleum will collapse, but... The two people who went in earlier actually have the ability to shake the imperial mausoleum!*

As he thought of the lit circular plate at the mountain peak... *It’s obvious what the other party has come for!*

He focused and gathered his force in his palms. Then, he harshly sent out the force from his palms.

Bang!

The stone suddenly cracked in the middle.

Emperor Jiawen was elated. *If we can destroy this stone, we still have the chance to go in and stop them.*

“If I find out who the two of them are, I definitely won’t let them off!”

Elder Ye looked solemn as he sent out another palm strike.

Bang!

Ka!

A white light suddenly came from the stone.

“We’re through!” said Emperor Jiawen excitedly as he tightly clenched his fists.

Elder Ye also felt relieved. After all, this was the imperial mausoleum’s exterior, and it was easier to handle it than he had imagined.

But just as he was about to continue on this path and completely clear the passage, he suddenly realized something, and his expression changed.

“Move back!” he hollered sternly and directly grabbed Emperor Jiawen’s collar as they flew backward.

Emperor Jiawen was caught off-guard and felt a tightness in his throat as he was already dragged to the back by Elder Ye.

His face suddenly flushed red, and he started coughing intensely.

“Ye... Cough cough... Ye...” Emperor Jiawen spat out a few syllables with much difficulty, but he suddenly widened his eyes the next moment.

He saw golden sand suddenly pouring out from the middle of the rock.

The golden sand started gathering rapidly, and they actually formed a thin layer of crystal, covering the rock.

The rock dazzled amidst golden light, but this struck immense fear in Emperor Jiawen. This was because he could clearly feel the immense suppression coming from the thin, golden crystals.

Suddenly, a shard dropped from above and landed on the ground.

Kacha!

The duo heard a crisp sound, and the rock actually turned into powder.

Emperor Jiawen's heart sank. *As expected! Once we are touched by the golden sand, we will end up the same way.*

They were quick, but the golden sand spread even quicker.

The grains of golden sand were about to reach the duo.

Elder Ye waved his sleeves, and a gigantic black barrier guarded in front of the two of them.

The golden sand started slowing down.

Elder Ye and Emperor Jiawen then had a chance to catch a breather.

Emperor Jiawen's eyes were still filled with shock that hadn't faded away. "That... That's the sand from 'gold!' Not only did they solve that section, but they have even destroyed the entire area?!"

Elder Ye's eyes darkened. "I'm afraid it'll be hard to go in..."

...

But at this point, the culprit—Chu Liuyue—didn't know all of this was happening.

It wasn't so serious when she first broke open the space, but the moment she snatched the silver pyramid, she easily destroyed the Five Elements arrangement in the imperial mausoleum.

Without any more power holding it up, the 'gold' section naturally lost control completely.

The golden sand inside spread in all directions and directly blocked Emperor Jiawen and Elder Ye's path.

If she lowered her head now, she would definitely see something.

It was a pity that she didn't have the luxury to do so. This was because all her attention was placed on the mysterious man that refused to show his face.

After she asked that question, the other party fell silent.

This further confirmed Chu Liuyue's guess, but she never expected that Zhen Bao Pavilion's Master—who she wanted to meet very much—would actually appear here! Moreover, he had also come for this thing!

Chu Liuyue instantly felt that the situation was becoming difficult.

Zhen Bao Pavilion had helped her numerous times. Even though this Master had never revealed his identity before, Chu Liuyue clearly knew that Yan Ge had received this person's permission to help her so much.

Not to mention that he had helped her just now.

Chu Liuyue indeed owed this person a huge favor, but she would be indignant if she just handed the pyramid over. She had succeeded and broken through all sorts of challenges, experiencing all kinds of danger for this thing. How could she just give it to someone else because of what the other party said?

“Looks like I’m right,” said Chu Liuyue with a much more polite tone. “Since you’re here, you must know my identity. I’m beyond grateful for all the previous times you’ve taken care of me. But... please forgive me because I really can’t hand this item over to you. Other than this, you can make any other requests, and I’ll definitely do my best to help you even if it means risking my life!”

This time, the other party finally spoke. “My only request is this item.” His tone was flat, but it brought with it a tinge of suppression that one had to obey.

Chu Liuyue clenched her teeth helplessly. “Master, why don’t we discuss this? We can get out of here first and find a place to discuss this properly. What do you think? Previously, you said that this is something your wife had taken a fancy to, then... why don’t I personally talk to your wife?”

She had already been hanging here for quite some time. It was quite unfair for her if they were to negotiate here.

We should at least find a proper place to talk. Does this Master not see that the entire lake is about to be frozen?

The other party fell strangely silent again.

Kacha!

At this point, the wall suddenly came loose, and the dagger shook.

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw that the wall the dagger was stabbed into started cracking. *I won't be able to hold on much longer! But for some reason, this Master is very hard to talk to!*

As if he had heard this movement, the other party finally said kindly, "You said that... you want to talk to my wife?"

Perhaps it was her hallucination, but Chu Liuyue felt that his sentence sounded weird. It was as if... it had a bit of teasing intent.

What's so funny about this? Chu Liuyue was angered. *When I meet the rumored wife, I must take a closer look and see what kind of person this woman is. It's either she took a fancy to this, or she liked that. How demanding!*