

## Noble Ruler 781

### Chapter 781: Using

That dark-green light stopped right in front of the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed. In that short period of time, it couldn't go forward nor move backward, being in a very awkward position.

The corner of Chu Liuyue's lips curled up slightly, and cunningness flashed across her eyes. *This is the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed's God Realm, and everything is under its control. Judging from my previous experience, it can clearly absorb energy from the outside. The energy in the Mystic Forest has disappeared, but there is still Red Moon Desert and Mirror Lake on the sides. The combined energy from these two places will only be more than the Mystic Forest, not less.*

*If it continues to persist and absorb the energy from outside, exceeding my absorption and digestion speed of its energy, it will be very disadvantageous for me. Besides, this ball of energy looks very messy, and I really despise it—I would rather not have it. It's a waste for it to go with the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed.*

Shangguan Jing coughed. *I don't think anyone dares to talk to the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed like this... The Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed originally snatched the force on its own, and there's nothing wrong with it using it. But after what Chu Liuyue said, it suddenly became cheap for some reason. Even I feel that it's inappropriate.*

Indeed, that light disappeared with a bang after a temporary silence!

Chu Liuyue nodded in satisfaction. "That's better."

The lips of the Tianling Dynasty's ancestor twitched. Sensing the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed's dangerous aura, he was worried. *This girl is really becoming daring because of the water curtain...*

However, Chu Liuyue didn't take this to heart as she turned around to look at the hourglass. *It seems like a few months have passed, but it's actually only a few days for the people outside. I wonder how Hongyu, Little Zhou, and the rest are doing... I've been trapped here the entire time and cannot contact them. They should be very worried. If only someone could help me bring the news out...*

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue suddenly recalled the voices she previously heard. *One of them even clearly called my name. If those people could help...*

Chu Liuyue looked up, but it was pitch black. She couldn't see nor hear anything.

Those few voices didn't appear for a long time.

She retracted her vision regretfully, and doubts flashed across her mind. *I don't recall knowing such people, but they seem to be very close and familiar with me.*

She slightly pressed her lips against each other, vaguely feeling that she did forget some things. *Even I don't exactly know which portion of my memory I forgot. This is because there are no missing parts of my memory in my mind.*

To her, her memory was complete.

This caused a ripple in her heart. *Also, who is the man in black by the cliff?*

...

Red Moon Desert.

The sun hung high up in the sky, and it was so bright that one couldn't open their eyes.

The sand was burning hot as if it had been roasted by charcoal.

The heatwaves spread everywhere, and the air even distorted a little because of the heat. There was no wind in the surroundings at all.

In such a place, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that someone could become barbecued meat.

In the spacious desert, there were no figures at all. But on the dunes that kept appearing, a burly figure quickly flashed across—it was Xue Xue!

If someone looked down from above, one could see that the dunes were arranged in an orderly manner. With the passing of time, the dunes also silently changed as if an invisible hand was controlling everything and changed the dunes' positions at will.

And Xue Xue... was running back and forth around the top of the dunes. *According to what that person said, I must continuously run here. Every time, I can only leave behind a maximum of two paw prints on the dunes.*

This seemed simple, but it actually used up a lot of energy and strength. This was because the spacious Red Moon Desert was entirely in the other party's control.

Within these few days, Xue Xue had already run quite a few rounds around the Red Moon Desert. Its originally snow-white fur was stained with a layer of yellow sand and became a dirty sand color.

The extended running around exhausted Xue Xue.

It looked up.

There were no clouds in the sky, and the sun was shining down brightly.

Dunes kept appearing in front of it!

Even a legendary fiend couldn't endure such torture!

"You're too slow!" A baby-like voice suddenly sounded by its ears.

Xue Xue was shocked and forcefully increased its speed again.

It had no choice. Though the few of them could only come out during the night of a red moon, it was as easy as ABC for them to supervise it.

Xue Xue felt bitter in its heart and regretted making an agreement with Rong Xiu for the 10,000th time. It then imagined leaving home for the 10,001st time. *After I end the torture here, I'll never go back! I want to leave with Chu Liuyue! Wuwuwu, I really miss that warm embrace...*

Xue Xue resigned itself to its fate and continued to run forward.

...

“Big Baby, aren’t you too harsh? Look at how you’re tiring Little Xue Hua. Its thick fur is about to become wilted grass, tsk tsk,” said Lan Xiao with disdain. “If you want to fault someone, it should be Rong Xiu. Why are you taking it out on Little Xue Hua?”

Dugu Mobao sneered. “Can’t you guess why Rong Xiu sent it over? If I don’t teach it a lesson, Rong Xiu will think that we can be bullied!”

Lan Xiao thought for a moment. “Anyway, don’t just let Rong Xiu go just because you already tortured Little Xue Hua. At that time, we’ll teach him a lesson however you want.”

*Just don’t let Little Xue Hua resolve his guilt.*

Diwu Zhangze slowly said, “Hehe, don’t you just dislike Rong Xiu? When he’s here, can’t you do it yourself?”

Lan Xiao sighed. “Do you think I’m stupid? If I touch Rong Xiu, will the girl let me off when she finds out? I’m different from Big Baby.”

“Stupid pervert, nobody will think that you’re a mute if you don’t speak!”

“It doesn’t matter if I’m a mute or not. What matters is that I look good.”

“...”

Dugu Mobao suppressed his anger. “Such a major thing happened to the girl, yet Rong Xiu didn’t tell us about it. He’s originally already at fault. Besides, he’s going to raise that legendary fiend until it becomes useless. Do you really think he sent it over to ask for forgiveness? This kid is using us to train his fiend!”

...

Rong Xiu—who walked out of the palace—sneezed again.

## **Chapter 782: Injury**

Tianling Imperial Palace, Huayang Palace.

Shangguan Wan leaned against Jiang Yucheng’s arms, holding his arms tightly as if she were clutching onto her final straw. “...Yucheng, help me. Help me... Only you can help me...”

She kept puking blood out, and her voice was hopelessly hoarse. She looked dispirited like a harsh ghost.

Jiang Yucheng had never seen Shangguan Wan in such a state. He suppressed the disgust in his heart and tried to push her away. However, Shangguan Wan held him tightly, and he couldn’t just ignore her.

Jiang Yucheng was worried that if he used too much force, it would greatly impact her again. Hence, he could only hold it in.

Looking at the light flowing under Shangguan Wan's skin, he furrowed his brows tightly. "What exactly have you offended?"

He originally thought that after Shangguan Wan hid underground, she would only attack those people personally. However, he didn't expect that the latter would use those roots.

Thinking of Yang Qin'er—who self-destructed previously—and the similar bloody smell of rot on her, his face turned cold. "You attacked Yang Qin'er long ago, right?"

Shangguan Wan was very guilty and averted his gaze. "I... I just used some of her strength... However, I also don't know what's with the roots..."

Jiang Yucheng felt that Shangguan Wan was too stupid because she dealt with Yang Qin'er in Xi Ling City. *There are so many eyes on her in the dark and in the open! Once someone discovers it, she won't even be able to save her position as the Third Princess, let alone ascend the throne! But Yang Qin'er is already dead now, and there isn't much meaning to pursue this matter. Once an outsider sees Shangguan Wan's current state, they will definitely recall Yang Qin'er's appearance. So no matter what, we have to think of a way to solve Shangguan Wan's problem.*

Jiang Yucheng held his breath in as he stared at Shangguan Wan deeply. "Sit up first. Pass me your hand."

Once Shangguan Wan heard this, her eyes instantly lit up. Then, she hurriedly struggled to sit up from his arms as she passed her hand over.

Jiang Yucheng glanced at it and saw a hand that was thin to the bones—even with some blood stained on it, which smelled nauseating.

Jiang Yucheng forced himself to hold it in as he stretched out his palms and gradually stuck it to Shangguan Wan's hand. After that, he circulated his surrounding force.

There seemed to be a layer of black mist that gradually spread across his eyes, slowly infiltrating his eyes to become black.

Even the sclera of the eye became an intense black color. At first glance, it looked like two dark holes—it was a little terrifying.

Force was slowly injected into Shangguan Wan's body. More than half of her Yuan meridian had been healed, so the transmission of force was rather successful.

At this point, that ball of dark-green light had already flowed to her shoulders.

Jiang Yucheng controlled his force and leaned in bit by bit.

Shangguan Wan's face looked pained. The places where Jiang Yucheng's force went through seemed to be cut by a knife.

If someone outside was watching, they would shockingly realize that the force Jiang Yucheng sent out was actually much stronger than his current cultivation level.

Logically speaking, this definitely wasn't force he could release. However, Shangguan Wan seemed to have known about this earlier on, so she didn't look shocked and forcefully held in all the pain.

When the force slowly reached Shangguan Wan's shoulders, it fought with the dark-green light and suddenly exploded.

*Boom!*

The explosion sound then made Shangguan Wan's body shake, and her muscles and blood flew everywhere from her shoulder area.

"Ah!" Shangguan Wan didn't pay attention momentarily and was taken aback by this sudden change as horror and shock overwhelmed her heart. After a temporary daze, that excruciating pain then spread all over.

The Third Princess was in so much pain that her face turned pale, and she almost fainted.

Jiang Yucheng—who was standing near her—was also shocked. The explosion was too sudden, so he didn't even have time to react and avoid it. Thus, he was directly affected by the ferocious and violent aura.

His chest shook, and a bloody taste surged up to his lips and teeth. However, he didn't care about his injuries as he immediately looked up.

Shangguan Wan fell to the floor. Her left shoulder had completely rotten, becoming badly mangled. If it had been slightly tilted to the side, her entire arm might directly explode.

That green light actually disappeared without a trace.

Jiang Yucheng was badly affected, and his heart beat wildly. *W-what exactly happened just now?*

Shangguan Wan's painful moan pulled Jiang Yucheng back from his thoughts. His chest was pressed down by the tumbling blood as he went toward Shangguan Wan.

The Third Princess lay on the floor, covered in blood, but the force she absorbed earlier seemed to have restored a little.

Her originally skeleton-like body gradually recovered. Even though she still slimmed down a lot compared to before, she looked much better than a bag of bones.

Shangguan Wan's mind was completely blank as she looked at Jiang Yucheng in front of her. She opened her mouth, but she couldn't speak at all.

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. *Considering Shangguan Wan's current state, she can't go out to meet anyone no matter what. There are still so many people waiting outside Minghua Palace, and we can't afford to let them wait.*

He pulled out a jade bottle and poured out two pills. He used one and gave the other to Shangguan Wan.

“This is to circulate your blood and for you to recover—take it first. Also, with your current body condition, you can’t go to Minghua Palace anymore. Later, I’ll get Chan Yi to take care of you. Besides that, I’ll also get Zuo Mingxi to look at your wounds. We mustn’t leave behind any problems.”

Shangguan Wan opened her mouth and begged him miserably with her eyes.

“I’ll handle the situation at Minghua Palace. I’ll say to the people outside that you were injured because you helped His Majesty retrieve some herbs, so you need to properly rest and recuperate now.” Within a short period of time, Jiang Yucheng had already made a decision.

Shangguan Wan was hesitant but still nodded with much difficulty in agreement. She also understood that she could only do this considering her current condition.

After that, Jiang Yucheng turned around to leave.

Shangguan Wan closed her eyes hopelessly and angrily. *I can clearly feel that more than half of the force I accumulated with much difficulty was used up after this torture. I just want to heal my Yuan meridian and become a strong warrior again. Why is it so difficult?! What is going on with that light?!*

...

After Jiang Yucheng passed Shangguan Wan to Chan Yi, he returned to Huayang Palace.

The crowd originally thought that Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng would come together, but they only saw Jiang Yucheng alone. Hence, they couldn’t help but exchange glances filled with doubt.

Jiang Yucheng walked to the crowd, and his gaze was worried and concerned. "I'm afraid the Third Princess can't come today. She was previously injured while helping His Majesty pick herbs, so she needs to lie in bed and rest for a few days. Everyone, I seek your understanding."

After a temporary silence, Jian Shuye asked, "May I know what herb it was that could make the Third Princess risk her life to collect it?"

Jiang Yucheng paused. "Dancing Lotus!"

### **Chapter 783: Go Again**

Everyone was shocked.

Jian Shuye paused for a moment and continued asking, "Dancing Lotus? Is it the rumored Dancing Lotus that can revive a person?"

Jiang Yucheng nodded. "Yes. If it weren't for this, the Third Princess wouldn't be willing to risk her life to retrieve it."

Song Luan agitatedly said, "The Third Princess is very filial to His Majesty! After retrieving this Dancing Lotus, His Majesty's health will definitely take a turn for the better!"

Jiang Yucheng undetectably knitted his brows, and his tone became slightly cold. "Master Song, you're right, but it's a pity that we didn't successfully retrieve the Dancing Lotus."

Song Luan's face immediately turned to the color of a pig's liver.

Quite a few people in the surroundings secretly snickered. *Only he can suck up to the wrong part!*

Song Luan felt humiliated, and he softly said, "...I see... The Dancing Lotus is a rare treasure in the world, so it must be very difficult to take it back... I was thinking too simply."

Jiang Yucheng was too lazy to calculate so much with him, so he nodded and said, "You're right. It's indeed very difficult to get close to that Dancing Lotus. Elder Qiuxi... died because he tried to retrieve that Dancing Lotus."

Once he said this, the gigantic Minghua Palace fell silent.

The crowd's faces changed in unison. They didn't expect things to be so tricky. *Elder Qiuxi was the royal family's elder, and his strength need not be mentioned. Even he couldn't do it and failed... It shows how dangerous that Dancing Lotus is!*

"That Dancing Lotus grows within the Dahuang Swamp's Mirror Lake. We originally wanted to retrieve it for His Majesty, but the Mirror Lake was quite weird. Even Elder Qiuxi couldn't escape the dangers, so we swiftly decided to return in consideration of the many soldiers and disciples." Not only did Jiang Yucheng's words explain the reason for Shangguan Wan's injury, but they also stated the reason why the crowd suddenly came back.

Their hurried return this time would definitely cause a huge commotion in the entire Xi Ling City. Openly and secretly, there would be many rumors and guesses.

Jiang Yucheng didn't want to be talked about because of this.

“I see...”

“No wonder the Third Princess brought the people back so quickly. So she was considering everyone’s safety.”

“What’s so strange about Mirror Lake that makes it so dangerous?” After a temporary silence, the crowd partook in discussions.

Obviously, all the guesses and grumbles toward Shangguan Wan had silently disappeared. Who could scold her in this type of situation?

Jiang Yucheng surveyed his surroundings. After most of the crowd stopped talking, he said, “Hence, we came back this time because we didn’t want to cause unnecessary injuries. It’s also because we want to find a few strong warriors to take action and return to Dahuang Swamp once again to retrieve the Dancing Lotus.”

The hall fell silent.

“I wonder what all of you think?” After Jiang Yucheng asked that question, nobody talked at that moment.

Everyone secretly exchanged glances and had their own thoughts.

Undoubtedly, a treasure like the Dancing Lotus was a lethal attraction to anyone. But at the same time, they had to consider the dangers.

Even Elder Qiuxi died there. How many people could guarantee that they would come back in one piece? The most important thing was that even if they risked their lives to retrieve the Dancing Lotus successfully, it would eventually be given to His Majesty.

What could they gain?

Everyone present had high statuses, and all of them were very wise. They either represented an entire clan or an entire family. Once something happened to them, it would implicate many people.

Hence, even if they were loyal to His Majesty, they had to consider it as it concerned their life and death.

Nobody spoke, and the air seemed to be stiff.

Jiang Yucheng furrowed his brows undetectably. *I had thought that the majority of them wouldn't be willing to take this risk, but I didn't expect all of them to be the same.*

He hesitated for a moment and said, "I know that this journey is dangerous and that everyone has their own considerations, but the Dancing Lotus is really too important to His Majesty. Other than the appropriate rewards, all the other herbs we find besides the Dancing Lotus will belong to all of you."

Quite a few people's eyes lit up. *If this is the reward, we can consider it.*

“The reason why Elder Qiuxi passed on was that he was too careless back then—he went forward alone without any support. Everyone here is a top elite in the Tianling Dynasty. If everyone works together, I believe retrieving the Dancing Lotus won’t be a problem, right?”

Jiang Yucheng’s words undoubtedly made many people falter. *Since the Dancing Lotus appeared in the Mirror Lake, there might be other treasures there. As long as one makes appropriate preparations, they will still have the ability to run and not walk down Elder Qiuxi’s path even if they really can’t retrieve it.*

At this point, a voice sounded. “I’m willing to go.”

Upon hearing this, the crowd looked over and discovered that the person talking was Weichi Song!

Everyone, including Jiang Yucheng, was shocked.

Everyone present could possibly go, but they felt that it was most impossible for Weichi Song to do so. Only so few people were left in Chong Xu Cabinet, and they all had to depend on this Cabinet Master.

*Once something happened to him, won’t Chong Xu Cabinet be completely finished? On the other hand, Chu Liuyue and the rest have all died in Dahuang Swamp. He actually wants to go to that heartbreaking land... What exactly is he thinking?*

But facing the crowd’s suspicious gazes, Weichi Song appeared calm and nonchalant as he disregarded them. He had made up his mind!

Jian Shuye stroked his chin. “As a heavenly doctor, I naturally have to go check that Dancing Lotus out to see exactly what it looks like! I want to go too!”

...

At this point, Chu Liuyue naturally didn't know that a group of people—in Xi Ling City miles away—was planning to come to Dahuang Swamp.

She was trapped in this place, and she could only cultivate.

Shangguan Jing glanced at the hourglass at the side. *Calculating the time, less than ten days have passed outside. However, more than half a year has passed in this place.*

Chu Liuyue cultivated no matter day or night here, and her entire person seemed focused.

At the start, Shangguan Jing was worried that Chu Liuyue wouldn't be used to it when a long time had passed. However, he didn't expect her to be so determined.

When Chu Liuyue said she wanted to cultivate, she set both her mind and soul into doing this one thing.

If it were someone else, they would've long felt bored and stifled. However, Chu Liuyue did not.

Even Shangguan Jing was amazed by her persistence, and he couldn't help but be curious. *How capable will Chu Liuyue be if she leaves this place?*

...

Time slowly trickled past.

Qin Yi and the rest had made it through close to half a month in the Mystic Forest. Initially, they would still guess when Chu Liuyue would come out, but they basically wouldn't even talk now. The only thing they could do was cultivate while waiting.

However, this peace was quickly broken.

#### **Chapter 784: But Someone Told Him**

This was because people entered the Mystic Forest once again.

Qin Yi had no way of knowing the situation in the Red Moon Desert and Mirror Lake, but he had stayed in the Mystic Forest for an extended period of time and left his traces in quite a few places. Once anything happened, he could basically feel it.

"Someone is here." Qin Yi's words were especially obvious in this quiet atmosphere.

The few of them looked over.

"Who would come at this time?" Lei Laosi knitted his brows. *Even if someone barges into Dahuang Swamp, they won't come in when they see the Mystic Forest's current state from outside, right?*

Qin Yi retracted his expression slightly. "The other party isn't weak."

Seeing his current reaction, the few of them became serious.

“Big Brother, how many are they?”

“Should be five.” Qin Yi narrowed his eyes.

What he didn’t say was that the other party’s aura was rather familiar.

Lei Laosi scratched his head. “Why don’t I go first to take a look?”

“No need. They won’t come here.” Qin Yi paused and stopped Lei Laosi’s actions.

...

At the same time, the few figures that just came into the forest stopped.

It was Jiang Yucheng and the rest who came again. Other than him, there were four other people. They respectively were Weichi Song, Jian Shuye, Song Luan, and the Grand Tutor—Xiahou Rong.

There was no need to state their motives for coming here.

His Majesty had always treated the Grand Tutor with respect, and he wasn’t weak as well. So personally and logically, he should be one of those that came.

This time, Mu Qinghe didn't bring the Black Guards together with him. There were too many casualties previously, and he still had many things to handle.

This Dahuang Swamp was also extremely dangerous. If ordinary people came, they would only be courting death. Let alone not helping, they might even possibly become a burden.

The few of them stood still and looked at the scene in front with a complicated expression.

Jiang Yucheng said, "The few of you can also see that the Mystic Forest has completely ended up in this state. You can clearly see how dangerous it was back then."

He originally wanted to bring the few of them to Mirror Lake directly, but Weichi Song said that he wanted to check out the Mystic Forest. Hence, they came over too.

Anyone could guess that Weichi Song still wanted to find his disciples.

Song Luan originally wanted to disagree, but the others didn't say much, so he could only go along with them.

Jian Shuye surveyed the surroundings. "Old Song, I heard that Hongyu and the rest are still in the Mystic Forest. Why don't we look for them and then go to Mirror Lake? Anyway, it won't take up too much time."

*Anyway, it's always better if we can find one more and save one more.*

Since they already said this, who else could refuse?

Song Luan was very upset, and he looked at Jiang Yucheng. *We came to look for the Dancing Lotus, but why did we end up in the Mystic Forest looking for people?*

Originally, he thought that Jiang Yucheng would reject them. But unexpectedly, the latter also agreed to it.

Helpless, Song Luan could only swallow his remaining words.

Jiang Yucheng's hands clenched tightly, and his heart became a little nervous.

Rationality told him that it was impossible for Chu Liuyue to be alive, but at the bottom of his heart, there seemed to be an indescribable desire.

*If she's really alive... A bright and delightful smile appeared in his mind. Shangguan Wan has already ended up in that state. Who knows if she can recover?*

At some point in time, his remaining patience toward Shangguan Wan had already been used up.

He suddenly thought of something as he looked at Weichi Song and seemingly asked unintentionally, "Old Song, did anyone inform Chu Liuyue's fiancé about what happened here?"

**Chapter 785: He Came Back**

Weichi Song glanced at Jiang Yucheng strangely and slightly knitted his brows. *At this time, why did he suddenly mention Liuyue's fiancé? Besides, not to mention that Chu Liuyue's situation hasn't been investigated clearly, her fiancé isn't even in Xi Ling. If something really has happened to her, how can we inform him?*

"Haven't yet." Weichi Song looked nonchalant. "Why did you suddenly bring him up?"

Jiang Yucheng sized up his expression and knew that he was doubtful, so he said, "It's all a coincidence. I had a chance to meet with that person back then and heard that he's a prince from Country Yao Chen. When they were at Country Yao Chen, they already had a marriage agreement. However, that person's body doesn't seem to be very good... I was just thinking that if he suddenly finds out about what happened here, I'm afraid he wouldn't be able to take it..."

"I didn't expect you to understand this so much, Eldest Young Master Jiang. You know this even more than me," said Weichi Song as if unintentionally.

Jiang Yucheng's expression stiffened. *It's indeed a little weird for me to know this considering my current status.*

"Oh, Old Song, don't misunderstand. I don't have any other intentions. You also know that Chu Liuyue has been in the limelight in Xi Ling City, so there will definitely be people who are very curious about her everything. I'm not an exception either." To this, Jiang Yucheng admitted it generously and swiftly.

There wasn't much consequence to doing so. Someone who was very outstanding even in terms of the entire Xi Ling would definitely attract quite a few people's attention.

If Jiang Yucheng said that he didn't know anything about her, that would be weird.

"As for her fiancé, I coincidentally met him, so I casually asked about him. Old Song, you wouldn't mind this, right?"

Weichi Song looked calm. "You naturally have your own reasons for doing what you want, Eldest Young Master Jiang."

This stifled Jiang Yucheng as if someone was mocking him, but he still held it in.

"Let's not talk about these things anymore. We'll talk again when we find them." After not being able to dig out any useful information from Weichi Song's side, Jiang Yucheng swiftly decided not to ask further.

*Weichi Song is an old fox, and he isn't easy to deal with. As for Chu Liuyue's so-called fiancé... He's just a sick person; there is no need to care about him. When we meet again the next time, I can just directly take care of him.*

This small intervention stopped at this point.

The few of them continued walking into the forest, but after another hour, they still couldn't find anyone's traces.

Jian Shuye knitted his brows and looked at the wilted tree in front of him. "Wait a minute. Weren't we here before?"

Weichi Song said, "You can tell too?"

Jian Shuye nodded and surveyed his surroundings. "We seem to be walking in circles during this past hour. No wonder we can't find anything."

Jiang Yuzhi was dazed. "We came here before? Are the two of you certain of this?"

Jian Shuye grunted slightly and raised his chin. "I specifically took a closer look at the pattern on that tree bark earlier so that I could confirm we came back again!"

Xiahou Rong shockingly said, "This means that... we're lost?"

The few of them fell silent.

The current situation was clearer than ever. It was fine if one person saw it wrongly, but since both Jian Shuye and Weichi Song said that, there shouldn't be a problem.

Even Song Luan knitted his brows tightly.

Jiang Yucheng also scrutinized his surroundings and had a confused expression. "That's strange. When we came here previously, this situation didn't happen before..."

They originally thought that the most dangerous part of the Mystic Forest was the mist and the roots, but they didn't expect to meet with such troubles.

“Someone seems to have set up a Xuan formation here, but they also used some strange skills to stop anyone from coming in,” muttered Jian Shuye as he looked at Weichi Song. “Old Song,, you’re the one who knows this the best amongst all of us here. Can you see through anything?”

Weichi Song specialized as a heavenly doctor, but he understood such weird and strange knick-knacks quite a bit.

The few of them looked at him.

Weichi Song kept quiet for a moment and shook his head. “The other party is very well-versed in this, and his set-up is very tight. I can’t break it either.”

Hearing him say this, the few of them were dazed.

Jian Shuye couldn’t conceal his disappointment. “In that case... Won’t we be trapped here the whole time? What’s going to happen to the kids?”

Weichi Song turned around and pointed in a direction. “That was the direction we came from. As long as we walk toward there, we can leave this place. However, I’m afraid... it’ll be extremely difficult to enter...”

Jiang Yucheng’s gaze suddenly faltered. “Could this be set up by Qin Yi and the rest?”

“Who is Qin Yi?” asked Xiahou Rong.

The aristocratic families didn't send people over, so they didn't quite understand the things that happened here.

Jiang Yucheng briefly explained.

Weichi Song looked down in deep thought and didn't say a word.

Jian Shuye strangely said, "If it's really them, why would they do so? Previously, Zhu Hong and the rest said Qin Yi treated the kids quite well..."

"You can know someone's face but not their hearts," Song Luan interrupted him and mocked. "If he's really a decent person, why would he stay in the Dahuang Swamp for so long for no rhyme or reason? Besides, Chu Liuyue stole the Nine-Colored Heavenly Pheasant that they had been guarding the whole time. They might hold a grudge, so they could do anything!"

Jian Shuye glanced at him in frustration. *This Song Luan really has nothing better to say! He's afraid that someone else would be better than him! His own disciples suffered greatly, and he wants everyone to be the same!*

Weichi Song suddenly said, "Since the other party doesn't want us to enter, then we should leave for Mirror Lake first."

Jiang Yucheng was hesitant and had something to say. But since even Weichi Song didn't plan to continue staying here, he had no position to say anything.

The few of them quickly returned on the same path.

After walking quite a far distance, Weichi Song finally heaved a sigh of relief in his heart and turned back to take a look with a deep gaze. *So that person came back... I'm afraid Jiang Yucheng wouldn't even imagine it in his dreams, right?*

...

*Kacha!*

A nail-sized chip fell down from the crystal again. At this point, more than half of the crystal—originally the size of two palms—had already been absorbed, leaving the piece in the center.

The Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed was enveloped within it, leaving a thin layer of shell on the outside.

It looked as if it would drop with one knock.

Of course, the force was too formidable. After Chu Liuyue swallowed the force, she might not be able to convert all of it to her own force. Hence, she stored most of it in the water droplet.

Even if so, Chu Liuyue's abilities still improved by quite a bit. In the space, she finally touched the barrier to a peak stage-five warrior in one-odd year.

Chu Liuyue melted and absorbed that chip. She had done this series of actions countless times, and it was as smooth as water.

Then, she looked at the opposite end. *If I just remove one more chip, the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed will be exposed.*

The Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed seemed to notice this and started to become anxious.

The surrounding space seemed to shake vaguely.

A thought popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind.

*Ka!*

A crack appeared, and an immense, ancient aura exploded from within!

### **Chapter 786: Duel!**

Chu Liuyue's heart harshly skipped a beat!

That was the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed's true strength—mighty, unreasonable, and formidable!

Shangguan Jing immediately shouted, "Liuyue, be careful!"

*Even though this Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed hasn't completely matured, it already can't be underestimated! According to Chu Liuyue's current abilities, it would be hard to stop it with her own force.*

Without thinking, the ancestor immediately leaped toward Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue's heart felt warm as she said, "Ancestor, don't worry. I know what to do."

The Tianling Dynasty's ancestor turned around strangely and saw Chu Liuyue stand up.

A thought popped up in her mind, and a faint layer of golden light rapidly formed in front of her! In the blink of an eye, it quickly manifested into a set of pure gold armor!

Chu Liuyue held the black shield in her left hand and the Long Yuan Sword in her right as harsh murderous intent spread from all over her.

"Y-you want to duel with it head-on?!" Shangguan Jing was so shocked that he lost his voice.

Chu Liuyue's red lips slightly curled up as a smile appeared on her face. Her black, gem-like eyes seemed to be sparkling!

"If I don't do it, it won't let me go." Her tone was nonchalant and light, but her every word had willpower with overflowing determination, confidence, and combat power.

After being trapped in here for a year, she already knew what the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed was thinking.

This thing is spiritual, and one could even say that it has a certain mind of its own. I can use all sorts of ways to snatch its force, but I have to defeat it completely if I want it to concede genuinely!

Chu Liuyue's surrounding force surged up.

The crack on the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed crystal became even bigger.

Looking at Chu Liuyue's ever so persistent gaze, Shangguan Jing's words of advice were all stuck in his throat. He couldn't voice them out.

There seemed to be something tumbling in his chest. Finally, he lightly nodded.

A figure then flashed across and returned to the Long Yuan Sword. *The only thing I can do is try my best to help her!*

*Whir!*

The Long Yuan Sword slashed through the wind!

Chu Liuyue's thoughts changed as the water curtain in front of her dissipated and quickly formed a water droplet again before returning to her body.

The barrier between the two disappeared!

Chu Liuyue formally went against the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed!

*Ka!*

Accompanying this crisp sound, the crystal was instantly filled with cracks!

Those chips quickly merged into the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed like water and finally formed a thin layer of frost on it. Then, a dark-green, knuckle-sized Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed was completely exposed in front of Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue held the Long Yuan Sword in her hands tightly before she raised it up high slowly.

The space surrounding the Heaven-Wrecking Holy Seed started to collapse silently.

“Long Yuan Sword!”

The sword landed! At that moment, it was as if the moon landed in a bed of stars as everywhere dazzled brightly!

...

Mirror Lake.

After Jiang Yucheng and the rest went back the same way, they returned to the triangular stone area. They then chose their direction and went toward the intersection point between the Mystic Forest and the Mirror Lake.

It was currently daytime. The sun hung high, and there were no clouds within miles.

Mirror Lake was completely calm, and it reflected the clear, blue sky as the water glistened and looked very charming. Other than this, they couldn't see anything amiss.

Song Luan couldn't help but mutter, "This Mirror Lake seems fine. Why would Elder Qiuxi..."

Jian Shuye chuckled. "Song Luan, if you're really curious, why don't you directly barge in? Then, you'll know."

Song Luan had an ugly expression. "I was just curious, so I casually asked. Even if I were to take action, we'd have to wait until we see the Dancing Lotus."

Jiang Yucheng directly said, "The Dancing Lotus is right there. Can you see it?"

Upon hearing this, the few of them looked over. They saw that on the vast water surface, there seemed to be a flower that swayed with the wind.

As they were a little far from it, they couldn't see it very clearly.

Jian Shuye teased, "Song Luan, the Dancing Lotus is right in front. Why don't you go first?"

Song Luan instantly felt stifled. “I’ll go first then! Since we’re already here, why would I be afraid of this?!”

Song Luan’s tone was agitated, but he regretted it once he said it.

However, he already said it and couldn’t go back on his words, so he could only take a deep breath in and hurriedly walk to the front of them.

Jian Shuye chuckled. *When we reach there, Song Luan will still chicken out.*

As expected, Song Luan gradually slowed down after walking for a while. The closer they got to the Dancing Lotus, the more hesitant his actions were.

Jian Shuye looked at the lake surface and curiously asked, “Hm? Why is there so much floating ice on the lake? It didn’t seem to be like this when I came here before. If I don’t remember wrongly, there isn’t winter in Mirror Lake. Therefore, ice shouldn’t be forming...”

‘You’re right—Mirror Lake was like this in the past. These floating ice pieces had already appeared when we came the previous time, but there weren’t so many.’ Jiang Yucheng looked in front and seemed solemn. “We don’t know what happened either.”

“Quickly, look! The layer of ice on the water is going to connect with our side!” said Xiahou Rong in shock as he pointed to the front.

There was a long bank between the Mystic Forest and Mirror Lake, but the bank wasn't in a straight line. Hence, certain parts of the bank were a little closer to the Dancing Lotus in the centermost position, while others were further away.

Not far in front of them, there seemed to be places that caved in by the side of Mirror Lake. That was the closest place to the Dancing Lotus.

At this point, the floating ice pieces on Mirror Lake's surface connected together to coincidentally form an ice bridge, connecting both parts.

Without a doubt, going over from this place had the highest probability of safely getting the Dancing Lotus.

Jian Shuye glanced at Song Luan. "Song Luan, you... should go first, right?"

Song Luan wanted to reject him, but he still clenched his teeth and agreed in the end.

A purplish-golden sword appeared in front of him! He then jumped up and rode on the sword.

The Dancing Lotus swayed gently. Gradually, a thin layer of frost appeared on its translucent petals.

### **Chapter 787: That's My Wife's**

Song Luan rode on the sword and went across the air above the Mirror Lake. Lowering his head, he saw large pieces of floating ice glistening due to the reflection of the cold light.

Looking from here, he could then tell that the ice pieces were crowding around with the Dancing Lotus as the center, and they gradually spread toward the outside.

The closer he was to the Dancing Lotus, the thicker and tidier the ice layers were. Likewise, the further he was, the more fragmented the ice layers were.

Reaching the bank where the two places intersected, only a few tiny pieces of floating ice were left.

That so-called ice bridge didn't actually connect the two ends, but it was still comparatively closer to the center. Hence, the ice layers that spread to the outside reached this place first.

At first glance, it indeed looked like an ice bridge. But at the position near to the bank, there was actually a short distance that didn't have floating ice.

The water glistened, and it looked peaceful and clear.

Song Luan walked forward meticulously.

Anyway, he wouldn't walk over no matter if that ice bridge was connected or not. He wouldn't even get close to it. He had heard whatever Jiang Yucheng said clearly!

*Who knows how the floating pieces of ice appeared? Some danger might be lurking underneath!*

In this manner, he controlled his longsword and flew across the lake as he went closer to the Dancing Lotus in the center bit by bit.

Seeing Song Luan go over, Jiang Yucheng looked at the remaining few people. "That Dancing Lotus is weird. If the few of us work together, the chances of success might be higher."

The scene of Elder Qiuxi being dragged underneath the ice layer was still fresh in their minds.

Jiang Yucheng didn't dare to guarantee that Song Luan could do better than Elder Qiuxi alone.

Xiahou Rong nodded. "That's true; we'll be stronger with numbers. Let's work together, and we can take care of each other as well."

After saying that, he went on his toes and went forward.

Jian Shuye glanced at Weichi Song.

The two of them exchanged a gaze and moved out in unison.

Song Luan had heard their conversation clearly and couldn't help but turn around to take a look. Seeing the few of them catching up with him, his heart that hung high finally landed.

No matter what, they would be more confident with more people.

Jiang Yucheng was at the back and also followed over. He originally didn't want to do this as he had personally witnessed how horrific this Mirror Lake could be. Besides, he hadn't even completely recovered.

The few wounds on his body seemed to be recovering much slower than before for some reason. If it were in the past, it would recover much earlier, and he wouldn't need to worry about it. But his health fluctuated now, and he didn't know if it was because of the root...

However, the few seniors had already taken action, so he couldn't just watch on from the side.

The few of them gradually got closer and finally formed a circle with the Dancing Lotus in the center.

It was currently noon, and the sun hung high in the sky as the bright and dazzling sunlight shone on the ice, reflecting a bright light. However, the few of them didn't cover their eyes as they stared at the Dancing Lotus in front of them closely.

That palm-sized flower had a total of five petals. Every petal was a translucent pinkish-white color, and they looked very intricate like crystals.

There was also a thin layer of frost on the petals, making them look very cold and elegant.

*"So this is the Dancing Lotus..."* Song Luan couldn't help but mutter. *This is a premium herb that only appeared in rumors! It only appears once in a hundred years!*

He licked his slightly cracked lips as greed and desire flashed across his eyes. He kicked his toes as he flipped over his longsword and held it tightly.

It seemed like he planned on directly cutting it with the sword.

Jiang Yucheng said, "Hold on!"

Song Luan was dazed. "What's the matter?"

Jiang Yucheng looked at the sword in Song Luan's hands and knitted his brows. "Back then, it's because Elder Qiuxi used a sword. Thus..."

They were standing outside at that time, and it was close to nighttime, so they couldn't see what happened clearly. However, he clearly remembered that Elder Qiuxi was indeed dragged down after he used a sword.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye.

Song Luan's heart skipped a beat as he hurriedly retracted his sword. He then stared at the Dancing Lotus in shock. "This thing is actually so strange? If I can't even use a sword, then how are we going to obtain it? We can't use our hands, right?"

*Isn't that even more dangerous?*

Jiang Yucheng looked at Jian Shuye and Weichi Song. "What do the two of you think?"

Both of them were heavenly doctors. Logically speaking, they would understand this better.

Weichi Song looked at the Dancing Lotus and lightly sighed. “Actually, you can say that it’s simple to retrieve this Dancing Lotus but hard at the same time. The Dancing Lotus only blooms for five years once every 500 years. If nobody picks it in these five years, it will turn into a seed once again and restart the 500-year cycle. Hence, it’s most convenient to pluck it when it’s flowering, and its medicinal effects are the best.”

“However, the Dancing Lotus is a very rare treasure, and it’s different from other premium herbs. There normally aren’t any high-level fiends to guard it, which causes its own defense and combat power to be extremely strong. If one wants to pluck it safely, one has to use their fresh blood to attract it.”

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows. “Use fresh blood to attract it? What does this mean?”

“The smell of the fresh blood will cause the Dancing Lotus to hibernate temporarily. As long as one smears blood on it, they can lower its danger to the minimum.”

Song Luan interrupted, “This doesn’t seem very hard?”

Jian Shuye chuckled. “There’s nothing hard about it, but it requires the cultivator to be at least a stage-eight warrior. Since you made it sound so easy, why don’t you do it?”

This mocking tone upset Song Luan. *No matter what, I’m also a peak stage-eight warrior! How could I not even make a tiny little Dancing Lotus retract?*

“How difficult can it be?!” He clenched his teeth and slashed a line on his palm.

Red blood instantly flowed out and caused his entire palm to turn red. Then, he took a deep breath in and stretched out his hand again.

The Dancing Lotus swayed with the wind and didn't show any strange behavior.

Song Luan felt slightly at ease and was about to hold the Dancing Lotus's stem.

Suddenly, a sound pierced through the air.

*Xiu!*

The sound was sharp, and the winds howled. It went straight for Song Luan's brows.

Song Luan was stunned as he immediately moved back and whipped out his sword.

*Tsing!*

The sound of two sharp objects hitting each other was heard.

Song Luan felt something harshly strike his blade, and it felt as heavy as a ton. His entire arm was about to be shocked until it was numb.

Song Luan staggered two steps back before he managed to stabilize himself with much difficulty. He looked over in shock and anger after that, but he saw a palm-sized ice piece crack from the middle before dropping into the lake.

He lowered his head and saw that a piece was missing from the ice layer not far away.

Everyone was stunned when they saw the scene unfold. *One can just casually use a chipped piece of ice to block Song Luan's attack and even take the upper hand... This shows how formidable the other party is!*

Song Luan's heart trembled slightly. "Who is it?!"

Then, the empty space faraway started to shake.

A large and muscular black figure stepped out from within. His voice was deep and low as if the wind blew past a string instrument. It was also high and mighty. "Sorry, that is my wife's flower."

### **Chapter 788: Need to Leave it for My Wife**

The incoming person was wearing a cotton robe without any additional accessories on him. His long hair had dropped down, and his entire person exuded a lazy and cold vibe.

He was wearing a silver mask that covered his face. Only his pair of eyes were as deep as the stars in the night sky, and they were like spirals that had a fatal attraction.

It seemed like one would unwittingly fall in if they took another look.

Seeing the incoming person, Song Luan and the rest were secretly shocked. *This man's aura is extremely hidden and strong. He is only stronger than us, not weaker!*

Song Luan swallowed his mouthful of saliva with much difficulty. "Wh-who are you?!"

"It doesn't matter who I am." That man's tone was relaxed as he laughed. "What matters is that you can't touch this flower."

*He came for this Dancing Lotus?!* The few of them exchanged glances.

Song Luan tightly knitted his brows and couldn't help but retort, "Everything should go by the first-come, first-served rule! We came first, so the Dancing Lotus naturally belongs to us! Even if you're strong, you can't be this unreasonable, right?"

His tone was already considered very restrained. If it were someone else, Song Luan long would've chased after the other party and taught them a lesson.

However, they couldn't detect this man's abilities, so they didn't dare to go head-on against him. Instead, they could only talk 'logic.'

"That's weird. This Dancing Lotus is still growing finely in the lake. How did it become yours? Could it be that it belongs to whoever came here and saw the Dancing Lotus first?"

That man was neither angry nor frustrated as he laughed. It was as if he heard some joke.

Song Luan's face flushed red, and he was in a difficult spot.

He also knew that the things he said just now weren't logical. They did arrive at Mirror Lake first, but in actual fact, they didn't successfully take the Dancing Lotus away. They didn't even touch it.

This meant that it wasn't very reasonable to say that this Dancing Lotus was theirs.

Song Luan wanted to talk further, but he was silently stopped by Jiang Yucheng.

Jiang Yucheng took a step forward, cupped his hands, and very respectfully said, "I'm Jiang Yucheng. May I know who you..."

Almost everybody in the Tianling Dynasty would know Jiang Yucheng's name. His original background—the Eldest Young Master of Jiang Residence—was actually not worth a mention. But as he was once the Princess's fiancé, he rode on the trend and became much more famous.

On the one hand, Jiang Yucheng reported his name as he hoped to know the other person's identity. On the other hand, he was vaguely threatening the other party.

If the other person was sensible, he would know how to back away.

That man looked up, and a slight light flashed across the depths of his eyes as he lightly said, "You don't have the right to know who I am."

He said this sentence extremely lightly and calmly, but it was tied with a dignity that didn't allow for any objections.

Jiang Yucheng was suddenly stunned as he felt that he was harshly slapped by someone, and his face was burning. He had never heard someone talk to him like this before!

In comparison, the other party seemed high and mighty, while he was as lowly as an ant.

His expression turned ugly, and his voice turned cold. "Aren't you too arrogant?"

*Even if the other party is very capable, he can't be so disrespectful. This Mirror Lake is still the Tianling Dynasty's territory!* Jiang Yucheng restrained the anger in his heart as he kept searching his mind for such a character in the Tianling Dynasty. After thinking for quite some time, he couldn't recall anything.

This was because this man in black wasn't similar to any of the elite experts he had in his mind.

*Could it be... Is the other party some hidden hero, or is he not even someone from the Tianling Dynasty?*

"This Dancing Lotus is born and grows in the Mirror Lake. The capable ones will get it. If you want it, just come and fight with us for it!" boomed Jiang Yucheng angrily.

They had five people, but the other party only had one. No matter how strong the latter was, it would be a dream to think that he could win against five people alone.

That man in black lightly sighed. "My wife instructed me not to casually fight."

*This person is most likely afraid, but he still made himself sound so justified.* Jiang Yucheng sneered in his heart. "If you change your mind, you can just leave now. Considering this Dancing Lotus, we won't calculate so much with you."

If it was possible, Jiang Yucheng wanted to get rid of the other party as soon as possible and not get into any trouble at all.

The man in black chuckled softly and slowly said, "I already said previously that the flower belongs to my wife. Do you... not understand?"

His voice gradually turned cold until the last syllable was filled with harsh murderous intent! Then, he raised his hand.

It was a long, white, and distinct hand. At first glance, it looked like it was intricately made from white jade that glistened in cold light.

After doing so, he pointed his index finger forward lightly.

*Whir!*

Black force suddenly shot out like a sharp arrow, and an air-piercing sound was heard!

The tremendous suppression immediately fell on them as an indescribable sense of crisis overwhelmed their hearts.

Jiang Yucheng suddenly widened his eyes, and his irises shrank! At this moment, he seemed to be wrapped in murderous intent!

He retreated without thinking and tried to utilize his greatest speed to leave! But after trying once, he then discovered that his body could no longer move because he was completely controlled by the other party's suppression!

No matter what, he still had the combat power of a stage-seven warrior. But in front of this man, he didn't even have the right to escape.

At this point, Jiang Yucheng finally understood that the other party was much stronger than he had expected.

At that moment, the black force had already rushed toward him!

*Whoosh!*

That force suddenly pierced through Jiang Yucheng's chest, and blood and muscles flew everywhere instantly!

The clothes in front of his chest were immediately stained with red.

Jiang Yucheng felt his chest turn cold, and after a temporary pause, he felt excruciating pain.

*“It’s a pity I can only do this much...” That man in black seemed regretful. I wanted to kill Jiang Yucheng directly, but my wife hasn’t taken action yet. Thus, I have to spare his life.*

“Eldest Young Master!” Upon seeing this scene, Xiahou Rong and Song Luan were shocked as they hurried over.

“Eldest Young Master, how are you?”

Everything happened too quickly just now, and they didn’t even have time to react when that man took action. When they finally noticed that something was happening, Jiang Yucheng was already injured.

Jiang Yucheng held his chest as warm blood gushed out. While doing so, he hurriedly swallowed a pill.

For some reason, there seemed to be a vague burning feeling in his stomach. But his chest was pierced through at this point, and the hole was very bloody, so he couldn’t care about the rest.

“Y-you...” He opened his mouth and wanted to say something, but when he saw the man in black, the words seemed to be stuck in his throat. He couldn’t say them.

That pair of eyes—nonchalant, cold, and distinguished!

Deep fear surged up from the bottom of his heart.

Suddenly, a white light flashed across Jiang Yucheng's mind as he looked at the other party in shock. "Y-you're Hundred Herbs Building's—"

### **Chapter 789: The Training Went Well**

*A man with unpredictable powers and a mysterious identity and keeps mentioning his wife... Doesn't that match the description of Hundred Herbs Building's boss?*

Even though the person managing Hundred Herbs Building was Yue Ling, anyone with a little keen eyesight could tell that he had someone behind him. It was just that nobody in Xi Ling City had ever seen that person, Jiang Yucheng included.

*I've been wanting to meet this mysterious person but have never gotten the chance. I didn't expect to meet him here!*

The man in black paid no attention to Jiang Yucheng's words. With a slight movement of his fingers, a gentle breeze brushed by, making the Dancing Lotus sway in the wind. An invisible barrier was instantly formed around the flower.

Xiahou Rong wanted to get closer, but the power the barrier exuded was so strong that it left him gasping for air.

The group exchanged looks with each other. *Getting our hands on the Dancing Lotus will be even more difficult now!*

"What should we do now, Eldest Young Master?" asked Song Luan worriedly. *Eldest Young Master Jiang's condition doesn't seem too good with the grave injuries he's sustained. Also, we still may not be that man's match even if we combine all our strength. It won't be easy for us to get the Dancing Lotus.*

Jiang Yucheng gritted his teeth. Blood filled his mouth, chest cavity, and his abdomen while his vision kept turning black. He hadn't fully recovered from his previous injuries, so his condition worsened when he sustained the new injuries.

*For safety's sake, we should quickly leave and avoid a direct confrontation with this man. But the Dancing Lotus... He took a deep breath. "I'm fine. The Dancing Lotus is of vital importance to His Majesty, so I'd like to ask all of you here to join forces to get it back..."*

Jiang Yucheng's words took his companions by surprise.

*"Are you sure about this? The Dancing Lotus might be important, but you can't disregard yourself either!" cried Song Luan anxiously, his heart tightening at the sight of the black-clothed man in the distance. His arm was still tingling with pain. I'm definitely not that person's match. He's the most formidable person I've ever seen in my life! If we continue to go against him... All of us might end up suffering instead!*

Jiang Yucheng naturally didn't want to lose his life, but the Dancing Lotus was too important for him to give up on it. He needed it to rouse the Emperor from his unconscious state, and there was no telling how long he would have to wait for the next Dancing Lotus to appear if he missed this one. He shook his head. "His Majesty's condition is more important. Please help me—"

Just then, the ice on the lake began forming even more quickly.

*It looks like it's almost time... The man in black looked down and smirked at the sight. I don't want these people to see what will happen next though.*

He then raised his head and looked in their direction, a black ball appearing in his palm as he spread his hand open. The ball grew with the wind and became a gigantic net in the blink of an eye.

“Retreat!” Jian Shuye quickly moved backward without the slightest hesitation.

Alas, their speed was no match for the black net, which had them trapped in no time. The net condensed to a ball again before quickly flying backward.

Everyone’s vision was instantly blocked as darkness descended on them.

...

After a long time, the darkness before Jiang Yucheng and his companions finally faded, along with the restrictive force on them. Everyone looked around their surroundings, only to realize with a start that they had been expelled from Dahuang Swamp.

“Who was that person, and how come he’s so powerful?” Jian Shuye drew a sharp intake of breath. *We had to use two transportation formations in order to get to Dahuang Swamp, but he sent us out of there so effortlessly! I definitely can’t do that. In fact, nobody in the entire Tianling Dynasty can do it either!*

“Although he drove us out of Dahuang Swamp, he didn’t kill any of us,” said Weichi Song all of a sudden. *Song Luan and Jiang Yucheng might’ve sustained some injuries, but they aren’t life-threatening. That man probably went harder on Jiang Yucheng because of how rude he was toward him, but he ultimately chose to spare Jiang Yucheng’s life. Otherwise, given his cultivation level, killing Jiang Yucheng would be as easy as killing an ant.*

Xiahou Rong exhaled in relief. “That’s a relief...”

Jiang Yucheng, however, didn't take it as well as them. Gloom clouded his ashen face. *That's a relief? What's there to be thankful for when that man injured me so badly? Do I still have to bow down to him in gratitude for sparing my life?! I've never been so humiliated in my life before!*

While others thought that the black-clothed man had probably decided to spare their lives, Jiang Yucheng definitely didn't share their sentiment. All he felt was discontent, indignation, and resentment. Being the proud man that he was, he was reluctant to lose to people in all sorts of aspects, so he naturally felt terrible knowing how easily he had been defeated by his opponent.

*That man has no regard for us!* Jiang Yucheng's anger surged up his chest at the thought of this, making him cough up yet another mouthful of blood.

Song Luan hesitantly asked, "W-what should we do now? You have to get treatment as soon as possible, Eldest Young Master..."

Jiang Yucheng felt even more vexed at that. *Never mind that we returned without success the last time, but we still came back with nothing when we even invited these powerful people to come along this time. What should we do with the Emperor? Our wedding day is drawing near. If he remains unconscious...*

"Did you say that man is from Hundred Herbs Building?" asked Weichi Song out of the blue.

...

After sending Jiang Yucheng and the others away, the black-clothed man walked forward and came to a stop in front of the Dancing Lotus. As he gazed down at it, the ice in his aloof-looking eyes melted a little to reveal slight ripples of emotion in them.

“It’s only been a while since I’ve last been here, and yet you’re being bothered by that thing?” There was a hint of laughter in his deep voice.

He lightly waved his arm as he spoke, and a crack was instantly formed on the ice surface.

The Dancing Lotus gently swayed as streams of light shone from the stalk. Upon a closer look, one would discover a silk thread—that was thinner than a hair—wrapped around the Dancing Lotus’s stalk.

With a hook of the man’s finger, the thread snapped and flew to his palm in a scattered mess. One could faintly see that a greenish thing was clinging onto the thread.

His palm lit up with golden fire all of a sudden, burning that ball of thread away. With a lazy voice, he said, “Never mind that you bullied my wife, but you even dared to play cheat. Aren’t you being a little too shameless?”

The ice on the lake slowly cracked into pieces, and the small floating pieces of ice began to melt.

It was all peaceful and quiet at the sparkling Mirror Lake when an earth-shattering roar disrupted this serenity out of the blue.

The man looked up. *Hmm, it looks like someone’s training went well.*

### **Chapter 790: The Nerve of You to Come Here**

His tall and broad figure vanished the next second.

The sun shining down on Mirror Lake—which was slowly regaining its calmness to reflect the azure sky—made a beautiful scenery.

Unknowingly, the frost on the Dancing Lotus had melted away. Its pinkish translucent petals sparkled and danced along with the wind.

...

That roar had not only reached the Mirror Lake but also the Mystic Forest. Everyone in the Mystic Forest heard it loud and clear and turned their heads in the direction of the sound with varying expressions.

Mu Hongyu couldn't resist asking, "What sort of fiend could've made such a loud roar? It must be a high-level fiend, right?"

Lei Laosi chuckled as he looked over excitedly. "High-level fiend? I'm afraid it's beyond that level!"

Ye Ranran let out a shriek and hastily covered her mouth when she realized her outburst. "C-could it be another legendary fiend?!"

"What do you think?" Lei Laosi turned to face Qin Yi.

"It's indeed a legendary fiend, but that roar sounded like it was coming from Red Moon Desert," answered Qin Yi with squinted eyes. *The Mystic Forest is basically under my control, so I can definitely sense it if any legendary fiend appears here. I'm certain that the abrupt roar came from Red Moon Desert, but I'm surprised that the roar could actually reach this far, even for a legendary fiend. That legendary fiend must be formidable...*

“Red Moon Desert? That far away?” Everyone was surprised to hear that.

“Speaking of which, there are a lot of rumors about the Mystic Forest and Mirror Lake, but I don’t think I’ve heard much about the Red Moon Desert... I wonder what that mysterious place is like.” Mu Hongyu tilted her head in curiosity. *I did some research on Dahuang Swamp before coming, but I couldn’t find out much about the Red Moon Desert given how little information there was on it. I only managed to get a glimpse of it when we came here, and from what I saw, it was a vast shiny desert with heatwaves rolling off it. It was magnificent, grand, and majestic!*

Qin Yi’s expression became serious. “That place is off-limits; you’re not allowed to step anywhere near that place! Even if you hear anything coming from there, I want all of you to ignore it. You hear me?”

Not expecting her casual remark to be met with such a serious warning from Qin Yi, Mu Hongyu hastily straightened her back and answered, “Yes!”

...

Red Moon Desert.

It was the time of day when the sun was its strongest. Both the surface and the underground of the boundless desert were sizzling hot. This place was like a giant steamer—stuffy and boiling.

A white figure was currently standing on a dune, and it was none other than Xue Xue. To be precise, its fur was now yellowish and covered with dirt and grime. Although it had lost a lot of weight during its time here, it had become much stronger than before.

Having met its target, the poor fiend was finally able to get some rest after running around the desert nonstop. It couldn't help but let out a long sigh, hot tears filling its eyes as it looked at the undulating sand dunes in this desert. *I'm still alive...*

A black figure gradually appeared in front of it.

Xue Xue—whose tears were clinging to the corners of its eyes—suddenly felt very embarrassed. It had been so focused on training that it failed to notice its master's arrival.

A babyish voice was heard. "The nerve of you to come here."

The man removed his mask, revealing his distinguished and alluring face. As it turned out, the man was Rong Xiu.