

## Chapter 81: Cleansing (2)

Ye Qingtang had went through all the trouble of putting on tonight's show; that included tying up all loose ends as well.

Moreover, in the past, after Ye You went to the Cloud-breakers, for a few years, she had never returned to the Ye household. Thus, it was very unlikely for her to find out about the Great Elder's death in a short period of time.

And these few years would provide ample time for Ye Qingtang to strengthen her prowess.

"What?!" This time, the Great Elder was flabbergasted as he stared at Ye Qingtang. Never in his wildest dreams would he expect to meet his defeat at the hands of a runt like her.

"Great Elder, your crimes had put your head in a noose. Repent in the afterlife. I bid thee farewell." Ye Qingtang couldn't be bothered to chastise him any longer. She drew her sword from her waist and slit the Great Elder's throat in the next instant.

The Great Elder still had that look of disbelief even at death's door. His plans and ambition went down the drain like the blood from the slit in his throat. It was not till he drew his last breath, did the Second Elder finally chuck his lifeless body to the ground.

Even after witnessing the death of her nemesis by her own hands, Ye Qingtang felt nothing.

In this life, she had sworn to protect her loved ones and would never let any of the past tragedies happen again.

Although the Great Elder was executed, his death needed to remain a secret. Ye Ling and the Second Elder had prepared to dispose his body discreetly, not a trace should remain.

"Father, Uncle, could I leave the cover-up to your discretion? There's still the appointment with his Lordship." Ye Qingtang inquired.

Ye Ling gave a nod and as he observed his daughter's demeanor, he felt elated and lonely at the same time.

He had this sentiment, that his daughter was suddenly all grown-up over this short period of time.

"You've matured, more than capable of handling yourself. I'm glad and I wish you all the best. Do remember to put your best foot forward when you meet his Lordship." Ye Ling reminded her.

"Yes. Father" Ye Qingtang nodded in response.

Ye Ling gave her his brightest smile, but his attention was inevitably drawn to the little fellow glued to Ye Qingtang.

"About that..."

Ye Qingtang rubbed her temples as she related the whole incident of how she picked up the egg of a lightning drake.

Ye Ling and the Second Elder had never come across any draconic species, let alone a lightning drake, thus a drake turning into a dragonoid was a totally unknown attribute to them.

While listening in on their conversation, the little fellow, who was as energetic as a terrier at first, had its complexion turned pallid as time passed.

The host could not sustain its consciousness any longer. If it should still remain in its body, that would surely bring about the host's death.

"Mommy...Can I... rest for a while?" The little fellow tugged at Ye Qingtang's sleeves, while it looked longingly at her.

Ye Qingtang gave it a slight nod, though she could not comprehend its actual intention.

The little fellow buried its face in her bosom, cuddling up closer to her than before. Its glistening eyes reflected its yearning for a mother's love.

"Mommy.... Do you like me?" With its innocent voice, came a question that bared its insecurity.

However, Ye Ling and the Second Elder were relieved by its reliance shown towards Ye Qingtang instead. Judging by its display of monstrosity earlier, with it staying by her side, she would be well protected in times of danger.

Ye Qingtang could neither laugh nor cry at her current situation. She never knew why this little fellow was so infatuated with her, but nonetheless she nodded to its question.

"Yeah."

Immediately, the little fellow was thrilled.

Just that simple answer had brought all butterflies and rainbows to its world.

"Me too! Mommy! I like you the best~"

It looked forward to the day it could become mommy's real child!

Just after it voiced that innocent remark, the little fellow suddenly turned into a glowing beacon. And when the glow dissipated, the chubby little fellow was nowhere to be seen. In its place however, was the hatchling of a drake covered in dark blue scales, resting peacefully within Ye Qingtang's bosom.

### **Chapter 82: Flirting is a Skilled Task (1)**

The hatchling was small, only at the size of an arm's length and around the thickness of a finger. At first glance it looked identical to a snake, but upon a closer inspection, one would notice a pair of miniature horns protruding from its head.

Not only was it premature, its immature body was also dominated by a powerful existence for quite some time. Thus, its already weak constitution was nearly drained of all vitality.

At the moment, the hatchling looked extremely tired, all shriveled up on top of Ye Qingtang's hands.

It could also transform like this? Ye Qingtang was rather bemused as she observed the exhausted hatchling. When she held it carefully to her bosom, the hatchling shrunk its size further, making itself easier to carry around.

“I’ll be off to meet up with his Lordship then,” said Ye Qingtang.

Ye Ling gave a nod, and Ye Qingtang went on her way.

As he watched her daughter leave the courtyard, Ye Ling could not help but heave a sigh.

“Tang Tang’s all grown up now.” The Second Elder related his thought with a smile. It was all thanks to her that they finally managed to defeat the Great Elder.

“Indeed.” Ye Ling replied in kind as he shrugged off his lonely thoughts. Both of them proceeded to clean up the scene quietly thereafter.

Ye Qingtang left the Ye residence and traveled towards a certain building in the city, stated in the address given by Mu Su.

Given her past experience, she was well aware Mu Su was not someone to be trifled with. If it was not for her need to join Xuan Ling’s Clan, she would have preferred not to come in contact with him.

Ye Qingtang arrived at her destination, a posh and tranquil building.

Once she reached the entrance, a foyer attendant came up to greet her.

“Good evening my lady. Are you, by any chance, Miss Ye Qingtang?”

“Yes I am.” Ye Qingtang replied with a slight nod.

“Wonderful. Please excuse me for a moment. My master will be with you shortly.” With that said, the attendant went into the building.

Within moments, Mu Su was seen coming into the foyer. Once he saw Ye Qingtang, he had a gleam in his eyes whilst he approached her: “Welcome Miss Ye. Perfect timing, I’ve just related your situation to the person I’ve mentioned. Please, follow me.”

Ye Qingtang gave a nod. Although she had not met Mu Su in her past, she knew he was a big shot, rumored to be quite aloof and taciturn. But after meeting him in person, he seemed rather amicable instead.

Mu Su escorted Ye Qingtang to the second floor of the building, where they stopped in front of a chamber. Pushing the door open, Mu Su ushered her in. Illuminated by the flickering candles, Ye Qingtang noticed a layer of mystic veil draped across the inner chambers, shrouding her view of what lied within. However, from the light of the candles, she was still able to make out the faint figure of a person seated on the other side.

Though she could not discern the person’s features, she could clearly sense the overwhelming aura that engulfed the entire chamber.

That definitely belonged to a powerful entity, whose prowess was even beyond Mu Su’s!

That person's identity had totally piqued her curiosity.

After closing the doors behind them, Mu Su's smile went rigid before the presence of that layer of veil.

What's going on? He had just stepped out for a moment and his highness had already erected a "wall"?

Didn't he agree to use this opportunity to get to know Ye Qingtang better and build a good relationship?

How on earth is building this "wall" going to help achieve that?

Though all those thoughts crossed his mind, Mu Su maintained his composure without revealing any hint of his bafflement.

"Your Highness, may I present, Miss Ye Qingtang," Mu Su kept his nose clean and proceeded on with the introductions.

### **Chapter 83: Flirting is a Skilled Task (2)**

Highness?

Once Ye Qingtang heard Mu Su's salutation, her heart sank.

Other than being the Marquis of the City of Luoxing, Mu Su was also renowned for his allegiance to the Temple of Ancient Splendor.

The Temple of Ancient Splendor, the world's living metaphor for the untouchable realm, where supreme cultivators congregated.

Legend has it that for thousands of years, the Temple stood tall at the center of the entire continent. Its lineage of Emperors all possessed fearsome powers beyond imagination. Even Exalted Clans were poised to pay homage to the Temple.

The Temple manifested itself as the world's apex, an unshakable fact acknowledged by the populace. But a more amazing fact was, throughout history, only its Emperor was recognized as a member. Even dignitaries such as Mu Su, were not accepted and could only serve as the Temple's vassal.

Nonetheless, this one-man temple was still worshipped by the people.

The Emperor of the Temple, whose identity and prowess were both equally unfathomable, rarely made an appearance in public, but was still regarded as the most powerful cultivator in the world. Therefore, even Ye Qingtang, who had lived for three centuries in her past, never came across the Emperor.

But at the moment, what really weighed down on her, was the Heart of the Demon Emperor within her!

The turmoil brought about by the demon emperor's heart was still fresh in her mind. Though she had a clear grasp on its method of concealment, but if the person before her was truly the Emperor, even she could not be certain it would not be detected.

If it was ever found out, given her current strength, death would be her only option!

Her pleasant mood plummeted, turning into stress and anxiety that came crashing down on her. She initially expected Mu Su was only going to introduce her to one of his acquaintances, but to think...

If she knew that person was going to be the Emperor, she would never have agreed to come!

Han Cangming remained seated within the inner chambers. The mystic veil he had erected served as a tinted window, though shrouding himself from others, it did not impede his surveillance and allowed him to observe Ye Qingtang's features vividly, even at a couple of meters away.

The candlelight accentuated the girl's refined features, caressing the contours of her slightly lowered face and gleamed gently upon her glistening eyes that were seemingly devoid of any emotions.

Han Cangming swept his gaze across her, his lucid eyes hinted at his subtle contemplation of the inconceivable.

Mu Su, who stood by after giving his salutation, did not notice Ye Qingtang's sudden anxiety and patiently awaited his Highness to make her acquaintance, however...

A few moments passed and not a word could be heard from him.

Mu Su became dumbfounded on the spot.

What's going on?

He had gone through all the trouble of enticing Ye Qingtang to this meeting, why did his Highness act like a totally wound down clockwork?

Say something dammit!

Mu Su was like a cat on a hot tin roof, dying to reach out to his Highness and remind him fervently of this meeting's purpose. But conferring that brazenly in front of any girl would certainly turn the girl off. Thus, he had no choice but to rein himself in.

He turned his attention to Ye Qingtang next and noticed her uneasiness, that ultimately added onto his own.

Your highness, at this rate, you're going to scare the living daylights out of her! Can't you see the poor girl has turned all pale!

Although Mu Su did figure out that his silence was nerve wrecking, however he could never guess that was mainly due to Ye Qingtang's fear that the prolonged silence indicated that his Highness might have caught onto her secret.

Mu Su could not bear to watch the situation get anymore awkward, in order to keep the conversation going, he had no choice but to repeat what he had related previously: "Your highness, Miss Ye has quite an extraordinary spirit root, one that reemerged after shattering her original. I'm incapable of discerning its cause and effect, and to prevent her from heeding a wrong advice, I've brought her before your competent self, for your expertise on this matter."

### **Chapter 84: Flirting is a Skilled Task (3)**

Your highness, your humble vassal can only do so much!

There was still no sound from the inner chambers.

Ye Qingtang was about to decline the offer and make a run for it, but just before she uttered her words, a deep, resonant voice broke the silence.

“Noted.”

“.....” Mu Su felt like crying. Though silence is golden, now’s not the time for that!

Ye Qingtang’s mood had gotten worse as well.

“Miss Ye, may I suggest you reveal thy root?” Mu Su tried his best to keep the conversation going.

Ye Qingtang realized she had lost her chance to escape and could only bite her lip and play along.

Hovering halos converged on her open palm and at the center, a replica of her spirit root emerged.

“Your highness, this is Miss Ye’s new spirit root. Are there any peculiarities?” Mu Su prompted for an answer again.

Han Cangming furrowed his brow as he observed Ye Qingtang’s spirit root.

No one else knew better than him, that the demonic soul of the demon emperor’s heart was the one that facilitated the growth of her new spirit root.

Han Cangming replied after a moment of silence, “Its quality can be nurtured.”

The spirit root fostered by the demon emperor’s heart was fundamentally different from a natural one. That demonic soul did not possess a clear understanding on the nature of a spirit root, thus, though it did manage to grow a new one, it was not cultivated at all.

However, this allowed its quality to be improved as one cultivated his or her prowess. That is, with adequate cultivation, this red spirit root could transform into a blue one, akin to Ye Qingtang’s original, or beyond that to even indigo or violet.

Han Cangming’s deduction gave Ye Qingtang quite a shock.

Her new spirit root could improve in quality?!

The quality of a natural spirit root was a fixed attribute, determined since birth. Even with the aid of some of the world’s rarest treasures revered for fructifying a spirit root, the improvement in quality could be considered miniscule. Thus, having a spirit root which possessed the capability for a complete makeover was a phenomenon that was totally unheard of.

Ye Qingtang knew about the origin of her new spirit root and assumed there to be certain differences in its characteristics, but never did she expect such a mind-blowing difference.

“Are there any other areas of interest?” Ye Qingtang was so fascinated by this new discovery that she totally let her guard down.

Since she could never put up a fight or escape if her secret was found out anyway.

Han Cangming replied stoically: “No.”

Mu Su was driven to the edge. It's already a miracle for the girl to keep up with your conversation, why did your highness cut her off!

Please show some interest dammit!

"Your Highness, in order for Miss Ye to better nurture her new spirit root, what augments might you recommend?" Mu Su clearly gave his all to maintain their conversation.

Ye Qingtang was all ears for his answer.

"Jade Ganoderma, Exquisite Emeralds and Sky Dew. These three augments should work well." Han Cangming articulated in a stoic tone. As concise as it is, the word count in his reply had increased nonetheless....

Mu Su was flabbergasted. Han Cangming had recommended three of the world's rarest treasures. Other than their names, no common man could hope to come across them physically in a lifetime.

Your highness, may I beseech you to recommend something normal?

I know your highness always set your sights high, but can you please come down to earth this moment?

However, Ye Qingtang's eyes sparkled with anticipation. She had not even heard of the two other names, but she did know a source for Sky Dew!

In her past, she came across it during her time at Xuan Ling's Clan!

#### **Chapter 85: Flirting is a Skilled Task (4)**

Sky Dew, also known as the essence of the world, was one of the rarest resources known to mankind. Ye Qingtang's purpose for joining Xuan Ling's Clan was to obtain it as well. Cultivators regarded it as a priceless treasure, as it was known to enhance a person's innate prowess upon consumption, even if said person only possessed a common spirit root.

Ye Qingtang was quite gifted, but her innate prowess was greatly impaired when she lost her original spirit root. Thus, she was desperate to join Xuan Ling's clan and get her hands on this treasure to heal this impairment.

She would never have expected this treasure would improve the quality of her new spirit root as well!

With this bonus, Ye Qingtang was ever more determined to join Xuan Ling's clan.

According to her past memories, Ye You's prowess grew by leaps and bounds within a few years after joining the Cloud-breakers. To get her revenge, Ye Qingtang would need to cultivate her prowess without being impeded by any impairment.

Only then could she level the playing field with Ye You.

"Your highness, without those augments you've mentioned...." Mu Su could not help but to prompt for an elaboration.

"The enhancement will be barely adequate." Han Cangming added stoically.

Mu Su was on the verge of tears by now.

On the other hand, Ye Qingtang was feeling uplifted after being assured she was headed in the right direction.

“Thank you, your highness, for everything today.” Ye Qingtang gave her heartfelt thanks.

While Han Cangming gazed at the girl’s rosy cheeks and elated demeanor, his lucid eyes flashed with an inkling of fascination.

“No worries.”

Ye Qingtang smiled radiantly as she curtsied. Having relaxed a little; since her secret was not found out, and getting enlightened over the matter of her new spirit root, she felt that this trip was fruitful.

However...

She did not forget to remind herself, to never get involved with the Temple again, else she would risk letting the cat out of the bag.

“I shall take my leave then. Farewell, your highness.” Ye Qingtang was wary of the Emperor’s prowess and dared not stay for too long. If her secret was ever found out, she could never hope of getting back home in one piece.

Mu Su was prepared to give them a little more time to get along and did not expect Ye Qingtang to bid her valediction so quickly. He turned his attention to the inner chambers in a hurry, but to his dismay, Han Cangming did not express any intention at keeping her at all!

“Miss Ye, I’ll see you out.” Mu Su was at his wits’ end and could only choke back his frustration, feigning his composure.

“Thank you”

Mu Su escorted her out of the chamber and it was not till they left the building entirely, did Han Cangming finally came out of the inner chambers.

Mu Su could only feel resignation and bafflement by the time he escorted Ye Qingtang to the foyer.

“Miss Ye, in regards to the referral to Xuan Ling’s clan, I’ll get that settled as soon as possible. They’ll have their entry assessment in a month’s time. You just need to attend it.” Mu Su spoke absentmindedly.

“Thank you, your lordship, for everything.” With Mu Su’s assurance, Ye Qingtang was confident all her plans would proceed smoothly.

“Nice meeting you and farewell, Miss Ye.”

Ye Qingtang did not dwell on their first encounter and left promptly after bidding her valediction.

After she was completely out of sight, Mu Su dashed back to the chamber.

When he saw Han Cangming standing out in the open, he was on the verge of tears again.

“Your highness... ”



So, you've finally decided to show yourself, after all this time!

"Has she left?" Han Cangming asked out of the blue.

Mu Su faltered for a moment, and realized he was asking about Ye Qingtang.

### **Chapter 86: Life Experience (1)**

Mu Su faltered for a moment, and realized he was asking about Ye Qingtang.

"Your Highness, Miss Ye has already gone home. May I ask why did you not converse more with her just now?" Mu Su asked calmly, though his mind yelled: Do you still want to have a child with her?!

"I already did." Han Cangming replied stoically.

"..." Mu Su felt like banging his head against a wall.

You considered that enough?!

Mu Su was on the verge of shedding tears again.

Comparing Han Cangming's usual standards, his first conversation with Ye Qingtang was already eventful. If the enquirer was someone else, he never would have answered every query given. To receive words of advice directly from the Emperor in person was considered inconceivable.

Getting a single word from him would be impossible, much less a sentence.

Thus, he regarded his attitude displayed to her as "friendly" enough.

However....

"Pardon me your Highness.... In all honesty, if you're intent on getting Miss Ye to bear a child with you, I'm afraid your disposition just now might not suffice." Mu Su carefully voiced his opinion.

Han Cangming furrowed his brow.

"Then, what do you suggest?"

Asking for my suggestion? Mu Su was dumbfounded. Common sense dictates that courting a girl involves building a rapport, going on dates and sharing words of affection, but....

After scrutinizing his Highness's face that spells "Stay away from me", Mu Su had a hard time trying to imagine him being amorous whilst trying to woo someone with words.

Actually, the thought of that sent shivers down his spine instead.

"Erm... if your Highness prefers not to engage her with words, try gifting her some presents? Girls love presents, perhaps?" Mu Su reluctantly suggested.

Han Cangming lowered his eyes whilst his gaze remained contemplative.

By the time Ye Qingtang returned to the Ye's residence, Ye Ling and the Second Elder had already disposed of the Great Elder's body properly without a trace. Excluding the three of them, no one else would ever find out about the Great Elder's death.

“Tang Tang, come with me for a moment.” Ye Ling did not retire to his quarters and was still seated in the main hall, seemingly waiting for Ye Qingtang’s return.

“Yes, father.” Ye Qingtang gave a nod and followed him to his study.

The study was dimly illuminated and after Ye Ling ushered Ye Qingtang to a seat, he turned around and retrieved a brocade box from a hidden compartment within the study room’s wall. Placing that box in front of Ye Qingtang, he beckoned her to check its contents.

After opening the box, Ye Qingtang found a jade pendant lying within. One could make out the pendant’s intricate and elegant design, the excellence of its craftsmanship was obvious even under the dim illumination.

“This is?” Ye Qingtang was puzzled by this, and looked to Ye Ling for an answer.

Ye Ling heaved a deep breath as he looked his daughter straight in the eyes, his gaze projecting the intricacy of his current thoughts.

“Tang Tang, there’re some things that I’d like you to know.”

Ye Qingtang was slightly perturbed as she could vaguely foresee the gravity of the matter Ye Ling was about to reveal.

Ye Ling looked deeply at the pendant in the box and spoke: “During my younger days, I spent most of my time away from home, totally engrossed in my training. Falling in love with and marrying your mother was truly a miracle, and at the time when your grandfather wanted me to take the reins of the House, I was still wandering the world with your mother who was pregnant. Unfortunately, while rushing home, due to the dire conditions of our journey, your mother had a miscarriage. Perhaps it was the Heaven’s way of making it up to us, but we chanced upon an abandoned baby on our way back....”

Ye Ling paused his tale here.

At the same time, Ye Qingtang realized the incongruity in his account.

Ye Ling only ever had her as his own flesh and blood, but according to his account just now, her mother had a miscarriage and they had even picked up an abandoned baby.

### **Chapter 87: Life Experience (2)**

“Was that baby Ye Xun?” Ye Qingtang asked concernedly.

Ye Ling shook his head, “Ye Xun was picked up at our doorstep after I succeeded the household. The baby I was referring to, was you....”

Ye Qingtang was stunned in an instant.

Ye Ling gave a grim smile as he looked at Ye Qingtang and said: “Tang Tang, I intended to tell you all these after you had married. But after all that has happened, I reckon it’ll be best to let you know now.”

“That day when we lost our child, it was ever so heartrending. But after we found you, that emotion we felt then, it’s difficult for me to put into words. Like a Godsend, we took you home and raised you like our own daughter. We’ve never brought this up to anyone else since, only your mother and I knew.”

With that said, Ye Ling picked up the pendant from the box.

“This pendant was found on you when we picked you up as a baby. It’s most likely a keepsake from your birth parents. I’ve approached several channels to investigate its origin, but there weren’t many leads. The only piece of info we found was, it might be related to the royal family from the dynasty of the Nine Nights. Ever since you revealed a blue spirit root, I reckoned your birth parents might be people of an incredible caliber.”

A blue spirit root was akin a precious treasure. Considering the Ye’s family history, cases of offspring possessing a blue spirit root were certainly rare.

The Nine Nights Dynasty...

Ye Qingtang was slightly astounded when she heard its name.

The City of Lin was a territory under the Imperial Dynasty of Tianqi, comprised of several countries, each governed by its respective monarchy. All these monarchies were collectively referred as the Tianqi royal family, and they regarded the Dynasty of the Nine Nights as an adversary.

“I’m glad to see you’ve matured considerably and felt it’s time to hand this over to you. After you’ve joined Xuan Ling’s clan in the future, as a member of the Exalted, I reckon you’ll have better chances of finding out who your birth parents are.” Ye Ling placed the pendant in Ye Qingtang’s hand, he was proud and grateful for having Ye Qingtang as a daughter.

Ye Qingtang observed the pendant in her hand. The feelings she had now were pretty complicated. In her past, Ye Ling passed away before he could reveal this secret to anyone, thus she could never imagine there was such a story behind her birth.

But now....

To think she would only discover this secret, after all this time.

Ye Qingtang grasped the pendant as she raised her eyes filled with determination, and looked at Ye Ling.

“You’ll always be my father.”

Ye Ling gave a gentle smile, that assurance alone was the most gratifying reward in his life.

“It’s getting late, you should go rest up. There’re still preparations to be done for your journey to Xuan Ling’s clan.”

“Yes, father.” Ye Qingtang nodded before she got up from her seat.

“Right, there’s one more thing.” Ye Ling spoke up abruptly.

Ye Qingtang stopped in her tracks.

“After dealing with the Great Elder, your uncle and I’ve also gotten rid of his conspirators within the household. We wanted to deal with Ye Xun as well but couldn’t find her. After investigation, it seems the Great Elder has sent her away discreetly in the midst of the celebration and we’ve no idea where she went.” Ye Ling knitted his brows as he spoke.

He had fostered two daughters, but in the case of Ye Xun, there were many witnesses around when she was picked up. Thus, unlike Ye Qingtang, she could only be known as an adopted child, but Ye Ling had never played favorites and treated both of them equally as his own children.

But who could have expected their characters would turn out to be polar opposites even when they were raised under the same roof.

And unfortunately, Ye Xun turned out to be a snake in the grass.

“Duly noted, father. I’ll be sure to watch out.” Ye Qingtang gave a slight nod. With the Great Elder’s death, there was no way to ascertain where Ye Xun was sent, but regardless, she would keep up her vigilance.

“That’s good. Go get some rest then.” Ye Ling nodded and ended their conversation for the night.

### **Chapter 88: Heartwarming (1)**

Whatever happened during the birthday banquet at the Ye household spread quickly through the City of Lin.

When morning came, Ye Qingtang visited the Si household, to give thanks to Old Master Si for inviting Mu Su.

“I’ve heard all that’s happened yesterday at your place. That Great Elder sure got what he deserved.” Old Master Si chortled and slapped his thigh while seated.

Ye Qingtang returned a smile.

“And did you manage to convince his lordship to refer you for the entry examination?” Old Master Si asked after regaining his composure.

“Yes.” Ye Qingtang answered frankly.

Old Master Si had a look of concern.

“Your determination to join the Exalted is commendable. I’m aware you’re desperate to overcome all those humiliations you were put through, but joining an Exalted clan is never easy. If you failed the examinations, you’ll lose your only chance in a lifetime. You’re just getting started and attempting it so soon will certainly be a struggle.” Old Master Si paused for a moment, before he emphasized: “Si Ye and Si Qiong are still currently training with their master and they too will attempt the examinations, but only in a few years’ time. Si Bai has the best spirit root amongst his brothers and I’ve intended for him to join the Exalted as well, but only after he has recuperated to a certain extent.”

“Now that the Great Elder has lost his foothold, with your father and Second Elder in charge, why don’t you wait for another year? You can join Si Bai in the meantime for training. I’ll discuss this with your father and we’ll invite the best masters available to train the both of you. Once you’re better prepared, you’ll have a better chance of passing the examinations next year.”

From his words, one could tell Old Master Si had spared no effort in his considerations for Ye Qingtang’s well-being.

Ye Qingtang was nearly moved to tears, however, she shook her head slowly in the end.

“I’m sorry Grandpa Si, I can’t afford to wait for that long. No worries, I would never take risks without being properly prepared.”

“You’re one stubborn kid.” Though Old Master Si grumbled, he remained deeply concerned.

“I’m aware Ye You is your main concern now and you’re adamant on getting your revenge, but there are always the hazards of rushing. Remember, slow and steady wins the race.”

“I know that, and I know you’ve my best interests at heart, but please take my word for it this time.” Ye Qingtang looked Old Master Si straight in the eye while she voiced her earnestness.

“You...” Old Master Si was determined to persuade her again.

But Si Bai, who was seated nearby, interrupted him.

“Grandpa, you’re worrying too much. Did Tang Tang ever fail your expectations? Since she’s going to join Xuan Ling’s clan, I’m sure she’s well prepared.”

Old Master Si gave him a glare.

Si Bai could only look away and rub his nose, not knowing whether to laugh or cry at losing out on Old Master Si’s adoration, ever since Ye Qingtang had become a welcomed guest.

“You’re just a greenhorn, blindly accepting whatever she said.” Old Master Si chided Si Bai before he turned his attention back to Ye Qingtang. “Since you’ve decided, I won’t stop you. But promise me one thing.”

“I’m all ears.”

“Before your showdown with Ye You, never, ever let anyone find out that she mugged your spirit root.” Old Master Si advised gravely.

Ye Qingtang faltered for a moment, before she concurred in the next instant: “I understand.”

She had not revealed that to her father or uncle as well. Aside from not wanting them to worry too much about her, preventing them from retaliating unnecessarily was another concern, especially given her uncle’s temper.

“I’m glad you understand. Now that Ye You’s already a disciple of the Cloud-breaker’s sovereign, even if you’ve exposed her wrongdoings, the Cloud-breakers will be certain to cover them up in order to protect their clan’s name, and the most certain way is to eliminate you.” Old Master Si warned morosely, after careful consideration.

## **Chapter 89: Heartwarming (2)**

That is to say, even if Ye You was the one at fault, the Cloud-breaker’s sovereign would stop at nothing to protect their own reputation, and would choose to eliminate Ye Qingtang regardless.

“Duly noted, Grandpa Si.” Ye Qingtang was really grateful towards Old Master Si. Other than her father and uncle, he might be the only other person who gave so much thought for her well-being.

“Fortunately, you’ve a new spirit root. I won’t pry into your source for that, but do cherish it. This is Heaven’s way of giving you another chance, make sure you fully utilize it. Right, and luckily there’s still some time left before those preposterously difficult entry examinations. You must be fully prepared. Thank God your father is now in charge and you can make good use of your household’s resources.” Old Master Si rattled on.

Nevertheless, Ye Qingtang gave the nod, listening quietly and appreciating the heartfelt gesture behind his words.

Old Master Si kept Ye Qingtang around for quite a while. Before she left, though he was aware Ye Ling would properly provide for her, nonetheless, he made Si Ye prepare quite a number of tonics as gifts to aid Ye Qingtang in recuperating from the damage inflicted when her original spirit root was taken.

Ye Qingtang could only accept the gifts gratuitously and hold the Si household dearly to her heart.

When she finally left the Si’s residence, she went straight to the Pavilion of Treasures and met up with its manager.

Ever since she had learned her spirit root could transmute upon growth, the significance of Buoys became much more important.

Before she could lay her hands on Sky Dew, Buoys would be the best source of nourishment for her current spirit root.

“Welcome Miss Ye.” Once the manager saw Ye Qingtang, he welcomed her with open arms.

“How’s it going for the Buoys matter I’ve mentioned previously?” Ye Qingtang inquired with a smile.

The manager had a tense look on his face. Previously, Ye Qingtang had put up an outrageous request to monopolize all available Buoys under the Pavilion of Treasure’s flagship. This had certainly kept the manager on his toes. If those Buoys were merely decorative items, unless Ye Qingtang was really out of her mind, why would she buy so many of them?

He had gotten his men to investigate every available channel on a Buoy’s possible application and thus had not replied to her till now, in fear of overlooking and losing out on making a possible killing.

But many days had passed since and even after researching every nook and cranny of their information library and sharing every detail amongst all the branch managers, no additional information was found aside from what was already publicly known.

“Miss Ye, regarding that, I’ve spoken with the other branch managers and they’ve unanimously agreed to your proposal.” Since they were unable to discover any new information on the Buoys, and due to her cordial relationship with the owner, the manager had no choice but to accede to her request.

“Wonderful.” Ye Qingtang gave a fulfilling smile. She knew the manager would have thoroughly investigated on the Buoy’s applications but was confident that its real purpose would not be easily discovered within these few years.

Ye Qingtang proceeded to retrieve twenty thousand gold from her dimension ring and handed them over to the manager. As per agreement, any future Buoys brought in by the Pavilion of Treasures would be sold to Ye Qingtang and this down payment would be deducted accordingly till depletion. She would

have to replenish the down payment then but since the Great Elder's fall, their household finances were once again managed by Ye Ling and her spending would be a lot less restrictive.

The manager laughed heartily as he accepted the payment.

With the matter of the Buoys taken care of, Ye Qingtang then proceeded to purchase quite a number of lesser spirit stones from the boutique and returned home thereafter. The spirit stones were fed to the lightning drake's hatchling.

The hatchling had slept for a whole day and night, and managed to regain its strength partially. Dragonkin were considered precious spirit beasts and spirit stones were known to be their best source of sustenance. Thus, that bunch of spirit stones bought all ended up as the hatchling's favorite snack.

## **Chapter 90: The Road To Becoming Powerful (1)**

**Translator:** Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Ye Qingtang looked at the little lightning dragon, which swallowed a bag of spirit stones, with a sad expression.

It was unknown what method the mighty figure, who raised the dragon in the previous life, used to raise his dragon to be so "shiny" and "smooth." It should be known that spirit stones were exorbitant and were sold by pieces. Just the "appetite" of the little lightning dragon was enough for it to eat until one ended up bankrupt.

This was still a cub that just came out of its shell. If it were a little bigger... the entire Ye family's reserves would not be enough to feed it, much less Ye Qingtang.

Ye Qingtang suddenly felt that she might need to find a method to make money in the future; otherwise, she might be the first person in history to be starved to death by a dragon.

Days passed. Ye Qingtang received Mu Su's letter of recommendation, and she could head to Xuanling Sect to participate in the entrance assessment just with this letter.

Xuanling Sect was quite far from Lin Town. Ye Qingtang had been readily prepared early to set out on the journey in advance.

On the day when Ye Qingtang hit the road, the Second Elder and Ye Ling had done many preparations for Ye Qingtang from early on and sent her off.

Even the Si family sent both Si Ye and Si Bai to show up.

"Uncle Ye," Si Ye and Si Bai greeted.

Ye Qingtang nodded with a smile. Ever since Ye Qingtang became friendly with the Si family, the relationship between the Ye and Si improved increasingly as well, and they interacted much more on usual days.

Immediately, both of them walked towards Ye Qingtang.

“Grandfather told me to hand these things to you. He said that you’re too stubborn and was unwilling to send you off because he’s angry,” Si Bai said laughingly as the servants beside him subsequently placed the items that Master Si prepared on the carriage.

“Please apologize to grandfather Si on my behalf. I know he had my best interests at heart.” Ye Qingtang laughed.

Si Bai chuckled and said quietly, “Grandfather may have said that, but actually, he didn’t come personally as he was afraid of the sadness of separation.” As he spoke, he even winked at Ye Qingtang as a hint.

Ye Qingtang could not help but let out a laugh.

“When I return, I’ll thank grandfather Si personally.”

“The journey to Xuanling Sect is far. Grandfather is afraid that the journey isn’t safe, so...” Si Bai pushed Si Ye, who was beside him, forward to stand in front of Ye Qingtang.

Si Ye looked at Ye Qingtang a little awkwardly.

Similarly, Ye Qingtang had a face of confusion.

“My eldest brother is pretty skilled, and grandfather made him to be your coachman.” Si Bai laughed.

“...” At this point, Ye Qingtang really did not know whether to laugh or cry.

The dignified Young Master Si was actually acting as a coachman for her?

How high was her status?!

Even Ye Ling and the Second Elder were surprised by Master Si’s action.

*It can’t be that the he took a fancy on Tang Tang and was ready to sweet-talk Tang Tang into becoming her granddaughter-in-law, can it?*

“There’s no need for this, I think? Big brother Si may have things to tend to as well. I can manage on my own,” Ye Qingtang declined politely. She knew that Master Si specially made this arrangement as he was unaware that the Great Elder had died and was probably afraid that the Great Elder arranged for someone to sneak an attack on her on the journey there.

“Don’t stand on ceremony anymore. Grandfather said that if eldest brother does not safely send you to Xuanling Sect, he can dream of returning to the Si residence,” Si Bai gloated happily. His body was weak and would be unable to withstand the bumpy journey. Thus, an assignment like fetching people would naturally fall on Si Ye.

Ye Qingtang looked helplessly at Si Ye, who had a weird expression.

“I am unrelated. Since it is grandfather’s orders, just agree and put his mind at ease.”

Ye Qingtang declined grandfather Si’s protection quite a number of times and should she reject it again this time... Si Ye felt that his grandfather might just explode.



Seeing so, there was no way Ye Qingtang could reject, and she could only reply, "I'll have to trouble big brother Si then."

Si Ye nodded slightly.

Ye Ling originally arranged for his henchman to send Ye Qingtang to Xuanling Sect but could only trouble Si Ye to make the trip instead due to Master Si's stubbornness.

Ye Ling and Ye Qingtang said their goodbyes for a while, and when he saw that it was time, he let Ye Qingtang set out on the journey without saying much.

Ye Qingtang got onto the carriage, and Si Ye really sat on the position for the coachman, escorting Ye Qingtang out of town from outside the carriage.