

Chapter 91: The Road To Becoming Powerful (2)

Inside Yunxiao Sect.

A slim and graceful girl was donned in white and stood in a room. Her stunning looks enchanted many.

Ye Xun stood by the side of that girl, and though Ye Xun had beautiful features, it seemed lacking when compared to those of the girl in white.

After she was chased out of the Ye residence by Ye Qingtang, the Great Elder sent her to Yunxiao Sect and had only just reached today.

“Ye Qingtang seriously still has a spirit root?” The girl in white read through the letter slowly. Her pretty brows were slightly furrowed, and her eyes shone, seeming to be rather displeased.

Ye Qingtang looked down without daring to make eye contact. “Sister You, Ye Qingtang indeed still has a spirit root and received Mu Su’s help this time. I’m afraid she might participate in the entrance assessment for Xuanling Sect. Grandfather sent me here to let you know about this. He can’t interfere in sect matters and will need you to think of a way to not let Ye Qingtang get what she wants.”

The girl in white who was standing before Ye Xun was none other than Ye You, the one who stole Ye Qingtang’s spirit root.

She was initially the granddaughter of Great Elder, but now, she was a disciple of the Yunxiao Sect Sect Master and held an incomparably prestigious position.

“You’re sure that she has only a red spirit root?” Ye You asked while raising her eyes a little.

“Yes.”

Ye You did not hurry to say anything and only raised her hand to straighten her wrinkled sleeve.

“A red spirit root is the lowest grade of all. I don’t think there’s any sect with a disciple that has such an inferior spirit root...”

Ye Xun trembled slightly.

“Sister You, although it is so, Ye Qingtang has been acting strangely in this period of time. In case any unexpected things happen, please do make more preparations still.”

Ye You laughed without emotion. “There is someone I know in Xuanling Sect, and I’ll notify him. If Ye Qingtang does not have the fate to enter Xuanling Sect, just let it be. But if she enters... she’ll also not be able to leave.” When she finished her sentence, a murderous look suddenly flashed across her gentle-looking eyes.

Ye Xun was extremely cautious, and she remained silent at a side.

Ye You was born with an extremely beautiful face, and she had an elegant disposition. However, no one could see that under that beautiful skin laid a heart as vicious as the Great Elder’s.

Ye You took a look at Ye Xun and said, "You don't need to return to the Ye family for now. Just serve me by my side."

"Yes," Ye Xun agreed obediently. She knew that due to the fact that Ye Qingtang obtained the qualification to participate in a sect's entrance assessment, Duan Tianrao would already be dissatisfied with her. If she returned now, Duan Tianrao may just cancel the engagement because of this. Hence, she decided to avoid meeting him for now.

"So you're not planning to go back personally, sister You?"

Ye You raised her eyelids slightly, and a lofty smile emerged on her beautiful face. "A few days later, Master will teach me Yunxiao Sect's mystic technique. Once the training for it starts, I'll need to go on for a couple of months without stopping. Furthermore..."

Ye You narrowed her eyes as a cold smile hung on the corner of her lips.

"Is the current Ye Qingtang even qualified?"

"Sister You is indeed right. So what if Ye Qingtang really enters Xuanling Sect? How could she compete with you?" Ye Xun echoed gently.

Ye You smiled detachedly.

Ye Xun said, "We'll have to trouble that old friend of yours to properly 'take care' of Ye Xun at that time then."

Ye You laughed lightly. "Of course. You can get some rest here, I'll report to Master and let you have the rights to stay in Yunxiao Sect.

"Thank you, sister You."

Ye You swept a glance across Ye Xun thoughtfully and said, "Xun, you've always been smart. If you use it wisely, I'll naturally treat you well."

"I understand. I'll definitely be at your beck and call." Ye Xun pledged loyalty immediately.

Ye You nodded and walked out slowly.

Ye Qingtang, I will not let you appear in my life ever again.

I've already accepted your spirit root. Now, you should die early!

Chapter 92: Xuanling Sect (1)

Walk on the Path to Heaven; Enter the sect.

If she wanted to cultivate up to a Paragon, she could only rely on the sacred sect.

It was a journey of half a month. Within the carriage, Ye Qingtang saw an increasingly familiar surrounding before her, and a strange feeling arose within her. She lifted her eyes slightly and looked at

the tall mountain not far away. That mountain was steep, and its summit was covered in cloud mist. However, Ye Qingtang was very clear that there... was the location of Xuanling Sect.

Above the vague mist, Xuanling Sect stood against the clouds in the sky.

“Xuanling Sect...” As Ye Qingtang looked at the cloud mist at the mountain’s summit, scenes from her previous life flooded her mind.

[Ye Qingtang, you have the Heart of the Demon God in your body. Xuanling Sect cannot keep you anymore.]

In her previous life, Ye Qingtang did not have a spirit root and only found a way to model a fake spirit root after searching for a long time. She used that method and finally entered Xuanling Sect. However... the her then would never have dreamt that the very entrance became a turning point in her life.

Not a good turn, but an abyssal drop.

Her Heart of the Demon God was exposed in a mission, and she was forced out of the sect. Moreover, a Sect Elder with evil intentions, along with other disciples in the sect, told the entire world that she possessed the Heart of the Demon God.

Since then, she turned from avoiding Ye You to becoming everyone’s target of murder.

And from the moment she left Xuanling Sect, Ye Qingtang was like a person hated by everyone, and she got shouted at and beaten up by many. The news of the Heart of the Demon God could no longer be hidden.

After innumerable twists and turns, Ye Qingtang chose Xuanling Sect once again in this life.

This time, it was not only to obtain the Black Heaven Water but more to... seek revenge...

In this life, she would not let anyone who harmed her in her previous life off.

“We’re reaching Xuanling Sect very soon. Qingtang, are you ready to participate in the sect assessment?” Si Ye’s voice rang from outside the carriage.

Ye Qingtang chuckled with bright eyes, “I’ve been preparing for this moment for too long.”

...

Below Xuanling Sect and above the clouds was obviously a place with little trace of civilization, yet today, this place was exceptionally “bustling”.

It was difficult for a carriage to ascend the mountain; thus, Si Ye and Ye Qingtang got off the carriage at the foot of the mountain and walked up to the summit.

There were already many people at the summit. In the large groups of people, everyone was donned in luxurious attires and possessed a dignified bearing. Rather, it was Ye Qingtang and Si Ye, who were both relatively young, who dressed casually and in the least numbers. Yet, everyone noticed them once they reached the summit.

“These are all people participating in Xuanling Sect’s entrance assessment?” Si Ye asked Ye Qingtang as they stood aside. He unconsciously looked at the others. Amongst the crowd, it was not difficult to tell that the ones who were really there to participate in the assessment were the young talents while most of the rest were there to send them off.

Ye Qingtang nodded slightly.

“I didn’t think that there would actually be so many people.” Ye Qingtang estimated that there were at least more than a hundred people who were there to participate in Xuanling Sect’s entrance assessment.

“It is unknown how many can remain,” Ye Qingtang said coolly.

Every year, all sects would welcome a large batch of people who wished to enter the sect. However, amongst these hundreds of people, it was already rare for one-tenth of them to enter the sect.

Unless one possessed a rare supreme-grade spirit root like Ye You did, to obtain the opportunity to enter a sect, one was required to first have a high enough natural endowment and second, a recommendation by a mighty figure. Moreover, these two conditions were merely qualifications for them to participate in a sect’s entrance assessment.

No one knew whether one could enter.

Chapter 93: Xuanling Sect (2)

“Those are people from the Liu Yun family clan?” Si Ye’s eyes swept over a group of people not far away.

The Liu Yun family clan is renowned worldwide, and the cultivators produced from this family clan were all deeply powerful. Family clans like the Si and Ye family seemed especially tiny before ones like Liu Yun’s.

Ye Qingtang followed Si Ye’s gaze, and as expected, she saw a group of finely-dressed people with elegant demeanors.

Leading the group of people was a tall middle-aged man with an extraordinary bearing, and he was quietly talking to a young man. When Ye Qingtang’s gaze fell on the male who listened with lowered eyes, something shone in her eyes uncontrollably.

[Qingtang! Quickly leave!]

On a stormy night, that handsome youth stood in front of her with his flesh and blood, bearing a fatal blow.

“Senior Brother Yun...” Ye Qingtang mumbled softly as she looked at the side profile of the youth.

“Qingtang, do you know the people from the Liu Yun family clan?” Si Ye seemed to have sensed Ye Qingtang’s abnormal behavior and could not help but ask.

Ye Qingtang returned to her senses and shook her head immediately.

It was she who owed him.

In her previous life when Ye Qingtang entered the Xuanling Sect, she experienced difficulty in learning anything due to the absence of spirit root and was, thus, ridiculed by some senior and junior brothers. More than that, she was bullied for not having a family clan background. The only person in Xuanling Sect who treated her well was Senior Brother Yun, Yun Shu.

But ultimately...

Yun Shu died for her, but she did not even have the ability to seek revenge for him.

The only warmth in her previous life was slashed away hard on that stormy night.

Si Ye did not think much into it and was slightly shocked as he looked at the crowd.

He had always known that it was hard to enter a Sect but never expected that despite so, there were even the Formidable Heavens Royals here apart from the Liu Yun family clan. Every candidate participating in the entrance assessment had extraordinary backgrounds such that any random person picked out would have a glorious background.

And only people with such a social status would attract a mighty figure to recommend them.

“Big brother Si, there’s still a while more until the assessment. You don’t need to accompany me. Do head back first,” Ye Qingtang said with a smile.

Si Ye originally wanted to stay and accompany Ye Qingtang, but on second thought, if Ye Qingtang failed, she may be embarrassed to face him. Thus, he gave a few orders and descended the mountain without saying anything more, deciding to wait a while more in the carriage at the bottom of the mountain.

Once Si Ye left, Ye Qingtang stood at the summit alone. Her small frame and outstanding appearance attracted much attention.

However, the reactions she got were less of shock and more of mockery.

“Who is that girl? She can’t be here to participate in the sect assessment also?”

“Doesn’t look like it. All the candidates for the sect assessment today were escorted by many people from their family and had the company of a powerful person who recommended them. Just now, I saw that there was only one young man beside that girl, and he had left. It doesn’t seem like they’re here for the assessment.”

“Perhaps, she’s here to see the world. After all, this Path to Heaven cannot be traversed by normal people.”

The people who came today had extremely high expectations and could see that Ye Qingtang’s lone self was a misfit in this bustling and flourishing age.

Ye Qingtang was not at all bothered by those discussions and stood there calmly as she eyed the cloudy horizon.

In the previous life, she waited for the Path to Heaven—the path leading to the sect—to open by herself just like this.

Ridicule and coldness—she had long suffered them in her previous life. How would it still bother her in this life?

Chapter 94: Xuanling Sect (3)

“Not anyone can enter a sect.” A cold and arrogant voice suddenly traveled into Ye Qingtang’s ears.

Ye Qingtang took a glance towards the direction of the voice, but what followed immediately was a dissipating of warmth in her eyes and a tug up the corners of her lips.

An elegantly-dressed young man overflowing with arrogance was standing a few steps away from Ye Qingtang. Beside him were a few servants waiting upon him carefully.

The person who spoke was Lu Xiuwen, the fifth prince of one of the countries in the Formidable Heavens Dynasty.

The Formidable Heavens Royals were in control of the current dynasty and held a superior position. The Formidable Heavens Dynasty built by them was a magnificent dynasty formed by many countries and commanded by the emperor of the Formidable Heavens Royals. The royal families of each country were all from the Formidable Heavens Royals, and Lu Xiuwen was a prince from one of the many countries in the Formidable Heavens Dynasty. He had a rather high ability and a proud character.

Lu Xiuwen was someone more than “familiar” to Ye Qingtang.

In her previous life when Ye Qingtang entered the sect, she did not have a spirit root, and her cultivation was slow. Then, Lu Xiuwen was rather popular amongst the disciples. Ye Qingtang suffered quite a lot of bullying from him and was even made to do things that only a handyman would do. Furthermore, he did not allow her to focus on cultivation like other normal disciples.

However, Ye Qingtang was not too bothered by all of that.

What really made Ye Qingtang remember Lu Xiuwen was his betrayal.

At that time, Ye Qingtang and Lu Xiuwen were out together to deal with matters but were attacked by a high-level spirit animal on the journey. They were unable to defeat it, and when they almost lost their lives, it was the Heart of the Demon God in Ye Qingtang that unleashed its powers, ultimately saving Lu Xiuwen and the other disciples.

Yet, it was that time when Ye Qingtang’s Heart of the Demon God was completely exposed.

Lu Xiuwen did not take into consideration that she saved his life and simply spread the news all over the world. Not only was Ye Qingtang forced out of Xuanling Sect, but her secret regarding the Heart of the Demon God could no longer be hidden, resulting in the tragedy of being wanted for her life by everyone.

“It’s not up to you to say who can enter and who cannot,” Ye Qingtang scoffed coldly as she looked straight at Lu Xiuwen’s rather good-looking face.

Lu Xiuwen frowned slightly. As a prince, there were rarely people who would rebut him like this. His face sunk immediately, and he swept a gaze at Ye Qingtang, revealing a look of belittlement when he saw that Ye Qingtang was alone.

“A sect is prestigious. Many people want to climb up to it, but they should still have some self-awareness.”

No company by family clan nor send-off from a powerful person. Such an abject person could also come to participate in a sect assessment?

The servants beside Lu Xiuwen obviously echoed Lu Xiuwen and went along with his words continuously.

“Fifth prince, you have a noble identity. Why fight with people like this? Just let those overconfident people be. Then, she’ll know that not just anyone can enter a sect.”

Ye Qingtang raised her brows, and her smile deepened as she looked at the lackeys beside Lu Xiuwen.

“Noble identity? Everyone is equal before the sect. Even if you’re related to the royal family, don’t you still have to wait for the assessment like ordinary people?”

Lu Xiuwen’s slightly better expression suddenly turned ugly again because of Ye Qingtang’s words.

Ye Qingtang did not say anything wrong. Even if he was a noble prince, he still had to participate in the assessment like everyone else, and whether he was able to enter was dependent on his level of talent.

The compliments from the servants earlier on now made Lu Xiuwen a little shameful.

The argument between Ye Qingtang and Lu Xiuwen attracted much attention.

Everyone looked over one after another only to be surprised at their realization: that young girl who was by herself actually got into a conflict with the fifth prince of the Formidable Heavens Royals.

Chapter 95: Path to Heaven (1)

Yun Shu, who was chatting with his family clan people, turned around as well. When Yun Shu looked at the calm and breathtaking girl standing alone in front of Lu Xiuwen and his people, curiosity filled his eyes.

“That lady is young and impetuous. She may be on the losing end,” sighed someone from the Liu Yun family clan upon witnessing the sight.

“Why?” asked Yun Shu.

“It is still unknown who will be able to enter the sect amongst all the people here today. It is still alright if that young girl enters, as the Formidable Heavens Royals will not dare to do anything to sect disciples. However, if she doesn’t pass the assessment and isn’t from a renowned family clan, how will she be able to fight the royal family?” The person continued. “The Formidable Heavens Royals are not magnanimous people. What that fifth prince, Lu Xiuwen, said just now was merely to scare others since he has a powerful identity.”

The people from Liu Yun family clan disliked the royal family's arrogance.

Yun Shu frowned slightly.

On the other side, Lu Xiuwen's face darkened, and a cold sneer formed on his lips as he eyed Ye Qingtang.

"How do I address you?"

With that said, every onlooker knew that Lu Xiuwen was going to record Ye Qingtang's name down.

Ye Qingtang took a look at Lu Xiuwen unhurriedly and said, "Lin Town, Ye Qingtang."

Without any hesitation, Ye Qingtang directly reported her name and place of origin.

Lu Xiuwen scoffed, "Ye Qingtang, is it? I'll remember it."

Ye Qingtang laughed. "You better remember it clearly."

She would let this name become Lu Xiuwen's nightmare ultimately.

Lu Xiuwen narrowed his eyes slightly. "You better pray that you can pass this assessment, otherwise..."
Lu Xiuwen did not finish his sentence, but everyone knew what was it going to be.

Quite a number of people secretly sighed for Ye Qingtang. The sect assessment was not easy, and innumerable people were rejected by sects every year.

Now that Lu Xiuwen had asked Ye Qingtang for her name, he would probably not let her off easily in the future.

Taking another look at Ye Qingtang, Lu Xiuwen turned around and led his group of lackeys away without forgetting to tell someone beside him, "Tell royal brother to investigate this Ye Qingtang."

"Yes."

"Ye Qingtang is still too young." After looking on the scene, people from the Liu Yun family clan even more so felt that Ye Qingtang should not have revealed her identity.

However, Yun Shu laughed. "Maybe it's because she is confident that she'll pass the assessment?"

"Is a sect assessment that easy though? There's no certainty to pass even if it's you, much less that girl."

Yun Shu laughed without saying anything more, though he paid slight attention to Qingtang instinctively.

Time passed with every minute and second. At the summit, a bright light from within the cloud layers suddenly shone down. The gold light gathered to form an imaginary path which connected the summit to the clouds.

"The Path to Heaven!"

Everyone seemed to stop breathing the moment they saw the gold light.

To enter the sect, they needed to step on the Path to Heaven!

Almost at the same time, all the highly-skilled candidates fixed their eyes on the light before them in silent concentration.

“Go ahead.” The Liu Yun family clan people patted Yun Shu’s shoulders.

Giving a nod, Yun Shu immediately headed towards the Path to Heaven.

The candidates standing at the summit went forward as well. What laid before their eyes was merely a holy beam of light and not a single step. Everyone was confused how exactly to stably walk on the legendary Path to Heaven.

Walk on the Path to Heaven and enter a sect—this was a sentence everyone knew. However, with the Path to Heaven right before their eyes, little did they know what to do.

Chapter 96: Path to Heaven (2)

The Path to Heaven was laid only for people in a sect. If one could not even walk on the path stably, it would not be possible for them to enter a sect.

It was the simplest step, but also the beginning of a sect assessment.

No one dared to go forward, as they were deeply afraid that they would miss such a rare chance due to a small mistake.

However...

Where could they step on in this beam of light?

Everyone did not dare to step forward and instead fell into a dead silence at that moment.

However...

A thin figure stepped out from the silent crowd and walked to under the holy light.

Ye Qingtang stood at the starting point of the Path to Heaven with an unusually calm heart as she looked at the light that connected to the skyline.

Xuanling Sect, she was back again.

In the next instant, Ye Qingtang raised her feet gently with a calm expression. When her toes stepped into the light, a gold halo formed into a golden lotus under her feet, supporting the feet when it landed.

“A lotus with every step?!” Shock filled everyone’s eyes as they looked at the translucent golden lotus, that was about the size of a palm, under Ye Qingtang’s feet.

However, Ye Qingtang did not pay attention to those people and only quietly walked up the Path to Heaven that she could not be more familiar with.

Everyone was taken aback on the side as they looked at Ye Qingtang walk into the holy light as if she was walking on flat ground. Wherever she raised her leg, a lotus flower would bloom. The lotuses, which

were higher level by level, were like steps laid out one by one, appearing when Ye Qingtang's foot was going to land and disappearing without a trace when she stepped off.

Looking from afar, it was as if Ye Qingtang was floating in midair as she stepped on the golden lotuses with holy light showering on her.

Such a miraculous scene stunned many candidates, and even those who accompanied the candidates there with no good impressions of Ye Qingtang were surprised by Ye Qingtang's collectedness.

She was so calm and collected as though she was walking this path for the umpteenth time.

In the blink of an eye, Ye Qingtang was already ten meters away from the ground. Everyone returned to their senses from the surprise and immediately got moving.

Those who were previously afraid to step forward rushed up instantly, imitated Ye Qingtang, and walked up in the holy light.

When the first lotus formed under their feet, many hearts fluttered, and they instinctively raised another leg to continue walking up.

However...

Thump!

The person who was the most anxious stepped on air as the lotus under his feet disappeared, falling right on the floor.

"What happened?" A look of confusion was seen on the person who fell. He clearly saw the lotus forming under his feet. Why, then, was did it disappear when he stepped down?

All the subsequent people who went forward could not proceed a step further and fell down after at most two or three steps. They did not manage to walk up the Path to Heaven and fell to become a muddy mess instead. Everyone felt gloomy instantly.

Why could Ye Qingtang walk up the Path to Heaven so easily, but they're so battered up?

Yun Shu did not rush to go forward. Only after observing for a moment, he took a few deep breaths, calmed his heart, and stepped onto the Path to Heaven.

A lotus bloomed under his foot. Although it was slightly unstable, it became stable very quickly. Yun Shu finally became the second person who walked up the Path to Heaven, though his speed was much slower than Ye Qingtang's. Every step he took was with extreme caution.

Lu Xiuwen's face turned ugly. He tried to step on the Path to Heaven earlier on and almost fell as well. Dissatisfaction flashed in his eyes as he saw that Ye Qingtang had already walked into the cloud mist.

Chapter 97: Path to Heaven (3)

"Young Master Yun, how is one able to walk on the Path to Heaven?" Lu Xiuwen took a deep breath and suddenly asked Yun Shu.

It was absolutely impossible for him to ask Ye Qingtang.

Yun Shu flashed a faint smile as he turned around kindly and replied, "A heart like still water, with calmness and patience."

Yun Shu's words surprised Lu Xiuwen.

Calmness and patience? A heart like still water?

Lu Xiuwen took another look at the Path to Heaven and stepped on it after making slight adjustments.

This time, he put down all the restlessness in his heart, and the lotus under his feet never disappeared.

With a calm mind, Lu Xiuwen immediately chased up.

While Ye Qingtang's speed was faster than everyone else, she still heard the conversation between Lu Xiuwen and Yun Shu previously. She paused for a while and looked at Lu Xiuwen, who was already walking up the Path to Heaven under Yun Shu's directions, and a faint smile played on her lips.

Senior Brother Yun was still so kind-hearted as in her previous life.

The Path to Heaven was the first segment of the sect assessment, and only people with a heart as calm as still water would be able to have a lotus with every step and step on the clouds. Any distracted person would definitely fall. Moreover, the Path to Heaven was extremely long, and one would still fall if they were slightly doubtful halfway through.

In the previous years, many fell from a great height and died while walking on the Path to Heaven.

Ye Qingtang knew that with Yun Shu's character, he would definitely be able to guess the secret behind the path. Rather, it was Lu Xiuwen who got a bargain; she did not mind to let Lu Xiuwen fall a few more times.

After stopping for a while, Ye Qingtang continued heading forward.

With Yun Shu's directions, many started to adjust their mentality, and the people on the Path to Heaven increased gradually. Nonetheless, there were also overly-anxious people who could not step on it no matter how.

This was an assessment.

Filter good-for-nothings away and only those who remained had the qualifications to proceed.

Even if you came from a prestigious family, it was merely a fleeting cloud before sects.

Candidates were already on the Path to Heaven, and most of the people who accompanied the candidates were aware that those who could not step on the path were either too weak in the mind or trying to fake their way through.

The Path to Heaven was only opened for qualified candidates. Every candidate would have on them an item such as a letter or accessory from the powerful person who recommended them. Those items were stained with the powerful person's aura, and only with the presence of the aura would one be qualified to step on the Path to Heaven.

Otherwise, no matter how badly they fell, they would still not be able to enter.

"I made a misjudgment," someone from the Liu Yun family clan muttered suddenly while looking at the increasing number of people on the Path to Heaven.

"I didn't think that Ye Qingtang would be capable enough to become the first person walking up the Path to Heaven. Yun Shu even benefited from her."

"I've never heard of the Ye family clan from Lin Town. If her spirit root is alright, perhaps, she will be able to become something," said a sharp-eyed person as he saw Ye Qingtang's specialness.

The Path to Heaven was way too easy for her, and this was unexpected for others.

One had to be careful with every step they took on the Path to Heaven. The higher they walked up, the calmer their emotions should be. Being more than a hundred meters away from the ground, one would definitely die if they fell.

Everyone was on alert, and many were already soaked in sweat before they even got far.

Only Ye Qingtang was walking leisurely as though she was singing and dancing merrily. From time to time, she looked at the birds that were flying past nearby her. Her cheerful and contented posture earned the exasperation of the candidates behind as they gritted their teeth.

Who knew where that little girl was from to walk up the Path to Heaven so leisurely as though she was strolling in her own courtyard.

Chapter 98: Path to Heaven (4)

After some time, Ye Qingtang finally reached the end of the Path to Heaven.

At the top of the clouds shone a radiant light. A magnificent palace stood on the clouds. It had open pavilions and terraces and was shaded by surrounding trees. Facing against the sun, it was as though the holy light was shining from behind the sect.

If one did not witness it personally, they would be unable to imagine that the sect was actually positioned on top of the cloud layers.

No wonder ordinary people never knew where the sects were at.

One could know how scary the powerful people within the sect were to be able to build a sect on the clouds and bear thousands of disciples in it.

At the end of the Path to Heaven was Xuanling Sect's main entrance where its gates, that were several meters high, were carved with huge dragons. Outside the gate, a middle-aged man in a light-blue long gown stood in front of the door with a few Xuanling Sect disciples behind him.

Ye Qingtang finished ascending the Path to Heaven and stepped on the clouds which seemed soft but were in fact extremely steady.

The middle-aged man looked up and took a look at Ye Qingtang's face as surprise filled him.

The Path to Heaven was difficult to walk on, especially for people who stepped on it for the first time. There was nothing below their feet, and looking around, one would see that they were several hundred meters high in the sky. Just the scenery was enough to send those with an immature mind into a flurry. However, he observed from outside the sect door just now that this young girl was in the lead. Her steps were steady, and she had a casual demeanor. There was neither a trace of fluster nor nervousness.

Just this first impression satisfied the middle-aged man.

The disciple behind him walked forward, and before saying anything, Ye Qingtang consciously handed Mu Su's letter over.

The middle-aged man took another look at Ye Qingtang and gave her a slight nod after receiving the letter, signaling for Ye Qingtang to stand aside.

Ye Qingtang was fast. A large group of people behind were still struggling in difficulty. A long time later, Yun Shu was the second person who finally reached the end. While he had a calm and steady nature, he still walked this path very cautiously without daring to increase his speed.

Along with Yun Shu's arrival, Lu Xiuwen and other candidates ascended the Path to Heaven successively.

While more than a hundred of candidates came, Ye Qingtang estimated that only about a hundred people managed to ascend the Path to Heaven.

There were at least dozens of people filtered out by the Path to Heaven.

These dozens of people no longer had the chance to enter a sect. After looking at the color of the sky, the middle-aged man standing outside the sect gate waved his hand gently, and the holy light sprinkled on the clouds vanished instantly. Subsequently, the Path to Heaven which led the way to the sect disappeared without a trace.

The struggling people who were still halfway through were sent back to the ground by golden lotuses. Cries, screams, and begging filled the air immediately.

The path to the sect was now an extravagant wish.

Ye Qingtang did not have much reaction to it, as she had seen such scenes too many times.

"Many thanks."

A voice rang beside Ye Qingtang suddenly. She looked over in confusion only to see Yun Shu, whose cheeks were slightly dotted with sweat, standing beside her since god knows when.

"Why are you thanking me?" Ye Qingtang raised her brows as she looked at her old friend from her previous life.

Yun Shu chuckled, "If Miss Ye didn't take the first step just now, I would not have been able to understand the secret behind the Path to Heaven." Moreover, Yun Shu purposely fixed his eyes on Ye Qingtang along the way in order to keep his mind at peace. Without looking at the scenery below his feet, his heart was naturally calmer.

For the people behind, it was indeed easier if someone took the lead. However, no one had ever said anything about it before the assessment. After all, they were all rivals on the land of the sect.

Ye Qingtang looked at Yun Shu with a seeming smile. When will this Senior Brother Yun finally be able to get rid of his habit of being a mighty nice person?

Chapter 99: Sect Assessment (1)

However, Yun Shu always had the same personality. This was the reason why he took care of Ye Qingtang in her previous life even though she had almost no endowment.

Ye Qingtang could not help but laugh when she thought about her previous life. However, when she remembered Yun Shu's destiny in her previous life, her eyes suddenly appeared to be fierce.

Senior Brother Yun saved her once in the previous life. This time, she would ensure that he had nothing to worry about in his entire life.

Yun Shu did not know what Ye Qingtang was thinking about. He thanked her wholeheartedly.

However, a pair of fierce and evil eyes scanned Ye Qingtang and Yun Shu.

Lu Xiuwen squinted his eyes. He had a decent endowment. The only person he could treat as an opponent in this assessment was Yun Shu, born in the Liuyun family clan. However, he did not expect that Yun Shu would be so gentle towards Ye Qingtang.

Candidates who finished the Path to Heaven were waiting for further assessment. They were not aware that their behaviors were observed by the faction Elders from the shiny pearl on the sect door.

"What do you think of the candidates this year? Anyone suitable?" One of the faction Elders was observing through the Water Moon Mirror and asked the rest of the Elders.

"Not many stand out this year. But I think Yun Shu from the Liu Yun family and Lu Xiuwen from the Formidable Heavens Dynasty are not too bad. They should be able to pass the assessment." One of the Elder touched his beard and said.

"Both Yun Shu and Lu Xiuwen have a good background and endowment. As the Elder of the Sword Faction, Elder Lin, you have a sharp sight."

Candidates who passed the assessment could enter Xuanling Sect and become outer sect disciples. After training, they then had the opportunity to enter the inner sect. Within Xuanling Sect, there were the Sword Faction, Herbal Faction, Array Faction, and Fist Faction. Among the four factions, the Sword Faction was the strongest. Xuanling Sect was famous for its Sword Sect. Elder Lin was the person in charge of the Sword Faction. He stood at quite a high position among the Elders.

Besides Elder Lin, the rest of the Elders of other factions also focused on Lu Xiuwen and Yun Shu.

While everyone fixed their eyesights on the two people, one small-figured Elder with an extremely sharp sight noticed the girl who was chatting with Yun Shu through the Water Moon Mirror.

“All of you think highly of Yun Shu and Lu Xiuwen, but I feel this girl is quite interesting.” The Elder smiled and said.

The rest of the Elders turned and stared at him.

“I think the girl was recommended by Mu Su. She is called Ye Qingtang with no special background. No one has heard of this name as well.” The Elder of the Herbal Faction said.

“Ye Qingtang? Is she from the Ye family of Lin Town?” The Elder of the Fist Faction raised his eyebrows slightly and said.

“The Ye family of Lin Town was not famous in the past. However, there was a genius with a green spirit root who became the disciple of Yunxiao Sect. I think Ye Qingtang is from the same family. However, it would be impossible for Ye Qingtang to stand out when there is Ye You.” Elder Lin took a glance and showed no more interest.

It was a miracle for a not-so-famous family clan to have a genius. It would be impossible to have two.

“Things are not predictable. I like this girl a lot. Just now on the Path to Heaven, she was much more stable than the two people from the Liu Yun family and the Formidable Heavens Dynasty.” The Elder who had a special preference for Ye Qingtang did not bother with what the rest said.

“The Path to Heaven only focuses on one’s state of mind and not their endowment. Even though the Array Faction that you are in charge of does not have high requirements for spirit root, you should not be so confident of that now, Elder Qin.” Elder Lin glanced at the Elder.

“We shall wait to see her spirit root then.” The Elder of the Herbal Faction suggested.

Chapter 100: Sect Assessment (2)

The first step of the sect assessment was to assess the candidates’ spirit roots.

Red ones were inferior-grade, orange and yellow ones were medium-grade, and green ones were superior-grade. If one possessed a blueish-green spirit root, they would be able to skip the outer sect and become an inner sect disciple immediately.

As for blue and purple spirit roots, no one had seen one for over a thousand years. None of the sect were still hoping for that.

The way Xuanling Sect assessed spirit roots was rather special. It did not require candidates to show their spirit root. Instead, they would place their hands on a human-sized Spirit Stone and direct their strength using their spirit root. The Spirit Stone would change into the same color as their spirit root.

The order people were tested was based on the sequence in which people finished the Path to Heaven, starting from the last.

The first candidate stepped forward and placed his hand on the Spirit Stone. Soon, the ivory stone turned yellow in color.

“Yellow spirit root, next,” A middle-aged man who was in charge of the assessment said.

That candidate was quite delighted. His yellow spirit root was inferior to a green spirit root, but he was qualified to enter the sect at least.

Candidates who followed up all showed yellow or orange colors.

At last, Lu Xiuwen stepped forward. Everyone focused on him, and even the middle-aged man who was bored with orange and yellow colors also showed some interest.

Lu Xiuwen walked towards the giant Spirit Stone and placed his hand on the stone.

At that instant, a spark of green appeared and covered the entire Spirit Stone within a second.

“Green spirit root, not bad.” The middle-aged man looked at Lu Xiuwen in contentment.

Green spirit root was quite rare. Disciples with green spirit roots could all enter the inner sect after training in the outer sect. Lu Xiuwen was expected to be an inner sect disciple with his green spirit root.

Lu Xiuwen smiled gently. He lifted up his chin slightly and stepped back when everyone looked at him with admiration.

“I think Lu Xiuwen definitely can pass the assessment since he is from the Formidable Heavens Dynasty.”

“I agree. He stands out with that green spirit root. Even if the other assessments are not up to expectation, his spirit root will grant him into the sect.”

Candidates who had their spirit roots assessed could not help but envy him.

There were many sect assessments. One would fail if they made any mistake. However, a green spirit root would serve as insurance to cover for any possible mistakes in other assessments.

One would need to pass all assessments successfully if their spirit roots were not superior. For example, they would say goodbye to the sect if they made any mistake in any assessment with their orange or yellow spirit roots.

Yun Shu was the next person after Lu Xiuwen.

Yun Shu was not arrogant like Lu Xiuwen. He smiled gently and nodded towards the middle-aged man with respect. He then placed his hand on the Spirit Stone.

Another round of applause was heard when the green color appeared.

“Green spirit root.” The middle-aged man was in a very good mood now. It made the assessment this year more interesting when two green spirit roots appeared.

The better the quality of one’s spirit root, the faster the speed of cultivation. Their strength would be purer as well. The quality of spirit root served as the foundation for a person. One could achieve higher levels with a better spirit root.

Yun Shu stepped back humbly and looked towards Ye Qingtang instinctively.

Ye Qingtang’s spirit root was the only one left to assess among all candidates. Everyone was staring at Ye Qingtang now.

No one forgot how easily Ye Qingtang achieved the first place on the Path to Heaven, and she was ahead of everyone.

Lu Xiuwen also gazed at Ye Qingtang. His sight was less calm but more doubtful.

Ye Qingtang had gained an advantage through the Path to Heaven. If her spirit root was of good quality, she would be another popular candidate whom he had to fight with to enter the sect.