

Refining 1651

Chapter 1651 – Songtao Pavilion

After the incident in the Li Family, there was peace in East Pole County. Aside from the absent Li Family members, it felt like nothing had happened.

There was true peace at the Xu Family residence. No one came to seek their own death, and this made White Iris slightly disappointed.

When Xu Zhiruo woke up, she talked to Rourou again without Qin Yu. However, through her behavior after the talk, it was evident that she had completely accepted her fate.

Four days later.

The three passes in Qin Yu's hand lit up at the same time. It was an alert that the gates would open today.

One thing to be thankful for was that the elite at Seeking Clouds Peak of the Central Desolate was either healing an injury or he was being delayed by something else. He did not descend to East Pole County.

There was another thing that made Qin Yu confused – Rourou did not take away Xu Zhiruo's Sun Moon Eyes. He was puzzled but he did not say anything.

He did not dare to forget his debt to Rourou, not to mention other people. In a way, Qin Yu had deep confidence in Rourou's professional ethics.

Perhaps the time was not right, or she had struck another deal on this. Either way, Rourou had probably made the necessary arrangements for whether or not Xu Zhiruo would be controlled after they left.

Otherwise, they would have put in so much effort only to dress someone else in a wedding dress. Rourou definitely would not accept such an outcome.

When dusk started to fall, Qin Yu was about to leave the house. He was surprised to find Xu Zhiruo in the yard. It seemed like she knew that they were leaving tonight.

After the 'Sun Moon incident' of that night, the two had not interacted privately. Their eyes met and Xu Zhiruo grunted as she bowed, "My eyes have been powerful since I was young and I can see many things. The Jade Gate opens on this day every month. It is a rule that has always been upheld."

She hesitated and then continued, "That day, you helped me and I repaid your kindness with evil. I hope you will not hold a grudge against me for that."

Qin Yu smiled, "Don't worry, since you have already made a deal with her, I will not pursue whatever happened in the past." He looked at her and smiled, "You can definitely trust my words."

Not only could the Sun Moon Eyes of Xu Zhiruo see many things, they were also highly mysterious. If she concentrated hard enough, she would be able to see through the souls of people. Hence, she heaved a sigh of relief and her tone grew even more respectful, "I will wish you a smooth journey and for everything to go according to your wishes."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "Thank you for your well wishes."

White Iris pushed the door open and backed off to a side. Rourou walked over and asked, "Are you done with your small talk? Miss Xu seems a bit reluctant. We can wait a while more; there should not be an issue."

Xu Zhiruo's face instantly turned red but she remained silent. She bowed and then turned around to head back to the room.

Qin Yu said, "Let's go. We should not let others wait for us."

Rourou scoffed coldly, "I was afraid that someone fell in love with a beauty and changed his mind instantly to spoil our plans."

Qin Yu ignored her and turned to leave. When he was just about to head out, a thought jumped into his mind. The past few days had been calm and peaceful; he had not offended her. Once they were out of the yard, White Iris walked behind Qin Yu and coughed lightly, "Ask Immortal Building..."

A frown etched across Qin Yu's head and he immediately came to a realization. When he turned around, he saw Rourou with an unhappy expression. He sighed helplessly, "I will definitely abide by my promises earlier. But we should go through the Jade Gate smoothly before we talk about the Immortal Brew right?"

Rourou glanced at White Iris and snapped, "If your tongue is so long, should I help you to cut it off?"

White Iris' face immediately paled and she lowered her head.

"Hmph!"

Rourou strode forward and Qin Yu hurried to catch up to her. He did not feel that Rourou was purposely causing trouble and he simply assumed that she had a far too boring life when she was living in the Dark World.

In the evening, East Pole County was still as lively as ever. Although there weren't lanterns tonight, there were still a lot of lights swaying around gently.

Qin Yu's chest had been tight due to his nervousness, but he somehow relaxed because of the lights. He looked at the lights and suddenly, the figure of that long-eyebrowed lady during the lantern festival appeared in his mind. She was definitely beautiful and Qin Yu had been mesmerized by her.

This was probably a talent of men. No matter how calm they looked on the surface, they were actually excited internally.

Of course, this was the limit to his reaction and he would not take any other action.

There were many beautiful things in this world and he could not take every woman into his arms every time he fancied them. That would be too tiring and too disrespectful to those beauties of the world.

Rourou threw a side glance at Qin Yu. This time, she was truly a little annoyed but her tone was calm, "Who did you think of that you are smiling so brightly?"

Qin Yu coughed lightly and he immediately straightened himself and dropped his smile. "I am thinking about whether we should use our remaining time to buy some lanterns in East Pole County. When you are bored, you can play with them."

Rourou scoffed, "I am not that bored!"

However, Qin Yu walked briskly towards one of the stores and bargained with the owner. When he started trying to choose lanterns, Rourou shuffled over and snapped impatiently, "Hurry up. You are a man but you are dilly-dallying. I don't want to wait anymore!"

The store owner smiled brightly, "This lady is right. A man should be confident or he will be made fun of."

There was a helpless look on Qin Yu's face and he ended up buying ten lanterns at a high price. He lifted them up and asked, "Are they nice?"

Rourou pouted, "They are average."

Then, she noticed the stillness in Qin Yu's eyes.

She looked at him and raised her eyebrow. Then she turned back towards the lanterns; she was in a worse mood.

The group of girls opposite them were also shopping. A long-eyebrowed lady was, like Qin Yu, carrying a number of lanterns with her.

She was staring at Qin Yu while biting her lip. Although the two did not exchange a word, the hidden bitterness in their eyes looked like it was about to flow out.

They were about to leave East Pole County and it was truly a surprise to meet her here again. Furthermore, Qin Yu had sneakily thought of her just now.

He looked at the lady carrying the lanterns and he could not help feeling slightly guilty. He hesitated before flashing a smile and nodding at her.

"Hmph!"

Rourou whipped around angrily while White Iris threw a look at Qin Yu. There was calmness in her eyes and she did not reveal any emotion.

If this was before, her eyes would have been boiling with killing intent.

Qin Yu smiled bitterly and carried his lanterns away.

"Zhi'er, what are you looking at? You are so absorbed." A girl beside her spoke in a soft manner. There was a soft frown on her face.

Jiang Zhiyue saw how the man turned and left without hesitation and she came to a realization. After some hesitation, she shook her head, "Aunty, I am fine. Just a little tired."

Aunt Jiang nodded with a smile, "We came out early today and we have not eaten anything yet. It is normal that you feel tired."

She scanned the crowd, "How about we find a private restaurant and try some dishes first. We will still head to the mountain peak in time."

Some people around her nodded in agreement, but others were hesitant, "Aunt Jiang. The county will close the city gates when it is dark. If we delay too long, we may not be able to make it."

Aunt Jiang laughed and took out a token. Although it looked ordinary and was the size of the palm, every female here was an upper class woman in the county. They recognized its significance.

"Aunt Jiang has the County Lord's token; we will not be stopped if we want to leave the city."

"Aunt Jiang has prepared well. Then we can take a rest before heading to the mountain peak."

Some among the group of females were frowning to themselves. However, they still wore bright smiles on their faces, "I heard that Songtai Pavilion on the mountain peak is a place guarded by the military. Those who are able to head up there will be able to see a clear view of the Jade Gate. It is the best observatory...if the token will be able to bring us to Songtao Pavilion, that would be great."

Aunt Jiang glanced at the noble lady who spoke. They were the same age and they grew up together. From the outside, they looked like best friends. However, they were competitive against each other.

Songtao Pavilion was an important military ground. How could anyone easily ascend it? Thankfully, she had predicted this and made preparations.

The noble lady observed the slight hesitation on Aunt Jiang's face and she snickered to herself. Aunt Jiang knew this would happen and she beamed, "Although it is a little difficult, since Sister Rong suggested it, we can head up to view the scenery."

There were cheers, and aside from the noble lady with the surname 'Rong' who forced a smile, the group of females were excited. Their eyes were bright and they looked at Aunt Jiang with respect and envy.

As expected of the famous Aunt Jiang of the county. She could guide people to Songtao Pavilion at night. This may seem insignificant, but it represented her power and status in the county. She was not someone who could be underestimated.

Sensing the gazes from the females, Aunt Jiang smiled, "It is actually a fortunate coincidence that I can bring you up there tonight. I heard that a lord from the Yang Family wants to head to the West Desolate. Hence, Songtao Pavilion will be opened to give this lord a place to rest."

"When we go in, we should occupy a single table. Try not to say too much or do anything that could cause trouble."

Lord from the Yang Family? The eyes of many females lit up and they were full of anticipation for tonight. Although they were all females who stayed in residences and they did not have to travel like their fathers and brothers, they were well informed and they naturally heard of what happened internally in the Yang Family.

The previous Yang Family Head actually had an official son who traveled the world. Now, he was recognized by the ancestral hall of the family and he became a respected member in the Yang Family with a lot of potential.

Not only that, it was rumored that that lord had a keepsake that was passed on by the previous Yang Family head to the one who would inherit the family head position.

Of course, the girls knew this, but they were not supposed to. They were sternly warned by their fathers not to say a single word regarding this for fear of trouble.

The token of the Yang Family head...who would dare to interfere in such a serious matter?

Logically speaking, a son who ran away would find it difficult to be acknowledged by the family, not to mention influence them.

However, this lord did precisely this. He almost caused a huge commotion in the ancestral hall of the family and a few elders quarreled fiercely against each other because of this.

This piqued the interest of a few other families in the county...if they could invest in this lord, they might be able to reap huge returns from them in the future.

This was why the single ladies here were excited. They definitely would not wait till the situation became urgent before taking action.

If they could meet the lord and leave an impression on him, it would create an opportunity in the future.

With this thought, the hearts of the ladies grew hot and their eyes lit up.

Chapter 1652 – Yang Family

The Yang Family were a mysterious family who stood at the top of the hierarchy in East Pole County. This was a known fact, and everyone had to admit it. Even that County Lord who usually stayed in his residence and rarely went out did not have an opinion on this.

After all, the Yang Family were the ones who approved the County Lord to sit in his position and run East Pole County smoothly. It might seem weird, but if you recall that there was a marshal tent located 1.8 kilometers from East Pole County and that its marshal, Yang Wudi, controlled a few hundred thousand fierce troops, this would be natural.

Of course, no one admitted the linkage between both 'Yang's. However, some things were like that. People could know and swallow it but couldn't say anything. Otherwise, how could there be a Yang Family in East Pole County if the grand marshal could not leave the marshal tent? It was obvious what was going on.

Furthermore, the grand marshal at the East Border, Yang Wudi, had an official wife in the Grand Marshal Residence. She was a very celebrated individual and if people really talked about the Yang Family in East Pole County, how was it giving her face? They would be slapping the faces of two elites in the military. No one was so bold, and hence, the situation stayed like that. No one said anything and everyone pretended to be dumb.

Because of this, Songtao Pavilion on the mountain peak would go against normal rules and welcome guests on the night of the opening of the Jade Gate.

In the night, the Jade Gate was bright and eye-catching. It looked like a sun that shone its rays down on the east side of the mountain. The direct light rays did not seem to be broken off at any point. Yet, when they were still a distance away from the mountain peak, they suddenly stopped.

Something seemed to have split the light rays and made them stop in the territory of the Central Desolate Divine Area.

Yang Fanshan kept a straight face as he looked out of the window in Songtao Pavilion with the best view. He quietly observed the Jade Gate and ignored all the eyes that were surveying him.

The process of entering the Yang Family had gone by smoothly. It was so smooth that he did not have to use anything that he prepared. This actually made his heart turn colder. However, he tried to be the bright and calm uncle from the Yang Family.

He had no choice but to accept his lower status. When he left the Yang Family residence today, a group of youngsters from the family sent him off. That was the first time he had felt sincerity from their greetings.

His heart grew colder.

With his current circumstances, how could he be bothered with the those eyes from other families? Furthermore, there was already a figure looming in his heart. Although it was only one look that night, her figure had imprinted itself into his heart and that was why he hastily revealed his identity. Otherwise, he would not be in such a poor state now.

Yang Fanshan did not regret his actions and he would make the same decisions even if time rewound. It was a pity that he might not have a chance to tell her his feelings.

Of course, if Yang Fanshan wanted to, he would definitely be able to do it eventually. Right now, he could even incite people to bring her here, but he would not do so. If he could protect himself and inherit the Yang Family's fortunes, he really wanted to meet her again. Since he could not, it was better that they did not meet.

He sipped his tea and allowed its fragrance to permeate his nose. Yet, Yang Fanshan could only taste bitterness and he started to frown.

This image made many single ladies who were secretly staring at him in Songtao Pavilion feel heartache. They felt like he was hiding a lot of burdens in his heart today.

Jiang Zhiyue was not among them and she lost her thoughts as she stared at the cup in her hands. Occasionally she would frown and bite her lip slightly. She originally thought that they would not meet again after the night of the lantern festival. Who knew that they would meet again coincidentally today?

She did not know what he was hiding that would cause him to leave such a strong impression in her mind even though they had only met twice. In the past, she had met a number of outstanding, talented young men. This included the sons of various families in the city, that lord in the city governor residence, and a few cultivators who were going to inherit their clans.

Therefore, Jiang Zhiyue could not understand...why him! What made her feel more empty and sad was that she had not exchanged a single word with him until now, and she did not know his name.

More importantly, she did not know if they had exhausted their fate with each other after today and if they would meet again...when she thought of this, Jiang Zhiyue felt her nose become stuffy and her eyes started to turn red. Her gaze pierced into the tea cup and she was like a tiny ostrich who had buried her head in the sand.

Aunt Jiang could sense the weird actions of her niece tonight. As an experienced person, she could roughly guess what was going on in the girl's mind from her gaze. That Sister Rong might take the opportunity to make some snide remarks.

The girls beside her were all bad at hiding their outright peeking at the young lord. It was hard for them to cover up their emotions as they stared at him. In all honesty, Yang Fanshan was good-looking. Furthermore, the Yang Family had acknowledged him and it was understandable that the girls would desire him.

However, tonight, Aunt Jiang's attention did not stay on Yang Fanshan. After a brief look at him, her eyes skipped past him. He was destined not to live long, so what if he attracted everyone else's attention today? The daughter of the Jiang Family would not marry a man like that.

She had used the opportunity of the Yang Family disciple journeying out and the opening of the Songtao Pavilion to use the County Lord's token to come here. Her objective from the start was not Yang Fanshan.

Aunt Jiang had not told anyone about this and she even kept her niece in the dark. Not to mention Sister Rong and the rest...they were only people Aunt Jiang dragged along to cover up her true goals.

The seat that Jiang Zhiyue was in was not considered good and she did not spy on Yang Fanshan like the rest. She sat by herself, but she ended up catching their eye. This was something that Aunt Jiang noticed from the start and it was the reason why she kept silent.

That's because the real person she cared about was that young military officer by the window who was wearing armor and carried a weapon. His eyes had already swept over two times.

That was enough!

The disciples of the Yang Family who were qualified to train with the army were all resilient men. If he saw her once and then twice, it meant that she had formed an impression in his mind. If things could...Aunt Jiang's heart could not help beating in excitement.

From this angle, it was a good thing that Zhi'er met that man tonight. Aunt Jiang smiled and her attitude became warmer.

Right at that moment, that young military officer by the window walked over and sat beside the Yang Family lord.

Yang Fanshan turned around and met his gaze. He frowned, "You are the one who is going to pass the order today?"

The young military officer nodded quietly and he took out a jade token from his waist. He placed it on the table and said, "The disciples of the Yang Family are not afraid of hardship. Since you want this status, you have to take on the risks and responsibilities."

Yang Fanshan fell silent for a while. Then he slowly spoke, "I hope that the risk comes from the outside world and not because someone wants me dead."

The military officer looked at him, "I can swear to you that the Yang Family would not engage in internal murders." The two spoke quietly and they were also intentionally covering up their conversation. The people in Songtao Pavilion only saw how the military officer walked up to Yang Fanshan to say a few words. They could not hear the conversation.

However, this already piqued the interest of everyone and they could not help having their gazes linger on this military officer. The more they looked at him, the more their hearts tightened.

Yet, Jiang Zhiyue still did not lift her head.

As such, the military officer looked at her a third time. This time was different than before and he stared at her for a longer time.

The long-eyebrowed lady seemed to have sensed it this time and she lifted her head and met his gaze. She could not help frowning. Aunt Jiang had been observing her from a side and when she saw Jiang Zhiyue frown, she did not panic but her smile became even brighter.

As the saying went, the fairy's lack of expression was a tease. Even if you were an elite of the heavens, as long as you fall into her arms, your heart would be in her hands. This was especially so since Jiang Zhiyue did not know her emotions. As such, this reaction came from the bottom of her heart.

The person opposite her was the real disciple of the Yang Family who came while hiding his identity. He had a determined personality and his eyes lit up. He maintained a sincere attitude.

This was a pleasant surprise.

Tonight, her efforts of pleading with the County Lord to bring her niece here had not gone in vain. The girls beside them who started to notice the military officer later were already a step behind. They could not compare to Jiang Zhiyue at the moment.

"Hmph!"

Jiang Zhiyue frowned and scoffed lightly as she turned her head. She remembered Aunt Jiang's words to not cause any trouble at Songtao Pavilion. However, this man's stare was making her unhappy. Even though he was staring at her in admiration, it felt like it was a bare invasion of her privacy.

She did not lower her heart because she did not want the other party to think that she was nervous or embarrassed. As such, she turned towards the window and ignored him blatantly.

I don't like you!

This was her attitude.

The young man called Yang Qianren was one of the more outstanding sons of his father. He stayed by the marshal tent often and he had food foresight. There were talks about his marriage before, but he did not fancy any lady.

Tonight, he was ordered to head to Songtao Pavilion to observe that bold man who wanted to join the real bloodline of the Yang Family. He would also take the opportunity to destress. After all, he followed his father most of the time and it was not an exaggeration to say that his father was half tiger and half father.

Surprisingly, he had an unexpected find. This lady had caught his eye.

Then, she was going to be his.

The military officer's lips twitched and he suddenly turned. His eyes fell on Aunt Jiang and he met her gaze. Aunt Jiang's expression changed and her smile grew even wider.

The lady's measures seemed exquisite and full but they were ineffective in the end...Yang Qianren was smiling and he was growing more excited. This exquisite lady and the young girl's eyebrows looked the same. There was a charm in them.

However, right at this moment, Yang Qianren frowned and he was no longer in the mood to admire them. Aunt Jiang opposite him also revealed a look of surprise.

Jiang Zhiyue immediately sat straight and her eyes bulged wide as she looked outside with an expression of excitement and disbelief. She looked and stared again and again and she could not help pinching herself.

Ouch!

It was him!

Chapter 1653A – Brave Lady

Qin Yu turned a blind eye to the lady's heated gaze.

He did not want to look at it, could not look at it, and did not dare to look at it!

However, Rourou stopped in her tracks. She turned to look at Songtao Pavilion, expressionless.

"Young Master Qin, it looks like we're fated."

Qin Yu coughed lightly, "Of course we are, there's no doubt about it."

The corners of Rourou's lips turned up, "Men are indeed so full of deceiving words." She raised her hand and pointed, "Let's go, we still have time now. Even though you guys cannot do much under everyone's eyes, you can still say a few words."

Qin Yu rubbed his temples, "Forget about it, I don't want any more problems to arise."

Rourou replied, "I am talking about serious business right now."

Helpless, Qin Yu could only follow behind her as he saw her walking forward.

The three of them walked towards Songtao Pavilion. The people in the pavilion were aware of their incoming presence. Yang Fanshan, who was by the window, looked like he was deep in thought.

Outside Songtao Pavilion, two guards stepped forward at the same time with a cold gaze in their eyes, "This is an important military location; idle people like you are not allowed to get close. Quickly go away!"

Qin Yu looked at these two guards and thought that they were indeed full of guts, and he gave them a thumbs up in his mind. "Since we can't go in, then let's leave."

On top, that lady with long eyebrows had been staring at him until now. Her bright and heated gaze made him feel slightly uneasy.

It would be best if he could avoid meeting her.

Rourou raised her head and looked at the upper floor, "On the other hand, I feel that someone will invite us in today." As she spoke, Yang Fanshan who was seated by the window with a perfect view of the ground floor stood up and said, "These three people are my friends. Please let them in."

The two armored guards by the door instantly looked like they were put on the spot.

Yang Qianren frowned, but he nodded very slightly.

The two guards immediately breathed a sigh of relief. They both stepped backwards and said with their arms outstretched, "This way, the three of you!"

Aunt Jiang, who felt extremely uneasy after being looked up and down by Yang Qianren just now, had a bit of worry in her eyes. She was not surprised that today's incidents had been found out.

After all, a son who was personally brought up and taught by that marshal would naturally be outstanding. However, his gaze just now made Aunt Jiang feel like she had miscalculated the situation and she was starting to regret the arrangements she had made for tonight.

If things had only gotten to this point, it was not too late to recover. After all, the Jiang Family was a first-class prestigious family in the county. Furthermore, with the County Lord's assistance, Aunt Jiang felt rather at ease in her heart.

However, at this juncture, the man that she previously took a glance at had come to Songtao Pavilion. Her own niece had given away her intentions just by her gaze, which made Aunt Jiang groan internally.

With Yang Qianren's status, he was very proud and arrogant. Since he had his eyes on Jiang Zhiyue now which caused him to be part of the plot, how could he put up with these things?

When she thought about this, Aunt Jiang felt even more regretful, especially when she looked at that descendant from the Yang Family who concealed his identity. He now had a cold smile on his face and his expression looked forced.

The three people ascended Songtao Pavilion. Yang Fanshan smiled and cupped his hands to greet them, "The three of you, we meet again. I guess we really are fated. If you don't mind, please have a seat here and enjoy some Purple Fortune Tea from East Pole Mountain with me."

As the saying went, 'fortune approaches from the east'. Further eastward of the East Pole Mountain was where the renowned East Desolate Divine Area was located. For the Purple Fortune Tea to get its name showed how valuable it was.

Furthermore, this Purple Fortune Tea was indeed amazing. It not only contained an abundant amount of spiritual power, but after brewing the tea, there was a purple mist that would linger. Cultivators who drank it would immediately feel refreshed.

In situations where there were many people, Rourou usually did not talk, and so White Iris would naturally keep her silence as well. As such, Qin Yu became the 'head of the house'.

He smiled and cupped his hands, "We'll take you up on that offer."

Even though Rourou did not explicitly state why she wanted to come to Songtao Pavilion, Qin Yu could sort of guess her reasons. If Rourou said that she was really just trying to create a chance for Qin Yu and that lady with long eyebrows to meet, it was definitely a lie. Otherwise, she would not have said those sarcastic words to Qin Yu outside the pavilion just now.

Obviously, she was feeling unhappy deep in her heart.

She was unhappy but chose to hide it, so when Rourou said that they came here for business, Qin Yu believed her. And this had something to do with the person in front of them right now, but Qin Yu did not know what exactly was going on.

Never mind, there was no point in thinking too much and he should focus on his cultivation. Rourou always did things without consulting him, and it was probably because she wanted him to focus on his cultivation as well. He was happy that he could leave everything to be handled by Rourou, because this made him carefree.

Yang Fanshan smiled and extended his arm in invitation. Qin Yu and Rourou sat opposite him and he poured Purple Fortune Tea in some white porcelain cups. Purple mist floated up from the cups and it looked very otherworldly.

"Thank you," Qin Yu smiled, picking up a cup to take a sip with a calm expression on his face.

However, at this point, aside from the lady with the long eyebrows who was looking at him, there was another gaze that landed on him.

Since this pretty lady has already looked at me, there's nothing I can do. Even though I can't help feeling slightly good in my heart, why are you looking at me so fiercely like that? What's with that cold smile on your lips? We did not meet each other before this!

Jiang Zhiyue suddenly got up. She did not know where she got the courage from, perhaps someone had lent it to her? The eyes of everyone in the room instantly landed on her face.

She was slightly nervous, but she grit her teeth and chose not to sit down. If she sat down now, she would not have the courage to get up again, and then she would not be able to talk to him again.

Taking a deep breath, she walked quickly to the window. Her face reddened, and under the light of a candle, she looked even more beautiful. Yang Qianren suddenly felt that this lady in front of him had become much prettier than before. He squinted his eyes and his smile became even wider.

"My name is Jiang Zhiyue, which comes from the phrase, 'under the moonlit night, the river flows and the irises bloom'. What is your name?" Perhaps she was too nervous, because her voice was slightly loud. The first thing she said was the reason behind her father choosing that name for her. She felt

extremely embarrassed, and her face flushed even more. Yet, she still looked at the person in front of her courageously.

Yang Fanshan was slightly stunned as he watched quietly from the side. He invited the three of them into Songtao Pavilion on a whim. As long as the heavens did not intervene, there would naturally be opportunities that arose. Being able to see such a courageous lady was a fortunate thing.

Rourou held her tea cup in her hands and looked on expressionlessly. White Iris, who stood behind Rourou and whose head was lowered, resisted the urge to raise her head.

However, she was filled with admiration for this lady named Jiang Zhiyue. You have big guts if you dare to compete with the lady. In fact, if White Iris were to be honest with herself, she hoped that Jiang Zhiyue would be successful.

Of course, she could only hide all these thoughts in her heart. She did not dare to show any expression, otherwise the lady might really slap her to her death.

Qin Yu put down his tea cup, got up, and cupped his hands. "Lady Jiang, my name is Qin Yu."

Even though he was truly getting a headache over this, a woman had taken the initiative to speak and introduce herself. As a man, how could he make himself look too embarrassed and refuse her request?

Furthermore, Qin Yu had a very good impression of this brave lady.

Of course, as mentioned previously, that was all there is to it.

Truly.

Chapter 1653B – Brave Lady

He had a calm expression and a calm gaze. Even though this calmness represented his sincerity, it also showed how he felt about her.

Jiang Zhiyue had been a smart girl ever since she was young, so of course she realized this. A hint of realization appeared in her eyes, and she immediately wrinkled her nose and said softly, "I only wanted to know what your name was, I have no other intentions!"

Qin Yu cupped his hands, "It is my honor that you wish to know my name, I do not dare to ask for anything more."

The lady had lowered herself for him, so of course he had to treat her feelings with care. One could not expect him to really discuss with others about how to treat this lady. Of course, he needed to be a gentleman.

Jiang Zhiyue felt slightly better now, though she also still felt wronged. We have only met three times and exchanged a few words with each other. Why did you so quickly decide that you do not like me?

After asking for his name and receiving the indication that he was not interested, it was very clear that it was time for her to leave. However, she did not know why but she felt like her feet were rooted to the ground. No matter how much she tried to move them, they would not budge.

Rourou suddenly spoke, "If you don't wish to leave, then sit down and have some tea with us. Do you feel very comfortable standing with everyone watching you?"

Jiang Zhiyue regained her composure and her face reddened. However, she really decided to sit down comfortably, and she looked at Yang Fanshan and said, "Thank you."

Yang Fanshan was starting to admire this Lady Jiang. He smiled as he poured a cup of tea for her and said softly, "Lady Jiang, you have a great personality."

Opposite him, Rourou glanced at him. After seeing the admiration in Yang Fanshan's eyes, she lowered her head and continued drinking her tea. If she had detected any other expression she would have gotten up and left. Even though it was slightly troublesome, she had to finish doing what she promised. At most, she would resort to using some schemes.

Yang Qianren's face turned cold as he watched the man sitting opposite Yang Fanshan. However, at this moment, his face changed as he suddenly thought of something.

Qin Yu...Qin Yu...this name sounded slightly familiar. Yang Qianren looked at the three of them, frowned, and his body suddenly started to shiver.

The name 'Ning Qin' was very renowned in the West Desolate. Even at Songtao Pavilion, many people had heard of this name. To say that people were filled with admiration and respect whenever this name was mentioned was not an exaggeration at all.

However, the name 'Qin Yu', on the other hand, was very ordinary. No one had any reaction to these two words at all. This was also why Qin Yu said his real name to Jiang Zhiyue.

However, he did not think that someone in Songtao Pavilion would be able to see through his true identity...like father, like son. Even though it was hard for Yang Qianren to live up to his father's reputation, he was very informed. Additionally, there was a high probability that one would have to go through the East Border Army when traveling to the Central Desolate Divine Area. As such, it was logical for the East Marshal Yang Wudi to have gotten some reports.

As Yang Wudi's legitimate son, Yang Qianren had previously overheard his father having a discussion with his close aides in the marshal tent and he remembered what they were talking about.

There were three of them, and one of them was called Qin Yu...it seemed that everything was clicking together!

Yang Qianren's face paled slightly. As the East Marshal's legitimate son, he had the position of a general in the army and it was not wrong to say that he was arrogant and self-important.

With his status, he also had the right to look down on everyone in Songtao Pavilion. This was why he dared to show his emotions when he saw through that woman's schemes.

He could take whatever he pleased, and be as unscrupulous as he wished.

However, at the same time, according to this logic, someone with a higher status than him could treat him in this way as well.

It was scarier the more he thought about it.

This legitimate son of the East Marshal lowered his head and his face became even paler. Beads of sweat started to form on his forehead.

Yet, while Yang Qianren was engulfed in deep fear, someone else thought differently about the situation.

The expression on Aunt Jiang's face could not look more forced, to the point where she was having a hard time maintaining it. At this moment, this lady, who was known for her good dancing skills in the county, protecting her family, and being so smart that even the men in her family relied on her, was on the verge of collapse.

Previously, she thought that her niece was the most outstanding person in the next generation of her family. She was not only pretty enough, she also had a clear mind and handled things energetically. This was why Aunt Jiang had high hopes for her.

However, tonight, she had fallen short of her expectations greatly by making many wrong moves. It was a very dangerous game they were playing from the start, but now it seemed like the game had turned into one that was life-threatening.

As she looked at Yang Qianren who lowered his head in silence and was shivering slightly, Aunt Jiang realized that he had indeed reached his limit.

If he had an outburst, it would be earth-shaking. Just a member of the Yang Family's side branch was enough to oppress the whole county and make even the County Lord lower his head in resignation.

Furthermore, he was from the military...if a conflict happened, the Jiang Family would lose all their support instantly.

They would sink to the bottom of the well. The Yang Family would try their best to get rid of whatever entanglement they had with the Jiang Family.

If that happened, a catastrophe would unfold and the once noble Jiang Family would end up in a miserable state in the blink of an eye.

Aunt Jiang had herself witnessed something similar happen not just once or twice, and it was precisely because she was knowledgeable that she felt so afraid. She gave up all the happiness in her life for the survival of her family, and rushed around busily every day. She gave everything in order to become the County Lord's mistress, which was not a very glorified status to have.

"Zhiyue!" Aunt Jiang got up, trying her best to remain calm. Then, she said softly, "Something has happened in the family. We have to go now."

Jiang Zhiyue looked hesitant as she glanced over at Qin Yu. However, before she could say anything, her aunt called for her again.

"Zhiyue, we really have to go now."

Because Jiang Zhiyue was familiar with her aunt's mannerisms, she could detect the nervousness below her aunt's calm exterior. Jiang Zhiyue was about to nod when another voice rang out in Songtao Pavilion, "Lady Jiang does not need to leave. Whatever is happening to the Jiang Family, I assure you that everything will be fine."

Aunt Jiang's face turned pale. Her legs turned to jelly and she stretched her arms to hold onto the table. In the process, she knocked over a tea cup. 'Pa!' It fell to the floor and smashed into a few pieces.

"Aunt!" Jiang Zhiyue could not care about anything else as she rushed over to support her aunt.

The other ladies at the table widened their eyes one by one. Their faces were full of shock and disbelief. Only that lady who had the word 'Rong' in her name looked like she was deep in thought. She looked at the two ladies from the Jiang Family and a gloating expression formed on her face, as if she was trying to say 'Who asked you two to act smart? Now you've shot yourself in the foot. How delightful!'

Yang Qianren did not care if he was being presumptuous. If he really let these two women from the Jiang Family leave this place in shock because of him, he would be committing a huge sin that could not be absolved.

What would he do then? It was useless even if he was the son of the East Marshal. His father only cared for beauties for his whole life and had plenty of children. No one needed to do anything; as long as word about this spread to the marshal tent, his father would be the first to chop off his head and send it personally to express his apologies.

And his brothers who were in the military would also be very happy to do something like that...there was indeed an established rule by his father that members of the Yang Family could not sabotage each other. This was a rather heartwarming family rule to have. However, if they wanted someone dead, they did not have to kill him themselves. They could make use of someone else to do it, and it was the better option.

Yang Qianren, whose face was pale and forehead covered in sweat, quickly walked to the window and cupped his hands, "Lord Qin Yu, I was a bit short-sighted earlier. If I have offended you in any way, please forgive me."

At this moment, silence fell in Songtao Pavilion.

Chapter 1654A – Carp Dragon Gate

Qin Yu frowned. He could not understand as he hesitated before saying, "Have you recognized the wrong person?"

Stiffening, Yang Qianren did not hesitate as he fell to the ground in a kneel. There was a 'plop'. "Lord, please have mercy, if not, I will die!"

He kowtowed heavily and did not move.

It seemed like his identity had been revealed. Was it because of the name 'Qin Yu'? Looking at Yang Qianren, Qin Yu thought before saying, "Are you from the East Marshal Yang Family?"

Knocked out!

With this, he was definitely right.

Yang Qianren spoke respectfully, "I am Yang Qianren, my father is Yang Wudi."

Qin Yu nodded, "You didn't know so it is not your fault."

Yang Qianshan was slightly shocked before delight flooded his face. He wanted to uphold his reputation and his father was the same.

Everyone stared. With just this sentence, everything was solved.

“Thank you Lord, thank you Lord!”

Yang Qianren got up and backed away into Songtao Pavilion. He did not want to be in the way and he was at least aware of this.

Rourou lifted her hand and tapped Jiang Zhiyue, “Little brat, you cannot move.”

Yang Qianren lifted his hand and slapped himself before behaving respectfully to Jiang Zhiyue, “Lady Jiang, wherever you go next time, I will stay far far away!”

“Get lost.”

As if receiving a pardon, Yang Qianren quickly left.

The silence in Songtao Pavilion got heavier.

Yang Fanshan could not help but stare in shock and bewilderment.

Rourou looked over and stood up, “Let’s go, it is about time.”

Qin Yu nodded and smiled at Jiang Zhiyue before putting his hands together.

The three people turned and left.

Yang Fanshan gritted his teeth as he chased after them, “Please wait up. Will you be entering the gate tonight?”

When Qin Yu acknowledged what Yang Qianren said, he could sense Rourou’s intentions. As he heard this now, he stopped and turned, “That’s right. Young Master Yang, would you like to follow along?”

Yang Fanshan’s eyes lit up, “I would be delighted to.”

Outside Songtao Pavilion, there were two people waiting for the Yang Family. One was a skinny and wrinkly old man with a goatee and the other was a slightly tanned woman in her thirties. They now looked at each other but smartly remained silent.

Others might not know about what happened in the Li Family, but the Yang Family knew very well. Even without the thing earlier, they could not afford to offend these three. However, they never thought that even the East Marshal could not bear to offend these three!

Yang Fangshan’s luck was good.

Yang Qianren bowed from afar, not daring to come closer. He was slightly pale. Life and death were just a second apart. Just now, if Jiang Zhiyue had not asked for Qin Yu’s name, he would have brought demise to his entire family.

Thinking about this, he recalled the warning the lady gave before she left. Looking on as they departed, Yang Qianren then turned and returned to Songtao Pavilion.

Returning to the aunt and niece pair from the Jiang Family, he put his hands together respectfully, "I offended you earlier, please forgive me. I am Yang Qianren. If you meet with any trouble in the future, please go to the Yang Family in the middle of the city. Just tell them my name. I will take my leave."

He turned and left, not wanting to drag this on. He immediately deleted all his thoughts from earlier. Nonsense, how would he dare to have rubbish thoughts now? Was he tired of living? He would stay as far away as he had to!

Being able to read the situation was the most important thing!

He did not lack in this area, otherwise, he would not have realized the situation and reacted so quickly by kneeling down and begging for mercy. This was a huge survival skill.

As for whether Yang Fanshan managed to avert disaster or if he was simply just lucky, he did not care. But he had to quickly inform his father of this; Yang Qianren had no luck in this aspect. If he made the move to tell his father, he might gain some recognition for it and escape the death penalty...but he would not be able to escape the punishment! Yang Qianren immediately left Songtao Pavilion, jumped on a horse, and rode off.

In the pavilion, the crowd finally caught up to what just happened and a complicated look appeared on their faces.

No one expected such a twist in the situation.

Jiang Zhiyue was actually better at recognizing things than her smart aunt. Amidst the crowd, she merely glanced at him once or twice and knew that the man was special.

A mighty person. Even the marshal of the East Border Army was afraid of him. If not, as the nephew of the marshal, Yang Qianren would not have needed to submit and wouldn't have expressed so much fear to this person.

Having received Yang Qianren's promise, it meant that there was a label on East Marshal Yang Wudi. In East Pole County, other than the Yang and Li Family, there was now a Jiang Family that everyone had to revere. Moreover, with so much happening to the Li Family, the future was unpredictable. Perhaps the Jiang Family could even surpass them.

Everyone looked admiringly...of course, there was more jealousy but they did not dare to show it.

Aunt Jiang held onto her niece and gripped hard. Her face was slightly red and her expression was radiant as if there was a spotlight on her. She turned and looked at Jiang Zhiyue. She spoke softly, "You!"

She seemed to be scolding but pride filled her voice. She was extremely delighted and thought that her niece had known about it for a long time but kept it to herself.

Being cautious was a good thing. If not, the opportunity would not have fallen on their Jiang Family today.

Jiang Zhiyue's mouth twitched but she did not say anything. She merely lowered her head as the image of Qin Yu's smile and greeting appeared.

It was not because I knew you were powerful that I looked at you differently...will we meet again? She did not know, but she knew that keeping silent was the best thing for the Jiang Family now.

She was a smart lady and knew what to do.

He probably guessed this as he smiled and greeted before leaving and would not mind. Qin Yu...his name sounded nice...I have good taste.

Having too good taste was also not good. Even if someone caught their eye, there was no hope.

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Yang Fanshan was not stupid. On the contrary, he was smarter than most people. So when he travelled with the three of them, he did not say much and merely talked about local conditions and customs in East Pole County.

The lady was silent, as if she did not care about anything. After Yang Fanshan tested, he focused his attention on Qin Yu. He spoke respectfully and was never out of line.

Qin Yu did not know what Rourou intended, but he knew that there was a use for this Young Master Yang. Hence, he patiently talked to him.

They had just met and did not have much to say. Thankfully, Songtao Pavilion was at the mountain peak and as they headed east, they soon reached the Jade Gate, preventing the conversation from becoming awkward.

Yang Fanshan stopped and said, "I have something important to do and will take my leave. I hope we will be able to meet again in the Central Desolate Divine Area."

Qin Yu replied, "Take care."

Watching the three people from the Yang Family walk towards the Jade Gate, Qin Yu looked at Rourou and lowered his voice, "Can you now tell me what is going on?"

They went to Songtao Pavilion and almost caused trouble. He had exposed his identity as a result of it, and all they got was this short journey. Were they going to let Yang Fanshan leave like that? He could not understand!

Rourou yawned, "It is late, let's go in and rest." Qin Yu chuckled bitterly; he was at his limit of being kept on a cliffhanger...I am the best at this in the world!

Shaking his head, he erased the thought and looked ahead.

The Jade Gate was just before them and the passes they held were now glowing with a mysterious aura covering their bodies. It was because of this that they were able to stand outside the Jade Gate safely and not have to worry about getting burnt by the light. If not, they would have turned into fireballs.

There was already someone waiting outside the Jade Gate. The Jade Gate opened once every month to accept cultivators with passes into the Central Desolate Divine Area.

A portion of people were those that were selected and gained special permission from the Central Desolate. There were also those from the West Desolate that were sent over. The last group of people were like the three of them – those that were sneaking in.

But no matter which group it was, there was not much difference. The people at the Jade Gate only checked their passes and not their identities. Anyone with the passes could enter. This was also confident and arrogant behavior because of their might. The Central Desolate Divine Area was not afraid of anyone. As long as one was able and courageous enough.

Bom –

Bom –

Bom –

The sound of drums came from the Jade Gate. There was movement amongst the people standing outside. The Jade Gate was currently closed. A blinding light suddenly shone and flooded the place like water, and the gate slowly opened.

Qin Yu raised his brows as a glimmer flickered through his eyes. As the gate opened, the area's aura suddenly changed. An intense spiritual energy of the world flowed out like a river. Its might was astounding.

Leaving other things aside, just the intensity of this spiritual energy was shocking enough – no wonder the Central Desolate was named the divine area! More shockingly, this astounding wave of spiritual energy seemed to be held back by an invisible force. No matter how it shifted, it did not spill out.

The person right in front was someone from the West Desolate. He was a neat-looking young man wearing a scholar's attire. His face was flushed as his eyes widened in excitement.

“Enter!”

A deep voice could be heard from within the gate. This scholarly-looking young man took a deep breath as he held the pass in his hand and stepped forwards.

He stepped into the boundary where the spiritual energy was surging and his body swayed. His face flushed and his breathing became heavy. In the next moment, four colors – red, orange, yellow and green erupted from his body and formed an illusion of a door. It was majestic, like a portal to heaven.

This was the rumored – Carp Dragon Door. This was also the thing that the aunt and niece pair from the Jiang Family had wanted to see from afar.

This scene could be explained as the ‘Barren Spiritual Energy’ land. As cultivators stepped into the holy land of cultivation, their bodies were unable to adjust to the difference in spiritual energy from the external world (intensity of spiritual energy). Hence, it caused a spiritual energy tidal wave that appeared in five different colors.

The number of colors represented the background and realm of the cultivator as well as their future potential. There was a special method of comparison and the accuracy was very high. It was rare for there to be mistakes. This had been set up by the Central Desolate Great Qin Empire to test the cultivators entering.

Having four colors was special and that scholarly-looking young man would most likely get solicited after he entered the Jade Gate. And this was the reason for the 'Carp Dragon Door'.

The scholarly-looking young man had gotten his footing and looked happy. However, deep inside his eyes, there was a hint of dejection. According to his plan, he had thought that he would get all five colors.

But that emotion eventually disappeared. The spiritual energy around him gradually subsided, demonstrating his body acclimatizing. Nothing miraculous would happen. He took a deep breath and entered the Jade Gate, disappearing before everyone's eyes.

Although the scholarly-looking young man did not get the blue color, four colors was already extraordinary. He was the first one to enter the Jade Gate and was definitely like a piece of precious jewellery.

The second cultivator after him had a slightly gloomy look. However, as the sequence had been determined, he could only move forward. Three colors, red, orange and yellow appeared. It was not bad, but since he was after the four colors, it did not stand out.

Thereafter, the best was only three colors. That was until a sickly-looking young girl dressed in black stepped forwards. There was a surge of spiritual energy and five colors erupted. Red, orange, yellow, green and blue intertwined and the illusion of the door was more concrete and majestic.

Amidst the five colors, there were even faint purple dots. Although it was not complete, its existence suggested that this sickly-looking young lady almost created the grand scene of six colors appearing!

"Would you like to join Golden Toad Palace?" An old lady's voice could suddenly be heard from the Jade Gate. She sounded extremely calm but there was a majestic pressure like a tall mountain whose peak could not be seen.

"Green River is willing to accept you as my direct disciple and you will be protected by the sect." Another mellow voice from a middle-aged man could be heard.

There were exclamations outside Jade Gate as heat pooled in many people's eyes. Their eyes also filled with admiration. She had yet to enter the Jade Gate but there were already two major sects from the Central Desolate Divine Area fighting for her. It had been many years since something like this happened.

The young girl in black was silent for a moment before she spoke respectfully, "Sorry, you are not my goals."

The man from Green River fell silent.

The old woman from Golden Toad Palace sneered, "Little lass, ultimately, you are not six colors. You should be pragmatic and not aim too high. Golden Toad Palace can also give you the position of direct disciple. This is our maximum. You should consider."

The young girl in black shook her head.

"Hmph!"

The voice of the old woman from Golden Toad Palace faded.

The figure of the young girl in black disappeared from sight.

She had actually rejected the invitations of two major Central Desolate sects. Numerous people were in disbelief.

After the five colors appeared, everyone else were like stars beside a bright moon. They looked bleak in comparison.

When Yang Fanshan stepped into it, four colors emerged. Both of the two others, the old man with the goatee and the tanned woman from the Yang Family, had three colors.

Alas, the deciding factor was not the cultivation level.

As the crowd thinned, Qin Yu frowned and looked at Rourou. She was calm and said slowly, "Don't worry, I am prepared."

Then there was nothing to worry about.

Chapter 1654B – Scholars and 'Fate'

Qin Yu was the first to step into the Spiritual Energy Tide. He stood still for a while as dim orange and red light rays engulfed his figure within.

Tonight, the five colors suppressed everyone here. Even all of Yang Fanshan's four colors turned dull...Qin Yu's two colors were like the light coming from a firefly, completely inconspicuous.

He paused for a few seconds before passing through the Jade Gate.

Rourou followed closely behind, performing slightly better with just three colors.

However, no one noticed that the moment she passed through the gate, she raised her head and glanced upwards. This glance made a certain restless existence fall into complete silence and curl up into a shivering ball, not daring to make the slightest move.

White Iris was the fourth to pass through and she had four colors.

This scene made those who had yet to pass through the Jade Gate have a bewildered expression on their faces.

The two masters' performances were not as good as that of their servant. It was a rather rare thing to see.

In Songtao Pavilion.

The people who were watching the Jade Gate from afar also looked baffled. Their field of vision here was excellent, and there was also plenty of light near the Jade Gate. Additionally, cultivators had very good vision so they could see everything that happened.

They were focused on the three people who passed through the gate. They had high expectations in their hearts, so now they were even more disappointed.

It was normal for a servant who was traveling with powerful figures to be extraordinary, so having four colors was to be expected.

However, that powerful figure known as 'Qin Yu' actually only had two colors. That imposing and condescending woman who had reprimanded Yang Qianren also only had three colors.

Could it be that his powerful siblings were traveling in the West Desolate, which was why there was this weird situation where the servant was much more powerful than her masters? That's not right, with East Marshal Yang Wudi's status and power, which other second-generation cultivator would make Yang Qianren feel so pathetic and afraid?

Or, could it be that Yang Qianren had recognized the wrong person? Even though the possibility of this was small, it was what all of them had hoped for. Because if Yang Qianren had truly mistaken him for someone else, then there was really going to be a huge commotion.

Jiang Zhiyue suddenly spoke, "Aunt, have you ever heard of the saying that goes 'a nobleman travels around in disguise'?"

Aunt Jiang's eyes brightened, "Big figures have their own reasons behind the way they do things. Perhaps he is entering the Central Desolate because he was ordered to, which was why he purposely hid his identity after entering East Pole County. It is reasonable for him to hide his identity while passing through the Jade Gate to prevent any unwanted trouble."

She swept her eyes over everyone present and said blandly, "As for us, since we unintentionally saw some things we weren't supposed to see, we should zip our mouths to prevent any misfortunes from happening to us."

Everyone's faces changed slightly and their hearts turned cold with fear.

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At this moment, the great general who was in charge of guarding this place, Zhao Yuan, frowned slightly and put down his wine cup. He got up and took a step forward, ignoring the restriction spells within and directly tearing apart the space in front of him to enter a forbidden secret place.

The cultivators who were on duty here scrambled to gather around as they saw the great general descending. They hurriedly bowed to greet him, "Greetings, Great General."

Zhao Yuan was expressionless as he asked, "What happened?"

A cultivator dressed in green robes walked out and bowed before saying, "Just now, the Peeping Sky Worm was suddenly frightened. It retracted all of its tentacles and is still in a state of panic."

Zhao Yuan frowned, "What's the reason?"

Cold sweat formed on the green-robed cultivator's forehead, "We have not managed to find out why."

Zhao Yuan looked at him and his gaze turned extremely cold, "Quickly find out then! If you guys are unable to give me an answer, what's the point of keeping you guys around?"

Everyone instantly paled and bowed simultaneously, and then they hurriedly left to perform their duties.

By right, these people came from major sects and did not work in the military. At most, they were in a state of cooperation with the Great Qin Empire and there was no need to be afraid of military generals.

However, this man in front of them was different. He was the direct descendant of the Zhao Family, one of the five families of generals in the Qin Empire. He was also known to have inherited the essences of the elders from the Zhao Family, making him a cold-blooded and brutal killer.

Over all these years, there were at least a hundred cultivators from major sects that he had personally killed. Of them, there were some disciples from the top four sects, but Zhao Yuan still sat comfortably in his position stationed by the Jade Gate and he never encountered any trouble.

Who would not be scared of him?

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There was another world inside of the Jade Gate.

Looking from the summit of East Pole Mountain, it was only a small city. It was not even half the size of East Pole County. However, only after stepping foot into it would one realize how vast and high the sky was and how the land stretched for thousands and thousands of miles in all four directions within the Jade Gate.

Taking in a deep breath, Qin Yu could feel the spiritual energy in the air that was so thick it was almost condensed into water droplets. 'Hua-la-la!' The energy continuously entered his body and was instantly refined and absorbed, contributing to his body's power.

He felt like he was a fish that had been swimming in shallow waters his entire life and was now dumped into a deep lake. It was easier to breathe and he could now feel the vastness of the world.

Now, Qin Yu understood why Rourou wanted him to come to the Central Desolate Divine Area. It was not just because of that matter, but also because this place provided him an optimal cultivating environment that would be vital for him to enter the King realm in a span of thirty years.

And now, the entrance of the Jade Gate was rather lively. There were many people gathered here and they were divided into big and small groups.

Those cultivators from the West Desolate who had previously passed the test and came here were outstanding individuals and were surrounded by many people.

At the most crowded area, there were almost a hundred people who were surrounding that young lady who was wearing a black robe. She was the one who had five colors and even had blue stars dotted in the middle of these colors. Even though she declined the invitations from Golden Toad Palace and Green River previously, it did not mean that others had lost their chances to invite her to their sects.

It was an extremely rare opportunity to be able to meet such a talented and beautiful woman, so they had to give it their all...if they were successful in recruiting her, it would be a great achievement.

The young man in Confucian robes who was there from the start was no longer here. Qin Yu could vaguely see the silhouette of his back far away at the end of the long street.

A scholar who was wearing long-sleeved robes and had white, long hair was leading the way. The young man followed closely behind and his head was lowered respectfully.

They had made this arrangement beforehand for him to be escorted the moment he entered Central Desolate Divine Area...it seemed like this young man was going to have big achievements in the future.

That old scholar who was at the end of the long street seemed to have detected Qin Yu's thoughts, and he turned around to look at the entrance of the Jade Gate. His eyesight was not very good, probably from the years of extensive studying. He squinted to get a better look, but he still could not see clearly.

This made the scholar slightly hesitant. He thought for a while before shaking his head and continued to walk. Since he could not see who it was, it meant that they were not fated, so there was no point in taking another look.

The young man asked, "Teacher, what are you looking at?"

The white-haired scholar smiled and replied, "An interesting young brat...hm, he's very interesting indeed."

The young man asked another question, "Does he have any fate with the academy?"

The white-haired scholar nodded his head, "Yes, there's a bit of fate, but it's not here yet." He paused for a few moments before continuing, "Zhou Ling, after you enter the academy, you must learn how to read destinies. This is really the essence of our academy. This is so in the future, when you travel across the Central Desolate, you will not suffer so much. Otherwise, you will have a hard time when you embark on a study tour next time."

Zhou Ling bowed respectfully, "Yes, Teacher."

The both of them then walked left to somewhere far away.

Qin Yu retracted his gaze. When that white-haired scholar turned to look at him just now, they had made eye contact and a thought flashed past his mind.

As quickly as the thought came, it was covered up.

They were in a hurry, so it was better not to dwell on too many things. Since they were able to meet each other the moment he stepped into the Central Desolate, it meant that they were fated, which also meant that naturally, they would have opportunities to meet each other again in the future.

"Let's go, what's there to look at?" Rourou appeared beside Qin Yu. She raised her head to look at the sky and grimaced.

Qin Yu did not know what was up with her, but as he said previously that it was better not to dwell on too many things, he merely nodded.

Whatever you say.

However, before he could leave...having two or three colors was of course not worth mentioning – it was not enough to gain the attention of the Central Desolate cultivators – but having four colors...was truly enough.

There were a few cultivators that blocked their way and they were looking at White Iris. One of them, who was carrying a longsword on his back, made a joke, “This fellow cultivator, are you willing to become a cultivator at my Infinite Monastery? Even though my position in the monastery is not very high, I am qualified enough to help my teacher recruit some disciples. As long as you agree, you will become an Infinite Monastery fourth-generation disciple.”

The faces of the people around him changed slightly as they looked at the Old Daoist who was carrying a longsword on his back. There was probably no one who would dare to pretend to be a disciple of Infinite Monastery, especially not a fourth-generation disciple. They felt helpless. They had finally managed to find a good candidate, but she was being eyed by Infinite Monastery; how were they supposed to compete against that?

White Iris frowned slightly, not saying a single word.

The old daoist looked extremely sincere and said slowly, “You don’t need to worry. All you have to do is nod or shake your head. Since this old man is already here, I will help you to get rid of all your worries.”

As he spoke, his gaze swept across Qin Yu and Rourou. Thankfully, he did not have a condescending or threatening look in his eyes, otherwise, Qin Yu felt that this old daoist who had probably lived for many, many years would die today.

White Iris shook her head.

The old daoist now looked anxious as he stepped forward towards her, “You can consider my offer for a few days. Don’t be in such a hurry to give me a reply. I will be at the Jade Gate for these next few days, so if you change your mind, you can come to the Ask Immortal Building to look for me.”

When he finished speaking, he waved his hand, not giving White Iris the opportunity to speak, before he turned around to leave. It looked like he was afraid that he would be completely rejected, so he was trying to leave an impression on her.

Qin Yu’s biases against Central Desolate cultivators suddenly decreased because of this old daoist.

After this old daoist left, the rest of the people looked at each other. Since they were already here, they also decided to mention their affiliations to try and recruit White Iris. Fortunately, since Infinite Monastery was more powerful than any of their affiliations, they did not expect much. They also told White Iris that she could have some time to think about it before making a decision.

They gave their addresses and quickly left.

Rourou walked forward and Qin Yu followed closely behind. White Iris, who was expressionless the whole time in front of those people, suddenly looked a bit nervous. She caught up with Rourou and Qin Yu hurriedly and said softly, “My Lady, I absolutely have zero thoughts of joining any of them.”

Rourou scoffed, “What has that got to do with me?”

White Iris did not say anything more as she lowered her head.

Qin Yu coughed lightly and said, "I actually feel that that old man was not too bad."

Rourou laughed and glanced sideways at him, "You think he's not too bad, but it's a pity that he did not even look at you the whole time."

Uh...although this was indeed the case, why did it sound worse when Rourou said it? Other than keeping people in suspense, she could also potentially beat everyone in this world at insulting people!

Qin Yu shut his mouth and did not say another word.

She had already explicitly expressed that she was in a foul mood. He would have to have a hole in his brain to continue to talk and cause her mood to worsen. White Iris also seemed to be smart enough not to say another word.

The three of them left the area where the Jade Gate was. Without caring which direction they walked in, they simply left without a destination in mind.

Not long after they left, Yang Fanshan quickly rushed over. He stood at the gate and looked in all four directions, his face turning more ashen by the second.

A skinny old man who had a goatee looked at the woman across from him and frowned slightly. His face was filled with slight confusion. He could not understand why this woman, who was considered to be rather smart, had gone out of her mind this time.

That woman's face darkened. Her looks were considered to be average but she had a decent figure. At this moment, she lowered her head in silence. She pretended that she did not see the old man with a goatee looking her up and down or the gloomy expression on Yang Fanshan's face.

Since she had already done it, there was no turning back...in actual fact, she had gone past the point of no return many years ago.

After waiting for a long time and not being able to find the three people, Yang Fanshan gave a long sigh and turned to leave.

The old man with a goatee followed suit, leaving the woman behind.

"You can stay here, you don't have to follow me anymore. Otherwise, I'm afraid that one day, my head will be separated from my body."

The woman stopped in her tracks and hesitated for a bit, before bowing and leaving in another direction.

Chapter 1655 – It Only Looks Like True Immortal Brew

Yang Fanshan rushed to pass through the Jade Gate so that he could wait here and avoid being separated from Qin Yu, Rourou, and White Iris. Since he had requests to make, he had to calculate all of this carefully. He did not mention it earlier because he could only show his sincerity once he reached this place.

However, unexpectedly, this woman who had always been quiet had suddenly caused trouble. Even though it was not serious, it was enough to delay him for a while, which was why he was in this plight now.

No one would believe that it was coincidental or that she was innocent, and this woman also did not hope for others to think that way.

She had indeed done it.

The old man with the goatee sighed internally. He did not wish to intervene in the Yang Family's internal affairs. Since he was here to make his offerings, that was all he cared about and he was not going to pay attention to other things.

The woman suddenly made a move today and destroyed any chances for Yang Fanshan to recover. It seemed like a clean job. But truthfully?

No one knew what the future was going to be like. If Yang Fanshan had truly died just like this...he was still a member of the Yang Family, and there was no way that it was going to end well for this woman who got involved too.

Looking at Yang Fanshan who was walking in front of him, the old man with the goatee started to have a good impression of him. It was a pity that he was unable to have a complete grasp of his fortune, and now that it slipped away, it would be very hard to get it back. In the future, he would be faced with many misfortunes!

.....

The fact that Yang Fanshan was no longer near the Jade Gate came as a surprise to Qin Yu.

However, it only made him slightly surprised. When he saw how calm Rourou was and how she was concealing the gloominess on her face, he no longer cared. Now that he was following behind Rourou, he half-closed his eyes and focused on his cultivation.

If he did not take the chance to cultivate in such an optimal environment, he would be wasting precious time.

After they had traveled for a bit more, Qin Yu could no longer take it and he opened his eyes to ask, "Where are we going?" Didn't Rourou say she was tired just now? Shouldn't we quickly find a place to settle down then? He wanted to enter closed-door cultivation right now!

Rourou humphed, "What's the rush? We're arriving already."

Thankfully, the destination was truly just up ahead.

After turning the street corner, an inn that sat on the side of the street was now in sight.

The three words 'Ask Immortal Building' were engraved on the plaque. It was a majestic and imposing name, but it was not an exaggeration at all. These three words were like three big mountains. When you looked at them, they seemed to suddenly be towering over you, as if they were hanging in the sky amongst the clouds.

The corners of Qin Yu's lips twitched and he wondered if there was a need to be in such a rush, but he did not dare to say these words out loud.

However, facts had proven that even thinking such thoughts was not safe.

Rourou turned around and narrowed her eyes at him, "Qin Yu, do you wish to die?"

Qin Yu quickly waved his hands and shook his head vigorously. He looked at her with a sincere look in his eyes that said, 'I have not lived enough yet'.

Rourou gritted her teeth. Qin Yu was getting increasingly thick-skinned, to the point where he reminded her of a slippery loach. She had to find a chance to jog his memory just in case he forgot who was in charge here!

Ask Immortal Building had a great reputation, and everyone in East Pole County knew about it. The building's Immortal Brew was like the holy grail amongst all wines, and cultivators could only hope of having the chance to enjoy such a fine delicacy. Indeed, it was established that the price of this wine was directly proportional to the reputation of Ask Immortal Building.

Thankfully, before leaving East Pole County earlier, they had gotten compensation from Surplus Shop. Spending money that belonged to others to drink Immortal Brew truly made it taste better.

As per usual, Rourou and Qin Yu sat down while White Iris stood at the side. Qin Yu told her to sit down together with them to avoid attracting attention to themselves. White Iris shook her head while Rourou did not comment, so Qin Yu did not persist on the matter.

Aside from the dishes, when the two jars of Immortal Brew were sent to their table, Qin Yu uncapped them and took a whiff. Instantly, his eyes brightened. This wine truly lived up to its reputation. At least, just from this whiff, he could smell the thick scent of alcohol that wafted in all four directions.

Furthermore, this smell vaguely gave him a familiar feeling.

He poured the wine into a bowl. It looked clear. He raised the bowl and drank two sips...Qin Yu frowned and looked at Rourou who was seated beside him.

She opened the wine jar and smelled it, but she did not pour it into the bowl. Realizing that Qin Yu's gaze was on her, she blandly said, "It just looks like Immortal Brew, but its essence is no longer there. The wine served here is just named after the true Immortal Brew."

Qin Yu's face was full of realization.

However, before he could nod his head, someone beside them expressed their discontent, "This lady over here, you are being a bit rude. Ask Immortal Building's Immortal Brew has been sold in various areas in the Central Desolate for thousands of years, and no one has ever given such a comment about it. I wonder what kind of good wine you've had since you dare to say something like that."

The one who had made the sarcastic comment was a green-robed swordsman. His face was flushed and his eyes looked aloof – evidently, he was already slightly drunk. He leaned back and looked at them with a sharp expression, like two invisible daggers that sliced through the air. The atmosphere instantly turned cold.

At that moment, the activity in the building seemed to slow slightly as more eyes looked in their direction. As the top-rated restaurant near the Jade Gate, it was normal for strong cultivators to come and go. However, amongst these strong cultivators, this green-robed swordsman was known to be very unreasonable.

His name was Wei Han. His current identity was that of a swordsman who was working for Great General Zhao Yuan. Apparently, he used to be from a great Sword Sect, but because he had caused some trouble, he was expelled and ended up in such a plight today. However, his Sword Dao cultivation level was extremely high.

Wei Han was fond of drinking. He would spend a large amount of his monthly salary from the military here at the Ask Immortal Building. He even had to take loans sometimes to satisfy the wine bug in his stomach.

The Immortal Brew was his favorite drink. If he went even a day without drinking one jar, he would feel extremely restless. Therefore, he could not tolerate what was being said about it today while he was drunk. How could this woman look down upon such fine wine?

Rourou glanced at the unkempt green-robed swordsman with a calm expression and said, "I said that the wine was not that great, and that's a fact."

Wei Han put his arms on the table and got up. He laughed coldly and said, "Then, today, I have to stand up for the Immortal Brew's reputation. Since you said that it is not that great, then take out something better to convince me. Otherwise, I will have to take out my longsword to draw some fresh blood from you and use it as a warning to anyone else who dares to slander the Immortal Brew's great name."

The three of them kept silent.

Even if there was an invisible sword intent that was flowing around them right now, their expressions remained unchanged. Although he was a swordsman at the Ruler level with strong killing power, how could he possibly injure the three of them at all?

The people who had come to see the commotion were not afraid of things being blown out of proportion. On the other hand, because they were drunk, they were even more agitated and started to roar, egging Wei Han on.

Someone even yelled that Wei Han was heroic to defend his precious wine to the point where he was even willing to harm a woman because of it. Truly, he was such an outstanding wine connoisseur.

There was also someone else who yelled, "Lady, do not just say empty words. If you are truly capable, bring out some good wine and tear off Wei Han's face in front of everyone! Let him know what heavenly wine truly tastes like!"

The atmosphere surged with excitement, and it was extremely lively.

Qin Yu raised his eyebrows. He swept his gaze over everyone around him, and he thought to himself, 'The Central Desolate Divine Area is truly full of outstanding people compared to other places. But why exactly is Rourou stirring up a commotion over a jar of wine today?'

He could not understand what was going on in her head and felt that Rourou has been doing many things recently that he could not put his hand on...uh, could it be that after the Heaven Earth Gap was destroyed and she descended to this world, she became different from before? Was she becoming more and more like an actual woman?

If that was truly the case, then he would have an explanation.

Rourou gave a side glare at Qin Yu that said 'You are really going to die soon'.

Qin Yu quickly lowered his head and continued to drink his wine.

This Immortal Brew was superficial and not the true Immortal Brew, but it was still not bad and he could keep it down at least.

Wei Han laughed loudly, "He is sitting at the same table but he is also enjoying the wine. You're just a little brat but you dared to speak rashly; you seriously are full of yourself and don't know the immensity of this world!"

At this moment, Qin Yu could not help but put down his wine cup. He looked at Wei Han and said, "This Sword Immortal, may I ask you, do you know the immensity of this world?"

Wei Han raised his eyebrows, "Of course, it is very, very big."

"Then, Sword Immortal, you've walked this whole world before?"

"Naturally, I haven't," Wei Han sneered and continued, "Next, are you going to ask me how I know the world is big since I haven't walked it yet?"

Qin Yu nodded and replied, "That is correct."

He pointed his finger at the wine cup and said, "I will not mention anything else, but regarding what's in that cup, I believe that Your Honor is indeed a frog in a well. I drank a few more sips because I spent money paying for it and it is really expensive. I'm not drinking it because I think it's really good."

Wei Han clapped his hands and said, "Good. Then, instead of just having a debate here, why don't the two of you bring out some evidence right away? If you are right, I will apologize immediately."

"Kowtow to us to apologize."

Wei Han narrowed his eyes and raised his hand to drink another sip of wine, "If it's for the reputation of Immortal Brew, a kowtow is nothing much. Who knows, maybe it will be a good story to tell in the future.

"However, if the two of you are unable to bring out a better jar of wine tonight...you can forget about leaving this place alive."

The roaring in Ask Immortal Building instantly surged. The audience was having a good time watching this commotion unfold. As they looked at Rourou's expression, they could not help but show some admiration. They thought to themselves that this brat was indeed courageous. Even in the face of death, her expression was still unchanged.

Tsk, tsk. She must be from one of those noble clans who really think that they can act recklessly just because of their family background. Don't forget that this is the Jade Gate. Great General Zhao Yuan was the one guarding the gate, and he did not care for people's family backgrounds.

So what if you were a disciple from a great clan or a great sect? With that background, you could not run rampant in all eight directions in the Central Desolate Divine Area...however, you could at least do whatever you wanted in about seven and a half directions.

But if you dared to cause trouble at the Jade Gate, what would happen to you? Heads would be chopped off, souls would be shattered; bodies and spirits would be destroyed with no hope of reincarnation at all.

And what would happen to the Jade Gate? Nothing at all. The Jade Gate was still the Jade Gate, and Great General Zhao Yuan was still that unbridled Zhao Yuan.

He was still alive and kicking!

This little brat spoke out of line; she was probably going to suffer a big loss here at the Jade Gate this time. Hehe, asking Wei Han to kowtow to them to apologize was poking at his sore spot. Even if this matter reached Zhao Yuan, with his short-temperedness, there was nothing to gain.

From the beginning, no one believed that Rourou and Qin Yu were telling the truth.

How could this world have wine that was better than Immortal Brew? And this wine could even be found outside the Central Desolate Divine Area? Of course that was not possible!

The Ask Immortal Building's shopkeeper laughed bitterly as he came to observe the commotion. He bowed respectfully towards Wei Han and said, "Sword Immortal Wei, when Ask Immortal Building opened its doors for business, we were most afraid of being dragged into fights like these. Could you give us some face and forget this whole matter today? As long as Sword Immortal Wei is willing to do so, we will erase all of the debts you owe us from last month."

More roars erupted this time as people chided the shopkeeper for trying to deny them a chance to watch a good show. There was even someone who threatened not to buy any more wine here if the shopkeeper continued to be a party pooper.

The shopkeeper pretended that he could not hear anything. You're just a bunch of alcoholics, do you really think that you would be able to resist our Immortal Brew? If you're that capable, then don't come and drink at our store anymore!

Chapter 1656 – Infinite Monastery's Old Daoist

Wei Han grimaced and drummed his fingers against the table, "Shopkeeper Liu, it's not that I'm not giving you face, but didn't you hear this brat say that she wants me to kowtow to her? This is not something that a month or two of alcohol fees can solve. You'd better just stand at the side and observe.

"Don't worry, no matter how big this matter becomes today, I, Wei Han, will take responsibility for all of it. I will not implicate the Ask Immortal Building. I am being very sincere right now. If you still regard me as a friend, then you should just sit down."

“Sword Immortal Wei, you’re awesome!”

“He even refused a whole month of alcohol charges, I am seriously impressed.”

“Tsk, tsk. It seems like there will be something big happening here today; quickly ask everyone to come over and watch the show!”

Wei Han scolded loudly, “Scram, all of you! I’m not here to put on a show for you.” At this moment, his face changed slightly. He put down his wine cup, got up, and cupped his hands, “Uncle, why are you here?”

The old daoist walked over calmly with a sword on his back. When everyone heard what Wei Han said, the commotion slowly died down.

“Wei Han, if you still remember to call me ‘uncle’, you will stop blowing this matter out of proportion now.”

Wei Han laughed bitterly.

The old daoist widened his eyes, “What? Are you going to debate this matter with me? Do you want me to sell the sword on my back and help you pay your alcohol bills?”

Having heard this, Shopkeeper Liu immediately stood up and cupped his hands, “Daoist Priest Chen, your words are too harsh! As long as Sword Immortal Wei is willing to let this matter rest, what I said before still stands.”

The old daoist smiled and nodded his head, “Shopkeeper Liu, you are indeed sensible. This old man thanks you for the generous offer!” He glared at Wei Han, “Aren’t you going to get down? Are you waiting for this old man to kneel down and beg you?”

Wei Han’s face became even uglier, “Uncle, I do not dare to disobey you, but you need to give me a reason why I can’t do this.”

The old daoist’s gaze landed on White Iris.

Wei Han also looked at her for a while before he sighed and nodded, “Never mind, since that’s the case, Uncle, you should ask this lady to take back what she said just now. If you can do that, I will stop right away.”

The old daoist humphed, “You are tactful, after all.”

Within the Ask Immortal Building, everyone was scolding internally in their hearts, ‘Where did this old daoist come from? He is spoiling everyone’s fun and he should be cut to pieces’. Of course, none of them dared to say it out loud, they merely thought it in their hearts.

The old daoist seemed to have realized this. He smiled and cupped his hands, “Infinite Monastery’s Priest Chen hereby apologizes for ruining everyone’s fun today. So sorry, so sorry!”

The moment he said the words ‘Infinite Monastery’, people’s faces started to change one by one. They did not dare to hold any opinions against him anymore. They merely forced a smile and praised Bodhisattva, none of them daring to show any disrespect.

This caused the smile on the old daoist's face to become even brighter, but when he looked at White Iris again, his heart started to skip a beat. This lady's expression remained unchanged even after learning that he was from Infinite Monastery. Are you telling me that you are not aware of our Infinite Monastery's reputation and status?

After bidding farewell to White Iris at the Jade Gate, the old daoist felt restless. Even after he returned to his residence, he felt uneasy. He sighed continuously for half a day and even drank some alcohol to drown his sorrows. Now that he had met her again, he felt both shocked and delighted. He immediately intervened and even revealed his identity to everyone to pressure Wei Han into lowering his head.

Initially, he thought that the young lady had changed her mind. However, it seemed that this was not the case at all. But since it had gotten to this stage already, of course he had to try again. The old daoist braced himself and put on a calm facade before walking to the table where Rourou, Qin Yu and White Iris were. He said, "Take back what you said earlier, and that will be the end of this matter. In the future, you should be more careful with your words when walking this world to prevent causing any trouble."

He turned his head, looked at White Iris, and smiled, "Lady, have you thought about it yet? The big gates of our Infinite Monastery are always open for you."

Hua –

Everyone was instantly taken aback. So this old daoist was here just to recruit a disciple. No wonder he intervened just now.

They were also secretly glad that they did not do anything bad earlier. If they had ruined the old daoist's chance to recruit this disciple, it would be equivalent to destroying his Great Dao inheritance, and this was a huge sin in the world of cultivation.

A disciple of Infinite Monastery!

All eyes were on White Iris now, and they were filled with envy and jealousy. Some of them were even in disbelief as they thought, 'This cannot be. The cultivator that Infinite Monastery had its eyes on was actually a female servant?'

White Iris shook her head.

It was straightforward, without any hesitation.

Instantly, everyone's envy was replaced with their chins dropping to the ground.

The old daoist could feel how determined White Iris was, so he was very upset. He suddenly felt that he truly could not recruit this disciple for his teacher. The more he thought about it, the more upset and heartbroken he was, and his face even turned pale.

His lips trembled and his voice was quivering as he said, "Are you really not going to consider my offer again? It's like what I said before, I can wait a few more days for your reply...if you think a few days is too short, I can also wait for a few years. As long as you're willing to reconsider, I will stay at Ask Immortal Building and wait for you to return."

This scene made everyone look at each other in disbelief. They wondered when Infinite Monastery became so desperate to recruit new disciples. Furthermore, it seemed like this female servant had already rejected the old daoist twice. She truly did not know what was good for her!

Old daoist, take a look at us. If it's too troublesome to recruit her, then look at me. I have the good qualifications to be your disciple. As long as you are willing to even look at me, I will immediately kneel to the ground and call you my master.

No, I'd be willing to even call you my ancestor!

Wei Han could not help but frown as he looked at Rourou, Qin Yu and White Iris. The drunkenness in his eyes was replaced with a cold gaze.

White Iris hesitated for a while before saying slowly, "You don't have to say any more. In this life, I will only follow at My Lady's side. I will not join anyone else."

The old daoist shivered and took a deep breath, "If that's the case...I guess everyone in this world has their own path. Since you have chosen to go down your path, as long as nothing goes wrong, you might one day be able to walk on a Heaving Crossing Great Dao path. Choosing not to join our Infinite Monastery might not be the wrong decision...in the future, if you reach a bottleneck, or if you have anything you do not understand, or if you need some help in breaking through, you can come and find me. Infinite Monastery will definitely help you."

White Iris pursed her lips and nodded her head.

She truly felt that this old daoist was a good man. Furthermore, she had a good impression of his Sword Dao which made him even more endearing to her.

However, compared to her lady, this was all not worth it and meant nothing. Therefore, what White Iris said just now came from the bottom of her heart.

The old daoist smiled and nodded, "That's good, that's good."

He was about to turn to leave when Rourou suddenly spoke, "What you said just now was true. There are an infinite number of paths laid out for us, and whichever path we chose to walk on does not make much of a difference...after all, ascending to the heavens is extremely difficult. There are billions of beings in this world, but how many can achieve that? In the end, most people reach a dead end, so there is no speaking of wrong decisions, whichever path they choose to walk on."

The old daoist frowned, feeling that these remarks were not in line with the kind of Daoism that he practiced, but after glancing at White Iris again, he merely nodded.

Rourou glanced sideways at Qin Yu, causing him to cough lightly. He stood up and cupped his hands, "Old daoist, please do not lower yourself for us juniors. To be able to hear your wise sayings today is an honor for us. We plucked this wine fruit from an unnamed tree, and we want to give this to you. Please take it."

Old daoist looked at Wei Han before looking at the wine fruit in Qin Yu's hand again. After thinking for a while, he nodded his head and said, "Then I will not stand on occasion!"

Qin Yu smiled and handed the wine fruit over with two hands.

Rourou had already gotten up and the three of them headed out. Wei Han wanted to say something but was stopped by the old daoist's glare. He lowered his head but there was still a dignified expression in his eyes.

Rourou, Qin Yu and White Iris went downstairs, exited the building, and walked far into the distance.

Wei Han coughed lightly, "Uncle, even though they gave you that, it was me who lost face...cough, I deserve some of that too."

The old daoist scoffed, and then he turned away and left.

Wei Han could only laugh bitterly.

In Ask Immortal Building, boos suddenly sounded, causing Sword Immortal Wei to jokingly chide everyone while they continued to scream vulgarities. Then, Wei Han left the building as well.

Shopkeeper Liu looked like he was pondering about something as he watched the old daoist leave. Then, with a smile, he apologized to everyone and turned to leave together with them.

After a few moments, outside the old daoist's room, Wei Han frowned and looked at Shopkeeper Liu who was beside him, smiling. He had an unhappy expression on his face as he said, "Shopkeeper Liu, why did you follow me here?"

Shopkeeper Liu's smile did not waver as he replied, "Sword Immortal Wei, what are you talking about? This is the inn behind my Ask Immortal Building. As the shopkeeper, why can't I be here? Furthermore, Priest Chen is an honored guest of Ask Immortal Building. After going through so many disturbances today, personally coming to his room to apologize is the right etiquette to have."

Wei Han merely scoffed.

At this moment, the courtyard door opened from the inside. The old daoist was expressionless as he remarked, "If I do not open the door, will the both of you be quarreling here until the sun comes up?"

Wei Han hurriedly shook his head.

Shopkeeper Liu continued to smile but did not say anything.

They had different demeanors now, but they both wanted the same thing.

The old daoist was having a massive headache. He huffed and waved his sleeves before walking away. Wei Han quickly followed behind him and Shopkeeper Liu also caught up at the back. Without any urgency, he closed the doors behind him.

In the room, the old daoist turned around and sat down. In front of him on the table was the wine fruit that was given to him by Qin Yu. The moment it touched his hands, he could tell that it was extraordinary. He took it back to his room, examined it carefully, and discovered something.

He allowed Wei Han to come because he indeed was involved in this matter. It was only because of Wei Han that he managed to get this wine fruit.

As for Ask Immortal Building's Shopkeeper Liu, it was no exaggeration to say that the 'wine demon' had manifested. His sense of smell was better than anyone else's. It was difficult to keep this wine fruit all to

himself in Shopkeeper Liu's territory. Since the shopkeeper already had his eye on the wine fruit, and previously, had also treated the old daoist many jars of Immortal Brew, the old daoist decided to close an eye.

Of course, with such fine quality of this wine fruit, there were more reasons than these for the old daoist to let Shopkeeper Liu walk into his house to enjoy it with him.

Wei Han spoke, "Uncle, this fruit looks very ordinary. There could be something else inside it though; why don't you open it and take a look?"

Shopkeeper Liu turned his hand over and a jade knife appeared. "This jade knife is used by a chef in our Ask Immortal Building to cut open immortal fruits. It is extremely sharp, and because of its characteristics, it will not be contaminated, so it will not damage the effectiveness of the wine fruit."

The old daoist waved his hand.

Shopkeeper Liu smiled victoriously and turned around to hand the jade knife over. Of course he was not going to cut open the fruit himself. He was sensible enough to know how to act appropriately.

Wei Han took the jade knife and delicately sliced the wine fruit with it.

Pa-da –

The jade knife directly fell to the ground. Sadly, this precious item was very fragile and instantly shattered into pieces.

But Shopkeeper Liu did not have the capacity to think about how his chef would feel after his beloved item was destroyed. His face slightly reddened and was full of bewilderment, "Immortal Brew, this is the true Immortal Brew..."

The old daoist picked up the pieces of wine fruit and lowered his head to examine them. Then, there was shock and realization on his face. This is really the true Immortal Brew.

After a few moments, Wei Han and Shopkeeper Liu took their leave silently. Before they left, Shopkeeper Liu said, "I will definitely not tell anyone about this."

The corners of Wei Han's lips twitched and he asked, "What about my alcohol bills?"

Shopkeeper Liu, "I'll waive them all."

Wei Han cupped his hands and quickly left.

Shopkeeper Liu took a long sigh. In his hands was a tightly-clutched piece of wine fruit. What does an alcoholic's debt matter? Getting my hands on this piece of wine fruit is ten times, no, a hundred times more valuable!

Chapter 1657A – Chess Piece

This time, when Rourou, Qin Yu and White Iris left Ask Immortal Building, they did not go somewhere that was too far away. Rourou casually pointed at an inn, and White Iris took the initiative to handle their accommodation matters.

Rourou was still in a bad mood.

However, intuition told Qin Yu that Rourou's mood had nothing to do with what had just happened. She did not even pay attention to Wei Han who made rude remarks towards her earlier.

The root of the problem seemed to have appeared at the moment she stepped into the Central Desolate. Could it be that revisiting an old place had reminded her of some bad memories?

After all, regarding what happened at Ask Immortal Building, Qin Yu was not blind and could tell that Rourou was somehow connected to that building.

Especially the part where she said that "The wine served here is just named after the true Immortal Brew." Since she said that, it naturally meant that she had drunk the true Immortal Brew before.

Big truths were hidden within small details – Qin Yu was well aware of this logic. Especially when it came to Rourou; every movement she made had a deeper meaning to it and all the more he would not overlook them.

After going to their separate rooms, Qin Yu gave a long sigh and retracted all his thoughts. He closed his eyes and started to cultivate. Inside the Jade Gate, there was an abundant amount of spiritual energy. It was a top-grade sacred place for cultivation. Wasting even a breath of time was considered to be a shame.

However, as of now, there were some people who could not be bothered about cultivation because their thoughts were in a mess.

For example, that young master from the Yang Family who had fallen from the sky. After chasing away the women around him, Yang Fanshan still felt unhappy inside.

He did not have much faith in the Yang Family, whether it was in East Pole County or in the East Border Army's marshal tent. He was quite hopeless about his trip to the Central Desolate Divine Area this time. Furthermore, he had seen a strand of hope but lost it so quickly, which made him feel even more despair.

Now, Yang Fanshan had two options.

He could proceed step by step and continue to fight for his life. If he succeeded this time, he could gain a firm foothold in the Yang Family. In the future, if anyone tried to harm him, he would not be as powerless to retaliate as he was now.

However, in actual fact, the chances of him succeeding were very low. They were so low that Yang Fanshan could not help but constantly think about his second option...escape!

The skinny old man with a goatee served the Yang Family. In this period of time, Yang Fanshan could tell that he was a cautious person and was very careful in dealing with various matters. If Yang Fanshan tried to escape, this old servant would probably stop him, but at most, he would be doing it for show.

Yang Fanshan had not yet quelled the anger in his heart when that woman was chased away previously, but he wanted to take this opportunity to also reduce the difficulty of getting out of this situation unscathed in the future. However, if he chose to escape, he would forever lose his status of being part of the Yang Family. He would be reduced to a wandering ghost in the Central Desolate.

There was a higher chance of staying alive with the second option, but living like this betrayed what he once told his mother who had died of illness when he was still young. He knelt to her and swore that he would one day return to the Yang Family with dignity and move her grave to the Yang Family's ancestral land.

His heart was full of anxiety.

At the same time, there was another person who was feeling frustration in his heart – Wei Han. He used to be an arrogant man from a great sect, and now he was just a miserable swordsman that worked in the military. He lay on the bed with his eyes open while his body was still.

Though he looked calm on the exterior, it felt like there was a storm cooking up in his chest.

There were many things that happened back in those years, and he did not forget a single one of them.

But, so what if he remembered them? His Origin Sword Dao was already broken, so he was doomed to be in this miserable state for the rest of his life. As Great General Zhao Yuan's subordinate, he became a swordsman who fought for his life on the battlefield. He did not know when he would die and become a ghost who haunted the battlefield.

However, today, Wei Han's heart, which had been silent for so long to the point that it was almost dried up, started to beat excitedly again. He began to harbor some thoughts that he used to have a long time ago.

Wei Han was not sure if he could succeed, but if he did not even give it a shot, then he truly had zero chance of succeeding.

Taking a deep breath and letting it out, Wei Han flipped over and got up. He walked out in big strides. He had been kicked to the dirt and had been rolling in it for quite some time. So what if he put it all on the line again? Even if he failed, at most, he would be losing his life.

Not long after Wei Han stepped out of the door, he was stopped by the third person who had not yet fallen asleep – Infinite Monastery's Priest Chen.

He looked at Wei Han with a calm expression, "What are you going to do?"

Wei Han cupped his hands, "Uncle, I've done many things against my will during all these years in the military. Kneeling and begging someone is not a difficult thing for me to do."

Priest Chen nodded his head, "You are tactful and sensible not to have any other thoughts, otherwise I would have to kill you today to prevent any trouble from happening to my Infinite Monastery."

Wei Han laughed bitterly and thought to himself, 'Even if you really think that way, you don't have to say it as it is out loud. Can't you be more gentle with your words?'

"Hmph!" Priest Chen scoffed, "I'm being straightforward now to give you a reminder that your guesses were right, so whether you had other thoughts or not, you'd better retract all of them! You can go kneel and beg, play the victim; you can do whatever you want as long as you do not die."

After pondering for a while, Priest Chen looked at Wei Han again and said, "Furthermore, I believe that you still have some fate with that lady. Otherwise, Ask Immortal Building would not waste any more time on you and would have just thrown out a wine fruit to make you completely lose face."

Wei Han respectfully replied, "Thank you Uncle for enlightening me."

Priest Chen raised his hand to touch his hair and released a long sigh, "I can come over here to give you some reminders, but who can help me? What a great seedling, if she joined Infinite Monastery, she would be famous in the Central Desolate in the future."

"What a pity, what a shame...what an upsetting situation!" He turned to leave, his back hunched forward in despair. His face was full of wrinkles, and he looked extremely miserable.

In the inn, White Iris closed her eyes to cultivate. Her face was slightly pale and her forehead was covered in fine beads of sweat. Back then, Great Shaman Mengshan sent her thousands of miles away, past the Barbarian Clan's Traverse Mountains, to enter the West Desolate's Imperial Capital to get some help. Naturally, it was because she had a chronic illness.

This chronic illness had now integrated with her own Sword Dao and could break out at any time, which would result in her death. She felt that the old daoist from Infinite Monastery was not only a good person, but also that she was close to him in some way.

More accurately, she had this feeling that if she could enter Infinite Monastery and learn the old daoist's Sword Dao, she could be healed of her chronic illness. She could even turn this crisis into an opportunity to improve her Sword Dao and finally go on to become a celestial being.

However, White Iris still chose to reject him because of what she said earlier. If the cost of being healed of her chronic illness meant leaving the lady, she would rather not do it.

In the other room, Rourou drank a sip of her tea. She turned to look in the direction of White Iris' room and a cold smile appeared on the corner of her lips.

What a stupid woman!

Indeed, that woman is only capable of learning some small tricks, but when it comes to true wisdom, she has none. However, rejecting Infinite Monastery was the right thing to do. Even though White Iris had fate with them, it was not the right time yet.

Taking it slow and suffering for a little while longer would be good for everyone.

However, she would still have to go to Infinite Monastery eventually. What was the point of keeping her around? She was not just an eyesore, she was useless. Throwing her out to harden her might be a good thing. If Rourou got lucky, White Iris would be a useful chess piece to her in the future.

Chapter 1657B – Chess Piece

Rourou was indeed tired. Ever since she entered the Central Desolate Divine Area, she felt terrible. She was constantly being suppressed and restricted, as if she was carrying a huge mountain on her back. With every step she took she had to be extra careful to avoid leaking her aura. Otherwise, if someone found out about her identity, it would be a catastrophe.

She was not scared for her own safety. At most, she could just return home to seek refuge, but where could Qin Yu go? He would definitely be captured...and he would end up with a very tragic outcome.

It was why Rourou was in a foul mood and even looking at Qin Yu made her unhappy. Therefore, strictly speaking, she had a reason for throwing a tantrum.

It was already late into the night, but Rourou was not sleeping yet because she was waiting for someone. Unless that brat was extremely dumb, he would be able to taste what it really was. If he did not come, then she would consider it a lapse of judgment on her part and the fate between White Iris and Infinite Monastery would have to be delayed even longer.

Right at this moment as Rourou put down the teacup, the corners of her lips turned up.

A few breaths later, there was a knock on the door. "Wei Han requests an audience with the lady."

The door to the room was opened and Rourou was sitting very still, "Sword Immortal Wei, the hour is late. Did you come here to seek your revenge?"

Wei Han removed the longsword from his back and put it at the side. Then, he directly knelt on the ground. 'Dong! Dong! Dong!' He kowtowed three times.

Each sound was loud as the ground trembled together with it.

Raising his head, his forehead now looked red and swollen. His tone was respectful as he said, "Wei Han was being disrespectful earlier, so I specially came to kowtow and apologize to the lady."

Rourou pointed at the door and said, "Since you've finished kowtowing, if there's nothing else, please leave, Sword Immortal Wei."

Dong! Dong! Dong!

Wei Han kowtowed thrice again and exclaimed, "Lady, I have revenge that I have not exacted yet. Please help me restart my cultivation journey. When I have finished taking revenge, my life will be at your disposal!"

Rourou knocked her fingers lightly on the table, "And what if I do not want to do that?"

Wei Han, who was still knelt on the ground, replied respectfully, "I will get up and leave right now, and then come back tomorrow."

Rourou humphed, "You're not dumb after all. Otherwise, even if you kowtowed until you broke your skull, I still would not take a second look at you."

Wei Han was overjoyed and his face was full of excitement and delight. Yet, he did not dare to show too much happiness as he kowtowed once more respectfully.

"To you Central Desolate swordsmen, destroying your Origin Sword Dao is as good as ruining your fundamentals and breaking your Great Dao. However, to me, that's not a hard thing to fix...I can save you, but according to my terms. From today onwards, you are my chess piece.

“If I ask you to kill someone, you will kill that person without any questions. Even if I ask you not to kill your enemy even if he was in front of you, you have to bear with it and not let your feelings show. Of course, I promise you that you will eventually get what you want and you will get your revenge.”

Without any hesitation, Wei Han agreed, “This subordinate is willing to...no, from this moment on, I am just a vicious dog that is by the lady’s side. I will only listen to your orders.”

Rourou scoffed, “I just said that you were smart, but in the blink of an eye you became dumb again. You must listen to what I say, but you must also listen to what Qin Yu says, do you understand?”

She waved her hand, “As for being a dog, you’re a bit late. I have already raised a dog by my side. Coincidentally, he is also a swordsman. I don’t like having too many dogs – just one is enough for me – so you can just put your mind at ease and be an obedient chess piece to me, do you understand?”

Wei Han kowtowed once more, “Yes.”

Rourou raised her hand and placed a finger in between Wei Han’s eyebrows. He groaned and his face instantly became pale. A broken sword illusion appeared above his head. Rourou reached out and grabbed the broken end of the blade and the rest of the sword started to shake violently.

Wei Han’s body started to tremble as well and his face looked completely drained of blood. Cracking sounds were produced and countless wounds appeared on his body.

Fresh blood oozed from these wounds and in just a moment, he was completely dyed red.

At this moment, the broken sword started to mend itself. A few breaths later, it became a complete longsword, but the upper half of it looked slightly illusory.

Rourou retracted her hand and Wei Han fell to the ground with a ‘pu-tong’ sound. He gasped for air and his body was still twitching uncontrollably. However, at this moment, his eyes widened and they were full of ecstasy.

How many years had it been since he went through that trial years ago where his Origin Sword Dao was broken? He had not felt his sword intent circulating in his body for a long time. Even though this Sword Dao was completely unfamiliar to him, it was profound like a Heaven Crossing Great Dao that led to the clouds.

“Your Sword Dao was already broken and there was no way to achieve even greater heights with that, so I gave you a new Sword Dao. However, there are some shortcomings to this method. Even though there will be no obstacles ahead of you in the future, by right, if you are willing to endure hardships, you will be able to improve quickly. However, I have already predetermined that your new Sword Dao will not be able to improve in this life.”

Wei Han struggled to get up to a kneeling position as he kowtowed and said, “Wei Han is content with this outcome, thank you so much, My Lady!”

Rourou waved her hand, and Wei Han turned around and left hurriedly.

The door to her room closed by itself and all the traces of blood on the floor disappeared, as if a huge invisible hand had wiped them away.

Rourou rubbed her temples and there was a tiredness in her eyes that she could not hide. She got up and staggered to her bed. The moment her head hit the pillow, she fell into a deep sleep.

Qin Yu stood outside her door and was listening to her slow breaths. He raised his eyebrows slightly, looking worried and uneasy.

When Wei Han came to Rourou's room, Qin Yu had already realized that it had nothing to do with cultivation, but a large gap in cultivation realm. The Nine Bends Heaven Crossing Great Dao not only gave Qin Yu a stronger future, but also a shocking perception ability.

The World's Net was always there; as long as he focused on it, no one below the King realm could hide from him.

Creak –

Another door at the side was pushed open and White Iris walked out. With a calm expression, she looked at Qin Yu and said blandly, "Marquis, you can go and cultivate. I will stand guard outside the lady's room."

No one was a fool here. Naturally, they know how each other truly felt and if this was the case, what was the point of concealing their feelings?

Qin Yu was not sure about White Iris, but he had no doubt about her loyalty to Rourou. Therefore, after ensuring that Rourou had only fallen asleep and that nothing else was wrong apart from her weak aura, he turned around and left.

White Iris watched as Qin Yu left. Then, she opened the door and entered the room. When she looked at the lady who had fallen asleep, her gaze softened. After thinking about it, she still did not dare to get too close to Rourou, so she just sat cross-legged outside the room.

On the second day, Rourou got up really late. When she saw White Iris outside her room, her eyes turned cold.

"Lady, you're awake," White Iris greeted respectfully.

Rourou asked, "Did Qin Yu come by last night?"

White Iris replied, "Yes, the Marquis examined your aura carefully and went back to his room to cultivate after making sure that there were no problems."

Rourou looked at her for a while before saying, "Do you really not want to go to Infinite Monastery?"

White Iris nodded her head, "This servant only wishes to follow by Lady's side in this life and does not dare to have other thoughts."

Rourou scoffed, "So I should continue keeping you by my side, and when you can no longer suppress the explosive sword energy in your body, you want me to die together with you?"

White Iris took a deep breath and said, "This servant would rather descend to hell without having a chance at reincarnation than hurt the lady."

“Hmph, idiot!” Rourou’s eyes were cold, “You really think that your implosion could hurt me at all? You are still my servant; if you die like that, what do I stand to gain?”

“Go to Infinite Monastery, follow that old daoist, and cultivate a Sword Dao properly. When you’ve reached the Celestial threshold, then you can come back.”

Chapter 1658A – Demon Pool

White Iris’ mouth gaped slightly before she knelt on the ground and kowtowed to Rourou, “Yes.”

The corners of Rourou’s lips turned up before she remarked, “You’ve indeed learned some clever tricks. Okay, get lost then!”

She raised her hand and plunged a Half Sword Shadow into White Iris’ body.

White Iris groaned and started to cough up big mouthfuls of blood. However, her eyes became even brighter.

Indeed, the lady is fierce to me, but she still regards me highly in her heart. Otherwise, she would not have given me half a Sword Dao to suppress the illness in my body.

There was a look of disgust on Rourou’s face and she slapped outwards. White Iris directly flew back and landed heavily outside the doorway.

Qin Yu stopped in his tracks when he saw the scene in front of him. It was not right to go over now, but it would be even worse to just turn and leave.

However, it was as if White Iris did not feel embarrassed at all as she got up, looked at him, and said blandly, “I’m leaving now.”

Qin Yu was slightly taken aback before there was a look of realization on his face. He cupped his hands and said, “Congratulations.”

White Iris was expressionless as she continued, “When I’m not around, you have to take care of the lady. If anything happens to her, I will make sure you die together with me.”

She was not sure that she could kill Qin Yu now, but if she wanted both of them to die together, that wouldn’t be hard.

In the room, Rourou’s cold laughter rang out, “White Iris, if you have a death wish, you don’t have to go anymore.”

White Iris bowed respectfully before turning around to leave, disappearing from their sight.

Qin Yu touched his nose and thought to himself, ‘Do whatever you guys want, but don’t drag me into it.’

It’s unfair, really unfair!

“Qin Yu!”

Rourou’s voice was full of anger and annoyance.

Qin Yu coughed lightly before plastering a calm expression on his face and entering the room, "I just came to check up on your condition and also to ask you when we are leaving."

Rourou had a dangerous look in her eyes as she glared at Qin Yu for a few moments. Thankfully, he was good at concealing his emotions now, so Rourou did not flare up at him.

"Hmph!"

She got up and directly walked out, using her actions to reply to his question.

.....

Priest Chen from Infinite Monastery had been awake all night drowning his sorrows with wine. When he saw White Iris arrive before him, he froze on the spot.

"There is something that I have to clarify with you. In this life, I will only be My Lady's servant. After learning your Sword Dao, I will return to My Lady. If you are willing to accept this, I will follow you back to Infinite Monastery."

Priest Chen was so elated he was on the verge of tears.

As long as you are willing to follow me back to Infinite Monastery to inherit this Sword Dao, whatever you say goes, I do not have any opinion!

Then, in Ask Immortal Building, the old daoist who had accumulated a ton of alcohol bills left behind a note that said, 'Let the shopkeeper pay for my bill'. Next, he took his new precious disciple to board a carriage and they left the Jade Gate.

The servers in Ask Immortal Building did not stop him either. Because of some undisclosed matters that they were unaware of, Shopkeeper Liu had given them orders not to get in the way of this old daoist from Infinite Monastery.

It was a long journey and the old daoist personally sped the carriage up. Strands of Sword Dao aura floated inside the carriage, and he could not help but take a sip of wine as he smiled happily.

Teacher, your disciple Chen Chuan has not let you down. I've finally found someone who is worthy to inherit your mantle!

.....

The Jade Gate was huge, so huge that within it, there were three mountains and six rivers, and the land was split into an inner area and an outer area...to explain it simply, East Pole Mountain that was situated at the West Desolate's border was just a small mountain that originated from the mountain range that belonged to the Central Desolate's inner area.

West City, Bull Fighting Mountain, and Star Picking Mountain were the names of the three mountains within the Jade Gate. That was also their order from west to east, and now, Qin Yu and Rourou were traversing Bull Fighting Mountain.

That's right, they were making their journey step by step. Qin Yu asked for the reason why they had to do this, but Rourou merely scoffed and said that he did not need to understand.

Indeed, Rourou had a specialty of suffocating people; I am willing to bow down to admit that!

Bull Fighting Mountain was also known as Fighting Bull Mountain. According to legends, long ago, there was a great demon that cultivated deep in this mountain. Because of its cultivation process, the earth in a thousand-mile radius collapsed, which formed a shape that looked like a bull had been flipped over.

Another great cultivator came to this place, and, using the power of celestials, he subdued this great demon. The demon's body was shattered and refined into an earth vein. The collapsed ground was also repaired and the spiritual aura was reaccumulated.

Afterwards, this place was chosen for the Jade Gate to be built on because of the stable earth vein that was formed here after the great demon was refined.

Otherwise, if the Jade Gate was built on ordinary land, the ground would not be able to endure the weight. Ordinary land would just collapse into itself and form a deep abyss.

Now, as Rourou walked on the mountain, the great demon's soul resonated from deep within it.

An illusion of a huge bull flickered where red and yellow earth veins were intertwined with each other. In its eyes, there was shock, fear, agitation, and disbelief.

As they moved forward, even though they chose not to fly, they had foot strength that was much better than an ordinary person's and Bull Fighting Mountain was not a very dangerous place either. It only took them two hours to reach the peak.

Rourou frowned and there was some impatience on her face as she suddenly laughed coldly, "You'd better think carefully. If you don't come out now, you can forget about coming out forever!"

Right when Qin Yu frowned and felt slightly fearful in his heart, the ground started to shake. A huge bull that had a sturdy and strong body with shiny fur suddenly leaped out. Its front hooves fell to the ground as it knelt down. It lowered its head respectfully and greeted, "This little demon greets the two immortals!"

Its mouth was not moving, but its words could clearly be heard.

Qin Yu did not think there was indeed a huge bull that hid underneath Bul Fighting Mountain. After looking it up and down for a while, he realized something.

This bull looked like its true body was here, but it was actually formed from the condensation of energy. In essence, this was a Great Bull Demon's soul.

It was very strong.

It was a pity that back then, Qin Yu did not know that the Nine-tailed Fox that hid at the Min Residence had been killed. Otherwise, he would have realized that this bull was truly a great demon that was much stronger than the Nine-tailed Fox, who had not been so lucky to advance to the next realm.

Of course, the difference in these two demons' strength had no significance to Rourou. Even though she was quite different to how she was last time, all the demons in this world still did not dare to bare their teeth at her.

Otherwise, Min Changjing, who had moved from the West Desolate's Imperial Capital to the Thousand Islands, would not have been angered repeatedly or hesitated repeatedly and still ended up bowing his head in defeat.

Rourou looked at Big Bull with a seemingly innocent gaze, but to the bull, the gaze felt heavier than the mountain beneath it.

Its four legs grew weak and it directly crouched on the floor. Then, its body started to tremble.

Rourou frowned, thinking to herself that the demons in this world had become more cowardly, and that it was not like this in the past. However, their level of boldness did not really impact her in taking what she wanted.

"Bull, being able to meet me today is your great fortune. As long as you are willing to give me a Demon Elixir from your body, I will throw you into the Demon Pool. Your spiritual wisdom will not be extinguished and you will be able to reincarnate."

Big Bull was extremely thankful as it continuously nodded its head, "Much thanks, Immortal. This little demon is willing!"

All rumors in this world stemmed from an actual truth. However, the hateful Great Qin cultivators distorted the key parts of the story. Back then, it was clearly the Qin Empire who wanted to build the Jade Gate here, which was why they used methods to force Big Bull out of the ground. This caused it to be flipped and collapse the ground around it.

Then, they used that as an excuse to kill it. They broke down its flesh and integrated it with the ground, and then refined its soul into an earth vein to stabilize the surrounding mountains and rivers so that it could bear the weight of the Jade Gate.

Chapter 1658B – Demon Pool

Now, Big Bull's soul was fused with the earth vein. It had been this way since ancient times, and though Big Bull seemed to be immortal because of this, it was actually constantly suffering from the pain of being crushed by the mountain.

Unless the Jade Gate fell, Big Bull was doomed to be an eternal prisoner! It did not want to endure another day of this painful suffering and torment, so it agreed to Rourou's request so quickly.

Of course, Rourou had a reason for stating her promise...reincarnating from the Demon Pool was something that only the most powerful great demons had the qualifications to do. To be able to retain one's spiritual wisdom and one's soul completely to ensure that they had double the power in their next life also required the luck of the Demon Clan's bloodline.

As for why this great demon, who had lived underneath Bull Fighting Mountain for countless years, had believed Rourou's words straightaway...it was because of some other secret reasons. Big Bull had already detected her presence the moment she stepped into the mountain.

She lifted her hand, and Big Bull, who was standing in front of her, suddenly shattered and dissipated with a pop! A perfectly round elixir that was gold in color started to form and eventually landed in her hands.

Rourou looked down at it with a satisfied look on her face. She nodded her head and tossed it straight into her mouth.

Crunch –

It felt like she was casually eating a sweet.

The corners of Qin Yu's mouth twitched. This brutal scene that he just witnessed felt extremely outrageous. That was it? You ate Big Bull's elixir, what about the promise that you made to it just now?

Gu-dong –

Rourou swallowed the elixir and licked her lips, seemingly feeling that the taste of the elixir was not bad. She reached out to grab Qin Yu and stepped forward. In an instant, both their silhouettes disappeared.

When they reappeared, they were now outside of the three mountains. Qin Yu gasped for breath as he turned his head to look behind him. He could vaguely see a tall and majestic mountain that rose beyond the clouds.

Star Picking Mountain!

This teleportation had shifted them across a shocking distance, past an entire mountain. With Qin Yu's physique, his chest felt like it was tumbling back and forth and his face paled.

Rourou looked at him, "What? After stealing and eating some of my food, you still want to take your time and wait for people to come and chase after you?" She scoffed after saying these words; it seemed like she was now in a much better mood.

After eating this great demon's elixir that was integrated with the earth vein for millions of years, she was now contaminated by the earth vein as well. This could help her better hide her aura and she did not need to be as cautious like before.

Therefore, Rourou was able to bring Qin Yu with her and teleport to this place using a teleportation Divine Way.

Before now, she definitely would not have been able to do this.

Qin Yu thought for a while before asking, "And what about that Big Bull?"

"It was stupid so it got eaten by me; is that my fault?"

How bold and overbearing.

Qin Yu rubbed his temples, "I just think that you didn't seem like you were lying to it."

"Hmph! Prince Qin, I'm afraid you have not heard of the saying that goes, 'The prettier a woman is, the more her words are not to be trusted'."

Qin Yu coughed lightly, "Of course Lady Rourou is incomparably beautiful, but I definitely think that you are an exception."

Rourou rolled her eyes, "Boot-licker!" Turning around to leave, she added in a small voice, "Before I ate the elixir, I had already sent its soul away. However, it's not that easy to enter the Demon Pool. Whether or not it is able to successfully reincarnate depends on its own luck."

A smile formed on Qin Yu's face.

After passing through three mountains, there was still a river in front of them. Once they had gotten across this river, they would have left the Jade Gate realm and would have officially stepped through the Central Desolate Divine Area's borders.

In this boundless world, there were countless powerful people. The Great Desolate held the broadest and most boundless world...we are coming!

.....

Even though the Demon Clan was no longer as bountiful now as compared to their ancestors, their lineage had been passed down for so many years. Foundation was something that was not lacking.

The Demon Pool was the most important foundation to the Demon Clan. No one knew the origins of the Demon Pool. It seemed that ever since the Demon Clan was born, it had already existed.

As long as the demons of this world cultivated to the Major Demon realm, they would have a small chance of reincarnation in the Demon Pool after they died. Their flesh would condense and they would be reborn.

If their soul was complete and their spiritual wisdom intact, they would achieve an even greater aptitude for cultivation.

Of course, this 'small chance of reincarnation' was indeed very small. It was estimated that only one lucky Major Demon out of seven or eight hundred could be reborn.

Apart from this, they had two other options. Either one was so powerful that one could accumulate the Demon Clan's luck, or one had to come from a very powerful background with someone who could be one's backer.

Today at the Demon Pool, the waves were rolling viciously as a huge amount of Demon Clan luck accumulated. Flesh was condensing to form a minor demon.

The eyes of the demons who were guarding the Demon Pool lit up at the same time. They looked delighted because this meant that ten years later following the birth of this minor demon, the Demon Clan would have another important pillar. In the future, as long as this demon did not die halfway, it would become a shockingly powerful being.

However, there was one thing that made the great demons feel perplexed. The Desolate Area has been peaceful lately; there was no news of any great demons dying. Could it be that one of the elders who were in closed-door cultivation had failed to advance to the next realm?

Countless eyes concentrated on the Demon Pool as the egg containing the minor demon gradually stabilized. As their vision penetrated the egg's outer shell, they could vaguely make out the silhouette of the being inside the egg. It was...a small bull?

Whoosh –

A figure suddenly appeared above the Demon Pool. She had green hair, wore green robes, and her beauty was unparalleled. Her eyes were calm as she looked at the newborn egg.

“Greetings, Green Goddess!”

All the great demons that were present bowed politely and respectfully.

There were a few gazes that were fiery and full of admiration, but they were immediately concealed cleanly for fear of offending this legendary figure of the Demon Clan. They might be directly chased out of the Demon Pool and lose their luck at cultivation and even worse, they might lose all chances to ever see the Green Goddess’ beauty in their entire life.

The Green Goddess waved her hands to let all the great demons get up from their bowing position. She focused her gaze on the Demon Pool and raised her eyebrows.

One great demon took in a deep breath before walking forward and cupping its hands, “Green Goddess, is there something wrong?” Reincarnation that happened at the Demon Pool was still a key sign of the continuation of Demon Clan’s luck, but there were some mistakes that had occurred before.

Many years ago, there was a human who cultivated using the Demon Clan’s methods. No one knew what kind of twisted methods they used, but they had really substituted their body for another great demon, and using this shell of a body, they successfully entered the Demon Pool to reincarnate.

Thankfully, this was discovered by the Green Goddess. Before this demon cultivator could steal any of the Demon Pool’s origins, he was directly killed by lightning.

The other great demons had a heavy expression on their faces.

Green Goddess hesitated for a while before she slowly shook her head, “There’s nothing wrong, it is indeed a great demon from our Demon Clan that underwent reincarnation.”

What was strange to her was that even though this bull demon had the power of a great demon, it was clearly not qualified enough to reincarnate in the Demon Pool.

Obviously, someone had opened the back door for it. What was even stranger is that as the guardian of this Demon Pool, she had not managed to find anything abnormal about it.

In my Demon Clan, who exactly could be powerful enough to do this? Her eyes appeared to be in deep thought.

.....

The mountain road twists around each new peak, and an opportunity has come unexpectedly. The willow tree provides shade but the flowers give the light; there is light at the end of the tunnel. As the saying goes, ‘the heavens never blocks one’s way’...never give up hope!

A sorrowful Yang Fanshan, who chose not to pick the second option of escaping, was about to step out of the Jade Gate realm when suddenly, he saw the two saviors of his life.

He was so delighted that he was on the verge of crying!

As he wiped his tears, he took big strides forward for fear that these two people would disappear if he was any slower.

“Your Honor Qin Yu, My Lady, we meet again!”

Chapter 1659A – Ferry

The skinny old man with a goatee was a servant for the Yang Family, and his name was Jin Shen. At this moment, his eyes were slightly widened as he watched Yang Fanshan leaping forward, which made him stop in his tracks.

As a veteran of the martial arts world, he had countless experiences, and his past experiences told him that such coincidences did not happen in this world. It must have been intentional, and there must be another reason behind this.

If that was the case, then why did those people, who were resting underneath the pavilion ahead, come here?

Jin Shen did not know the reason why, but there was now some uneasiness in his heart.

Right now, he was already considering the option of leaving his role as a servant to the Yang Family and turning around to escape.

But right at this moment, Yang Fanshan’s voice seemed to have gotten that Lady’s attention. She looked over with an expressionless face and her seemingly normal gaze swept over Jin Shen’s body.

Jin Shen lowered his head and fine beads of sweat instantly formed on his forehead. He no longer dared to have any hesitation as he quickly caught up with Yang Fanshan.

I shall resign to my fate and not think about escaping anymore. Otherwise, I have no doubts that I would die the moment I turn around.

Yang Fanshan entered the pavilion and calmed his breathing before saying, “Your Honor Qin Yu, I would like to make a deal with you and your wife.”

He was so afraid that he did not want to wait for another moment!

They were about to leave the Jade Gate Realm when Rourou suddenly said that she was tired. She pointed at this pavilion and they took a seat for a while before they met Yang Fanshan.

She looked over at Qin Yu with a calm expression. She was not worried at all, since she knew that his acting skills were not bad. He did not know what ideas Rourou had, but he could guess that it had something to do with the deal that Yang Fanshan wanted to make with them, so he rose up and cupped his hands, “Young Master Yang, since we had the fate to meet again, why don’t you let us know what deal you want to make with us?”

The old servant that was standing outside the pavilion carefully glanced at the three people inside it. Internally, he sighed to himself and thought, ‘Yang Fanshan seems to be quite a clever person normally, why would he be so stupid today? What a damned deal, others just wait for the right opportunity, but here you are taking the initiative to die.’

The moment he started this topic, there was no more going back. Whether Jin Shen and Yang Fanshan met with good or bad luck, lived or died, only depended on their fortunes.

Of course, these were all just thoughts in Jin Shen's head. He did not dare to show anything on his face and this was one of the most important survival strategies that he had learned in the martial arts world.

Whether or not they could turn over in a dire situation or die without a body to be buried depended on Yang Fanshan's next few words!

He took a deep breath and said, "Your Honor, Qin Yu, my Lady, to tell you both the truth, I am here on my family's orders to enter Central Desolate to finish a deal that was made between the Yang Family and a certain powerful individual from Central Desolate. As for the specifics of this deal, I am not sure what they are either, I definitely do not dare to hide anything from both of you. I hope both of you do not mind."

He flipped his hand over to reveal a jade pass. It looked like it had been buried underground for many years and the soil had seeped into it. Its surface was yellow and green and it looked very unassuming.

Qin Yu frowned slightly. If it were not for the fact that Yang Fanshan was so serious about the matter and how there was unwillingness in the depths of his eyes, Qin Yu would have felt that this Young Master Yang was cracking jokes with them.

This was because this jade pass was indeed very ordinary. There was nothing abnormal about it at all... At least, that was the case in his eyes.

Rourou suddenly spoke, "We'll agree to your deal."

Yang Fanshan was overjoyed. "Thank you, my Lady. Thank you, Your Honor Qin Yu!"

Outside the pavilion, the old servant was expressionless, but his heart was full of despair.

A piece of broken jade pass could actually convince these two mysterious and unfathomable people? This is definitely strange!

Sigh, if he knew what was going to happen today, back then at the outer area of the Jade Gate, he would have learned a lesson or two from that woman. It was better to be expelled and have big troubles later on than to go through what was happening now.

As they gathered together, this team of four continued on their journey.

According to Yang Fanshan, they had to go to this place known as Many Pagoda Mountain and find a special Pagoda Keeper. Members of the Yang Family had their own method to identify this person. As long as they met him, they would know it was him. As for Many Pagoda Mountain, it was not very far from the Jade Gate. It was located in Langya Area, which was in the west region of the Central Desolate's Qin Empire. This place was a well-known tourist attraction.

The old servant had been to the Central Desolate a few times, so when Yang Fanshan looked at him, he had no choice but to give an explanation, "Many Pagoda Mountain's name comes from the hundreds of big and small pagodas that can be found on the mountain. Legends say that the pagodas on the mountain have various origins and hide many opportunities within them. For many years, many tourists

come to visit the Many Pagoda Mountain because of this. It is also because there was really someone who had found great fortune here.”

Qin Yu had a better understanding of Many Pagoda Mountain from Jin Shen’s introduction. When he heard about some aspects that piqued his interest, he would even ask a few more questions.

Rourou did not utter a word from beginning to end. Qin Yu now had some understanding towards her as well and could tell that she really did not seem to mind.

This also meant that Many Pagoda Mountain was not the destination that Rourou had in mind. It made sense to Qin Yu. If Rourou had really planned to go to Many Pagoda Mountain, they did not have to go through so much trouble. They had legs and could go there themselves.

That could only mean that her true target was Yang Fanshan.

Qin Yu looked at him with a bit of pity in his eyes, thinking that Yang Fanshan was indeed unfortunate to be targeted by Rourou.

Someone seemed to have caught onto his thoughts. Rourou looked over at him and even though she did not say anything, she trapped him within countless Sword Flashes.

Qin Yu just pretended like he did not know what was happening.

The old servant Jin Shen was expressionless as he glanced at Yang Fanshan. He thought to himself, ‘This Young Master Yang thought that making this deal was a turning point for him, but he did not know that he had escaped the tiger’s mouth just to enter a wolf’s den.’

This time, he was truly going to die.

I am old and it would be good if I could even protect myself. I want to keep you safe but... I am powerless to do so. He lowered his head and acted like a blind and deaf man, unable to see or hear anything and unable to say anything.

Qin Yu turned his head and looked at the old servant behind Yang Fanshan. He thought that the old servant’s name was quite appropriate for his character.

Just that he was overthinking quite a bit.

Langya Area was adjacent to the Jade Gate. When he said that it was not far away, it was true.

However, the Central Desolate Divine Area was truly too big. It was so big that its size was comparable to the sum of the four other Desolate areas.

Therefore, even though Many Pagoda Mountain was situated within Langya Area, it was still not an easy feat to get there by foot.

And the Central Desolate Divine Area was different from the West Desolate in that they did not have Teleportation Portals. If you were in a rush to get somewhere far away, your only option was to take a ferry at the respective mountain bases.

Compared to Teleportation Portals, this mode of transportation was of course much slower. However, its advantage lies in the fact that one did not have to provide identification. They just had to pay a sum of money to be able to sit on these ferries.

When the four of them reached an area situated at the border of Langya Area, they entered a place known as Song City. The old servant went to find a ferry. He had done this a few times before, so compared to the rest, he was rather experienced.

While he was on the way to find a ferry, he had an internal mental battle. In his heart, the thought about whether he should take this chance to escape came up a few hundred times. However, in the end, Jin Shen still suppressed this urge.

He had no choice, that Lady's gaze was too terrifying. It was so terrifying that every time he thought about escaping, his whole body would turn cold and numb.

Their luck was pretty good. Just tomorrow, there will be a small, short-distance ferry passing through Song City's pier. Even though it would take some detours, they would be able to reach Many Pagoda Mountain in about six or seven days.

Rourou had no objections to this, so Qin Yu nodded his head in approval. Both of them were well aware of the problem regarding a thirty-year 'survival period'. However, since Rourou had no objections, it meant that this delay was worth it.

Furthermore, the past few days were not really considered to be wasted. Yang Fanshan had already said that they would book the best room in the ferry for them and implied that such a room would have an abundant amount of spiritual energy.

Chapter 1659B – Ferry

This Young Master Yang was indeed a careful and detailed person. He could detect Qin Yu's constant desire to cultivate.

Of course, Qin Yu did not mention this at all, but through his actions, some things were revealed.

Just some small details and nothing else.

Details that not only Qin Yu knew.

Did Yang Fanshan really think that their meeting was a 'coincidence'? Qin Yu did not think so.

Jin Shen was an experienced cultivator. Protecting himself was wise, but he had underestimated Young Master Yang who on the surface only seemed to care about being happy.

Since Rourou was a bit more slipshod in handling this matter and had almost put it directly on the surface, it implied that she did not mind if someone noticed.

This was also the key reason why Yang Fanshan still felt at ease currently.

Qin Yu smiled, and without thinking too much, he closed his eyes and started to cultivate.

Without any movements throughout the night, on the second day, the four of them left the inn and came to the pier an hour before the ferry arrived.

Every pier in this world could be considered to be the most lively and prosperous area in a city, and this pier was no exception.

There were many stores set up by the roadside that sold various 'treasures'. Qin Yu roughly heard a few merchants advertising their products, and he could not help but feel shaken. Half of these stores were selling "precious and rare treasures" that most immortals in the Central Desolate Divine Area coveted after.

However, these merchants were merely good at bluffing people.

But Qin Yu could tell they were bluffing!

His gaze swept over these merchants and could not help but laugh bitterly to himself. He thought, 'the Central Desolate Divine Area's cultivators are actually so down-to-earth. However, they should put more effort into selling these fake goods. These are so poorly made that it's hard to even look at them.'

They proceeded to the ticket office and paid some money, but only managed to get a top-grade small courtyard. Furthermore, Yang Fanshan had topped up more money. Looking at the cultivator behind the ticket counter, it was easy to tell that it was not a small amount that Yang Fanshan topped up.

The short-distance ferry was not very big. These ferries were usually run by sects that had some information about the different destinations. As long as they could appease all parties along the way, they could sail into those places unimpeded.

For example, this ferry that they were on was run by Green Rain Sect. The routes that they operated went back and forth within Langya Area and they never went anywhere beyond that.

It was said that in the past, Green Rain Sect had a female disciple. Langya Area's governor had taken a liking to her and made her a concubine in his mansion. Unexpectedly, she was quite favored by the governor and had given birth to a son and a daughter consecutively. Her children also had an extraordinary aptitude for cultivation.

This was how the Green Rain Sect's ferry boat came along.

In Langya Area, the various Great Immortal Sects were well-aware of this matter. However, they all closed one eye to it. After all, they still had to respect the governor's reputation. Of course, the fact that there was peace for many years could also be attributed to Green Rain Sect being rather reserved and never starting any trouble.

After half an hour, the ferry reached the pier slightly late. The Green Rain Sect members hopped off the boat and started to give out orders to their workers to anchor the boat down.

They repeatedly apologized in response to the complaints that they were receiving. In the end, they gave a ten percent discount to all their passengers to appease them.

Though it was considered to be a small ferry boat, it was not actually all that small. At least compared to the West Desolate's airship that transported soldiers which Qin Yu had personally seen before, this ferry boat was much bigger. There were multiple buildings on the ferry with several streets that crisscrossed between these buildings. It was like a small market town.

Qin Yu and Rourou's quarters were a small courtyard located at a secluded corner. It was on higher terrain than other buildings which enabled them to have a good view of their surroundings. There were also trees planted at the sides which created a lush and green atmosphere.

According to the Green Rain Sect, the boarding procedure was smooth but a hiccup had occurred when sorting their accommodations. In the end, Qin Yu and Rourou managed to get that courtyard. The three people in front of them grimaced and left with gloomy expressions on their faces.

The most probable situation was that these three people had already booked this courtyard in advance. However, they were no match against the power of money. After receiving a huge sum from Yang Fanshan, the Green Rain Sect gave them the courtyard without any hesitation.

"Dear guests, we are so sorry that both of you had to experience such disruptions. I will get some servants to send over some of the local specialties, immortal fruits. Please take it as my sect's token of apology."

The Green Rain Sect member who was leading the way cupped his hands to apologize, but he had a calm expression on his face. There were only a few premium and quiet courtyards on the ferry. These courtyards facilitated the absorption of spiritual power and all along, they did not have a price tag on them. Whoever offered a higher price would be allocated these courtyards.

Those who did not have a strong background could only lower their heads. They could fight to stay in these courtyards, but it would only bring them trouble and nothing else.

However, it was also wise of these people not to create a scene. Otherwise, in Langya Area, according to the Sect Leader, the Green Rain Sect was not to start any troubles and maintain good relationships with everybody; but if anyone started a fight with them, they did not need to shrink back in fear.

When the Green Rain Sect member walked away, Qin Yu frowned slightly. He looked thoughtfully at the three people who had left.

Such strong killing intent!

Over such a trivial matter, was there a need to be like this? Or, did they have killing intent the moment they boarded the ferry?

However, this had nothing to do with Rourou and Qin Yu. Since these three people decided not to pursue the matter, Qin Yu did not want to start any trouble either.

Pushing the door to enter the courtyard, very quickly, there was the sound of someone knocking at their door. Two servants sent a few plates of immortal fruits. They were not considered to be extremely precious or rare, but they were very refreshing, so the ferry managed to sell quite a lot of them. It was a form of income too.

"Dear guests, the two of us will be your servants for this courtyard. Please feel free to let us know if you need anything."

These two servants curtsied politely and turned around to leave. It was just the right amount of propriety, not too much, and not too little.

Rourou took a bite from a piece of fruit. Then, she glanced sideways at Qin Yu. "Their appearance is not bad, aren't you going to ask them to stay? Who knows, if you're willing to say a few sweet nothings, they might come and warm the bed for you."

Qin Yu was expressionless and thought to himself, 'Can you stop chewing while saying those words? I am panicking!'

"Cough! There is no wonder this courtyard fetches a high price, it is abundant with spiritual energy. I can't waste any more time... I'm going to start cultivating now."

After picking a room, he pushed the door to enter. He swept his gaze around the room for a few moments and not detecting anything wrong, Qin Yu sat down and began to cultivate.

Ka-cha –

Ka-cha –

Rourou finished a crunchy piece of fruit in a few bites while looking in the direction of the room that Qin Yu was in, before reaching out to take another piece.

Half an hour later, Rourou patted her tummy which was still flat. After thinking for a few moments, she rang the bell that was on the table. The two servants that left just now quickly pushed the door open to enter.

"Is anything the matter?"

"Give me another portion of those immortal fruits."

Those two servants could not help but widen their eyes as they looked at the empty plate on the table and then at the floor where there was a pile of fruit cores and peels. They looked slightly dazed.

Rourou frowned, "Didn't you hear me?"

The two servants quickly nodded their heads, "Please wait while we get them for you."

They cleared the plate and both of them quickly left.

Seven days later, they reached Many Pagoda Mountain's pier.

Before they disembarked from the boat, Yang Fanshan took a look at the additional expenses of the small courtyard that Qin Yu and Rourou stayed in. When he saw the numbers on the bill, the corners of his mouth could not help but twitch.

Chapter 1660A – Many Pagoda Mountain

The Green Rain Sect member opposite Yang Fanshan had a wry smile on his face, "The guest in the yard seems to have taken a huge liking to the specialty immortal fruit from Langya Area. She eats a few plates every day. There is a detailed breakdown of the costs in the receipt and I have already given a discount. You can look through it if you are not assured."

The cost of seven days of immortal fruits had exceeded the price of the rental. This was the first time the man had encountered something like this as well.

Jin Shen said, "My Lord, you don't have to look through it already. The Green Rain Sect is famous and they would not bother about such a small sum."

The Green Rain Sect member smiled, "This old man is right. We operate in a fair manner and we will never commit crimes and lie."

Yang Fanshan stared at him and smiled, "I am just a little surprised; let me pay."

After he said this, he cupped his hands, "Immortal, how many more immortal fruits are there on the ferry? I would like to buy some more."

The Green Rain Sect member replied, "Of course we have some more. I will give you additional discounts."

After Yang Fanshan paid, the four people disembarked the ferry.

As expected of Many Pagoda Mountain, it was a famous area in Langya Area and its harbor was much larger than Song City's. Aside from the heap of street stands by the side of the road, shops along the street were operating at full capacity. It was not an exaggeration to say that business was booming.

The four of them did not have any intentions to shop along the street. However, when Qin Yu strode down the streets, three shops caught his eye.

He did not enter the shops, but from the decorations outside, he could guess what they were selling.

The first shop had a banner that read 'A hundred years celebration. Welcome to all guests to enjoy a 20% discount on all items.'

The second shop's banner had more words, 'Discounts upon discounts. Those who pass by without entering, your fart is as smelly as a dog's fart.'

Comparatively, the third shop was much simpler, 'My neighbor's curses are incredible!'

When Qin Yu walked past, he saw from a distance that a few lads from the third store were throwing insults.

Their faces were red from anger and they wanted to tear open the mouths of the other party. However, none of them actually attacked. At the most, they made a threatening gesture and the bulk of the insults came from their mouths.

The commotion attracted a lot of people. A few lads from neighboring stores glared at them with a cold look in their eyes. There was a strange smile on their faces and it seemed like they were looking at a dog fight.

However, they did not realize that as the group of lads from the third store shouted and cursed with exaggerated actions, they attracted a large number of customers to their store. They accused other stores of selling fake goods.

Compared to the other stores, their business was better by more than two times...it was a very good marketing technique. However, those who could think of such a technique must not be very simple. Otherwise, with the way that those lads were scolding others, they would puke out blood very soon.

Once they left the harbor, Many Pagoda Mountain appeared before them. This scenic and famous place was now controlled by a sect called the Red Cloud Sect.

Whether they were climbing the mountain for leisure, seeking fortunes, or cultural sightseeing, everyone had to buy a ticket that cost a copper coin to climb the mountain.

The Central Desolate was ruled by the Qin Empire. A currency system had been established a long time ago. For instance, copper coins were created with two special materials. After a fixed ratio of each was mixed together, the copper coins were melded together via a special technique. They were spread throughout various parts of the Central Desolate Area and they could be used through the empire.

The use of copper coins was not only a system that kept power for the Great Qin Empire, it was also used because the copper coins were a weak spiritual device that could absorb spiritual energy of the world.

Every copper coin could absorb a fixed amount of energy that was so pure, cultivators would be able to directly absorb it without having to refine the energy. Simply put, it could speed up cultivation and turn spiritual energy of the world into a cultivator's own energy.

However, not many people would do this. Because after absorbing the spiritual energy, the copper coin would be destroyed and it would lose its original purpose. Compared to the spiritual energy a copper coin would give a cultivator, it was much better to use the copper coin to purchase something.

For a cultivator, a copper coin did not mean much and accumulating a mountain of them would not be meaningful. Each year, numerous cultivators would come to Many Pagoda Mountain and they streamed over like a river.

The shops that started doing business here, especially along the street that Qin Yu took from the harbor to the mountain, had booming trade. Furthermore, thirty percent of the shops were owned by the Red Cloud Sect and they were pure rental shops that could not be sold to business owners.

This was another cash flow stream. Additionally, the Red Cloud Sect had a good business sense and it was well-known that it was filthy rich.

Qin Yu would save whatever he could save. As such, for him, spending a copper coin was akin to wasting spiritual energy. Therefore, it was Yang Fanshan who paid.

When this Lord Yang spent money, he really spent it without blinking. If he could not pass through this test, there was only death for him. Why else would he bother about money? Furthermore, the money was from the Yang Family and it was not his money. He did not feel his heart ache from this.

After handing over four copper coins, he received a wooden pass to climb the mountain. It did not seem to be made of any special material but it felt good in his hands. There were the words, 'A spirit hidden in the pagoda in the mountains' carved on it.

The carvings were very pretty and Qin Yu unwittingly ran his fingers across them.

At the bottom of the mountain, the female cultivator from the Red Cloud Sect who was in charge of handing out the wooden passes smiled, "If you like it, you can take the wooden pass with you. You only need three copper coins for it."

Without a second thought, Yang Fanshan handed over a bunch of copper coins. There were twelve in total.

The female cultivator counted the coins to ensure it was the right amount. She smiled, "Alright, I will record this down. When you leave the mountain, you can bring the wooden passes with you."

The four of them climbed the mountain. The name of the mountain, Many Pagoda Mountain, was well deserved as there were a few hundred stone pagodas on it. Every ten steps, they would see another stone pagoda.

The stone pagodas had six faces and their design was very much like those of the ancient times. It was different from current construction methods and there were obvious age marks on the pagodas.

The material for the stone pagodas was mottled and there was mold all over them. Some words seemed to have been carved on the pagodas before. However, the words were no longer legible and one could only see vague strokes across the pagodas. Today, the numerous cultivators climbing the mountain chase to surround one particular pagoda. They carefully studied the words and tried to understand what was written on it.

Qin Yu eavesdropped and got a rough idea of what happened. Roughly three hundred years ago, a disciple from a minor sect climbed up Many Pagoda Mountain. As if he were drunk and intoxicated, he stayed at this pagoda called Welcome Pagoda for three days.

When he finally regained their senses to leave, his cultivation potential surged at the moment he stepped off the mountain. Then, he led the way for the minor sect to become a major sect that became famous for its ways of refining flying swords.

This sect refined top quality flying swords, and many sword sects in the Central Desolate were fond of the weapons. As such, they formed good relationships with the major sects and they were able to stand their ground amongst the powerful.

After the man became famous, he publicly announced that he obtained an ancient sword record in Welcome Pagoda. This created a frenzy here.

No one believed that the accomplished Sect Master of a major sect would lie about such a thing. As such, Many Pagoda Mountain instantly grew famous and Welcome Pagoda in particular received the attention of many.

Qin Yu took a good look at the pagoda and confirmed that he did not have any fate with it. Rourou had already walked away.

Similarly, Yang Fanshan and the old servant, Jin Shen received nothing and they quickly followed the two.

"Many Pagoda Mountain does have fate, but this fate and fortune will not go to anyone. Otherwise, the Red Cloud Sect would have sealed the mountain long ago and dedicated it as a sacred ground for their own disciples to receive fortunes." Jin Shen explained in a respectful manner. He was already preparing himself for his later life.

After all, even though they were not targeting him, killing him was also a possibility. As such, he decided he ought to create a good impression of himself. Perhaps he would be saved at a critical moment...this was a precious experience he gained after so many years.

Qin Yu smiled, "There are numerous fortunes in this world but not many who are fated."

Rourou scoffed and rolled her eyes. She disdained his words.

"If that is really the case, why would people compete for Great Dao and cultivate? They could just wait for the right fortune to fall upon them."

Qin Yu coughed lightly and pretended not to hear her words. Beside him, Yang Fanshan and Jin Shen pretended to be deaf and they quietly admired the scenery.

This mountain that was flooded with a few hundred pagodas was also a place that was filled with thick spiritual energy in the dense forests and calming spring waters.

Admire the scenery, admire it!

Anyone who had a mind of their own knew that the lady was the one that they had to pay attention to.

Qin Yu knew this logic well and he unintentionally rubbed his nose. He glanced at Rourou as though pleading her to give him some face.

Rourou turned and left.

Later, they looked at a few other stone pagodas. Because Yang Fanshan did not know which pagoda the pagoda keeper was at, he could only continue seeking him out.

Thankfully, all he needed to do was confirm that the pagoda keeper was on the mountain. Although there were multiple stone pagodas, he would only be wasting a bit of time by surveying them.

Two hours later, Qin Yu realized that Rourou was staring at a particular weird-looking stone pagoda for a while. It was weird because the front view of the stone pagoda was like a Candied Haw. It was eleven levels tall and it was the size of a ship.

The surface of it was smooth but there was nothing on it. As the sun rays shone down, there was a thin light hue surrounding it. Aside from that, there was nothing else that stood out about this pagoda.

There were a few others beside this pagoda. A man and a woman wore similar-looking clothes and it was evident that they were fellow disciples of the same sect. His expression was cold and there was a deep and mysterious feeling around him. He appeared to have a good background.

Beside them was an unkempt old man. There appeared to be a layer of grease on the front side of his clothes. His hair was tied up in a way that there was some essence that drifted off it occasionally.

Lastly, there was a lady. Her face was covered by a bamboo hat but from her figure, one could tell that she would be a beauty.

The four people were gathered around the stone pagoda now. Suddenly, Qin Yu's eyes lit up and he stared at the man and woman with the cold expressions.

Even though the man was trying hard to hide it, there was a gleeful look in his eyes. A few moments later, the two turned around and left. There was a knowing look in the old man's eyes and he glanced at Qin Yu. Then, he turned around and walked away.

The woman with the bamboo hat seemed to have hesitated but she eventually chased after the man and woman.

Qin Yu kept all of this to himself and he murmured, "Is there something good?"

Beside him, the observing Yang Fanshan had already led Jin Shen to the opposite end of the stone pagoda.

Rourou nodded, "Interesting, I seem to have underestimated Many Pagoda Mountain."

Qin Yu did not press for more. The thing that just happened was the best example.

He could ask her when they left Many Pagoda Mountain. Otherwise, if an accident happened, it would be troublesome.

Chapter 1660B – King Realm Cultivator

After the 'Candied Haw' Stone Pagoda, the four of them went a whole round and saw about forty other stone pagodas. However, they still got nothing.

Beside a stream and luscious green trees, Red Cloud Sect had specially placed a simple set of stone tables and chairs for those climbing the mountain to rest at.

The group rested here.

They were not the only ones resting under the trees beside the creek. However, when cultivators were out, they tended to act more carefully and kept a good distance away from each other. They all spoke softly amongst themselves and the entire place was not too noisy.

Yang Fanshan took out the immortal fruits that he had purchased on the ferry. He cleaned it in the stream before placing it on the table.

"Your honor, Qin Yu and My Lady, please have some fruits to quench your thirst. I feel bad that you have to suffer with me."

Qin Yu smiled, "Lord Yang, you are too courteous. Since we have a deal, this is all part of it."

Crunch –

Beside them, Rourou had already picked up a fruit and bit into it. She looked at Yang Fanshan across her before looking at Qin Yu beside her. She could not help but look at him in disdain.

Tsk tsk, when it came to judgement and knowing how to treat others, you are too far from him!

Qin Yu was confused.

Yang Fanshan coughed lightly, "I saw a stone pagoda at the lower part of the stream. It is quite near here. You all can rest here, I will go and have a look."

Waving his hand, he stood up and left.

Old servant Jin Shen rushed after him. Seeing that things were not going well, Yang Fanshan immediately tried to stay out of it. He was not willing to be implicated.

Qin Yu smiled, "Lord Yang is a smart man."

Rourou nodded, "At least you are aware."

Qin Yu looked impatient as he picked up a fruit. Woo...the taste was amazing. It was almost the same as when he was on the Green Rain Sect's ferry.

He looked around and suddenly frowned. He thought about something but did not say anything as his expression turned neutral again.

Very soon, there was a strange look on Qin Yu's face. He did not do anything but the other person had walked up to him on their own accord.

Although the person wearing a bamboo hat purposely did not look at him, their actions were too obvious and unrefined. Qin Yu could see through her.

"We came across each other at the Candied Haw Stone Pagoda. That old man is not a good person, you all should hurry and leave Many Pagoda Mountain so as not to be implicated."

In a suppressed voice, the woman with the hat spoke quickly before rushing off. Qin Yu frowned and an even stranger look appeared on his face.

As for Rourou, her expression did not change at all.

A moment later, Yang Fanshan reappeared, he was holding his glee, "I found it!" The pagoda keeper who had an agreement with the Yang Family was in the pagoda by the stream.

Rourou looked up at the pagoda by the stream and stood up, "Let's go."

Qin Yu coughed lightly, "I am a bit tired. I will rest here. My Lady, you can go ahead."

Rourou looked at him and her lips pulled up in a mocking look. However, she did not say anything as she turned and headed to the pagoda.

Yang Fanshan bowed towards Qin Yu before rushing after her.

Qin Yu rubbed his nose with an impatient look. With Rourou, he could not hide anything.

However, you are not objecting to this right?

If you are not objecting, it means you support.

Qin Yu then smiled and kept the uneaten fruits.

Rourou liked to eat this and he could not just let others have it. He stood up and headed to the forest beside the stream.

.....

“Please wait up!”

Looking at the woman in the hat chasing after them, the man and woman that had stopped, had icy looks and they both were wary.

Thankfully, the woman in the hat stopped a distance away and the two of them relaxed slightly.

The female cultivator said, “What is the matter?”

The woman in the hat waved her hand, “Don’t misunderstand, I have no ill intentions towards you. I came to warn you that the sloppy old man is a very powerful cultivator. I have no other intentions. Please be careful.

“If possible, you should ask the elders and seniors in your sect to come to Many Pagoda Mountain to take you away in case of any trouble.”

The faces of the two people changed and the male cultivator stepped forward. He put his hands together, “Thank you miss for your reminder. We understand.”

The woman in the hat nodded, “That’s good. I will take my leave.”

She turned and left.

After confirming that the woman in the hat had left, a serious look appeared on the faces of the siblings from the same sect.

“Junior Brother, you are right. There is trouble.”

The man nodded, “Senior Sister, we should send a message to Master to ask him to fetch us from Many Pagoda Mountain. We don’t have to say anything else, Master will understand.

The female cultivator nodded.

The two of them rushed off to the base of the mountain. The Red Cloud Sect had set up a communications point. After preparing the message, they had to activate the communication tablet. ‘Woosh’, there was a sound in the air.

After doing that, the two of them did not go back up the mountain but instead, went to a guesthouse that the Red Cloud Sect owned at the base of the mountain. They got ready to settle in. Paying a sum of money was nothing. Though they knew that they were paying more, it was all for ‘safety’.

Just as the two of them successfully registered into the guesthouse, a black mist appeared from the jade hairpin and disappeared.

On Many Pagoda Mountain, an old sloppy man sat cross-legged beneath a tree. He suddenly snorted angrily and his eyes shot open.

“Busybody. How dare she ruin my plan, she deserves to die!”

He stood up very quickly as if he knew where his target was. Very soon, he found the young girl wearing the hat.

“Little brat, have your elders never taught you what it means by trouble starts from the mouth?”

Sneering, the sloppy old man blocked the road as his eyes resembled a wild predator.

The girl in the hat was visibly shocked as she backed off and spoke in a frantic tone, "What are you talking about? I don't understand! I am warning you, this is the Red Cloud Sect's territory; you can't mess around here. They will not just sit and watch!"

The sloppy old man smiled sinisterly, "I cannot bear to create trouble with the Red Cloud Sect. But I would like to see how a little brat like you will let them know of this..."

He suddenly stopped talking and the old sloppy man frowned. He glanced behind, "Little brat, you are lucky today. Hehe!"

The heart of the woman in the hat was beating extremely fast. She bit her lip as she turned and ran. She kept running until she was a far distance away. She was panting heavily. Scary, how scary. The eyes of the old man were too scary and she almost cried.

Alas, she had to listen to her elders. She should watch herself and be less of a busybody.

Hmm...she had to not care for at least a month. Yes!

The old sloppy man turned and looked at a huge tree. He sneered, "Your Honor, you wanted to save her and you have succeeded. Aren't you going to leave? Or do you want me to send you off?"

A figure flashed beneath the tree and Qin Yu stepped out. He said slowly, "Your Honor is at the Ruler realm; why are you making things difficult for the young girl?"

The old sloppy man frowned, "You know my cultivation level yet you still dare to stay here. It seems like your initial Ruler realm is not ordinary. Or is it that you think that on this Many Pagoda Mountain, being an initial Ruler is enough to make me hold back?"

Qin Yu lifted his finger and tapped the air. 'Pak', a ball of black air appeared and was shattered.

"It seems like Your Honor is still not willing to be friendly."

He took a step forward and the old sloppy man's expression changed drastically. There was shock in his eyes.

"King realm!" He did not hesitate as he shot up to the sky. He did not care whether this would anger the Red Cloud Sect.

Begging for mercy...he knew that there was no chance. Anyone who dared to attack a person of the King realm would be doomed to ten deaths with no chance of rebirth.

Even if this person's King realm was unusual.

Very soon, the old sloppy man who shot up into heaven looked in utter despair. It was as if he had fallen into thick mud and was unable to move.

An immense and horrifying suppression force surrounded and crushed him from all directions. He felt like fish meat on a chopping board.

"Your Honor, please have mercy...."

Before he could finish speaking, 'pfft' a hole appeared in the old sloppy man's forehead. His eyes turned bleak and there was only horror and despair left on his face.

The old sloppy man's soul also disintegrated with him. A cultivator of the Ruler realm was killed on the spot.

Qin Yu reached out and two treasures landed in his hands. With a wave of his sleeve, the man turned to ashes.

Looking up, he saw a figure above him. The figure had an angry look frozen on his face and his expression was interesting. Seeing Qin Yu look at him, his body trembled and he quickly landed on the ground. He greeted respectfully, "I am the Chief Elder from the Red Cloud Sect, Zhang Yuanji. Greetings, lord."

That's right, the Red Cloud Sect ruled the area with iron laws. This was to ensure the safety of Many Pagoda Mountain and make sure that no cultivators would fight amongst themselves. If they did, it would be seen as challenging the Red Cloud Sect and would be severely punished.

But they also considered who it was when it came down to it.

This person in front of him...unless Zhang Yuanji was stupid and wanted to ruin the Red Cloud Sect, he would not deal with this by enforcing the laws impartially.

He was not stupid!

With a single thought, the immense suppression force that had rendered the Ruler realm cultivator helpless and caused him to be utterly destroyed disappeared in an instant.

King realm. This was the Transcendent abilities of those from the King realm.

The appearance of this kind of person on Many Pagoda Mountain was an honor to the Red Cloud Sect. Killing someone was nothing. Even if they crushed half of the mountain, what could the sect do? Even if the Sect Leader came, he would only be able to give a thumbs up and praise the King realm cultivator for being powerful!

Qin Yu did not know that the Chief Elder from the Red Cloud Sect believed that he was at the King realm, but he could kind of guess what was running through his mind. The fewer complications the better. Since he was assuming it, Qin Yu was not going to say anything and leave it to him.

"Today, because of the deceased, I had no choice but to take action. I do not mean to target the Red Cloud Sect."

This sentence was like drinking an icy bowl of green bean soup on a burning hot day. Zhang Yuanji felt extremely refreshed.

He breathed a huge sigh of relief!

That's right. He had been most afraid that the King realm cultivator was intending to go against the Red Cloud Sect and was using this as an excuse to make a move. The worst case scenario did not happen and it sounds like this King realm cultivator was someone he could talk to.

Zhang Yuanji spoke respectfully, "Your Honor, have you solved your issue? If not, the Red Cloud Sect will follow your instructions."

Qin Yu replied, "There is nothing left. You can go. Don't let anyone know of my presence."

"Don't worry."

Qin Yu turned and left. He moved at a moderate pace and continued for a long time. After confirming that the Chief Elder was not investigating him, he breathed out a sigh and his face paled slightly.

When he made a move to kill the Ruler, though it had seemed impressive, it had taken a huge toll on his body.

However, the effect was good.

A Chief Elder of a sect from the Central Desolate Divine Area, who was also a peak Ruler, had been trembling.

This felt really good!

Zhang Yuanji lifted his hand to wipe the sweat on his forehead as he watched the King realm cultivator leave. He hesitated for a while before deciding to keep this to himself. At most, he would tell the Sect Leader when he was out of isolation.

If he disobeyed the words of the King realm cultivator, was he trying to die? Taking a deep breath, he slowly let it out. Zhang Yuanji felt as if he and the Red Cloud Sect had avoided a huge calamity.

Though a peak Ruler seemed like just a step away from the King realm, the distance was like heaven and earth. A peak Ruler was like the three layers of heaven, earth and human. With the body embodying heaven and the spirit embodying earth, one is able to form a cultivation that is 'human' and merge all three powers. If any of it were able to reach the Celestial Gate, they would have a chance to enter the King realm.

But it was only a small chance.

In the Central Desolate Divine Area, Saints were still considered powerful. The number of Rulers there was greater than in other Desolate regions. As for peak Rulers, because the number of Rulers was quite large, quite a few peak Rulers also appeared over time.

But what about the King realm?

That's right, they had even more than the other Desolate regions added up. But compared to how big and vast the Central Desolate Divine Area was, it was still considered few. Moreover, they were all quite secretive.

This person today was the first King realm cultivator that Zhang Yuanji had seen.

After his shock and fear, he had a slight regret. If he could announce to everyone that a King realm cultivator had appeared on Many Pagoda Mountain, the Red Cloud Sect would be rich and everyone would respect them.

The Sect Leader would also no longer have to be fearful of others attacking them because of their riches.

Returning to the forest beside the stream, Qin Yu's complexion returned to normal, at least on the surface. He placed the fruits down and sat on the stone chair, breathing out lightly.

If the girl in the hat had not come over with the warning, Qin Yu would not have done anything even if he realized that something was off.

So though it seemed like fate, everything was related.

Closing his eyes, Qin Yu concentrated and unknowingly fell into a deep sleep.

Woosh –

Rourou's figure appeared beside Qin Yu. She looked down at him and could not help but raise her brows. It seems like there were some things beyond her expectation.

She looked up at a part of the Many Pagoda Mountain. Rourou spoke slowly, "You are lucky." She turned and sat beside Qin Yu.

Yang Fanshan and old servant Jin Shen appeared in a distance and saw the scene in front of them. They felt their hearts tightened as they stopped walking.

They hesitated before walking to another part of the stream.

The other cultivators that had been sitting around the stone table all looked at each other. They exchanged glances before sneaking a look at the couple by the stone table. As if they had been shocked, they quickly got up and left.