

## Refining 561

### Chapter 561A – The Confident Fang Family

Qin Yu's mind had thoroughly calmed down. However, if he wanted his Emperor level Demon Body to rise to the Saint level, that wasn't something that could be accomplished with cultivating alone. As for the blood of a Calamity Immortal demon beast, that wasn't something he had the means to obtain.

Perhaps he needed to find an opportunity to bring this up with the Demon Envoy and see if he had any way.

While he couldn't promote his Demon Body for the time being, he couldn't stop other aspects of his cultivation. Even if he became the Holy Monarch, if he didn't have a suitable cultivation to go with it he wouldn't be able to obtain the complete authority of the Holy Monarch.

His cultivation of the path of water was gradually improving and he didn't need to spend much thought on it. But besides that, there was something that could help his strength drastically rise.

That was the Monster Raising Mystic Art!

After the purpleback bluewing ants completed the first step of their transformation they had fallen into a deep slumber. With his current status, wanting to further cultivate them was much simpler. When they finished their second transformation, his strength would rise to a new level. Once they completed their third transformation, they would be enough for him to completely crush common Calamity Immortals.

Qin Yu's thoughts turned. As he was contemplating how to cultivate the purpleback bluewing ants, a visitor came to the Holy Son Palace. When he stated his identity, the previously cold and disdainful True Demon Guards outside quickly bowed, respect in their voices.

The visitor said, "Please pass a message to His Highness the Holy Son that Zhao Qianyuan would like to request a meeting."

The several True Demon Guards hurriedly said, "Please wait a moment. I will pass on the message for you."

One of the guards turned and left in a hurry.

A moment later, Qin Yu met this unexpected visitor in the hall. He smiled and said, "I originally thought that you would come visit in the Holy Palace, but no matter how long I waited you didn't come. Don't you feel this is a little too troublesome?"

Zhao Qianyuan said, "There are many eyes within the Holy Palace. That isn't a good place to talk in private." He looked Qin Yu in the eyes, "The reason I came now is because there are some words I wish to say to Your Highness. Can we speak somewhere else?"

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. "Since Brother Zhao asked, there is no reason to refuse. Please follow me." He stood up and led the way. The two left the hall and arrived at the area where Qin Yu normally cultivated. After telling the guards not to disturb him, he flicked his sleeves and closed the doors.

"It is quiet here. What does Brother Zhao have to say? Please speak."

Zhao Qianyuan shook his head. "It's still not enough." He took out a seed similar to a walnut and with a flick of his finger, flung it to the ground. The seed took root in the floor and quickly drilled into the ground. Vines and branches rapidly grew outwards, and in several breaths of time they surrounded the entire hall.

Qin Yu had a dignified expression. He didn't know what this vine was but it was able to block his perception. He couldn't sense anything outside the hall at all.

"Alright." Zhao Qianyuan looked up, his expression suddenly changing. "Your Highness, aren't you worried that I have ill intent and am trying to harm you?"

Qin Yu shook his head, "If Brother Zhao wanted to kill me, you would have simply attacked me. There is no need to go through so much trouble."

Zhao Qianyuan was silent for a moment. He shook his head and said, "I had no idea that Your Highness trusts me so much." There was a little more gratitude in his eyes.

Then, Zhao Qianyuan's expression turned dignified. "The things I say today might cause Your Highness to be unhappy, but I ask that you listen to me patiently first to avoid any potential future troubles."

Qin Yu slowly nodded.

Zhao Qianyuan directly said, "On the day you broke free from the Endless Sea and the beam of light fell from the skies, that was because Your Highness borrowed an external force. But, does Your Highness know that this external force is actually an incredible hidden danger to you?"

Qin Yu's expression immediately turned swift and sharp.

Zhao Qianyuan said, "It looks like Your Highness has already detected it. Then, that is much better. I don't have to explain anything further."

"No!" Qin Yu quickly said. "Brother Zhao, can you please tell me what this hidden danger is?"

Zhao Qianyuan smiled. "Your Highness, please rest assured that since I came here to visit you today, I won't leave off half the explanation." He lifted a hand and pointed a finger. Ripples appeared in the void and strange sounds suddenly rang out, ringing deep into the soul.

Although he couldn't understand these syllables, Qin Yu wasn't unfamiliar with these sounds. He slowly said, "So Brother Zhao was the same as me. It seems we've both had a similar lucky chance."

Zhao Qianyuan took back his hand. The ripples faded, the sounds carrying with them a deep sense of vicissitude. "A very, very long time ago, in what can be called the ancient era, that was when the cultivation civilization was at its pinnacle. Incomparably formidable existences were born in this world one after another, each one possessing the power to destroy the heavens and sunder the land. If we were to judge them from the viewpoint of our current era, these beings can be called spiritual gods.

"In theory, spiritual gods can live forever as undying beings. But in reality, they can also perish. Some of these spiritual gods that weren't resigned to dying decided to step onto the road of defying the Heavenly Dao. Because they touched upon this great taboo, they initiated a great calamity, causing the heavens and earth to collapse. Almost every god fell as a result. But, the strength of the spiritual gods

was too formidable. Even if they died, their incomplete will was still preserved. Or, to be more accurate, it is their incomplete godhead that remained behind.

“Through the long river of years, the vast majority of godheads have been thoroughly annihilated. Only a few extremely lucky or extremely strong godheads were able to be preserved. If future cultivators were to obtain these godheads and fuse them into their bodies, they could obtain the strength of those incomplete godheads...”

Zhao Qianyuan’s eyes were deep and profound. He looked straight at Qin Yu, “You must know that even an incomplete godhead possesses a terrifying might.”

The hall immediately fell silent. After a long time, Qin Yu finally said, “I obtained a godhead?”

Zhao Qianyuan nodded, no expression on his face. “Although the spiritual god has died, as long as their godhead hasn’t dispersed, they may be reborn once they find suitable soil.”

Qin Yu stiffened. A dense chill percolated in the air, instantly passing straight into his bones!

Zhao Qianyuan pointed at his chest and then pointed at Qin Yu. He succinctly said, “You and I are the soil!”

Before Qin Yu could regain his composure, his soul space blew up like water thrown into oil. Meimei was the first to leap up. Her eyes shined as she shouted, “Godhead? There’s actually a godhead!”

The purple moon brightened. A rich purple moonlight illuminated the entire soul space.

At almost the same time, the phantom of the blue sun arrived. Both lights collided together, unexpectedly emitting a harsh sound.

“Eat...I have to eat it...”

Meimei nodded repeatedly, her face twitching from excitement. “Big sister moon, big brother sun, you are both right. To refuse the gifts given to us by heaven is a sin in itself! We cannot let this great stroke of good fortune escape from our hands!”

She looked up, her eyes staring ruthlessly at Qin Yu’s soul. “You must revive the godhead otherwise I will complain to you every day! You will never have another moment of peace!”

Qin Yu was well aware of their response. His lips twitched subconsciously and his complexion became strange.

Meimei was fine, but what was the deal with the purple moon and blue sun? The first time they made a noise was for this sort of absurd situation?

And most importantly, if things had continued as they were, the situation would have immediately turned around without any preparations from him.

Should he continue to feel fear, or should he be chuckling silently to himself?

A trace of surprise flashed in Zhao Qianyuan’s eyes. He was thinking that Qin Yu would be worried or even afraid, but what was with his current expression? Not understanding his thoughts, Zhao Qianyuan mulled over it. Then he said in a low voice, “Your Highness cannot be too negligent. In the future it

would be best not to use the power of the godhead, otherwise the degree of fusion will gradually awaken. Once the conditions of awakening are met, there will be trouble.”

Within Qin Yu’s soul space, after repeatedly asking and reaffirming, he was left shocked. Just what sort of background did these three ‘wicked residents’ of his soul space have? Not only were they confident in killing a god, but they were even excited about it.

Hearing Zhao Qianyuan’s words, he hesitated for a moment and then said, “Brother Zhao’s meaning is that as long as I constantly utilize the power of the godhead, I can accelerate its awakening, right?”

Zhao Qianyuan nodded. But, how come he felt that something didn’t seem right? He looked at Qin Yu’s face and the minor expressions on it. His eyes widened a little. “Your Highness, you aren’t planning to activate the godhead on your own initiative, right?”

Qin Yu waved his hand. “Of course not. I might have some degree of cultivation, but if I were to face off against a spiritual god from ancient times, isn’t that the same as courting death?” He sighed inwardly. He feared that after this he really would have to ‘court death’. However, Qin Yu decided that he needed to seriously negotiate with these three ‘wicked residents’ in his soul space before doing anything.

Zhao Qianyuan couldn’t make out what Qin Yu was thinking. He earnestly said, “Your Highness must not attempt this, otherwise you will definitely regret it in the future.”

Qin Yu nodded. “I thank Brother Zhao for reminding me. I will pay attention to this in the future.” He thought about how Zhao Qianyuan came here on his own initiative to warn him, and he felt his heart warm a little. Because he didn’t want to accidentally blurt anything out, he changed the topic, “In several days I will be holding a banquet for all quarters. If Brother Zhao has free time, perhaps you would like to stay here for a period.”

Zhao Qianyuan said, “If Your Highness asked me to leave, I would still try to stay behind even if I were to embarrass myself. I came to visit this time to inform Your Highness about the godhead, but there is also a favor I would like to ask of you.”

Qin Yu said, “Brother Zhao, please speak.”

Zhao Qianyuan smiled. “It isn’t something that would be too difficult for Your Highness. Because of cultivation reasons, I need to find several nine line blood lotuses. Although they can’t be considered too precious, because they are difficult to grow it is rare to find those with nine lines. Moreover, because blood lotuses have the effect of extending one’s life after growing nine lines, it is hard to find them in the current market.”

Qin Yu’s thoughts turned. “Brother Zhao would like me to release this news?”

Zhao Qianyuan clapped his hands. “That’s right. With Your Highness’s status, as long as you let out a rumor that you need blood lotuses, there will surely be someone eagerly sending them to you.” He revealed an awkward expression. “It’s just that I urgently need blood lotuses and I cannot slowly search for them. If I have been disrespectful to Your Highness, I ask that you forgive me.”

Qin Yu waved his hand. “Brother Zhao, there is no need to feel embarrassed. Compared to the information you provided me, this is only a small effort. I will immediately pass out orders. I hope you can find a harvest.”

## Chapter 561B – The Confident Fang Family

Speaking to here, Zhao Qianyuan's words reminded Qin Yu of something. In order to cultivate the purpleback bluewing ants, he needed a massive amount of high level monster beast blood and souls. While it wouldn't be too troublesome gathering these things with his current status, it would still require some time. He might as well start collecting them along with the blood lotuses.

After ordering people to place Zhao Qianyuan somewhere, Qin Yu summoned Hai Lanlan. While he had been thinking of distancing himself from her, he couldn't find anyone as useful as her right now, so he had to temporarily delay this plan.

He explained what he wanted. Hai Lanlan nodded in understanding. After clarifying some things, she bowed and left.

Soon, news spread out through various information channels. Although they all had different explanations, the general meaning behind them was the same. Due to certain reasons, His Highness the Holy Son needed a batch of high level monster beast blood and souls as well as aged nine line blood lotuses.

These days, countless people were anxiously looking at the Holy Son Palace. Once they obtained this news they were immediately overjoyed and quickly sent people to make preparations.

High level monster beast blood and souls were expensive and precious? Who cared if they were expensive? They would buy them all! As for the hard-to-find nine line blood lotuses? Hey, this master doesn't care. As long as you can find it then come and find me!

For a time, the entire Demonic Path became restless. Due to the scarcity of nine line blood lotuses, it wasn't too obvious. But, when it came to high level monster beast blood and souls, the price increased several times over.

...

Black Demon Sect.

A large series of chaotic upheavals had continuously occurred within the Demonic Path. Besides the fact that there was a new Holy Son, even a Calamity Immortal realm spy had been exposed. One of the most shocked people was Tie Qianqiu. Although he acknowledged that he had underestimated Yao Bin, he never imagined that this person would obtain his current achievements.

At the Demon Body talent examination, he had caused the phenomenon of a tenth sun to appear in the skies. That would have been fine as it was, but after that he even broke through the Endless Sea and took the inheritance of the Holy Palace in a single stroke. He even rose to the revered position of the Holy Palace's Holy Son.

Even the blind could clearly see that Yao Bin was destined to ascend the throne of the Holy Palace. At that time, he would truly be a fish passing through the dragon gate, hovering above the highest heavens.

Whenever he thought of this, Tie Qianqiu would sigh with emotion as well as rejoice. Luckily, his initial treatment and relationship with Yao Bin was relatively harmonious. Even if he had offended Yao Bin somewhere, he had still saved his life long ago. He shouldn't come back to settle any debts.

However, Tie Qianqiu still had some doubts in his heart; that was related to Yao Bin's identity. He had sensed something wrong in the past, but because he had no evidence and he also needed his help, he didn't delve too seriously into this.

When it came to this matter, Tie Qianqiu only thought about it a few times. Some gossip had appeared in the sect several days ago, but after he sent some people to ruthlessly deal with these loose lips, no one dared to mention anything again.

Whether it was Yao Bin's current status or the value of the Holy Palace's inheritance, these weren't things he had the qualifications to meddle in. There would be others who would investigate this.

Still, in these past days Yao Bin had been recklessly collecting high level monster beast blood and souls. As he thought about the monster beasts that the sect was secretly cultivating, his face clouded over.

The Monster Raising Mystic Art was the Black Demon Sect's greatest secret. Only several people had the qualifications to know of this. Was this merely a coincidence? Or did Yao Bin have other reasons?

Tie Qianqiu's expression was uncertain.

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The Demon Envoy was without expression; it was impossible to tell if he was happy or angry. He lightly said, "The matter I had you investigate, have you found anything?"

Within the temple, there was a person kneeling. He wore a blue robe and his facial appearance was common and ordinary. The only thing special about it was that he seemed particularly neat and tidy. He respectfully bowed and said, "Reporting to my lord, I have just received the latest news. There might be some hints into that person's identity."

As he spoke he offered up a jade slip with both hands.

The Demon Envoy took it and searched it with his divine sense. His eyebrows wrinkled together. At this moment, the air seemed as if it would freeze over.

After a long time he put down the jade slip. He slowly said, "Have you verified this information?"

The person's expression didn't change. "My lord knows the rules. All information must be confirmed to be correct by at least three sides before being compiled and sent over." He paused for a moment and asked, "May I ask my lord if we need to continue investigating?"

The Demon Envoy said in a loud voice, "Continue!"

The kneeling person nodded his head. Without any visible movements from him, his figure began to fade away before finally vanishing from sight.

Pa –

The jade slip was crushed to dust. There was an uncertain expression on the Demon Envoy's face. "Yao Bin...just who are you?"

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Fang Changling frowned. There was a gloomy look on his face. "You have clearly investigated that the Ning Family is really preparing a gift?"

The steward respectfully said, "My master, it is indeed like that."

"Humph!" Fang Changling slapped the table. "It looks like this Ning Family has decided to fight with us until the end. They would rather be a dog lying at the Holy Son's feet than be gnawed upon by us!"

The steward thought for a moment and said, "Master, there is no need to lose your temper. In truth, I feel that the Ning Family's actions were wise."

Fang Changling's eyes were cold and cloudy. "What are you saying? Do you think I'm stupid?"

The steward quickly fell to his knees. "Even if this lowly one has the gall of a dog, I still wouldn't dare to mock master!"

Fang Changling's expression cleared up. He snorted, "Stop pretending. Hurry and say what you want to say."

The steward smiled. "In the end, the Ning Family has already declined. Even though they have the reputation of being a noble family, they have no one that can support their status. Who would even look them in the eye? Those relatives of the Ning Family that have occupied their industries and won't return them are the best proof of this.

"Master, think about it. Just how many eyes are looking upon this piece of fat meat that is the Ning Family? They might be patiently enduring it and not making their move yet, but that is only because they are being cautious. Once everyone has determined the Ning Family's true situation, then I fear in the blink of an eye the entire Ning Family will suffer catastrophe. If so, why would they care if they became a dog of His Highness the Holy Son? Master, don't forget. His Highness the Holy Son has now stabilized his standing. It is now only a matter of time until he succeeds the throne of the Holy Monarch. Once that happens, he will be a person standing upon the highest heavens. With just a word, he can even lift a chicken into the skies. Perhaps the Ning Family will be able to recover from their failures and be restored to how prestigious they had been in the past."

Fang Changling frowned. Thinking about it carefully, the steward was likely correct. His complexion immediately darkened.

If the Ning Family rose back up from the dirt, would his Fang Family be any better off?

The steward noticed the mood. He said, "Master, in fact, whatever the Ning Family can do, our Fang Family can also do. If the Fang Family expresses similar intentions, do you think that His Highness the Holy Son will take us in? Or would he take the Ning Family that only has their reputation remaining?"

Fang Changling hesitated for some time. "You are right. But right now we are under the shelter of Elder Li. If we arbitrarily change sides, I fear there will be trouble..."

The steward said, "Master, why not think of this from a different angle? If we are able to catch the eye of His Highness the Holy Son, then Elder Li might have the chance to contact His Highness. He might even be thankful for this."

His complexion changed several times. In the end, Fang Changling nodded. "Good, then we'll do that. Immediately prepare a generous gift!"

After the steward left, Fang Changling returned to his room and discussed the situation with other leaders of the Fang Family. Once they all expressed their agreement, the matter was settled.

Fang Changling was completely confident. He sneered, "You old dog Ning, I'll let you be happy for a few more days. Once I see you again at Eastern Sun City, I'll be able to see you cry!"

The Ning Family and Fang Family. One was a sun that had already fallen past the mountains and the other was a sun vigorously rising into the skies. Was there really a need to think about which one the Holy Son would choose?

## **Chapter 562 – Demon Realm Channel Collapsed**

Herald City, Ning Family.

No matter how lonely or ignored they were, the Ning Family still retained their status of a noble family. The Ning Family's given manor was large and not vulgar. After being washed up and repaired as new, it looked especially dignified. But, because there were few visitors that graced the front doors, it looked somewhat deserted. When some people did pass through the main entrance, they kept their heads lowered as they hurried through, as if afraid they would be contaminated by some great misfortune if they were to be any slower.

Several speedcars parked outside the main entrance. Ning Yuntao emerged with a dark and dismal expression. He glanced around and couldn't help but lightly sigh, quickly walking past the doors. When the Ning Family had first returned to the Holy Land, the entrance had been somewhat lively. Many people wanted to probe what the Ning Family's current condition was like. Soon, all of that liveliness quickly faded away.

Ning Rufeng was waiting for him in the study. Disregarding the weariness that overcame his body and mind, Ning Yuntao rushed in to meet him. When he finally entered the study and was standing in front of Ning Rufeng, his face was filled with shame.

While Ning Rufeng already had expected this result, he was still disappointed when he saw Ning Yuntao's appearance. At the same time, a cold chill shot out from his eyes.

When the Ning Family used to be prosperous, all of these people were warm and genial to them, wanting to get closer. But now that the Ning Family was suffering some troubles, they all wanted to take advantage of them while they were down?

They were still relatives in the end! Why did things have to be like this!?

Even though Ning Rufeng tried to maintain a strong demeanor, he still couldn't conceal the bitterness and exhaustion in his eyes. He bleakly said, "What did they say?"



Ning Yuntao revealed a resentful look. "All of them gave the same excuse. They said that in order to support our family's industries over these past years, they have had to invest a considerable amount of capital. They aren't willing to suffer a loss for nothing..." He looked at his father's dispirited expression and decided not to say the rest. The words of his 'good relatives' hadn't ended with just that.

Ning Rufeng shut his eyes, covering up the pain in his gaze. Even though his son was trying to hide what happened, what hadn't he seen in his old age? He could approximately guess what had happened. As he thought about how his oldest son was in a state where he wasn't like a human or ghost, and how their Ning Family had been forced into a dead end, his breathing quickened and his face paled.

Ning Yuntao fell to his knees. "It is all because this son of yours is useless. I wasn't able to support the roof of the Ning Family and caused father to experience such pain over such matters." He clenched his teeth, "Those industries are still the Ning Family's. The only reason I didn't cause a commotion was because I was giving them some face. Since they don't care about honor at all, I am ready to go out and struggle with them!"

Ning Rufeng opened his eyes, his gaze sharp and severe. "You fool! What status do those people have? If they don't have someone supporting them from behind, do you think they would dare be so insolent? If you lose your sense of caution you will simply fall into the trap of others. The Ning Family is already in a precarious state. If something were to happen to you, this family would be finished!"

Ning Yuntao's face flushed red and his lips trembled. Still, he had no idea what to say. The study fell quiet.

After a long time, Ning Rufeng spoke up. In the end, he was an old man who had lived for many years and experienced many things. No matter what his feelings were right now, his calm expression had already returned. "The only thing we can do right now is to make a trip to Eastern Sun City..." As he spoke to her, he revealed a bit of hesitation. "Increase the gift by 30%. Moreover, tell Ning Liang that after several days, she is to come with us."

Ning Yuntao's eyes flew open at the meaning behind these words. He shouted out, "Father!"

Ning Rufeng remained expressionless. "I love that girl very much. But, she is still a member of our Ning Family, and it is the Ning Family that raised her. In this situation, if she needs to be sacrificed, then that is also her duty."

"Father, Ning Liang suffered from the torture of cold poison since she was young. She recovered not too long ago...if father wishes to make an offering to His Highness the Holy Son, how about choosing other people..." Ning Yuntao clenched his teeth. "My three girls all have excellent temperaments and appearances."

Ning Rufeng shook his head. "There is no need to argue any further. I have already made up my mind!"

Ning Yuntao was left in an absent-minded haze.

Within the study, Ning Rufeng closed his eyes, tears rolling down the wrinkles of his face. They were a solemn noble family of the Demonic Path, yet they had to offer up one of their daughters in exchange for the safety of their family. This was all due to his own incompetence. "Little girl, please don't blame me. Your grandfather has no other way..."

His murmuring whispers were bleak and miserable.

...

Holy Land small world, Sky Hub Division.

It was a rare occasion for Elder Qing Ruhong to not be in closed door seclusion. Right now she was sitting in an empty hall, her eyes vacant and her thoughts far away.

But no matter how absent-minded she was, she still possessed the formidable perception of a Calamity Immortal. When space rippled in front of her, her eyes suddenly began to shine, tearing through the dim hall like two bolts of lightning.

Bang –

A boundless aura instantly erupted, suppressing the entire hall. With just a thought, a horrifying restraining power would immediately descend.

“Elder Qing, there is no need to be like this. I have no malice in coming here.” A gentle voice echoed out. Wisps of darkness condensed in the dim hall, rapidly forming the outline of a figure. It was unexpectedly Mu Yunli.

Qing Ruhong sat on her throne, her eyes cold. She didn’t relax at all from his words. “And just why has Mister Mu come here without invitation?”

Mu Yunli said, “I simply feel some pity for Frost. To die an unjustified death is already harsh enough, but you cannot even express any hate, much less take revenge for him.”

Kacha –

The ground of the hall instantly shattered, countless cracks spreading out rapidly like a spider web.

Qin Ruhong stared closely at Mu Yunli. “How do you know his name?”

Mu Yunli had a calm look. “After living for so long, I always have some hidden cards that no one knows of. There is no need for Elder Qing to think too much about it.”

Frost was the name of the Endless Sea Great Array’s spirit. And this name was given to him by Qing Ruhong. She looked at Mu Yunli and said, “If Mister Mu is coming to express sorrow for my old friend, I have already received your sentiments. If you have nothing else to say, I won’t be accompanying you out.”

Mu Yunli said, “In the matter of the Endless Sea, there is no absolute right or wrong. But, Elder Qing should acknowledge that it was Yao Bin who ultimately struck Frost and killed him. It is a pity that he was always committed to his duty and made no mistake, yet he has fallen just because of that. It is truly something worth regretting.”

Qing Ruhong had no expression. She didn’t respond.

Mu Yunli faintly smiled. “It seems that I’ve spoken too much. Since Elder Qing has already forgotten about this matter, I won’t disturb you any further. Then, farewell.”

He turned and stepped away, fading from sight.

Qing Ruhong frowned. She knew that the reason Mu Yunli came here today was to deliberately instigate that past event and provoke her. Still, she couldn't help but think back to the image of Frost...

Frost was a spirit that possessed no flesh and blood body. It was difficult enough for an existence like him to be born. The reason he had been so cautious through these years was that he wished to one day be free of the great array, free to live his life in the world.

They had discussed this issue for a long time, and had even found some clues. It wouldn't have been long before they were able to achieve this wish. But, Yao Bin just happened to rush through the road of Sea Burial at that time.

In her mind, a scene reappeared. A great pillar of light dropped down from the heavens, rumbling into the Endless Sea and shocking everyone within the Demonic Path.

At the same time, that light also thoroughly crushed Frost's vitality.

Sometimes, no matter how one logically thought about something, they still couldn't control their emotions. Qing Ruhong remained silent, her expression a bit more vague than before.

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Cloud Grove City, Mu Family.

Mu Yunli opened his eyes in an underground temple. After thinking things over, the corners of his lips lifted in a happy smile. He had planted a seed of hate in Qing Ruhong's heart. Although it might not be able to grow up strong and healthy, it should still be enough to take root.

He looked up at the dark hall all around him and loathing flashed in his eyes. Then, he gently sighed. He never thought that he would actually arrive at this step.

But in this world, there was never a chance to redo one's choice. Otherwise, a long long time ago he would have rather...

He restrained his thoughts, a sharp light in his eyes. Was it about time to take action?

...

The Sky Hub Division was responsible for all major array formations within the Holy Land. Besides monitoring and detecting any problems, they were also assigned to daily inspections, maintenance, and other complex and specialized tasks. Of course, according to the importance of an array formation, the people responsible for those array formations needed to pass varying tests.

For instance, this array formation formed from beautiful demonic runes. Its importance could be placed in the top three spots of the Sky Hub Division. Only the most trusted direct descendants of the Sky Hub Division had the qualifications to enter.

"Although I've seen this so many times before, I still can't help but say that those demonic patterns are truly too beautiful." A baby-faced cultivator sighed, an admiring expression on his face.

A dark-faced cultivator beside him smiled. "It's not just that. I've heard that these demonic patterns were directly extracted from the body of some formidable demon beast. It's not something that can be produced by human hands." His gaze turned stern. "Although we have gone more than once, I still need to repeat the rules to you so that nothing goes wrong. If there is even the smallest mistake, it's not just you and I that will be done for, even our families will be implicated!"

As he spoke to here, his tone had become firm and rigid.

Several people had dignified expressions. They nodded their heads in understanding.

The dark-faced cultivator turned around. Seeing the person behind him look tense as if he were afraid he would make some careless mistake, he comfortingly said, "Brother-in-law, there is nothing to be anxious about. You and I are only entering the channel to examine it. We will soon complete it; you don't need to worry."

The baby-faced cultivator laughed. "Tian Cheng is usually the most composed person. To be able to see how nervous you are today, it's not in vain that I and your big brother joined together to recommend you for this position." He winked as he spoke. "Isn't your oldest son's first month celebration coming? Once we return we will hold a great banquet! I still haven't had enough of the gray pear wine from last time!"

Tian Cheng let out a deep breath and smiled. "Alright, I will definitely make sure to carefully prepare for the banquet. All of you definitely have to come and support me that day."

Seeing him relax, the dark-faced cultivator slapped his shoulder. He turned and said, "Let's go."

The group of people walked into the demonic runes. Black demonic light gushed out, swallowing up their figures. After a short moment of confusion, their line of sight was restored. They found themselves in an illusory channel that was constantly twisting and wriggling about.

Tian Cheng looked around. "Big brother, this is the channel to enter the Demon Realm?"

The dark-faced cultivator nodded, not saying too much. He took out some examination equipment and led some people ahead first.

Because this was his first time coming here, Tian Cheng's only task was to familiarize himself with this place; he hadn't been given any specific duties. He smiled and fell to the back, allowing the others to walk ahead. As he followed from the rear, he looked around, constantly revealing an expression of shock and acclaim.

Everything was fine with the channel. Two days later, they reached their ending destination. If they proceeded past this area they would be past the halfway point of the channel. The hauling powers of the Demon Realm wasn't something they could contend with.

The dark-faced cultivator relaxed. "Alright, once we complete this last examination we will be done working for today. Once we return, I'll buy a round of wine for everyone."

The group cheered.

Tian Cheng stopped in his tracks. As he looked at the happy people in front of him, a complex light lit up his face, immediately turning into an apologetic look. He lifted his hand and a red crystal appeared in his

palm. As he looked at its translucent surface, he seemed to see the image of his wife and small child. He took a deep breath and gently sighed.

I have been unfair to you and your mother. If there is a next life, I pray I will have the chance to compensate you two.

Kacha –

There was a light sound. Everyone froze.

The dark-faced cultivator turned around to see the shattered crystal in his brother-in-law's hands. Before he could say a single word, blazing blood red flames rushed out, flooding his field of vision.

On this day, the channel to the Demon Realm collapsed. The Sky Hub Division was in chaos!

### **Chapter 563A – Ning Family, Fang Family**

The Demon Envoy immediately rushed to the Sky Hub Division. His face was dark and his eyes were as cold as ice. He asked, "Elder Qing, just how long will it take before the channel can be restored?"

Qing Ruhong lightly said, "Now that the channel has collapsed, we cannot send people in to make a complete estimate of what the degree of damage is. But in my opinion, the chances of fully repairing the channel aren't too high."

The Demon Envoy's face turned thoroughly black. As he looked around at the Sky Hub Division that was in utter confusion, he barely managed to suppress the rage in his chest. This wasn't the time to be holding people accountable.

"Elder Qing, you should understand how great the importance of the Demon Realm channel is. I hope you can do your best to fix this situation!"

Qing Ruhong was silent for some time. She nodded. "Demon Envoy, there is no need for you to worry. As the head of the Sky Hub Division, this is my duty."

The Demon Envoy cupped his hands together and hastily left.

Looking at his back, a complex look appeared on Qing Ruhong's indifferent face. After a period of uncertain silence, she finally sighed.

Because of how important the Demon Realm channel was to the lineage of the Holy Palace, besides the main transmission channel, there was another spare channel located in the Holy Palace.

Due to her position, Qing Ruhong was able to know of this secret. If she were to reveal this, the impact of the main channel being destroyed would instantly vanish. But after hesitating for a long time, she chose to remain silent.

Yao Bin had made no mistakes. Moreover, he was the Holy Palace's Holy Son so his dignity couldn't be offended...but Frost's life, was he to disappear just like that?

The seed of hate in her heart had finally taken root.

...

The previous Demon Monarch had a frigid expression. He coldly said, "After the matter with Bai Xinyuan, a great internal investigation was conducted throughout the three great influences of the Demonic Path, so how did a little fish escape, much less manage to touch the Demon Realm channel? An Yang, you were too negligent!"

The Demon Envoy bitterly smiled and bowed deeply, "Teacher, Bai Xinyuan's case has made all three sides extremely nervous. An investigation was started, beginning from the top down. In order to avoid alerting any hidden spies and having them cause as much damage as possible before they were found, for a while we hadn't taken into account the very lowest level..."

"Humph!" The previous Demon Envoy didn't hide his disappointment. He thought for a moment and then quietly said, "Can Qing Ruhong's words be trusted?"

The Demon Envoy furrowed his eyebrows. "Teacher might be overthinking things. Elder Qing is a prideful person. She shouldn't do something that would harm the entire Demonic Path. Your disciple believes her words."

The previous Demon Envoy noticed his stoic and steady stance and his face softened a little. "I am not suspecting that she played a role in this matter. If Qing Ruhong wanted to ruin the Demon Realm channel, it wouldn't be something as simple as this."

The Demon Envoy's thoughts stirred. "Is teacher thinking about the matter of repairing the channel?"

The previous Demon Envoy was expressionless. "Don't forget what happened with the spirit of the Endless Sea Great Array. That little girl Qing is also someone I watched growing up. Even though she appears cold and indifferent on the outside, she is someone who heavily values sentiment and feelings."

The Demon Envoy bowed. "This disciple understands. I will pay attention to this matter."

The previous Demon Envoy closed his eyes. After several breaths of time he coldly said, "Because the throne of the Holy Monarch has been empty for all these years, whenever we compete with the Immortal Sect we have always been holding back. It seems that they have forgotten that when it comes to slaughter and destruction, we are far more skilled. Pass out orders to have the Shadows begin moving. Have them give a warning to the Immortal Sect to not be so reckless!"

...

Eastern Sun City.

Because of the ceremony to visit and worship the Holy Son, this originally bustling city was much livelier than usual. Right now, the streets were filled with elegant and beautiful cultivators, most of them accompanied by guards.

A considerable number of these people were juniors who had accompanied their fathers and grandfathers to open their eyes. These were young masters and misses who were highly respected in their own territories, and none of them were easy to deal with.

In a short several days, several fights broke out throughout Eastern Sun City. Fortunately, although these juniors were arrogant, they weren't brainless. None of them made too big a fuss of things.

If any problems were to occur in Eastern Sun City in the current situation, that would be offending the honor of the Holy Son Palace.

But there were always exceptions, and there were even some people who acted completely intentionally. For instance, right now in this long and narrow street, the Ning Family just happened to meet Fang Changling.

A number of juniors stood behind Fang Changling. Right now, he was looking at the group of people in front of him, his gaze falling upon a girl wearing a white veil. Her appearance was blurry and hidden, but the fragrance that came from her still caused the eyes of several people to brighten.

“Old Sir Ning, we haven’t seen each other for just a dozen some days so why do you look so thin and haggard? For some things, it’s always best to look past them. Why keep worrying so much?” Fang Changling smiled as he spoke, his expression rather sincere.

Ning Rufeng was expressionless. “My body is quite well. Patriarch Fang need not worry about my present condition. I have other matters to attend to today, so I will excuse myself first.” He led his people forward.

Fang Changling stepped in front of him. “There is always a reason behind meeting; why be so estranged with me?” His eyes glanced over. “This is your niece Ning Liang, right? She really was born beautiful. Hah, what a pity! I hear that Old Sir Ning came to Eastern Sun City not just to visit and give obeisance to the Holy Son Palace, but also to look for a husband for your niece. Old Sir Ning, please take a look. Those behind me are the most outstanding juniors of my Fang Family. How about tying our families together through marriage? We can look after each other from now on!”

Ning Rufeng’s face darkened. He said, “Patriarch Fang, please watch your words. My granddaughter has no intention of seeking a husband. I thank you for the good intent and I will make sure to keep it in heart!”

“Ahh.” Fang Changling nodded in understanding. A strange look came over his face. “Could the rumors be true? The reason Old Sir Ning led his granddaughter all the way to Eastern Sun City was to offer her to His Highness....well, in the end we are still noble families of the Demonic Path, so we should keep some semblance of dignity up. If you just eagerly send up this offering to the Holy Son Palace, aren’t you afraid that others will look down on your granddaughter Ning Liang?”

“Shut up!” Ning Yuntao flew into a rage, his eyes looking as if they could eat others. “Fang Changling, stop spouting such baseless accusations! Do you think my Ning Family will let you freely humiliate us!?”

He could clearly see the ill intent in the Fang Family’s heart. Fang Changling had first mentioned them ‘seeking a son-in-law’ in order to mar Ning Liang’s reputation, and then he mentioned them offering her up to His Highness; this was clearly to destroy any path the Ning Family had left to survive.

He looked at his quiet niece. As he thought about her calm silence ever since she received the news, his chest filled with intense anger and his eyes turned red.

Fang Changling’s complexion darkened. “Ning Yuntao, you are not yet the patriarch of the Ning Family and yet you still dare to be so unbridled. Do I personally need to teach you how to respect your

seniors?" Behind him, numerous Fang Family cultivators took a step forward, their eyes shining with violence. Several unscrupulous looks fell on Ning Liang's body.

If there really was a conflict here, they would take this chance to rough her up and feel her body a few times. Not to mention how nice it must feel, but it would also cause her to lose all face. Then, they could see what courage the Ning Family still had to offer her to His Highness.

The Fang Family had already plotted this in advance. The Ning Family master had been stirred into anger, and a fight could break out at any moment. Suddenly, there was a loud shout, "Everyone, stop!"

The surrounding crowd quickly dispersed. A squad of True Demon Guards stepped into the field, led by Shang Yuntai. His cold eyes swept over everyone. "The great ceremony is approaching and chaos is not allowed in Eastern Sun City. I hope that you can all restrain yourselves, otherwise we will be forced to interfere."

Fang Changling frowned. Everything had proceeded smoothly today, but then these True Demon Guards had appeared out of nowhere, upending his plan. Still, they were the subordinates of His Highness the Holy Son, so he couldn't offend them.

Without saying anything, Fang Changling glanced at the steward beside him. The steward immediately plastered a smile on his face and hurried forward, respectfully bowing. "Misunderstanding, this is just a misunderstanding. We are the Fang Family from West Prosperity City. We happen to be old acquaintances with Herald City's Ning Family, so how could we possibly cause a commotion?" With just a few words, the identity of both sides had been made known. But, everyone could clearly see the truth. The steward's smile brightened and he silently passed over a storage ring. "It must have been laborious for you all to keep guard over the city. Here is some wine money. Please accept it as a sign of our respect towards His Highness the Holy Son."

These last words were spoken well. Even though everyone knew that this was a bribe, they still couldn't say anything about it. If it were anyone else, they might have been wary about the prestige of a noble family and have chosen to ignore this problem. But, Shang Yuntai had already experienced his beloved woman being taken away by others and he had no favorable impression at all towards these types of families that abused their power and status.

Of course, the most important part was that His Highness was standing behind him.

"We follow His Highness the Holy Son and are provided for by him. There is no need for the Fang Family to be so thoughtful. I ask that both sides immediately leave."

The steward's smile froze.

Fang Changling let out a deep breath. "Let's go!"

Even though he was unhappy about this, he knew that he absolutely could not provoke these True Demon Guards in front of him.

Ning Rufeng hesitated for a moment. He didn't walk forward to thank them, instead simply nodding his head in gratitude. He took his people and left in a hurry.



Like this, a storm faded away. Seeing that there was nothing else to see, the crowd began to disperse. However, a good number of eyes fell on Shang Yuntai. As they said, like servant, like master. It seemed that these True Demon Guards had a very high standard. If so, His Highness the Holy Son was not likely to be someone who was easy to mess with. Many people felt more fear and awe in their hearts.

“Big Brother Shang, West Prosperity City’s Fang Family has been rising these past years and is pretty well known. I know a little of their enmities with the Ning Family. From what I see, all of this is a power struggle between noble families. I fear we’d just be doing a thankless job if we were to interfere with their business.” A True Demon Guard quietly said, a worried look in his eyes.

Shang Yuntai faintly said, “I know you are saying this out of good intentions, but you must remember above all that we are True Demon Guards, and as True Demon Guards, the only one who makes decisions is His Highness. If we cannot even complete the task that His Highness gave us, what does it matter if we have smooth relations with everyone? Alright, enough of this. We will continue our patrol.”

The True Demon Guards present all revealed ashamed expressions. Just now they had also been secretly resenting and thinking that Shang Yuntai shouldn’t have interfered. Luckily, they had all regained their senses. The current Holy Palace now had His Highness. If they still muddled around and forgot what their true mission was, then they likely wouldn’t be able to wear their armor for much longer.

Thinking some more, since they had the support of His Highness, who cared if the other party was a noble family? Even if they were guilty of something, who dared to jump out and oppose them? Unless they were tired of living.

Everyone’s spirits were lifted. They held their heads up high and a noble light began to shine in their eyes!

### **Chapter 563B – Who Gave Them Such Courage**

Fang Changling and his group returned to their residence in Eastern Sun City. Although this was a newly bought courtyard and the furnishings hadn’t yet been fully decorated, the construction itself was actually quite luxurious and splendid. Originally, the thought was that after seeking shelter beneath His Highness the Holy Son, some of the family juniors would remain here in order to carry out any given orders. This courtyard had been especially prepared for them.

But after what just happened, Fang Changling suddenly thought that he had taken everything for granted. His face darkened.

These past years, everything had been going smoothly for the Fang Family. As the patriarch of the Fang Family, when had he ever lost face like that? Even Elder Li, who had a high status, would treat him with a certain degree of respect. Yet today he had been publicly disgraced by several True Demon Guards!

After sending everyone away, the steward had a dour expression. He said, “Master, don’t be angry. The True Demon Guard has been in a position that is neither low nor high these past years and it has left them in an awkward situation. Now that they finally have someone they can rely on, there are bound to be some recklessly arrogant individuals showing up. What kind of character is His Highness the Holy Son? Of course he will be understanding of everything that has happened. Moreover, our Fang Family taking the initiative to seek shelter beneath him will be the turning point he needs to gather the other influences. He will surely be extra courteous in receiving master so that he can win over popular

opinion.” He tittered several times and said, “On that day, those True Demon Guards will definitely tiptoe around master!”

Fang Changling humphed, feeling a little better. “Today was a great chance to ruin the Ning Family’s plan but it all fell apart because of some bugs. In the future, I won’t spare any of them!” He bitterly slapped the table.

The steward flattered again and again and a small smile finally appeared on his face. He waved his hand, “Have you completed everything yet? Since our plan didn’t work today, I can only take the initiative.”

“Everything has been cleared. We are placed in front of the Ning Family. After master greets His Highness the Holy Son, perhaps the Ning Family won’t even have a chance to enter the palace.”

Fang Changling pondered for a moment before saying, “I was originally thinking that I wanted to see the expression on that old man’s face, but now I’m feeling restless about the situation. Make sure that we are a few more places in front. His Highness might be bored and suddenly decide to see the Ning Family, and they might haphazardly say something that isn’t good for us. I don’t want any waves to appear.”

The steward respectfully bowed. “It is always master that clearly sees the situation. I will immediately arrange for this.”

...

On the third day, the ceremony of worshipping His Highness finally came.

The gates to the Holy Son Palace opened, welcoming guests from all sides. The True Demon Guard stood guard outside and the Holy Nether Guard stood guard inside; the scene was magnificent and dignified.

Although the Ning Family’s gift was rich, they were now swinging precariously in the wind. Compared to the rankings of the various noble families, they were almost at the very bottom.

Ning Rufeng, Ning Yuntao, and Ning Liang led several expert cultivators from their family. As they stood in the vast crowd of people, they had anxious looks on their faces.

The Fang Family had come to Eastern Sun City. Although they didn’t know what their goal was, even a fool could tell that they were harboring evil intentions. That scuffle within the city a few days ago was the best evidence of this.

As numerous people were deep in thought, the sound of a proclamation echoed through the air. The first to enter the hall was of course the guest with the highest status. Today’s grand ceremony was for the people in the Holy Son’s new territory to greet their master. But in reality, many people with great backgrounds had also arrived.

Listening carefully, one could see that the Elders of the Holy Palace had each sent congratulatory gifts. Even the Blue Skies Yellow Springs sent people bearing gifts. After the matter with Bai Xinyuan, the Blue Skies Yellow Springs had been much friendlier towards Qin Yu. Of course, one of the reasons was that they had acknowledged Qin Yu’s current status.

Ning Rufeng was awed. He heard that His Highness had been a disciple of the Demonic Path. He was originally an unknown and unimportant person, so who could have expected that he would have such achievements in a mere two years?

As the titles and names of the various guests were announced, they rang like thunder in his ears. If any one of these people tried to help out the Ning Family, they wouldn't have fallen into such a difficult predicament.

At this time, most of the restlessness that Ning Rufeng felt in seeking shelter beneath the Holy Son had disappeared. If they could truly become close to His Highness, the Ning Family's future would be secured!

More and more thoughts appeared in his mind. His Highness wasn't that old. If Ning Liang was able to enter his eyes, that might be a good fated marriage bestowed by the heavens.

After thinking of this, a bit of Ning Rufeng's guilt dissipated.

But soon, a sharp proclamation sounded out, "West Prosperity City's Fang Family, enter the hall to worship the Holy Son!"

Fang Changling brought his group and hurried forward. When he passed by the Ning Family he turned his head and coldly smiled at them.

This glance caused the Ning Family to lose confidence. Seeing the Fang Family walk in ahead of them, they all felt uneasy.

The Fang Family followed the Holy Nether Guard into the great hall. A noble and solemn atmosphere blew against them, making it feel as if an invisible mountain was pressing down atop their heads. Fang Changling's complexion changed and his waist bent much more. He respectfully bowed, "West Prosperity City's Fang Family, Fang Changling and juniors, come to greet Your Highness Holy Son. We wish Your Highness peace and prosperity!"

It was no wonder that the normally arrogant people of the Fang Family had unanimously agreed to subordinate themselves to His Highness the Holy Son after hearing about this. Who would have imagined that His Highness would actually possess such a level of cultivation!?

This aura...even if he wasn't a Calamity Immortal, there wasn't much difference.

"At ease. Rise." A faint voice sounded out. Although this voice sounded young, it was filled with a thick sense of dignity.

Fang Changling respectfully stood up. The voice continued to say, "Patriarch Fang is thoughtful. I very much like the two nine line blood lotuses you sent me. Please sit."

His efforts in obtaining those blood lotuses hadn't been wasted!

As those around him looked at him with envy, Fang Changling's spirits were lifted. He took a deep breath and said, "I am glad that Your Highness likes our gift. West Prosperity City's Fang Family might be a new noble family, but we respect and revere the hierarchy of status. After today, if Your Highness has any orders, my Fang Family will walk through fire and water to complete them."

These words might have been a little too blunt as the head of the family. There was a stir of commotion in the hall. Many guests that had already bowed and greeted His Highness suddenly revealed looks of regret.

Although they all had the intention of pledging themselves to His Highness, for better or worse they still had to maintain the dignity of a noble family. They were thinking of greeting His Highness today and then laying bare their true thoughts afterwards.

Who would have imagined that the Fang Family would completely disregard convention and not care about their face? Although their move was incredibly straightforward, they still managed to pull themselves to the top.

As the first ones to pledge themselves to His Highness, it would be expected for favorable treatment to be given.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed but he wasn't surprised. With his current status in the Demonic Path, it would be normal for a noble family to seek his asylum. However, he hadn't expected that the Fang Family would be so impatient.

But this was at least a good beginning. His tone eased and he said, "I will remember Patriarch Fang's intent. If there is any problem in the future, I will preside over it for you."

This was simply an exchange of benefits. If the Fang Family was willing to subordinate themselves to him, he didn't mind giving them a minor commitment.

The eyes of those in the hall suddenly turned burning hot. If looks could kill, Fang Changling would have likely been burnt to ashes.

Disregarding all else, with His Highness' words today, if anyone wanted to make things difficult for the Fang Family in the future they would need to rethink it three times over first.

Fang Changling was overjoyed. He respectfully bowed and led his group into a corner of the hall.

Soon, cultivators from the Holy Son Palace led them away. They were seated in a position that was only second to the VIP seats. Fang Changling was fully satisfied by this.

The Ning Family's stubborn struggle had at least helped the Fang Family make the correct choice this time. As he thought about how his family's golden era was coming, his smile became blinding.

No matter how envious everyone else was, they didn't reveal this on their faces. At this time, many of them came up to the Fang Family, their words and expressions warm and inviting.

As they looked at Fang Changling's old face that was blooming like a chrysanthemum, they all secretly thought that it was best to toss aside things like face in the future. If they had this awareness in the past then the Fang Family wouldn't have been able to take the initiative before them!

The crowd around him suddenly quieted down. Fang Changling looked up to see a beautiful woman with a cold temperament walking in his direction.

Although he didn't know who she was, the two Holy Son Palace maids following behind her were enough to indicate her considerable status. His thoughts turned and he quickly sat up.

Hai Lanlan bowed, her expression faint, "Patriarch Fang, if you are willing to work for His Highness, then His Highness won't treat you unjustly. Do you have any difficulties that you need His Highness' help with?"

Here came the real show!

Fang Changling respectfully bowed. "Reporting to miss, the Fang Family indeed has some difficulties right now. I ask that miss please relay the situation to His Highness."

He explained the grudges he had with the Ning Family. Of course, while facts were facts, he did embellish or forget some things here and there. Seeing Hai Lanlan's silence, Fang Changling said, "Right now the Ning Family is waiting outside the hall. I hear that they also wish to pledge themselves to His Highness and become his subordinates."

There wasn't a need to explain too much about it. He simply needed to get the meaning across.

Hai Lanlan nodded. "I understand Patriarch Fang's intent."

As she spoke, she bowed and left.

Several Fang Family juniors couldn't help but gulp as they saw her slender back. It took a ruthless glare from Fang Changling for them to avert their eyes.

Hai Lanlan furrowed her eyebrows, her eyes a little colder. But, as she thought about how the Fang Family were the first ones to pledge themselves, she forcefully suppressed the loathing in her heart. Although she didn't have an official position right now, she was temporarily dealing with most of the matters within the Holy Son Palace. After asking some people, she understood the true grievances between the Ning and Fang Families.

Thinking to here, Hai Lanlan took advantage of the gap between guests and approached Qin Yu. She said, "Your Highness, the Fang Family has a problem they would like you to adjudicate."

Qin Yu didn't care much about the entangled grudges between two noble families of the Demonic Path. After listening to her, he suddenly wrinkled his eyebrows together. "Herald City's Ning Family?"

Hai Lanlan said, "Yes. I heard that the Ning Family left the Holy Land for some time and returned not too long ago."

"What is the name of their patriarch?"

"Ning Rufeng."

It was indeed him!

A strange look flashed in Qin Yu's eyes. What sort of situation was this? Fang Changling ran all the way here to falsely accuse the family of his dao companion? Who gave the Fang Family such courage!

### **Chapter 564A – Reversing the Situation**

Hai Lanlan didn't receive a response for some time, so she asked, "Your Highness?"

Qin Yu finally regained his composure. He narrowed his eyes and said, "Look up the current situation of the Ning Family."

“Yes.” Hai Lanlan drew back several steps, a surprised look in her eyes. Was His Highness old friends with the Ning Family? Although she didn’t have a favorable impression of the Fang Family, she suddenly felt some pity towards them.

Those who inflict themselves with sins cannot survive...the approximate meaning was like this.

The problems between the Ning and Fang Families weren’t some great secret. After carefully asking some people, Hai Lanlan quickly found out what the Ning Family’s current situation was. To say that they had been deserted by their friends and family wasn’t going too far. Moreover, there were also some other noble families lurking on the edges that had had ill intentions towards them.

However, since this Ning Family was old friends with His Highness and it seemed that His Highness held them in considerably high regard, couldn’t they simply ask His Highness for help, making all their problems vanish into thin air? Why make things so convoluted?

Hai Lanlan couldn’t figure it out. She shook her head and suppressed these thoughts, recording all of this information onto a jade slip.

No matter what the reason was that the Ning Family hadn’t asked for help before, from this day forth their perilous position would be easily solved and their entire family would welcome a bright and glorious future.

After probing the jade slip, Qin Yu’s complexion didn’t change, but the air around him seemed a little bit colder.

Due to the commotion at Four Seasons City, the Ning Family hastily returned to the Holy Land; this was likely because they were worried about any retaliation from the Immortal Sect. In other words, he was responsible for the Ning Family’s current situation.

A bit of guilt appeared in Qin Yu’s heart.

After experiencing so many tribulations and gaining his current cultivation and status, his mentality and willpower were formidable enough. There was little that could easily influence him. Still, there were always exceptions. Ning Ling was one of the soft points in his heart.

As he thought about how there was no news of her from within the Immortal Sect, he felt both anxiousness and resentment. If not for the fact that he was so small and weak, how could he continuously be unable to protect those he loved?

Although this thought was a bit unreasonable, it was actually what Qin Yu truly felt. In this sort of situation, he had even more regard towards the Ning Family.

This Fang Changling was simply courting death!

If he wanted to shelter the Ning Family and give them the turning point to improve their situation, today was the best time to do so. As long as he clearly expressed his stance then there wouldn’t be anyone in the future that would easily dare to have thoughts about the Ning Family.

But it wasn’t easy to do that right now. After all, the Fang Family was the first noble family to pledge themselves to him. If he were to handle them without a good reason, he feared he would scare away the other influences that wanted to join his side.

Qin Yu's thoughts raced. His eyes brightened; he knew what to do!

After carefully deliberating over it several times and determining that there wasn't a problem, Qin Yu suddenly said, "Pause for a moment." His eyes swept over the hall. "I just heard about a matter. It seems that West Prosperity City's Fang Family is in conflict with Herald City's Ning Family."

Fang Changling's heart skipped a beat. He was unable to calm himself down. Why had His Highness suddenly mentioned this matter? As he was secretly disturbed, he quickly hurried out and said, "This is nothing but a minor matter. It is something unworthy of Your Highness wasting effort on. Today is a ceremony of great joy; I have no wish of ruining Your Highness' moment."

Qin Yu said, "The Fang Family is willing to loyally devote themselves to me. Now that they have been wronged, how can I sit back idly and do nothing?" He leaned forward and said, "Patriarch Fang, explain so that everyone here knows of the situation. I will surely uphold justice for you today!"

Fang Changling relaxed. Then, he quickly complained in his heart. Some things were doomed to remain hidden in the darkness; they weren't truths that he could speak in public. But as he looked at Qin Yu's solemn expression and how he looked as if he was about to lower thunderous retribution at any moment, he realized that the Holy Son probably wanted to use the Fang Family as an example to win over the hearts of the people. If he refused to cooperate, the favorable impression in His Highness' heart would likely disappear. He might even think that they were disobedient towards him.

Clenching his teeth, Fang Changling steadied his heart. What did it matter if he were to lose face? As long as he managed to flatter His Highness, the Fang Family would still be able to freely walk through the Demonic Path with their heads held up high.

As he came to a decision, he immediately revealed a saddened look and said, "I didn't want to cause such a commotion to begin with. To speak of it is such a disgrace..."

A wonderful and fresh story poured out from his lips. Compared to what Hai Lanlan had heard, it was much more exaggerated. There were climaxes and ditches, a full range of emotions involved. Those that heard this story would feel sad, and those who saw it would burst into tears!

It was clear that in this story, the Fang Family was a genuine victim.

The hall was silent. Countless eyes fell on Fang Changling. As they saw his reddened eyes, his trembling finger, his grief and indignation, his shame and helplessness, they couldn't help but give him a great thumbs up in their hearts.

Those in the hall more or less knew the approximate situation between the Fang Family and Ning Family. What kind of story was this with so many twists and turns? The Fang Family had simply noticed that the Ning Family was in decline and wanted to swallow them up whole.

It was already difficult enough to lie so blatantly with eyes wide open, much less embellish it into a touching story and cry tears while doing so. This Fang Changling was truly a genius. His complete lack of concern about his face and reputation was something that the average person couldn't hope to compete with.

No wonder the Fang Family was able to stand out and occupy a small space in the Holy Son's heart. There was a reason for all of this!

Qin Yu's face darkened. He coldly said, "Patriarch Fang, are you speaking the truth?"

Fang Changling was stunned. Of course he was speaking lies, but his expression remained firm and steadfast. "I have not spoken a single lie. I ask Your Highness to uphold justice for my Fang Family!"

The road is more or less done being paved, so please hurry and deal with the Ning Family! Although his face was sufficiently thick, he didn't like the stares of everyone in the hall upon him.

"How bold!" Qin Yu slapped his armrest. "This is as clear as the heavens and earth! Within the Demonic Path's small world, someone actually has the gall and bravado to stain the name of the noble families! This is truly infuriating!"

"Men, send out my order. Summon the Ning Family into the hall. I want them to face the Fang Family and explain themselves!"

Fang Changling was stunned. This script didn't seem right. Why was the Ning Family being summoned in here?

His heart flustered, he quickly said, "Your Highness, there is no need..."

Qin Yu dismissively waved his hand, interrupting him. "Patriarch Fang, rest assured that I will uphold justice for you in front of all these gusts today. I will have the Ning Family Patriarch bow his head and admit guilt!"

This is wrong, this is wrong! Your Highness, please don't make a fuss over all this! Fang Changling's eyes widened but before he could utter a single word, he heard someone announce, "Your Highness, the Ning Family is waiting outside."

Qin Yu sat up straight. "Bring them in!"

The Holy Nether Guard turned and shouted. As his armor reflected the light, it filled the air with a faint blood red shine. "By His Highness' order, escort Herald City's Ning Family in for an audience!"

Ning Rufeng lowered his head as he entered the hall. Sensing the strangely quiet peace within the hall, he grew increasingly restless. Without knowing what was happening, he didn't dare to look up as he bowed deeply.

"Herald City's Ning Family, Ning Rufeng, greets Your Highness!"

Ning Yuntao and Ning Liang bowed behind him. The three of them had pale complexions.

How could Qin Yu receive their bow? He lightly coughed and said, "Rise." He pointed a finger, "The patriarch of West Prosperity City's Fang Family has accused your Ning Family of bullying them. Patriarch Ning, what do you have to say for yourself?"

Ning Rufeng's face flushed red and he was immediately angered. "Your Highness, you cannot believe the word of such villains! The Fang Family is mixing up black and white, there is not a single speck of truth to what they say!"

Qin Yu frowned. "Patriarch Ning, you are saying that the Fang Family is falsely accusing you? Do you have any evidence?"



Ning Rufeng took a deep breath. "Your Highness, the Ning Family has been in decline for many years. We returned to our manor not too long ago, so how can we possibly have the strength to provoke the illustrious and mighty Fang Family? The truth is that some evildoers have noticed that the Ning Family has lost power and wish to loot all of my family's industries and land. I came here today to pay my respects to Your Highness in hopes that Your Highness can uphold justice for my family. I never imagined that this villain would already have blasphemed my family's reputation ahead of time!"

He fell to his knees. "Your Highness, the specifics of this aren't a secret. It is easy to search up what is truth and what are lies. I beg Your Highness to uphold justice for my Ning Family!"

Within the hall, as everyone saw Fang Changling suddenly look angry and ashamed, they all felt pleased. This surname Fang, he wanted to show off and now he finally suffered a stroke of bad luck. However, they simply couldn't figure out what the intention of His Highness was. Since he had accepted the Fang Family, why continue to embarrass them and make things hard for them? Could it be that His Highness wanted to inform them all that as long as they pledged to him and became his subordinates, he would shelter them no matter what?

This...although everyone came here for that reason, this sort of thing wasn't to be done so blatantly and openly. For His Highness the Holy Son to carry out such a performance was a little hard to watch.

#### **Chapter 564B – Reversing the Situation**

Thinking like this, everyone felt a bit more contempt in their hearts. In the end, His Highness came from a plebeian background. Even if he had a revered status now, he lost all sense of dignity.

They felt pity for the Ning Family. The Ning Family had likely figured out what was happening right now, but no matter how wronged they felt or how much grief they felt, what could they do? In this world, the words of the weak never held any power to begin with. If they were to try and continue to struggle, their end result would likely be even more pitiful. They glanced at the Ning Family miss who kept her head lowered. Her appearance and demeanor were all top class.

Tsk tsk, what a pity...what a pity...

Fang Changling gnashed his teeth together, wishing he could tear Ning Rufeng's mouth apart. But after thinking about it, he changed his mind. No matter what they said, would His Highness even pay attention to them? Looking at the three Ning Family members, they were like clowns prancing about on stage. Their fates had already been determined and yet they didn't know anything about it at all.

He coldly sneered, "Ning Rufeng, no matter how clever your tongue is, everyone knows the truth in their hearts. His Highness' eyes are like a blazing torch, how could he allow you to recklessly babble nonsense!" He turned around and bowed, "Your Highness, you can see that the Ning Family still has no intention of repenting. They cannot be forgiven!"

Ning Yuntao flew into a rage. "Fang Changling, you despicable villain..." The hall was incomparably still, making his voice especially sharp. As he looked at the expressions of those around him and their regretful looks, Ning Yuntao suddenly regained his composure. Endless sorrow rose in his heart.

He looked up, his voice full of despair. "Your Highness, you are the Holy Palace's Highness, how can you...how can you not differentiate between right and wrong...my Ning Family has been loyal to the

Demonic Path through all our generations, but in the end we are to fall in such a situation. I can't accept this, I won't accept this!"

Pa –

The sound of a slap echoed through the hall and Ning Yuntao crashed into the ground. Ning Rufeng's hand shook and his voice trembled as he said, "Shut up! What kind of honored status does His Highness have; how can you possibly offend him!" He fell to his knees, "I beg Your Highness to be open-minded and not lower yourself to the same level as this fool. The Ning Family...is willing to accept any ruling!"

"Grandfather!" Ning Liang looked up for the first time, her eyes flooded with disbelief. When she saw Ning Rufeng's increasingly aged face, an agonizing pain tore at her. She suddenly understood that her grandfather's decisions and submission had all been to preserve the lives of those in the Ning Family.

The cold and indifferent eyes all around caused a cold chill to pass through her. She bit her lips and looked up at the figure that stood at the highest floor of the hall, His Highness the Holy Son who looked down at them from above.

This was the person who would succeed the throne of the Holy Monarch? Was the Holy Palace blind?

What she first saw was a strange face. He couldn't be considered handsome; he was mostly ordinary with a young and naive appearance.

But for some unknown reason, Ning Liang's heart suddenly skipped a beat. She felt something familiar, as if she had once seen this face somewhere before.

When she met his gaze, her body stiffened. Shock suddenly filled her furious eyes.

Those eyes...this appearance...

In that moment, all sorts of thoughts flew through her mind. The image that she had tried to suppress in the depths of her memories suddenly leapt out into the front.

There were two different faces, one ordinary and one handsome. No one would ever place them next to each other. But in Ning Liang's mind, that nose, those eyes, eyebrows...they were clearly different, but the two faces began to gradually overlap with each other.

Qin Yu secretly thought that this was an ill turn of events. He never expected that she would actually recognize him with his current appearance. Because he didn't want to expose his true identity, he said, "Patriarch Ning, do not worry. I will not lower punishment over a brief moment of anger. However, before this matter has been investigated, does Patriarch Ning wish to acknowledge guilt on your own initiative?"

Eh...?

Something didn't seem right about this.

Within the hall, numerous people suddenly revealed amazed expressions. What sort of game was His Highness playing at? How come they couldn't understand him?

Ning Rufeng was stunned. Suddenly, he thought of something and his heart began to vigorously beat. He hesitated for only an instant before he clenched his fists.

This was his final chance. Even if there was only a 1% chance, he still had to try it!

Ning Rufeng fell to his knees and bowed deep to the floor. "This old man was confused, I thank Your Highness for being benevolent and not blaming us! With my life on the line, I vow that nothing I said before was a lie. Everything has been caused by the evil intentions of the Fang Family! I ask Your Highness to investigate!"

Fang Changling was immediately enraged. He thought that the curtain was finally going to lower on this great play, but the plotline suddenly changed out of nowhere. As he heard Ning Rufeng's words, his heart shrank. Before he could say anything, the person atop the throne said, "Patriarch Fang, do you dare guarantee your own words?"

Something was wrong! Something was wrong!

Even if his reaction was slow before, he still sensed something wrong with the situation. A cold sweat formed on his forehead. He raised his head and looked up at Qin Yu's icy cold gaze, his heart shivering. If he continued to stubbornly insist on the veracity of his words, then he might lose his life. But if he were to change his testimony...as an intense struggle was going through his mind, he heard Qin Yu open his mouth and say, "It seems that Patriarch Fang agrees. I knew that Patriarch Fang is someone of absolute sincerity. How can you possibly be the evil and dastardly type?"

Fang Changling looked at Qin Yu's gentle expression and was lost for a moment. Could everything he felt before have been an illusion, and His Highness was actually standing on his side?

In an absent-minded haze, he subconsciously nodded.

Done!

Qin Yu sneered in his heart. He stood up and looked around the hall. Although there was no change in his expression, a formidable oppression emanated from his body. "Everyone, I have suddenly come into my current position, and what I worry about the most is that others will deceive me and commit crimes in my name. I hope that you can all answer my questions truthfully." After a short pause, he continued, "The situation between the Ning and Fang Families shouldn't be a secret. Can anyone tell me the truth about what has happened between them?"

The hall instantly turned deathly silent, without a single extra sound. Everyone's eyes widened, feeling as if their brains weren't enough to comprehend what had happened.

Did this mean that His Highness wanted to deal with the Fang Family?

But that didn't seem right. His Highness needed useful people on his side. Was this all worth it for a declining Ning Family?

There was no need to mention justice or anything like that. For those that were able to climb to the top of this world, which one of them didn't have a heart of stone? Those with good hearts had all died long ago!

Since no one could guess Qin Yu's intentions, no one dared to speak. Time slowly passed, the hall still silent as before.

Qin Yu lightly said, "What? Doesn't everyone know?"

There was a bit of ridicule on his face.

On Qin Yu's left, a young man suddenly flushed red. He hadn't been very satisfied with this new Holy Son to begin with, and had been extremely unhappy with being forced to attend this worship ceremony. How could he withstand this taunting?

"Humph! This isn't a secret at all. It's just that everyone is taking Your Highness' face into consideration so no one is willing to say anything!"

At the same table, the complexion of another guest cultivator from the Blue Skies Yellow Springs suddenly changed. He pulled on the youth's sleeves, his face stiff with a bit of regret.

Qin Yu's gaze was faint. "I am willing to hear the truth."

The thing the youth was most unable to withstand was this sort of indifferent expression. Looking at Qin Yu, all he had was good talent – or it could even be called plain luck!

The youth's face darkened. He said, "The truth is simple. A single sentence is enough." He lifted a finger and pointed out, "Not a single word that person says can be believed!"

Fang Changling immediately paled.

Qin Yu shook his head. "A single opinion is not sufficient proof. Everyone, you may also speak out. Tell me who is lying between the Fang Family and Ning Family."

The youth immediately turned pale with anger upon being told that his words weren't credible enough. He glared at Qin Yu and stood up, "Mister Wei, the matter that we spoke about the other day, have you already forgotten?"

The man called Mister Wei immediately had an awkward expression. But because the youth had a high status, he could only complain in his heart. He coughed and said, "According to what I know, what young master Langya says is the truth."

If he didn't step on the Fang Family, that would be offending the Langya lineage. Was there even a need to ask which side he would choose?

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. "The words of only two still isn't enough."

The youth thought that Qin Yu wanted to establish his authority here and was trying to preserve the Fang Family. Suddenly angered, he said, "Everyone, Mister Wei and I have already spoken. Do you all plan on remaining silent? Or do you think that me and Mister Wei are both speaking lies?"

These last words were full of killing intent. No one was able to sit still.

"Cough cough...the truth is that I also heard some rumors. It seems that the Fang Family has committed some wrongs..."

“That is indeed true.”

“The Fang Family is not in the right.”

“There is likely a problem with the Fang Family...”

Fang Changling started to stream sweat.

The youth turned around, “Your Highness, the facts are presented before you. Since you know everything, please make your judgment!” He wanted to see just how His Highness the Holy Son would clean up this mess.

Qin Yu was silent for a moment. “Fang Changling, do you have any explanation for this?”

Fang Changling fell to his knees. “Your Highness, the Fang Family has been wronged...” Although he said this, he couldn’t finish his sentence.

If it was the Fang Family who had been wronged, didn’t that mean everyone in this hall today was slandering them?

If he were to offend those in this hall, how would the Fang Family pass their future days?

His face was red from suppressing his words. He could only mash his head into the floor again and again, shouting for His Highness to see the truth.

“See the truth...I can indeed see the truth. Just who gave you the courage to openly persecute a noble family of the Demonic Path within the Demonic Path’s own Holy Land!” Qin Yu’s eyes were like knives, cold and sharp. “Although I have only recently ascended the throne of the Holy Son, I still understand how difficult it is to become a noble family of the Demonic Path.”

He lifted a hand and pointed a finger. “Cave Lake’s Zhang Family, 47 of their ancestors died, not retreating a single step in defending the Demonic Path’s territory. Only their women and children remain, and they were given the title of a noble family because of their sacrifice.”

He pointed again, “East Flower’s Chen Family. Their family has tamed demon beasts throughout the generations. Because of the dangerous risks, both men and women in their family often do not live long lives. Through six generations they shed an untold amount of blood and tears, finally obtaining the rank of a noble family.

“Harmony Tower’s Zhao Family, their family travelled through the Land of Divinity and Demons, searching for relics from ancient times...

“Cloud Pillar’s Nangong bloodline...”

Seven families were mentioned, each one of them standing in the hall. As they thought about the deeds of their ancestors, all of them were choked with emotions and their eyes turned red. When they looked at the Fang Family, their eyes were especially cold.

Thanks to Hai Lanlan, Qin Yu had memorized the information of all the important figures that came today. In particular, he had a detailed summary of the background information for the various large noble families that would be here today, leading to the current situation.

Qin Yu's eyes were sharp. "So, I really am curious. Just who gave you the courage to persecute and harm the Ning Family!

"Men! Come and take out Fang Changling. Immediately execute him!"

Fang Changling was filled with despair. As he looked at the Holy Nether Guards rushing towards him, his mind was still ringing. Even now, he still didn't know that the situation would be so bad. When he was grabbed, he tensed for a moment, but then he immediately slumped over. If he dared to resist, the entire Fang Family would be done for.

Qin Yu sneered inwardly. This Fang Changling was smart enough. Otherwise, he didn't mind cutting down the entire Fang Family while he was at it. He looked over the hall and his voice sounded out, "Everyone in the Demonic Path must remember that the dignity of the noble families cannot be blasphemed. If a similar situation like this occurs in the future, I will not be lenient!"

At this moment, all the cultivators of noble families within the hall were filled with emotions, their hearts and minds tumbling like a stormy sea. Some were so excited that hot tears dripped from their eyes. Without any guidance, they fell to their knees, shouting about the wise judgment of His Highness. None of them hesitated about pledging themselves to him anymore.

Today, Qin Yu had won over the hearts of these people!

To the left at a VIP table, the Blue Skies Yellow Springs cultivator looked at the still dazed young master. He sighed inwardly. The disparity was simply far too great. When he looked at Qin Yu, there was a bit more wariness in his eyes. When he returned, he needed to inform the various great figures that they couldn't underestimate His Highness.

To summon wind and rain with a turn of the hand, to overturn the current situation, this was nothing more than that!

### **Chapter 565A – Sea of Purgatory**

As the grand ceremony of greeting the Holy Son passed, the flow of traffic that travelled through Eastern Sun City reduced by a little. But, news of this ceremony rapidly spread out along with the guests that departed.

The Fang Family had lost a patriarch as well as their reputation. They had become a card in the game of His Highness the Holy Son, tossed away in exchange for the loyalty of the Demonic Path noble families. This fierce show of skill had numerous people praising his abilities!

Besides that, what drew everyone's attention was the Ning Family. They were a noble family that had thoroughly declined, yet they were able to throw the prestigious Fang Family to the ground. Just how impressive was that?

And what left everyone sighing with emotion was that the woman the Ning Family offered to His Highness actually stayed at the Holy Son Palace.

This was particularly important!

His Highness had risen at an astonishing speed, so fast that there had never been a chance for anyone to try and win him over. It was said that there wasn't a single woman who was close to him by his side. And, it was said that the woman from the Ning Family was top class when it came to looks or figure.

One couldn't help but immediately think about this. If Ning Liang was able to rise to the top and capture the heart of His Highness, she would immediately become the most honored woman in the Demonic Path. The Ning Family would profit tremendously as a result!

Qin Yu ordered Ning Liang to stay in the palace but didn't make any specific arrangements for her. Hai Lanlan thought about it over and over and finally settled on giving her the status of a palace court lady.

Although this position wasn't too high, the Holy Son Palace was still being constructed and the staffing organization was simple. Besides Hai Lanlan, there were only three other court ladies. And because of their status, besides His Highness, no one had the qualifications to order them around.

All sorts of rumors popped up. Those within the palace looked at Ning Liang with both awe and envy. The other two court ladies were also polite to her.

Hai Lanlan took all of this in and her heart remained calm throughout. This was because she firmly believed that the reason His Highness took in Ning Liang was completely unrelated to the relations between a man and a woman.

But she was also curious. Just what origin did the Ning Family share with His Highness? Otherwise, with His Highness' current status, there was no need for them to value the Ning Family and support and guide them.

That's right, he was supporting and guiding them.

With Ning Liang in the palace, even if Qin Yu didn't say anything, there wouldn't be another person in the Demonic Path that would provoke the Ning Family again.

But because she lacked information, Hai Lanlan only understood half of it. It was true that Qin Yu was supporting the Ning Family, but another reason he kept Ning Liang here was because he didn't want her to expose his identity.

Although they had only exchanged a look that day in the hall, Qin Yu knew that girl had probably recognized him.

After packing up the nine line blood lotuses, he gifted them to a fully satisfied Zhao Qianyuan and sent him away. Qin Yu thought for two days and finally decided to see her.

After receiving a notice that His Highness wanted to see her, Ning Liang's eyes brightened. She didn't notice the looks of envy in the eyes of the maid who came to give her the message.

"Lady, please come with me."

Qin Yu looked at Ning Liang as she respectfully bowed. Her appearance was even more similar to Ning Ling than before. He fell silent for a moment, an absent-minded look on his face.

After several breaths of time, he lightly coughed and said, "Rise."

Ning Liang looked up at that strange yet familiar face. Her lips moved but no words came out.

Qin Yu smiled. He lifted a hand and traced his face. "I never thought that anyone would see through this face, but who would have imagined that a little girl like you could do so. I'm very curious; how did you accomplish that?"

Ning Liang's eyes widened. She never thought that Qin Yu would actually directly acknowledge her. To change his appearance and name and then enter the Demonic Path, he must have experienced unimaginable difficulties in doing so. As she thought about his current status, if he were to be uncovered by anyone...her heart clutched and she hurriedly said, "Your Highness, please do not worry, I will never tell anyone!"

She suddenly felt some fear. Authority and power could change the hearts and minds of people. Was the Qin Yu of today the same as the one she met at Four Seasons City?

In order to keep this secret, would he...

Qin Yu could immediately see through Ning Liang's thoughts. He wryly smiled and shook his head. "Stop your ridiculous daydreaming. If I wanted to kill you to silence you, would I really need to make things so complex?" He hesitated for a moment and then said, "But about my identity, it does need to be kept a secret. Be more careful in the future. Don't even say anything in your dreams."

Ning Liang lifted her hands and covered her mouth, vigorously shaking her head. Her reaction caused Qin Yu to laugh out loud.

The light laughter caused Ning Liang to blush red. She normally wasn't like this, so why couldn't she help but play dumb in front of His Highness? But she was actually overjoyed inside, because she discovered that compared to when she met him at Four Seasons City, His Highness seemed much closer to her now.

After hesitating for a moment, she said in a small voice, "Your Highness, can you tell me why you keep on helping the Ning Family?"

Qin Yu's smile stiffened. He furrowed his eyebrows, unsure of what to say.

Ning Liang knew she had said something wrong. "This...Your Highness, please pretend I didn't ask...I was just curious...I'm sorry..."

Qin Yu took a deep breath and smiled. "It's fine. Later on, there is no need to be so formal in front of me. As for your question, I cannot tell you the reasoning right now. You will know in time."

After speaking with Ning Liang a little more, some people came to request a meeting so he dismissed her.

Once his business was finished, he leaned back against his seat, his eyes closed in exhaustion.

Since stepping into the Land of Divinity and Demons he had been struggling to change his destiny and become increasingly formidable.

From the eyes of an outsider, Qin Yu had an endless beautiful scene around him. But, who would know how much he fought, just how many desperate situations he had been in? If he had made the slightest mistake there would have been nothing left of him but bones.



But soon, he let out a deep breath and his eyes firmed with resolve. All of the feelings of weariness were swept away and his aura became strong once more. He had already come this far. It wouldn't be too far off in the future that he would be able to rule over the Holy Palace. At that time, he would have the qualifications to compete with the world.

Ning Ling, wait for me!

...

Immortal Sect, Nineheaven Mirrormoon Palace.

Several palace maids held flower baskets as they followed meekly behind, quietly walking down a road paved with white jade. Their baskets held freshly picked mystic crystal lotuses, not a single blemish on the pure white flowers. Every flower petal seemed as if it were carved from eternal ice, releasing a light chill in the air.

Recently, the Palace Master had gone into closed door seclusion and needed to consume a massive number of mystic crystal lotuses every day. Because this spirit plant couldn't be harvested ahead of time and stored, every day there were palace maids especially tasked with plucking them.

The first palace maid on the left had a respectful and dignified expression. She was a veteran within the palace, thus she was able to stand out amongst all her competitors and had the chance to become closer to the Palace Master.

Although this wasn't the first time she saw that figure within the ice pond, the palace maid was still left stunned, an enchanted look in her eyes. But she soon regained her composure and sighed inwardly. This was truly a woman so beautiful that even other women would fall for her.

And this was in a situation where cold mist rose up into the air, causing anyone who looked in to see nothing but a blur. If one could clearly see what was within, how enthralling of a sight would that be? Unfortunately, this unimaginably beautiful woman was unexpectedly one of the three heads of the Immortal Sect. No matter how close they wished to be, there was nothing they could do.

When the last basket of mystic crystal lotuses was poured into the ice pond, the palace maid gently sighed. Then, that beautiful figure in the ice pond seemed to suddenly awaken from a slumber and open her eyes.

When the eyes of both sides met, the palace maid was overjoyed. This was the first time she had seen the Palace Master's eyes. Her eyes were beautiful, as clear as the sunny cloudless skies, with not a single impurity within them.

To see such beautiful eyes before she died, she could say that she didn't have any regrets at all.

The palace maid stood up and respectfully bowed towards the ice pond. The other palace maids suddenly all revealed panicked looks. In the next moment, a heaven-shaking sound interrupted their train of thought. A terrifying strength swept out, wrapping around them and tearing them into pieces.

In an instant, the smell of blood overwhelmed the senses.

Shen Yuanyin lifted a hand, revealing a jade-white arm. She gently grasped forward and the explosive force suddenly stopped, unable to approach her at all. But, her eyebrows furrowed together. She looked

down at the ice pond. There were ugly blood-drenched faces on the white mystic crystal lotuses, all of them grinning and laughing.

Puff –

Shen Yuanyin spat out a mouthful of blood. Purple Moon just happened to arrive at this time. When she saw this scene her pupils fiercely shrank and her face paled.

The runes condensed atop the ice pond began to quietly break apart. The mystic crystal lotuses also withered away.

Shen Yuanyin flew out from the ice pond. She lifted a hand and a white robe appeared out of thin air, wrapping around her perfect figure. She wiped the bloodstains from her lips and nodded her head, saying, “Honorable master, I am fine.”

Purple Moon gently shivered. Fine...how could you be fine...

After reaching large success with the Sublime Lost Emotion Code, one had to achieve a state of glass-like clarity both within and without. Only like this could one power of lost emotions. Otherwise, one’s soul would rapidly wither away and the body would perish soon after.

This was the only flaw within the Sublime Lost Emotion Code and also the greatest secret of Nineheaven Mirrormoon Palace. Not even Lucid Nether Domain or the Buddhist Nation knew of this. In order to prevent any suspicions, she didn’t dare to pay too much attention to Shen Yuanyin’s cultivation. However, she never imagined that there would be such a careless mistake in the critical moment.

That palace maid who died in satisfaction would never have imagined that this would have occurred. She simply wanted to give the Immortal Sect a warning, but she actually obtained an enormous harvest by almost destroying one of the three heads of the Immortal Sect.

Purple Moon screamed out in sorrow, “Demonic Path! Demonic Path!!!”

She had also seen the ugly faces splashed atop the mystic crystal lotuses. She would never mistake the Blue Skies Yellow Springs’ Rebirth Curse.

Shen Yuanyin had an indifferent expression, as if she had simply encountered a setback and not a life-threatening danger. “Honorable master, don’t worry. I will not die.”

It wasn’t a good idea to make a commotion of this matter. Purple Moon took a deep breath, a sharp light flooding her eyes.

Shen Yuanyin lowered her head, not a single emotion on her face. No one would have guessed that what she was thinking about right now was the happy smile on the palace maid’s face before she died.

In this world, there was nothing more fearful than death. So why did she smile?

### **Chapter 565B - Sea of Purgatory**

While the atmosphere within Nineheaven Mirrormoon Palace was becoming increasingly tense, Ning Liang was encountering her own troubles. She had received a notice to deal with some palace affairs,

but when she entered the hall there was no one there. When she turned around, she discovered that the maids who led her here had disappeared without a trace.

Her heart shrinking, Ning Liang turned to leave. But, the hall doors had already closed. As she was immediately submerged in darkness, she felt as if she had fallen into an eternal night.

The darkness washed over her, placing a formidable imprisonment upon her. A low and deep voice asked in her heart, "Ning Liang, just how are you acquainted with His Highness?"

In a horrified panic, Ning Liang's eyes flew open. She tried to struggle, but all her efforts were for naught.

"Ning Liang, just how are you acquainted with His Highness?"

The voice sounded out once more, low and deep, as if there were all the time in the world.

"Ning Liang, just how are you acquainted with His Highness?"

Even deeper, even gentler.

Ning Liang's movements gradually slowed and her face began to grow slack. She tried to keep her eyes open, but she couldn't help but slowly close them.

She was so tired...if she closed her eyes and took a nap, it would surely be so, so wonderful.

The moment before her consciousness was about to fade away, Ning Liang's body stiffened. Her eyes flew open as if she were experiencing pain. On her clear eyes, blood vessels instantly bulged up. She opened her mouth to shout out loud, but it felt as if all the strength in her body had been sucked out, leaving her unable to make a single sound.

That voice within her continued to echo again and again.

"How do you know His Highness!"

"How do you know His Highness!"

"How do you know His Highness!"

"How do you know His Highness!"

"How do you know His Highness!"

The voice was no longer gentle. Rather, each echo was louder than the last, until it became like rumbling thunder, each word capable of crushing the mind.

Ning Liang's body twitched. She had already bitten through her lips and blood was dripping down. Still, she tried to preserve that final light in her mind.

Someone wanted to harm His Highness. She couldn't be controlled, she absolutely couldn't be controlled...

Her consciousness was like grass in a pouring rainstorm. Every breath of time seemed twisted into an infinitely long period.

Ning Liang thought of killing herself. But to her sorrow, she discovered that she couldn't do this even if she wanted to.

As she was lost in her thoughts, another voice suddenly rose up. "Stop. Let her go..."

It was His Highness!

In the next moment, Ning Liang's consciousness fell into darkness.

After an unknown period of time, when Ning Liang opened her eyes once more, she saw Qin Yu's concerned face. Hot tears fell down her cheeks.

Her body was sore and exhausted. She couldn't even lift up a hand to wipe away her tears. Qin Yu guiltily wiped the tears from her face and comfortingly said, "You're safe now. Don't worry."

Ning Liang regained her composure. She hurriedly said, "Your Highness, someone is trying to harm you!"

Qin Yu nodded. "I have already dealt with it. There is nothing for you to worry about. Take some pills and rest."

Seeing his tranquil expression, Ning Liang relaxed. A deep sense of exhaustion welled up once more. She stubbornly forced herself to eat some pills and then fell asleep.

Looking at her pale face, Qin Yu blamed himself. If he had thought of this possibility earlier, why would this girl have needed to suffer so?

He let out a breath and walked out of the room. Seeing the Demon Envoy standing across from him, his face darkened and he said, "There had best not be a second time."

The voice was calm, but the Demon Envoy actually sighed inwardly. He knew that after this matter, most of the favorable impression he had saved up had disappeared.

"I apologize. Your Highness has a precious status so I have no choice but to be careful...the one who did this has already been punished. He will never appear in front of Your Highness again."

Although Qin Yu knew that the Demon Envoy had his own reasons and difficulties, he still wasn't relaxed. He needed the Demon Envoy to remember this matter. "Lord Demon Envoy must have a great deal of work to do. Now that you have already confirmed my identity, why bother coming here?"

The Demon Envoy sighed. "The reason I came today is because there is a matter I need to discuss with Your Highness."

Seeing his furrowed eyebrows and serious expression, Qin Yu nodded, "Come with me."

After entering the great hall and sending everyone away, the Demon Envoy went straight to the point, "When Your Highness was still in the Endless Sea, I had already begun making preparations to obtain some Calamity Immortal level demon blood for you. But an incident has just recently occurred at the Sky Hub Division. The channel connecting to the Demon Realm has been destroyed and there is no way to reconstruct it in a short period of time."

His expression was heavy. “Of the previous Holy Monarchs, most of them cut down a Calamity Immortal demon beast from the Demon Realm to achieve a Saint level Demon Body. But it seems that path will no longer work.”

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows together. “Are you saying that I won’t be able to achieve a Saint level Demon Body any time soon?”

When it came to cultivating the Demon Body, the most important limit was the bottleneck. If he were to be stranded at the Emperor level for too long, then even if he managed to obtain the necessary demon blood in the future, the chances of him making a breakthrough would be drastically reduced. As he thought of this possibility his complexion paled.

No, that didn’t seem right. Could the Demon Envoy have come all the way here just to tell him this bad news while he was in a poor mood? Thinking of this, Qin Yu looked up.

The Demon Envoy smiled. “Your Highness is truly intelligent. Soon, an opportunity will open up. If Your Highness can grasp it, you may achieve a Saint level Demon Body.”

Qin Yu nodded, hinting for him to continue.

The Demon Envoy said, “A Calamity Immortal demon beast cannot adapt to the rules within the Land of Divinity and Demons, thus it is difficult for them to survive in this world. But, that doesn’t mean there aren’t exceptions. Deep within the Chu Empire’s Sea of Purgatory, there is a Calamity Immortal demon beast – the Water Marid. This beast has a vicious and cruel nature and possesses ever-changing supernatural arts. While hunting it down won’t be easy, as long as you are prepared ahead of time, it is possible with your Highness’ cultivation.”

“Sea of Purgatory?” After becoming the Demonic Path’s Holy Son, Qin Yu had gained the qualifications to learn most of the secret matters of this world. He thought deeply before recalling some information related to the Sea of Purgatory. He immediately frowned. “The Sea of Purgatory is a restricted zone in the Chu Empire and it is joined together with the capital city’s great array. If the array formation isn’t opened, no one can pass in or out. Even if the Water Marid is within, there is no way to approach it. Is Lord Demon Envoy making a joke?”

The Demon Envoy lightly said, “Two months from now, the Chu Empire will welcome the 30 million year anniversary of the founding of their nation. The Demonic Path will send an envoy to congratulate them. According to custom, at every 10 million year celebration, the Chu Empire will open the Sea of Purgatory and allow all guest cultivators below the Calamity Immortal realm to enter and seek out their own lucky chances.”

His eyes sharpened, “This is Your Highness’ chance!”

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Within the Land of Divinity and Demons, there were superpowers in the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path. Below that were the seven great empires. They divided the endless lands between each other and all of them were unfathomably deep.

However, if the seven empires were ranked, no one would object to the Chu Empire taking first place.

They were a nation that had been founded 30 million years ago. Numerous powerhouses poured forth from their ranks and they had a successive line of startling emperors leading them. Throughout the long span of years, they constantly annexed countless smaller nations and expanded their domain. Right now, their vast territory occupied almost a fifth of the entire Land of Divinity and Demons. They were a true super empire.

From this alone, the Chu Empire was ranked at the top of the seven empires. Moreover, the Chu Empire's royal family had their own innate inheritance and each ruling emperor had a terrifying cultivation at least at the fourth level of the Calamity Immortal realm. And, with the destiny of the nation supporting them, that was enough for them to look down on all sides with disdain.

Qin and Zhao were close to the Demonic Path. Yan and Qi followed behind the Immortal Sect. Wei and Han swayed back and forth depending on the situation. Only the Chu Empire could face the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path as equals.

Because of this, the 30 million year founding anniversary of the Chu Empire became a grand festival celebrated throughout the entire Land of Divinity and Demons. Any influence with some degree of power would go up with generous gifts.

Of course, this was also because the Sea of Purgatory was opening.

The Chu Empire's Sea of Purgatory. It was rumored that a third of the world's spirit veins were gathered in this location. This was a supreme treasure of the heavens and earth. Even the Chu Empire's imperial city was built taking advantage of this place.

Because the Sea of Purgatory was filled with unknowns, after the first Chu Emperor founded the capital city, he sealed the Sea of Purgatory away with a great array formation. From that time onward, the Sea of Purgatory had only been opened a handful of times. But as long as it opened, great lucky chances would be born and numerous startling powerhouses would be born within the Land of Divinity and Demons. Due to these reasons, its famous reputation grew far and wide.

Now that the Chu Empire's 30 million year founding anniversary was arriving, the Sea of Purgatory was destined to open. As long as a person had any ambitions, who would be willing to miss out on such a chance? Indeed, the Sea of Purgatory was incredibly risky; riches and honor had always been accompanied by danger. In this world, free meat pies never fell from the skies.

For a time, the entire Land of Divinity and Demons was stirred into a ruckus!

...

Immortal Sect.

It was unknown how Purple Moon had accomplished it, but she had managed to persuade the Nether Domain Master and Buddhist Sovereign to agree to conceal Shen Yuanyin's identity and allow her to join the envoy headed towards the Chu Empire.

"Palace Master, within the Sea of Purgatory there is a beast called the Water Marid. Its life treasure is its jadesoul iceheart. You must succeed in obtaining it, otherwise..."

Shen Yuanyin had a faint expression. “Honorable master, do not worry. I will slay this Water Marid and obtain its jadesoul iceheart.”

She turned and stepped away, vanishing from sight.

Purple Moon took a deep breath, her expression icy cold. “All of you remember. You must protect the Palace Master at all costs and help her obtain the jadesoul iceheart, even if it means your death!”

“Yes, Elder!”

### **Chapter 566A – Strange but Sudden Impulse**

The Chu Empire was located in the southernmost region of the Land of Divinity and Demons. The climate was warm and humid, suitable for the growth of all things. The products produced here were extremely rich and the fertile fields on both sides of the road were vast and endless.

Farmers that were busy working the fields stood up and looked into the far off distance where the army troops were leading the way. Even if these farmers knew that these were extraordinary figures, they simply bowed a little, not too much awe in their eyes.

As the only super empire in the world, this was the pride of the Chu Empire’s subjects. As long as they made no mistakes, they had no need to fear anyone!

Qin Yu rode on a horse. He wore the armor of a True Demon Guard. With his aura restrained, he seemed completely ordinary and commonplace amongst the numerous protective guards around him. As his eyes fell on the calm faces of the farmers, he sighed inwardly. The confidence of the leader of the seven great empires could be inferred from these people.

Those on this road were all from the Demonic Path, a part of the official envoy sent to visit Ying Capital. They were currently hundreds of thousands of miles away from the transmission channel that had been opened from the Holy Land’s small world.

For the last 10,000 miles, even if they were the venerated Immortal Sect or Demonic Path, they had to slowly walk over by foot. This was an expression of respect towards Great Chu. It was a custom established since the founding of the Chu Empire and there had never been an exception made.

300 True Demon Guards all rose horses, surrounding several luxurious carriages. The woven colors of black, blue, and purple decorating them were extremely striking.

In formal diplomatic occasions, the popular speedcars lost their air of sincere solemnity.

Among the congratulatory envoys sent by the Demonic Path, the one leading them was an unsmiling old man with a long beard. He wore voluminous robes and his partially open eyes were filled with an imposing momentum.

This person was surnamed Chen. He had an extremely high position within the Demonic Path. However, because he didn’t bother with mundane matters, he had gradually faded out of everyone’s line of sight.

Throughout the entire troop, there were two Calamity Immortal realm Deputy Envoys, and yet they treated him with the utmost respect. The others were even less daring to be dissolute in his presence.

To be qualified to manage the diplomatic mission that travelled to the Chu Empire, this was sufficient proof that even though this Elder Chen had been quiet for many years, he hadn't lost any of his power.

However, this Elder Chu was cold and aloof. He didn't put on a fake expression when seeing anyone. From the point the troop had set out, he had issued instructions for no one to bother him and hadn't taken a single step out of his carriage.

Qin Yu looked up at the eye-striking carriage, feeling a bit helpless in his heart. Was this person that the Demon Envoy had arranged to come dependable at all?

Whatever. He hoped that the journey would be problem-free. It was best for all involved if there was no need for Elder Chen to take action, otherwise, things would become troublesome.

When Qin Yu looked away and lowered his head, he didn't know that within the carriage, Elder Chen had slowly opened his eyes.

Looking through a slit between the thick curtains, his eyes fell on Qin Yu. He furrowed his eyebrows and sighed.

The golden son does not sit beneath the eaves, lest they suffer an accident. Wealthy people do not let their children walk into danger, much less the solemn Holy Son of the Demonic Path. This was simply ridiculous...however, as he thought about what the Demon Envoy said, the Holy Son was also helpless in making his decision today...thinking of this, Elder Chan's eyebrows tightened even further.

Troubles come from within the family. Could no one think of such a simple truth? The Demonic Path had been peaceful for a long time and the hearts of the people grew increasingly lax. If they couldn't stabilize their security and handle things properly, there was likely to be great turbulence in the future!

Ying Capital was known as the world's most powerful city beneath the heavens. The scale of the city could be imagined. Even from three thousand miles away, one could still see the endlessly rolling landscape of the city, continuing until it blurred out of sight. Although the sight was hazy, the dignity and majesty that emanated from the city still left one panting for breath.

The Chu army troop that led the way came to a sudden stop. A leading officer immediately turned and came to the side of a carriage. "Revered Envoy, we will soon be entering the scope of Ying Capital. Your entourage will be temporarily placed in the barracks."

Elder Chen's calm voice sounded out from inside the carriage. "Of course."

After a brief stop, a Deputy Envoy led 300 True Demon Guards and a portion of the accompanying Demonic Path cultivators to stay behind. Several carriages left, accompanied by the Chu army.

"Lord Deputy Envoy, please follow us." The Chu army guide said. He led the group down the road for another hour before they entered a battalion.

The military battalion was clean and tidy. In order to house the new guests from all over, new courtyards were built. The Demonic Path people were placed in the southeast section of the battalion; this was a higher class position.

The Chu army guide cautioned everyone to not go out and to ask in advance if they needed to. Then, he quickly left.



The Deputy Envoy calmly turned and glanced around. Seeing the ill expressions on the faces of many people, he said, "You all need to remember that in this world, only strength is respected above all. The Chu Empire is able to stand as equals against the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path, thus we follow and observe their rules. You might be unhappy about this, but you can only bury any other thoughts in your heart. If anyone provokes trouble, then that person must deal with the consequences alone."

Everyone felt their hearts chill. They cupped their hands together and hurriedly bowed in understanding.

The Deputy Envoy waved his hand, ordering the crowd to scatter. His eyes fell on some True Demon Guards in the distance and he furrowed his eyebrows. There was a thoughtful look in his eyes. Even now he still didn't know where these several people had come from.

This was the Chu Empire's 30 million year great founding anniversary. Without accident, the Sea of Purgatory would be opened. As a result, every spot within the diplomatic mission was extremely precious. The 300 True Demon Guards came as an escort. They had the highest number and the lowest status of the diplomatic troop, thus they were the easiest to manipulate. During this period of time, countless people used up all their favors to get their sons and nephews onto the list.

To quietly take up seven spots without causing a stir, even an idiot could tell that the person behind this was tyrannically strong. But, what he couldn't figure out was why, as a Deputy Envoy, he didn't receive any notes about them. If so, then these seven people had large enough backgrounds that they could ignore him, or...they had another mission in mind.

His heart chilled, the Deputy Envoy suppressed his tumbling thoughts. His intuition warned him that it was best to not pay any further attention to this matter.

Qin Yu discovered that the gaze on him had already moved away. He relaxed a little. If this person could be arranged to be a Deputy Envoy, he really was a smart person. Qin Yu was placed between the six people around him. While he could hide from others, he couldn't hide from the main figures of this diplomatic mission. If the Deputy Envoy was too curious, that would make things a little troublesome.

Things were good as they were now. He only needed to quietly wait.

The number one empire of the world was worth the earnest treatment of the Demonic Path. Through the long years, countless spies had been placed within the Chu Empire. Ignoring the countless deaths that had resulted, at the very least they had accurate information networks.

After the 30 million year grand celebration, the Sea of Purgatory was sure to open!

Qin Yu entered the courtyard. He turned and said, "The six of you can rest. Before the Sea of Purgatory opens, I won't be leaving."

The six True Demon Guards respectfully bowed. However, only three of them went to their assigned rooms. Two people stayed in the courtyard and one of them hid in the shadows.

Qin Yu knew that the mission they received was to ensure his safety no matter the cost. Thinking about it, he didn't say anything else. He nodded towards the two people in the courtyard and left.

## **Chapter 566B – Strange but Sudden Impulse**

Although they were regarded as 'second-rate' guests that didn't even have the qualifications to enter Ying Capital and participate in the grand celebration, there were no flaws in the Chu Empire's reception. Every day, there were all sorts of good food and good wine presented. And in order to prevent their guests from becoming bored and stirring up trouble, many fun and interesting activities were offered.

The serious and cold military compound suddenly turned into a parade of entertainment and fun. Numerous people strolled throughout the courtyards, all of them in good moods.

But no matter how lively it was outside, besides the daily meals, the front door of Qin Yu's courtyard never opened, not even once.

In the eyes of You Ya, those that lived in this courtyard were all odd. The atmosphere around them was chilling and their words were curt and indifferent. Moreover, their eyes were piercing, like sharp knives.

As she thought about the various rumors related to the cultivators of the Demonic Path, You Ya felt anxious. Luckily, the residents in the courtyard might be cold, but they didn't make things difficult for her. As time passed, she slowly calmed down. Her eyes weren't as wary as they were in the beginning, darting towards every shadow.

On the sixth day, You Ya pushed open the door and saw a seventh person. She revealed a look of surprise. This entire time she believed that only six people lived in the courtyard.

She didn't know if she was seeing an illusion. As her eyes fell upon this seventh person, the atmosphere in the courtyard immediately froze over. You Ya paled.

The seventh person said, "The meals have tasted wonderful."

With just these words, the oppressive atmosphere suddenly vanished. You Ya gasped for breath. Not daring to say a single word, she laid down the meal box and quickly left.

During the night, You Ya had a horrifying nightmare. She felt as if she were drowning in the sea, falling into an infinite darkness. As she struggled uselessly and despair began to overcome her heart, a voice sounded out in her ears. "It's fine."

The darkness retreated like a tide. You Ya's eyes flew open. Her clothes were clinging tightly to her body, completely drenched from her cold sweat.

In the courtyard, Qin Yu looked at the True Demon Guard who stood beneath the dim moonlight. He lightly said, "She is only an immaterial bystander. There is no need to be so careful."

Qin Yu didn't know who this person was and was actually a little unhappy with the actions he took tonight. But, as he thought about how this person had been arranged by the Demon Envoy and how his mission was to ensure his safety, that was the reason why he didn't say anything more.

True Demon Guard One – a name that Qin Yu temporarily gave him – seemed to be a little surprised. He looked at Qin Yu for a moment and then cupped his hands together and bowed, "This will not happen again in the future."

Qin Yu nodded. He turned and walked back into his room. Then, he took a deep breath and suppressed the restlessness in his heart.

The Demonic Path Holy Palace's Holy Son...this status was enough to attract the eyes of everyone. Once his identity was exposed, it would surely trigger completely unpredictable consequences.

Originally, Qin Yu comforted himself by saying that the Demon Envoy's arrangements had all been meticulous, and the trip coming here had been smooth and without problems. But, the actions of True Demon Guard One actually gave him a warning that while concealing his status and coming to Ying Capital might seem safe, it was actually enormously risky.

The Demonic Path was far too strong. Even if they put aside their mortal enemy, the Immortal Sect, there were still countless people that didn't want to see a new Holy Monarch appear within the Holy Palace.

For instance, the royal family of Great Chu!

The corners of his lips lifted in a bitter smile. It was only now that Qin Yu was able to determine that what he felt all this time was anxiousness, thus the reason for him staying in the courtyard without taking a single step out.

So in the daytime, why did he have the sudden impulse to push open his doors and walk into the courtyard? Thinking about it, Qin Yu didn't have the faintest idea. Although he knew that the True Demon Guards wouldn't say anything about his actions, he could tell that they were probably complaining in their hearts.

He shook his head, suppressing the surging restlessness in his heart. His eyes hardened, filling with resolve. It was impossible for him to wait for the channel to the Demon Realm to be repaired; who knew when that would be? If so, then the Water Marid in the Sea of Purgatory was the key for him to become the Holy Monarch. For this reason, every risk was worth it.

He sat down cross-legged and closed his eyes, continuing to perceive the inheritance of the Holy Palace. This was a unique great supernatural art of the Demonic Path used to coordinate with the Demon Body. He had tested its strength and found that it was only average, but its true value was in helping him cultivate the Demon Body.

Ever since he obtained the stone tablet inheritance, Qin Yu had been perceiving it. Some time ago, he felt as if he had managed to get a glimpse through the front door, and he could sense minor changes occurring in his body.

While the key factor of achieving a Saint level Demon Body was the blood of a Calamity Immortal demon beast, obtaining the demon blood didn't ensure absolute success. There was always a certain chance of failure. The more formidable the foundation of his Demon Body was, the more potent it was, the higher his chances of success would be.

The perceiving of the Holy Palace's inheritance had caused his cultivation of the path of water to fall into a stagnant phase. Still, Qin Yu hadn't hesitated at all. Right now, achieving a Saint level Demon Body and succeeding the throne of the Holy Monarch was the most important matter.

For the next several days, You Ya never saw the seventh person living in the courtyard. But the more it was like this, the less she could forget the voice in her dream.

The voice had been particularly clear. It had to be him. But, why did that person's voice appear in her dreams?

You Ya mulled over this for a long time. Then, trying to get a different opinion, she informed her fellow sisters of this matter. They ruthlessly laughed at her, saying she had developed a deep crush.

The young women within the military compound that were in charge of caring for guests were all reassigned from the major imperial manors around the edges of Ying Capital. Their family backgrounds couldn't be considered too high; this assignment was a good chance for all of them to rise.

To be able to be in the groups from all over that were here to deliver their congratulations, even if these people didn't have the qualifications to enter Ying Capital, their backgrounds and origins were still extraordinary. If these young women could attach themselves to one of these people, they could change their fates.

While they would likely have to be uprooted and leave their homes for other lands, the destinies of these young women from the imperial manors were never theirs to control to begin with. Rather than not knowing where they would be sent to in the future, they might as well try and wrestle with fate.

Because of this, during this time in the compound, news came out all over of sexual scandals and illicit affairs. Some guests beamed with joy; it could be imagined just how happy they were.

You Ya's face blushed red. How could she explain what had happened to her? She argued a few times but in the end decided to close her mouth. She felt a little regretful; if she knew it was going to be like this she would have rather not said anything at all.

When her fellow sisters dispersed, an older cousin who wasn't too close to her suddenly called out her name. This older cousin had a stern and dignified expression. She said, "I hope that even if what you said is true, you understand your limits and don't touch things you shouldn't. Playing up to the mighty and powerful is well and fine, but you need to remember that you and I both come from the imperial manors of the Chu Empire. Even if we can smoothly leave here alongside others, do you think we can really trust them? Us women only have a single chance to make our own choice. Do not regret it."

You Ya knew that this older cousin was speaking out of the kindness of her heart. Before coming here, her parents had also given her similar advice. She immediately felt grateful and said, "Thank you cousin. I will remember your words. I definitely won't make a mistake."

The older cousin's complexion relaxed as she heard this. She nodded and turned to leave.

After accidentally discovering that this older cousin of hers who was normally cold and indifferent actually cared about her, You Ya was in a much better mood for the next two days. She no longer thought about the voice in her dreams. They were Demonic Path cultivators and would soon leave the Chu Empire. No matter what happened, she would simply try and forget about it.

But, the older cousin who cautioned You Ya actually encountered troubles of her own. In the courtyard that she was responsible for looking after, a guest had taken a liking towards her. This guest had tried to test her several times but he was skillfully dodged. While this person wasn't too happy, he didn't want to stir up needless trouble.

Things should have ended like this. But today, this guest attended a banquet and drank far too much. It was unknown what exactly happened during his drunken stupor, but it caused a tremendous commotion.

When You Ya heard this news and rushed over, she found her older cousin lying on the ground. Her jaw was broken and her face was pale white.

Within the courtyard, a large man lounged back in a chair. He looked around 30 years of age and he had a mean and vicious appearance. "You stinking whore! You don't even give me face and pour wine on me!? Have you even asked about who I am? I'll give you a chance today. Call over anyone that you can call over. If they can't suppress me, you're staying here with me tonight!"

You Ya trembled.

The people of the imperial manors mostly came from criminal backgrounds. They were considered people that were exiled out of the city and didn't have much status within the Chu Empire. If they offended a guest today, no matter what the reason was it was their own mistake.

Thinking about how her older cousin had cautioned her a few days ago, You Ya bit her lips and left.

She found the person in charge of the workers. But, this person had an ambiguous attitude, saying that it was best not to interfere.

She contacted her family. After several inquiries, she finally discovered that the guests in the courtyard that her older cousin was responsible for were actually in-laws of the Chu Empire's royal family. Although the connection was only from a side branch, in the end they could be regarded as masters. How could those in charge possibly meddle in this incident? The slightest mistake and they would all have to pay the price.

In their opinion, this older cousin was simply a pathetic woman from a family that had sinned. Moreover, that young master said he wouldn't take her life, so it mattered even less. You Ya's family hurriedly sent her a message, saying that she shouldn't meddle in this matter, otherwise she might be dragged into the mess.

You Ya thought about how her cousin lay on the ground, all blood emptied from her face. She was sad, but what could she do?

As she was panicking, a thought suddenly leapt into the forefront of her mind. You Ya felt as if she had gone insane. But if she didn't try her best, her older cousin's life would be destroyed.

That person...would he be willing to help?

...

Within his room, Qin Yu was deep in thought. There was a giant in his mind right now. The sun, moon, and stars were above his head, and his feet stepped across the mountains and rivers. This giant was running forward right now, every step causing the stars above and the earth below to collapse.

Suddenly, the giant roared once more and stopped. The stars above his head and the earth below his feet rapidly vanished.

In the next moment, Qin Yu opened his eyes. He grabbed at his chest and frowned, a dignified look in his eyes...the strange impulse that had appeared several days ago had reappeared. What did this mean? Could it be that something was about to occur that would greatly affect him?

### **Chapter 567A – Seed**

When You Ya knocked on the courtyard doors, her palms were covered in a cold sweat. As the doors opened she was welcomed by the ice cold gaze of True Demon Guard One. She froze in place.

But as she thought about her older cousin's situation, she forcefully restrained her fear and politely announced that she would like to seek a meeting. Her pale face was filled with fervent hope.

Unfortunately, it was all useless. True Demon Guard One was utterly unmoved. "Leave this place!" he lifted a hand, about to close the doors.

You Ya had no idea where the courage to block him came from. She urgently begged, "My lord, I ask you, please save my cousin!"

True Demon Guard One's gaze immediately deepened. An ice cold aura began to emanate from his body.

Suddenly, a calm voice sounded out from within, "Let her in."

True Demon Guard One stiffened for a moment. He turned and fell back to the side.

You Ya's eyes brightened. She didn't know why, but when she heard this voice she suddenly felt safer, as if all problems and difficulties would disperse into nothing.

She hurriedly walked into the courtyard. When she saw the person whom she had only seen once before but still had a deep impression of, she immediately fell to her knees, "My lord, please save my cousin!"

The doors to the rooms opened once after another. Besides the True Demon Guard that was secretly hidden away, the five others had all gathered. While they didn't say anything, Qin Yu could sense the unhappiness in their eyes.

The solemn Holy Son of the Demonic Path had concealed his identity and placed himself in the heart of the storm. But no matter how careful they had been all this time, none of it mattered because he actually developed a sense of compassion towards a mere maid. It was truly disappointing.

You Ya looked up, her expression miserable and her eyes shining with tears. The several guards sighed. Even though they all appreciated the beauty of women, they also knew how to separate business from pleasure.

The atmosphere in the courtyard turned heavy. Qin Yu forced a smile but was unable to explain his actions. He looked at You Ya who was kneeling on the ground. The first time he had been prompted by a sudden impulse to see this girl, and today was a second time...if this was only a coincidence, it was simply far too much of one.

Qin Yu's thoughts raced. When he looked back up, he had already come to a decision. "One of you go personally with this miss and help her bring things to an end."

True Demon Guard One frowned. He said in a low voice, "My lord, we are only guests here. Would it not be too inappropriate to interfere in matters unrelated to us?" This was the first time he had ever spoken so much. The meaning was clear.

While the other four True Demon Guards didn't say anything, their discontent became increasingly strong.

Qin Yu waved a hand. "Do as I say." Since he couldn't explain himself, he simply wouldn't say anything at all. With his status, even if these people were the subordinates of the Demon Envoy they still couldn't defy him.

As expected, True Demon Guard One fell silent for several breaths of time. Then, he bowed in compliance.

"Miss You Ya, please guide the way."

You Ya was filled with gratitude as she looked at him. But right now wasn't the time to delay. She stood up and quickly departed with True Demon Guard One in tow.

The other four True Demon Guards indifferently cupped their hands towards Qin Yu and left to their own respective places.

In this world, seeing once was better than hearing a hundred times. This was the Holy Son that was approved by the entire Demonic Path? For a time, they felt a bit of regret at taking up this mission.

Qin Yu could feel these True Demon Guards revealing a bit of cold indifference towards him. He rubbed his nose, wryly smiling. But soon he suppressed his heart and calmly waited for the situation to come to an end.

However, he was still perplexed. Who was this unknown miss from the Chu Empire to him?

As for True Demon Guard One handling the situation, Qin Yu wasn't worried about him at all. Although this place was a military compound and those staying here were all 'second-rate' guests, the guests were still divided into various ranks. The cultivators of the Demonic Path were definitely amongst the best of the best.

As long as someone had a brain, they wouldn't form a grudge with the Demonic Path over a matter like this.

However, accidents were bound to happen. It seems that Qin Yu had underestimated the national pride of Great Chu's people. Even though those people staying in the courtyard were only related through a woman from a distant side branch, the fact that they were in the Chu Empire and also in a military compound gave them the energy to argue.

So what if you are from the Demonic Path? Do you think I would fear you!?

True Demon Guard One didn't explain the exact process of what happened. But, the final outcome was that this relative of the Great Chu royal family lowered his head, making a bit of noise while expressing his unhappiness.

After this, Qin Yu could clearly feel that the several True Demon Guards were even more dissatisfied.

Because Qin Yu was worried that they might encounter retaliation, You Ya and her unconscious older cousin were temporarily admitted into Qin Yu's courtyard. But, this could still be considered an explanation to those watching from the outside. Many people were suddenly enlightened. So it seemed that You Ya had managed to climb up the leg of someone from the Demonic Path; no wonder they were willing to help her.

The Deputy Envoy of the diplomatic mission dispatched some people to ask around and warn them to not be so meddlesome. But, he didn't take this matter too seriously. Things should have ended like this, but no one expected that the Great Chu royal family in-law would actually die a horrific death later that night. When news of this spread out, the atmosphere of the military compound immediately became filled with intrigue.

A Blue Sea realm expert. Without any illness, disease, or previous injuries, how could he suddenly die? As for the Demonic Path that had just come into conflict with them, they were naturally the most suspect.

Still, those with a little bit of intelligence knew that even if the Demonic Path was unhappy, they wouldn't immediately go and kill someone after a brief spat. At least in this present situation.

This truth was simple and the logic was without doubt. Still, because this person had died, the Demonic Path would need to bear a little bit of trouble.

True Demon Guard One revealed a dignified expression. "Someone is purposely targeting us."

There was a nervous look in the depths of his eyes.

Before they came to Great Chu, they had made a vow to the Lord Demon Envoy that the Holy Son would not suffer any harm.

If an accident really happened, then perhaps besides dying as an apology, there was no other path they could take.

"We have been so careful, how would we be noticed..." Before True Demon Guard Two finished speaking, his complexion clouded over.

Yesterday, True Demon Guard One had come forward to ensure the safety of the two women. Then right after that, someone had died. Although it was unknown if they were suspected by someone because of this reason, this was undoubtedly the source of the chaos.

True Demon Guard Two bitterly said, "The Holy Son may be benevolent, but doesn't he know that his life and death is related to the stability of the entire Demonic Path? This is just disappointing!"

True Demon Guard One furrowed his eyebrows together. "Silence. Who do you think His Highness is? He isn't someone that you or I can gossip about! If there really are people that are suspecting us, then even without what happened yesterday they would still have found other ways. Be wary and sleep lightly for these next days. If an accident occurs, then begin the contingency plan."

The Demon Envoy definitively wouldn't have arranged only a single plan. If things proceeded smoothly then that would be the best outcome, but if an accident did occur, they would need to preserve Qin Yu's life first.



Of course, once this contingency plan began, it was unknown whether or not Qin Yu would survive. However, what was certain was that a massive number of spies planted within the Chu Empire would have to sacrifice their lives.

This meeting ended in silence. The six True Demon Guards all had heavy hearts. They couldn't say how many people would die and they didn't care about this at all. Because once this contingency plan was activated, all six of them would die.

### **Chapter 567B – Seed**

The Deputy Envoy personally arrived at the courtyard. After gathering Qin Yu and the rest of the seven, he coldly looked at them, his eyes swift and fierce. "Did you do this?"

What he worried about the most was that these extraordinary people of unknown origin had become too reckless and killed someone. If so, that would make things truly troublesome.

Although the one who died was only a humble imperial in-law, they still had the bloodline of the royal Chu Family running through their veins. And especially at such a critical moment, such things couldn't be considered a minor matter at all.

True Demon Guard One cupped his hands together, "Lord Deputy Envoy, rest assured that this matter has nothing to do with us."

The Deputy Envoy ignored him. His eyes fell on Qin Yu. He could naturally tell who the true decision maker in this group was.

Qin Yu was silent for a moment before he said, "I can confirm this has nothing to do with us."

The Deputy Envoy let out a breath of relief. "It had best be like you say!" He hesitated for a moment and continued, "For some unknown reason, this matter was raised all the way to the Great Chu Imperial Palace. This should have been a minor matter, but with the 30 million year anniversary celebration right in front of us and also adding in the fact that the person who died was related to the royal family, it has caused a considerable commotion. If you have nothing to do in these next several days then it would be best for you not to come out."

After speaking he didn't stay any longer. He turned and left.

As long as this wasn't something done by the Demonic Path, no matter how tough and stubborn the Great Chu Royal Family was, there was nothing they could do to them. In the end they could only give them a warning as a personal favor.

You Ya hid behind a door. She was able to clearly hear everything that was said in the courtyard. Her face was full of guilt as she hesitantly pushed open the door and walked over, bowing. "This is all my and my cousin's mistake. I have implicated my lords..."

After that, she had no idea what she could say. Those in front of her were all cultivators of the Demonic Path, and their status and strength far surpassed her. Even if she wanted to repay them, there was nothing she could take out.

Qin Yu shook his head. "The Deputy Envoy might have been serious, but we didn't do this so they can't pin anything on us. Miss need not worry too much."

The guards silently drew back. They had no idea what direction Qin Yu's talk with this young woman would take, so it might be inappropriate if they were to stay here and listen. Moreover, they determined that if this matter had reached all the way to Ying Capital, there was definitely someone fanning the flames behind the scenes. All of them became even more anxious so they naturally weren't in the mood to stay.

You Ya was grateful. "I must thank my lord this time. If it weren't for your help, my cousin's life would have been ruined...we have nothing we can repay we can repay you with. We can only thank you from the bottom of our hearts and pray for you."

Qin Yu smiled. "Miss, there is no need to speak so seriously."

His tone of voice was clearly indifferent. When he helped her it wasn't for any kind of repayment. He just wanted to figure out how this woman was related to the sudden impulse he felt. However, even now he hadn't found a single clue.

As Qin Yu was considering whether or not he should ask her some questions, You Ya's face flushed red.

They weren't friends or family. She had only served him food for several days, and yet he hadn't hesitated in helping her...You Ya wasn't a child. She naturally knew that there could be other reasons besides being kind.

Could it be...could it be...she slowly looked up and swept her eyes over Qin Yu. Although she couldn't clearly see his appearance, his body was tall and his back was straight. For him to be the leader of this group, it could be seen that his background wasn't low.

If things were as she thought, what should she do?

As she was in a flustered panic, the door behind her opened once more to reveal the pale face of her older cousin. She had woken up in the middle of the night and had met Qin Yu once.

The cousin's eyes fell on You Ya; she was easily able to guess what she was thinking, and she couldn't help but force a smile. Although she didn't know the true status of this fully-covered-in-armor Qin Yu, she knew that he didn't hold any feelings towards You Ya at all.

She feared that You Ya would say something that she shouldn't say and make things awkward for all of them. The older cousin coughed and squeezed out a smile. "Cousin, this lord might not have helped us because he wanted some form of repayment, but we must express our thanks. I heard that you obtained a strange seed some time ago and have always regarded it as your treasure. How about taking that out as a token of your gratitude?"

You Ya revealed a slightly uncomfortable expression. She wasn't able to speak for some time.

Qin Yu saw how reluctant she was to give up her treasure. He said, "How can I accept something that Miss You Ya treasures so much? There is no need to be so polite. Just rest without worries."

He cupped his hands, about to leave.

Then, You Ya loudly said, "I'm not...I...I...am willing to give it to my lord..."

Her face blushed red. She quickly raised her hand around her neck and removed a delicate woven necklace that clearly had a seed wrapped within it. Although You Ya's actions were quick, Qin Yu could still see that this necklace was still hidden in her clothing and had been hanging between her chest the entire time.

No wonder she had hesitated.

Qin Yu's expression stiffened. Luckily, he had a helmet on so no one could see his expression. He was just about to wave his hand and refuse her, but when he saw the necklace, his heart suddenly began to race.

His intuition told him that the reason he had a sudden impulse twice was because of this object hanging from the necklace.

Like this, he couldn't even speak words of refusal anymore. He looked at the necklace that was handed over to him and You Ya whose head was nearly lowered into her chest. He hesitated for a moment and said, "This weaving is quite delicate. I just happen to need a gift for some of the women in my family. It will definitely help them in learning how to weave."

These words were naturally spoken in order to make the atmosphere less awkward. Otherwise, if a man were to take this necklace that had been hanging between the breasts of a young woman, how could he make them not feel embarrassed?

When the necklace was placed in his hands, it was still warm. He could still smell the faint fragrance of a young woman emanating from it. There was no way he could stay here in this mortifying situation any longer. He cupped his hands and quickly walked away.

You Ya looked at Qin Yu's back. As she thought about the female family members he mentioned, her heart was in chaos for a moment but most of the shyness had disappeared.

The older cousin darkly sighed. She grabbed onto You Ya's hand and said in a soft voice, "I am several years older than you so my eyesight might be a little better. Although I don't know who this person is, he should be someone honored. So, you should eliminate any fanciful thoughts you might have, otherwise you will be left feeling sadder in the future."

You Ya panicked, as if she were some little animal whose secret had been discovered. When she looked up at her older cousin and saw the pity on her face, she bit her lips and nodded.

When Qin Yu returned to his room, he placed the necklace in front of him and sensed it for a long period of time. He unwrapped the object tied to the necklace to reveal something gray inside. When it entered his hands it was slightly cool and ashy, without any patterns on it.

If it weren't for the fact that he heard this was a seed, Qin Yu might have assumed this was a common stone. He probed with his divine sense, wrapping around the seed, but no matter how much he investigated he didn't sense any vitality from it at all.

Was this really a seed?

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. After some hesitation, he took out the Ninth Province Furnace, creating a barrier with its strength.

In the next moment, Qin Yu closed his eyes. His mind instantly flew towards the distant nothingness.

Soon, the space within the room began to shiver and collapse inward. The projection of a sun appeared, surrounded in dark nothingness. But today, this sun was much darker than usual, and its size was shrunken several times over.

Qin Yu opened his eyes, an apologetic look on his face. "I know I shouldn't summon you here today, but there is something I need your help with so I can only take this risk."

He didn't delay. He opened his hand and revealed the seed. "Can you help me determine just what this thing is?"

The seed was swept up by an invisible strength and placed in the great sun projection. A long period of time passed, much longer than what Qin Yu expected, before the seed was passed back to him.

The great sun projection was even dimmer than before, as if it had lost a great deal of strength. The thought fluctuations of the little blue lamp transmitted outwards. "This is indeed a seed. Its shell can only be broken in a place of extreme yin and extreme yang, and also where the two forces meet together..."

Before it finished speaking, the collapsed nothingness unexpectedly vanished and the sun projection disappeared along with it.

Qin Yu's heart skipped a beat. He turned a hand and put away the seed as well as the Ninth Province Furnace. Just as he did this, his body stiffened. A grave sense of fear and horror arose from the depths of his soul, as if some dangerous god were looking down at him from the highest heavens.

Luckily, this feeling came quickly and left just as quickly.

Qin Yu didn't dare to be careless. He waited for a long period of time. When there was no further change, he frowned and his thoughts raced.

To be able to sense the existence of the little blue lamp, it had to be a peak existence of this world. Since he was at the center of the Chu Empire and only 2000 miles away from Ying Capital, then this person could only be...the Emperor of Great Chu, Mi Ganyuan. He ascended the throne 170,000 years ago and wielded full authority over the entire Chu Empire. His might and pressure were unparalleled!

Had he been discovered?

Qin Yu's heart chilled. After thinking about it for a long time and determining that he hadn't exposed himself anywhere, only then did he calm down.

Although that aura just now was terrifying, it was actually extremely faint and illusory. If it weren't for the Cosmic Seacross Bell, Qin Yu might not have even realized it. The Great Chu Emperor had only swept his divine sense around; he might not have noticed him.

But even though he was thinking this, Qin Yu still felt a little restless. He took out the seed and looked at it, his eyes heating up. This needed extreme yin and extreme yang, but also needed a place where they both met...just what was it?

**Chapter 568 – The Seal Completely Opened**

Ying Capital, Emperor's Palace

The Great Chu Emperor summoned the state ministers. They discussed the details for the grand celebration that was taking place in two days. This was an event that involved the face of the entire empire, so not a single oversight was allowed. The state ministers each put forth their own recommendations, all of them doing their best to make sure there were no flaws.

Suddenly, atop the throne, Mi Ganyuan closed his eyes. His Majesty had just been speaking with the third state minister. When he suddenly fell silent and his complexion changed, everyone in the hall revealed surprised expressions.

The four state ministers were all old veteran state figures and had a deep understanding of His Majesty. If it weren't for something extraordinary, the emperor who was always lenient and benevolent towards his subjects wouldn't be so disrespectful.

What had happened? The minds of the four state ministers rapidly raced. They thought about any possible mistakes they might have made and only after clearing themselves of any wrongdoings did they relax.

The emperor had ruled from his throne for 170,000 years already. He had no restrictions and no outside troubles. Although he was considerably tolerant of his subordinates, he actually possessed supreme arrogance in his bones. He was a proud and cold individual.

Out of the four state ministers, the one with the shortest record of service had served for over 40,000 years. It was unknown how many great figures they had seen be eliminated by the hands of the emperor in the past. None of them dared to be even the least bit careless.

The hall was deathly silent. Even though it was just several breaths of time, the officials in the corners of the hall were all covered in a cold sweat. But, they could only clench their teeth and endure, unable to make a single sound.

Thankfully, Mi Ganyuan opened his eyes before long. His eyes were calm and ordinary, but if one looked carefully they would discover that his eyes were like an endless vortex, capable of holding the entire world.

The corners of his lips lifted up. This Great Chu Emperor was one of the most honored people in the entire world, and now he was revealing an inexplicably thoughtful smile, as if he had found something interesting.

The leader of the state ministers had worked splendidly for the Great Chu Emperor for over 100,000 years. He was the most honored minister in the entire hall. He thought for a moment and then respectfully asked, "Your Majesty, what has happened?"

The other three state ministers all revealed envious expressions. This was a question that could only be asked by the head minister. None of them had the standing to do so.

Mi Ganyuan's eyes swept over the hall. He lightly said, "I had a sudden feeling just now. My divine sense descended upon the capital and I discovered two interesting little children..." He seemed to be somewhat impressed, "I really cannot imagine why the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path would actually have them take such a risk."

His pupils instantly turned deep and profound, like inexhaustible starry skies, able to drown out one's mind.

Since the emperor had mentioned this, this indicated how important it was. And in addition to the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path being mentioned as well as the thoughtful look on His Majesty's face, the head minister had a guess in his heart. "Your Majesty, could it be that the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path have people hiding their status in their diplomatic missions?"

Mi Ganyuan lightly said. "If my guess is right, one of those amongst the Demonic Path's diplomatic mission should be the newly crowned Holy Son, Yao Bin. As for the one hiding in the Immortal Sect's diplomatic mission, that should be the new Palace Master of Nineheaven Mirrormoon Palace, Shen Yuanyin."

Although the four state ministers were already prepared for this, they still couldn't help but let out a deep breath. Too occupied to care about their loss of manners, their eyes filled with shock as a cold chill surged in the air.

Great Chu stood proud in the world and was the head of the seven great empires. If it weren't for the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path impeding them, they would already rule the entire world.

Although things appeared peaceful on the surface, the Great Chu Empire regarded the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path as the greatest thorns in their heart.

Now, a new Holy Son and Palace Master were both in the region of Yin Capital...they couldn't help but think that if these two people died, it would be an incomparably serious attack on the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path.

"Your Majesty, this is an opportunity sent by the heavens! As long as we properly arrange everything, there will not be a single hidden danger left behind!"

The third state ministers spoke up, his voice overflowing with killing intent.

The fourth state minister wanted to echo this suggestion, but when he looked at the silent second state minister he kept his mouth shut tight.

Mi Ganyuan didn't reply. He said, "Yuan Qing, what do you think?"

Yuan Qing was the name of the head of the state ministers. To be referred to by such a title, it was clear how close he was to the emperor. Still, his voice remained respectful, without any sense of complacency or pride in his posture. "Your Majesty, I feel that something isn't right!"

The third state minister furrowed his eyebrows.

Mi Ganyuan said, "Tell me your reasoning."

Yuan Qing thought for a moment and slowly said, "Replying to Your Majesty, I have no idea why the Demonic Path's Holy Son or Immortal Sect's Palace Master have come to my Great Chu. But since the two of them are here, that means the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path must have made other arrangements. Unless a large number of experts are gathered to launch a massive and blatant attack, I fear the chances of killing them will be extremely low...although my Great Chu is strong, the Immortal

Sect and Demonic Path cannot be underestimated. If this matter is not handled properly, it will cause a great unrest.”

The third state minister sighed. He knew that everything the first state minister said made sense. No wonder the second state minister had kept quiet like a turtle, pretending as if he didn't know anything. He had the heart to challenge the status of the second state minister, but didn't dare to be presumptuous towards the first state minister. He immediately said, “Your Majesty, what the first state minister says is logical. It was I who didn't carefully consider this matter. But, if these two people came to my Great Chu they must have some unknown goal in mind. Can my Great Chu only endure this and tolerate them?”

The first state minister smiled, not saying anything.

The second state minister lightly coughed. He bowed and said, “Your Majesty, with the opening of the Sea of Purgatory, that might be the opportunity we need.”

The third state minister coveted the position of the second state minister. But what a pity, the second state minister was an honest person and the first state minister was satisfied with him.

Mi Ganyuan could see all of the little infightings between his officials, but didn't actually place this in his heart. Only if his officials were not at peace with each other could he sit firmly and stably in the seat of power.

“Dong Qing is right.” He looked up. This simple movement fully displayed his bearing as a sovereign king, someone with the ability to look down upon the entire world. “Me and my Great Chu, we dare to directly face any enemy. So what if they are the Immortal Sect or Demonic Path? If I don't kill them, that is only because I do not wish to use shadowy methods.

“If these two came without announcement, then I will teach them a lesson. Otherwise, wouldn't they simply become increasingly overbearing, thinking that no one in my Great Chu will oppose them!? Yuan Qing, pass down my decree. The seal upon the Sea of Purgatory will be completely opened. Whether someone finds a great stroke of fortune or whether they are buried within, that will depend on their own fate!”

The first state minister bowed. “Your Majesty, if the seal of the Sea of Purgatory is completely opened, the degree of danger will rise over ten times more. How am I to face the juniors of the empire?”

He furrowed his eyebrows, revealing a faintly helpless expression. His Majesty held all the world of the power in his hands, so he was naturally free to do as he wished. But as for him, even though he was the first state minister, he didn't dare to form grudges with every faction.

If so, then he could only ask His Majesty to adjudicate this matter.

Mi Ganyuan coldly coughed. “There is no limit to the amount of tribulations in this world. Who isn't in a tribulation of their own? If one doesn't undergo tribulation and emerge from it, how can they possibly have any achievements? To be able to go through a trial with the two most outstanding juniors of the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path, this in itself is one of their lives' greatest good fortunes.” His icy cold gaze swept around the hall. “Not a single word is to be released about the seal being completely

opened. Now, pass down a message. The cultivators that enter the Sea of Purgatory may obtain the qualifications to face me.”

The four state ministers all felt their hearts tighten. But, none of them revealed this on their faces. They fell to their knees, shouting for His Majesty to please understand them.

The emperor continued to discuss the issue with the state ministers. After a decision was finalized for the time being, the four state ministers bowed and drew back.

After leaving the Emperor’s Palace, the third state minister was the first one to speak up. “First state minister, how can this be good? You and I know full well how perilous it is, so are you and I supposed to send the children of our families to their deaths?”

The first state minister was without expression. “His Majesty has already made his decree. I politely advise you three to all not do anything in the shadows. If any accident happens to His Majesty’s plans, a disaster will fall upon all of your heads!”

When he finished speaking he stomped away.

The second state minister uttered some apologies and hurried after the first state minister, leaving behind the third and fourth state ministers.

The third state minister clenched his jaws. “I don’t believe they will really risk the lives of their juniors!”

The fourth state minister hesitated. He said, “There is no need to be angry. The first state minister is right. Since this is His Majesty’s decree, it is best if you don’t try and do anything. However, since His Majesty has informed you and I of this matter, this is his kindness towards us. We can arrange things so that some of our juniors are removed. We can replace them with others.”

The third state minister’s eyes brightened. “You’re right! Time is of the essence, I will be leaving first!”

The fourth state minister watched as the third state minister sped away, a contemptuous smile on his lips. To think that such a stupid and foolish person could become a state minister. Still, the third state minister came from a good background and if it wasn’t for the fact that he needed someone to draw away everyone’s attention, he wouldn’t care about his life or death.

But, what should he do about this matter? The fourth state minister contemplated for a moment before his eyes lit up and he smiled happily. Wasn’t the first state minister the best example? He would just do as told!

The third state minister sat in his carriage. When the curtain fell, all of the traces of anger and anxiousness disappeared from his face. His eyes became calm and indifferent, without any waves.

“The Demonic Path’s Holy Son...the Immortal Sect’s Palace Master...” He joyfully whispered to himself. “I never thought that I would have such an unexpected harvest this time.”

A light bloody smell slowly filled the air.

...

Shen Yuanyin furrowed her eyebrows, a dignified expression appearing between her eyes.



That aura just now...

Although it had passed in a flash, her heart was like a lake of ice and she still detected it.

After thinking it over for a long time, Shen Yuanyin let out a light breath. Whether she had been discovered or not, she had no other path to take.

Between the heavens and earth, the greatest fear was death. And after reaching large success with the Sublime Lost Emotion Code, it was the only feeling she had left.

Shen Yuanyin didn't want to believe. She also firmly believed that she wouldn't die here.

## **Chapter 569A – Opening**

Translator's note: True Demon Guard One simplified to Guard One, etc

...

For their 30 million year founding anniversary, the Chu Empire would hold a grand banquet, inviting guests from all around. According to the rankings of their status, they would be seated differently.

There were 13 main temples. The ones being entertained were the peak influences of the Land of Divinity and Demons. The Immortal Sect, Demonic Path, and the other six great empires were all naturally placed in the best seats. For them, it was said that they could enjoy a cup of immortal wine. It was rumored that this wine was found in ancient ruins and contained a vast and boundless world power that was able to directly increase the cultivation of a cultivator.

Wuma Sizhan originally had the qualifications to enjoy a cup of this immortal wine, and he was highly anticipating it. But, before the grand feast started, he was unexpectedly assigned to leave Ying Capital and process matters related to the death of the royal family in-law.

Compared to Elder Chen who didn't seem angry or unhappy, Wuma Sizhan knew much more. Although he was unwilling, he still plastered a smile on his face and complied. After leaving the Emperor's Palace, his face darkened to the point that it seemed it would drip water.

The one he hated most was Elder Chen. But unless he wanted to court death, Wuma Sizhan could only suppress this thought in his heart. Because of this, his anger only doubled over. All of his rage was directed towards those True Demon Guards involved in this incident.

With his heart full of fire, Wuma Sizhan left Ying Capital and rushed straight to the military compound. He vowed that he would have these bastards pay a deep price!

After going into seclusion for several years, a Holy Son had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, seizing all of the glory that had been his before. Wuma Sizhan was originally saddened by this, and he thought that being able to attend this diplomatic mission to the Chu Empire was going to be a lucky chance for him. He never expected that he would suffer a loss as soon as he arrived.

That cup of immortal wine was the turning point for him to break through the next small boundary. If everything went well, his chances of success would rise by 20%...of course, there was nothing to say about that anymore.

If it weren't for this, then with Wuma Sizhan's ability to conceal his thoughts, he wouldn't have been so enraged.

After arriving at the military compound he was notified by the Deputy Envoy ahead of time.

When the Deputy Envoy saw Wuma Sizhan's pale complexion, his heart trembled for a moment.

Although he was the Deputy Envoy and was only second in status to Elder Chen on the diplomatic mission, there were some people he couldn't provoke.

Wuma Sizhan was absolutely one of them.

Without giving the Deputy Envoy a chance to speak, Wuma Sizhan coldly said, "Lead me to them!"

The Deputy Envoy was shamed in front of everyone. His face stiffened and he nodded. But in his heart, he was actually happy. He sneered inwardly, a bit of anticipation rising in him.

Those several people in the courtyard clearly came from considerable backgrounds. If they were to come into conflict with Wuma Sizhan, things would become interesting.

The group aggressively marched to the courtyard. The Deputy Envoy was about to send someone to knock on the door, but Wuma Sizhan coldly sneered and kicked them down!

Within the courtyard, Guard One stood up. His eyes swept over the newcomers, his eyes ice cold and profoundly indifferent.

Guard Two and the others all walked out.

Wuma Sizhan was without expression. "Lord Deputy Envoy, is everyone living in this courtyard here?"

The Deputy Envoy shook his head, "There are still two people."

Wuma Sizhan scoffed. "I am here under the orders of Elder Chen to investigate the full story behind this incident. Call everyone out!"

From the shadows, Guard Four appeared. He was the thinnest and shortest of the six people and there was no light in his dark gray eyes.

There was still one person missing.

Wuma Sizhan was angered. "How insolent!" His eyes coldly swept over the guards, but he remained wary. These people weren't part of the true diplomatic troop. If so, then they definitely knew his identity. If they were able to remain so calm right now, they must have someone they could rely on.

But the more it was like this, the more Wuma Sizhan was angered. When it came to family background, cultivation, and scheming, he far surpassed all other juniors of his generation. Besides His Highness the Holy Son, who in the entire Demonic Path was able to compare with him?

"Since he doesn't want to come out, he should be the master here. I am following orders to investigate this incident so I want to see who dares to stop me!" Wuma Sizhan waved his hand and two cultivators rushed forward from behind him.

Guard One lifted a hand. “The person who hasn’t appeared is ill, so he cannot be bothered. If my lord has any questions, you may ask us.”

How could Wuma Sizhan listen to this? When his two subordinates saw the guards in the way, they lifted their hands and thrust out.

These people following beside Wuma Sizhan were helpers specifically prepared to assist him in the Sea of Purgatory. Their strengths weren’t weak. Although they seemed to be simply thrusting their palms forwards, the reality was that all their strength was collected in this strike. It would instantly erupt at a single touch and possessed a horrifying killing potential.

Bang –

Bang –

In the blink of an eye, there were two deep thumping sounds that occurred almost simultaneously. The ground beneath Guard One instantly shattered and his ankles submerged into the ground.

The two cultivators that attacked were sent flying backwards. Their bones cracked and broke and their arms twisted like they were twirling flowers.

The two cultivators smashed into the ground. The pain was so intense that their faces paled and beads of sweat formed on their foreheads. However, the two of them knew about Wuma Sizhan’s personality, so no matter how much agony they were in they still forcefully suppressed it and didn’t emit a single pained groan.

Yet when these two cultivators looked at Guard One, their eyes were filled with awe and shock. They tried to attack this person but he had completely repelled their strength. This method could be called astonishing!

Wuma Sizhan’s complexion changed and he flew into a rage. He took one step forward and his tyrannical cultivation erupted. It was like a massive stone falling into a still lake, immediately rousing tremendous waves.

Guard One was without expression. He also took one step forward. The heaven-shaking collision didn’t occur. Rather, it was like a torrential rain pouring down upon a forest fire and extinguishing it. In the next instant, that overbearing aura completely vanished. This move left everyone startled. They were in even greater disbelief that this person was able to display a strength on par with Wuma Sizhan.

The Deputy Envoy’s heart shrank. What he wanted to see were these guards ruining Wuma Sizhan’s reputation a little; he didn’t want them to engage in a life or death battle. Otherwise, if there really was an accident, there was no way he would escape unscathed.

“Stop! This is Great Chu’s military compound. Could it be that you want to start a private battle here and have everyone ridicule my Demonic Path for infighting!?”

Wuma Sizhan was surprised, but he didn’t reveal any of this on his face. He coldly looked at Guard One and snorted. “I will remember what happened today!”

He flicked his sleeves and left in a huff.

He originally wanted to vent some of his anger but he had been suppressed instead. Right now, Wuma Sizhan's mood was extremely poor. However, logic told him that he could only stop things here. It was just a single guard and yet he couldn't see past this guard's depths. There was also the second guard, the guard from the shadows, as well as the others; none of them seemed easy to provoke. Moreover, there was also that person who hadn't appeared from beginning to end.

It seemed that while he was in seclusion for a mere several years, the Demonic Path had completely changed from how it was before. Disregarding the addition of that blindingly brilliant Holy Son, even the Zhao Family's Zhao Qianyuan experienced a dramatic rise upwards. Now there was also this mysterious character.

As Wuma Sizhan thought of this, his face grew increasingly pale.

The Deputy Envoy forced a smile. Looking at the guards in the courtyard, his lips moved but he didn't say anything. He turned around and led the others away.

It had been a guess to begin with, but now he could determine that his assumptions were true. The only difference was that the backgrounds of these people in the courtyard were far more astonishing than he had first imagined.

This brief commotion was likely to attract some attention. And from the actions of that guard, it was clear that he didn't want to be noticed by anyone.

There was a chance that his coming here today would produce future complaints. If that happened, he really would be wronged!

Guard Four looked over, his gray eyes revealing a bit of anxiousness.

Guard One waved his hand. He coughed a little, revealing some weariness in his eyes.

"It's fine."

He looked at the door to Qin Yu's room. He knew that today's events would likely be noticed by those with ill intentions and he couldn't help but sigh. To end up in such a situation because of You Ya, was His Highness beginning to regret it?

In truth, Qin Yu didn't feel any regret. And with things having come to this point, debating whether or not he should feel regret was useless.

It was a waste of time.

## **Chapter 569B – Opening**

The Chu Empire's 30 million year founding anniversary continued as planned. On this day, the array formation of Ying Capital was completely opened and the phantoms of nine dragons descended from the heavens, each one of them a thousand miles long. They circled around the city and gloriously roared out, endless auspicious clouds gathering about them and sprinkling down a golden rain.

Whether it was in scale or magnificence, this grand ceremony represented the pinnacle of the world. Although the 'second-rate guests' spread out amongst the various military compounds weren't able to

enter Ying Capital, they were still able to watch this scene from afar and observe the eye-catching spectacle.

Qin Yu stood in the courtyard, looking at Ying Capital as it was covered in a rainbow hue of divine lights. His expression was light.

After the great celebration was finished, the Sea of Purgatory would be opened...he hoped everything would go smoothly!

As the grand celebration began, news began to spread throughout the Chu Empire. His Majesty the Emperor highly valued the opening of the Sea of Purgatory. And any cultivator that entered the Sea of Purgatory might obtain the qualifications to meet him.

The Great Chu Emperor was a character that stood atop the highest heavens. Besides the high ranking court officials, it was rare for anyone to ever catch a glimpse of him, much less gain his regard...if it was said that anyone was indecisive about facing the Sea of Purgatory once it was opened...now a sharp light began to shine in all their eyes.

It was clear that this was a chance to appear in front of His Majesty and earn his praise. If they could grasp onto it, their future prosperous days would be just around the corner. In particular, the four state ministers all chose outstanding juniors from their families. Once this matter was determined to be true, the spots to enter the Sea of Purgatory became even more valuable.

All of Ying Capital began to move restlessly.

The first state minister and second minister sat across from each other. The tea atop the table had already cooled but neither person was in the mood to drink. They looked at each other, a bitter smile on their faces.

The four state ministers had a respected status. If it weren't for that person above them intervening, who would dare to spy on their actions or publicize them? It seemed that His Majesty the Emperor had already made up his mind.

"To not hesitate in using the lives of the juniors of his state ministers, subordinates, and other noble and royal families all to lay down a trap that will place the Demonic Path's Holy Son and the Immortal Sect's Palace Master in a hopeless situation, it seems His Majesty's disposition has become even crueler than before." The second state minister sighed. As he checked the name list and saw two of his children and four of his grandchildren on it, he couldn't help but feel bitter in his heart. A bit of animus appeared on his face.

The first state minister furrowed his eyebrows together. He said in a low voice, "Dong Qing, watch your words! You and I both come from humble origins. Us having the status we have today is all thanks to His Majesty's favor. We cannot disappoint his graciousness towards us!" He paused for a moment and continued, "My family's juniors are born to serve, and they must also repay the graciousness that His Majesty granted us. Venturing into the Sea of Purgatory, death is not absolute. And even if that were true, what does it matter if we need to directly discard their lives?"

The second state minister felt regretful after hearing this. He stood up and bowed. "Thank you Brother Yuan Qing for reminding me. I was rude just now."

The first state minister waved his hand, changing the topic, "The third state minister has always cared about blood relations, but he has misjudged the current situation. He was unable to see the forest for the trees. In order to maintain the greater plan, His Majesty won't say much. But after the Sea of Purgatory, it will be difficult for him to maintain his current status."

The third state minister had a covetous heart; the first state minister naturally knew of this. But after learning of his plans, the first state minister didn't feel any joy in his heart. The third state minister dared to meddle in the shadows, making it so that the most outstanding juniors of his family would stay behind. This was a bold move; at the very least he himself didn't have the courage to do the same. While the third state minister would lose his official position, he was still able to preserve the future of his family. It was hard to tell whether he truly won or lost with his gamble.

After speaking a few more words, the second state minister bid his farewells and left.

The first state minister finished off the rest of the cold tea, bitterness in his heart. He closed his eyes and gently sighed. To have a superior position might have seemed bright and amazing, but there were also unknown worries and pains.

Only by having more people die alongside the Demonic Path's Holy Son and Immortal Sect's Palace Master could His Majesty play everything off as a grave accident that occurred in the Sea of Purgatory. Only by doing this would they be able to shut the mouths of the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path afterwards. Aware of this, he fully extinguished his desire to urge His Majesty to change his mind. Then, he chose the most outstanding juniors from his family and included them on the list.

If even the most outstanding descendants of the solemn and dignified first state minister perished in the Sea of Purgatory, who would still be able to level accusations at His Majesty? It had to be known that His Majesty most highly regarded the first state minister above all; this was something everyone was aware of.

Regardless of what the outcome was, the first state minister would inevitably become even more favored. But as he thought about how this path would be paved with the blood of his descendants, he couldn't summon any happiness.

The first state minister summoned his steward. He told him to choose a group of maids from the mansion and deliver them to the juniors that would be entering the Sea of Purgatory.

In order to provide all possible contingencies, before the highly talented juniors were sent into peril, they would be bestowed women. This was all for the chance that some of their bloodline would be left behind. If something were to occur to them, they would still have successors to carry on in their place.

This wouldn't cause any suspicions at all. After the steward received this order, he immediately began to make arrangements.

The first state minister stood up. At this time, all the weariness and bitterness disappeared from his face. All that was left behind was a firm resolve as an atmosphere of dignity shrouded him once more.

This was because he was the first state minister!

....

“Your Highness, have you really decided to enter the Sea of Purgatory?” A man asked anxiously.

A woman calmly responded, “Yes.”

The man hesitated for several breaths of time. Then he cupped his hands together and said, “Since Your Highness has already come to a decision, then I shall do my best to follow in your footsteps and assist you!”

The woman was overjoyed. “That’s wonderful. With you helping me, we will surely make some gains in the Sea of Purgatory!”

Moments later, the man left the hall. He looked up at the sunlight sprinkling down on him, a dark gloominess surging on his complexion.

This person was Tianyun.

He originally wanted to stop Her Highness. But thinking about her current situation, he couldn’t utter the words.

Whatever. He would only consider this as repaying Her Highness for the live-saving graciousness he owed her. In the worst case scenario, he was simply giving back the life he should have lost.

...

Capital region, northeast military compound, in a courtyard.

This was the living quarters of a diplomatic mission for a small country. Everyone here, including the head envoy, weren’t allowed to enter Ying Capital. Because of their low status, no one paid any attention to them.

Within a room, a man and woman faced each other. The man was tall and strong. His eyebrows were straight and slanted towards outwards like swords. His pupils were like stars and he had a noble aura around him. There was elegance and majesty in every single one of his movements.

The woman across from him had her head slightly lowered. But from just the part that was visible, one could see she was a breathtaking beauty.

“Weiwei, the Sea of Purgatory is extraordinary. Big brother only has you left in this world. Stay here obediently and wait for me.”

The woman shook her head. Her voice was calm as she said, “And I only have big brother.”

“Weiwei!”

“Big brother, there is no need to say anything else. I have already made up my mind.”

The man’s eyebrows tightly furrowed together. After a long silence, he finally sighed and said, “You must promise to obey all of my orders and arrangements. Otherwise, I will never let you enter the Sea of Purgatory no matter what.”

“I will listen to big brother from now on.”

...

Seven days after the grand celebration finished, precise news came out from the Emperor's Palace. Three days from now, His Majesty the Emperor would summon all cultivators that were entering the Sea of Purgatory. Then he would personally oversee the opening of the seal.

Qin Yu and the Demonic Path had 49 people in total. They rode on horseback and finally entered Ying Capital. When he passed out of the shadows of the towering city gates, his face lightened up. But as he thought about how he would soon be facing the Chu Emperor, he felt a bit restless.

But reality proved that Qin Yu's fears were unfounded. The summoning ceremony was held in front of the Emperor's Palace, outside Harmony Temple. There were tens of thousands of people, so many that they seemed like an endless wave. The emperor sat on a dragon throne above them all. His aura surged around him, and it was impossible to tell what he looked like.

From start to finish, no accidents occurred. After giving a speech, the Great Chu Emperor stood up. He wasn't too tall, but at this moment he seemed as high as the heavens, capable of crushing the earth beneath his feet. The dignity of a ruler swept throughout the area, causing everyone to feel awe.

He lifted a hand and pointed towards the skies. In the next moment, endless turbulence arrived, as if a horrifying storm had suddenly appeared out of nowhere. The entire sky transformed into a raging sea. Between the crashing waves, a dark and dusky world entrance appeared in front of everyone.

Although the Sea of Purgatory was known as a 'sea', it wasn't a genuine sea.

But, it deserved the name of 'Purgatory'.

The instant the entrance opened, invisible slaughter intent surged outwards. Although it was imprisoned by Ying Capital's great array formation so that it couldn't recklessly spread outwards, it still caused the clouds and skies above the capital to change colors, everything turning dark as if it had suddenly become nighttime!

Mi Ganyuan lightly said, "The Sea of Purgatory has been opened! Hurry and enter. You must return within a month at most. Remember this!"

### **Chapter 570A - Terrifying**

The dark skies hung low. The layers of clouds seemed as if they would overlap with the distant mountain ranges. On the great black earth, oddly-shaped dead vegetation seemed to grow, sharp thorns covering every branch.

Suddenly, seven dots of light appeared in the tranquil air and started to rapidly spread outwards. After the light collected and restrained itself, it slowly faded away to reveal seven figures.

Qin Yu swept his eyes around. When he saw Guard One and the other six, he felt much more relaxed. The Demon Envoy's arrangements had gone smoothly so far. With these six people by his side, things would be far safer.

Guard One took a deep breath. A complex light flashed in his eyes before he returned to normal. He cupped his hands together and said, "My lord, what grows below us are earth phantasm thorn bushes. They have the effect of producing illusions. If you feel any discomfort, take out your satchel and sniff it a few times."



Seeing Qin Yu nod, Guard One made a hand signal. Guard Two and the others spread out in a protective formation. The mysterious Guard Four also disappeared without a trace.

“My lord, let us go.”

Whoosh –

The group began moving forward.

The Water Marid was one of the Chu Empire’s great guardian God Beasts. It slept throughout the year in the depths of the Sea of Purgatory, one of the forbidden zones that could not be entered. Since they only had one month and they had no idea what sort of troubles they would encounter along the way, they naturally didn’t dare to delay.

Qin Yu’s eyes fell on Guard One, and then he looked at Guard Two and the others. They seemed to move together with a tacit understanding of each other. Their methods were flawless, as if they were already familiar with the Sea of Purgatory.

Could it be they had come before?

But just as this thought appeared, it was dismissed by Qin Yu. According to the Demon Envoy, from the moment the great Chu Empire was founded, the Sea of Purgatory had only been opened a mere several times.

The last time could be traced back to 700,000 years ago. Was there any life form in this world that could live for that long? He was likely overthinking things.

...

Shen Yuanyin’s face was covered with a thin veil. Her chilly eyes seemed like the moon in the night sky, faint and indifferent, without any hint of emotion.

12 female cultivators knelt behind her. All of them were slender with incomparably beautiful appearances, but their faces were stiff as if they were wearing masks.

Not too far away, there was a monster beast covered in black diamond-shaped scales. Its body had been cut into 13 parts, the surface of the cuts as smooth as a mirror.

The wounds seemed to be wrapped by an invisible membrane. Not a drop of blood flowed out, but the air was still thick with the smell of it.

This bloody smell didn’t come from the dead monster beast, but the 12 women that were kneeling on the ground.

“Palace Master, we should leave.”

Shen Yuanyin nodded. She stepped forward and her body fluttered away like a ball of cotton. The 12 female cultivators behind her stood up and followed closely behind.

...

Looking down at the wound on his arm that was slowly darkening, Zhan Lingtian slowly furrowed his eyebrows together. He said in a deep voice, "Be extra careful. Something doesn't seem right with the current situation."

Seeing the worrying eyes cast his way, he turned his head and said, "Weiwei, don't worry, this trivial poison won't harm me."

Weiwei shook her head. She handed over a poison curing pill. Although it didn't have any use here, Zhan Lingtian still swallowed it.

"Is it alright now?"

Several people in the troop saw the miss' worried expression. Although they didn't say anything, they all had ugly complexions.

Despite the incident just now having happened suddenly and they came out unharmed, their young master had still been injured. This was simply unforgivable.

If something happened to the young master, not even 10,000 deaths would be enough penance.

Each of them clenched their fists, resolving their hearts to raise their guard to the peak. They couldn't make another careless mistake like this.

But at this time, with a cry of alarm, the entire troop fell into confusion.

...

Guard One's face was ugly to look at. They had been sufficiently careful along the way, but they had still caught the attention of four monster beasts. The strength of the one in front of them was particularly astonishing. Although it hadn't yet reached the Calamity Immortal level, in terms of pure destructive force it wasn't any weaker. They had to spend a considerable amount of time and effort in order to slay it.

Qin Yu had no idea what this meant. But, he could feel from the dignified postures of the several True Demon Guards that some problem must have occurred.

As expected, Guard One said, "My lord, the monster beasts within the Sea of Purgatory live in different divided zones. Generally speaking, as long as we are on the edges, we won't encounter monster beasts that are too tyrannically strong...I ask my lord to be more wary. I feel that today's Sea of Purgatory is somewhat strange."

Qin Yu nodded. But at this time, his complexion suddenly changed. "Be careful!" He moved his feet. Just as the ground below him collapsed, his figure shot up into the skies. In the next moment the earth shattered and several black tentacles slithered out. Luckily, the True Demon Guards had been warned by Qin Yu so they were able to avoid them.

The black tentacles rapidly retracted, pulling the corpse of the dead monster beast back with them. Then, what followed soon after was the bone-chilling sounds of flesh and bone being separated.

The moment Guard One saw the underground tentacles, his pupils violently shrank. When he heard the swallowing sounds, his entire body stiffened. "My lord, we will delay it. Please hurry up and leave this area!"

With a loud shout, gray energy surged around Guard One's hands. The energy condensed into a massive chopping blade. Then, the chopping blade came cutting down.

Bang –

There was a heaven-shaking explosion. A massive crack was instantly formed in the ground below to reveal a terrifyingly large figure. The slippery surface of the creature was torn open and dark green sludge flowed out.

Pained roars of anger transmitted out from below. The horrifying life form that was hidden beneath the earth tightened its flesh and blood, and the edges of the wound attached back together. Following that, there were sounds of whistling air as several black tentacles shot out like bolts of lightning. Guard One didn't resist at all and allowed the tentacles to drag him into the ground.

"Your Highness, please flee!"

Guard Two and the others rushed into the earth. At some point, even the hidden Guard Four had appeared on the ground near the crack. He held a long knife in his hands as he dove into the opened flesh and blood.

Rumble rumble –

Like an earth dragon awakening, the earth began to fiercely quake. Layers upon layers of incredible waves rose up, instantly submerging Guard One and the others along with the terrifying life form. However, loud thumping sounds from deep below the earth proved that an intense battle was still taking place.

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. He thought for a moment and took a deep breath. As he stepped forward, about to take action, the Cosmic Seacross Bell in his soul space began to ring out loud.

He looked up. In the distance, he could see a black mountain ridge begin to shake and disintegrate...there was something racing towards this location from deep below the earth, and there was more than one of them!

Qin Yu's eyes darkened for a moment but he restrained all of his emotions in an instant. Without any hesitation, he turned and hurtled into the distance.

He didn't turn his head. It was only when he no longer heard the thunderous shakings of the earth or the loud bangs below the surface did he finally stop.

He looked back. The fog weaving together in the gray skies was like massive mountains, wanting to crush everyone below to pieces.

Before Qin Yu came to the Chu Empire, he had gone over in great depth all the information he could find related to the Sea of Purgatory. With his status as the Holy Palace's Holy Son, there was almost nothing he couldn't access. He had a considerable understanding of the Sea of Purgatory.

Guard One and the others were all extremely strong individuals. But not long after entering the Sea of Purgatory, they had encountered a disastrous catastrophe and then suffered total destruction...although this place should be dangerous, it absolutely shouldn't be as dangerous as it was today!

For a time, Qin Yu didn't realize that it was his and Shen Yuanyin's identities being exposed that was the reason for all of this. Their appearances here had stirred up the Great Chu Emperor's killing intent, leading to the present situation.

He thought about Guard One and the others; they were likely done for. A difficult and uneasy feeling appeared in his chest.

Although they hadn't been together for too long, these people had still wholeheartedly protected him. Even though they knew their actions just now were tantamount to certain death, they didn't hesitate at all.

But these feelings lasted for a mere moment before they were suppressed. The True Demon Guards and used their lives as the price for him being able to withdraw intact. The best way to repay them would be to keep living on.

Right now, two choices were placed in front of Qin Yu. First, he could quickly retreat and leave the Sea of Purgatory. This place was strange and unpredictable, far more dangerous than it should have been. This plan was the best way to maintain his life.

The second choice was to continue delving deeper. However, if the edges were already so dangerous, then who knew what sort of terrors lay with the forbidden zones. This choice was...

But before Qin Yu could come to a decision, loud and deep roars suddenly echoed out from behind him. He turned around to see several people running away, a massive figure chasing after them.

### **Chapter 570B - Terrifying**

It was a giant half-rotten corpse. The corpse's clothes were in tatters and one could see large swathes of mottled purple flesh exposed beneath, as well as visible bones. It held a massive chopper in its hands. The chopper was broken in half, and the tip of the remaining section was slathered in bright red blood.

With just a glance, one could see that the blood had already congealed. But, it gave off the feeling that it was still flowing, full of potent vitality.

Qin Yu's first thought was that he had no idea what sort of life form could leave behind this kind of blood. Soon after, he felt a deep sense of fear and alarm rise up in his heart.

Although he hadn't fought it, from the aura alone he could tell that this decayed corpse was absolutely terrifying!

"Fellow daoist up ahead, save us!"

Loud shouts for help came from behind Qin Yu.

Qin Yu turned and fled. Even if he wanted to leave now, there was no longer a path for him to escape to.

But soon, his complexion gradually clouded over. The several people behind him chased after him in close pursuit, but the distance between them and the decayed corpse actually kept shrinking.

“Ahh!”

There was a pitiful scream. A woman was grabbed tight by the decayed corpse. All of the blood drained from her face. “Save me! Brother Lei, save me!” Unfortunately, the people in front didn’t even turn back their heads; they only continued to run away with all of their strength. The decayed corpse used a bit of strength and easily ripped the woman’s body in half.

As the decayed corpse ran, its large mouth chomped and chewed. But, there was a giant hole in its stomach so whenever it swallowed flesh and blood, chunks of it would fall out through the hole and drop to the ground.

Occasionally some people turned around and saw this. When they did, they were frightened so badly they nearly peed in their pants. They screamed out loud and ran even faster.

Qin Yu abruptly turned. He could clearly feel the groaning of the flesh and bones within his thighs. But in the next moment, he burst out with an even greater strength.

The strength of an Emperor level Demon Body was not exposed with reservation.

Lei Fang kept his eyes glued onto Qin Yu. The Demonic Path’s True Demon Guards all had formidable mortal bodies. If he could cause this person to bleed, then this powerful and tasty blood energy was sure to lead the decaying corpse away from them.

His eyes turned cold. He lifted a hand and punched outwards.

Qin Yu’s complexion changed. There was a chilling light in his eyes. He flicked his sleeves and dispersed the incoming strength. Then, he turned his head and coldly glared at Lei Fang.

His feet smashed into the earth and his figure burst forwards. As for the energy he had thrust into the ground, after brewing for a brief period of time it suddenly exploded outwards.

Lei Fang and the others just happened to pass through this area. The explosion covered them, inevitably reducing their speed.

Suddenly, a stone flew over and smashed into the chest of one of the men. The man staggered and fell over, tumbling on the ground. He crawled back up to his feet, about to continue to flee.

But then, an icy cold hand grabbed onto his ankle.

“Ahh!” There was another scream of despair.

Lei Fang was covered in dust, his entire appearance looking distressed. A moment ago he had clearly felt the yin chill aura of the decaying corpse wrapping around his body. In that life or death moment, he had kicked a stone, smashing it into the chest of Cui Sansheng. Only like that had he been able to avoid death.

After almost falling into the hands of the decaying corpse, Lei Fang was filled with panic and horror. He looked at Qin Yu’s back, his eyes filling with even deeper hatred.

This damned piece of garbage!

He had completely forgotten that he was the one with ill intentions to begin with. Moreover, he and the several people with him had chased closely behind Qin Yu to begin with, in an attempt to divert the danger onto him.

After killing two people, the decaying corpse's desire to hunt and kill seemed to have been temporarily satisfied. Its loud roars gradually quieted and its chilling aura slowly faded away.

At this moment, Lei Fang turned his head. He could no longer see the figure of the decaying corpse. He let out a long breath, a look of rejoice on his face. Subconsciously, he slowed down his pace.

He looked ahead once more, but Qin Yu's figure had raced far ahead of him. All that was left was a black dot on the horizon that soon vanished after several breaths of time.

...

Ying Capital.

The third state minister's mansion.

The building was palatial and opulent, and the entrance was grand and luxurious.

Deep past numerous gardens, the lord state minister was sitting in his study. His eyes were closed and there were no fluctuations on his face.

After an unknown period of silence, he suddenly opened his eyes. He looked towards the flowers that were blooming just outside his window.

A gentle breeze blew past. The flower petals swayed in the wind, emitting a deep fragrance that warmed the heart.

The lord state minister took a deep breath. He said in a soft voice, "It's starting."

There was a smile on the corners of his lips. He felt incomparably relaxed at the moment. After all these years of patiently waiting, everything had finally borne sweet fruit.

Not too long afterwards, this entire world would be in chaos. But, the state minister didn't feel any guilt at all, because this was the price they should pay.

Everyone in this world owed them!

...

Sea of Purgatory.

Beneath the backdrop of the dim skies, two men and one woman silently treaded forward. A faint blood light wreathed about their bodies, dark and gloomy.

Not too far away on a flat stone outcrop, a monster beast had lowered its head as it tore into flesh and blood. Looking at the corpse's clothes and the fragments of hand and feet they could see, this must have been a beautiful woman before her grisly death.

But now, that beautiful woman was nothing but food in the monster beast's mouth. As the sound of chewing spread out, it instinctually caused one's scalp to tingle in creepiness. Even so, the three people moving forward seemed as if they didn't see or hear anything at all. Without any hesitation they continued forward.

The monster beast's ears twitched. It lifted up its head to reveal a mouth that was matted in blood and covered in pieces of flesh. Its fierce and merciless eyes fell on the three people.

But in the next moment, its body stiffened. It wailed out loud. Then, tossing away the food it had yet to finish, it tucked its tail between its legs and fled, as if it sensed something terrifying from the bodies of the three people!

Soon, the three people climbed up a mountaintop. They stopped in an alcove. The man in front took out a disc and started pacing back and forth.

After turning around and around several times, the man finally came to a stop. There was a hum in the air as the ground in front of him suddenly collapsed to reveal a massive hole.

The hole was pitch-black and it was unknown where it led to. Faint traces of energy slowly flowed out. Half of it was yin black and half of it was yang white. The two wove together as one.

The man passed the disc to the person behind him. Then, without any hesitation, he leapt up and plunged into the gaping hole.

Quietly, like a tiny stone entering a vast river, there was not a single splash.

But he seemed to have changed something in the end. Within the yin black and yang white, there were additional traces of red. The smell of blood filled the air.

The second man wasn't even perturbed. He passed the disc to the third person and dove straight into the hole.

All that remained was the woman. Her face was beautiful and her skin was fair. As she saw the increasingly thick traces of blood red energy, there was no fluctuation in her eyes.

Who could have imagined that just several days ago, she was a sheltered young lady raised in the depths of the state minister's mansion? After learning she had been placed on the name list, she had been so frightened she had urinated on the scene.

She lifted a hand and tapped the disc. Blood-colored textures appeared, weaving together into a fierce face.

It opened its mouth and silently called out.

Hum –

The opening of the hole trembled. Some of the white and black traces that were almost soaked in blood went whistling back in.

In the next moment, the entrance to the hole disappeared from sight.

The woman put away the disc and turned to leave. Her light footsteps soon faded away.

...

Qin Yu looked up at the city ruins that still existed in front of him. He let out a deep breath and revealed a relaxed look. He took several steps forward, his body flying in like a shadow.

Just as he landed on the ground, he frowned and looked upward, his eyes sharp and cold. A pair of blood red eyes behind a door panel hesitated for a moment before eventually moving away.

Seeing that this other party didn't want to engage with him, Qin Yu continued moving. After several breaths of time, he arrived deep in the ruins. Moments later, he found a vacant room. When he determined that there weren't any surrounding dangers, he shoved open a decayed wooden door. There was a burst of dust sent flying in the air as he stepped in.

He sat down cross-legged and took out several pills, swallowing them up. He let out a long breath and his face paled a little.

With his current cultivation, he could still put up a fight when facing an initial Calamity Immortal realm cultivator. Even when placed within the entire Land of Divinity and Demons, he could be considered a peak powerhouse.

But today, in the Sea of Purgatory, he had actually been placed in an utterly distressed state. If it weren't for the sharp sensory powers of the Cosmic Seacross Bell, he feared he wouldn't have been able to arrive here intact.

The ruins of a city within the Sea of Purgatory. There was no way to research its history and no one even knew where to begin. But, rumors said that it was constructed in the far off ancient times. Although it was dilapidated now, it still retained some sort of power.

The monster beasts and evil beings that lived in the Sea of Purgatory wouldn't easily approach these ruins. Of course, this didn't mean that it was a place of absolute safety.

When Qin Yu first entered the ruins, the blood red eyes that stared at him from behind a door were one of the great terrors of the ruins!

That was a withered corpse. They were said to be the residents of this city that lived here in ancient times. For some unknown reason, they had devolved into their current appearance.

Within the Demonic Path's database on the Sea of Purgatory, there was a detailed record of the withered corpses that lived in the ruins. These were freakish monsters that couldn't be killed. Even if they were torn to shreds, they would eventually be reborn.

And these creatures possessed a depraved desire for the flesh and blood of living beings. When encountering a living being, they would never give up on it.

Luckily, these withered corpses seemed to suffer some form of imprisonment. Most of them could only stay in their own houses, or perhaps move in a small and narrow scope around them.

As long as he was careful and didn't intrude into their range of movement, there wasn't much risk of danger.



However, this Sea of Purgatory that should only have been somewhat dangerous had now become a perilous land of almost certain death. It was said that the city ruins were safe, but could such information still be trusted now?

Qin Yu didn't know. So, he decided to only stay here for a moment. After recovering his energy, he would immediately leave.

He suppressed these extraneous thoughts and closed his eyes, adjusting his condition with all his strength.

As Qin Yu was restoring his losses, several visitors appeared outside the city ruins.