

The Gods 1061

Chapter 1061 - That Flash of Fire

Crash—

The blue light dispersed and the world became scarlet once more. Turbulent sea of flames once again dominated the world.

Everyone staring at the Vermillion Bird projection looked like they were shell shocked, however. No one managed to recollect themselves until a long time later.

“Dead... is it dead?” Yan Juehai muttered.

They had witnessed with their own eyes... the shattering... of an ancient horned dragon!!

It wasn't the dragon that was covered in wounds, but the one who emerged later. It was the dragon that was at full power and almost perfectly unblemished except for the damaged dragon fault from a thousand years ago!

A dragon like this... dead just like that!?!??

Although the air here was scorching hot, they felt as if their noses and lungs were full of icy air.

The Flame God Realm had records of the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect's "Broken Moon Oblivion" from a long time ago but no one had ever seen it with their own eyes. Even then, they had never realized that it was this powerful. Despite having used up most of her profound energy and being in a state of terrible poisoning and grievous wounds, the technique still sealed the Inferno Prison for an instant and shattered a Divine Master ancient horned dragon instantly!

This scene was even more stunning than the appearance of another ancient horned dragon.

The Flame God Realm had dreamed for countless generations about killing the horned dragon and finally their dream had been realized perfectly before their eyes in a way they could never imagine. Yet, not a single person was showing even a trace of happiness...

The ancient horned dragon that was shattered into countless ice bits by the godlike Broken Moon Oblivion fell into the sea of flames and was devoured in an instant. Not a trace of the horned dragon could be seen any longer.

It quickly sank to the bottom of the endless Inferno Prison.

Without a source of power, the shattered dragon corpse was quickly burned into nothingness by the Inferno Prison.

This also meant that they failed to grab even a dragon scale off the ancient horned dragon even though it was killed... they could only watch it burn in the flame sea and do nothing about it.

“Aooo!!!!!”

“AWOOoo!!!!!!!!!”

A draconic roar filled with infinite anger, pain and sadness awakened everyone's convulsing soul. The ancient horned dragon that was still alive roared again and again, causing stunning tides to surge towards the sky, "How dare you... how dare you kill him... how dare you kill him!?"

"You despicable human! I will kill you! I will turn you into the pettiest speck of dust! Roar!!"

The ancient horned dragon at its angriest and deepest loathing was almost insane. After an air shredding roar, it pounced toward Mu Xuanyin, surrounded her with dragon flames, and sealed all off her escape routes.

Covered in blood, Mu Xuanyin's complexion alternated between deathly white and bloody red constantly. When she had executed "Broken Moon Oblivion" in grim determination, she had also spent all of her Ice Phoenix origin blood and a large amount of blood essence... the loss also meant allowing the horned dragon's poison to invade straight into her soul.

She hadn't depleted all of her profound strength yet, but it had fallen below ten percent. After her Ice Phoenix origin blood had gone still, the ice powers she unleashed no longer contained the divine power of Ice Phoenix behind them. Now that the might of her attacks had fallen off sharply, her death was all but certain.

Still, she didn't resign herself to her fate. With eyes still as cold as the abyss, she raised a weak arm and resummoned the Snow Princess Sword back to her hand. With her final strength and spark of her life, she charged towards the rampaging ancient horned dragon.

Ding!!

Ice melted instantly the moment it struck fire. In a flash, Mu Xuanyin was knocked several kilometers away from the point of impact while enveloped in draconic flames. The flames were also burning away the last spark of her life.

Yun Che slowly grew absent minded as he stared blankly at the fight.

Eight years ago, north of the Blue Wind Empire where the Wasteland of Death lies, he and Chu Yuechan once encountered a male and a female flood dragon. Chu Yuechan was cornered into a dead end, so at the price of her profound veins, she unleashed the Frozen Cloud forbidden technique 【Zeroth Aurora】 and killed one of them. After that... she waited quietly for the arrival of her own death.

The scene happening now was so similar to that day.

At the time and just like today, he could do nothing but watch because he was far, far, far too weak to do anything to help. Jasmine was there at that time, so after he begged her to save Chu Yuechan, Jasmine ended the other flood dragon's life at the price of allowing the devilish poison to spread.

It was also the day he and Chu Yuechan became completely involved in an "ill-fated relationship".

"Sect Master Huo..."

Yun Che opened his mouth weakly but Sect Master Huo was already shaking his head and sighing before he could finish. "I'm sorry but we cannot save her. Although that horned dragon is doing poorly and

covered in wounds, it still is... a Divine Master death match. Forget you, even I would die for sure if I got close to that battlefield. As for saving her, that is nothing more than a pipe dream.”

Yan Juehai also shook his head helplessly and said, “If there was even a sliver of hope to save your master, we absolutely wouldn’t stand by and do nothing about it. But... there simply is no hope at all. Even if everyone of us were to join the battle right now, we cannot do anything to save her life. We will only be sacrificing our own lives for nothing.”

Yun Che couldn’t understand the power difference between Divine Sovereign Realm and Divine Master Realm but there was no lie behind Huo Rulie and Yan Juehai’s words.

Yun Che stopped talking. His eyes reflected the swaying scene of the Vermillion Bird projection.

The Snow Princess Sword was still being swung even though the blue light was growing weaker and weaker. He could smell the scent of death coming from Mu Xuanyin even through the projection but still she didn’t stop slashing at the draconic flames surrounding her...

Master... hasn’t given up yet!

Even now, she hasn’t given up and resigned herself to her fate!

That’s right. Master’s pride wouldn’t allow her to accept death while doing nothing if she had even one breath left in her body. She would fight bitterly to the end even when knowing that her death was certain.

Yun Che bit down on the tip of his tongue strongly. Intense pain and blood stench filled his mouth and sent shivers down his soul.

I cannot do nothing! My master is fighting with all she has, even when she is down to her last bit of life and energy, so how can I, her disciple, watch from the sidelines and do nothing to help her!?

The only one who could sacrifice everything to save master out of everyone here is me and me alone! No one else is dependable no matter how high their strength or status... I can only depend on myself!

Calm down... calm down now! Master is still alive, so there must be hope! There must be a way!

On faith alone, I have created many miracles that even Jasmine thought impossible, so...

There must be a way!!

Yun Che’s breathing slowly returned to normal. His confused mind did its best to calm itself down. He even closed his own eyes and sealed his own ears so that the only thing he could hear was his own heaving breathing and heartbeat.

Think carefully... recall everything that I have...

There must be a way... Even the tiniest possibility or hope may potentially save my master!

So I have to find it... I must find it!!

In just a few breaths’ time, Yun Che’s mind went from total disorder to perfect clarity.

The Flame God Realm had stood for hundreds of thousands of years but its Divine King and Sovereign Realm experts could do nothing but tremble helplessly before the God Burying Inferno Prison they were most familiar with.

Meanwhile, Yun Che, someone at the Divine Origin Realm who sat at the bottom of the power level and hadn't arrived at the god realm for more than a year, was searching for a way to rescue Mu Xuanyin from a Divine Master level entity...

No one would think that his efforts amounted to anything more than a joke.

No one would believe that he could find any hope... just like they wouldn't believe that a speck of sand could bury a sea.

Still, Yun Che was still searching with all his willpower and soul for a way to save Mu Xuanyin.

He was staking all of his willpower and soul just like that day he plucked that Netherworld Udumbara Flower for Jasmine.

Everywhere around him, the people of the Flame God Realm were absorbed in sadness, pain, or regret. They could never forget the moment heaven and hell switched places before their eyes. All of the beautiful dreams they had shaped in their minds were popped like a bubble in that one moment.

Worse, the Snow Song Realm King was going to lose her life for this endeavor... they had no doubt that Snow Song Realm would become their sworn enemy from this day onwards.

"The Profound God Convention is right around the corner, Poyun. You don't need to push yourself too much anymore. Haah," Huo Rulie sighed heavily with bone deep helplessness behind his tone. "This is fate."

"Even if I'm not destined to enter the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm now, there is still the future, Master! Poyun will work hard and reach the Divine Master Realm for sure; it's just going to take longer than expected, that's all!" Huo Poyun's eyes were still clear and determined.

"Good boy." A strained smile appeared on Huo Rulie's face. Right now, this was the only solace he could find. He then shifted his eyes away from the Vermillion Bird projection, because Mu Xuanyin's final struggle was growing unbearably weak. Her wounds seemed to be worsening with every passing breath.

For a thousand years, he hated Mu Xuanyin to the bone and couldn't contain himself. If this had happened before Huo Ye was saved, he might have taken some joy in her suffering but Huo Ye was saved and he was saved by Mu Xuanyin's disciple, Yun Che, no less. He was already regretting his loss of sanity and ambush of Mu Bingyun back then and now he sincerely didn't wish to see Mu Xuanyin perish underneath the horned dragon's claws.

Aooooo!!

AOOOo!!

The ancient horned dragon's furious roars shook the very sky. By now it had succumbed to complete madness over its companion's horrific death and the Inferno Prison around it had been transformed into a literal calamity by its power.

Boom boom boom boom boom—

Mu Xuanyin was knocked horizontally away by the ancient horned dragon and she barely covered herself in a layer of ice when she hit a corner of the Inferno Prison. By the time she flew swiftly across the licking flames and flew up suddenly to escape another burst of dragon flame, the ice had already shattered completely. Mu Xuanyin spat out three mouthfuls of dirty blood in a row and morning red dots were starting to cover every part of her body... Even her long hair had lost its ice blue color.

The inheritors of the Ice Phoenix's divine blood weren't born with ice blue hair. It was a state of profound strength and life that appeared after they reached an extremely high realm.

Right now, her ice-colored hair had turned completely dim. Almost half of it had turned back to the pitch black color she once possessed at the beginning of her life...

It wasn't just a countdown of her remaining profound strength but also a countdown of her remaining life... the moment her hair turned fully black was also the time of her death.

"The poison has completely entered her body," Yan Juehai said absentmindedly. He turned around to look at Yan Wancang. "Sect Master Yan... is there anything we can do at all?"

Yan Wancang didn't move, almost as if he hadn't heard Yan Juehai's voice. A while later, he muttered seemingly to himself, "The Snow Song Realm King is truly unfathomably powerful. She is covered in serious wounds... she has burned all of her divine blood... she has used up most of her blood essences... and yet she is still able to hold on to this moment..."

"Still, this means that she will fight until the last drop of energy. Even if a miracle were to happen and allow her to escape... she would still be dead. Haah."

It was at this moment Yun Che suddenly opened his eyes. A flash of fiery red fleeted across his incredibly wakeful eyes.

"I need a favor from you, Sect Master Huo," Yun Che said in a low tone while staring ahead of him.

"What is it?" Huo Rulie turned around.

"Please send me to my master's side, Sect Master Huo." Yun Che sounded unusually indifferent, as though he was saying something trivial.

"What did you say!?" His words shocked Huo Rulie greatly, "Have you gone insane!? I repeat, your puny body will be burned to literal nothing before you even get five hundred... no, one thousand kilometers away from the battle site. Get close, you say? That's absolutely impossible!"

"I know." Yun Che nodded. "That's why I need you to protect me."

"I can't do it!" Huo Rulie turned around and said unhesitatingly, "I cannot do it either. Forget you, if I get that close even I will perish for sure... I don't have to tell you in the case I have to split my powers and protect you, right?"

"Also, what can you do if you did get close? Are you planning to die along with your master!?"

He could never forget the day his son, Huo Ye turned stupid and sneaked close to the battle site, hoping to feel a divine profound level battle with his own body a thousand years ago... and when he was about five hundred kilometers away from the battle site, he was struck by the shockwave of Mu Xuanyin's frost power...

At the time, Huo Ye had just gone through a heavenly tribulation and was at the first level of the Divine Spirit Realm... The breakthrough and massive increase in profound strength had also boosted his confidence to the point of arrogance, ultimately causing that tragedy.

Chapter 1062 - Star Restoration in a Dire Situation

Hearing Yun Che's words, Yan Wancang and others cast glances at him. They could only come to the same conclusion as Huo Rulie... that he wanted to go and die along with his master.

But Yun Che said with a calm and cold gaze, "Dying along with her? I'm still sane enough not to do such a stupid thing! I want to go in order to save my master!"

"As if that's possible!" Huo Rulie roared. "Unless a Higher Realm King comes here to lend their help, no one can save your master! With your insignificant cultivation, you don't even qualify to die trying such a thing!"

Yun Che looked Huo Rulie straight in the eye as he said, "Three days ago, I accomplished something that you thought was impossible, something you couldn't possibly believe."

"Just a while ago, I told you over and over again that there are two ancient horned dragons. I didn't even hesitate to take a blood oath and even then, you didn't believe me... Do you see how things have turned out now due to your unwillingness to trust my words?"

"Your self-opinionated attitude has lead you to be ashamed again and again! So, what right do you have left now to assert that I'm not able to save my master!? You may not be capable of saving her but how can you assume that I'm also incapable of doing it?"

Immediately, Huo Rulie fell into a daze.

"A few hours ago today, you vowed solemnly and said it yourself that you owe me an enormous favor and as such, would gladly give me whatever I want or fulfill whatever request I make. Heh..." Yun Che let out a light laugh in ridicule, "I was a fool to have felt respect for you at the time. Huo Rulie, who would've thought that your words like 'I'll definitely return the favor' and 'surely do what I said' were nothing more than a pile of crap!"

"You scoundrel!!"

There was no one that would dare angrily curse at the distinguished Sect Master of the Golden Crow Sect in such a manner. Golden Crow Sect Elder Huo Rujin flew into a rage, "Little brat of the Snow Song Realm, you actually dared to abuse my sect master? Looks like you're tired of living..."

"Shut the hell up!!"

Huo Rulie howled furiously, causing Huo Rujin to quickly take two steps backward in fear. Profound energy erupted from his body, directly splitting apart his sleeves and revealing his magma rock like arms.

“I, Huo Rulie... may be a coward but I’ve never been a vile person who would go back on his word!” Huo Rulie exhaled heavily. “Alright! If you want to throw away your life... then I’ll follow along with you! At worst, I’ll lose my life!”

“Let’s go!!” He lifted Yun Che up, after which a violent and stormy wave charged into the God Burying Inferno Prison.

“Master!”

“Sect Master!”

“Sect Master Huo!!”

Everyone present shouted in alarm but Huo Rulie turned a deaf ear. In the blink of an eye, his figure completely disappeared from their sight.

As he possessed might at the Divine Sovereign level, his speed was terrifyingly fast, to say the least. Just the storm alone was enough to make Yun Che feel as if his body was being torn apart. Fortunately, Huo Rulie at once covered Yun Che’s body with his profound power, which helped the latter to gradually feel at ease.

“Sect Master Huo, hurry up... Use your fastest speed!”

They were three thousand five hundred kilometers away. That would require Yun Che at least a few hours, even if he were to employ all his might and could approach the place alive. That was not the case for someone of a very high cultivation level such as Huo Rulie. Hearing Yun Che’s words, he gnashed his teeth and cursed, before sweeping ahead with his palm. His flames ripped space one after another as he passed through them, reaching closer and closer to his ultimate speed.

The energy density in the region of the God Burying Inferno Prison was extremely fearsome and as such, Huo Rulie could only cover a very limited distance through ripping space. However, his speed was still extraordinary and incomparably fast and they travelled the distance of a thousand kilometers before long. At this time, Yun Che slowly raised his palm that was holding a blood-red jade stone.

Huo Rulie immediately turned around his head when he felt the scorching hot aura of the jade stone, “Vermilion Bird Jade!?”

At Divine Ice Phoenix Sect’s Great Sect Assembly several months ago, it was the Vermilion Bird Jade that was presented to Mu Xuanyin when the three sect masters of the Flame God Realm had “payed a visit”. It was straightaway given away to Yun Che!

Yun Che had his eyes closed as his consciousness speedily submerged and then the Vermilion Bird Jade also disappeared from his hand.

“Slap!”

Inside the Sky Poison Pearl, Yun Che slapped the bottom of Hong’er, who was sleeping soundly at the moment. She jumped up shouting and said with a look of grievance, hands on her behind, “Master, wh-wh-why... did you hit my butt?”

You little girl... Yun Che gritted his teeth in anger... Such a huge incident has happened outside and she's still sleeping here so soundly!

Phew... cool down! Don't lose your calm! I can't afford to offend this little devil.

An incomparable warm smile surfaced on his face. Then, he displayed the Vermilion Bird Jade in his hand, "Hong'er, I've never spent time playing with you since I arrived in the God Realm. As such, I've always felt guilty in my heart and so..."

"Wow! It smells delicious!!"

The instant Yun Che finished his words, Hong'er's eyes brightened like stars as she looked fixedly at the Vermilion Bird Jade in his hand. Soon after, a red light flashed before Yun Che... and his hand immediately felt lighter.

Hong'er disappeared and so did the Vermilion Bird Jade!

Crunch! Crunch!

Hearing crisp biting sound from behind, Yun Che turned around to look at Hong'er biting a mouthful of the pieces of the Vermilion Bird Jade that contained a terrifying amount of energy. Three bites later, she swallowed down the whole thing.

"~ ! @# ¥ %..." The corners of Yun Che's eyes twitched... Why did I even try to come up with a way to coax her into eating it? That was completely unnecessary!

"Heehee!" Hong'er narrowed her eyes as she spread out her hands, "It's gone now... aah...aah...aah?"

Yun Che had already vanished from her her field of vision by this time.

"Hmm..." Hong'er waved her finger from side to side, with a pondering expression, "Why did he leave all of a sudden? Could it be that Master got angry at me?"

"Sect Master Huo Rulie, how far are we from our destination?" Yun Che regained his consciousness and loudly roared.

As they got closer to the central area, the intensity at which the sea of flames seethed and the turbulence of the energy storms became stronger by more than several times.

"There's still quite some distance left!"

"Then be a bit faster! The faster the better! My master won't be able to hold on for too long!"

"Damn it!" Huo Rulie let out a loud curse. His flame power surged and directly cut open a ten meter long space crack, causing his travelling speed to become even faster.

"Boy! Since you don't intend to throw away your life, you should at least tell me what you're planning to do first!?"

No matter how hard he tried, Huo Rulie was unable to think of any method that Yun Che could use to save Mu Xuanyin.

Yun Che slightly gritted his teeth in response but didn't say a word.

“Then can you tell me how confident are you to succeed?” Huo Rulie asked in a loud voice, while using all his might to travel through space.

“Not at all!” Yun Che said in a heavy voice. “There’s only... a tiny possibility.”

“What? You... what did you say?” Huo Rulie widened his eyes.

“But it’s my master we’re talking about!” Yun Che clenched his hands into fists. “It’s the person who took the most care of me since the time I arrived in the God Realm. Even if the possibility is negligible... I still won’t sit idle as my master loses her life.”

“...Tch! I don’t know what kind of enchanting method those women have used on you that resulted in you being so hell-bent on rescuing her.” Huo Rulie suddenly started laughing loudly, “It’s truly strange. I might end up dying because of you, which makes me very infuriated inside and yet, I still find you even more pleasing than before. Hahaha... grab on tight!”

Each and every time he ripped the space of the God Burying Inferno Prison, even someone as powerful as Huo Rulie needed to exert all his strength.

When they were two thousand kilometers away, the howling rumble of the energy storm had grown deafeningly loud.

When they were nearly one thousand five hundred kilometers away, the scenery around them changed its colors in every instant.

At the time when they were close to the one thousand kilometers mark, the remnant waves of the unceasingly gushing energy and its force struck Yun Che’s chest, as if several heavy hammers were hitting him, inducing extreme pain in his body. Profound power surged from Huo Rulie’s arm, which was grabbing onto Yun Che and a light red flame barrier enveloped his entire body within, effectively cutting it off completely from external influences.

The expression on Yun Che’s face quickly returned to normal and he said in an urgent voice, “Sect Master Huo, please hurry up!”

They were about one thousand kilometers away at present. Huo Rulie had watched the battle many times but had never come so close to it. His speed didn’t decrease in the slightest and he pressed on further ahead as he carried Yun Che along.

Very soon...

Seven hundred fifty kilometers...

Five hundred kilometers!

An extremely frightening and shocking dragon roar resounded throughout the place and the energy storm that seemed like the harbinger of doomsday came to a standstill within an instant. It at least testified that Mu Xuanyin had yet to really lose her life. Huo Rulie gritted his teeth and poured even more power into the flame barrier around Yun Che. Afterwards, he continued to rush forward.

Four hundred fifty kilometers...

Four hundred kilometers...

Three hundred fifty kilometers...

Three hundred kilometers...

Two hundred fifty kilometers!!

Huo Rulie finally came to a halt and said in a heavy voice, "We can't go any further ahead. Otherwise, if the ancient horned dragon suddenly changes its target to us, the two of us will definitely die, without a shadow of doubt."

The space in here was vibrating and warping intermittently. Huo Rulie used half of his energy to protect his own body and the other half to protect Yun Che... If the barrier around Yun Che's body were to get canceled at such a close distance, he would be instantly exterminated and turn to dust.

No, not even dust would be left. He would be straightaway reduced to nothingness.

"That won't happen!" Yun Che said with incomparable certainty. "Since Master killed its companion, it must be in a state of insanity, only thinking of doing everything possible to kill Master. It absolutely won't give Master any chance of a breather by switching its target to someone else!"

"Besides, you yourself are a mighty Divine Sovereign! This horned dragon and my master both seemed to have lost quite a bit of energy by now, so it won't be that easy for it to kill you!"

"F*ck!" Huo Rulie shouted abuse but still resumed rushing forward holding onto Yun Che. "I am in your hands anyways... and I can't help but do it since you saved the life of my Ye'er! Here goes nothing!!"

As they drew closer and closer to the center of the bitter fight between the two Divine Masters, Yun Che felt an unprecedented and indescribably terrifying sensation, even though he was being protected by an extremely strong barrier.

With them getting closer and closer to the battle site, even the flame barrier protecting him, into which Huo Rulie had poured half of his energy, had begun to rock intensely.

"Sect Master Huo, how far can you do sound transmission from here?" Yun Che did his utmost to maintain his calm.

"If it was some other place, it wouldn't be an issue to do sound transmission up to several tens of thousands of kilometers away. Here, one hundred fifty kilometers is my limit due to the interference from the flame power of the Inferno Prison and the energy of the two Divine Masters!" Huo Rulie roared.

Two hundred twenty five kilometers!

Two hundred kilometers!

"Alright! In that case, getting one hundred fifty kilometers away from them will suffice!" Yun Che said.

Huo Rulie wasted no words and continued to move ahead. He rained curses in his heart: What the hell do you even mean by that? Suffice, my ass! You're basically playing around with our life!

One hundred seventy five kilometers...

One hundred fifty kilometers!!

BOOM!!!

Countless pillars of fire burst out in the surroundings and one among them engulfed both Huo Rulie and Yun Che.. While landing on the ground, all of Huo Rulie's hair exploded and his body got burned black in many places. One of his hands was on Yun Che's body and another in front of him as he used his all his might to resist the remnant waves of the energy that was being generated by the two great Divine Masters. "We're about one hundred fifty kilometers away from them now. Say what you want to do now! I won't be able to hold on for long!"

"Tell me the exact distance between them and their positions... It'd be best if the distance is exact to around three meters!" Yun Che asked.

"F*ck, you little..." Huo Rulie firmly gnashed his teeth and released his mental strength to its limit. Afterwards, he quickly stretched out his hand and placed the tip of his finger at the center of Yun Che's brows. "This is the distance between them and their positions! However, they're constantly on the move."

"Alright!" Yun Che lowered his brows. "Now at once contact Master with sound transmission. Using soul voice would be best in this scenario!"

BOOM!!

A formless blast of air came from distance and brushed past Huo Rulie's chest, causing his face to turn pale as he almost vomited blood. "Hurry up! Place your fingertip on my forehead and do it yourself! I won't be able to persevere for much longer!"

Yun Che swiftly reached out his hand and placed his fingertip between Huo Rulie's brows. A wisp of soul voice transferred within Mu Xuanyin's soul in no time through Huo Rulie's enormous mental strength.

"Master! You need to hold on. Disciple will soon arrive at your side! Don't curse at me and tell me to leave and properly listen to what I have to say...When this disciple's soul voice breaks off, you need to silently count up to five breaths. Then, a small-sized profound ark will appear around you, which you have to immediately envelope with your energy. Subsequently, I... disciple will come out of the profound ark and create the opportunity for Master to be able to kill it!"

"Believe in this disciple!!"

Without waiting for Mu Xuanyin's reply, Yun Che's soul voice discontinued all of a sudden. Inside the protection barrier, he was holding Primordial Profound Ark in his hand, which quickly enlarged to around three meters.

"Sect Master Huo, don't cancel the barrier and immediately leave here once this profound ark disappears!"

"If I manage to stay alive... I'll definitely repay this favor!!"

With that, his entire body disappeared as he entered the primordial profound ark.

The world within the primordial profound ark regained some vitality when the energy of the Vermilion Bird Jade was poured into it.

But, he had no idea whether the energy of the Vermilion Bird Jade was enough for the profound ark to travel one hundred fifty kilometers while carrying him... He wasn't even sure whether it would be able to move in the first place.

As the ancient profound ark had to move while carrying an enormous world, it consumed an extremely large amount of energy and its requirement for the level of the energy source was also extremely high... In the Primordial Era, it was a profound ark that belonged to the god race so it naturally needed a god level energy source.

Previously, the energy of the Golden Crow Jade was poured into it, which got exhausted soon after his journey to and from the Azure Cloud Continent.

Later on, he didn't use the primordial profound ark and that remained unchanged even when he arrived at the God Realm. He never believed that the primordial profound ark would be able to travel through the space of the God Realm before finding a suitable energy source.

When the Golden Crow Jade acted as the energy source, it was simply unable to travel through the dark space of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest and the dark world under Cloud's End Cliff. The space of the God Realm would be even more tenacious in comparison, so it would be only right to assume that it wouldn't be able to travel through the space here when using an energy source of the same level.

The Vermilion Bird Jade was clearly an energy source of the same level as the Golden Crow Jade. At the time he obtained it, he was thinking of using it as the energy source for the Primordial Profound Ark when he went back to the lower realm.

But right now... there was no other choice left with him! He could only bet on it!

Inside the world of the profound ark, Yun Che was standing with the Heaven Smiting Sword in his hand. He was silently counting in his heart as he thought: Primordial Profound Ark, you're a divine object that belonged to the Sword Spirit God Clan! I beg you to put in some effort to move yourself... It's only one hundred fifty kilometers you need to travel from here. Even if it leads to the total consumption of the Vermilion Bird Jade's energy, you have to make sure to carry it through!!"

Otherwise... if I die here, you'll die too! Even if I survive, I'll still smash you into pieces!!

Two breaths...

Four breaths...

Five breaths!!

All of a sudden, the space outside switched over in an instant.

Did it succeed?

Yes, it did!!!

At this moment of fear, due the intact power of the Vermilion Bird Jade and perhaps Yun Che's conviction too, the Primordial Profound Ark successfully executed its first spatial travel in the God Realm.

Although it only traveled the short distance of one hundred fifty kilometers, it was no different from a brilliant miracle to Yun Che.

If it was possible, the best outcome would definitely be him having Mu Xuanyin enter the Primordial Profound Ark and leaving for some far away place from here... But Yun Che didn't dare harbor such an extravagant hope. His gambling had just begun.

The instant it succeeded in switching over space, Yun Che activated "Rumbling Heaven," causing his profound strength to reach its limit. Grabbing the Heaven Smiting Sword in his hand, he rushed out of the primordial profound ark, charging straight to the center of the battle of the two great Divine Masters—a terrifying place where his existence could get thoroughly erased in a split second. However, he showed no hesitation to do so, because he believed in Mu Xuanyin and he himself believed that the latter would believe in him too!

When the Primordial Profound Ark appeared, a huge frost barrier enveloped it... which was formed by the last bit of Mu Xuanyin's power.

As primordial divine object, Yun Che was sure that it wouldn't get destroyed that easily. The one who needed the protection wasn't the Primordial Profound Ark but him.

When Yun Che rushed out of the profound ark, he got immediately enveloped in a frost crystal. The first thing he saw was Mu Xuanyin's eyes. She had directly bumped into him and her bloodstained palm firmly held onto his shoulder. Apparently, she had poured all her remaining energy into the frost crystal protecting him.

"You..." She wanted to angrily scold him but there was no way that the ancient horned dragon, who was currently running amok, would give them the time for that. When Mu Xuanyin had exerted all her strength toward the primordial profound ark and Yun Che, the ancient horned dragon had also let out a bellow and swooped over to them. Frightful flames curled around its huge claws as it ruthlessly smashed them down in their direction.

It didn't take long for Yun Che's outer clothing to get dyed in red by Mu Xuanyin's blood. In the face of the hot pursuit from the ancient horned dragon and its approaching destructive power, she used most of her power to protect Yun Che and hence, was basically unable to withstand its attack any longer. It was already impossible for her to break away from its force and oppressive power and leave the place with Yun Che—because once the energy that she had used on him for his protection disappeared or weakened, let alone the remnant waves of the horned dragon's attacks, even the coercion that was emanating from it was enough to exterminate him in an instant.

She could not think of any reason for him to rush over in such a manner!

Yun Che slowly lifted his head to look at the claw of the dragon that appeared to be falling from the firmament. The expression in his eyes was calm like a glacial lake and he surprisingly closed them in the face of the incoming attack.

As he concentrated his mind, it felt as if time had suddenly begun to slow down.

He lifted the Heaven Smiting Sword, with the tip of the sword pointing towards the sky above and then moved it in a slashing motion... as though making a standard circular arc in the air.

In the wake of the soundless movement of the tip of his sword, space, law, and order grew chaotic all of a sudden.

If he succeeded, there would be a slim chance of survival; if he failed, he would die without a doubt!

Father, Mother, Yuanba, Lingxi, Caiyi, Yue'er, Xue'er, Ling'er... bless me!

I'll definitely succeed... I must succeed!!

It seemed as if time had frozen and the world had become incomparably calm and quiet. Following his swinging of the Heaven Smiting Sword in a complete circular arc, a colorless, formless, soundless and traceless profound formation instantly took shape; one whose existence could only be sensed by Yun Che.

In this moment, Yun Che's eyes also suddenly opened and he unleashed decisive rays of cold light.

"Evil God's Fourth Style..."

"Moon—Star—Restoration!!"

Chapter 1063 - Dragon Soul Explosion

"Yun... Yun Che!?"

"How did he get there?"

On the Vermillion Bird projection, Yun Che's figure actually showed up. Even more surprising was the fact that he had appeared in a place filled with the power of a Divine Master dragon. Even Yan Wancang and Yan Juehai would've been severely injured or killed outright in a short time if they went to that place... but somehow Yun Che was still alive.

Before anyone could react, they saw Yun Che brazenly raising a sword and meeting the furious draconic flames of the ancient horned dragon head on.

It was like the scene of a tiny ant raising its arms to resist the entire sky.

At this point, it was impossible for Mu Xuanyin to meet the ancient horned dragon's power head on even if she was alone, not to mention that she had to protect Yun Che right now. The only two conclusions of this clash were either they perish together or she withdraw her power and scrape an escape on her lonesome... But when she saw Yun Che risking his life to make his way towards her, she instinctively poured more energy into Yun Che's body despite her blurring consciousness.

The deadly draconic attack surged closer and closer... but in the next moment, just before it could envelop the duo entirely, the attack's power, aura, might and even heat vanished in an instant. Not a trace of the attack could be seen anywhere.

It was almost as if it had been transferred entirely to a silent world.

“A00000!!”

A furious and obviously pained dragon roar resounded through the air. Mu Xuanyin immediately turned around to find the shocking sight of an ancient horned dragon flipping backwards in recoil. The innumerable wounds that riddled the dragon’s body instantly burst under pressure and caused dragon blood to spray everywhere.

“Uuuuaahhhhh!?!?”

“Wha... what is that!?!?”

“Ah!?!?”

Everyone—from sect masters to disciples—standing before the Vermillion Bird projection shouted at the top of their lungs as if they were struck by heavenly thunder, eyes bulging so wide and so rapidly in absolute shock that their eyeballs nearly burst out of their sockets.

It was because they could clearly see that the ancient horned dragon had thrown a calamitous swipe that could burn even a Divine Sovereign to dust, at Yun Che and Mu Xuanyin. But just as the attack touched Yun Che’s gigantic sword, the dragon was suddenly sent flying away, rolling, roaring in pain and bleeding all over the place... it obviously suffered a grievous wound in that one instant!

Meanwhile, Yun Che and the Mu Xuanyin on the point of demise... were perfectly unharmed!

“What... what... what...”

The crowd had never distrusted their eyes so much until today. A large majority of these people had lived over ten thousand years but despite adding up the most ridiculous rumors they’d heard and the most ridiculous scenes they’d seen in their life together, the culmination was still not even one ten thousandth as ridiculous as what they’d just seen today.

The ancient horned dragon was a Divine Master. It was the most powerful existence in the long history of the Flame God Realm since hundreds of thousands of years ago. Harming the ancient horned dragon with a single sword strike was absolutely impossible even if there were ten of Yan Wancang, the strongest human in the Flame God Realm... but somehow, Yun Che did just that.

It... it worked!!

Yun Che madly roared in his mind.

One of the most direct expressions of the Evil God Arts’ strength was its ridiculous amplification of a cultivator’s profound energy after a gate was opened. It was also the power Yun Che relied on the most to defeat opponents with far greater profound strength than him. However, the true reason behind the Evil God Arts’ greatness lay on its core ability to ignore or even go against the laws of the world.

The impossible amplification of profound energy was something beyond the boundaries of normal laws to begin with. The terrible Ice Flame he created by merging fire and ice was also a power that was outside the boundaries of laws.

Falling Moon Sinking Star of the Evil Soul gate, Sealing Cloud Locking Sun of the Burning Heart gate and Destroying Sky Decimating Earth of the Purgatory gate were definitely incredibly powerful skills but they weren't so powerful that they literally reversed the laws of nature.

Moon Star Restoration of Rumbling Heaven gate was different, however. For the first time, the Evil God Arts' outstanding ability of reversing the laws of nature was revealed!

The moment Moon Star Restoration was fully executed, the law and order of all powers within the affected area were reversed completely. This also meant that all powers in contact with Moon Star Restoration would be reversed in an instant!

Therefore... it was an instant counter!

It was also a full counter. Because the skill was based on the power to rewrite the law and order of nature, the strength and shape of the powers involved were completely irrelevant. Everything would be reversed completely as long as Moon Star Restoration was executed in full, no matter the level or the form of the power!

The only thing that could stop it was a power that could also cause havoc on the laws of nature like the Evil God's power!

However, since the Evil God's Fourth Style heavily interfered with the laws of nature, it was also treated as a breach of the heavenly laws! The heavens punished all who forcefully use such skills without exception, so Yun Che was bound to suffer terrible consequences for his transgression...

The consequence of using Moon Star Restoration was a severe reduction of lifespan!

It was also why Yun Che had never used Moon Star Restoration even though he had been able to barely activate Rumbling Heaven for a long time already.

The moment the ancient horned dragon's destructive flames touched the Heaven Smiting Sword, all of its power was instantly reflected back to the ancient horned dragon like light reflecting off a mirror.

So the feat of reflecting a Divine Master beast's attack by a Divine Origin profound practitioner was achieved... it was a miracle that only the power of the Evil God could achieve in the entire vast and chaotic history of the world!

Because the ancient horned dragon was in a berserk state, it injected all of its fury and power into every one of its attacks. Before the ambush, it was already covered in wounds during the long hours it fought against Mu Xuanyin. Therefore, the reflected attack was without a doubt a nightmare it had planted with its own hands.

Even better, how could an instant counter possibly be nearly as simple as a normal counter?

Regardless of the species, all living beings who were attacking at full force would drop their profound energy defense and mental defense to the lowest point. As a result, not only was it impossible for the attacker to protect themselves from the attack that was reflected instantly, the damage it suffered far exceeded what it would suffer from a normal counter too!

An extremely uncomfortable feeling racked Yun Che... it was a feeling akin to having his life literally cut away from him. He didn't even draw a breath before shouting at the top of his lungs, "Master! The dragon fault!!"

The ancient horned dragon's wounded roar shook the very sky. Nearly half the wounds on its body had been split open by the counter, causing blood to spray everywhere like a downpour. What's more, its wounds weren't the only thing that had crumbled. Its defensive powers had fallen apart too. As the dragon spiraled backwards, out of control, the dragon fault on its stomach appeared clearly in Yun Che's pupils...

The dragon fault was supposed to be the place where the dragon's greatest defensive powers were concentrated but the absolutely unpredictable and undefendable counter had caused its defensive barriers to collapse completely.

Although Mu Xuanyin was on the verge of death, her awareness was still leagues ahead of Yun Che's. His reminder was completely unnecessary, because Mu Xuanyin had already swung her sword arm and thrown the bloodstained Snow Princess Sword containing the last of her power straight toward the dragon fault like a piercing white beam.

Ding!!

The Snow Princess Sword hit the ancient horned dragon perfectly on its dragon fault... if this was before, the Snow Princess Sword would've bounced away upon contact. Now, at its weakest, the Snow Princess Sword, shining brilliantly with power, hit the ancient horned dragon's one and only fatal weak spot... and sank into its flash!

The sword penetrated all the way in to the hilt!

"The dragon fault... it's the dragon fault!"

"It's pierced!!"

Another stunning roar woke the Flame God Realm denizens from the shock that was Yun Che sending the ancient horned dragon flying away in a single sword strike. At the same time, the new scene nearly caused their hearts to jump out of their chests.

To a horned dragon, the dragon fault was like a lifeline to a human being.

A horned dragon that was pierced in its dragon fault was like a human whose lifeline was severed... even if the rest of the ancient horned dragon's body was perfectly unharmed, it was still going to die in a very short time, much less a severely wounded horned dragon that had used up most of its dragon powers.

From the moment its dragon fault was pierced by the Snow Princess Sword... the ancient horned dragon was destined to die!

"Aoo.... ooooooooooo!"

The pain behind the dragon's roar rose several times higher and this time it was painted with deep sadness and desperation too.

Bang!

The Snow Princess Sword was forced out from the wound and blood gushed out of the dragon fault like a fountain... the blood in the dragon fault was no normal blood. The leakage only quickened its death and loss of power.

“We... we did it!” Yun Che shouted with a trembling voice.

This was the best outcome he could imagine, coming here... it was the one and only miniscule hope—no, the only miracle that he could think of.

He had arrived beside Mu Xuanyin, successfully executed the Moon Star Restoration he had never used before and had no confidence in, and Mu Xuanyin had followed up perfectly by throwing the Snow Princess Sword straight into the dragon’s fault...

It was a miracle Mu Xuanyin and him had created together.

“Aoo——”

But it wasn’t over. As a mournful and earthshaking roar filled the air, a gigantic dragon tail flew towards Yun Che with the power of despair behind it...

The ancient horned dragon that had fallen into the abyss of death could no longer afford to cover its tail with draconic flames. The attack was simply the dragon’s final burst of hate... and it was the attack of a terrifying Divine Master!

Boom!!!!

Mu Xuanyin pounced toward Yun Che and covered his body in absolute frost. Then, the dragon tail slammed heavily into Mu Xuanyin’s back.

“M... MASTER!” In that moment, Yun Che felt as if his soul was pierced by a myriad of arrows.

Pfft!!

A hot mist of blood fully drenched Yun Che’s shoulders and back. The attack seemed to have completely destroyed Mu Xuanyin’s already weak and chaotic aura, so much so that Yun Che actually failed to sense her aura for one terrifying instant.

“Aoo!!!”

The ancient horned dragon’s struggles and roars grew weaker and weaker and the blood pouring out of its dragon fault was turning a shocking dark red. However, the ancient horned dragon’s hateful and despairing pupils were completely transfixed on Mu Xuanyin and Yun Che’s figures. The power of despair erupted in its body once more, prompting it to pounce straight towards the duo.

Even on the verge of death, it was going to drag them both into eternal hell!

Yun Che’s pupils enlarged once, twice... then, the glowing, azure colored shadow of a dragon suddenly appeared in midair.

I stake all of my will... and my soul into this one gambit!!

Dragon—Soul—Domain!!

“Aoo———!!!”

The ancient roar unleashed by the azure dragon image actually overwhelmed the despairing roar of the ancient horned dragon in full... It was the absolute best Dragon Soul Domain Yun Che had ever unleashed by consuming all of his mental energy at once! The Inferno Prison suddenly boiled and the roaring azure dragon exploded loudly...

“Waah!!”

Yan Wancang let out a bloodcurdling scream and fell to his knees all of a sudden. He clutched his head tightly like his life depended on it... before him, the Vermillion Bird projection, that had lasted for several hours, suddenly shattered, causing all of its images, sounds, and auras to dissipate too.

“Ah? Sect Master!”

Everyone in the Vermillion Bird Sect exclaimed and hastily rushed toward him.

“Did you reach your mental limit?” Yan Juehai asked with a frown. However, he was wondering doubtfully: Strange, the Vermillion Bird projection shouldn't have pushed him to his limit this quickly...

But Yan Wancang continued to clutch his head as if he couldn't hear any external noises at all. His eyes were blank and his mouth was spouting soft, unconscious words, “What was that... what was that...”

After the azure dragon image had exploded, Yun Che's final conscious thought was his seemingly soul shattering before he completely blanked out.

Chapter 1064 - Falling into the Sea of Flames

A human was far, far inferior to a dragon when it comes to mental strength, much like the amount of energy they possessed. It was easy to defeat a profound practitioner with mental strength but almost impossible against a True Dragon.

However, as a sovereign of all dragons that had existed in the primordial Era of Gods, the shocking effect of the Dragon Soul on a dragon was enormously greater than on a human!

When the Dragon Soul burst and its roar shook the sky, the remnant light in the ancient horned dragon's eyes disappeared in no time and turned scarlet. Its bloodstained body went stiff in midair and the last bit of its despairing power quickly collapsed and dispersed, as if it had met the onslaught of a gale...

He had reflected back the power of a Divine Master dragon with profound strength at the Divine Origin Realm.

He had intimidated the soul of a Divine Master dragon with mental strength at the Divine Origin Realm.

Yun Che gave it his all to cling onto the last sliver of hope with his insignificant existence.

Although the ancient horned dragon was already falling to its death, it was still a Divine Master dragon. This miraculous stun effect of the Dragon Soul could only be maintained for a maximum of a few instants.

Mu Xuanyin held up Yun Che's unconscious body and slowly aimed the center of her palm toward the ancient horned dragon as she released the last of the dazzling rays of chilly light.

BANG——

The ancient horned dragon was already losing its vitality even faster than it normally would because it attempted to launch a final counterstrike, staking everything. Under the stun effect of the Dragon Soul, it had lost all its remaining power. When the icy rays of light came into contact with it, its huge body couldn't put up any resistance at all and ended up acting as a medium to let the cold and condensing power play out its role. In the blink of an eye, its entire body got covered in a layer of ice.

With the power left in the horned dragon, it was simply impossible to struggle free of its predicament.

The last trace of its lifeforce was also turned to nothingness by the cold energy coursing throughout its body... and its eyes finally lost all luster.

And so, both of the two ancient horned dragons had met their deaths.

Mu Xuanyin slowly lowered her arm. With the last of her energy released outside, her long hair turned completely black and there was not the slightest bit of cold energy present on her body... On the contrary, a scorching aura, that she had never possessed in these ten thousand years, was emitting from her at the moment.

Her aura had grown so weak that even she herself was unable to sense it and her arm that was supporting Yun Che felt so heavy that she was incapable of lifting it. Suffering from highly toxic poison, bearing severe injuries, and complete exhaustion of her profound strength... As the life force of the ancient horned dragon perished, her vague consciousness speedily sank into darkness.

"Ah... Where... am I...?"

A moan sounded in the depths of Yun Che's consciousness, issued by his own soul.

"...No... I can't pass out... The ancient horned dragon is... still here... Master... will die..."

"Wake... up..."

"Wake up, I said!!"

His consciousness had grown unprecedentedly murky; it was vague as well as experiencing an incomparably intense pain... The pain was on the same level as when he had gone through soul separation in the past, before the Netherworld Udumbara Flower in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. However, his eyes suddenly opened, as if he had been pricked by multiple needles simultaneously.

He felt a soft arm moving away from his body. Within his hazy line of sight, he saw a snow-white figure, that was mostly dyed in the red color of blood, falling downward without a sound...

There was a boundless reddish world down below...

The God Burying Inferno Prison!

His mind felt so heavy, as though it was being weighed down by an insurmountable mountain but his palm almost instinctively reached out and grabbed the white figure that had just started to fall down from beside him. Afterwards, he tightly embraced the figure... Its aura was frail to such an extent that

one would feel extreme sorrow at its state, but it unexpectedly helped in properly stabilizing his dissociating soul.

He then caught sight of a huge frozen figure in the distance that was falling straight down.

It was the body of the dead ancient horned dragon!

Holding Mu Xuanyin in his arms, Yun Che firmly bit the tip of his tongue. He used his barely existing consciousness to prompt his body to move and flew down in the hazy and disordered world, heading in the direction of the huge figure.

This is the fruit of the effort Master has put in, even at the risk of her life... I absolutely can't have it disappear in the God Burying Inferno Prison like the one from before!

Even though his consciousness was on the brink of collapse, he still had his profound strength. With his blurred vision fixed on it, he quickly approached the ancient horned dragon. Then, he stretched out his hand and placed it on its body, instantly storing it into the Sky Poison Pearl.

As he felt a bit relaxed in his heart, his consciousness instantly sank into the depths and he immediately lost all control over his body. Carrying Mu Xuanyin along, he fell downward toward the endless Inferno Prison.

I can't let that happen... Master won't be able to... endure the harsh conditions of the Inferno Prison in her current state...

The Primordial Profound Ark!!

The Primordial Profound Ark had been floating in place all this time. It was impossible for it to get damaged even by the power of a Divine Master. Yun Che did his utmost to gather enough soul energy to enter the Primordial Profound Ark...

One breath... two breaths... three breaths...

As his body was about to come into contact with the fire of the Inferno Prison, he succeeded in shaping his will to enter the Primordial Profound Ark. A white streak of light flashed before both Yun Che and Mu Xuanyin disappeared from the vast Inferno Prison.

His field of vision had completely turned white. He was unable to see a thing and his five senses had grown weaker to such an extent that there was barely any difference between them existing or not. He was aware that he had gotten inside the Primordial Profound Ark and vaguely sensed the presence of Mu Xuanyin beside him. Having succeeded in his attempt, his mind relaxed and he passed out in no time.

Following his consciousness totally sinking into stillness, the Primordial Profound Ark began to descend downward due to losing contact with his soul. It fell straight into the vast Inferno Prison and disappeared in the blink of an eye, without leaving a trace behind

After a long while, the seething Inferno Prison finally calmed down in the real sense; much calmer than it would usually be.

"Young Yun!!"

The sound of an urgent shout rapidly drew nearer, as Huo Rulie charged over while burning with impatience. But given the vastness of the Inferno Prison, he was unable to discover any sign of them or sense their auras.

“W-what happened?” Huo Rulie’s gaze swept over the surroundings, with a bewildered and anxious look on his face.

When he had brought Yun Che to three hundred kilometers away from the center of the battle, he had turned around to leave hastily, as Yun Che had told him to at the time. However, the instant he had turned around, he heard a blood-curdling screech of the ancient horned dragon. A burst of remnant energy waves swept in all directions and he was forced nearly a hundred kilometers away from the place. Soon after, he heard a dragon roar once again, one that was clearly issued by some other being, and his ears were shaken so much that they rang for a while. By the time his aura calmed down and he came to himself, he discovered, to his surprise, that he couldn’t sense any aura in the surroundings.

He promptly dashed to his previous location but didn’t see any traces of Mu Xuanyin, Yun Che... or even the ancient horned dragon. The only things present were the still existing remnants of the energy and the extremely dense smell of dragon blood.

“Don’t tell me that... both of them died?” Huo Rulie said in disbelief of his own words. He looked downward, before frowning and rushing into the God Burying Inferno Prison all of a sudden.

Huo Rulie didn’t give up on the search for them inside the Inferno Prison, wishfully hoping to be able to find something in the end. He made his way deep down into the Inferno Prison, as far as his abilities would permit and also traversed the distance of several hundred kilometers horizontally. Unfortunately, it was all for naught.

When he eventually dropped the idea of looking for them and came out of the Inferno Prison, he saw that Yan Wancang, Yang Juehai, as well as all the high level elders had also arrived. Close to hundred people have been staring blankly at the abnormally calm Inferno Prison.

“Sect Master Huo, have you found them?” Yan Wancang asked.

Huo Rulie leaped up in the air while making a heavy sound with his foot and roared at them, “What is going on here? What exactly happened? I just turned around and then, both of them disappeared to some place. Can anyone tell me where Young Yun went?”

“That ancient horned dragon... died,” Yan Juehai replied in quite a hesitant tone.

“How did it die?”

“Hah... you definitely won’t believe my words, unless you saw it yourself.” Yan Wancang let out a sigh. Every time he recalled the scene of Yun Che blowing away the ancient horned dragon with his sword, he would feel his soul quaking intensely. He never thought that there would come a day when someone like him, who was a peak level existence in the Flame God Realm, with respect to both standing and profound strength, would be shocked by a junior who had recently entered into the Divine Way.

“Plainly speaking, its dragon fault was pierced through by the Snow Song Realm King,” Yan Juehai said. “Since its dragon fault was pierced, it was bound to die without a doubt but it launched a counterattack on the verge of death...”

Yan Juehai shook his head as soon as he finished his words.

None of them saw exactly what had happened after the sudden disintegration of the Vermilion Bird projection but it was quite easy to imagine how things unfolded after that. Mu Xuanyin had used up her remaining strength to launch that attack with Snow Princess Sword, so she was no more able to withstand the counterattack of the ancient horned dragon... As such, there was no doubt that both the master and disciple had been killed by its claws, after which all the lifeforce drained from the ancient horned dragon. Afterwards, the bodies of the two people and the dragon fell down into the God Burying Inferno Prison.

The first ancient horned dragon had already gotten killed by Mu Xuanyin's forbidden formation and buried in the God Burying Inferno Prison and the second one also ended up meeting the same end...

Both of the ancient horned dragons had died... but there was nothing for them to obtain.

Huo Rulie remained silent for a long while, before he said in a low tone, "So that's what happened... I just went down to look for them in the Inferno Prison but didn't discover anything in the end; not even the corpse of that ancient horned dragon. It seems that they have fallen down to a very deep place inside the Inferno Prison and their bodies will entirely disappear in a short while."

"This is what we call fate, huh," a Golden Crow Sect Elder said with a sigh.

"At present, we need to first think of how to explain this matter to the Snow Song Realm," Yan Wancang said in a heavy voice.

They didn't imagine even in their dreams that such an unforeseen situation would arise during the horned dragon hunting.

Two horned dragons appeared in the God Burying Inferno Prison... and eventually, both of them had perished. However, not only did they not obtain even a single dragon scale from them, they also had to witness the death of Mu Xuanyin, Realm King of the Snow Song Realm, and her direct disciple, Yun Che.

"I'm afraid that the incident this time will make us the mortal enemies of the Snow Song Realm," a Vermilion Bird Sect Elder said as he smiled bitterly.

Mu Xuanyin had visited the Flame God Realm to assist them in hunting the horned dragon but finally died in the God Burying Inferno Prison. Given her standing and reputation in the Snow Song Realm, it went without saying that if the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect were to know of her death, they would be extremely grieved and enraged.

This matter didn't only involve Mu Xuanyin... If Yun Che was all right, with his talent in elements, it was extremely likely for someone as strong as Mu Xuanyin to appear in the Snow Song Realm, under the full-blown support of the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect but now, even Yun Che had...

Even though the dream of their Flame God Realm had fallen through, they hadn't sufferer the slightest actual loss on their side.

"What is there to fear about the Snow Song Realm without the presence of Mu Xuanyin?" a Phoenix Sect Elder asked.

"It's not an issue of the threat they pose," Yan Juehai said powerlessly. "The greatest reason that caused the Snow Song Realm King and her disciple met such a tragic fate, was our unwillingness to believe Yun Che. If back then... we had so much as contacted her with sound transmission to warn her in advance, we could have avoided such an outcome. Hah..."

Yan Wancang, "..."

"We... we can't be blamed for it. Who would have... believed those words at the time?" the Phoenix Sect Elder justified in a diffident tone.

"I feel that there is no need to be worry over it," a Golden Crow Sect Elder said. "Without Mu Xuanyin, the Snow Song Realm basically doesn't deserve to be placed on par with our Flame God Realm. They might not even have the guts to call us to account for it. If anyone truly dares to ask for an explanation, we'll just shoo them away back to their realm. Although we failed to get our hands on the horned dragon, Mu Xuanyin's death is absolutely not a bad thing for us."

"Nonsense!!" Hearing his words, Huo Rulie raised his brows in anger. "When did we of the Flame God Realm stoop down to the level of those base and shameless people!? No matter what resentments we harbored against them earlier, it is a fact that she came here and died because of us. Hence, we must give a proper explanation to the Snow Song Realm! I, Huo Rulie, still have a sense of shame!"

"Yes... it was a slip of tongue of this old man." the Golden Crow Sect Elder immediately lowered his head, as he muttered in his heart: Sect Master hated the Snow Song Realm before... and especially hated Mu Xuanyin with a passion. How come he seems to have changed in these two days?

"The fall of a Divine Master is major matter for the entire God Realm. Therefore, it won't take long for the news to spread around," Yan Wancang said. "If we don't give an explanation to the Snow Song Realm, we will possibly be looked upon with contempt by all the realms of the Divine Region."

"Sect Master, what should we do now? Do you want to... contact the Snow Song Realm with sound transmission, at once?" a Vermilion Bird Sect Elder asked while sighing.

Yan Wancang pondered for a good long while, before shaking his head, "Let's keep what happened today a secret for the time being. After coming up with a good response to the anger of the Snow Song Realm over the next few days, we will then let them know about it through sound transmission."

Yan Juehai nodded his head and Huo Rulie didn't object to it, either.

These topmost people of the Flame God Realm left the God Burying Inferno Prison with incomparably complicated emotions in their hearts. When he came out of the Inferno Prison region, Yan Wancang suddenly stopped in his tracks and sighed heavily, "No wonder the Dragon God Realm can become the sovereign of all realms. It's better... to not provoke the anger of the dragon race."

Chapter 1065 - A "Difficult" Choice

In an unknown world.

Yun Che's submerged consciousness struggled to climb back to the surface.

Where is this place?

Can't... must wake up... Master ran out of profound strength... seriously hurt... deadly poison... only I can save her now...

If I don't, Master is dead for sure...

I must wake up!!

The Dragon Soul Domain he had poured every ounce of willpower into had created a miracle by temporarily suppressing the ancient horned dragon and causing both its final attack and its consciousness to crumble. Otherwise, both Mu Xuanyin and him would have perished under the ancient horned dragon's final strike.

The greatest Dragon Soul Domain ever performed in history had caused the azure dragon image to explode mid roar. Naturally, the consequences were incredibly severe.

He had never felt so tired and heavy in his entire life. He doubted that he could recover his mental energy in full even if he were to fall asleep for several days and nights straight... but the worst part was that he couldn't allow himself to fall asleep right now.

While Yun Che struggled his utmost to wake up, the slumbering soul of the phoenix and the golden crow ignited themselves from within the depths of soul. His heavy consciousness instantly brightened and the eyelids he couldn't open, no matter how hard he tried, shakily moved upwards.

The moment his consciousness awakened, Yun Che immediately sat up and looked around him. What entered his vision was a vast, withered world and a scene that belonged to the Primordial Profound Ark's internal space. Yun Che's eyes swept around rapidly before they became fixed on the woman next to him, in an instant.

Mu Xuanyin was right next to him, within touching distance.

The main sect master of the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect and the Great Realm King of the Snow Song Realm could change the world of the Snow Song Realm with one word or silence it with one fit of anger. She was the strongest woman to ever grace Snow Song Realm and the miracle granted to Snow Song Realm by the heavens.

Right now, her snow-colored clothes were completely drenched in blood and her long hair had completely lost its icy luster. Her skin was like the surface of magnificent pearls and her countenance was flawlessly beautiful. Yet, her usual fearsomeness had left her entirely. She looked so tragically beautiful that it could shatter one's heart.

This was the first time Yun Che got to observe Mu Xuanyin so closely... and perhaps, he was also the only person who got to look straight at her from this range. Even when both her lips and her face were deathly pale, they still couldn't hide her otherworldly beauty and icy pride that shamed all others.

Yun Che's eyes turned blank for an instant but he quickly recovered and crouched down on his feet, pressing a hand to her snowy white neck. His fingers trembled slightly the moment he touched her... it was because Mu Xuanyin's body was normally ice cold because she cultivated Snow Song Realm's greatest Ice Phoenix God Investiture Canon.

But right now, she was burning hot to his touch.

His heart abruptly clenched but it was immediately followed by mad joy.

Despite its faintness, he could sense a strong life aura hanging on, inside Mu Xuanyin's body!

Although he managed to force himself to awaken, he had no idea how long he was actually out. That was why he was terrified up until this moment... but now, the stone that was crushing his heart and soul had suddenly vanished. Even the world seemed to have brightened up a lot.

Thank goodness... Phew! I was too naive. Of course someone as great as Master wouldn't die this easily.

As long as she is still alive... I will definitely be able to save her! At the very least, I have to keep her alive.

Yun Che quickly put his left hand on the pit of Mu Xuanyin's stomach and his right on her underbelly. The Sky Poison Pearl's purifying powers and world spirit energy gushed into Mu Xuanyin's body at the same time.

Rrrmb...

Rrrmb...

Suddenly, the space around them suddenly started to shake with extremely dull rumbles... in fact, it might have been shaking since he awoke. Yun Che hadn't realized it until now because he was focusing all of his concentration on Mu Xuanyin.

Yun Che looked up in astonishment: What's going on? This is the world inside the Primordial Profound Ark and it's not like it's under siege by a spatial storm like last time. So, why...?

He immediately split his consciousness to observe the world outside the Primordial Profound Ark. He was immediately shocked by what he saw.

Is this...

The bottom of the God Burying Inferno Prison?

He finally realized what had happened. After he fainted, the Primordial Profound Ark must have fallen naturally from the top of the Inferno Prison straight to the bottom because his soul was no longer controlling it.

F*ck! Hong'er's sleeping during a critical moment, again!

The bottommost part of the God Burying Inferno Prison was a terrifying domain that was beyond the three great sect masters of the Flame God Realm and even a peak Divine Master's abilities to reach. It was the historical remains of a Primordial True God and Yun Che had every reason to believe that its heat could only be endured by a Primordial True God.

Now that the True Gods were gone, he was the only living being, aside from the ancient horned dragons that were born from the God Burying Inferno Prison, who could survive this place.

As for profound arks... any other profound arks—even the strongest ones from upper star realms—would've burned into dust in the blink of an eye.

But the Primordial Profound Ark was a creation of a primordial god clan. Before Yun Che woke up, it had literally burned at the bottom of the Inferno Prison for several hours.

The fact that its internal world was shaking seemed to indicate that it had reached its limit.

Oh shit... I can't take this risk!

Yun Che regained control of the Primordial Profound Ark with his consciousness and in an instant the ark moved swiftly to the surface until it escaped the Inferno Prison entirely, hovering in the red air.

The shaking of space finally came to a stop.

Yun Che didn't have time to check if the Primordial Profound Ark was damaged, however. He focused all of his thoughts on purifying the horned dragon's poison in Mu Xuanyin's body and healing her.

The amount of poison in Mu Xuanyin's body was tens of times greater than the amount Mu Bingyun had to bear with but because it had only circulated for a short time inside Mu Xuanyin's body, it was actually easier to purify than Mu Bingyun's poison. In just fifteen minutes, more than half of the poison was purified by the Sky Poison Pearl. The miraculous spirit energy of heaven and earth also helped stabilized her internal and external injuries, causing her life aura to grow steady and strong.

However, even after she had fully recovered, it would take a very, very long time before her near depleted profound strength and slumbering ice phoenix blood would recover. Moreover, it was said that her cultivation would decline because she had unleashed a forbidden ice phoenix formation and lost a large amount of blood essence.

It would take some time but he could help her recover her blood essence with the power of the Rage God. He could do nothing about her decline in cultivation, however. He could only hope that Huo Rulie's words were just false rumors.

A long, long time later, the deadly poison in Mu Xuanyin's body was finally purified in full. Yun Che exhaled loudly and sat down heavily. The true threat to Mu Xuanyin's life was, without a doubt, the horned dragon's poison. As long as it was completely purified, death was a difficult concept for Mu Xuanyin despite her empty reserves and severe internal injuries. Her incredibly vast cultivation foundation ensured that that was the case.

Finally relaxing, the wakefulness that Yun Che had forcefully injected into his consciousness immediately became as thin as a thread. He was just about to close his eyes and allow himself to faint... when he abruptly opened his eyes once more.

Wait a second. The horned dragon's poison had been completely purified, right? So why is she still burning up?

Yun Che looked towards Mu Xuanyin and put his hand slowly on her snow white neck. He immediately realized that the heat that was burning at his skin earlier almost hadn't declined at all.

What's... what's going on?

While feeling confused, Yun Che suddenly noticed Mu Xuanyin's eyelashes fluttering once lightly. Then, she slowly opened her eyes...

“Master, you woke up!”

Yun Che hastily called out to her but Mu Xuanyin didn't react to his call at all. Her cheeks looked unnaturally red and her eyes were misty and distant. Her vermilion lips parted slightly and the breath exiting her mouth was unusually soft. Yun Che could sense that the breath touching his face was burning hot, however.

What... what's this!?

Wait! Could it be!?

Yun Che abruptly recalled something.

He recalled the time he had just completed the discipleship ceremony. At the time, in order to force him to snatch Mu Feixue's ice phoenix vital yin, Mu Xuanyin, in a fit of rage, had forcefully injected a drop of horned dragon's blood into his body!

The horned dragon's blood was the culprit!

When the ancient horned dragon was knocked back by his sword and when Mu Xuanyin's sword had pierced through the dragon fault, the sky had literally rained with dragon blood. Naturally, Mu Xuanyin and him were both covered in the dragon blood. However, he was unaffected because he was unharmed and the dragon blood didn't enter his body. On the other hand, Mu Xuanyin was injured all over, so of course the dragon blood had entered her body.

In fact, the amount of dragon blood that had entered her body should be considerable!

Dragon breath contained deadly poison and dragon blood invoked incredible lust! Yun Che knew from experience just how scary a single drop of horned dragon blood could be, so the effects of a large amount of dragon blood was unimaginable even to him. If Mu Xuanyin was in her normal state, it would be all too easy for her to remove it. But now... even a drop of dragon blood could be fatal to her!

Dragon blood was not poison, so the Sky Poison Pearl couldn't cleanse it from her veins. It was also impossible for him to remove it with his profound energy or he wouldn't have forced himself into that miserable state that day. Thus, the only way to cure the dragon blood was...

“~ ! @# ¥%...” The second the thought flashed through Yun Che's mind, cold sweat broke out on his head and his heart came to a sudden stop.

That dreamy whimper that entered Yun Che's ears was like the inviting moan of a witch. It instantly made Yun Che feel like his soul and his bones were melting inside his body.

While feeling utterly confused, he stared blankly at the beautiful hand being raised up and behind his neck. Her arm felt very soft and completely powerless and her eyes were misty and completely unfocused. As the horned dragon blood rampaged inside her body, she was instinctively, uncontrollably, and unconsciously seeking out Yun Che's manly scent.

Yun Che's heart began to beat several times faster than usual... no... I can't... she's my master... she's the Great Realm King of the Snow Song Realm... If I did it...

She'd definitely kill me when she wakes up!!

He remembered the killing intent that had erupted from Mu Xuanyin after his accidental blasphemy that day as clear as yesterday. If Mu Bingyun hadn't arrived in time, he might very well be dead already.

If that was already the consequence of touching her body, then... even if the reason he did it was to cure the dragon blood in her body, she would still tear him into countless pieces and no one could save him this time!!

Still... if he didn't cure the dragon blood now, he had no doubt in his mind that she would die in her current state!

What should I do... what should I do!?

While his mind was warring against itself, his upper body was unconsciously pulled closer towards Mu Xuanyin by her arm. At this point her warm body was almost sticking entirely against his and although she was currently as weak as a kitten, the horned dragon blood drove her body to move here and there like a water snake. Her lips opened and close repeatedly as wet, warm air that smelled like flowers was exhaled.

The moans that sounded like lovely, dreamy murmurs instantly sucked away every last drop of moisture in Yun Che's mouth. Lust raged inside his body and he abruptly clenched his teeth and roared in his head: I can't, I absolutely can't...

He abruptly tipped his head downward in order to avoid Mu Xuanyin's unfocused eyes. However, it resulted in his gaze invading her half torn clothes, slipping down to her jade-smooth collarbones, onto a pair of trembling, well-shaped mounds.

Yun Che's eyes were instantly spellbound as the raging heat in his body climbed near its boiling point. Then, determination slowly settled into his eyes.

My life or Master's life... well, of course my master's life is more important than mine!

Now, armed with a righteous cause, every bit of struggle instantly departed his body. He grabbed Mu Xuanyin's snow white clothes with both hands and tore them apart in one move.

Rip. In that instant, when the gorgeous, alluring sight that Yun Che had only dared to dream about in his head presented itself clearly before his eyes, every drop of blood in his body nearly rushed into his head. Yun Che's eyes turned into saucers, his ability to think departed his brain entirely as his body temperature closely rivaled Mu Xuanyin's.

He opened his mouth but was unable to utter a word from his throat. He should be handling the unconscious Mu Xuanyin—whose body felt softer than a common girl—with incredible care... but when thought actually translated into action, he was a beast completely out of control.

As for his certain death that was sure to come some time in the future, he had long since thrown it out of his mind.

Chapter 1066 - Stepping Right into the Divine Soul Realm

Snow Song Realm, Divine Ice Phoenix Sect.

Several days passed since Mu Xuanyin left for the Flame God Realm. Mu Bingyun had always been feeling uneasy in her mind and found it difficult to calm herself down. Usually, her mind would be devoid of worldly things and she harbored very few desires, so it was extremely rare for her to be feeling such emotions.

On this day, she spent nearly an hour but still failed to enter into meditation. Her heart suddenly felt a severe prickling for a second.

She opened her cold eyes and informed Mu Xiaolan of her going out for a while. Then, she flew away from Ice Phoenix Palace and headed straight to the Ice Phoenix Divine Hall.

“Great Elder, does the dimension formation for going to the Flame God Realm still contain energy?” Mu Bingyun found Mu Huanzhi and immediately inquired with knitted brows.

“You want to go to the Flame God Realm? What happened?” Mu Huanzhi promptly asked.

Mu Bingyun said with a frown, “Since the sect master left for the Flame God Realm, I have been feeling uneasy this whole time. Last night, I even awoke from an ominous dream. I’m worried whether something has happened to the sect master in the Flame God Realm.”

Mu Huanzhi was startled, before he said with a smile, “Hoho, no need to be anxious. The Flame God Realm doesn’t possess anything that could threaten the safety of the sect master. As for that ancient horned dragon, Sect Master has fought it many times before. So, even if she fails to slaughter it, there’s absolutely no possibility of her getting hurt by it. Besides, the dragon fault of that horned dragon was already been injured by Sect Master a thousand years ago, which makes it even more impossible for it to be a threat to her.”

Mu Bingyun lightly shook her head. “I have never felt this way and it’s even more odd to constantly feel so during these past few days. Vainly mulling over it would be useless... I must make a trip to the Flame God Realm.”

Mu Huanzhi pondered for a short while and then nodded his head, “If that’s the case, you might as well go and confirm the situation yourself. However, the dimension formation for going to the Flame God Realm has not been activated for almost a thousand years and hence, the power within it should have been dissipated by now. I’ll immediately order some people to once again activate the dimension formation with profound crystals.” He paused for a moment before continuing, “Tomorrow, I’ll accompany you to the Flame God Realm.”

Although he firmly believed that nothing would happen to Mu Xuanyin, given the formidable strength she possessed, Mu Bingyun and her were sisters from the same father and mother. Therefore, it wasn’t right to completely ignore what Mu Bingyun was feeling, which might have arisen due to the interaction between their souls.

The world inside the Primordial Profound Ark.

After venting it out countless number of times on Mu Xuanyin... precisely speaking, after Mu Xuanyin, who was wrapped around his body, vented it out countless times, the flame of lust gradually subsided in her charming and glazed beautiful eyes that clearly showed that she was not conscious at the moment.

The ruler of the vast Snow Song Realm and the most revered Divine Master, who was standing at the zenith of the entire God Realm, was lying in Yun Che's arms while trembling and breathing heavily, like a delicate girl that had been ravaged for a long period of time. She stayed that way until closing her charming eyes and sluggishly falling into slumber.

At the corners of her eyes, there were still a few tear stains that had yet to dry completely.

Yun Che lightly got off Mu Xuanyin's body, after which his reason fully awakened and he sat blankly in place. He had no idea what to make of the current situation.

The air was filled with the particularly strong smell of bodily releases and the dried-up grassy area around him looked thoroughly ruined, as if it had been wrecked by storm and heavy rain. Mu Xuanyin's long hair was a mess and her jade-like body, that was even more shockingly beautiful and alluring than a fairy, was covered in glittering beads of sweat. Furthermore, faint red marks could be clearly seen on her snow-white skin.

Blankly looking at her, sometimes Yun Che's heart would beat crazily and at other times it would stop abruptly. His mind was in complete disorder.

He had already gone so far with her... It was to save Mu Xuanyin's life but at this time, he couldn't even dare to believe that he had truly done such a thing.

What level of existence was Mu Xuanyin...? She was a person at the Divine Master Realm, the closest one could reach to the realm of god. Once someone became a Divine Master, they would be standing at the peak of the Primal Chaos and become a god among all people in the boundless universe. Just one word from her could decide the fate of any living being in the Snow Song Realm and a flick of her finger could exterminate an entire dynasty. Even the strongest person of the Flame God Realm would absolutely not dare to act rashly before her.

Given her strength, she had reached such heights that, let alone blaspheming her, there was almost no one that would show the least bit of disrespect to her.

On the other hand, he was from a lower realm planet that the people of the God Realm disdained to even think about. It had only been a very short while since he entered the divine way and was no more than a minuscule existence in the vast God Realm.

His greatest achievement after arriving at the God Realm was to become her direct disciple.

But now, he'd actually...

This was absolutely the craziest... and the most frightening thing he had done in his two lives.

"It's really over for me this time," Yun Che mumbled to himself. "Master is going to definitely kill me... If this matter were to spread around, all the inhabitants of the Snow Song Realm would want to swallow me alive."

When Yun Che was about to get up after spacing out for a good while, his lower abdomen severely throbbed all of a sudden. Soon after, an incomparable cold energy burst out and instantly spread throughout his body, from the inside to the outside. Afterwards, it rapidly gathered together once again, as it rushed into his profound meridians.

Before Yun Che could react to it, dense frosty mist began to rise from all over his body.

What's... this?

BOOM

He felt as though countless hurricanes were swirling within his body, that frenziedly gushed into his profound veins after travelling through his normal meridians. The profound energy in his Evil God's Profound Veins began to move like a whirlpool due to the influence of the hurricanes, swirling at an extremely fast speed, as well as expanding at a rapid rate.

Initially, Yun Che was only surprised to see the considerable expansion of the whirlpool but soon he felt panicked in his heart.

This is...

This is Master's ice phoenix vital yin!!

The moment he came to that realization, he immediately crouched down on the ground, unable to think any further. He did his utmost to exercise restraint on his mind and gave his all to attempt guiding the frost aura that was running amok throughout his body... But, the aura was of such a high level that it was basically impossible for Yun Che to deal with it. Even though it was coursing through his body, he had no control over the aura and it continued to flow on its own towards his profound veins.

Normally, when a person was invaded by the aura of an energy that even they were unable to understand, the only outcome waiting for them would be death from bodily explosion. However, this cold energy actually blended with Yun Che's body, as if it had perfect affinity with him. Although it was incomparably dense and fearsome, it didn't make him uncomfortable in the slightest.

In the depths of his profound veins, however, it appeared as if a monstrous storm was rising.

When the turbulence of the storm grew to a critical point, a muffled booming sound issued from the center of his profound veins, which reached as far as the depths of his consciousness.

After a short period of tens of breaths, his profound strength directly broke through!

Third level of the Divine Origin Realm!

It was extremely difficult to achieve a breakthrough in the divine way. Earlier, Yun Che relied on the power of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake and spent three months to break through to the second level of the Divine Origin Realm. Such a cultivation speed could already be considered extremely amazing in the God Realm.

Yet under the influence of the ice phoenix vital yin from Mu Xuanyin, he surprisingly achieved a breakthrough in the short period of tens of breaths... Moreover, it was just the beginning of the breakthrough process.

The moment he broke through to the new small realm, the storm rising within his profound meridians not only didn't subside but also gained even more intensity. A profound aura nebula speedily rotated in the midst of the storm and grew increasingly dense and abnormal...

Fourth level of the Divine Origin Realm...

Fifth level of the Divine Origin Realm...

Sixth level of the Divine Origin Realm...

.....

.....

Ninth level of the Divine Origin Realm...

Tenth level of the Divine Origin Realm!!

Yun Che was totally dumbfounded, it felt as if he was having a dream. His profound strength amplified at a completely absurd rate, leaving him unable to think straight for a long period of time.

Less than an hour ago, he was only at the second level of the Divine Origin Realm and it had been a very short time since his last breakthrough but now, in a flash... he was already at the pinnacle of the Divine Origin Realm!

His cultivation increased by eight small realms, without him doing a thing!

However, it was still not the end. The growth rate of his profound energy didn't show any signs of lessening.

Yun Che's soul quaked intensely. He thought back to what Mu Xuanyin had told him in a flirtatious and playful manner after he somehow resisted the desire to snatch away Mu Feixue's ice phoenix vital yin. She had said that if he could get her ice phoenix vital yin, he would be able to raise his cultivation realm by leaps and bounds in an evening's time.

Could it be that Master was... speaking the truth?

As he was feeling incomparably complicated in his heart, eventually, at some point in time, his sight, hearing, sense of smell, and spirit sense... he lost all of them an instant. He couldn't hear a thing, nor could he sense his own existence.

He could only feel the profound energy nebula in his profound veins intensely contracting, over and over again...

Then, it burst apart with an explosion.

A booming sound came from the depths of his soul too, as if even his soul had shattered at the same time.

His consciousness got completely routed.

An unknown period of time passed and his consciousness began to recover quickly... Not only that, he also felt incomparably sober.

Because he had completely exhausted his soul power by using the Dragon God Domain, he had been still feeling extremely worn out when he woke up, even though he had gotten some rest during the time he

remained passed out. Later, he also spent several hours dealing with the poison in Mu Xuanyin's body, which led to his body feeling incomparably heavy to him.

At this moment, he no longer felt the slightest bit of heaviness and tiredness from before and was instead feeling light, sober and calm. It was as if he was bathing in a breeze in the midst of a bamboo forest, feeling so contented that he almost wanted to float in the air.

The various sounds from his surroundings sounded even clearer than earlier and when he opened his eyes, he could see as far as dozens of kilometers away in a single glance. He didn't release his spirit sense to specifically perceive the things around but as if it had been extended to some space crack, the way he perceived the world was poles apart from before.

The soul had undergone a transformation!

It was the Divine Soul Realm!!

In his profound veins, the profound energy nebula had finished restructuring after its previous explosion. It still had the shape of a nebula but now countless obscure and silky lines could be seen all over it, like one would find on cotton batting.

It was a brand-new realm in his path of profound cultivation. A powerful energy that he had never sensed within him before.

"So this is... the Divine Soul Realm?" Yun Che mumbled in disbelief.

In the Divine Origin Realm, the body underwent transformation but in the Divine Soul Realm, it was the soul that went through transformation. Once a person succeeded in reaching the Divine Soul Realm, their soul would transform from ordinary level to divine. Such a transformation would be extremely obvious to other profound practitioners, as their spirit sense, mental strength and perception power would increase dramatically. Furthermore, it was extremely difficult to execute a soul searching technique on a soul that had entered the divine way.

Just as the case when he was in the Divine Origin Realm, due to the fact that Yun Che's soul had already transcended the ordinary level, he didn't experience that big of a change. He only felt his mental strength becoming even stronger and didn't feel anywhere close to the "transformation" upon ascending to a completely new realm.

After remaining in an astounded state for a long while, he discovered, to his surprise, that Mu Xuanyin's vital yin was still on the move inside his body, spurring on the rapid increase of his profound energy.

The breakthrough... hasn't ended yet!?

While he was shocked and startled, the profound energy nebula, that had just formed after he stepped into the Divine Soul Realm, was increasing further and further. However, it was natural that it would be even more difficult to break through than when he was in the Divine Origin Realm. The profound energy grew several times slower than earlier but still didn't show any signs of stagnation. It constantly increased bit by bit... and finally reached the limit of the realm.

NZZ

Second level of the Divine Soul Realm!

The frost aura was still present on his body but his profound energy had at last calmed down.

Yun Che opened his eyes and slowly got up on his feet. Looking blankly at his hands and sensing the powerful energy that seemed to have been newly born, he stayed absentminded for a long time.

The entire breakthrough process likely didn't even take two hours but his profound strength had enormously increased, as much as ten times.

Divine Soul Realm... I've actually reached the Divine Soul Realm!!?

Such a dream-like leap in his cultivation level was all thanks to the ice phoenix vital yin from Mu Xuanyin.

The consequence of losing her ice phoenix vital yin was extremely harsh for an Ice Phoenix woman. Her talent would be greatly reduced and her future progress on the path of cultivation would be far slower than before.

Although he did it to save Mu Xuanyin, as he didn't have any other choice... he was the only one to truly reap profit from it, and it a gargantuan one at that. On the other hand, Mu Xuanyin...

"Divine Soul Realm... The distance until the Divine Tribulation Realm has shortened by a long way," Yun Che muttered to himself. The thing that he had considered an extravagant hope once, didn't seem that far away from his grasp at this moment.

It was just that it was all meaningless in the end. When Mu Xuanyin woke up, it would certainly be impossible for him to keep his life safe... even if she knew that he did that for her own sake.

What should he do... what should he do get out of this predicament?

He was supposed to be wild with joy right now but given his current situation, he could only be terrified and discomposed.

"Nn..."

A light moan drifted into his ears, causing Yun Che to jump in fright. Immediately, he turned in Mu Xuanyin's direction to discover her beautiful eyes slightly open, with an unclear and glazed expression in them. She looked the epitome of beauty and there was an unusual reddish glow on her face.

Yun Che promptly went over and placed his hand on her chest... He instantly felt a soft and scorching sensation in his hand. Even though her body temperature had lessened a lot in comparison, it had yet to go down to the normal standard.

"Looks like she is in need of some more treatment." Yun Che forcibly swallowed down a mouthful of saliva. He spoke to himself in a low voice, "Then, let's continue to put effort into it..."

Chapter 1067 - Departing for the Darkya Realm (1)

The Primordial Profound Ark continued hovering above the God Burying Inferno Prison. No one had visited the God Burying Inferno Prison after the three Flame God Realm sect masters had left the place, so naturally no one discovered that there was a strange profound ark parked there.

Inside the internal world of the Primordial Profound Ark, after confirming that the horned dragon blood inside Mu Xuanyin's body had been completely cleansed, Yun Che helped her put on her snow-colored clothes before staring at the sky. After standing there blankly for a very, very long time with a deep frown on his face, he finally came to a decision.

Not far away, the ancient horned dragon's huge body lay on the ground. The ice on its body had melted and its body was covered in wounds.

Yun Che then instantly appeared before the ancient horned dragon's corpse and extended his left hand towards its gaping mouth. A green flash later, a large amount of horned dragon's breath was sucked into the Sky Poison Pearl.

In a flash, Yun Che withdrew his palm and briefly identified the amount of dragon's breath stored inside the Sky Poison Pearl. Then, he muttered to himself, "If I use this properly, it should be enough to poison a couple thousand people."

A moment of hesitation later, he also extracted some horned dragon blood from the dragon's wounds... who knows, maybe it'd be useful one day.

This was a Divine Master dragon who had lived for at least tens of thousands of years. Every part of its body was a precious treasure, including its extremely strong dragon blood and poisonous dragon breath.

These two things were all the things he took from the dragon... the rest, he couldn't extract them even if he wanted to. A Divine Master dragon was something that he absolutely couldn't destroy even though the power protecting its body was now gone. Forget cutting apart its body and obtaining its heart, he couldn't even blast a single scale off its skin.

Mu Xuanyin's wounds and breathing had already stabilized, so no danger would befall her any longer. However, she would be in a slumber for a very, very long time because of excessive weakness and loss of energy. It might last a few days or a few months even.

Her profound strength was gradually starting to recover... but after she forcefully unleashed a forbidden formation, depleted most of her blood essence and talent, and lost her ice phoenix vital yin, not even Yun Che could predict how much she would recover.

One thing was certain though. She would be far weaker than she used to be.

It was something unacceptable for any profound practitioner... much less someone as proud as Mu Xuanyin.

If he stayed behind, the first thing Mu Xuanyin would do after she awakened would be to kill him.

Therefore, the only choice he could make was to leave the Snow Song Realm before she awakened. It was because he didn't want to die and he had many reasons not to die.

Thud.

Yun Che knelt heavily before Mu Xuanyin and buried his head low.

"Master," Yun Che whispered in regret, "When disciple first arrived in the God Realm, he committed many terrible mistakes and would've exposed his secrets unknowingly if it wasn't for your reminder. You

knew that this disciple held the Evil God's inheritance and the Heavenly Profound Treasure that was the Sky Poison Pearl, but not only did you never try to deprive me of them, you even took me in as your direct disciple. Upon noticing that Mu Sushan and Mu Fengzhu no longer existed in Freezing Snow Hall, disciple immediately understood that you killed them in order to eliminate all future troubles that might arise from their existence..."

"At first, I thought that you were just returning my favor of saving Palace Master Bingyun, but after that... you demanded the Golden Crow's Record of the Burning World and the horned dragon's heart for me. You also tried to use a large amount of ice phoenix vital yin to fulfill disciple's wish and even gave me the Buddha Heart Lotus of Nine Resurrections you spent half a lifetime to nurture..."

"During the two times I left your side, once to Ice Wind Empire and once to Mist End Valley, you protected disciple in secret, especially the time your disciple was sent to Mist End Valley for committing a grave mistake. Despite your anger, you still protected me out of concern for my safety..."

"This disciple's master is a goddess of heavens and I am but a insignificant junior who hails from a lower realm. I am undeserving of the great kindness you have shown me... and this disciple already cannot possibly repay this favor during his lifetime, yet now I have committed an even more disgraceful act."

Yun Che inhaled deeply before closing his eyes in regret. "I owe you my life, Master. When Master awakens, you will surely be angered beyond imagination upon learning what I have done... disciple can no longer face you. It is only natural that you would wish to sentence me to death. However, I cannot die now, for I still have an important wish to fulfill..."

When disciple has fulfilled his wish, he will surely return to Master's side and allow you to punish him however you wish."

Yun Che bent his body and kowtowed quietly three times before Mu Xuanyin.

Then, he moved to Mu Xuanyin's side before carefully and gently setting her clothes to order. After stroking the disheveled hair before her forehead with his fingers, he gently lifted her in his arms and walked out of the world of the Primordial Profound Ark.

He had to deliver Mu Xuanyin safely back to the Snow Song Realm before his departure.

Vermillion Bird Sect's main hall.

After Mu Bingyun and Mu Huanzhi arrived at the Flame God Realm, they immediately visited the Vermillion Bird Sect. They waited for a very, very long time before someone finally came to greet them... and it wasn't one, but three people.

The Vermillion Bird sect master, Yan Wancang, the Phoenix sect master, Yan Juehai, and the Golden Crow sect master, Huo Rulie.

Mu Huanzhi was obviously caught off guard to find all three sect masters showing up at once. He immediately said with a bit of panic, "Mu Huanzhi of Divine Ice Phoenix Sect hereby greets the three sect masters. Haha, I must admit that I was not expecting to meet Sect Master Yan and Sect Master Huo here, what a coincidence."

“Ah... you are too kind, Brother Huanzhi,” Yan Juehai said. All three sect masters were wearing extremely unnatural expressions on their faces.

They hadn't yet sent word to the Snow Song Realm to inform them that Mu Xuanyin and Yun Che had “perished” in the Inferno Prison. That was because they hadn't figured how to account for everything that had happened. Yan Wancang had been troubling himself over this since he returned from the God Burying Inferno Prison but he wasn't able to find a solution even to this day. Then, he suddenly received the notice that Mu Huanzhi and Mu Bingyun had shown up at the Vermillion Bird Sect.

Whatever his reasons might be, there was no hiding the news of Mu Xuanyin's death now that those two were already here. Anxious, he didn't dare to meet the two alone and hastily called over Yan Juehai and Huo Rulie as well.

Mu Huanzhi was a little overwhelmed to find all three sect masters present and welcoming them with unbelievable courtesy but Mu Bingyun felt her heart sink at their abnormal reaction. She stepped forward and asked coldly, “Shouldn't you all be at the God Burying Inferno Prison right now? Where's my sister? Where is she?”

Her question immediately awakened Mu Huanzhi to realization in a flash. His expression changed. It was the horned dragon's ecdysis period, so all three sect masters should be hanging out around the God Burying Inferno Prison. The fact that they had returned meant that the horned dragon hunt should be over already... but the problem was that they had still heard nothing from Mu Xuanyin!

“We...” The matter regarding Mu Xuanyin was too big, so big that none of the three sect masters knew how or where to start. Yan Juehai forced a smile to his face and said, “It's a, it's a long story...”

The fact that a sect master was humming and hawing immediately magnified the anxiety in Mu Bingyun's heart a hundred fold. The coldness in her voice was completely drained, leaving behind only abject fear. “Where is my sister?... Speak, tell me now!”

“Palace Master Bingyun, please, calm down for a moment.” Yan Wancang let out a soft sigh.

“Alright, enough! I'll say it!” Huo Rulie could hold it no longer as he strode forward and revealed the bad news frankly, “Mu Xuanyin perished during the battle against the ancient horned dragon yesterday!”

“What... what did you say!?” Mu Huanzhi trembled like a leaf in the wind. For an instant, he looked shocked enough to lose his soul.

“...” Mu Bingyun stared coldly at Huo Rulie. A long time later, she muttered, “Im... possi... ble...”

“Yes! Yes, that's... impossible. Impossible.” Mu Huanzhi shook his head in panic, “How could a mere horned dragon harm our great sect master? Impossible, it's... absolutely impossible. Sect Master Huo, if this is a joke it's not... funny, you hear?”

“I know you can't believe this but it is the truth!” Huo Rulie said in a heavy tone, “Of course a mere ancient horned dragon could not have harmed your sect master but no one could've imagined that there was not one but two horned dragons in the God Burying Inferno Prison all this time. She was ambushed and dealt a grievous blow by the two dragons and she wasn't able to escape because both dragons did their best to keep her down. In the end...”

“...” Mu Bingyun neither moved nor spoke a word. Her face swiftly turned deathly pale as she looked like she was about to collapse on the spot.

“How could this be... impossible... impossible...” Mu Huanzhi slumped on his chair as the world spiraled all around him. He muttered incomprehensible things again and again with blank eyes as if a demon had suddenly possessed him.

If Mu Xuanyin truly was gone, then it was a gigantic disaster for Divine Ice Phoenix Sect and the entire Snow Song Realm... one on a scale that none dared to imagine.

“I... I... I refuse to believe this...” Mu Bingyun said in a slow and calm tone through quiet lips but the darkness behind those words cast a heavy burden upon everyone’s heart and soul.

“We, the Flame God Realm, are at fault in this matter,” Huo Rulie said. “Do not worry. We will compensate you for our mistake.”

“Compensate?” Mu Bingyun whispered monotonously, “Can you return me... my sister...?”

Huo Rulie was immediately silenced. Yan Wancang and Yan Juehai looked even more clueless as to what kind of a response they should give. Mu Bingyun didn’t yell at them, did not go on a rampage, or put on a suffering appearance, but the cold sadness that spread out during that instant stabbed deeply into their hearts... they could almost hear Mu Bingyun’s heart and soul break.

“Yun Che... Where is Yun Che?” She suddenly asked with a distant sounding voice.

“Yun Che, he...” Again, Huo Rulie was the one who answered her question. He sighed heavily as he spoke with terrible regret, “He forcefully made his way over in order to save your sect master and as a result he... Haah! I like this boy a lot but he... Haaaaaah!”

“...” Suddenly Mu Bingyun extended a hand and took out a glowing Ice Phoenix Engraved Jade. Then, she asked in a soft tone, “Yun Che... is that really you?”

“What... what did you say?” Mu Bingyun’s sudden words caught all three sect masters off guard.

A bit of focus and light suddenly returned to Mu Bingyun’s snowy eyes. Then, her hand holding the Ice Phoenix Engraved Jade suddenly trembled as she looked up in a sudden and said urgently, “Quick! Bring me to the God Burying Inferno Prison right now!!”

“Ah? What... what is...” The three sect masters looked completely clueless.

Mu Bingyun had already flown away in a rush of cold wind.

—————

The profound dimensional formation next to the God Burying Inferno Prison sparkled as the three sect masters once again arrived at the place with Mu Bingyun and Mu Huanzhi. The second they stepped out of the profound formation, the three sect masters’ eyes bulged bigger than a cow’s eyes, as if they had seen a ghost or thunderstruck.

On the other side, not only was Yun Che alive and well, he was also holding... a slumbering woman.

“Yun Che... and... the S-snow Song Realm King!?” Yan Juehai blurted. He was so shocked that he actually bit his tongue.

“Ah... what... what is going on here?” Huo Rulie’s jaw nearly hit the floor too.

“Sister!”

“Sect Master!”

Both Mu Bingyun and Mu Huanzhi were already rushing forward. Yun Che moved toward them and carefully passed Mu Xuanyin into Mu Bingyun’s arms, “Elder Huanzhi, Palace Master Bingyun, do not worry. Master is safe. She’s just going to be unconscious for a while because she used up too much strength.”

“Thank goodness... phew, thank goodness.” Mu Huanzhi pressed a palm to his heart and panted heavily for a moment. The great sadness and great joy he experience made him feel like he had gone back and forth from death’s door.

Mu Bingyun’s arms tightened bit by bit after she accepted Mu Xuanyin... She didn’t say anything. She simply felt the presence of Mu Xuanyin in her arms and cried silently.

“Palace Master Bingyun, I leave... Master in your hands.”

Yun Che’s voice was so soft that almost no one but himself heard what he just said. After casting one final glance at Mu Xuanyin’s face, he strode toward the three mind boggled sect masters and stood in front of them. He never looked at either Yan Wancang or Yan Huehai as he spoke to Huo Rulie, “Sect Master Huo, this junior wishes to speak with you in private about something... are you free for the moment?”

“...” Huo Rulie’s shock persisted for a moment before he finally regained enough senses to nod at Yun Che. Then, he carried Yun Che with one hand and flew toward the distance.

“Where are you going, Yun Che?” Mu Bingyun turned around and let out a cry when she sensed his suddenly departing presence. But Yun Che and Huo Rulie had already vanished from her vision and Yun Che never sent back a reply.

Chapter 1068 - Departing for the Darkya Realm (2)

Huo Rulie took Yun Che to a faraway place that was completely out of everyone else’s perception range.

The second they landed, Huo Rulie immediately clutched Yun Che’s shoulder impatiently and half-roared, “What’s going on? How did you survive? I thought that you and your master were... was it a special dimensional escape? That can’t be right! There’s no way you had a chance to use it in that situation!”

Suddenly, Huo Rulie’s eyes turned round with astonishment, “What... what’s with your profound strength?”

He hadn’t noticed it before but he suddenly realized that the profound energy aura emanating from Yun Che’s body was at... Divine Soul Realm!?

Yun Che didn't answer him. Instead, he waved his left hand and released a huge thing from his Sky Poison Pearl. The thing landed on the wilted land.

When a terrible stench surged towards his nostrils, Huo Rulie took a step backwards and let out an involuntary cry, "The ancient... horned dragon?"

The ancient horned dragon's corpse was something the Flame God Realm had dreamed of for hundreds of thousands of years. Before this, they all thought that it was impossible to obtain the horned dragon's corpse any longer because it fell into the God Burying Inferno Prison. They thought that their dreams had been burst like a bubble.

But now, the horned dragon had suddenly appeared just a few steps away from him.

The corpse was intact even though it was covered in wounds.

If this was in the past, someone of Huo Rulie's temperament would've lost control and pounced towards the horned dragon corpse already, screaming in excitement. Now, despite bulging eyes he felt as if someone had nailed his feet to the ground. He wasn't able to take a single step forward for a long time.

He didn't feel that he deserved to touch it.

"After this horned dragon died, it did almost fall into the Inferno Prison like the first one. It's something my master poured everything into and nearly died for, so I cannot let it go to waste just like that. Thankfully, I managed to secure its corpse."

Yun Che answered with extraordinary calm. Accurately speaking, the horned dragon's corpse was won by both him and Mu Xuanyin after they risked their lives.

"As agreed, the horned dragon shall be split fifty-fifty between the Snow Song Realm and Flame God Realm," Yun Che said.

"Er..." Huo Rulie stared blankly at Yun Che and wasn't able to say anything for a long time.

If there had been no surprises, they would've taken the other half of the ancient horned dragon after Mu Xuanyin had hunted it down without any qualms at all. After all, the hunt might've been carried out entirely by Mu Xuanyin alone but the ancient horned dragon was still the belonging of the Flame God Realm.

However, a terrible surprise befell them and because they didn't believe Yun Che's advice, because they ignored his blood oath and pleading in order to avoid "any miniscule slip ups or accidents", they nearly lost Mu Xuanyin and Yun Che... they almost couldn't believe that the two of them were still alive.

After that disaster, how could they dare demand half of the ancient horned dragon anymore?

Moreover, they all thought that both horned dragons had sunk beneath the God Burying Inferno Prison and were burned into nothingness. Yun Che could've taken the entire horned dragon for the Snow Song Realm and given them nothing. Even if they learned about it later, they could not fault him for his actions in any way.

"Are you... really... going to give us half of its body?" Huo Rulie asked shakily. He still couldn't believe that Yun Che was really going to give him half its body.

“Of course. This is what we promised earlier,” Yun Che said.

“...” Huo Rulie sucked in a deep breath before pressing both hands heavily on Yun Che’s shoulder, “Yun boy, do you know what this horned dragon means to our Flame God Realm? I... I already can’t return your favor for saving Ye’er’s life and now... you deliver this thing right to our doorsteps. I can never repay this favor even if I were to give you my life.”

Yun Che smiled, “To be honest, if this was just about me then I would never have given you your share of the horned dragon. But this is between you all and my master and although you disappointed her and nearly caused her to die in the Inferno Prison, the Snow Song Realm never goes back on their promise! I am sure that Master will come to the same conclusion even after she wakes up... Please take these words back to the other two sect masters, Sect Master Huo.”

“...” Huo Rulie nodded strongly, “Alright.”

“Alright, I’ll be temporarily leaving the horned dragon’s body in your care, Sect Master Huo. Please return half of the body to the Snow Song Realm after you’ve taken the other half,” Yun Che continued.

A moment of surprise later, Huo Rulie asked in confusion, “You’re giving this to me? Shouldn’t you take it back to the Snow Song Realm and take your half of the share first?”

Yun Che’s eyes turned complicated but he didn’t answer Huo Rulie’s question. Instead, he said, “Sect Master Huo, there are three reasons I came to see you in person. If you may...”

“Please, speak!” Huo Rulie beckoned for Yun Che to speak without any hesitation, “I won’t even frown at anything you ask of me.”

Huo Rulie was a man who absolutely hated owing favors. After living for more than ten thousand years, Yun Che saving Huo Ye’s life and delivering the ancient horned dragon he dreamed of were the two biggest favors he had ever owed in his life. Therefore, he couldn’t be happier at the fact that Yun Che needed him for something.

That being said, he did notice that Yun Che was obviously very troubled about something.

Yun Che turned his gaze towards the horned dragon’s corpse, “Back then, the reason master suddenly asked for the entire horned dragon’s heart was for my sake. This junior has poor cultivation, so he is unable to cut open the horned dragon’s body. If you will, please extract the horned dragon’s heart for me.”

“That’s simple!”

Huo Rulie jumped towards the horned dragon’s corpse without asking a word. A flash of fiery light later, the dragon’s stomach was cut open.

Normally, the ancient horned dragon was so powerful that Huo Rulie would hardly be able to scratch it even if he were to attack it at full force but after it died and lost its dragon powers, it became much easier for Huo Rulie to dismember its body.

While sealing away the dragon blood with immense profound energy, Huo Rulie quickly spotted the dragon’s heart after scanning around with his spirit perception. He easily extracted the dragon heart before he sealed up its disemboweled abdomen with profound energy too.

The horned dragon might be huge but its heart was unusually “delicate”. It wasn’t even three meters wide.

“Catch! And watch out for the dragon blood!”

Huo Rulie pushed the horned dragon’s heart towards Yun Che gently.

Yun Che immediately stretched out and caught the horned dragon’s heart. He then put it into the Sky Poison Pearl.

Now, he had obtained the Ice Qilin’s horn and the ancient dragon’s heart. All that remained to be found now was the Wood Spirit Orb, Divine Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass.

Although Mu Xuanyin’s impossibly powerful ice phoenix vital yin allowed him to break through to Divine Soul Realm in a single night, there were still only two years left before the Profound God Convention.

The ascension progress of the Divine Soul Realm was definitely going to be slower and more difficult than that of the Divine Origin Realm. Judging from how long it took to progress while he was at the Divine Origin Realm, it was basically impossible to reach the Divine Tribulation Realm in just two years even if he were to cultivate using the greatest resources in the Snow Song Realm and the spirit energy of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

This goal would be even more impossible now that he was going to be heading out into the world, alone and without anyone to depend on.

Therefore, the one hope he had left was the Universe Penta Jade Pellet. Before the Profound God Convention happens, he could only rely on himself to search for the remaining three materials.

“Now, the second matter...” Yun Che said, “Sect Master Huo, I heard that you went to a star realm called the Darkya Realm many times to purchase a Wood Spirit Orb in the past thousand years, am I right?”

Huo Rulie’s eyebrows abruptly jumped but it soothed right after, “Poyun is the one who told you about this, isn’t it? Haah, about this... it’s hard for me to say this because... the creation of every Wood Spirit Orb involves a cruelly murdered wood spirit, you know? It’s the most bastardly thing I’ve ever done in my life.”

“I can understand why you did it, you had a son to save after all,” Yun Che said earnestly, “Sect Master Huo, is the dimensional profound formation headed towards the Darkya Realm still active, sect master Huo? I need to go to the Darkya Realm.”

A pause later, he revealed his objective honestly, “I want to find a Wood Spirit Orb!”

“Mn?” Huo Rulie looked astonished but he ultimately was the Golden Crow sect master. He came to immediate understanding as he wondered aloud, “So, you want to find a Wood Spirit Orb at the underground black market in that place?... Is it to treat your master’s wounds? Oh... that shouldn’t be it either.”

“Yun Che, “...”

“Ah, would you look at me and my mouth,” Huo Rulie hit his mouth once lightly and stopped all the questions. He said directly, “Don’t worry. Not only is the profound formation still around, it should have enough energy to complete a teleportation.”

“That’s good.” Yun Che hid a secret sigh of relief, “In that case, please give me the... sound transmission imprint of that underground merchant guild.”

“I...” Huo Rulie wore a troubled look on his face. He then said, “It’s not that I don’t want to give you the imprint but those underground merchant guilds only meet with the customers they can completely trust at fixed intervals. As for the sound transmission, it’s impossible for outsiders to send a message to them even if they obtained their sound transmission imprint.”

The order not to kill the wood spirit race was laid down by the Eternal Heaven God Realm itself. If they learned that someone was hunting down the wood spirit race, the consequences could only be severe. That was why all underground merchant guilds who sold the Wood Spirit Orbs acted with great caution... not to mention that there were things that were even more taboo than the Wood Spirit Orbs.

“So... what about their location?” Yun Che frowned.

“No underground merchant guild ever stays at one place...” Suddenly, Huo Rulie slapped himself in the head midway and said, “Oh! That’s it!”

When he was done saying this, he looked inside his portable space for a long time before he took out a black, round jade and a scarlet token at the same time.

“For the past few years, I bought at least a dozen or so Wood Spirit Orbs during my visits to the Darkya Realm. Since there were fewer and fewer wood spirits around these days and the act of hunting the wood spirits is considered an act against nature, the price of Wood Spirit Orbs was growing higher and higher due to the high risks involved. Because I spent a huge price to purchase a dozen or so wood spirits, I earned enough of a particular underground merchant guild’s trust to be given this black jade.”

“This black jade is completely useless everywhere else but the moment you step into Darkya City of the Darkya Realm, it will react and point you towards members of that underground merchant. However, every black jade belongs to a specific master, so even if you find that person there they will never bring you to their place... But it’ll be a different story if you can prove your authenticity with my sect master token.”

Once he said this, Huo Rulie pushed both the black jade and sect master token into Yun Che’s hands, “Naturally, there’s a reason why these underground merchant guilds have managed to survive for so many years. This is about the best I can do to help you. If it still doesn’t work, you can totally come and find me. I’ll bring you there myself and get you a Wood Spirit Orb.”

“Thank you for the offer, but I still think I should go there myself.” Yun Che withdrew the black jade and Golden Crow sect master token.

“Haha, good,” Huo Rulie laughed loudly. “Here I thought you needed me for something big but these are all little favors, are they not? What is the last matter? It should be something big this time, should it not?”

“This third matter... will definitely trouble you somewhat, Sect Master Huo,” Yun Che said.

Ho Rulie waved a hand in an impressive fashion, "If I feel troubled by your request then feel free to call me a bastard, Yun boy. Say it."

Yun Che sighed softly as his expression turned complicated, "The last thing I wish to ask of you... is to lie to my master for my sake, Sect Master Huo."

"You want me to... lie?" Huo Rulie was immediately flabbergasted.

"Due to a certain circumstance, I have no choice but to leave the Snow Song Realm temporarily. My trip to the Darkya Realm needs to be concealed from everyone too, especially my master... so please don't tell my master or anyone from the Snow Song Realm where I'm going. Just say that I... headed north and disappeared."

"This junior knows that Sect Master Huo is upright and outspoken and that lying is absolutely beneath you... but I beg you to promise me this, Sect Master Huo."

Huo Rulie was silent for a long time. Finally, he said slowly, "I was wondering why you would give me the horned dragon first instead of taking it back to your sect. I was wondering even more why you wish to visit the Darkya Realm alone. If you really want a Wood Spirit Orb, there are plenty of people in your sect who will be better and safer choices to send there... But I see now. You intend to leave the Snow Song Realm."

Yun Che, "..."

"Why?" Huo Rulie frowned deeply. He couldn't understand Yun Che's decision at all.

"It is for a compelling reason and a certain mission that I must accomplish. Please don't ask me any further, Sect Master Huo." There was no way he could tell him the real reason because it was related to Mu Xuanyin's reputation and integrity.

"Hm..." Huo Rulie didn't ask further but he seemed to figure out a little something on his own. He nodded slowly and put away the ancient horned dragon. Then, he carried Yun Che along with him and said, "Alright, let's go!"

He didn't greet either Yan Wancang or Mu Bingyun. In fact, he purposely stayed out of range of their spiritual perception and flew straight for the south.

Golden Crow Sect, Flame God Realm.

A small dimensional profound formation slowly lit up after Huo Rulie blasted a wisp of flame at it.

"As I thought, the remaining energy in this formation is enough for it to active once more." Huo Rulie withdrew his palm, "Once you head in, you will be teleported to a random location above the Darkya Realm. However, this is a one-way teleportation formation, so you'll have to find a different teleportation point if you wish to come back to the Flame God Realm or the Snow Song Realm. You will also have to spend a large amount of purple stones or purple crystals to do that."

"... Unless my master finds me, I should not be returning in a short while," Yun Che said as if he was speaking to himself. Then, he walked straight towards the teleportation formation.

“Wait!” Huo Rulie stopped him with a cry before taking out a jadestone glowing with brilliant, metallic light.

“The Jade of the Nine Suns.” Yun Che blurted out the object’s name. It was exactly the same as the one passed to him at Illusory Demon Realm by the Golden Crow Soul.

“Oh? You know its name.” Huo Rulie put it in Yun Che’s hand, “The Jade of the Nine Suns is its ancient title. These days it is commonly known as the Golden Crow Jade. It is of the same grade as the Vermillion Bird Jade you possess and it is the greatest energy jadestone the Flame God Realm possesses. That profound ark of yours is very... unusual, so you may need this.”

Yun Che didn’t turn down the offer. He gratefully accepted the gift.

“Yun boy, I have a question that I need you to answer.” Suddenly, Huo Rulie’s eyes turned incredibly serious.

“Please speak, Sect Master Huo.” Yun Che said.

“Did you... really reach the bottom of the God Burying Inferno Prison?”

When Huo Rulie asked this, he stared firmly at Yun Che’s eyes. There was an odd light behind Huo Rulie’s eyes that Yun Che couldn’t understand.

“...” Yun Che turned around and walked towards the dimensional profound formation, “I really want to say that I was lying because I was overly concerned for my master but... I don’t want to lie to you, Sect Master Huo. So please, forget about this, Sect Master Huo.”

When his final words reached Huo Rulie’s ears, Yun Che had stepped into the profound formation. A ray of dimensional profound light wrapped around him.

Yun Che’s words were without a doubt a silent acknowledgement. Huo Rulie’s brain turned blank for a second before he abruptly pounced forward and shouted loudly, “Yun boy, wait...”

Clang!!

The dimensions changed and Yun Che’s figure vanished along with the profound light.

Huo Rulie stood there blankly with a pair of eyes and a face that changed constantly. A long time later, he finally calmed down.

If he really did reach the bottom of the God Burying Inferno Prison, doesn’t that mean that...

Phew! Never mind. It would actually be a trouble for him if he saw that. But if one day he comes back to the Flame God Realm, then...

“He’s only about twenty years old but he has an elemental talent that far exceeds Poyun’s, medical skills good enough to treat Ye’er in just three days, and potential great enough to reach the Divine Soul Realm in just half a year... he even saved Mu Xuanyin from the ancient horned dragon that I couldn’t even get close to. This kid...” Huo Rulie sighed deeply in admiration, “His future is truly unimaginable.”

After Yun Che left the Flame God Realm and the Snow Song Realm he grown very attached to... he headed toward a star realm he knew nothing about called the Darkya Realm.

Despite being a denizen of a lower realm who had arrived at the God Realm in less than a year, he managed to obtain the kind of opportunity and protection even profound practitioners of the God Realm did not dare to dream about. In the Snow Song Realm, he enjoyed the highest quality of resources and was cared for by the world's strongest patron. He only needed to focus on cultivating and didn't need to fear or be on guard against anything.

But after he committed a terrible mistake, he had no choice but to leave this harbor that was built from ice and snow.

He, who had left the Snow Song Realm, was like a lonely duckweed floating toward the vast sea and the future of the God Realm. He could only face the shocking waves of the unknown ahead of him, alone.

Chapter 1069 - The Strange Black Feather Merchant Guild

Lower star realms made up thirty thousand of the vast God Realm's forty thousand star realms, far more than seventy percent of the entire region.

Even though they could not compare to middle and upper star realms in terms of overall strength, inheritance, resources and background, they were the main bulk of the God Realm, based on quantity alone.

Amongst the many lower star realms, the Darkya Realm was an extremely special existence, especially in the Eastern Divine Region. Although its strength wasn't in the upper echelons, its reputation was not inferior to any one of them.

Out of all the Eastern Divine Region's lower star realms, it possessed the most merchant guilds.

If profound practitioners lacked any strange objects or treasures, they would never return empty-handed if they went on a trip to the Darkya Realm... the only prerequisite being that they brought along enough purple stones or crystals.

Darkya City was located at the center of the Darkya Realm. The entire city region was five hundred kilometers wide, with many famous merchant guilds of the God Realm gathered within and as for the medium and small sized merchant guilds, those were innumerable. There weren't many sectoral forces within the city and it didn't contain the Realm King's forces either, yet it was able to take on the name of "Darkya", the exact same name of its star realm. Just by that alone, it was obvious what kind of status Darkya City possessed in the Darkya Realm.

Yun Che appeared above the skies of Darkya City, looking down upon this unfamiliar star realm's main city for a very long time.

His understanding of the God Realm was only limited to the Snow Song Realm. Since the Snow Song Realm was covered in perpetual snow year round, its population was sparse. It was an unique realm in itself. The Darkya Realm below him however, was bustling with activity. Its extraordinary liveliness gave Yun Che a few seconds of misperception when he arrived; he thought that he had returned to the lower realm's flourishing cities.

"Darkya Realm... Darkya Realm," Yun Che quietly muttered. Scene after scene of the Snow Song Realm flashed through his mind, bringing him a boundless sadness.

He withdrew his Ice Phoenix Engraved Jade and changed into a set of plain, white clothes before slowly descending onto this completely unfamiliar land that he wasn't a part of.

In the Blue Pole Star, he was the ruler.

In the Snow Song Realm, he had the support of its Great Realm King and was the eviable direct disciple... Even when he had first entered the Snow Song Realm, he had the support of Mu Bingyun.

But now, he was alone. In this boundless star realm, in this boundless sea of people, there was not a single place he was familiar with, not a single person he was familiar with.

If another person were to take his place, they would've long since stopped breathing due to the fright and pressure brought about by the heavy loneliness.

"Master..." Yun Che said softly.

After a long bout of depression overcame him, both Yun Che's expression and emotional state recovered to bright clarity. Since things had come to this point, he could only face it alone. What he had to do now was put all his effort into searching for a Wood Spirit Orb... and it had to be a first-rate Wood Spirit Orb.

Purple profound stone; purple profound crystal; purple profound jade; these were the God Realm's commonly used currency. One thousand purple stones were worth one purple crystal, and one thousand purple crystals were worth one purple jade.

When he followed Mu Bingyun and joined the Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace, he was still able to receive a monthly allowance of five thousand purple stones but after becoming Mu Xuanyin's disciple, he didn't receive a single stone.

Although he profited greatly from his harvest in the Ice Wind Empire's treasury there, he had unexpectedly already used up those gains.

Even though he had only taken from the Qilin Horn's vicinity, those were still objects stored within a vast empire's treasury. There was no doubt that they would amount to a great sum. Yun Che took inventory once more...

There were a total of three hundred thousand purple profound crystals and two hundred purple profound jades.

When converted, it was a whole five hundred million purple profound stones!

"How could I recklessly squander wealth plundered from a middle star realm's country?" Yun Che muttered.

But where should I go?

Yun Che took out the black jade Huo Rulie handed him and his gaze suddenly focused.

When he had received it from Huo Rulie, it was just a lifeless black jade. But now, the center of the jade suddenly lit up as a feather, dark as the night, appeared upon it.

“A black feather?” Yun Che slightly focused and felt a weak fluctuation coming from its surface. Then, his gaze quickly shifted toward his front as he walked over... the profound energy fluctuation on this black jade’s surface was clearly pointing in that direction.

Even though it was his first time in the Darkya Realm, the difference between a lower star realm and a middle star realm could be seen with a single glance. The density and purity of the spiritual energy here was far inferior to the Snow Song Realm and the Flame God Realm... Though it was still far above the Blue Pole Star.

The stream of people within Darkya City was huge; it was extremely lively, no matter where he went. It was obvious that this place prohibited the use of profound arks and mounts because although there was an unceasing number of human figures flying past overhead, not a single profound ark or beast was in sight.

The profound practitioners were mostly at the early stage of the divine way. The city guards that were visible everywhere were mostly in the Divine Origin or Divine Soul Realm.

In the Darkya Realm... as well as any other lower star realm, being able to enter the divine way and reach the Divine Origin Realm was shocking and being able to reach the Divine Soul Realm put one above the masses. Being able to reach the Divine Tribulation Realm meant that one was qualified to establish their own sect and if one was able to pass through the Divine Tribulation Realm, into the Divine Spirit Realm, they could be overlords of a region.

Entering the Divine Master Realm obviously meant that they could become rulers of a realm!

If one or more Divine Sovereigns appeared within a lower star realm, then the entire star realm would subsequently be promoted and rank up to become a middle star realm.

As a result, Yun Che, who was considered a genius within his age group in the Snow Song Realm after reaching the Divine Soul Realm in one step, was qualified to join the thirty six Ice Phoenix Palaces. This was why his current cultivation and age was enough to attract attention in this lower star realm.

Following the black jade’s weak profound energy guidance, Yun Che sensed Darkya City’s aura and the traveling profound practitioners as he walked toward the heart of the city.

As expected of the star realm of trade, within the thirty thousand lower star realms that was even well known within the middle star realms; wherever Yun Che went, what he saw the most were merchant organizations of various sizes. Aside from the merchant guilds, there were also countless small stores and stalls selling all kinds of different oddities.

Yun Che casually meandered for several hours and that was still what he saw.

The entire Darkya City was like an enormous bazaar.

When Yun Che’s footsteps finally stopped at a certain location, the reaction coming from the black jade completely disappeared.

Before Yun Che was an extremely tall building of an antique style. In Darkya City, this was definitely a conspicuous monstrosity.

This was a large merchant guild. Several tens of entrances could be seen at a glance and the stream of people going in and out was endless.

Yun Che raised his head high and read the few words that nearly reached the clouds in a low voice, "Black Feather Merchant Guild."

The black feather outline that appeared on the surface of the black jade was exactly the same as the huge merchant guild's engraving.

The Black Feather Merchant Guild before Yun Che was the biggest building out of all he had seen on his way here. From its vast, ancient style of construct, it definitely possessed a deep background and history.

Yun Che stood in place, deep puzzlement on his face: Why would such a huge merchant guild do underground business? And would... even be involved with the Wood Spirit Orbs the Eternal Heaven God Realm personally put a ban on?

Any sort of carelessness would result in damage to countless generations of fame and foundation. This Black Feather Merchant Guild was on a scale where it stood tall enough to pierce the clouds. Perhaps only a few others in the entire Darkya City could possibly compare to it, so why would it take such a huge risk?

He originally thought that it was a small merchant guild or a secret society that wanted big and quick profits that would hold such an underground black market but he never expected it would be such a huge merchant guild, of enormous proportions and history.

Could the profits gained from shady underground trade fairs be that huge?

Yun Che didn't bother to think much more as he headed toward the Black Feather Merchant Guild's most outer hall. A young girl stood inside the hall's entrance, welcoming every visitor with a smile.

"Welcome to the Black Feather Merchant Guild. Esteemed guest, please come in. If you need something, feel free to say what you need at any time," the girl said with a bow when she saw Yun Che come over.

This girl was at the Emperor Profound Realm. In the Blue Pole Star, she could be a respected master of a generation. Here, however, she could only be someone who greeted guests. Yun Che didn't answer and instead came to a stop before the girl and silently took out the black jade.

Upon seeing the black jade in Yun Che's hands, the girl's expression slightly changed. She bowed even deeper as she spoke even more respectfully, "So it's actually an esteemed guest visiting, please follow me."

Yun Che withdrew the black jade and silently followed the girl... He was previously filled with doubt earlier but now he was completely certain that the largest merchant guild he had seen in his entire life was actually doing underground transactions like the Wood Spirit Orb.

That's seriously strange!

How much profit does an underground transaction make?

I have five hundred million purple profound stones on me... don't tell me that it's not enough for a single Wood Spirit Orb?

Five hundred million was an absolutely enormous amount of wealth, absolutely an astronomical number, so he was completely confident before. However, if Wood Spirit Orbs were able to make such a large-scale merchant guild sell them... if it didn't come with insurmountable profit, why would it dare take a risk like going against the Eternal Heaven God Realm's ban!

This was why Yun Che began feeling a bit less confident.

Yun Che followed the girl and walked a considerably long distance. After walking through many floors of staircases, the surroundings completely quieted down with not a single sound to be heard.

The girl stopped at a tightly shut door to a hall. At a single glance, Yun Che noticed that this great hall was covered with many large-scale profound formations. There were so many that sound, sight and even auras were completely isolated. However, this isolation was only one-sided. The people inside were able to clearly see and sense everything outside.

Yun Che's brows furrowed greatly... But after thinking that it was impossible for Huo Rulie to want to harm him, his brows slowly relaxed, though he didn't let down his guard in the slightest.

"Mister Ji, an esteemed guest has arrived," the girl said respectfully before the hall door.

After a brief silence, the hall door slowly opened.

"Esteemed guest, please enter. Mister Ji is waiting for you inside."

The girl gently bowed and then turned to leave.

Yun Che didn't hesitate as he walked in with large strides. As soon as he entered, the hall door tightly shut behind him.

The hall was rather spacious and an old man sat before a wooden table. This old man ought to be the "Mister Ji" the girl had mentioned. Seeing Yun Che, he rose and welcomed him with a smile, "This esteemed guest looks rather unfamiliar, may I ask what you have come to seek from my Black Feather Merchant Guild?"

"I want a Wood Spirit Orb, the purer the better!" Yun Che got right to the point.

Yun Che's words caused the smile on the old man's face to disappear. It was replaced with a slightly angry look. "What does esteemed guest mean? The hunting of wood spirits brings the resentment of both men and gods, it is an act that goes against the heavenly law! My Black Feather Merchant Guild has a history of several hundred thousand years and has never done any dishonorable business. How could we possibly do such a repulsive thing. Esteemed guest, if you are here for Wood Spirit Orbs, I'm afraid you're in the wrong place.

"..."

Yun Che inwardly frowned... This old man's anger doesn't seem to be an act. When the words "hunting of wood spirits" were spoken, he clearly felt intense anger and moral indignation.

What's going on? Did I come to the wrong place?

After a moment of pondering, Yun Che walked forward and silently placed the black jade Huo Rulie had given him on the table.

The old man also did not say a single word as he picked up the black jade and used his profound energy to brush across its surface. He asked calmly, "Do you have proof?"

Yun Che stretched his hand out again, taking out the command tablet Huo Rulie had given him. He said expressionlessly, "If you know who the original owner is, then you ought to know his strength, so it's impossible for me to have stolen this."

Once he saw the Golden Crow command tablet, the old man's expression eased into a smile. "So it is a recommendation from the Flame God Realm's Sect Master Huo. I apologize for my previous behavior. Sect Master Huo is one of my guild's most important customers, so anyone he recommends is obviously the most esteemed out of esteemed guests. Please have a seat."

"No need," Yun Che said bluntly. "I want to purchase a Wood Spirit Orb."

The old man looked into his eyes and asked, "May I ask for this esteemed guest's name?"

"Ling Yun," Yun Che said calmly. He obviously wouldn't use his real name.

"Hohoho," laughed the old man. "This old man has worked in this guild his entire life. I have seen too, too many people and have cultivated a pair of eyes that can see through people. Whether or not someone is lying or saying the truth, whether someone is here to sincerely make a transaction or has a different plan in mind, can be seen in a single glance."

"For example, you wanting to purchase a Wood Spirit Orb is true but the name Ling Yun is false."

Yun Che, "..."

"But no matter. A name isn't important, for it is only a means of address and nothing more. In a transaction with an esteemed guest, both parties maintaining confidentiality and trustworthiness is the most important principle. Take Sect Master Huo for example, aside from this old man, no one in Darkya City knows that he had ever set foot here. As such, please be at ease, Sir Ling and comply with us," the old man said with a smile.

Yun Che believed his words. Otherwise, Huo Rulie would not personally visit the Darkya Realm every time.

"Don't worry, I don't even have the face to speak about such a thing," Yun Che replied.

"Hoho."

The old man chuckled, its meaning unknown, as he cast a few more glances at Yun Che. When he withdrew his gaze, a deep complexity flashed through his eyes and he said, "As for Wood Spirit Orbs, your timing is impeccable but at the same time, unfortunate."

"What do you mean?" Yun Che asked.

“What’s impeccable is that our merchant guild has just obtained a Wood Spirit Orb and is preparing to sell it tomorrow. What’s unfortunate is... that this Wood Spirit Orb is very special... no, extremely special! It is the most special Wood Spirit Orb our merchant guild has ever obtained all these years. As such, it is very expensive! So expensive that you can’t afford it even if you sell an entire family’s fortune.”

Yun Che’s brows slightly sunk. “Special in what way? Could it be that its spirit energy is extremely high?”

“Hoho, this old man has no authority to inform you in that regard. I have said what I am allowed to say.” The old man smiled and said, “If you are confident in your pocket, then leave behind your sound transmission imprint and I will inform you of the exchange location tomorrow night.”

“Alright.” Yun Che slowly nodded, “Then I’ll wait until tomorrow!”

Chapter 1070 - Black Feather Underground Trade Fair

In the dead of night, Darkya City.

Yun Che spent a total of two days and one night exploring Darkya City after leaving the Black Feather Merchant Guild. He also inquired about the Black Feather Merchant Guild during this time. To his surprise, he learned that the Black Feather Merchant Guild was actually the number one merchant guild of the Darkya Realm!

The Black Feather Merchant Guild had existed for over fifty thousand years and their roots were deep and vast. Not only were they known to all the people in this lower star realm, they were very famous among some middle star realms too. The merchant guild in Darkya City was also the heart of the entire Black Feather Merchant Guild and they had not only spread their control throughout the entire Darkya Realm, they were even reaching beyond it.

Its vast source of customers and incredible reputation were literally rivaled by no one in a total of thirty thousand lower star realms. The wealth they possessed was practically beyond a normal person’s imagination.

It was rumored that the Black Feather Merchant Guild was supported by the ruling sect of Darkya Realm, the Black Soul Divine Sect. The sect master of the Black Soul Divine Sect was also the Great Realm King of the Darkya Realm!

The more he learned about the Black Feather Merchant Guild, the more puzzled he grew. Why did a large and prosperous merchant guild like this—one that wasn’t lacking in wealth—risk annihilation to conduct an underground trade like this? What on earth were they aiming for?

While carrying such heavy doubts in mind, Yun Che finally waited until the time mentioned by Mister Ji had arrived. A short and simple message was sent to him the moment it was time and following its instructions he arrived at an unfamiliar city area about one hundred kilometers to the north of the Black Feather Merchant Guild and entered a ruined stone tower.

After going through four checkpoints in total, he finally reached the bottommost level of the stone tower. Here, it was so dark that one couldn’t even see their own fingers. He had to wait there for a very, very long time before the wall in front of him suddenly opened to reveal a beautiful girl. The girl walked over to him and bowed slightly. “I apologize for the wait, esteemed guest. Please, come with me.”

He followed the girl through the secret door before he abruptly fell through the darkness. He estimated that he had fallen at least a couple hundred meters before he finally reached the bottom. A flash of profound light later, yet another secret door opened before his eyes.

“If you will, esteemed guest.”

Yun Che walked through the door slowly.

The world beyond the door was a large stone chamber. Although several lamps were lit inside the chamber, the lights were purposely adjusted to create an incredibly dim environment. At a glance, there were hundreds of tables and chairs placed tidily inside the stone chamber. A lot of people had filled in the seats already.

These people’s reactions towards Yun Che’s arrival were pretty much non-existent. At best, they threw him a single, careless glance. Although he was a completely unfamiliar face, no one paid attention to him because pretty much everyone who came here was hidden behind a different identity. It was all too normal for people to wear false names like Yun Che and a large number of them had even disguised their appearances.

However, the Black Feather Merchant Guild knew who they really were. Although Mister Ji hadn’t dug to the bottom of Yun Che’s identity, he knew that the person behind Yun Che was Huo Rulie. That, was enough.

Silence filled the stone chamber. Yun Che swept a glance across the chamber and counted less than two hundred people inside. It wasn’t many. More than half of the participants had disguised their faces with profound energy but every one of them were carrying themselves with an air of extreme arrogance or nobility. They were obvious extremely highly placed characters in Darkya Realm and no one here was ordinary.

These people were basically all youths and more than eighty percent of them were at the Divine Soul Realm. The strongest among them had already neared the peak of the Divine Soul Realm and considering that they were all youths of lower star realms, it was an impressive lineup.

Although these young masters were obviously extraordinary people, none of them appeared to be guarded by an elder. It was obvious that this was a rule set by the Black Feather Merchant Guild too. The message he received today had also mentioned that he was to attend this trade fair alone.

Yun Che randomly chose a seat, sat down, and spread out his spiritual perception. After scanning around once, he was surprised to find that there were no experts spying on this trade fair at all. He immediately felt a lot safer after this revelation.

While everyone was waiting in silence, a stone platform slowly rose about one and a half meters from the ground at the far end of the stone chamber. Then, a secret door above the stone platform opened to reveal two people walking out one after another. They were followed by six beautiful girls.

The pair was a man and a woman. The woman had a pretty countenance and well developed body. Her walking form was beautiful and graceful and her black dress added to the air of mystery and charm around her.

The man behind her was a middle aged man clad in black clothing. His head was bowed slightly and his face looked stiff. His entire person was giving off an uncomfortable feeling and the profound energy aura he kept withdrawn was extremely thick. He was at the Divine Tribulation Realm.

The arrival of the beautiful girl caused the atmosphere inside the quiet stone chamber to change instantly. Wanton gazes immediately roamed up and down the woman's shapely body.

"Hahaha! I didn't realize that Miss Ruyan was the one who would be hosting this event. Forget the pleasant surprise inside the 'invitation letter', your presence alone brings massive joy to me, Miss Ruyan!" The young man sitting at the foremost of the group laughed brashly.

Invitation letter? Yun Che's eyebrows moved... did this mean that they were all invited here and he alone happened upon this so-called trade fair?

"The last time your great merchant guild sent an invitation letter of their own accord was three years ago. I'm sure that you won't disappoint us this time either. This noble one grows impatient, Miss Ruyan," said another guy slowly.

"Hahaha," the woman chuckled. Her laughter sounded unusually soft and mind-numbing, "You are all important guests of the Darkya Realm. We wouldn't dare invite you all over without a good enough surprise, would we?"

"Alright, tonight's trade fair officially begins now. My name is Ji Ruyan and this servant shall be in your care, oh noble ones. The rules are the same as last time, alright?"

Yun Che: "... (What rules?)

Clap! Clap!

Ji Ruyan clapped her hands together softly before a maid walked forwards fingerly while holding a long, wooden box.

Ji Ruyan pushed away the cover gently and an immeasurably powerful sword energy spilled out of the box. It immediately started a hurricane of sword energy in the stone chamber that persisted for a long time.

"That is a good sword!" Dozens of people immediately cried out in shock. In fact, some of those cultivators who belonged to sects of sword were already standing on their feet.

Ji Ruyan said leisurely with a smile, "Do you all still remember the terrible massacre of Wind End Villa from three years ago?"

The atmosphere inside the stone chamber frozen for an instant. Then, a person cried out in surprise, "Are you saying that this sword once belonged to Wind End Villa?"

"That is exactly right," said Ji Ruyan, "There is no one in the Darkya Realm who is unaware that any sword forged by Wind End Villa is worth a fortune and there is no profound practitioner of the sword way who doesn't wish to obtain a sword that is forged by Wind End Villa. However, everyone in Wind End Villa was slaughtered to the last in a single night three years ago and the entire villa itself was turned into a lifeless ruin. To this day, we still have no idea who the culprit was that destroyed Wind End Villa. It is such a sad tale.

“This sword was found in the ruins of Wind End Villa and it was forged with the Stone of Stars. You have all sensed for yourselves how powerful its sword energy is, so I won’t waste everyone’s time by explaining it. After Wind End Villa was annihilated in one night, every sword it forged also became unparalleled in rarity. Again, I don’t need to describe how priceless they are.”

“You’re right... this sword energy contains the power of a wind handle. It truly is a sword from Wind End Valley. Please give us a price already, Miss Ruyan!” A young man clad in blue clothing said with eyes blazing with excitement.

“I know Sir Zhuo is a man who loves swords beyond all things. It will no doubt be a fine thing if the sword ends up in your hands,” said Ji Ruyan with a blooming smile. “This sword hasn’t been named yet, so it is waiting for its true master to grant it a formidable title. Its asking price is only two million eight hundred thousand purple profound stones, so don’t miss it!”

The price of the sword cause Yun Che to let out a long sigh of relief.

This sword was absolutely extraordinary, so the fact that it started at an asking price of less than three million profound stones meant that the value of profound stones wasn’t as poor as he initially imagined... In fact, he should say the value of five hundred million purple profound stones had absolutely exceeded his expectations. It was an absolutely astronomical number.

“Three million!” the young man known as Sir Zhuo yelled.

“A limited sword like this should be worthy of my collection, three million three hundred thousand purple profound stones!”

“Haha, it’d be a shame to keep this sword in a collection instead of putting its powers to good use! Why don’t you surrender the sword to me, brother... three million five hundred thousand!”

“Three million eight hundred thousand!”

It was obvious that Wind End Villa was extremely famous in the Darkya Realm. Yun Che didn’t move from his seat but the bidding cries around him never stopped coming, causing its price to shoot upwards like a rocket.

“Eight million purple profound stones!”

One final dark and fierce roar later, the sword ultimately fell into the possession of the man known as Sir Zhuo at the astronomical price of eight million purple profound stones.

The limited sword forged by an annihilated villa was worth eight million purple profound stones but Wood Spirit Orbs were far from being extinct. Therefore, it couldn’t possibly be more expensive than this price. Even if he supposed the Wood Spirit Orb’s price was on par with that limited sword and since Mister Ji mentioned that the Wood Spirit Orb this time was very special and very expensive, he multiplied his base estimate by ten times, then the wood spirit orb would only cost eighty million purple profound stones!

This means that the five hundred million purple profound stones he carried with him were absolutely enough to cover for the cost!

Yun Che immediately felt completely at ease... After all, he had seized these purple profound stones from the Ice Wind Empire's treasury in passing. He felt no pain even if it turned out that he spent eighty million to buy a Wood Spirit Orb.

Still, if that sword really was found in the ruins of that Wind End Villa... it should've been sold at somewhere more public, shouldn't it? Unless he was sorely mistaken, he was sure that the sword was acquired from dubious hands.

"The next 'item' also came from Wind End Valley. However..." Ju Ruyan put on a rather mysterious smile, "It is a lot more interesting than the sword."

She clapped her hands again after she said this.

The middle aged man behind her continued to stand completely still without saying a word, moving a muscle or rolling his eyeballs even once, like a dead man. He was so obscure that one might forget that he existed before they realized it.

Rrrrm...

To the left of Ji Ruyan, a stone platform suddenly rose from the ground before coming to a stop.

There was a sealing profound formation brimming with white light above the platform. No one could see clearly what was sealed behind the light.

Ji Ruyan smiled slightly before pointing a finger at the formation. The profound light immediately faded quickly, until a single layer was all that was left. A thin and weak woman was crouched inside the half-translucent sealing profound formation!

The girl's long hair was disheveled and it covered of more than half of her face. Her clothes looked recently changed since they were both very white and new. However, it was torn in many places and the dry skin beneath the clothes appeared to be covered in red marks.

The woman couldn't stop shaking when everyone's gazes became trained on her. However, she kept utterly quiet and hid her face deeper behind her hair.

Yun Che's eyes bulged before they abruptly became clouded... a human!

They're involved in human trafficking too!?

The incredibly pitiful woman also looked to have been tortured for a prolonged period of time.

Yun Che sucked in a deep breath... even if this was an underground black market, this was a little too despicable, wasn't it!

The people beneath the stage were rather silent. If this woman was peerlessly beautiful, then they might have bought her home as a plaything. However, not only did the woman look average, she looked like a filthy toy who was used and discarded... they had no interest in a woman like this.

Ji Ruyan cast a glance at the woman but she immediately moved her gaze away right after. She said, "This woman is no ordinary woman. I may surprise you all when I reveal her identity."

"I am sure everyone present has heard of her father's reputation. He was... the villa master of the Wind End Villa that was exterminated three years ago!"

"What?" As expected, her words shocked all of the people present.

"The Black Feather Merchant Guild doesn't spout any lies," said Ji Ruyan smilingly. "This woman is none other than the first miss and final descendant of Wind End Villa. Therefore, she may have inherited the Wind End Villa's sword forging techniques... of course, this isn't all. Besides that, she also possesses a Wind Yin Body."

"Wind Yin Body?" The dozens of gazes trained onto the woman's body immediately grew heated.

"All young masters who cultivate a wind type profound art, I am sure that your cultivation speed will grow up twice as fast if you have a Wind Yin Body woman to use as a dual cultivation incubator, am I right?" Ji Ruyan's gaze slowly moved across the crowd, "My father once told me that there are a lot of noble ones here who are searching for a woman with a Wind Yin Body all this time and today, we are finally able to fulfill that demand. Unfortunately, this woman can only belong to one young master, so you will have to give it your all."

As expected, thirty or so men had already jumped to their feet before Ji Ruyan could even finish her sentence. They all looked very excited and determined to win.

"If there is one downside to this woman, it is that she has lost her vital yin already, so I can't set the asking price too high. So, let it be... eight million purple profound stones."

"Ten million!!" Ji Ruyan had just finished speaking when a shout cut right through the air. The price was immediately raised by two million purple profound stones!