

## The Gods 151

### Chapter 151 - Steamrolled

When the Overlord's Colossal Sword appeared, everyone present was momentarily shocked.

Whether or not a sword's aura was threatening, depended on who was wielding the sword. If it was in the hands of a three year old child, even if it was a heavenly weapon, it still would not be of the slightest deterrence. But in an expert's hands, even if it was a common sword, it would still release an awe-inspiring aura.

There were quite a few people present who had seen the Overlord's Colossal Sword before; especially the elders and instructors, who were extremely familiar with it. Because over the past several hundred years, it had silently lain under the weapons rack in the Heavenly Weapon Pavilion, until it had been covered by a thick layer of dust. The disciples or instructors would only glance at it and marvel at its enormity, then look away completely... In their eyes, it was only huge, cumbersome, lacking in grandeur, and completely uninteresting. Over time, people had practically ignored and forgotten its existence.

But right now, grasped in Yun Che's hands, its incomparably large pitch-black sword blade released a tyrannic aura that caused one's heart to palpitate; just like the arrival of an army's emperor that could make the world cower. It made the gazes of everyone present subconsciously focus on its body. They were incapable of moving for a long time as their gazes shook, their hearts shuddered, and their chests felt suffocated.

Qin Wushang was extremely startled after watching Yun Che stand up right after receiving a blow from Murong Yi's "Blue Dragon Stirs the Sea", but seeing the Overlord's Colossal Sword grasped in his hand, his heart was several times more shocked... Because he was the most clear about what this feeling implied.

"To release this domineering aura from the Overlord's Colossal Sword, which has been silent for the past several hundred years, as if a fierce tiger has completely awoken... Could it be that he can actually completely control such a heavy sword? A one thousand nine hundred fifty kilogram heavy sword! With profound strength at the second level of the True Profound Realm... how could this be possible!"

Even Qin Wushang at the Sky Profound Realm, a supreme realm, still did not dare believe everything he was currently perceiving. In his cognition, let alone a second ranker of the True Profound Realm, merely brandishing this Overlord's Colossal Sword freely would be a difficult task for even the second ranker of the Spirit Profound realm... Completely mastering it would be out of the question.

But it was evident through the imposing manner of the Overlord's Colossal Sword that Yun Che's own aura was closely linked to it. This mutual fusion proved that Yun Che was already extremely familiar with it, and controlling it was practically like controlling his own arm or leg.

"W... What a big sword!"

"Don't tell me, could that be the rumored heavy sword Yun Che selected from the Heavenly Weapon Pavilion?"

"It's said that weapon weighs one thousand nine hundred fifty kilograms... that can't be possible!"

Yun Che's expression was completely tranquil, and it looked like other than the scar on his lower back, there were no other large hindrances. But in reality, even with a reformed body brought by the Great Way of the Buddha, how could a finishing blow dealt with the strength of a ninth ranker of the True Profound Realm be easily withstood. Although he didn't sustain any heavy injuries, his injuries definitely could not be considered light; the only external injury was the long streak on his lower back, but his internal organs had sustained several injuries that weren't light. Just as he got up, he already had to forcefully swallow a gulp of blood that almost bubbled up to his throat.

And at the same time, his anger had been completely incited.

"Murong Yi, I originally challenged you merely to use you as a form of pressure and to test my worth; but I never would have thought that, with your status as an Inner Palace disciple, you would actually be so contemptible and cowardly. To throw away your face just for victory... Since this is so, I also have no reason to be polite anymore." Yun Che stated in a low voice.

"Ha... hahahaha!" Murong Yi began laughing wildly, but his laugh was very dry and tedious. He then said with a gloomy face: "Yun Che, you are indeed just a little stronger than I had imagined but you are still far from being to fit be your daddy's opponent! Soon, I'll let you understand the power of the peak of the True Profound Realm! Contrariwise, that sword in your hand, can you really wield it? Hahahaha..."

In the midst of his wild laughter, Murong Yi suddenly bellowed loudly and the profound energy in his body crashed forward crazily like a surging wave. The thick profound energy circulated the surface of his body like waves as it wrapped around his entire person. The air surrounding him instantly became chaotic and it stirred up waves of ripples.

This time, Murong Yi thoroughly and completely, did not hold back in the slightest. Because, the shadow of "possible defeat" on Yun Che had stood up once again. The moment he had grasped the gigantic sword, his internal organs shook violently and expanded crazily, as if the grin of a demon had produced a great fear within him... He couldn't lose; no matter what, he could not lose.

The forcefully released profound energy surged substantially, and Murong Yi's entire body rose into the air. With a roar, the silver spear in his hands thrust at Yun Che rapidly like lightning; and every time the long spear thrust forward, it left behind an array of spear shadows. In the blink of an eye, a myriad of spear shadows horizontally spread in the sky like a huge lethal storm and enveloped Yun Che... Sealing off all his possible escape routes.

Every spear shadow released an awe-inspiring cold light and each possessed enough strength capable of piercing through a boulder.

Once this technique was released, all the instructors and elders present revealed expressions filled with shock.

"The strongest ultimate technique of the 《Blue Dragon Spear Arts》 -- Purgatory Dragon Shadows! He actually successfully mastered it!"

"When Murong Yi selected the spear back then, I had tried to dissuade him from doing so because the sword is the path for a king... I never would have thought that Murong Yi's comprehension of the spear was actually so incredible. In the past century of the Blue Wind Profound Palace, I'm afraid the number of disciples who have cultivated this technique before graduation does not exceed ten!"

“Now that he has released this move, it’s impossible for Yun Che to win... At least a dozen holes will puncture his body.”

Yun Che slowly raised his head and fearlessly looked at the inescapable trap of spear shadows that filled the sky. Just as the spear shadows fell from the sky amid the screams of countless people, Yun Che’s eyes flashed and abruptly raised the Overlord’s Colossal Sword grasped in his hands. The Overlord’s Colossal Sword drew a humongous pitch-black arc and smashed towards the spear shadows that filled the sky.

The way of the spear had a line that described a battle against the sword: No matter how many of your sword rays, I need only one sweep of my spear. Even though a sword was agile and versatile, when compared in terms of how overbearing it is and the range of its attacks, swords could never compare to spears... But this only applied to light swords; if it was a heavy sword, then the formula would be completely reversed.

No matter how many of your spear shadows, I need only one sweep of my sword!

In the face of the one thousand nine hundred fifty kilogram Overlord’s Colossal Sword in Yun Che’s hands, the spear in Murong Yi’s hands wasn’t overbearing in the slightest!

Along with Yun Che’s one wave, the entire plaza, and perhaps even its farthest corners, all heard a tremendous whistling sound that pierced the air...

Bang bang bang bang bang bang bang bang...

The huge sword body collided with the countless spear shadows; in an instant, an incomparably dense crushing sound was emitted. The spear shadows that filled the sky exploded and shattered like pieces of fragile glass. In a split second, the spear shadows that Murong Yi had used all his profound energy to produce, were swept away cleanly like leaves blown away by a fierce wind. In the end, the Overlord’s Colossal Sword brought about a whistling sound akin to a storm wind, and heavily bombarded upon the silver spear grasped in Murong Yi’s hands.

Clang~~~~~

An extremely ear-piercing sound of a strike resounded. The silver spear in Murong Yi’s hands instantly turned into the shape of a full moon, to then directly snap with a “crack” sound. The tremendous power, which had not yet dispersed, ruptured the webbing between Murong Yi’s thumb and index finger in its vibrations. In the midst of a blood-curdling scream, the broken silver spear flew out of his hand and flew a huge distance before landing at the periphery of the huge crowd.

Yun Che’s Overlord’s Colossal Sword, had also been lifted from his lower left to the upper right at this time, completing a perfect half-arc... At the same time, the area under the stage in which he was facing suddenly burst into chaos. Under the violent impact brought by the heavy sword, the crowd up to ten feet away from the stage all felt as if a heavy hammer had been slammed onto their chests. A majority of the people present were directly blown backwards, turning the large crowd into a chaotic heap of people.

The power of this sword, which was merely from one strike of a profound practitioner at the second level of the True Profound Realm... was utterly shocking!

Murong Yi, who had been suspended in midair, finally landed on the ground. Sitting there while paralyzed in place with eyes that stared blankly, it appeared as if he could not believe that everything that had happened was reality... He had spent two years comprehending this sure-kill strike and it had always been his deeply hidden last resort and trump card. But when he used it for the first time today, it had been thoroughly defeated by just one strike from the opponent. Even his beloved spear, had been snapped as if he was in a nightmare... The spear he used was obviously not a common spear; it was a Spirit Profound Artifact, the Silver Dragon Spear, from the Heavenly Weapon Pavilion. But the roaring Silver Dragon had encountered the awakened Overlord, so the only outcome was a wanton trampling.

“Yun Che... Yun Che! I’ll kill you!!”

Murong Yi, who had been in a daze for quite a long time, suddenly roared and jumped up abruptly. As if he had gone insane, he reached out to grab at Yun Che’s neck. Murong Yi’s consumed a large portion of his profound energy and used “Purgatory Dragon Shadows” once more. As of now, he could at most, only utilize around seventy percent of his strength at his peak state. In contrast to the calm and composed Yun Che who had the heavy sword in hand, what qualifications did he have to fight Yun Che?

Facing Murong Yi’s final struggle, Yun Che laughed coldly. His body exploded outwards with a flash, with his hands still holding onto the huge heavy sword, yet his movement speed was not any slower compared to before. Then, without even looking at Murong Yi, the heavy sword casually swept upwards.

Whoosh~~

A windstorm swirled amid the whistling sound. The heavy sword didn’t actually touch Murong Yi’s body, but even this frightening storm was something Murong Yi could not resist at all. Murong Yi’s body was directly blown upwards until he was almost ten feet in the air. At this time, Yun Che suddenly jumped up and traveled ten feet in one leap. The heavy sword arced, and ruthlessly slammed it upon Murong Yi’s body.

Boom!!

Murong Yi plummeted downwards like a loud cannonball. What followed was the rumbling explosion of the stage beneath him. Broken stone was scattered about and his entire body, from head to toe, smashed into the stage.

When the heavy sword had not been taken out and the two fought unarmed, they could barely be regarded as evenly divided. But once the heavy sword was taken out, Murong Yi was defeated in a landslide and was crushed so badly that he simply could not fight back. If he had only been able to control the heavy sword, it would still be impossible for Yun Che to do this. But what kind of existence was the 《Prison God Sirius’ Tome》? Once he had comprehended the fundamental stage of the 《Prison God Sirius’ Tome》, the heavy sword in Yun Che’s hands was no longer a heavy sword, but an angry celestial dragon who had been awakened. Every swing inevitably rumble the heavens and shake the earth as it cleaved stone and frighten the heavens.

In the midst of everyone’s dazed gazes, Yun Che landed from the air next to the area Murong Yi had smashed into the ground. With a casual wave of the heavy sword, only a “boom” sound could be heard as the majority of the stage collapsed immediately and flew upwards. Murong Yi’s body also flew into the air and landed in front of Yun Che. At this time, Murong Yi’s clothes were completely tattered; he

was covered with bloodstains, his face had been blurred with dirt and blood. Although his eyes were still open, they were already void of any expression and were as dim as dead ash.

Yun Che took a step forward, plunged the heavy sword into the ground, and loftily stared down at Murong Yi: "Murong Yi, do you still want to fight? If you want to continue, I'll be more than happy to comply. You're a ninth level True Profound realm Inner Palace disciple, yet with your full strength, you were only able to make me swing my heavy sword three times... Ah, you really must feel like you haven't demonstrated your strength yet."

### **Chapter 152 - Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet**

"No need to keep fighting." Qin Wuyou walked over: "Even though you acted with mercy, Murong Yi's injuries are still not light and he no longer has the energy to fight. This battle... Yun Che, you have won with an overwhelming victory."

He had seen clearly that if Yun Che had not shown mercy in his third strike, the ferocity and matchless strength of that heavy sword would be enough to disperse the protection from his almost-depleted profound energy, and crush Murong Yi into a meat patty.

Yun Che stored the Overlord's Colossal Sword away and did not speak any more as he stood there with a slight smile.

The entire stage had disappeared, turned into a pile of crumbling ruins. Every one of the surrounding disciples nearby had expressions of deep shock and disbelief written on their faces. When Qin Wuyou had proclaimed the outcome, not only did no one cheer loudly, there was actually only a field of deathly stillness.

A confrontation between a second ranker of the True Profound Realm and a ninth ranker of the True Profound Realm, the difference in profound strength in this battle was incomparably large. To everyone, the outcome of this battle had no suspense whatsoever; they had come today only to witness the splendor of Inner Palace disciples and watch the miserable ending of an arrogant disciple. They had mocked Yun Che for overestimating his own abilities, laughed at him for being stupid and idiotic. He had even been a source of laughter for discussions during leisure time; they mocked him in order to enjoy a feeling of intellectual and mental superiority...

Today, the shocking truth that had appeared in front of them told them that they simply lacked all qualifications to ridicule Yun Che. This person, which they had laughed at for several months, already stood at a height they could only dream of, looking down upon all of them. Thinking back to all of the glib ridicule addressed to Yun Che, many of the Outer Palace disciples flushed with embarrassment, and a few of the people that had just been shouting insults really wished they could find a hole and crawl into it.

Everyone looked at Yun Che blankly, their gazes never to have that contempt they showed before the match ever again; replacing it was a deep look of shock and reverence, which evolved into fanaticism and worship. To prevail over an opponent that surpassed him by seven levels and shake the entire stadium with one wave of the heavy sword; in their eyes, the current Yun Che appeared almost like a character from myths. Especially those three earth-shattering strikes, which were enough to leave everyone a lasting impression of shock.

“Too... too powerful! Before, I had actually ridiculed him continuously... Turns out I’m the most laughable one.”

“Ninth level of the True Profound Realm doesn’t count for much, I’ll be able to reach it one day too... but stepping across seven levels to defeat an opponent... This is true strength! I reckon I’ll never be able to accomplish this in my lifetime. This Junior Brother Yun is too... too frightening.”

“This heavy sword, is really too flashy; this is a true weapon for men... Which son of a b\*tch told me heavy swords were garbage? This won’t do! I want to train in another weapon! I’ll apply to reselect a weapon at the Common Weapon Pavilion immediately!” An Outer Palace disciple roared with a face full of emotion before breaking into a run towards the Common Weapon Pavilion.

Once these words were spoken, countless people that thought the same instantly appeared. A huge expanse of Outer and Middle Palace disciples clamored to head back towards the Weapon Pavilion area, afraid that all the heavy sword-type weapons would already be seized. Those three strikes from Yun Che had shocked them too much, and they burned with passion amidst the shock.

The final result was that in not even half a day of time, the countless heavy sword-type weapons in the Common and Earth Weapon Pavilions were completely looted.

Qin Wushang slowly stood up and stared at Yun Che who stood in the center of the plaza with a face filled with deep emotion. He murmured with a voice only he could hear: “Worthy of being someone selected by Princess Cang Yue... Second level True Profound realm controlling the Overlord’s Colossal Sword, easily defeated a ninth level True Profound realm, has a threatening aura yet reserved manner, seems unassuming but is actually very sharp and shrewd... This kind of genius is barely seen in one’s entire life!”

He also firmly believed, all this wasn’t Yun Che’s full strength. After all, after Yun Che revealed his heavy sword, he had only swung three times.

But these three strikes revealed a godly strength and brought about an overbearing feeling; even millions upon millions of a light sword’s swing could not even begin to compare to it.

Subsequently, Qin Wushang’s clear and bright voice sounded, and spread widely throughout the entire Central Plaza with a peculiar penetrating force: “This truly was shocking, yet brilliant battle. Yun Che, you defeated the Inner Palace disciple Murong Yi with second level True Profound Realm strength, and controlled the Overlord’s Colossal Sword, which none have been able to control in the past several hundred years of the Blue Wind Profound Palace; without an exception, all of this is truly breathtaking! With just what happened today, addressing you as the number one genius in the past three hundred years of the Blue Wind Profound Palace would not be a stretch. And you are still young; your future prospects are boundless.”

Once Qin Wushang spoke, the noise in the plaza died down. Every one of his words, was sonorous and solemn, and not one felt they were exaggerated: “Starting from today, you are officially an Inner Palace disciple, and you will replace Murong Yi’s position in the Heavenly Profound Ranking, which is the seventy-third rank. Furthermore, according to your performance today, you will be allowed to enter the Supreme Profound Hall at any time, and there will be no restriction on the number of profound

techniques and profound arts you choose, or how long you hold them for. You will also be awarded a Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet.”

Whoaaaa

Once Qin Wushang finished speaking, the entire crowd instantly went into an uproar.

To have the right to enter the Supreme Profound Hall at any time, and be able to select an unlimited amount of profound arts or profound techniques, it can be said that this was an unprecedented occurrence in the Blue Wind Profound Palace. Just this award, was already immeasurable. And what truly shocked people was the “Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet” he spoke about. The Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet was something everyone in the Blue Wind Imperial City knew about, a high-grade pellet everyone dreamed of possessing. The Blue Wind Profound Palace was directly subordinate to the imperial family and was Blue Wind Empire’s largest profound palace. Naturally, their tremendous strength was undoubtable but they could only make one Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet every two years. It was said that it took approximately one hundred medicinal materials and dozens of precious crystals to make a Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet. Refining it was even more incomparably harsh but its effects was even more incomparably astonishing: After ingestion, it would let any profound practitioner at the Spirit Profound Realm or below... to gain a level in one night.

In the past, the Blue Wind Profound Palace’s Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet would only be given to the Blue Wind Profound Palace disciples who were seeded competitors prior to the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament. It was so that they would take a big leap before the competition. Nevertheless, it was the first time it had been given to a disciple as a reward.

While all of the disciples envied this award greatly, none thought it was excessive. Because Yun Che’s performance today completely deserved of this kind of reward.

As for the Murong Yi who was just lying there, he had been the main character of the event at first, yet now he had been forgotten. Everyone’s gazes were focused on Yun Che, and practically no one looked directly at him.

Murong Ye charged forward, helped Murong Yi get up, and prepared to leave while clenching his teeth. Just as he took two steps, Yun Che’s figure sounded from behind him.

“So you’re just going to leave like that?”

Murong Ye’s body shook from head to toe, and turned around with difficulty: “Yun Che, you better not bully intolerably... My cousin is the only son of the Northern Field’s Great General. You have completely offended my cousin today. J... Just wait to regret it.”

Murong Ye had on a stern expression but his insides were soft; while he spoke maliciously, his body was cowering and trembling, and his heart was beating even more violently. Even though he didn’t want to admit it, the reality was, as one who had always bragged about being a genius, the disparity between him and Yun Che was no less than the distance between the sky and the earth. In front of Yun Che, let alone being arrogant, he didn’t even have the qualifications to lick his shoes.

“Senior Brother Murong, there’s no need to be so nervous. I only wanted to remind Murong Yi about something.” Yun Che smiled lightly: “Back then, when we scheduled the fight, we agreed in front of the

crowd that, if I lost, you could punish me however you like, but if you lost, you would have to agree to three of my demands, and you definitely cannot decline any of these demands... Murong Yi, you couldn't have forgotten about this, right? It's alright if you did forget, any of those present at the time can help you remember; Palace Chief Qin also a witness at the time."

"You..." The heavily-wounded Murong Yi's face suddenly turned purple, and his lips shivered. After, his eyes rolled upwards, and directly fainted out of anger.

A white silhouette flashed in front of Yun Che and Feng Baiyi appeared, standing between him and Murong Yi. To have ended this appointed battle with such a conclusion, Feng Baiyi's expression was very ugly, but a cold smile still hung on the corners of his mouth: "Yun Che brat, not bad... Sadly, for a wild brat with no background like you to be so arrogant, you'll pay bitterly later."

Yun Che returned a similar cold smile: "There have been countless people who have wanted me to pay bitterly, but if they didn't end up crippled, they ended up dead. I'm actually really looking forward to see, just who'll be the next that wants me to pay bitterly?"

Feng Baiyi's eyes narrowed ferociously and a strand of coldness flashed in his eyebrows. He turned around, and brought Murong Ye and the unconscious Murong Yi away.

"Brother-in-law... Brother-in-law!!"

Xia Yuanba wasted a considerable amount of energy to finally push through the layers of people, and charged in front of Yun Che. His face glowed red, and exclaimed with extreme emotion: "I just knew, brother-in-law would definitely win! Waaaah... brother-in-law! You've actually become this powerful now! I look up to you, look up to you so much that... Ahh ahh. In short, I really look up to you! If my sister knew that brother-in-law was no longer a person with crippled profound veins, and had become this strong, she would definitely be very shocked."

"Hehe." Yun Che could not resist but laugh a little. Listening to Xia Yuanba's words, the heavenly image of Xia Qingyue couldn't be restrained as it flashed in his consciousness... A year's time had passed since he had left the Xiao Clan and in this year's time, he would think of her often. Without mentioning anything else, they had paid respect to the heaven and earth, entered the bridal room, and through the sixteen year old engagement, she had become Yun Che's official wife. With this identity, it was impossible for him to forget about Xia Qingyue.

He looked to the side, and instantly identified the four people who had bullied Xia Yuanba in the crowd. Once those four people met Yun Che's gaze, their bodies shrunk, and they all revealed incomparably flattering smiles... They had originally come today to watch Yun Che humiliate himself and vent their anger, yet they'd have never thought a disciple on the Heavenly Profound Ranking would be beaten like a dog by him. Now, even if they were given a hundred guts, they would definitely not lay even a finger on Xia Yuanba, and they would work like mad to curry favor with him.

This included several disciples present who were familiar with Xia Yuanba and had ridiculed him for his low profound strength; now that they saw his relationship with Yun Che, their intestines turned green on the spot. While sweating, they were also silently thinking about how to apologize to Xia Yuanba, how they would have to try to maintain a good relationship with him in the future, and so on...

“Big Brother Yun, you’re truly too mighty, too powerful!” A delicate and pretty young man squeezed forward, and exclaimed excitedly.

“Yun Xiaofan?” Looking at the young man he had met during the palace entrance exams, Yun Che smiled lightly: “You really were able to stay in the Profound Palace.”

“Mn mn.” Yun Xiaofan nodded: “It’s all thanks to Big Brother Yun’s help, I had a second chance at the exams with Instructor Qin and passed smoothly. Otherwise, not only would I not have been able to stay here, I would’ve had to leave with a body full of injuries... Big Brother Yun, not only are you my great benefactor, you are also my idol. In these five years at the Profound Palace, reaching your level will be my highest goal!”

“Haha! Good luck! The Outer Palace is only your temporary residence, your goal is the Inner Palace.”

“I will definitely work hard.” Yun Xiaofan clenched his fists, and said with conviction.

In the periphery, watching Yun Che, who had become the focus of the entire plaza, was a completely relieved Lan Xueruo; her face now revealed an incomparably happy smile. She herself couldn’t see just how gentle and beautiful her smile was, and her heart was filled with a kind of deep sense of pride that she herself didn’t even notice.

In this long length of time she had associated with Yun Che, she knew that he was definitely not one to speak without thinking or one to overestimate his own abilities, and that he had the shocking ability to fight those who were several levels stronger than him. Because of that, when he had challenged Murong Yi, she didn’t actually have a very pessimistic attitude... But she never would’ve thought Yun Che had become strong to this extent, and not only did he defeat Murong Yi... he had utterly steamrolled him.

But once the happiness passed, a deep anxiety began to spread in her heart.

She was clearer than anybody about what might happen after this showdown.

The Blue Wind Profound Palace was directly subordinate to the imperial family and helped foster a younger generation of geniuses for the imperial family which would in turn foster the future backbone and cornerstones of the imperial family. In a sense, it was also the face of the imperial family. If a disciple entered the Inner Palace, his name would be known to the entire Imperial City, because the future accomplishments of those who can enter the Inner Palace would definitely be extremely great, without an exception.

And, a disciple that completely defeated a ninth ranker of the True Profound Realm at second level of the True Profound Realm, moreover, at the age of seventeen... What kind of peerless genius was this! At least in the last several hundred years, the Blue Wind Profound Palace had never produced such an incredible person, and he was only seventeen years old; his future accomplishments are practically unimaginable.

Without a doubt, the name Yun Che would spread throughout the entire city in a short duration of a few days; so much so that it would cause a commotion in the entire city. This would allow him to obtain an extremely great amount of attention and praise, but at the same time, he would also sink into a whirlpool of public opinion.

But Lan Xueruo was actually not worried about all of this.

What she was anxious about, were her two brothers... The Crown Prince Cang Lin and Third Prince Cang Shuo.

She believed they would definitely try to rope Yun Che in. Not only that, they would definitely try to rope him in much more vigorously than the other Inner Palace Disciples... Even more than the top ten in the Heavenly Profound Ranking!

### **Chapter 153 - Cang Yue**

Hence, the duel between Yun Che and Murong Yi concluded. The outcome of this battle was out of everyone's expectations, shocking their state of mind. Naturally, right after, Yun Che's name swept through the entire Blue Wind Profound Palace like a huge storm, and even the entire Blue Wind Imperial City.

A second ranker of the True Profound Realm, defeated someone at the ninth level of the True Profound Realm in a direct confrontation. This point alone was enough to shake the entire city. However, Yun Che, at the age of seventeen, who was only at the second level of the True Profound Realm was also able to wield the Overlord's Colossal Sword, which no one in hundreds of years was able to successfully wield, as he pleased. This additional fact added a certain amount of colors to his legend.

In just a short period of time, from all the different kinds of rumors about the duel, countless exaggerated names were posed upon Yun Che. For example, "Blue Wind Profound Palace's No. 1 Star", "The No. 1 Genius Blue Wind Profound Palace produced in a few hundred years", "The Peerless Demon who seems to be capable of challenging an entire Profound Realm higher than himself", and even "Blue Wind Imperial Palace's Future Support Pillar".

In a single night, from being a completely unknown existence, Yun Che became someone that seemed to be known by the entire city. Following after the spread of the different versions of the rumor, he became the target of envy and worship of countless young practitioners.

But in regards to all these, Yun Che was clueless.

After the battle with Murong Yi ended, Yun Che was pulled back into his quarters by Lan Xueruo.

The wound at Yun Che's waist was not light as it was at least half an inch deep, and the spill of fresh blood stained a large portion of his clothes red. After Lan Xueruo cleaned his wound, she carefully applied the medicine she prepared beforehand and wrapped his waist tightly with bandages. Although the injury he suffered was much lighter than she expected, the shocking wound and bloodstains still ached her heart.

"Senior sister, don't worry, it's not that big of an injury. Something like this will heal really quickly." Yun Che slightly smiled. With a body honed by the Great Way of the Buddha, he was able to recover to a large extent in just ten days when Little Fairy almost killed him before, let alone a small wound like this.

Throughout the entire process, his tender gaze was on Lan Xueruo the entire time. Lan Xueruo's actions were rough and clumsy; evidently, she rarely... or she might not even have cleaned and applied medicine on someone's wound before. His entire body and soul were filled with warmth by this fact.

"But... The new clothes Senior Sister made for me got stained." Yun Che raised the training clothes which was largely stained by fresh blood, and even had a large hole, as he said dispiritedly.

"It's alright, I can still make you a couple more. As long as you're okay." After tying the final knot, Lan Xueruo was drenched in sweat. She still clearly remembered the moment Yun Che was struck by Murong Yi's spear. She felt as if her heart sank into the deepest of abyss at that very instant. Although Yun Che's current injury pained her heart, at the same time, it also made her feel as if she had returned to heaven.

"Really?" Hearing Lan Xueruo's words, Yun Che, in an instant, joyfully laughed: "That's the kind of promise a girl would make to her own husband, you know... Senior Sister, are you finally willing to be together with me?"

"You, you~" Lan Xueruo's entire face was dyed red in an instant, and her feelings were in a great mess. She bit her lips, and straightened her face with great effort. "Hmph! You married playboy! I have yet to lecture you for offending me before, how dare you try to push your limits! Next time... Next time, don't you... Don't you dare steal a kiss from me ever again!"

"Well, if I can't steal kisses... Does that mean I can kiss you upfront?" Yun Che gave a small laugh. Lan Xueruo's stern face was not even the least bit scary, but instead, included a hint of a girl's cuteness.

In terms of relationships, Lan Xueruo's experience was like a completely blank piece of paper. How could she be a match for Yun Che? With that single line from Yun Che, her feelings were even more confused than ever. Before she could think of anything to rebut, her hand suddenly warmed. Her sweaty small hand was already gently held by Yun Che. In front of her, Yun Che wore a warm smile as his face slowly approached, closer and closer... The scent of the man that made her heart beat slowly came closer.

"Wh... What are you trying to do?" Lan Xueruo instinctively pulled her body back as she nervously asked.

"Before, I stole a kiss and frightened Senior Sister. That was my mistake. So to make it up for Senior Sister, I have to once again kiss Senior Sister seriously."

Yun Che softly said. His every word, caused Lan Xueruo's heartbeat to speed up. While she was muddled, Yun Che's face was already really, really close. She could clearly feel his warm breath gently caressing her face. If she did not retreat now, in the next second, her lips would once again be kissed by him...

Her reasoning told her that she must dodge it immediately, but women, were never living beings who put reasoning first to begin with. Her heartbeat crazily accelerated; the blushing redness of her face was already spread down her neck, but she was still not making any sort of movement to avoid him... Because deep in her heart, she was basically not able to reject this sort of "offense". Rather, she had a certain... feeling of longing and expectation that she could not understand.

Suddenly, she could feel her own lips were finally lightly pressed against, and her waist was also sneakily wrapped around by an arm. Her body stiffened and her vision turned hazy. Slowly, she began to close her eyes...

The door to the room was pushed open with a "bang", and a hearty voice, coupled with loud laughter, spread throughout the room. "Hahahaha! Yun Che, you little rascal, your performance today was simply amazing! As expected, you once again gave me a good shock. So no matter what, I have to personally hand you this Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet..."

Qin Wuyou brought in a gust of wind as he stepped into the room. Before he could finish his sentence, as if he was stopped by a stone wall in front of him, his pair of eyes instantly widened even larger than a pair of cow's eyes... In front of him, Yun Che's chest was exposed, his waist was wrapped in bandages, his left arm was tightly held around Lan Xueruo's thin waist, and was currently kissing deeply against her lips...

"Ah———" Lan Xueruo cried out of shock as she escaped from Yun Che's embrace with a lightning fast speed. She helplessly turned around and covered her beautiful face, which was currently flushed red, with her pair of hands.

Yun Che however, kept his cool. As he unsatisfyingly licked the scented saliva at the corner of his lips, he calmly said: "Instructor Qin, you're here."

"I... I... I... I... I..." Qin Wuyou, one of the only few Chief Instructors of Blue Wind Profound Palace, was currently utterly dumbfounded. His lips were curved and his eyes were slanted as he revealed a terrified look. He stuttered: "I-I... en... entered the wrong room. Y-y-you... You two... go on... go on..."

Qin Wuyou said as he retreated. When he reached the door, he even fell heavily onto the floor from tripping over the door's sill. It was obvious that he did not even turn to look at where he was going. After struggling to stand up, without even daring to raise his head to take another look at them, he fled from the lodging.

Yun Che stared at his every movement, up till the moment he fled. He then said softly: "He's already so old but he's still not able to take the sight of Senior Sister and I making out? He's really exaggerating things. Ah... mn. Senior Sister, let's continue."

"Who... Who would continue! I... I still have matters to attend to. I can't... I can't be bothered with you any longer!"

With one hand, Lan Xueruo grabbed Yun Che's torn and bloodsoaked training clothes, then ran out of the room with a reddened face while leaving a tint of her fragrance behind.

Yun Che did not chase after her. He raised his hand and pressed it against his lips as he laughed satisfyingly. He then softly muttered to himself: "That's why, the strength of a man's charm, is completely unrelated to whether or not he's married..."

Yun Che stood up, wore a shirt he randomly picked out over his body, and walked to the door. Just when he was about to close the door, he saw Qin Wuyou returning with an extremely queer expression on his face.

"Instructor Qin, did you walk into the right room this time?" Yun Che laughed.

"You... You rascal." The corner of Qin Wuyou's mouth twitched. Then, he let out a long sigh as he walked into the room. He sat in front of the table, poured a cup of tea for himself with the teapot, and gulped it down.

In Yun Che's eyes, this action, no matter how he looked at it, looked as if he was suppressing his astonishment.

"Instructor Qin, are you personally here to hand me the Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet?" Yun Che sat in front of Qin Wuyou and asked this rhetorical question.

However, Qin Wuyou did not nod at his question. Instead, he stared at him and said in a strange tone: "Three months ago, you said you and Xueruo, during that period of time... uhh, slept together. I had my suspicions but I didn't expect that, y-y-y-you..."

He really could not find the right words to describe Yun Che. He clearly knew of Lan Xueruo's identity. And even if she abandoned her identity, her appearance was still rather unparalleled in the country. The number of handsome youths who had tried to woo her, just by the ones he knew alone, were more than he could count with his bare hands. But even though Lan Xueruo was kind and gentle to everyone, she never had any deeper relationship with a single man. She was burdened with too many things in her heart and basically did not have any room for that sort of thing.

He did not expect that, not only was Yun Che's talent frightening beyond compare and surpassed everyone's expectations every single time, he was even an expert at flirting. He actually conquered Lan Xueruo in less than a half year's worth of time. The main issue was that Yun Che did not have any sort of background. He did not have any relatives to speak of, was two years younger than Lan Xueruo, and was even married! In Qin Wuyou's eyes, this was really... too illogical!

"I like Senior Sister Lan Xueruo, and Senior Sister Lan Xueruo likes me as well. Isn't that a really normal occurrence?" Yun Che said calmly.

Qin Wuyou shook his head, looked directly into Yun Che's eyes, and said: "Then do you know of Xueruo's identity and background?"

Yun Che was startled for a moment, and then shook his head. "I don't know. But from Senior Sister's temperament and manner of speech, and even the many feelings I get from her, Senior Sister Xueruo must be of a noble background. But I have never taken the initiative to ask her about it, and had never intentionally inquire someone else about it. If she doesn't want me to know, I will only be making it difficult for her if I attempt to ask her. She will naturally tell me when she thinks it's the right time to do so. But she will definitely not harm me, and that's the only thing I need to know."

"You don't know her identity, yet you dare to do that sort of thing to her. You're really... really... haaa." Qin Wuyou once again sighed. He scratched his head out of frustration, and then raised his head. "Since she still did not tell you yet, then let me tell you... I admit you're a genius that's hardly seen once in a century. Not just me, even my elder brother Qin Wushang was deeply shocked by your performance today. But, you are still too young at the moment, and is still a little fledgling. Even though in this entire Blue Wind Empire, when compared to all the youths of this generation, you could be considered to be one of those at the top without question, if you remove this age restriction, your strength is still at the very bottom of the spectrum. On the real stage, you basically do not possess any ability to cause any sort of huge stir in the empire."

"I wish that, after you hear what I'm about to say, you will take the opportunity to think about your current level of strength. Then, objectively consider whether you have sufficient ability and courage to take on the things that might happen... If you think you can act without fear of the consequences, then, protect Xueruo with all your might. If you lack this conviction, then, please take the initiative to distance yourself from her. For her future, and especially more so, for your own life."

"..." Qin Wuyou's words were extremely heavy. With a heavy heart, Yun Che furrowed his brows and asked with a stern expression: "Senior Sister Xueruo's identity... Just what is it?"

Every word that came from Qin Wuyou was articulated very clearly. "Cang Yue, the current Blue Wind Emperor's only daughter, and Blue Wind Imperial Palace's only princess, titled 'The Blue Moon Princess'."

"..." Yun Che's expression stiffened and his pupils began to violently tremble.

"The name Lan Xueruo, came from her mother. Princess Cang Yue's mother's surname was "Lan", and she passed away when the princess was fourteen. Before she passed away, she changed the princess' name to 'Xueruo', hoping that she would stay as pure as the white snow, and distance away from the corruption and impurities of the world. Probably because at that time, her mother had already felt of the impending crisis in the imperial palace, and hoped that Princess Cang Yue could distance herself from the chaos and protect her own life."

### **Chapter 154 - The Truth**

"Blue Moon Princess.... She's actually... the Blue Moon Princess...." Yun Che muttered somewhat listlessly. As a citizen of the Blue Wind Empire, Yun Che naturally wouldn't have not known the name Blue Moon Princess. The current Blue Wind Emperor Cang Wanhe had a total of seven sons and one daughter, The crown prince was "Blue Dragon Crown Prince" Cang Lin, and the only daughter, was "Blue Moon Princess" Cang Yue. When he was young, both the Emperor and the Princess were existences in legends. Even though he and Xiao Lingxi had occasionally fantasized about how the emperor and princess would look like, he had never expected to meet them one day.

As a boy, there would always be a special type of fantasy toward the "Princess". It was because the title "Princess" symbolized nobility, elegance, and beauty; the most flawless and grandeur of females in the world. Yun Che had never at all expected, that Lan Xueruo was actually the Blue Moon Princess he had longed for and fantasized about countless times when he was young, just like many other men did.

He ascertained that Lan Xueruo's identity must be incomparably dignified, but had never thought about her toward the identity of "Princess". It was because the Princess originated from the imperial family, and was also the only daughter of the emperor; naturally she would carry a thick pampered aura and imperiousness. But he couldn't find the slightest of those within Lan Xueruo; there was only gentleness and kindness. She was so kind to any and everyone, never possessed a conceited attitude, and would never look down upon or discriminate against any single person. When seeing others in trouble, her first thoughts would be to help them.... These dispositions were completely different from the Blue Moon Princess' image in his mind. She was even more approachable and gentle than a woman from an ordinary official's family.

She's the Blue Moon Princess.... But I, am only a vagabond without any background, influences nor family who came from the insignificant Floating Cloud City. Why did she treat me like that in the first place?

"Since she is the Blue Moon Princess, why would she be in the New Moon City during that time?" Yun Che asked absentmindedly.

Qin Wuyou did not directly answer him, and questioned back: "Yun Che, do you know the current condition of the Blue Wind Imperial Family?"

Yun Che thought for a bit, and lightly nodded: "I know a little, Senior Brother Sikong had briefly mentioned it to me before. It seems as if the Emperor is very sick, and Crown Prince Cang Lin as well as the third prince Cang Shuo, is secretly preparing to scramble for the next seat of the Emperor. They have also respectively hooked up with the Xiao Sect and the Burning Heaven Clan."

As he said till here, Yun Che's heart stifled. The Emperor was gravely ill.... No wonder why the depth of her eyes had always hid such a deep melancholy; so that was the reason.

"That's right." Qin Wuyou nodded, then started to narrate in detail.

"It was around three years ago. The Emperor suddenly fell ill and could not recover, and none of the doctors in the palace had any curing methods. I invited the publically accepted number one genius doctor Gu Qihong afterwards to diagnose and treat the Emperor. The conclusion he arrived at was that the Emperor had overworked himself these years, and already had hidden ailments in his entire body. With the wind chill that time, all of the hidden ailments broke out and damaged his Life Vein, making his vitality extremely feeble. Damages to the Life Vein can't be cured by any medicine; there is no other way but to be nourished throughout day and night with extremely nourishing items."

"How many years of hidden ailments? To damage the Life Vein?" Yun Che's brows locked together immediately. These sort of symptoms exist?

"Several tens of famous doctors throughout the land were also invited afterwards, and they all concluded that the Emperor didn't have any ailment at all, only that his body is inexplicably feeble. And these conclusions all directly prove the genius doctor Gu Qihong's words to be true. And Gu Qihong had also said before, damages to the life vein can't be healed by any medicine. If the Emperor is well nourished, he could live for five years at most. As the number one genius doctor in the Blue Wind Empire, Gu Qihong had never spoke baseless words in medicinal arts. It's already been three years now, which also means that the current lifespan of the Emperor is at most two more years. Last month, my elder brother had even entered the palace and met the Emperor. When he came back, he said the Emperor's complexion was extremely poor, and his breath was weak; Let alone two years, it's difficult to say whether he can last one year or not."

Yun Che "..."

"After the Emperor's Life Veins were damaged and he could not get up from bed, troubles started everywhere in the palace. The Crown Prince Cang Lin started to knock from the side for the Emperor to let him succeed, and the Third Prince Cang Shuo had already eyed the Emperor's throne for even longer. The two of them only secretly fought at first, but along with the escalation of the battle, it became an open war that everyone in the Blue Wind Imperial City knew about. The Crown Prince has the support of the Second and Seventh Prince; the Third Prince on the other hand, is being supported by the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Prince. The two used various methods to win over the power within the palace, even to the point of devouring the Emperor's core power bit by bit. The two sides had always been evenly matched, and neither could completely suppress the other side."

“Originally, this kind of battle for the throne is perfectly normal in the imperial palace. Virtually before every succession of a new emperor, this kind of prelude will always happen. The Emperor had always let it happen and didn’t mind it. However, no one had ever expected that to suppress the Third Prince Cang Shuo’s camp, the First Prince Cang Lin actually borrowed the power of Xiao Sect. To contend against that, The Third Prince Cang Shuo also went along and borrowed the power of Burning Heaven Clan.”

“Sigh.” Qin Wuyou made a long sigh, and said: “The Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan secretly had ambitions all along, eyeing the privilege that could control the world. The Imperial Family had always been careful when dealing with them, and the Imperial Family also had good relations with the Heavenly Sword Villa; with the Heavenly Sword Villa restricting them, the Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan didn’t truly dare seize the Imperial Family’s power either. However, them directly seizing and the Imperial Family voluntarily borrowing their influences are two entirely different concepts. The latter, they can let their influence slowly penetrate into the Imperial Family bit by bit via Cang Lin or Cang Shuo. When the time comes, even though the surname of the Imperial Family would still be Cang, the main power will be in the control of Xiao Sect or Burning Heaven Clan. Even the Heavenly Sword Villa wouldn’t be able to say anything.”

“If that’s the case, then there’s a higher chance that Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan are the ones who took the initiative in luring Cang Lin and Cang Shuo.” Yun Che said calmly.

“That’s right.” Qin Wuyou nodded: “The emperor was extremely furious upon finding out about these, but it was already too late. Because at that time, no matter the Crown Prince Cang Lin or the Third Prince Cang Shuo, their influences had already spread throughout the imperial palace; even if he was their father and the emperor, he could already no longer forcefully affect them, not to mention that Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan are also secretly helping them from their respective sides. It was to the extent where, if the emperor didn’t possess a fragment of deeply rooted core power, as well as the Heavenly Sword Villa’s protection, Crown Prince Cang Lin and Third Prince Cang Shuo may have already forced him off his throne long ago.”

As he spoke to here, Qin Wuyou’s face was brimming with anger. After he calmed his state of mind, a pained expression emerged on his face: “These years, Crown Prince Cang Lin and Third Prince Cang Shuo became the main characters of the Imperial Family; yet the Emperor laid in the bedchamber all year long, and is almost forgotten by the people. Out of the Emperor’s seven sons and one daughter, the only one left who truly cared for and accompanied him in the end, is his only daughter, which is also Princess Cang Yue. Sigh... These three years, it was really tough for her. It’s also fortunate that she’s only a girl, and didn’t have any power and threat. Otherwise, she perhaps would have already received the Crown Prince and Third Prince’s secret persecutions, sigh.”

“She wants to prevent the Crown Prince and the Third Prince from inviting wolves into the palace?” Yun Che said with a frown.

“She tried before, but gave up. Because it’s simply impossible for her to prevent it at all.” Qin Wuyou sentimentally shook his head: “In this battle, we, the Blue Wind Profound Palace stands in a neutral position and is only devoted to the Emperor; at the same time, we also became Princess Cang Yue’s only backing. However, the will of the disciples can not be controlled by us. Out of the one hundred disciples in the Inner Palace, more than half have already been roped in under the flag of Crown Prince Cang Lin

and Third Prince Cang Shuo, including the Heavenly Profound Ranking's second place Feng Bufan and third Place Fang Feilong."

"Princess Cang Yue knows it herself that she cannot stop the ambition of Crown Prince and Third Prince with her insignificant power, and had always accompanied the king. Two years ago, to satisfy a leftover regret of the Emperor, she entered the Blue Wind Profound Palace with the identity "Lan Xueruo". Leaving after one month, she then left the Imperial City and transferred throughout the big Branch Profound Palaces within the empire to look for someone to help her father, the Emperor, achieve his wish."

As he spoke to here, Qin Wuyou looked at Yun Che with a fixed gaze.

"So I am the person she was looking for?" Yun Che spoke with a face void of expression: "What is her father's wish? Why was I chosen? Why does she think that I can help her father realize this wish?"

"Blue Wind Ranking Tournament." Qin Wuyou coolly spoke out four words.

These four words, shook Yun Che's heart all of a sudden. He said: "Could it be..."

"Sigh~~" Qin Wuyou sighed once again. After bringing up the "Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, his expression also became very gloomy. He stood up, walked to the bamboo window with both hands behind his back, and spoke slowly: "Speaking of Blue Wind Profound Palace, no one does not know that it was established by our Blue Wind Imperial Family. It is the biggest Profound Palace in the entire Blue Wind Empire, and is the cultivation dreamland of innumerable young profound practitioners. However, Sects are like the trees in a forest in the Blue Wind Empire, and there are countless strong individuals. In the eyes of those great sects, us Blue Wind Profound Palace is no more than a joke."

"The Blue Wind Ranking Tournament was originally held once every ten years, then was shortened to once every five years. One hundred years ago, it was shortened once again to be held once every three years. From the first Blue Wind Ranking Tournament until now, it has been held exactly ninety nine times. The Blue Wind Imperial Family, as the political core of the nation, will naturally be invited every time. However, after an entire ninety nine tournaments, no one of the Imperial Family was ever able to enter the top one hundred; no one ever! What kind of joke and humiliation was that. And when the current Emperor ascended the throne, his biggest wish was to see the Blue Wind Imperial Family squeeze into the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament's top one hundred during his reign... But after near twenty years since he ascended the throne, and having gone through the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament six times, this wish of his could never be realized. Now, his lifespan is almost up, and this has become his lifetime's regret. In order to help the Emperor realize this wish, Princess Cang Yue left the Imperial Family to search for gifted profound practitioners who can represent the Imperial Family and enter the top one hundred ranks. After two years of time, she choose you."

"... So that's.... how it is."

He had finally solved the puzzle as to why Lan Xuerou was so good to him, to the point of willingly risking great dangers to save him. After knowing the truth, he couldn't really tell how he felt in his heart either.

"The Blue Wind Imperial Family possesses a special type of Profound Art, called the 'Monarch Heart Secret Art'. Only those with the Imperial bloodline who are also kind and pure in heart may cultivate it.

Out of the seven princes and one princess, Princess Cang Yue is the only one who successfully cultivated the 'Monarch Heart Secret Art'. With the 'Monarch Heart Secret Art', one can peek into a person's fate and luck to a certain extent. Princess Cang Yue probably saw extraordinary fate and luck on you using the 'Monarch Heart Secret Art'. That together with your shocking performance at New Moon Profound Palace, made her chose you without hesitation."

Yun Che: "..."

"Now, do you understand what I meant by 'conviction'?" Qin Wuyou turned around, and said meaningfully.

"I've basically understood. At least, I'll need to represent the Blue Wind Imperial Family to participate in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament for her." Yun Che had dull expression on his face. It was unknown as to what he was thinking.

"No, just this point, can't really be considered a conviction. After all, there is only success and failure in participating in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, and there's no relation with life and death." Qin Wuyou continued: "Two years ago, finding the appropriate person was only one of the reasons why Princess Cang Yue left the Imperial City. The more important reason is... to escape from a frightening person."

"Who?" Yun Che slightly raised his head.

"The fourth place in the previous Blue Wind Ranking Tournament—— Burning Heaven Clan Master Fen Duanhun's eldest son, who's also the Young Clan Master of Burning Heaven Clan—— Fen Juecheng!"

### **Chapter 155 - Two Invitation Letters**

"Why must I avoid this person?" Although Yun Che had already vaguely guessed the reason, he still asked while frowning.

"In the previous Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, Princess Cang Yue personally showed up to watch the fights. As for how charming Princess Cang Yue was, I suspect there's no need for me to give unnecessary details. Furthermore, at the time, Princess Cang Yue wore a luxurious rosy cloud dress and an purple-gold phoenix coronet. Even though she's quite young, her beauty still overwhelmed everyone present and captivated the hearts of numerous young outstanding talents. Amongst them was Fen Juecheng."

"After the previous Blue Wing Ranking Tournament ended, Fen Juecheng did not immediately return to the Burning Heaven Clan. He instead arrived at the Blue Wind Imperial City to seek attendance from the Emperor and sought for the hand in marriage of Princess Cang Yue... At that time, the Emperor did not consent to his request. However, he also did not refuse him. Instead, he tried to evade the issue with the excuse that Princess Cang Yue was too young for marriage. In actuality, the Emperor was roused by the proposal. Fen Juecheng was, after all, the young master of the Burning Heaven Clan, and was extremely probable to succeed the Burning Heaven Clan's Clan Master. Should Princess Cang Yue marry him, she would become the future Burning Heaven Clan Master's wife. Her status would be very high, so high that it would overshadow the position of an Empress. It was undoubtedly an excellent destination for her. The strife between the crown prince and the third prince would certainly not be able to harm her. Furthermore, this would bring bring the Imperial Family a connection with the Burning Heaven Clan... Princess Cang Yue was after all a girl; she will marry off one day. Thus, there would be no need to

be afraid of any consequences of her marriage, such as the Burning Heaven Clan infiltrating into the Imperial Family.”

“In regards to the Emperor’s attitude, Fen Juecheng was delighted. He vowed that he would certainly take Princess Cang Yue as his wife.”

“However, not long after, news of the Third Prince Cang Shou borrowing the strength of the Burning Heaven Clan had arrived in the Emperor’s ears. This caused the Emperor to suddenly rage in anger. For the Burning Heaven Clan to be willing to assist Third Prince Cang Shou, one of the reason was because of their ambition for more power in the world and the other was because Fen Juecheng was deeply infatuated with Princess Cang Yue. This was because after those events, Third Prince Cang Shou became particularly good toward Princess Cang Yue. Every single time he would come across Princess Cang Yue, he would recommend her to marry Fen Juecheng and enjoy status, honor, glory, and splendor far beyond that of an imperial princess. Fen Juecheng also regularly came to the imperial palace under the guise of various reasons and, under the arrangements set up by Third Prince Cang Shou, come into contact with Princess Cang Yue. When he meet her, he would express his goodwill and intent to marry her using various methods.”

Yun Che’s heart slightly moved, but he remained silent.

“The Burning Heaven Clan was immensely powerful. Thus, the Imperial Family obviously did not dare to offend them. With the Emperor coming down with a serious illness, the Imperial Family was in turmoil. Princess Cang Yue, like all others, did not dare anger Fen Juecheng. All she could do was evade and not dare to flat out reject him. This was because she was somewhat familiar with Fen Juecheng’s character; while he appeared cultured and refined on the outside and possess the charisma of a great person, he was in fact filled with extreme shrewdness. In order to attain his goal, he would use any means possible, be it fair or foul. Sometimes, he would even do things from the shadows. Furthermore, he was very cruel and merciless, so much that it would cause one to shudder. Should she strongly rejected him and cause Fen Juecheng to lose all his patience, it would be impossible for her to anticipate what he might do.”

“So in order to break away from Fen Juecheng and to resolve a regret that her imperial father had, she left the Imperial City and toured each and every great profound palace of the empire...” Yun Che slowly said with a dull expression. As for what he was thinking, only he himself knew.

“That’s correct.” Qin Wuyou nodded, and then said depressingly. “Yun Che, I don’t know how you feel after hearing all these. I grew up in the Imperial City since a young age and I have regularly come across Princess Cang Yue from when she was very young. The she from back then was like a carefree and worryless angel. After her imperial mother’s death, the amount of things she had to endure, to bear, became greater and greater, heavier and heavier; it was as if all her carefreeness and happiness had left her. How much sadness, hardships and tiredness she had been through, is something that you cannot imagine because at the moment, you are close to Princess Cang Yue, enjoying her beauty and grace, enjoying her deep sincere concern and care for you.... At that time, when she selected you, it was indeed merely to realize her imperial father’s wish. All she had toward you back then was... something that could be considered as a ‘scheme.’ But now, I could tell that she had real genuine feelings toward you. If she didn’t, then she wouldn’t personally deliver something like a Sound Transmission Jade to you. You have enjoyed all that she gave you but had you ever thought of shouldering her burdens?”

Shouldering the things that she carries in her heart?... Or do you have that kind of sincerity, courage, and conviction?

Yun Che did not respond.

“Like what I had previously said, if you do not have that kind of courage and conviction, then you should take the initiative and distance yourself from Princess Cang Yue. The gap between your statuses is as far as heaven and earth. Also, if others were to know that you two had developed feelings for each other, just Fen Juecheng himself is enough to easily and quietly, tragically die without a grave. Even though you distancing yourself from her would break her heart, I still wish that you would select this option for her good, and also for your own good. I am more or less familiar with your personality; with your pride, I believe that you would most likely not select this option. Even if you had to bite your teeth, you would still not cower.... But the current you is too insignificant; you are incapable of helping Princess Cang Yue, you are incapable of sharing her burden. Instead, the only thing that you are doing is adding another layer of emotional burden for her to worry about. If you were to throw yourself in immense danger to support this layer of emotion, then perhaps it could be considered as being bold, but not courage.... If you were to, at this point, distance yourself from Princess Cang Yue, in my eyes, that is true courage and genuine sincerity.

Yun Che: “...”

Qin Wuyou turned around, patted Yun Che’s shoulder, and said. “Everything I needed to say has been said. As for what you choose to do, carefully consider it for a while. The reason Princess Cang Yue never dared to tell you her identity was also because she feared that you’d be drawn into her strife... On the other hand, it was also because you’re too insignificant; if you actually had enough strength, I believe that she would’ve told you everything long ago, for what she needed the most was a shoulder that she could depend on. But you... at least the current you, is fundamentally incapable of being that shoulder for at least ten years time. Instead, you will surely become her burden and another shackle to her soul.”

“I have placed the Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet on the table. If you are able to succeed in refining it, then it would allow your profound strength to rise all the way up to third level of the True Profound Realm... In short, sigh, just think over it.”

Qin Wuyou left with heavy footsteps. Yun Che did not send him off and instead, stood baffled in place for a long time.

Qin Wuyou’s words were like strikes from a heavy hammer; one by one, they ruthlessly pounded at Yun Che’s heart.

Previously, Yun Che believed that Lan Xueruo certainly possessed a high social standing. But he was also completely confident that the him now was worthy enough for her... Or perhaps he was overconfident and arrogant, and had never thought that there would be any individual he was unworthy of. However, he was currently deeply astonished after knowing that Lan Xueruo was actually the legendary Blue Moon Princess. Furthermore, she was involved in the Blue Wind Imperial Family’s upheaval and there was also the Burning Heaven Clan’s tremendous pressure from behind...

While it was true that he was very impressive defeating a Inner Palace disciple who was ranks over his own, and he himself also felt very satisfied, this kind of impressiveness was merely limited to the Blue

Wind Profound Palace; it was only limited to the younger generation under the age of twenty. To the circle Lan Xueruo was involved in, his miniscule amount of strength was so small that it was simply negligible and wasn't even worth their time.

What Qin Wuyou had said was right; Lan Xueruo needed a shoulder she could depend on. However, his miniscule self was simply incapable of giving her that kind of shoulder; he could only become another chain in her heart.

The other thing that Qin Wuyou said was even more correct... He enjoyed Lan Xueruo's beauty and grace, enjoyed all of her continuous deep sincere concern and care; he even enjoyed the feeling of capturing her heart bit by bit. However, he had never actually tried to share her burden.

"This is a world where the strong rules; if one doesn't have enough strength, then they are not qualified to discuss honor and dignity. Furthermore, one would not be able to protect the person they want to protect.... Grandpa and little aunt are waiting for my return. I do not have the ability to share the burden of shouldering what Xueruo carries with her... I merely defeated a little miniscule ninth ranker of the True Profound Realm, yet I acted so loftily and complacent here. What a joke... how laughable."

Yun Che slowly tightened his fists and closed his eyes as his body began to slightly tremble. Only after a long time did he heave a sigh of relief and pick up Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet Qin Wuyou left on the table. He concentrated his gaze and threw the pellet down his mouth.

As the Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet entered his body, Yun Che immediately felt a surge of vigorous stream of energy rush out from his chest; it flowed towards all his veins and meridians in his body. A part of it directly rushed toward his head, and dazzled his sight.

What a powerful medicinal force...

Yun Che was slightly startled. He immediately sat down on the ground cross legged and closed his eyes. While concentrating on the energy, he began to activate the Great Way of the Buddha. How high of a profound art was the Great Way of the Buddha? In less than a mere four or five breath's time, the warm flow of energy that was moving all over his body started to gradually settle down. The wild and unruly medicinal force soon became warm and calm. Without needing any guidance, the medicinal force progressively assimilated into his body. The profound energy within his profound veins began to surge and slowly expand....

Sunset. Sunrise.

An entire day and night quietly went by during Yun Che's meditation. When he completely absorbed the Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet and opened his eyes, it was already noon of the second day. The fluctuations of the profound energy within his profound veins were already completely settled, and his profound energy had become even more thicker than yesterday.... Six hours ago, he had already successfully entered the third level of the True Profound Realm.

Although leveling up with medicine was not that stable, it was nevertheless the fastest method. However, pellets that gave such an astonishing effect like the Goldscale Dragon Transforming Pellet were extremely rare, and even tens of thousand of gold could not purchase a single one of those pills. Furthermore, due to the pellet's strong and fierce nature, there was still a certain risk to taking them.

After sitting for an entire day and night, with a body that was still wounded, Yun Che's stomach was already rumbling with hunger. Right when he was about to leave the room, the door was once again pushed opened by Qin Wuyou, who had yet to learn his lesson.

"Instructor Qin." Yun Che immediately greeted him. After noticing Qin Wuyou's bad complexion, he immediately asked. "What happened?"

"Something within my expectations." Qin Wuyou sighed. He then took out two letters. "These are two invitation letters. One of them is from Crown Prince Cang Lin, inviting you to his Crown Prince Palace in ten days time at noon, to participate in his thirty third birthday banquet. The other invitation letter is from Third Prince Cang Shuo, inviting you to join his Beast Battle Convention that he personally manages. The time.... is also in ten days at noon."

### **Chapter 156 - Conspiracy**

The arrival of the two invitation letters was completely within Qin Wuyou's expectations. However, what he didn't expect was that not only did the two invitation letters from the crown prince and third prince arrive at the same time, the appointment was at same time, and were also completely identical.

Yun Che accepted the two invitation letters and quickly browsed through them. The wordings of both invitation letters were very polite and believable. First they spoke highly of Yun Che; they praised him as the dazzling star of the young generation, stated their admiration for him after hearing the results of yesterday's match with the inner palace disciple, and sought to personally see his grace. As a result, they respectively invited him to the birthday banquet and the beast battle convention, which were at noon in ten days time, and asked him to do the honor of showing up....

Seeing that Yun Che had finished looking through the letters, Qin Wuyou said. "I believe it was also within your expectations to receive invitations letters like these. Every disciple that was able to become a Inner Palace disciple would receive invitations to join the camp of both the crown prince and the third prince. What's more, with the fight from yesterday, your reputation had increased so much that it's practically above every one of the Inner Palace disciples. For these two invitation letters to come to fast, it was within my expectations. What do you plan to do?"

"What does Instructor Qin think I should do?" Yun Che put down the invitation letters and asked a question in reply.

Qin Wuyou shook his head. "It is beyond my capability to help you choose. You are weak and have no background; you can not afford to offend either of the two. Originally, the best choice for you to make was to accept both of their invitations, give an ambiguous and tactful attitude to their offers while refusing neither yet not accepting either. However, I don't know if it's purposely done or by coincidence, the time for these two invitations are completely identical. If you were to accept, you can only accept a single invitation. However, regardless of whichever invitation you accepted, you would have clearly showed your position and, at the same time, thoroughly offend the party that you didn't accept. And if you were to go to neither, it could be interpreted as looking down on both parties. If it was me in that situation, I have absolutely no clue as to what to do."

Yun Che smiled and said. "Whether the birthday banquet or the beast battle convention, there's still ten days for me to consider. There's no need to worry. What I am more concerned about... is that I am but a

mere disciple of the Blue Wind Profound Palace. It was as you had said, my strength is extremely insignificant in that big circle, so why did the crown prince and the third prince so graciously invite me?"

"Your current individual strength is indeed quite minuscule. However, what they care about is not your individual strength but rather your prestige and your huge potential. Perhaps you are not aware of this, but after yesterday's battle, your name had already spread through the entire Blue Wind Imperial City. And through the various versions of exaggerated rumors, you have become close to a legend. This was especially true for the younger generations; they had grown a strong adoration and yearn for you. Furthermore, the fact that you have no backing and is born a commoner, gave rise to the approval and support of countless young profound practitioners of common birth. If you join either camp, with the influence that you currently possess, you would surely cause the young profound practitioners to tilt to the side of your choosing. On top of that, your current performance showed that you will certainly become extraordinary in the future. Although the current you is weak, in another five or ten years when you have matured, you'll certainly become a great assistance. Thus, both the crown prince and the third prince would spare no effort to try to get you into their camp."

After thinking for a long time, Yun Che slowly nodded. "I understand."

"How you will choose is completely up to you. However, I must remind you, if you actually join either the crown prince or the third prince's camp, then no matter how strongly Princess Cang Yue feels for you, she would still sever her relationship with you." Qin Wuyou firmly looked at Yun Che and then departed with heavy footsteps. Had Yun Che been a mere profound palace disciple, then even if he was ten times more gifted, he would not be this anxious. However, Yun Che's relationship with Princess Cang Yue had caused him to be unable to take this matter lightly.

The information that Yun Che received invitations from both the crown prince and the third prince was somehow leaked. One person told ten and ten told a hundred; in an afternoon's time, practically everyone in the Blue Wind Profound Palace knew of the matter. One could hear people discussing the matter from every corner of the Palace.

"Hey! Have you heard that Yun Che received invitations from his highness the crown prince and his highness the third prince at the same time.... So enviable, if one were to be able to join the camp of either the the crown prince or the third prince, regardless of which, he will enjoy glory and splendor for his entire life."

"Tsk tsk, you can admire all you want. For a genius like Junior brother Yun Che to be noticed by both his highness the crown prince and his highness the third prince at the same time is absolutely reasonable. If you were to be able to crush an opponent seven ranks above you, then I can guarantee you that you'll also receive this kind of treatment the next day."

"Say, do you think Junior brother Yun Che would choose the crown prince or the third prince?"

"Hmmm, that's very hard to tell. I've heard that the crown prince and the third prince was completely incompatible. If he chooses the wrong person and his master ends up being defeated in the future, then perhaps he, too, might be done for."

.....

Blue Wind Imperial City, Northern Field General's mansion.

Murong Yi was deeply injured in the battle against Yun Che. On that day, he was carried back into the mansion by Feng Baiyi to recuperate from his injuries. The rumors regarding Yun Che that was spreading like wildfire had led Murong Yi to gnash his teeth and fume with endless rage. In those rumors, he had become that pathetic and ridiculous side character... Or, more accurately, a stepping stone.

“Yun Che, I am going to kill you... KILL YOU!!”

In less than two days time, Murong Yi had already roared those words over three hundred times; each and every time carried an immense hatred. He had grown up with flattery and honor; never had he received such extraordinary shame and humiliation before. It was also the first time he had such an overflowing grudge against someone.

“Brother Murong, there is news that might be unpleasant to you.”

Feng Baiyi walked in, and said with slanted eyebrows.

“What news!” Murong Yi sat up from his sickbed and asked with a steady face. “Is it about Yun Che?”

“That’s right.” Feng Baiyi pinched his chin as his expression became gloomy. “I’ve heard that he received an invitation from both the crown prince and the third prince at the same time today, asking him to participate in the crown prince’s thirty three year old birthday banquet and the third prince’s beast battle convention.”

“Crack, crack...”

Murong Yi did not say anything but a sharp and crisp bone cracking sound could be heard from his hands.

“Both the crown prince and the third prince had thrown the olive branch at him and even invited him to such grand occasions; one could tell how much they valued Yun Che. Although they had both tried to entice all the Inner Palace disciples to a certain degree, it was the first time for them to invite someone to such grand and important occasions. In this way, it’ll be a bit hard for us to try to make Yun Che suffer in the open. Even if your father were to personally step in, it is already something that he cannot accomplish because it’ll be the same as not respecting the crown prince and the third prince.” Feng Baiyi said with indifference.

“He must die... MUST DIE!!” Murong Yi violently roared. His violent movements immediately caused his wounds to reopen and made him howl in pain.

Feng Baiyi glanced at Murong Yi and said. “In that case, you can only attack him secretly. Not only that, we have to be quick about it.”

“Baiyi, you must certainly help me with this matter! I have never received this kind of humiliation in my entire life. All the dignity and honor I possessed was trampled into pieces by that bastard Yun Che! How could I restrain my anger? How could I let him use my dignity to bask in the limelight!” Murong Yi’s entire body raged with an immensely deep malice. “Baiyi, you must help me!”

“Rest assured. We have been good brothers for many years now. For you to receive such a humiliation, as a brother, I would naturally not brush it aside.” Feng Baiyi slowly stated. “In fact, you were too anxious in the battle yesterday. You initially fought him with bare hands and were basically evenly

matched. His innate talent is indeed astonishing; a true profound second ranker actually managed to exhibit a profound strength of your level. However, the gap between you guys were, after all, an entire seven ranks; while he could exhibit a profound strength on par with yours, if we compare the foundation and the deepness of the profound strengths, his cannot compare to yours. If you had continued fighting him bare-handed, he would slowly become unable to brace your attacks and eventually fall. But when you were unable to successfully land your attacks on him for a long time, you decided to use a weapon instead.”

“To be unable to win against someone who’s seven ranks below me, how can I not become irritable!” Murong Yi clenched his teeth and defended himself. He completely agreed with what Feng Baiyi said, and now that he thought about it, if they both didn’t use weapons, he would, without a doubt, end up to be the victor. Even though the way he’d win would be somewhat unsightly, at the very least, he would not receive such a humiliation.

“In fact, Yun Che’s heavy sword wasn’t even that scary either; it’s just that there are too few heavy sword users and you lacked the experience in fighting against the heavy sword. Otherwise, how would your Silver Dragon Spear get knocked away by Yun Che so easily with his first sword strike, and even sustain internal injuries... With the loss of your Silver Dragon Spear, your mind became disordered and thus, you were doomed to be utterly defeated. I was nearby and what had happened very clearly. Yun Che’s heavy sword attack was indeed outstanding, but a heavy sword is incomparably heavy; its attack speed was very slow and it also leaves a large opening after every attack. With your profound movement skill, you could easily dodge his attacks and strike back at the opening he leaves. If you did that, Yun Che would never be able to win against you. And the first time your weapon met his in a head-on collision, which was the strongest aspect of heavy swords, how could you not lose?!”

“Besides, that Overlord’s Colossal Sword weighs one thousand nine hundred fifty kilograms; even if it was you and I, we wouldn’t be able to swing that sword easily. The three strikes Yun Che had swung, I suspect that’s his limit. Therefore, your defeat yesterday was actually not mostly because of Yun Che, but yourself. I believe that after listening to me, if you were to fight him again, it would be absolutely impossible for him to win against you. On the other hand, if it was me...” A cold light flashed through Feng Baiyi’s eyes. He sneered. “I’ll only need at most three exchanges to have his life.”

When recalling the events of yesterday’s battle, the more he thought about it, the more Murong Yi began to feel that Feng Baiyi’s words were completely reasonable. He immediately began to regret and replied while gritting his teeth. “You’re right. If I could fight him again, it is absolutely impossible for me to lose.... But at the moment, I’m covered all over with injuries. I can’t even get down from my bed. Otherwise, I would most certainly, personally... tear him from limb to limb!”

“Rest assured. I will help you take revenge. In at most five days of time, I will bring you Yun Che’s head. I guarantee that all your anger and resentment will completely fade away.” Feng Baiyi said while beaming.

“Really?!” Murong Yi immediately opened his eyes wide with excitement. But then, he knitted his eyebrows and said. “But Yun Che had received invitations from both the crown prince and the third prince. If we were to take action....”

“Rest assured. I will flawlessly handle this matter, and just to be safe, I even invited another person.”

“Who?” Murong Yi immediately asked.

“Xue Lang.” Feng Baiyi’s eyes narrowed.

“Xue Lang... Seventh rank on the Inner Palace’s Heavenly Profound Ranking, Xue Lang?” Murong Yi revealed a shocked expression. “He really agreed to help?”

Feng Baiyi laughed indifferently and nodded. “You too, know this person’s character. As long as we give him enough profit, he would be willing to do anything. As for this matter, he demanded 800 purple profound coins. After all, Yun Che’s current influence is immense; one must take on a certain amount of risk when killing him. It all depends on whether or not Brother Murong is willing to take out this sum.”

“Absolutely no problem!” Murong Yi’s expression became grim. “As long as you kill him without leaving a trace and dissolve my hatred, don’t even mention eight hundred purple profound coins, even if it was eight thousand purple profound coins, I would still not hesitate!”

“Good!” Feng Baiyi stood up. His voice had also become cold and grim. “Brother Murong, just wait for my good news... Ah, I am also itching to see this person, who dared to act so arrogant in front of me, kneel at my feet while desperately begging for forgiveness. Hahahaha.....”

### **Chapter 157 - Love, Promise**

The night breeze was cool as night fell. The entire Inner Palace was quiet; even the cries of insects could not be heard. Yun Che sat on the roof of the Sightseeing Pavilion at the rear of the Supreme Profound Hall and was silently immersed in thought while bathing in the moonlight.

It had already been a year since he’d left Floating Cloud City. His original life’s plan was pretty simple; he wanted to restore his profound veins, accomplish something within three years, return to Floating Cloud City to free grandpa and little aunt, and also get back his dignity. After that, he met Jasmine and because of her, he was given a new lease of life. His fate, had also become intertwined with hers, and his life’s trajectory was then destined to turn upside down because of Jasmine.

But now, there was an additional Lan Xueruo in his life.

Liking Lan Xueruo was something that he was really certain of. He was deeply attracted by her beautiful appearance and her refined temperament the first time he saw her. Having been in contact for half a year, especially because they had experienced a life and death calamity together, the feelings they had for each other had slowly ripened.

And it was only until yesterday, did he find out who Lan Xueruo’s true identity, and also found out the things she had to bear, as well as what he would have to face if he wanted to stay together with her.

What Qin Wuyou said yesterday was extremely cruel. However, Yun Che was unable to deny that each and every word he said was the indisputable truth. His ability was way too minuscule; while he might be able to take care of any personal grudges, toward the disputes of the imperial household that even involved two enormous sects, if he were to force his way in, then, like the sand used to fill up the sea, he will be immediately engulfed and disappear without a trace.

“Junior Brother Yun, so here’s where you are.”

Lan Xueruo's gentle voice sounded behind Yun Che. Subsequently, a fragrant wind brushed by and Lan Xueruo had already leaped onto the roof of the pavilion. She smiled at Yun Che. "I had just went to your quarters to find you, only to discover that you were gone. I didn't expect that you're actually interested in sitting here to admire the moon. Is something bothering you?"

"I won't consider it as being bothered." Yun Che continued to look ahead. "I am just pondering about a decision that might be very important in my life."

Lan Xueruo sat down next to Yun Che. She hesitated for a bit, and then carefully asked. "Junior Brother Yun, I heard that you've received invitations from both the crown prince and the third prince at the same time. Furthermore, the time of the invitations were exactly the same. Are... Are you hesitating about whose invitation you should accept?"

Yun Che did not respond, instead, he asked. "Senior sister, whose invitation do you think I should accept? One is the crown prince and the other is the third prince; neither one of them seems to be someone who I could refuse."

A deep, complicated expression flashed across Lan Xueruo's face as she said hesitantly. "I, I want to hear about your decision. I... have no authority to interfere in your matters."

".... I heard that the current Blue Wind Imperial Palace is in turmoil with movements from the shadows. The emperor is currently bed-ridden; he doesn't have much longer to live. If he were to die one day, all the unstable and hidden movements would erupt at once.... Senior sister, I want to know, do you want me to enter this Imperial Family's dispute?" Yun Che asked with a calm and indifferent expression.

"No! I don't! I would never want that." Lan Xueruo hurriedly shook her head. "Junior brother Yun, I know that you are not the type of person who lusts for power, and you would certainly not do that, right?"

"What if I must join the fray?" Yun Che faintly asked.

Lan Xueruo stiffened as her large pair of eyes panickedly looked at Yun Che. "Why must you join the fray? You're not clear of how dangerous and dreadful the Imperial Family's internal instability and undercurrents are. Once you get involved, it's possible that you would never be able to get away. You can not imagine how complicated and dangerous it is. Junior brother Yun, you shouldn't be a person who lusts for power, or is fond of conflicts, what exactly are you planning? Could it be that you really are planning to submit yourself to either the crown prince or the third prince?"

"You're right. I have no interest in power and have even less interest in conflicts. But in this world, there are a lot of things that I can't just not do only because I'm not interested in them." Yun Che turned around to look at Lan Xueruo; he looked at her affectionately. "Senior sister.... should I call you Senior Sister Xueruo or.... Princess Cang Yue?"

Lan Xueruo beautiful eyes immediately widened as unrest and nervousness instantly appeared in her eyes. She hung her head and stammered. "You... you knew? Did Instructor Qin tell you about it? I... I really didn't deliberately hide it from you. I only... only..."

Yun Che did not wait for her to finish and continued to mutter. "From the first time I saw you, I was captivated by your gentle, graceful and pleasing appearance. Afterwards, when Xiao Sect's Branch Sect

launched an attack, you risked the dangers of being involved to save me. Following that, you even personally left for the Branch Sect and we ended up fleeing for our lives together... Then, we arrived at the Blue Wind Imperial City and entered the Blue Wind Profound Palace, you were always carefully arranging and taking care of everything. If it weren't for you, I would already been killed by Xiao Zaihe, or perhaps I would've become a vagabond, or perhaps I would still be fleeing for my life while having wind for meals and dew for drinks. How would I possibly have such a stable place to stay?"

"You had done so much for me, and I thought it was because you liked me. I, too, enjoyed every moment that I spent with you.... Until yesterday, when I received the invitation letters, Instructor Qin told me everything. Only then did I become aware that the reason you treated me especially well, the reason why you personally went to the Xiao Sect's Branch Sect, the reason why you brought me to the Blue Wind Imperial City, was all because you fancied my aptitude and potential; it was all done to complete your imperial father's single wish and have me represent the Imperial Family in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament. Everything that I had thought of before, they were merely my own imagination of your affection for me...."

Yun Che's words faintly contained a sense of loss and grief. It made Lan Xueruo's mind become disorderly chaotic and the last sentence he had said could not help but stab at her heart. She panickedly shouted. "That's not it.... That's not it! It was indeed because of my imperial father that I choose you, but I didn't deliberately hide the truth from you because of that, nor did I want to exploit you. I only wanted to find a proper time to tell you everything. Because the longer I was with you, the more afraid I became... I feared that if you knew everything, then you'd think that I was deceiving and using you. But the reason why I was so scared was because.... because..."

"Senior sister..." Yun Che once again broke her off. He said with a sad voice. "I want to... have a moment in peace..."

After saying that, Yun Che slid down the roof and silently disappeared into the night.

"Junior brother Yun.... Junior brother Yun!!"

The moonlight was shining and brightened the surroundings. However, Lan Xueruo was unable to find Yun Che's silhouette.

"It's not like that, it really isn't like that.... I really didn't deliberately conceal it from you. I never wanted to exploit you...." Lan Xueruo's heart dropped into a bottomless abyss. Her body powerlessly crouched down and her arms hugged her knees as she began to weep.

When her father was seriously ill, she didn't cry.... When the Imperial Family caught into a calamity, she didn't cry.... When Fen Juechen of the Burning Heaven Clan continually press forward, she didn't cry.... She quietly took on everything. However, at this moment, with Yun Che leaving, she felt that her mind and spirit had become absolutely empty. It was as if she lost some kind important thing from her life; as if her heart was being stabbed by needles. She was unable to control her tears and they frantically pouring down her face. She was as helpless as a fallen leaf that had been abandoned by the world.

"Senior sister, your tears are too precious. So precious that... I have no choice but to exchange my life for them."

A soft dreamlike voice sounded near her ears. She immediately raised her head and saw Yun Che right in front of her through her tear muddled eyes. He extended his hands and softly rubbed her cheeks to wipe away her sparkling teardrops.

“Junior brother Yun, don’t... leave me!”

The words came with a deep sobbing noise and uncontrollably burst out from Lan Xueruo’s mouth. Because those words had been buried deep in her heart for a long time; even she herself did not realize that she said those words. The heart-stabbing pain from earlier was like a sharp blade that sliced open her heart and soul; it released the deeply buried emotions within her and allowed her to be completely aware of how deep her feelings for this ‘Junior brother Yun’ had become.

She threw herself into Yun Che’s bosom and began to cry her heart out. She had never willfully cried like this before, but being beside Yun Che and leaning against his chest, she felt that she did not need to pretend anymore and no longer needed to constrain her emotions. The worry, pressure, pain and remorse that she accumulated in her heart throughout the years... Flooded out and tormented willfully, like a broken dam.

“Senior sister, I’m sorry....” Yun Che softly apologized as he embraced her. “I did not mean any of the words I said earlier. I have known you for all this time, so how could I not know about how softhearted of a girl you are; how could you possibly be willing to hide the truth from me and use me. The reason why I said those words was because I was uneasy and afraid.... I do not know if I had actually entered Senior Sister’s heart because Senior Sister was so good to me and was also a princess. I, on the other hand, am powerless and of low birth. Other than my pride, hot-headedness, and my feelings for you, I have nothing else. Therefore, I was really uneasy and afraid.... I selfishly wanted to see if you would shed tears for me....”

“A man who makes his woman cry is the most repulsive man in the whole world... Senior sister, please forgive my unruly selfishness. I will properly treasure your tears in my heart forever; they will be my life’s most valuable treasure and also become my largest motivation....”

“It’s not your fault. You don’t need to apologize to me... It’s my fault, it’s all my fault. It was me who concealed the truth from you, it was me who had always possessed that sort of intent toward you...” Lan Xueruo forcefully shook her head within Yun Che’s embrace and mournfully wept. “I had always thought that all my worries, longing and urges to see you were only because you held the potential to achieve my father’s wishes... It was only just now when you disappeared from my side that I realized that I can’t separate myself from you anymore.... Uuu.... Don’t leave me. I don’t want to be a princess.... I won’t even make you participate in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament. I just want... you to stay with me so that I can always see you... Don’t leave me....”

Lan Xueruo had at last, completely revealed every last bit of her true feelings without restraint. Yu Che faintly smiled. He held Lan Xueruo closer and said softly. “The feelings that I have for Senior Sister are exactly the same as you have for me. Since our feelings are the same, then we share our burdens together. Senior sister’s matters are now also my matters. If I were to be unable to even accomplish such a minor desire that Senior Sister has, then how can I be worthy of Senior Sister’s love?... I will enter the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament and I will also participate in the Blue Wind Imperial Family’s

complications.... Don't stop me yet. I had previously stated that I was making a really important decision in my life... and this is my decision."

"Even though I am currently a mere eagle chick, give me time, and I will one day obtain wings. Please give me the opportunity to use my wings to protect you from the rain.... Even if the weather is too unstable and I cannot shelter you, I could still take Senior Sister and fly away. We can leave this land of unstable weathers forever to once again, look for a place that only belongs to us. This is the privilege I have because I like Senior Sister... Even if it's Senior Sister, you still cannot take it away from me."

Lan Xueruo did not respond. She only tried her best to hold down her sobs and violently trembling shoulder. The shoulder of the man she was nestled against was not big or wide but it gave her an immense feeling of warmth and ease. She felt as if she was a drifting and homeless duckweed that had finally found its warmest home.

The two sat cuddled on top of the pavilion's roof and bathed in the moonlight together. For a long time, neither of them spoke. The tears, accusations and promises made the final layer that separated the two disappear completely. Their hearts were inseparable and closely connected as they listened to each other's heartfelt wishes.

"Take me to see your imperial father tomorrow, okay? Don't forget, your man is actually a genius doctor and there are no illnesses that he can't cure."

"Mn..." Lan Xueruo softly replied while leaning on Yun Che's shoulder. She closed her eyes as the corner of her mouth slightly raised. With tears at the corner of her eyes, her beauty incomparable.

### **Chapter 158 - "Medical Saint"**

The morning of the second day, Yun Che followed Lan Xueruo to the Blue Wind Imperial Palace.

This was the first time he entered the imperial palace in this life. Yun Che, more or less, had a feeling of being overwhelmed by the luxurious surroundings. The imperial palace's architecture was naturally luxurious; golden colored tiles glittered under the sunshine in every direction and directly dazzled Yun Che's eyes.

Lan Xueruo was still plainly dressed. She wouldn't be recognized by others outside, but within the imperial palace, who wouldn't be familiar with the only princess of the imperial family. Everywhere they went, every bodyguard and palace maid would all hurriedly bow down as soon as they saw Lan Xueruo, respectfully calling her "Princess Cang Yue". When following alongside Lan Xueruo, Yun Che did not have to disguise himself or dress up at all. The crown prince and third prince had many eyes within the imperial palace; this incident of him following Lan Xueruo to enter the imperial palace would definitely be known by the crown prince and third prince before long, but Yun Che didn't care about this matter. Contrarily, if he disguised himself, and news got out that Princess Cang Yue brought an unfamiliar person to the imperial palace to see the emperor, and the crown prince and third prince could not investigate this person, it could potentially inconvenience Lan Xueruo.

The imperial palace was huge. As Lan Xueruo walked, she also introduced the important structures of the imperial palace to Yun Che. Unintentionally, they had already arrived in front of a grand and imposing palace.

“Here’s my father’s chambers.” Lan Xueruo said with a slightly nervous expression. It was as if she was a normal girl bringing her sweetheart to her parents, and was nervous that she might not gain her parents’ approval.

The passage leading to the palace had a large pond on either side; the lotus flowers in the ponds just happened to be in bloom as its clear water rippled in waves. The green willows brushed alongside the water and the lotus leaves slightly drooped as their flowers faced the wind, permeating the air with a faint sweetness.

“Mn, let’s go in.” Compared to Lan Xueruo, Yun Che was unexpectedly very calm.

With Lan Xueruo at the front, she brought Yun Che towards the emperor’s chambers. As soon as they stepped through the door, they saw an elderly man in a gray robe, who had a beard that hung down to his chest, walk toward them. Although this elderly man was clearly very old, his hair and beard were pitch black; it was evident that he was an expert in maintaining good health. Although far away from him, Yun Che was able to faintly smell the scent of medicine.

Behind the elderly man followed two attendants; although they were only attendants, within the deepest parts of their eyes, their arrogance was clearly visible — even though they were in the imperial palace.

Seeing this elderly person, Lan Xueruo’s footsteps paused, hurriedly moved forward to meet them, and humbly greeted with respect, “Master Gu, you came. How is my father’s condition?”

Lan Xueruo’s actions caused Yun Che to burst into astonishment. From the way this elderly man dressed, he clearly wasn’t a person of the imperial family, but with her grand identity as the princess, she unexpectedly took the initiative to greet him, and even made a simple salutation... As soon as Lan Xueruo said the two words “Master Gu”, Yun Che’s brows moved slightly; he immediately remembered someone.

“So it was your highness the princess.” The elderly man saluted in turn with a chuckle and very amiable face, “This morning, I received the emperor’s summons so I came to take a look. Last night, the night air was cold and caused the emperor to suffer a little wind chill; it already isn’t an issue. As for the matter of the emperor’s life veins... Sigh, please forgive this old one for his incompetence, I still have not found a way to deal with it.

“Master Gu, please don’t speak in that way, my father’s life veins were already damaged beyond repair, and there is no cure in this world. If my father wasn’t under Master Gu’s care these years, I fear... In short, Master Gu must not blame himself. Cang Yue once again thanks Master Gu for this kindness.” Lan Xueruo said gratefully.

“When Princess Cang Yue says it in that way, it really is overpraising this old one. Your highness, please be at ease, this old one will definitely do his best to ensure the emperor’s health... The emperor is about to retire to bed now, so if your highness wishes to see the emperor, then quickly enter, this old one shall take his leave.”

“Take care, Master Gu.”

The elderly man carried a medicine chest and strolled away with his attendants. Lan Xueruo followed him with her eyes until he left; one could see the respect she had towards this elderly person. It was only when the elderly man was very far away did she turn her gaze back to Yun Che. She explained. "He is the Master Gu that I mentioned before; in these couple of years, my father's illness was being treated by him. It was only because of Master Gu that my father had been able to struggle with death until now."

"Is his medical expertise that strong?" Holding his chin on his hand, Yun Che casually asked.

"Master Gu Qihong is already one hundred and sixty years old this year. Possessing the title 'Medical Saint', his medical expertise is the absolute best in the Blue Wind Empire. He is the publicly recognized as the number one genius doctor. Moreover, not only is Master Gu's medical expertise very high, he also knows the art of opening profound entrances; he is able to help profound practitioners posteriorly open the three profound entrances of the Sunflower Dew, Vacant Seed and Heart Gate. , Having Master Gu open one's profound entrances is practically the dream of every single profound practitioner in the Blue Wind Empire. Even the four major sects have always treated Master Gu as a prestigious guest because of that. Every year, they would respectfully request Master Gu to open profound entrances for the core disciples of their sect. Therefore, Master Gu is extremely renowned in the Blue Wind Imperial City. The number of people who request him, owe their lives to him, and owe him favors, is uncountable. Thus, there was never anyone who would dare to offend Master Gu. Otherwise, there would be an uncountable amount of people who would take the initiative to stick up for Master Gu... Including the four major sects: Heavenly Sword Villa, Frozen Cloud Asgard, Xiao Sect, and the Burning Heaven Clan.

While saying this, Lan Xueruo's had a face full of reverence; she clearly had some admiration within the respect she had towards this Master Gu.

"Medical Saint?" The corners of Yun Che's mouth drew back, revealing a slightly disdainful frown... Medical saint, was his master's title. And in his heart, since his master was a medical saint, there was no one else in the world that fits the title of Medical Saint!

"How is this Master Gu like?" Yun Che asked intentionally.

Lan Xueruo said, "Not only are Master Gu's healing arts high, he also has a benevolent compassionate nature. He never used his status of the number one genius doctor to be haughty, never treated anyone based on their status, and gave medical treatment to impoverished families without receiving payment most of the time. So the public opinion of Master Gu within the Blue Wind Imperial Family is very good; everyone praises and admires him. But, it has been said that he has a bad temper at times; anyone who offends him, or any patient he doesn't like for any other reason, even if one were to give ten thousand pieces of gold, he would definitely not treat."

"Oh, is that so... " Yun Che nodded, "Let's go, let's enter and take a look at your father."

When comparing the ability to observe people, ten Lan Xueruos still could not compare to Yun Che. The first instant Yun Che saw Gu Qihong, he could immediately conclude that... this old geezer, was definitely not a good person!

There wasn't any sort of special reason, and was simply because of a type of feeling; the type of feeling that was nurtured after experiencing an innumerable amount of people trying to kill him, knowledge of every type of evil, and being on the brink of death an unknown amount of times.

Upon entering the chambers, the emperor's middle aged eunuch immediately went ahead to report.

"Since three years ago when Father suddenly fell ill, he began to spend large portion of his time within his chambers and seldom went out. Because Father's health was simply too poor, he was unable to bear the slightest bit of wind chill. Even if he were to catch some minor illness, it would still be possible for it to be a danger to his life." Lan Xueruo said sadly, "With the condition that Father was in, he was no longer capable of managing the affairs of the nation, but my eldest imperial brother and third imperial brother began to act imprudently and had to lead wolves into the household. Afterwards, not only were they disrespectful to Father, they also occasionally tried to coerce Father, which made it impossible for Father to pass on the throne to either of them; he had no other choice but to use his life to stall day by day..."

"Don't worry." Yun Che lightly grasped Lan Xueruo's hand and comforted her, "I've already said this before, no matter what illness, as long as it is an illness, I will definitely have a way to cure it."

These words weren't Yun Che's crazy talk. He was the successor of the medical saint; he definitely wouldn't allow himself to sully his master's name!

"I believe you." Lan Xueruo softly replied.

"Your highness, as well as this young fellow, the emperor is waiting for you inside. Please enter." The middle aged eunuch standing at the door bent at the waist and respectfully saluted.

After entering the emperor's chambers, Yun Che saw an elderly person leaning on an imperial bed at first glance. Lan Xueruo was nineteen years old, the crown prince would be thirty three in eight days. Logically, the emperor should be around fifty or sixty years old. Having lived in the lap of luxury with countless elixirs and legendary fruits, the emperor shouldn't look old at that age, but the person on the bed looked withered with a wax yellowed complexion, grizzled white hair, and lifeless expression. He looked like an eighty year old elder past his prime.

Yun Che's eyebrows abruptly raised. This is...

"Father!" Seeing how bad Cang Wanhe looked, Lan Xueruo's heart ached. She hurriedly rushed toward the bed and asked worriedly "Just a moment ago, in front of the chamber's doors, we bumped into Master Gu. He said you caught another cold last night... How do you feel now? Is it a little better?"

"Heh heh," Cang Wanhe looked towards Lan Xueruo affectionately. Nowadays, he could only feel the warmth of being a parent from this daughter, "It isn't an issue anymore. We were afraid that you would be overly worried again, so We didn't tell you. Yue'er, the person you brought with you, shouldn't you introduce him?"

Yun Che walked forward and cupped his hands: "Blue Wind Profound Palace Inner Palace disciple Yun Che, pays his respects to Your Majesty."

"Oh? You're Yun Che?" Cang Wanhe revealed an astounded look, and then started laughing, "Although We have resided in this chamber for a long time, We too, have heard that a youngster with an

incomparably shocking talent had emerged from the Blue Wind Profound Palace. He defeated an Inner Palace disciple seven levels above him at such a young age and also successfully wielded the Overlord's Colossal Sword that no one had been able to use for several hundred years. Simply astonishing."

Yun Che slightly smiled and said modestly, "Your Majesty is flattering me. This one is just an ordinary disciple of the profound palace who is unworthy of your highness' praise."

Yun Che's words made Lan Xueruo incapable of withstraining her laughter: "Pfft. Junior brother Yun, normally you are overbearing and always have an air of arrogance wherever you go. Why are you suddenly so modest in front of my father today?"

When Cang Wanhe heard the name Yun Che earlier, he only had a slight admiration for him. However, as soon as Lan Xueruo's words left her mouth, the way Cang Wanhe looked at Yun Che immediately changed; he knew his daughter extremely well, it was the first time he had ever seen his own daughter tease a young male this naturally.

As the Blue Wind Emperor, his eyes were extremely keen. When Lan Xueruo spoke, from the way she looked at Yun Che, Cang Wanhe could see that something wasn't the quite the same...

Cang Wanhe's expression did not waver as he kindly asked, "Yue'er, this 'Junior Brother Yun' of yours, should be the person you spent two years looking for?"

Last night, she had completely revealed all her secrets and untied the knots in her heart. Lan Xueruo no longer needed to avoid the topic of the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament in front of Yun Che. She calmly nodded and replied, "Yes. In regards to Junior brother Yun's talent, Father should have already heard about it; I believe that after three years, Junior brother Yun can reach a very high level. He definitely has the possibility of entering the top one hundred... But the reason I brought Junior brother Yun here today, is not just to introduce him to you. Actually, Junior brother Yun is not only very talented in the profound cultivation. He is also versed in the medical arts and even has frequently claimed to be a genius doctor."

"Oh?" Cang Wanhe's face revealed his growing interest, "You're also versed in the medical arts? Could it be that you intend to treat our illness?"

"I will try my best." Yun Che replied somewhat conservatively... From the moment he entered the door, he had been observing Cang Wanhe's complexion, and gradually began to have a bad premonition.

"Heh heh, good."

Even Gu Qihong couldn't do anything, so it was impossible for anyone else in the Blue Wind Empire to be able to treat him, let alone a seventeen year old youngster. But Cang Wanhe did not refuse and gently replied, "It's rare for someone to have such compassion, and since you are also the person Yue'er brought over, We naturally do not have any reason to refuse. Only, We have to tell you first, that according to Master Gu, what We have isn't an illness, but rather permanent damage to our life veins due to accumulated labor; therefore, there is no need to force yourself if you don't know what to do."

## **Chapter 159 - Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite**

"Your Majesty, let me see your pulse first."

Cang Wanhe's appearance gave Yun Che a terrible premonition, but he did not dare to make any assumptions. He walked forward a couple of steps and arrived in front of Cang Wanhe. After pressing two fingers on his right hand on top of his pulse, he closed his eyes.

Lan Xueruo suddenly held her breath. Cang Wanhe also did not say anymore; his slightly muddled vision silently sized up the man that his daughter chose. But in his heart, he didn't have any hope that he would be able to aid his condition in any way. Perhaps his medical expertise was outstanding, but he was just too young. Such a thing like medical expertise, does not depend on knowledge from studies; it required many years to accumulate and compile.

Yun Che didn't take very long to assess his pulse. Ten or so seconds later, he said softly, "Your Majesty, next, I will use profound energy assess your internal organs. Please do not resist."

"Alright. Just go ahead and do your best. We have already said that you are the person Yue'er had brought over. We can definitely trust you." Cang Wanhe nodded.

Immediately afterwards, Yun Che's released a very small amount of profound energy that flowed through Cang Wanhe's internal organs. He also did not continue for too long and withdrew his profound energy soon after. Then, he opened his eyes with a complicated expression.

"How is it?" Lan Xueruo asked hurriedly. Although the total time of Yun Che's observation was not more than a minute, it was apparent to anyone that, an "illness" which made even Gu Qihong helpless, could not possibly be diagnosed by a seventeen year old youngster's short observation. But a young girl whose heart belonged to a man, would always had a sort of blind trust towards their own man, no matter what. Lan Xueruo, titled the Blue Moon Princess, also could not break free from the mindset of that sort of girl.

Yun Che was silent for a little while, and then asked, "Your Majesty, is there a scar that shouldn't be too long on your chest area? If there is, was it left there approximately three years ago?"

Cang Wanhe thought about it for a bit, and then nodded as his pupils revealed his amazement: "That's right. On our chest, there is in fact, a scar about an inch long that was also indeed left behind three years ago... How did you know that we have this scar on our body?"

Seeing Cang Wanhe nod, Yun Che's expression became ugly.

Yun Che's facial expression immediately caused Lan Xueruo to worry. She nervously asked, "Junior brother Yun, how is my father's condition? Did you find something out?"

"Phew..." Yun Che let out a long breath as his face became serious, "What your majesty has, is in fact, not an illness, nor poison. But it is also not the damaging of your life veins that Gu Qihong had said... Rather, someone implanted a parasite in you!!"

"Ah? Parasite?" Lan Xueruo's fragrant lips opened wide as shock spread across her face.

"Oh? How did you determine this?" Cang Wanhe was still, nevertheless, calm and indifferent. It was very clear that he didn't believe Yun Che's words; this was not because he did not trust Yun Che, but because he trusted Gu Qihong even more. In these past three years, his body's condition remained stable under Gu Qihong's care. Moreover, one's name shook the entire Blue Wind Empire as the number one doctor and one was a mere seventeen year old youngster. No matter who it was, they could not believe the

words of a youngster and question a person who possessed a century of fame as the number one genius doctor.

Yun Che wrinkled his brows, "This type of parasite is called the 'Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite'. This parasite is planted inside the body and relies on the heart's blood to mature. After maturing, it lives near the heart's veins and lives by consuming a person's vitality. This type of parasite is very small, but it requires an incomparable amount of vitality to grow; nearly half of the hosts' vitality could be consumed by it. The reason why Your Majesty's health had been weak beyond compare these few years while also aging at an extreme pace, is because an entire half of your vitality had been swallowed by this 'Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite'."

Cang Wanhe's expression was as calm as before. Then, he revealed a trace of suspicion, "If it is truly as you say, then there is no way this formidable parasite that had been implanted in our body gone undiscovered by Gu Qihong, whose medical expertise had been the absolute best since long ago. It would be possible if you were to say that he wasn't able to discover it in the first treatment, but in these three years, Gu Qihong has been treating us for several dozens of times. It is extremely unlikely that he was unable to discover it every single time. Yun Che, could it be that you have misunderstood something somewhere?"

"Impossible!" Yun Che shook his head without the slightest hesitation. "Absolutely impossible. I knew that Your Majesty would certainly not believe me, so please allow me a chance to prove it to Your Majesty... Allow me to cut open that scar on your chest. I will reveal the parasite in front of Your Majesty's eyes."

Cang Wanhe immediately wrinkled his eyebrows. How noble was his imperial body? How could he let a little youngster cut open his body? Before he said anything, Lan Xueruo had already opened her mouth, "Father, I believe Junior Yun, and I even more so, believe in his character. He would never do anything that would harm Father's body. Father's illness has never changed for the better from the start; even Master Gu could not do anything. Even if Junior brother Yun is unable to produce a favorable change, it would at least, not bring about any harm.

Something like making cuts on the emperor's body, was naturally not a small matter. But Lan Xueruo still persuaded Cang Wanhe without hesitation. On one hand, she hoped that something would take a turn for the better. On the other hand, she had an extremely deep trust in Yun Che. As soon as she opened her mouth, the words Cang Wanhe originally wanted to say were swallowed down. He slowly nodded his head, "Alright then... Even if you cut open this wound in vain, you do not need to be nervous and blame yourself for it."

Yun Che nodded and did not speak anymore. He pulled apart the clothes around Cang Wanhe's chest. On the area near his heart, there was indeed an inch long scar. Such a long time had passed, so this scar had already become very light. However, it could still be clearly seen.

Yun Che extended his finger forward and profound energy rush towards his fingertips. Just as he was preparing to cut towards Cang Wanhe's chest, his movement slightly slowed down, because just a moment ago, he felt a profound energy firmly lock on his own. This profound energy was hidden extremely well; normal people would definitely find it hard to discover, but how sharp was Yun Che's

perception? Not only that, he also sensed that this profound energy came with an incomparably terrifying piece of information; the strength was of, at least the Sky Profound Realm!

After the instant of astonishment, Yun Che immediately calmed down. How the emperor not have top experts protecting him at his side? But he was not trying to harm this emperor, so he didn't have the slightest fear of the consequences. As his finger lightly cut Cang Wanghe's chest, it directly cut the one inch long scar open and drops of blood quickly flowed out. Yun Che's then quickly placed his other hand upon the cut and carefully let his phoenix's flame energy enter. In an instant, he found the place where the "Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite" was hiding.

Parasites naturally fear fire, and the Phoenix Flame just happened to be the king of flames. The frightened "Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite" immediately fled in the opposite direction, away from where the Phoenix Flame was and was slowly lured towards the position of the wound by Yun Che.

"It's coming out." Yun Che opened his eyes and said softly.

After his voice fell, the wound on Cang Wanhe's chest suddenly started abnormally wiggle. Afterwards, a slender, completely golden parasitic worm about half an inch long, stretched out half of its body and violently wriggled.

"Ah!!!"

Lan Xueruo was so frightened that she cried out in fear. Her rosy face lost all its color. Even the emperor, Cang Wanhe, was struck dumb as his entire body stiffened...

"Don't move!!" Yun Che roared out, putting a stop to all of the possible movements from Lan Xueruo, Cang Wanhe and the secret person. He quickly lifting his left hand and used the phoenix flame to force the gold colored parasite to quickly return back into Cang Wanhe's veins. Then, he released his profound energy, sealed Cang Wanhe's wound, and staunched the bleeding.

"Our... Our body actually had something like that inside of it!" Cang Wanhe seemed as if he had already calmed down, but his stiff body showed that he was still in the frightened state he was in before.

"Junior brother Yun... why didn't you take that... that parasite from before out, instead letting it return back into Father's body? It... It had already been clearly, drawn out by you." Lan Xueruo's small face was completely white. Girls usually had a natural fear for these types of unusual insects; what's more, it was still in Cang Wanhe's body.

Yun Che shook his head and replied: "It's not that I don't want to take it out, but that it is simply impossible. If this were any other type of parasite, regardless of whether it was even more terrifying, as long as its location is found, it is possible to find a method to lure it out or directly kill it. But this type of parasite... it is called the 'Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite' because not only does it swallow a large amount of the hosts' vitality, after this parasite drinks the blood of its host, it turns the host's life into its own, and thus shares life and death with its host. In other words, the Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite within Your Majesty's body, is sharing a life with your majesty! If Your Majesty were to die, it would die. Conversely, if it were to die, Your Majesty would also die!"

"Ah!!!" Lan Xueruo widened her beautiful eyes as they trembled dramatically.

“Wh... What? In this world, there actually exists this type of sinister creature!” Cang Wanhe also had a face full of fear.

Yun Che continued to speak, “It also needs to absorb Your Majesty’s vitality to live. If it leaves Your Majesty’s body, it would immediately die. And for its entire life, it can only have one host; even if it was moved to another host’s body, it would still be of no use. So not only should this type of Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite not be removed from Your Majesty’s body, it also needs to be carefully ‘supported’. There is no other choice but to helplessly allow it to swallow the body’s vitality at all times and it mustn’t be allowed to die.”

Yun Che paused as his voice became even more serious, “Senior Sister Xueruo, Your Majesty, my following words, will be a bit cruel... The lifespan of a parasitic worm isn’t too long. According to what I know, this Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite’s life expectancy is five years. And the time it has been in Your Majesty’s body, already exceeds three years. After two more years, this Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite will die. In other words... Your Majesty’s remaining life span, is at most, two more years.”

“How could it be like this... How could it be like this...” Lan Xueruo covered her lips and soundlessly sobbed.

Cang Wanhe gasped in a large breath of air. The parasite within his body and Yun Che’s words, undoubtedly threw his mind into complete disarray, so much that it also seized him with terror. He spoke in a deep voice: “Who could it be... Who infected us with such a malicious parasite! We will definitely find him... and dismembering his body into ten thousand pieces! !”

Yun Che’s vision fell on Cang Wanhe and said, “If Your Majesty wants to know who implanted the parasite, you can actually find that out right away.”

Cang Wanhe’s body jolted. He immediately asked, “Yun Che, could it be that you know who implanted the parasite?”

“I, do not know, but your majesty definitely knows.” Yun Che calmly said, “This type of ‘Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite’ can only be planted inside the body, and it must soak in the host’s heart’s blood to grow. A person’s heart blood, also happens to exist near the area of the heart. So if a person wanted to implant a parasite into a body, then he would need to make an incision near his heart and release the parasite into the cut. The parasite would be unable to grow if it went into one’s food or entered the body through drink; putting it in the blood anywhere else also has the same result. All Your Majesty needs to do is remember who made the incision on your chest and left the scar three years ago. Then, you will know who implanted the parasite in you.”

As soon as Yun Che’s words came out, Cang Wanhe and Lan Xueruo’s expressions went completely blank.

“Im... Impossible! It can’t be Master Gu who implanted the parasite. Master Gu has put his heart into taking care of Father these years; his relationship with the Imperial Family has always been very good... It can’t be him! He simply has no reason to harm my father.” Lan Xueruo’s face was overwhelmed with shock... She knew the person who made the cut on her father’s chest three years ago; it was the Medical Saint, Gu Qihong. That time, Cang Wanhe had a serious cold. Gu Qihong claimed that the cold was too serious and he needed to bleed some of the cold blood from his chest...

But since she was young, she deeply respected, revered and was grateful to this Medical Saint. She was momentarily unable to make the connection between him and an evil person who would infect someone with a parasite.

### **Chapter 160 - The Four Great Sacred Grounds of Legends**

“Gu Qihong?” Lan Xueruo’s words caused Yun Che to be shocked for a while, and he fell into deep thought afterwards. Someone who was permitted to make a cut on Cang Wanhe’s body, moreover on the location of his heart, must be someone he trusts very much or was extremely intimate with. Yun Che had originally thought it would be the crown prince or the third prince, or other princes; he hadn’t expected that the person Lan Xueruo called out would be Gu Qihong.

But according to what Lan Xueruo said, Gu Qihong didn’t seem to have any reason to deliberately plan to harm Cang Wanhe. Unless...

“Yun Che...” Cang Wanhe’s expression was incomparably complicated; he asked with some difficulty: “This type of parasite that exists in the heart’s vessels, is it extremely difficult to be discovered?”

Yun Che understood why he would ask such a question, and answered straightforwardly, “Ordinary doctors, especially those who haven’t studied parasitic poisons and parasitic bugs, do in fact have a hard time discovering its existence. However, if Gu Qihong’s medical expertise is as excellent as the rumors say, it is impossible for him to not have discovered the ‘Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite’s existence. Naturally, if he was the one who implanted the parasite... He obviously would not ‘discover’ it.”

“I see...” Cang Wanhe’s heavily breathed out a turbid breath. With his body leaning on the bed, his complexion was pale, as if he had suddenly become much older. “Yue’er, there is no mistake; all the facts testifies that the person who implanted the parasite was Gu Qihong. This scar on my chest, was precisely left by him three years ago. It was also after that day, that I was bedridden with a serious illness for three years. Yun Che already forced the parasite out for us to see; it truly exists, this is the truest of facts, and everything else... is all fake.”

At this moment, he felt that he didn’t deserve to be the Emperor. In these three years, he actually had always relied on, and even respected the person who was poisoning him. Thinking back on it now, he, who was the revered Blue Wind Emperor, was virtually being toyed around in their palms like a fool... It really was stupid to the point of being extremely laughable.

“But, why would Master Gu do this? Our imperial family has always been on good terms with him; even Father deeply respects him. So why would he do such a thing?” Lan Xueruo still had a hard time accepting it, and she tightly bit her lips together.

“Perhaps he doesn’t have a direct reason, but he definitely has an indirect reason. For example, he could have made some sort of deal with those unfilial sons Cang Lin and Cang Shuo... It also could possibly involve the Xiao Sect or the Burning Heaven Clan. Moreover.... Yue’er, you are too pure and kind in nature; you had always respected Gu Qihong, so much that you viewed him as a saint. But when We had associated with him in my early years, I had already discovered that his nature was not as virtuous and harmless as he seemed on the surface. On the contrary, there are times that he would secretly do despicable acts. But the excellence of his medical expertise was unquestionable, so We had always tried to be on good terms with him. But the people who want to be on good terms with him are too many;

compared with those enormous sects, our title of emperor, perhaps cannot be considered very much at all.”

Cang Wanhe shook his head, revealing a sorrowful expression on his face. Even though he was the Emperor, he was actually devastated to this extent in secret; bedridden for an entire three years while facing difficulties in his bedchamber, he was virtually not too far off from a dead person. And if he hadn't "fallen ill", how would Cang Lin and Cang Shuo dare to act recklessly; they more so, would not have had the opportunity to lead the wolf into the house.

“Yun Che, thank you. If not for you, perhaps even until We died, We still would not have known why We died; at the end of my life, perhaps We would even be grateful to the one who harmed us in our ignorance.” Cang Wanhe self mockingly laughed, “I actually doubted your medical expertise earlier, I am honestly ashamed.”

“Please don't say such things, Your Majesty.” Yun Che promptly waved his hand, “Your Majesty, about this matter of you being infected with the parasite, I have a suspicion, and I wish Your Majesty would give me an answer. Of course, if this matter involves the imperial family's secrets, then Your Majesty obviously does not have to answer me.”

“Go ahead and ask. We are already a lingering life. My final wishes, are all on Yue'er. You are Yue'er's most trusted person, so towards you, We also have no secrets.” Cang Wanhe's eyes were closed. His complexion was tranquil without any turbulence.

Yun Che was moved... These words coming from an emperor's mouth, one can imagine the weight. These few sentences projected the gloom in his heart, and more so contained his pampering and love for Lan Xueruo. After being bedridden for three years, he finally saw what the most valuable treasure he had always possessed in his entire life was... Not the seat of emperor, not his beloved subjects and seven sons, but his only daughter.

Yun Che said slowly: “According to what I know, this Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite is extremely difficult to raise. Not only is the parasite's origin hard to find even if one had an immense amount of money, in the process of raising it, only one in a thousand would succeed; all of the others would die. Thus, obtaining a single Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite would require enormous time and money. And once this Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite entered the body, it would be extremely difficult to discover. The victim's body would weaken, deteriorate very quickly, and will certainly die within five years. The Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite would also simultaneously die with the host, become a pool of watery blood in the person's body, and not leave behind any trace of its existence. And so, this type of parasite is normally used to secretly kill someone without leaving a trace. It would make others unable to realize how they really died, and believe that it was due to an illness.”

“But rumors say that the Crown Prince and the Third Prince are both anxiously fighting over the throne, while the Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan secretly fueled the fire. Gu Qihong implanting the parasite in your body, definitely has something to do with them. But since they urgently wished for Your Majesty to pass away, why do they not use faster methods such as assassination or poison, and instead used this kind of method that was not only troublesome, but would also take a long time to kill? If Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan really had this kind of ambition, then secretly assassinating or poisoning the emperor should be more rational. The only explanation I can think of... Is that behind the emperor,

there is something that even the Xiao Sect and Burning Heaven Clan are afraid of, making them afraid to leave behind any traces?”

Cang Wanhe already knew what Yun Che wanted to ask halfway through his speech. After Yun Che finished speaking, he slowly nodded. Not wanting to hide anything from Yun Che, he softly replied, “Because of the Heavenly Sword Villa.”

“Heavenly Sword Villa?”

“The Blue Wind Imperial Family and the Heavenly Sword Villa were established on the same day of the same year. Our ancestor and the founder of the Heavenly Sword Villa were like blood brothers with different surnames. After the Blue Wind Imperial Family came into power, they had continuously promoted the Heavenly Sword Villa with all of its efforts; straight until it became Blue Wind Empire’s number one sect. And the Heavenly Sword Villa, has always existed as the guardians of the imperial family. Although through the passage of time, the relationship between the imperial family and Heavenly Sword Villa has gradually become distant, some agreements, have never been broken. They will not get involved with movements within the Imperial Family, but if an external force threatened the Imperial Family, they will step in. Also, if We were to die from assassination or poison, they will definitely mobilize and investigate it thoroughly to the end.”

“... But Xiao Sect, Burning Heaven Clan and Heavenly Sword Villa have been called the Four Major Sects, why would they be so afraid of the Heavenly Sword Villa?” Yun Che asked, in a somewhat confused way.

Cang Wanhe slightly shook his head, “Perhaps you didn’t know of this. Even though they have been named the Four Major Sects, in theory, the combined strength of Frozen Cloud Asgard, Xiao Sect and the Burning Heaven Clan cannot compare to the Heavenly Sword Villa. Although the Heavenly Sword Villa is jointly named with them, its level actually completely surpasses theirs. Moreover, the Heavenly Sword Villa’s background, would cause the other three great sects to tremble with fear.”

“Background? The Heavenly Sword Villa still has a background?” Yun Che was startled once again. Heavenly Sword Villa was already Blue Wind Empire’s number one sect and was already at the top. They actually still had something behind them?

“Have you heard of the ‘Four Great Sacred Grounds’ of the Profound Sky Continent?” Cang Wanhe asked.

“Four Great Sacred Grounds... I seem to remember Grandfather mentioning it...” Yun Che thought about it for a while and suddenly asked, “but, aren’t the Four Great Sacred Grounds things of legends? Could it be that they actually exist?”

“Haha, if we talk about levels, the Four Great Sacred Grounds are indeed legends, so much so that their existence is like myth. Even We, do not qualify to approach that level, or even have the qualifications of hoping for it. Our Blue Wind Empire’s Four Major Sects, in front of the Four Great Sacred Grounds, are like ants. If the Four Great Sacred Grounds are willing, destroying the Profound Sky Continent’s seven empires would be be no obstacle.”

“There’s still actually... this sort of existence.” Yun Che’s was stunned, “Could it be, the Heavenly Sword Villa’s background is one of the Four Great Sacred Grounds?”

“Right.” Cang Wanhe slowly nodded, “Absolutely Monarch Sanctuary, the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, Sun Moon Divine Hall, and the Supreme Ocean Palace... these are the names of the Profound Sky’s Four Great Sacred Grounds. Because they exist for their duty of ‘guardian’, they will never participate or meddle in the internal struggles of the seven empires. As for the Heavenly Sword Villa, they have a relationship with the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region of the Four Great Sacred Grounds because the founder of the Heavenly Sword Villa, was also the oldest son of a certain senior practitioner of the Sovereign Profound Realm. But because his aptitude was too poor, he had no qualifications to stay in the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. As a result, he was expelled, and later on established the Heavenly Sword Villa on this piece of land. The sword arts that the Heaven Sword Villa uses, also possesses a shadow of the ‘Mighty Heavenly Sword Arts’.”

A disciple abandoned by the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, would unexpectedly establish Blue Wind Empire’s number one sect. The Four Great Sacred Grounds terror, was simply unimaginable.

“Because of the ancestor’s relationship, every three years, the Heavenly Sword Villa would send offerings to the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. At first, the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region didn’t pay any heed, but afterwards they finally accepted them; thus, establishing a connection between the Heavenly Sword Villa and the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. Although this relationship was very weak and superficial, it was still the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. Even if it was only a sliver, no one dared bully the Heavenly Sword Villa, nor would they dare to provoke them. We have also heard, that the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region secretly imprisoned an extremely important ‘Demon’ within the Heavenly Sword Villa a hundred years ago. It is clear that they value the Heavenly Sword Villa with a certain amount of importance.”

“Blue Wind Empire’s many sects are always fighting all year round whether openly or secretly, but never has there been a Sect that thought about touching the Heavenly Sword Villa’s title of the number one sect. They want us to die, yet they have no choice but to worry about the Heavenly Sword Villa. So using this type of method that won’t leave behind any clues, is in fact, only natural.”

After Cang Wanhe finished speaking, he let out loose a long sigh as exhaustion spread across his entire face.

Yun Che didn’t speak for a long time, and silently digested Cang Wanhe’s words.

The anxious Lan Xueruo did not listen to much of the words between them and they weren’t what she was the most concerned about. She tugged on Yun Che’s sleeve and nervously asked: “Junior brother Yun, you still haven’t told us... Since you know this type of parasite, then is there any way to remove this type of parasite?”

Yun Che continued being silent for a while and then slightly nodded afterwards, “There is.”

“Ah—” Lan Xueruo’s pleasantly surprised voice cried out softly as her pair of beautiful eyes momentarily became incomparably bright. Cang Wanhe also opened his eyes all of a sudden; a luster of hope was revealed in his gloomy gaze, “Yun Che, was what you said... true? This parasite is not unremovable?”

“All living things form a balance, everything has something that subdues it. This world, does not have parasites that cannot be removed. Only, to remove this Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite, if one were

to say it's easy, it is extremely easy; if one were to consider it difficult.... It is also as difficult as climbing up to the blue sky." Yun Che calmly stated.

"Then how exactly can it be removed?" Lan Xueruo tightly grasped Yun Che's arm as her complexion flushed from excitement, "As long as it can save father, no matter how hard it is, I will definitely still do it."

"Burning Soul Flower." Yun Che looked at Lan Xueruo and softly said this name, "Only a Burning Soul Flower's petal is necessary for me to remove the Soul Devouring Life Binding Parasite from His Majesty's body. Only, this Burning Soul Flower... is extremely rare."