

The Gods 1531

Chapter 1531 - Dark Dragon Soul

Bang... It was at this moment that the layer of ice sealing Yun Che completely disintegrated.

The power of the Dragon Monarch had been far too horrific. Even though it was only the excess energy from that attack, it had still directly destroyed the protection that Mu Xuanyin had given to Yun Che with her last remaining bit of strength...

Blood gushed from every part of Yun Che's body. In that instant, he felt as if his body had been torn into countless pieces, but the intense pain that wracked his entire body told him that he was still alive in an incomparably clear manner.

With a slowly-fading ice aura and broken layers of ice, she still fought to protect his life.

Her snowy robes were dyed bright red and that fantastical ice blue hair was swiftly losing its icy glow, turning black bit by bit. She was like a broken winged butterfly in the icy air, falling into a dark abyss which light never visited.

"Master——"

Yun Che let out a blood-filled cry as he rushed forward in a frenzied manner... Even though his entire body had been heavily injured, his Heretic God Gates instantly opened up to the "Hell Monarch" gate, his speed surpassing his previous limits...

After the Dragon Monarch, the Southern Sea God Emperor, God Emperor Shitian, four of the Guardians, and three of the Brahma Kings arrived one after the other. Zhou Xuzi and Qianye Fantian had also returned at this point. After receiving the scare of nearly letting Yun Che get away in that instant, every single one of them no longer dared to hesitate. Even though they were facing the Mu Xuanyin who had clearly been fatally wounded by the Dragon Monarch's palm, they still attacked together as they desired to shove her and Yun Che into the realm of death. They did not want to give any leeway or chance to escape.

Four god emperors and seven high level Divine Masters attacked simultaneously. This was a power so terrifying that it was enough to obliterate a small star region.

Looks of astonishment appeared on the Divine Masters behind them as profound energy started surging through their bodies as they protected themselves.

In front of such a mighty force, Mu Xuanyin, whose profound light had been completely extinguished, and Yun Che, who was rushing towards her, seemed as insignificant and tiny as grains of sand...

"Uu...aaaaghh!"

This roar was incomparably hoarse and pain-filled, and it sounded like it had come from a despairing beast. The moment they made their attack, Yun Che finally managed to touch Mu Xuanyin's body with one hand, while his other hand grasped onto an icy blue light...

The Snow Princess Sword, Mu Xuanyin's beloved sword that she was never without.

He cradled Mu Xuanyin in her arms and hugged her tightly, as if he was embracing the entire universe... It was just that this universe was so cold that it pierced the heart. He suddenly thrust out the Snow Princess Sword in his hand, his vital energy being spent at an incredible rate, drawing a gigantic ice blue arc of light in the air.

This spreading arc of light was the most powerful performance of a technique in his entire life...

Moon Star Restoration!

In that instant, in the space in front of him... that vast emptiness that was being enveloped by the power of those god emperors and Divine Masters, the laws completely reversed.

Immediately, the attacks that the four god emperors and seven Divine Masters had made with all of their might fiercely rebounded against them, it was as if their attacks were beams of light that had come into contact with a reflective barrier. The spreading profound light completely engulfed all of the space behind them in the next instant.

Hhhrrummm—

No one could have foreseen the events abruptly unfolding in front of them which completely defied all logic and common sense, so it was even less likely that they would have guarded against it. As that earth-shaking explosion shook the air, the four god emperors and the seven Divine Masters who had just made their attacks were blasted away in an instant. This included even the Dragon Monarch himself.

The one who had been especially affected was the Eternal Heaven God Emperor who had already been hurt by Mu Xuanyin's slash. An arrow of blood that was more than thirty meters long wildly spewed from his mouth and his body tumbled in the air as he was sent flying.

In the area behind them, the other god emperors and higher realm kings who had simply been watching from the sidelines were instantly engulfed by that calamitous power which incited cries of fear and wails of misery to echo underneath that apocalyptic profound light.

To be able to become the realm kings of upper star realms, every single one of them had to possess strength that stood at the pinnacle of this universe. However, the combined power that came from four god emperors and seven Divine Masters was extremely hard for even people like them to endure and many of them suffered serious injuries in that instant.

The explosive rumbling in his ears suppressed all the sound in the world, but not a single ripple entered Yun Che's world. He hugged Mu Xuanyin's body...

Her icy aura had clearly completely faded away and even her icy hair had lost its surreal and fantastical icy blue tint, but why did her arms still feel as cold as ever?

"Mas... ter..."

His voice trembled with such intensity but it did not match how violently his own body was trembling... As she lay in his arms, her skin was as translucent and lustrous as pearl. Her jade face was still so perfectly beautiful and flawless, but it no longer contained even the slightest hint of its previous

imperious might. In fact, the expression on her face looked so sad and beautiful that it could shatter a person's heart and soul.

Mu Xuanyin's eyelashes gently fluttered, as if they were a pair of butterfly wings caught in the wind. It was just that her eyes no longer contained that frightful icy light. Instead, they looked dim and vacant. That hand which was even more lustrously white than snow slowly rose to touch Yun Che's cheek.

Startling trails of blood dripped down her arm, staining the Void Illusion Stone that had already been dyed the color of blood.

"Live... on..."

Her voice was as faint and wispy as mist in a dream and those two short words used up the very last bit of icy light that remained in her eyes. The hand that had just touched Yun Che's cheek fell limply... as it brought along the Void Illusion Stone with it.

She had wanted to see Yun Che's face clearly, had wanted to tell him that she did not want to them to be student and teacher again in their next lives... However, fate was not even willing to grant her very last wish.

Cra...

Crack...

Crack...

Even though his teeth were cracking, one after the other, Yun Che did not feel any pain. He bent down and tightly hugged Mu Xuanyin's completely lifeless body as his heart was being shredded apart by the cruelest and most wicked knives in the world over and over again...

His eyes lost all their color and only a terrifying gloomy blackness remained in them. However, the tears were flowing from his eyes like water from a broken dam as they poured down his face. He was unable to stop them.

He had personally witnessed the Blue Pole Star being reduced to dust, causing him to lose all of his family... but he had not cried because that had been a sort of tearless despair. It had been like a nightmare that was far too cruel, an event so dark and dim that it felt like an illusion.

However, Mu Xuanyin's life had slowly ebbed away in his arms... making it so that even his desire to treat it as an illusory nightmare was nothing but an extravagant wish.

"Ah, ah... Ah... Wuuu... Wuuuu..." Those low and deep sobs were filled with boundless pain and sorrow, like a wild dog who had broken bones all over its body.

The last time he had cried uncontrollably was when he had found Chu Yuechan and Yun Wuxin once more... On that day, it was the first time that he had truly felt grateful to the heavens, the first time that he truly appreciated the beauty of this world. In fact, all of the wickedness and hardship in the world seemed so small and insignificant to him on that day.

But this time, his tears told him just how cold and merciless this world was, just how sorrowful and cruel fate could be...

The blood-stained Void Illusion Stone had fallen into his palm and he was tightly clutching it... This was the only ray of hope left to him. He had wanted to leave it to Mu Xuanyin, but she had stubbornly given it back to him.

“Live... on...” Those were her last words, her last wish.

In the distant space, the profound light had finally dissipated. Every single one of the gathered god emperors and Divine Masters looked battered and disheveled, to the point where all of them had been in a state of shock for a period of time.

Even given the knowledge and experience they had built up in their lives, they were still completely befuddled by what had just happened.

But in that instant, Xia Qingyue swiftly sent a sound transmission to Yue Wuji. “Restrain him!”

Riiiiip!

When everyone else was still floundering about, flowing golden light abruptly swept over Yue Wuji as his body cut through space and shot towards Yun Che.

Yun Che bowed his head and hugged Mu Xuanyin. He did not move an inch and his body was like an empty shell which had lost its soul... But just as Yue Wuji neared him, he suddenly saw Yun Che slowly raise his head to look at him.

“!?” That was a pair of incredibly gloomy and vacant eyes and the moment their gazes met, Yue Wuji actually felt as if he was staring into a bottomless abyss, an abyss that could devour everything. Every single nerve in his body, every single part of his soul uncontrollably tensed up all of a sudden and his body even slowed down a little because it.

In the next instant, a blue light suddenly exploded in the space above Yun Che.

ROOOOOOAAAAR—————

A despairing dragon’s cry resounded in every inch of space, completely pervading the souls of everyone who heard it.

Yue Wuji’s vision blacked out for a moment as his body was sent cartwheeling through the air dozens of times before he finally forced his body to stop... His eyes beheld the gigantic image of a dragon that was raising its head towards the heavens and bellowing. The dragon’s body was as azure as a blue sky, but a gloomy black light radiated from that pair of dragon eyes and it was accompanied by an incomparably terrifying draconic might.

Under this draconic might, Yue Wuji... the Moon God Realm’s number one Moon God, who was only inferior to the Moon God Emperor herself, could clearly feel a dark and cold fear spread throughout his entire body, and this fear actually made him not dare to take a single step forward for a period of time.

“...” The Dragon Monarch’s body was rooted in place and as he stared at the distant image of the dragon god with pitch-black dragon eyes, the pupils of his own eyes were silently quivering.

The two dots of pitch-black light which shone from those dragon eyes seemed to pervade every corner of this world. It swept past everyone's faces, everyone's bodies, everyone's auras and souls, firmly carving the special characteristics of everyone present into the deepest part of its soul...

Never to be erased.

Bang!

With a very soft ringing sound, that Void Illusion Stone which Caiyi had "exchanged" with Wu Guike back then, the Void Illusion Stone which she had then casually tossed to Yun Che, was shattered to pieces in his hand. It released an invisible spatial divine power which whisked both Yun Che and Mu Xuanyin away from that place.

It was only when they stared at the suddenly empty space in front of them that everyone seemed to awaken from a dream.

"Oh no!!!"

BOOOOM!!

As energy explosions wildly rang in the air, many figures dashed towards the spot where Yun Che had previously been with extreme speed. But they could not find any trace of him or spatial residue left behind by the Void Illusion Stone.

Crack, crack, crack!

Qianye Fantian clenched his hands so tightly that his knuckles popped as he growled through gritted teeth, "We actually let him get away again... That damned Snow Song Realm King!"

Thirteen god emperors had been gathered here today, and Yun Che had appeared as well, but they let him escape once more! This was practically the biggest and most absurd joke in the universe! In fact, even if one of them spoke about it, no one would believe them.

Not only had Yun Che gotten away, the Blue Pole Star had been destroyed as well! He had come here specially for this, but it had actually all been for nothing. He had not gained a single thing!

"Keh... Keh keh..." The Eternal Heaven God Emperor clutched a hand to his chest and it was clear that his wounds were not light. He gave a heavy sigh before saying, "Both times he escaped, it was because of a Void Illusion Stone. A spatial divine artifact of this level is too hard to preempt... However, it isn't possible that he has a third one."

As he thought of those pitch black pupils reflected in Yun Che's eyes when he escaped and those dark dragon eyes which caused even his heart palpitate for an instant... his chest violently heaved and he said in a deep voice, "Reissue this command, we must kill him at all costs... Given his strength, he is definitely on his last legs."

"Hah. To think that a woman who possessed the power of a god emperor would be willing to sacrifice her life for a devil that is only thirty years of age... What a joke this is!" the Southern Sea God Emperor said in a low voice.

“Hmph! There were so many of us, but we couldn’t keep that weak devil from escaping! That’s the real joke! It’s simply the biggest joke in the history of the God Realm! If it gets out, even this king would feel embarrassed!” Xia Qingyue said icily.

She turned around and said in a cold voice, “Wuji, let’s return to our realm.”

“OH, that’s right.” She suddenly turned around, her cold and imperious voice ringing in everybody’s ears. “The Snow Song Realm King used her own life to protect the devil, so her crimes extend beyond her death. However, her guilt in this matter does not extend to the tiny Snow Song Realm. This king owes a debt of gratitude to the Snow Song Realm, so if anyone dares to harm the Snow Song Realm over this matter, don’t blame this king for being impolite!”

Each word resounded with a heavenly might and they left no room for doubt.

Given the mercilessness and extreme cruelty she had displayed today, no one would dare to touch her bottomline.

Once she had finished speaking, she left in a cold and indifferent manner... as she also brought the Vanishing Moon Celestial Palace she had forcefully taken back from Yun Che along with her.

Chapter 1532 - All Thoughts to the Devil

The order to pursue and kill Yun Che once again rang throughout the Eastern Divine Region with utmost urgency and it swiftly spread to the Western Divine Region and Southern Divine Region afterwards.

Now, there was no one in the three divine regions who was still unaware that Yun Che had become a devil and had committed heinous and unforgivable crimes. Furthermore, since he possessed the Heretic God’s divine power, if they did not kill him as soon as possible, he would definitely become a colossal threat in the future.

The far too violent upheaval during this period seemed to be telling everyone in the God Realm that exterminating the devil Yun Che was now everyone’s top priority, a matter that surpassed everything else in importance.

As for what sort of grave and heinous crimes he had actually committed... They were barely mentioned by any of the king realms.

As for the news of the Devil Emperor returning and Yun Che saving the world, not a single word of it was released... Not a single word.

This was limited to the king realms. After they had witnessed the stance assumed by the king realms, the upper star realms who knew the truth all obediently chose to remain silent without even needing a reminder.

Because right now, the ones who could decide one’s fate were no longer Jie Yuan and Yun Che, but the king realms!

Furthermore, amongst all the king realms, the one who was most fervent in its pursuit of Yun Che was the Eternal Heaven God Realm. In the short span of a single day, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor had personally issued six Voices of Eternal Heaven... He had lost a large quantity of his blood essence during his attempt to destroy the crimson passage, he had lost half a hand when battling Mu Xuanyin and after

that, he had been heavily injured by Yun Che's Moon Star Restoration. But he did not seem to have any intention of getting his injuries treated. Not only did he personally give those orders and make the appropriate arrangements, he also personally rushed to any scene where they found even the faintest of clues or traces of Yun Che's whereabouts... It was as if he needed to personally witness Yun Che's death before he could finally feel at ease.

The rewards that he was offering up were also exceptionally extravagant. People who provided information were rewarded with a large amount of divine crystals and anyone who assisted in or performed the act of capturing or killing Yun Che would forever be recognized as disciples of the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

No matter how ordinary one's background was or how lowly one's status was, if they were able to help capture or kill Yun Che, they would become a member of a king realm overnight.

This enticement was undoubtedly as great as the heavens themselves, and it caused countless profound practitioners to go into a frenzy... This was especially true for the profound practitioners belonging to lower or middle star realms. They crazily searched all over the place as they were driven by the beautiful dream of being able to enter a king realm in the span of a single day.

They had practically completely forgotten that... Yun Che, who had placed first in the Conferred God Battle during the Profound God Convention, had once been the pride and joy of all of these lower and middle star realms.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor's efforts and determination to kill Yun Che were so resolute and decisive that it shocked everyone who heard of them.

However, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor never revealed that dreadful prophecy to anyone else and he also forbade the Heavenly Mystery Three Elders from announcing it to the public.

Kill Yun Che... For a very long time following this event, these were the three words that would ring out in the God Realm the most.

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In the distant east, on a barren and nearly lifeless lower realm planet.

A man sat curled up on the cracked and withered ground. His white robes were stained with blood and even though the blood had dried long ago, he did not notice... He tightly hugged a woman who was wearing snowy robes in his arms. But the Ice Phoenix sigil that represented the most exalted status within the Snow Song Realm had already been completely dyed in blood.

He tightly hugged the woman. His eyes were vacant and he did not move an inch. He resembled a lifeless statue, a bleak and sorrowful painting.

This world was desolate and silent, so no one would disturb them. Time silently flowed by and he did not know how much time had passed. Perhaps it had been a few hours, a few days, or perhaps it had been a few years...

This was until a dry wind started blowing, covering this bleak painting in layers and layers of sand and dust.

He Ling appeared and gently knelt beside Yun Che. She stretched out a hand, but the moment she was about to touch the corner of his robe, she slowly pulled it back instead.

She had clearly witnessed everything that had happened over the last few days. He had been a hero who had saved the world, a god child feted by the entire universe. But the moment he had finished saving the world, all of this was taken from him in the span of a single night and he had even become a devil who was being chased by the entire universe.

How ironic. How woeful.

She was the person who was closest to Yun Che's soul and the pain, melancholy, and despair he felt... Even touching a tiny bit of it was enough to cause her excruciating pain, pain which made her feel like her soul was being ripped apart.

In the Wood Spirit's world, this universe had always been cruel.

This was especially true for He Ling... Her parents and her kinsmen had all died one by one due to the greed of the other races. Even her very last family member, He Lin, who had held the last hopes of her race, had also eternally departed from this universe and she had not even been able to see him one last time.

She had originally thought that there was nothing in the world that could be crueller or more despairing than this. But...

"Master," she softly said, "let your master properly rest."

"..." Yun Che did not give any response.

He Ling did not say anything after that. She merely sat quietly by his side.

Back then, Shen Xi had told her that Yun Che was a very special person more than once. If another profound practitioner possessed Yun Che's innate talent and good fortune, it definitely would have birthed ambition and a thirst for power in their heart that would have only gotten stronger. But he did not possess those things. Instead, what she had sensed the most from him during his stay in the Forbidden Land of Samsara were cares and concerns.

He valued relationships more than he valued the pursuit of power or the profound way... and the value that he had placed on relationships was far higher than the value he had placed on the latter two.

Even though he had become famous throughout the entire God Realm, he did not have a single thought of abandoning the lower realms and he had even turned away from all of the carrots dangled in front of him by the king realms... Because his family was in the lower realms, he would not stay in the God Realm.

Moreover, even his motive for coming to the God Realm had not been to pursue a higher level. It had merely been for the sake of finding a person he cared about.

Yes, even after he had become the God Child Messiah and he could speak with all the great god emperors as an equal, the most important things to him were still his family, his wives, his daughter, and his lovers...

But it was also due to this reason that the Heavenly Slaughter Star God had become the Evil Infant because of him, and was also willing to depart to the lower realms together with him forever. This was also the reason why Mu Xuanyin was willing to abandon the Snow Song Realm and sacrifice her life for him...

However, this was not the repayment that he had wanted...

As someone whose life had been tied to Yun Che for the last few years, the Yun Che that He Ling had observed was exactly as Shen Xi had described.

Yet these things that were the most important to him in his life had all been lost...

Everything...

Splash...

An ice cold droplet of water fell and landed on He Ling's face, causing her to raise her head to look at the sky which had quietly dimmed at some point in time.

As more water droplets started falling, it suddenly started raining in this world which was normally dry and cracked. Furthermore, this rain was growing heavier and heavier, and it turned into a downpour in the blink of an eye.

The violent rain drenched the woman's snowy robes and soaked her long hair, hair which no longer possessed any of that icy light... The man still remained completely motionless, as if he was just a shell bereft of a soul and a sense of touch...

"Master," He Ling's sobbing voice rang out amidst the pouring rain. "Your master has actually always been a very vain person, so she's never been willing to let her hair get messy... especially when she was in front of Master. So... so..."

"..." Yun Che's dim and befuddled eyes started to faintly tremble as the hands which tightly grasped Mu Xuanyin started to silently quake. Mu Xuanyin's figure slowly started to appear in those eyes which had lost their color for the longest time.

Even though she was completely bereft of life, she still looked as beautiful as an unblemished goddess in a painting. Anyone who looked at her would have her image engraved into their hearts forever and they would never be able to forget it.

Master...

No, she wasn't his master...

Wasn't the Snow Song Realm King...

It was the person who had kicked him out of the sect, the person who had sacrificed both her life and the Snow Song Realm for his sake... It had been the complete and whole Mu Xuanyin, whose thoughts and intentions were not being influenced by someone else. The Mu Xuanyin who belonged to him alone.

However, why did this beautiful thing only last for such a brief moment? It had been like a brilliant multi-colored bubble that had popped after an instant.

He slowly straightened his body and stood up, his movements incomparably slow and rigid, like a wooden puppet whose strings had been cut.

Profound light briefly flashed before a crystal coffin which shone with a faint luster appeared in front of him... This was the Coffin of Eternity Hong'er had slept in all those years ago.

The rain was growing more and more violent, more and more crazy. Sodden hair blocked his vision and it seemed as if he could not feel the temperature of the rain that was falling on his body. He knelt on the ground and bent his body forward as he very gently and slowly placed Mu Xuanyin's body into the Coffin of Eternity.

His hand trembled as he pressed down on her body and released pale white light profound energy, cleansing her of all bloodstains and dirt while also getting rid of all the rain and dampness on her body and clothes.

When he raised his hand again, the Coffin of Eternity slowly closed up with a gentle ring... Just like Yun Che's sealed off heart and soul.

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"For the sake of the Heavenly Slaughter Star God, even though you were well aware that you would definitely die, even though you were well aware that you could not even save her, you still raced across a great distance to reach the Star God Realm and you used the power that you exchanged your own life for so all those people could die together with you. How awe-inspiring and impressive, how deeply moving!"

"Heh! You died happily and terribly, you died a death that was wrought by deep emotions, you did right by your Heavenly Slaughter Star God! However... do you know how many people have paid the price just to ensure that you lived, how much blood and effort these people extended to preserve your life!? They took great risks and nearly even gambled the future of an entire star realm to give you the opportunity to take refuge in the Dragon God Realm. Yet you still wanted to rush to your own death despite knowing that you were going to die... Have you done right by them!? Have you done right by yourself!? Have you done right by your wives and family members who were waiting for your return in the lower realm!?"

"Besides the Heavenly Slaughter Star God, who else have you ever done right by!?"

"You're not allowed to call me Master!" Mu Xuanyin once again sealed his lips as she shouted, "I took you as my disciple, allowed you to use the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake as you pleased, bestowed upon you the best resources in the entire realm! In order to quickly help you ascend to the Divine Tribulation Realm, I put aside everything related to the sect and personally helped you cultivate, not leaving your side through night and day... But this is how you would repay me!? This is how you would repay the Snow Song Realm!?"

"I, Mu Xuanyin, don't have a foolish disciple like you!"

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That was the harshest rebuke Mu Xuanyin had ever given him. The look in her eyes on that day, her anger and the heavy rebuke that lingered in every word she said were things that Yun Che had not dared to forget.

But why... did you...

As a master, you committed the exact same mistake as your disciple... No, you committed an even sillier and graver mistake...

With another flash of profound light, he sent the Coffin of Eternity into the Primordial Profound Ark, because he knew that Mu Xuanyin loved the color blue the most. Inside the world of the Primordial Profound Ark, she would be able to look at a boundless azure sky... and not the eternal moss green light that irradiated the world of the Sky Poison Pearl.

Mu Xuanyin's existence vanished from his eyes and in that instant, both his eyes and his world suddenly became empty.

He slowly trudged forward as he welcomed the violent rain. His footsteps were stiff and slow, like the steps of an old man who was past his prime. His eyes were so dull and dim that not a trace of light could be seen in them... He did not know where he was, did not know where he should go, or where he could even still go, and he did not know where his future would lead him.

He only knew that he was not allowed to die. Because his life had been bought by Mu Xuanyin's own, because this was her final wish.

But why was living so painful... so filled with despair...

"Master... Master!"

He Ling trailed behind him as she kept crying out to him but she could not provoke a single response from him.

With a small thud, the tip of his foot tripped over a protruding rock, sending him sprawling heavily to the ground.

His arm heavily smashed into the ground in a contorted position, smacking against the hard stone that had swung out on the cord around his neck... It was the Glazed Sound Stone that he always wore and had never been willing to take off.

"Daddy, Wuxin misses you."

The tender and sweet voice of young girl rang out amidst the lashing ice-cold rain.

Yun Che's prostrate body suddenly froze in place. After that, his gloomy eyes and his rigid body started to crazily quiver... and shake...

"Ah... Wuuu..." It was as if someone was tightly gripping his throat as incomparably hoarse and painful noises leaked out from his mouth.

"Wuuu... Uwaaa.... Aahhh... AAAAAAHHHHHH!!!"

He was like an evil spirit whose soul had been completely shattered and broken down. He wailed loudly as he screamed hoarsely in despair... He crazily smashed his head against the ground as his arms beat against his own skull in a frenzy...

"UWAAAAAAH!"

“Aaah... Aaaahhhh...”

“AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH—”

Each wail was more shrill and mournful and it was as if his throat had been completely ripped apart. It was impossible for anyone to imagine what sort of pain would actually cause a person to let out a cry that was even more shrill and miserable than an evil spirit's. Large amounts of blood trailed down his head, arms, and body but he hardly felt any pain as he desperately smashed his head against the ground...

The tears that he thought were already dried up frantically flowed from his eyes like water from a burst dam, and even the pouring rain and splashing blood could not wash them away...

He Ling did not move forward or try to stop him, she merely closed her eyes and silently wept.

After an indeterminate amount of time had passed, his wailing finally stopped. His body lay flat on the ground and he did not move... for a very long time.

The rain continued to pour down, washing away the bloodstains on Yun Che's body.

Another long period of time passed but he still lay there unmoving.

His homeland, his family, his kinsmen, his wives, his daughter, his lovers, his sect, his friends, his fame, his status, his glory...

All of the most valuable and important things in his life... had been lost to him.

Losing these things had also meant the loss of all of his attachments, warmth, hope, and love...

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“Mas... ter?” He Ling gave a soft cry. She was no longer able to hold herself back and she wanted to rush to his side.

But when she finally took a single step forward, she suddenly froze in place... After that, her legs started to move backwards uncontrollably as an indescribable coldness, oppression, and terror assaulted her soul.

“Heh heh... Heh heh heh...”

An incomparably deep and hoarse laugh rang out in the air and it sounded like it came from the depths of an incomparably distant purgatory... Within that puddle of blood, the figure that had lain dormant for a long period of time slowly rose to its feet. It was accompanied by dense black energy that gradually built up... before it started to wildly surge.

“Heh heh... He he he... Hahahahahahaha...”

He firmly gripped his own face with his spread fingers and even though his face was being obscured by his palm, the features that could be seen in between those five fingers were utterly sinister and terrifying. Black energy chaotically curled up around his body like countless wildly dancing, bloodthirsty evil spirits.

“No... I am not left with nothing...”

He spoke in an incomparably deep and gloomy voice. This voice had clearly come from a person that was most familiar to He Ling, but it sounded completely foreign and terrifying to her ears. “I still have my life... I... STILL... HAVE... THIS... HATRED... AAAAAHHH!!”

“Hehehe... Ah... HAHAHAHAHAHAHHAHHA!”

CRACK!!

A bolt of lightning suddenly fell to the ground without any warning. The deep purple glow of the lightning caused a pitch-black shadow to appear behind Yun Che... The light generated by that bolt of lightning disappeared but that dark shadow still remained. Instead it started to contort and twist sinisterly to the sound of Yun Che’s laughter, like a malicious and violent devil god who had finally obtained freedom after having been imprisoned for a long time.

“...” He Ling stared at the scene unfolding in front of her for a very long time... After that, she walked forward and enfolded Yun Che in a light and gentle embrace, completely leaning her body and her delicate head against him, allowing her emerald eyes to be dyed with an ever-deepening gloom by the surging black light that danced around his body.

Chapter 1533 - Heartless Qianye

Roooomb...

When a dull rumble rang out, everyone raised their heads subconsciously and were stunned by what they saw. The sky that was previously clear and cloudless had accumulated layer upon layer of dark clouds and the entire universe had darkened quickly because of this.

A heavy oppressive force covered the universe silently and this birthed an uncontrollable uneasiness in everyone’s heart, an uneasiness that grew stronger with every passing minute. It was just that, they did not know what this uneasy feeling was.

The black clouds that had arrived so suddenly departed just as quickly as they came. The black clouds had completely scattered in a short span of time and even though it was a little strange, a strange sight that had lasted such a short period of time would be thrown to the back of one’s mind almost immediately... Thus, no one would have known that the black clouds had not only appeared in a certain patch of sky or at a certain planet, they had completely covered the entire God Realm!

Moon God Realm.

Xia Qingyue stared fixedly at the sky and witnessed the appearance and disappearance of those black clouds.

“What strange clouds.” Jin Yue, who stood beside her, could not help herself and said, “It actually seems like four years ago when Yun... Ah!”

She let out a frightened cry before lowering her head and covering her mouth, “This...this servant girl has said too much.”

The black clouds had dispersed completely and the sky was bright once again. Xia Qingyue turned around and slowly made her way to her bedchambers. "I need to be in seclusion for a while. Before I come out of seclusion, all matters, big or small, will be decided by Yao Yue and Wuji. Unless the matter is of grave importance, you must not disturb me."

"...Yes." Jin Yue gaped with a startled expression but after that, she acknowledged obediently.

As Jin Yue watched Xia Qingyue's departing figure, she turned absent-minded for a long while. She did not know if it was just a misperception but she sensed that Xia Qingyue seemed to be extremely exhausted.

At the same time, the Brahma Monarch God Realm.

Qianye Fantian turned his gaze away from the sky. The black clouds that had covered the sky made him frown for a long while. After that, he turned around and with a flash of golden light, he arrived at the Heaven Temple that Qianye Ying'er was residing in.

Qianye Ying'er's Brahma Soul had been dispersed and the Brahma Monarch divine power she had inherited had scattered. Although a few days had passed, both her profound veins and her vitality had still not completely recovered.

Upon sensing that Qianye Fantian had walked in, Qianye Ying'er's beautiful eyes opened. Her long hair was still that exceptionally gorgeous and brilliant shade of gold, but the golden light in her eyes had turned extremely dull.

"Royal Father." She did not stand up and although she was in her own chambers, she still wore a golden mask on her face. To Qianye Ying'er, this had already become a habit a long time ago... one that she had become numb to.

"How is your recovery going?" Qianye Fantian asked in an indifferent tone.

In the past, Qianye Ying'er's aura had been so terrifying that even the god emperors had difficulty perceiving and penetrating it. But now, her Brahma Monarch divine power had completely scattered and her aura was weak and faint. But her power was still at the level of the Divine Master Realm!

And a fifth level Divine Master at that!

Even though the gap between her current power and her power when she was at her peak was so huge that it was incomprehensible to a normal person, she had still managed to retain the powers of a midstage Divine Master even after her Brahma Monarch divine powers had dissipated. One could imagine just how terrifying her innate talent and her accomplishments over the years had been.

And she was not even a thousand years old yet!

On the other hand, she had used the Brahma Monarch divine power as the foundation for all the profound arts she had previously cultivated. As a result, after her Brahma Monarch divine power had been dispersed entirely, all of her profound arts had been completely crippled. Currently, the only thing she possessed was the most pure and ordinary profound energy, so she would not be able to contend against anyone who was on the same level as her.

But the realization that she gained during her time of cultivation remained. Recultivating the Brahma God-related profound arts would surely be many times smoother compared to the past after she inherited the Brahma Monarch divine power once again.

“Sixty percent.” Qianye Ying’er suddenly asked, “Do you have news of Yun Che?”

“No.” Qianye Fantian said indifferently, “The Blue Pole Star was destroyed by Xia Qingyue, the Snow Song Realm King chose to throw her life away, and now we can’t even find anything we can use to force him to appear. But, given his strength, he will not be able to hide for long.”

“Hmph!” An icy light flashed in Qianye Ying’er’s eyes, “It’s a good thing that he escaped. This way, I will finally have the chance to personally rip him to shreds!”

As she stood up, Qianye Ying’er released her aura and sensed the state of her profound strength and strength of her soul. She frowned as she said, “So, in less than a month, I will have recovered to the extent where I can inherit the Brahma Monarch divine power once more. I was acknowledged once, so I will naturally be able to be acknowledged a second time. Within a few hundred years at most, I will definitely be able to recover to my peak state.”

“Mn!” Qianye Fantian nodded his head. “If it was someone else who had their divine power and divine soul scattered, being acknowledged a second time would be even harder than scaling the heavens. But if it is you, the likelihood truly is large. Let me take a look at the state of your profound strength.”

“Yes.” Qianye Ying’er reigned in her aura and thoughts at the same time.

Qianye Fantian drew close before he raised his arms and opened his palms. But... a strange golden light suddenly flashed in the depths of his calm eyes.

Screech!!

A blinding golden light lit up the calm hall like a blazing sun. In the midst of the golden light, Qianye Ying’er let out a frightened scream.

Countless golden strands entwined themselves around Qianye Ying’er’s entire body like a finely woven golden net and firmly bound her entire being... It was like her body and even her profound energy had been suppressed by ten thousand mountains. It was impossible for her to break out or even struggle free.

“Royal Father, you...” A startled expression flashed across her face but she swiftly calmed down soon after and asked, “Royal Father, what are you doing?”

She stopped struggling because she knew that it was impossible for her to struggle free given her current state.

Qianye Fantian put his arms down and turned around before speaking in a faint and indifferent voice, “You can forget about inheriting the Brahma Monarch divine power again because you are no longer worthy of it.”

“...” Qianye Ying’er’s gaze changed and she felt a sudden chill run through her heart. This chilly feeling in her heart had not only appeared because of his word, it had appeared because of his tone as well,

because Qianye Fantian had never spoken to her in that tone before, “Royal Father what...kind of joke are you making?”

“The innate talent you had for the profound way, your single-minded focus, and your ambition led me to choose you as my successor without any hesitation back then. And subsequently, I even announced you as the future Brahma Monarch God Emperor to the world.” Qianye Fantian’s eyes faintly narrowed as his tone grew colder. “I had placed such great expectations on you. But you, you ended up disappointing me so greatly.”

“Let you down? What... huge mistake did I make?” Qianye Ying’er’s golden brows sank as she did not know how she had disappointed him or what mistake she had made... Even if she did make a huge mistake, why did he have to use the Brahma Soul Chains to bind her?

“What have I been teaching you all these years?” Qianye Fantian’s tone did not carry a hint of anger, and not even a trace of pity could be heard. There was only a cold indifference that chilled one’s heart, “As the future Brahma Monarch God Emperor, you must carefully consider every aspect of every single matter. As long as you can accomplish your aims and fulfill your own interests, you can sacrifice everything, you can trick or rob anyone, even if you have to use unscrupulous methods to do so.”

“But you...sacrificed yourself to save another and were willing to be a slave for others! You have greatly disappointed me!”

Qianye Ying’er’s head jerked upwards. Even given her mindset, a dazed look appeared in her eyes for several breaths, “I did it... to save you!”

“Hmph! Save me? Did I command you or force you to do so!?” Qianye Fantian spat out in an icy tone, “I even gave you the Brahma Soul Bell, but you returned it to me and committed such a stupid act!”

Qianye Ying’er, “...”

“Furthermore,” His tone became even more indifferent, “From the moment you became Yun Che’s slave, you thoroughly lost the qualifications to inherit the position as Brahma Monarch God Emperor... No, you don’t even qualify to inherit the Brahma Monarch divine power anymore. Otherwise, that would be a disgrace to my Brahma Monarch God Realm and a stain that we would never be able to erase!”

“...” Qianye Ying’er’s entire being froze and her golden eyes started to tremble in an incredibly violent fashion.

She was in disbelief. She could not believe a single word.

Becoming Yun Che’s slave was undoubtedly the greatest sacrifice and greatest humiliation of her lifetime. It was a great shame and humiliation that she would have never been willing to bear even if her other choice was death.

But, for Qianye Fantian, she had thrown all of her dignity at the feet of Yun Che and Xia Qingyue.

Qianye Fantian, her birth father, her one and only weakness according to Xia Qingyue.

Her world was icy cold and ruthless. But it was also because of this, that the only person that gave her warmth, the only person she could entrust her soul to, would be the greatest treasure in her life.

She had never dreamed and simply could not believe that her great sacrifice had not only failed to earn her a gentler look from him, it had even earned her such indifference and heartless words.

Qianye Fantian had countless children and grandchildren, but he would never sugarcoat his words when speaking to them. But ever since her mother had passed away, he had been exceptionally indulgent and warm towards her and her alone, and he would give her anything that her heart desired. He had even announced that she would be the future god emperor and had given her authority that surpassed the Three Brahma Gods a long time ago. She had directly decided many important matters, matters of the realm, and even if she made mistakes, whether they were big or small, he could never bear to punish and would always end up siding with her to the end.

All these years, Qianye Ying'er had directly or indirectly killed so many important figures in the various king realms. And even though they were king realms, no one had dared to truly make a move against her. Because everyone knew her position in the Brahma Monarch God Realm and if they dared to touch her, they would be provoking the entire Brahma Monarch God Realm!

Qianye Fantian had always treated her in such a manner and thus, she had always seen Qianye Fantian... as her last and most important family, a father that she could not let down. Just like what she had said in front of her mother's grave... All of her years of single-minded focus and hard work, a very large part of it was so that she would not let her father down.

But today, everything... had suddenly become so incomparably unfamiliar and distant.

Qianye Ying'er closed her eyes. She did not get angry, neither did she question him. Instead, she asked in a low voice, "Perhaps, it was indeed my fault. In this case, is Royal Father going to abandon me?"

"No," Qianye Fantian said. "Although you don't have the qualifications to inherit the position of god emperor or the Brahma Monarch divine power anymore, you are still useful for something else."

"Useful?" Qianye Ying'er gave a very soft and cold laugh. "You bound me just because of this 'usefulness'? You're so afraid of me running away, it looks like this 'usefulness' must not be something that's viewed in a very good light then."

"The Southern Sea God Emperor is rushing over right now," Qianye Fantian turned his gaze to look at her. His gaze remained as peaceful and indifferent as ever, without a single trace of reluctance or guilt, "He will arrive in about an hour, and then he will bring you to the Southern Sea God Realm. And with that, you will fulfill your last bit of usefulness."

Qianye Ying'er, who had maintained a sober expression all along, had an abrupt change of expression. Her pupils constricted and she simply could not bring herself to believe a single word he had spoken, "You want to... give me to the Southern Sea God Emperor!?"

She was able to understand what Qianye Fantian had said previously as total disappointment... It was just as he had said, if someone who was once a slave to a devil succeeded the throne, it would indeed attract the ridicule and castigation of many, and it would end up bringing shame down on the entire Brahma Monarch God Realm.

He could strip her of her right to inherit the position of god emperor. But how could he... simply gift her to the Southern Sea God Emperor like a simple object. Her, the famous Brahma Monarch Goddess, his daughter who abandoned all of her pride to save his life!

“Why are you so surprised? Isn’t this a given?” Qianye Fantian spoke with indifference, as if he were speaking about an extremely ordinary matter. “My Brahma Monarch God Realm lost two Brahma Kings because of the Evil Infant, then we lost the Three Brahma Gods because of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor and after that, even your divine power and divine soul ended up being scattered. It could be said that we have suffered terrible losses and our prestige has been greatly reduced. So we definitely can’t afford any more losses.”

“The Southern Sea God Emperor has been yearning for you for a very long time and no matter how brazen he was in the past, he did not dare to make any rash moves. But after we lost two Brahma Kings and the Three Brahma Gods, he started to threaten us. But at that time, you had not made such a stupid decision yet and so I would never have let him have his way. But now...”

“The greatest value you can bring to the Brahma Monarch God Realm is to be gifted to him.” Qianye Fantian gave a small smile. “In this current situation, even if I did not give you to him, given his temperament, he definitely wouldn’t sit still. But there is a big difference in whether he snatches you with his tricks or if I make the first move and give you to him. The latter will prevent any potential disaster, as well as creating an alliance with the Southern Sea God Realm. Also, he will owe me an extremely huge favor... After all, to the Southern Sea God Emperor, women are more important than anything in this universe. And as for you, Ying’er, he would not hesitate at any cost if he could obtain you.”

“I am looking forward to seeing what kind of gift I will receive in return.”

“...” Qianye Ying’er’s lips trembled but no words came out from her mouth.

The father who stood in front of her actually seemed so foreign to her right now... No, it was at this moment that she suddenly realized that she had perhaps never truly understood her father or seen his true colors. Not even once!

“But before that, I have something important to do.” Qianye Fantian turned to the side and slowly walked toward Qianye Ying’er, “As the most outstanding one out of all of my children, even if you do not have the Brahma Monarch divine power, given your innate talent, you could perhaps reach the pinnacle of the Divine Master Realm in the future. If I were not forced by circumstances, how could I bear to give you to the Southern Sea God Emperor.”

“But given the innate talent you have, it would truly be a waste to simply give you to the Southern Sea God Emperor. And I think that the Southern Sea God Emperor wouldn’t like it either. After all, if a woman is too strong and hard to control, that simply isn’t something that is very beautiful.”

“And so...”

He suddenly pointed a finger toward her, shooting a ray of golden light directly at Qianye Ying’er which blossomed into a golden profound formation that spread out over her body.

The moment that the profound formation was formed, countless auras suddenly bombarded Qianye Ying'er's profound veins like powerful currents, causing her profound veins which had already been damaged by the dispersal of her Brahma Monarch divine power to explode...

Pffft!

Qianye Ying'er spat out three mouthfuls of blood consecutively and her jade countenance contorted in agony. She firmly held back shrieks of pain even though her entire body shook uncontrollably. She felt as if her soul was being trampled by a demon as her body curled up and trembled violently.

She was a cruel and ruthless person. When she wanted to snatch the Heretic God's powers back then, she had planted the Brahma Soul Death-Wishing Mark on Yun Che without a single frown on her face.

But now, she was unable to comprehend having to suddenly face such a ruthless and terrifying father... She would be more willing to believe that this was nothing but a preposterous and ruthless nightmare.

Qianye Fantian put his palm down but the golden light continued to twist around Qianye Ying'er. He turned around and once again clasped his hands behind him as he gave her a small smile and said, "As such, from now on, your profound energy will gradually decline and scatter until it reaches the Divine Sovereign Realm. In this lifetime, you will never be able to become a Divine Master again."

"In this way, the Southern Sea God Emperor won't be gaining too many benefits and at the same time, it will end your intentions to ever kill your father."

"If you perform well enough once you reach the Southern Sea God Realm, perhaps the Southern Sea God Emperor will be willing to confer you the title of empress. Given how much I have nurtured you all these years, I believe that as long as you are willing, you will surely succeed... You definitely must not waste your last chance and last bit of value."

Inside the golden Brahma Soul Chains behind him, Qianye Ying'er was trembling in agony as her body slowly bent down... Nearly half of her profound veins had been destroyed and they were destroyed to the point where it would be impossible for them to be repaired. Her chaotic profound energy swiftly drained from her body.

Chapter 1534 - The Broken Goddess

"My mother, she... did you kill her?"

This sudden and exceptionally abrupt question caused Qianye Fantian's eyes to instantly narrow. After that, he let out a soft sigh as he said, "It looks like I really missed something back then. After all, having no gaps at all is really a big gap in and of itself."

Qianye Ying'er's beautiful eyes suddenly focused as the last illusion within her shuddering heart and soul was completely shattered into oblivion. "It was really you... It was really you!!?"

"Heh heh," Qianye Fantian gave a dry chuckle. "Since you already guessed it and sensed it a long time ago, why did you never ask about it or believe it to be true? Was it because you didn't dare to? Or was it because you weren't willing to?"

He had frankly admitted it and he was not the least bit worried about her finding out. One could even hear some disappointment and ridicule in his indifferent voice. Qianye Ying'er's eyes started trembling even more intensely as her voice grew hoarse. "Why... Why did you kill her!?"

A big reason, perhaps it could even be said to be the biggest reason, why Qianye Fantian had become the only weakness in Qianye Ying'er's heart was because he had been good to her mother. It was why she would be willing to sacrifice all of her dignity to save him.

Back when her mother had died, he had not only investigated her death himself but also personally executed both the god empress and the crown prince in a fit of rage. His actions had shaken the entire Brahma Monarch God Realm, but what was more important was that it had also deeply shaken Qianye Ying'er, who had always been resentful towards her father.

After that, he posthumously conferred her mother the title of god empress and also swore that she would be his last god empress, his only god empress.

This coupled with the trust, regard, and love that he showed her meant that it was only natural that the feelings she had for her mother would gradually be transferred to her father. Thus, he became the person she trusted the most in the world, the person who was closest to her, and the only source of warmth and intimacy in her life.

Even when she had those moments of doubt... she would firmly suppress those suspicions and think that they were doubts that she should not be having.

However, everything had suddenly changed.

Qianye Fantian's tacit admission coupled with the few words he had said after, were a destructive impact on Qianye Ying'er's soul. It was such a cruel blow that no one else would be able to imagine it or put themselves in her shoes.

"Why?" Qianye Fantian wore a tragic and sorrowful expression on his face. "Isn't the answer already as clear as day? Of course it's because of you."

"Your innate talent did not only surpass all of my other children, no one in your generation in the entire Eastern Divine Region could match it either. This coupled with the viciousness, single-minded focus, and ambition I could see in your eyes made me feel as if I had witnessed the birth of the first female Brahma Heaven God Emperor. Compared to the successor that I had previously selected, your brilliance was far more dazzling."

"But alas, the you back then had a fatal flaw, and that fatal flaw was... your excessive care for your mother! After that, I even found out that the most important reason for your fervency and ambition toward the profound way was actually because you wanted to obtain an even higher status for your mother. Heh... how pitiful that was, how laughable."

Qianye Fantian shook his head and it was as if he still felt the pity and disappointment that he had felt back then. "Thus, for your sake, and for the sake of the future of the Brahma Monarch God Realm, I had no choice but to act. I would lavish you and your mother with my undisguised affection before intentionally letting slip that you would become my successor. This would consequently arouse jealousy

and panic in the hearts of the god empress and the crown prince. From then on, their desire to kill you and your mother was only to be expected.”

Qianye Ying'er clenched her teeth tightly as her entire body shook.

“Your mother died by my hands. This was a grave matter that concerned the future of the Brahma Monarch God Realm, so I could only do it myself. After that, I personally executed both the god empress and the crown prince before posthumously conferring the title of god empress upon your mother.”

Qianye Fantian kept addressing them as “the god empress” and “the crown prince” and had not even mentioned their names once... because he had already forgotten their names. Even though they were once his personally chosen empress and crown prince, they seemed to be nothing more than two specks of dust that had been swept away, not even worthy of being remembered by him. “The reason why I had to go to such great lengths to orchestrate these events was because I was afraid that once your mother died, the feelings you had for her would have nowhere to go. I was even more afraid that you would lose your goal and ambition because of this. So I had no choice but to do what I did, causing the feelings you had for her to gradually migrate to me. You could even say that I put a lot of thought into your upbringing.”

“But what I never imagined was that the memory of your mother still refused to dim, even though so many years had already gone by.” Qianye Fantian shook his head as he gave a sigh of lament. “What a pity, what a pity. And what’s even more tragic is that you seem to think that I was the one who caused the death of your mother.”

“No,” Qianye Fantian said as he let out a sigh. “In fact, I can’t even remember her name or what she looked like. If it wasn’t for some special reason, why would I have stooped to personally dealing with a woman like that with my own two hands?”

“In the end, the one who caused the death of your mother wasn’t me. It was you. If you had not been so dazzling and had not valued her so much, she would not have died such an early death.”

Qianye Ying'er's delicate head drooped inside that golden cage. Her body had not stopped shuddering for a single moment and underneath her golden mask, streams of tears swiftly flowed down her face.

Tears...

No one had ever seen the Brahma Monarch Goddess' tears before and no one had ever imagined what it would look like to see the Brahma Monarch Goddess cry.

But at this moment, from the very moment the first tear started rolling down her face, her tears flowed uncontrollably, just like how her heart and soul had completely collapsed... She stubbornly refused to let out a single sob, but she was not able to stop the tears leaking from her eyes.

In her lifetime, she had witnessed countless deaths and seen more despair than she could even remember, but at this moment, it was the first time she had so clearly understood what despair was... This felt many times more cruel and painful than when Yun Che had planted the slave imprint on her.

She, Qianye Ying'er, the Brahma Monarch Goddess admired by the entire universe, the future Brahma Heaven God Emperor. Her background, cultivation, status, authority, and appearance; every single one

of them stood at the highest peak of this universe. Only the Western Region's Dragon Queen was worthy of being mentioned in the same breath as her.

She had undoubtedly stood at the pinnacle of this universe and she had always held the rest of the world in contempt. This was especially true for men, not a single one of them had ever truly caught her eye... even if that man was the number one god emperor in the Southern Divine Region.

When the profound practitioners of the God Realm mentioned the three words "Brahma Monarch Goddess", the words that accompanied that title were "lofty and beyond one's reach".

But today, it was only today that she discovered that her life had actually been so tragic all of these years. No, practically her entire existence was a tragedy.

She thought that she was not only Qianye Fantian's chosen successor, but also the daughter that he loved and trusted the most, and the latter was even more important to her than the former... But it was only today that her eyes were finally opened. It turned out that she was actually only a doll dancing along on his strings, and it had always been the case!

He did not just personally steal the most important thing in her life, he had even made her feel constant gratitude and respect towards him because of this... After she had used her own dignity to save him, she had instead become an abandoned child that he could not even be bothered to waste any effort on because of the sacrifice she had made.

"If I were to nurture you once more, it is true that you will be able to become the cornerstone of the Brahma Monarch God Realm once more. However, given our current situation, you have much more value as a gift to the Southern Sea God Emperor. You should rejoice in the fact that you, someone who has been stained and has been bereft of her Brahma Monarch divine powers, would still possess such great value."

"Ah, but it's such a pity..." Qianye Fantian said as he shook his head. "Now that it has come to this, I have no choice but to select a new successor again. On this particular point, I truly do envy Yue Wuya."

As he looked at Qianye Ying'er, whose mind and spirit had completely collapsed, there was not even a trace of love or pity in his eyes. "Xia Qingyue doesn't even have a tenth of your experience, but in order to wash away the stain on her reputation, she sought to take Yun Che's life time and time again. She did not hesitate at all or leave behind any possible weaknesses to be exploited. She even destroyed her own birthplace. In comparison to her, you're truly far too stupid so it's no wonder that you actually fell into her trap."

At this moment, how could Qianye Ying'er not come to realize that the real reason why Qianye Fantian had given her the Brahma Soul Bell after he had been poisoned was to push her to sacrifice herself to save his life... But today, it had become his reason for discarding and even crippling her.

What a farce.

At this moment, she thought of Yun Che for some odd reason.

The Yun Che who had immediately become a fugitive wanted by the entire universe after he had just saved the world.

Just a few moments ago, she had still been mocking his fate and pitying his current situation... But at this moment, what difference was there between her and Yun Che!?

In fact, her life was even more tragic than his.

At least, he still had someone who was willing to die to save him. At least, he still had the opportunity to escape.

As for her, with the sole exception of her father, she had only given this world mercilessness and indifference. And the person who had suddenly thrust her into an abyss of suffering and despair just had to be the father that she trusted and respected the most, the father who had been the only weakness in her heart.

She did not speak for a very long time as her profound energy continued to steadily flow out of her. However, the feeling of powerlessness that pervaded her entire body was even clearer and more intense than the loss of her profound energy. The world was very quickly turning ashen for her and after that, that gray world of hers was quickly becoming dark and lightless.

Qianye Fantian did not leave. The Southern Sea God Emperor would arrive very soon and he needed to personally hand Qianye Ying'er over to him. After all, one had to personally make sure that all accounts were settled when bargaining chips were involved. Just like he had said before, given the Southern Sea God Emperor's rabid infatuation with Qianye Ying'er, he would not reject any requests that Qianye Fantian made in return.

Even though Qianye Ying'er's profound strength had been crippled, she still possessed her face, a face which dazzled the world with its beauty, so he naturally had to exchange her for the greatest amount of value.

As he sensed Qianye Ying'er's aura growing weaker and weaker and her soul that was on the verge of complete collapse, a strange light flashed in Qianye Fantian's eyes before he finally took action and slowly extended his palm toward Qianye Ying'er.

There was one more thing he had to do and it was to take advantage of her mental breakdown and erase a portion of her memories. Because she knew far too many of the Brahma Monarch God Realm's secrets, especially the one concerning...

Bzzz———

A faint sound suddenly rang from a distant underground sacred hall. At the same time, an aura which was incomparably unique and faint had also been sent out.

Even though it was very weak and faint, he could still feel it. Furthermore, it was this incomparably weak but unique aura that suddenly caused Qianye Fantian's expression to change as he swiveled around.

After that moment of shock, extreme excitement and wild joy appeared on his face. Because that aura had clearly belonged to the Primordial Seal of Life and Death!

Could it be that they had finally found a way to activate the Primordial Seal of Life and Death's power of **【Immortality】** !?

The third-ranked Heavenly Profound Treasure—the Primordial Seal of Life and Death, was indeed hidden in the Brahma Monarch God Realm. Immortality... There was nothing that could drive a god emperor crazy like the chance at true immortality

His body suddenly shot forward without any hesitation or delay as he flew toward the source of the aura at the greatest possible speed.

Just after Qianye Fantian left, the space beside Qianye Ying'er suddenly split open and a hunched and withered gray figure swiftly shot out of it, a dark-gold disc in his hands.

It was Gu Zhu!

Gu Zhu's hand curled into a claw and, immediately, the golden light that twined around Qianye Ying'er completely disappeared. She sank limply to the ground, her dull and muddy eyes staring at the elderly man in front of her as she mumbled in a lifeless voice, "Uncle... Gu..."

Clang!!

The dark-gold disc in Gu Zhu's hand released a dense white light as a cluster of swiftly gathering spatial energy engulfed Qianye Ying'er. "Miss, run away. Run as far as you can, and never return... I hope that Miss will be able to live peacefully for the rest of her life."

A spatial profound formation was formed from the white light as it spread out underneath Qianye Ying'er's body. Following Gu Zhu's words, a beam of light shot into the sky and disappeared along with Qianye Ying'er.

At nearly the same time, Qianye Fantian, who had just left, suddenly returned... Gu Zhu also turned around, the dark-gold disc in his hand directly cracking apart in his old and withered hand... destroying the possibility of using that spatial disc to teleport other people to its preset location.

"Gu Zhu, good, very good!" Qianye Fantian's face darkened dramatically. He had never imagined that the person who was least likely to betray him would actually trick him... He had tricked him for a crippled and discarded Qianye Ying'er!

He could not be bothered with Gu Zhu as his hand fiercely shot out in the location where Qianye Ying'er had just been. There were still spatial traces that had still lingered in that area.

Gu Zhu had long been prepared for this. Just as Qianye Fantian was about to approach, he thrust out his palm and met Qianye Fantian head on.

Booom!!!

As space exploded, Qianye Fantian's body was pushed far away. His face went completely dark as he said, "Gu Zhu... How dare you!!"

As he said that, golden light suddenly flashed through his eyes.

"Ugaaaah!"

In that instant, Gu Zhu's hunched body violently convulsed as an incredibly hoarse and pained low groan came from his mouth. Furthermore, countless slender golden marks appeared on his body, covering every inch of it.

The Brahma Soul Death-Wishing Mark!

Qianye Fantian no longer bothered with his Gu Zhu as his body lunged down once more... However, Gu Zhu, who was currently being afflicted by the Brahma Soul Death-Wishing Mark, suddenly rushed at him as he firmly clung onto Qianye Fantian's legs, obstructing him for an instant.

And it was at precisely this instant that the last spatial traces swiftly faded away, making it no longer possible for him to give chase.

"Miss... has lived her entire life... for you... I beg you... Let her off... This old slave is willing to work himself to the bone for the rest of his life as repayment... Please... let Miss go..."

Bang!!

Gu Zhu was blasted far away by that kick. Qianye Fantian's expression was extremely ugly at the moment as he suddenly discovered that there were times when even he miscalculated.

There were two reasons for him instructing Gu Zhu to remain at Qianye Ying'er's side. The first reason was so that he could guide her growth and ensure her safety. The second reason was so that he could keep an eye on her.

But he never would have thought that it would result in this.

However, he still could not kill Gu Zhu.

It was only several breaths later that Qianye Fantian's rage finally simmered down. His brows sank as he sent out a sound transmission in a low voice, "Send this order out, do a full sweep the entire Eastern Divine Region to find traces of Ying'er's whereabouts. The moment any of you find something, use every means possible to retrieve her... Remember, she must be taken alive."

Given the spatial power of that disc, the energy that was gathered over that short amount of time would not be able to send someone too far away, so Qianye Ying'er was definitely still within the Eastern Divine Region!

Chapter 1535 - The Solitary and Dark Northern Region

Eastern Divine Region, Snow Song Realm.

The atmosphere in the Snow Song Realm, which had been deified for a period of time because of Yun Che, had undergone a complete and utter change compared to before. This was especially true in the Ice Phoenix Realm, the place where the Ice Phoenix Sect was located. Underneath the falling snow, there was a suffocating silence there that blanketed the entire realm.

The Ice Phoenix Realm was normally quiet throughout the year, but it had never felt so cold and desolate before.

The news of Mu Xuanyin's death had been conveyed to them a few days ago... A Divine Moon Envoy from the Moon God Realm had personally conveyed the news to them.

The Ice Phoenix Realm had lost its sect master and the Snow Song Realm had lost its realm king... Even more than that, they had lost the core of what allowed them to stand loftily in the Eastern Region despite their status as middle star realm, the spiritual support of all of the Snow Song profound practitioners.

No one could predict what the future of the Snow Song Realm would look like. But a pessimistic and gloomy atmosphere silently pervaded every corner of the Snow Song Realm.

Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

The cold vein within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake still existed but the Ice Phoenix divine being was gone. Even though the entire region was still overflowing with very high level ice energy, it had lost some of its indescribable divine aura.

It was at this moment that the barrier that had been sealed for a very long time was soundlessly opened and closed.

On the shores of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, a man appeared out of thin air. He was dressed all in black and his black hair fell to his waist. For some odd reason, his appearance had caused the air in the entire region around the heavenly lake to become exceptionally heavy and oppressive.

As he arrived in the air above the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, he silently looked down at the lake water which had remained unfrozen since bygone eras for several breaths... He had a very ordinary face, a face that one might not remember even if one looked at it several more times, and the aura radiating from his body was robust and muddy. His profound strength was approximately in the beginning stages of the Divine Soul Realm and ice energy which was all too common in the Snow Song Realm flowed throughout his body.

No one knew who he was and it was even less likely that anyone would... connect him with Yun Che.

A translucent and flawless crystal coffin that faintly glowed with divine light appeared before him. He lifted the woman slumbering within the coffin out of it, his movements slow and gentle. He expressed no joy or sadness, no rage or grief, and did not allow himself to cling to her. Instead, he slowly lowered his arms before watching her slowly and gently sink into the icy lake below...

Until her body completely vanished from his vision... vanished from his world.

"Xuanyin," he muttered in a soft voice, "the Primal Chaos is so vast, but the only place that will take me in me is that dark place."

"I know. That place is definitely the place that you hate the most. After all, your father was killed by people from that place... I won't allow the aura in that place to disturb your rest. Only this place is the most suitable as your resting grounds."

The surface of the lake stopped rippling as it became completely still once more. Yun Che cast one last, long gaze at the lake before turning around and muttering to himself, "Xuanyin, if there is a next life, would you still be willing to meet me again..."

As his body blurred, he had already returned to the shores of the heavenly lake. He stretched out an arm and immediately, a distant piece of profound ice was sucked towards him. It tumbled through the air and smashed into the ground.

A curled up human was sealed inside that profound ice. The person inside saw an unfamiliar face through the layer of ice that sealed him in. Immediately, hope and pleading appeared in those dim eyes.

If anyone saw this man, it definitely would not occur to them that he used to be one of the Eastern Region's four god emperors, a figure who reigned imperiously over the rest of the God Realm.

Without saying a word to him, without even sparing him a single glance, Yun Che flicked a flinger and threw that chunk of profound ice into the Primordial Profound Ark.

At this time, a peculiar aura came from outside of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. Yun Che's eyes shifted to the side, but he did not leave or conceal himself. He tapped the Nie Yuan Stone with his finger and restored his original aura before he wiped a hand over his face, restoring his true appearance.

Very quickly, the barrier surrounding the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was opened and closed once more as a snowy celestial figure appeared in front of him.

Mu Bingyun.

Originally, only he and Mu Xuanyin had been allowed to open the barrier around the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. Now, Mu Bingyun could open it as well. Clearly, Mu Xuanyin had left her sect master's engraved jade behind before she had departed... She had clearly left with the resolve to die.

Yun Che and Mu Bingyun's eyes met and even though it had clearly only been a few days, it seemed like it had been a lifetime.

As she looked at Yun Che, the towering bosom beneath her snowy robes violently heaved as emotions that were far too complex shook her icy eyes. "You... still dare to come back!"

"I came to return her here," Yun Che replied. He walked towards Mu Bingyun while raising up a snow-white longsword in his hand. "This is her beloved sword, and also the symbol of the Ice Phoenix Sect Master... Palace Master Bingyun, please take it."

As she looked at the Snow Princess Sword that glinted with a flowing icy light, Mu Bingyun's eyes instantly misted over... The Snow Princess Sword had returned, but the Snow Song Realm no longer had a Mu Xuanyin, and she had also lost her most important and only relative forever.

When her trembling snowy hand stretched out and grasped the Snow Princess Sword, it seemed as if some of her aura still remained on it... and Mu Bingyun's body swayed. It had already been several days since the news of her death and she thought that she had already accepted it. But at this moment, her heart and soul were in such intense pain that they felt like they were about to tear.

PAH!!

She flung her arm out as she gave Yun Che a fierce backhanded slap with her white jade hand.

Yun Che did not dodge or try to defend himself. He allowed the redness and intense pain to spread across his face.

“...” Mu Bingyun’s hand froze in midair. As she looked at Yun Che’s face, a face that was so calm it was terrifying, a face that did not show a hint of pain, she realized that she had not vented any of her rage or resentment. Instead, she felt the stinging pain in her heart deepen.

In this world, nothing was more painful than loss, but if there was one thing more painful than loss, it would be betrayal.

And he... had experienced all of the loss in the world, the greatest betrayal in this world.

No one felt more pain than him over the departure of Mu Xuanyin, no one felt more resentment... This was especially true in regards to the hatred he held towards himself.

Her hands started to shake and she unconsciously wanted to reach out and touch the red mark on his face... But in the end, her hand still slowly dropped down.

Big Sister, if you could choose again, would you still let him enter your world once more...

If I was able to choose again, would I still... still end up bringing him to the God Realm...

“Palace Master Bingyun,” Yun Che said in a soft voice, “the Snow Song Realm may very well be implicated in my mess. Even without using me as an excuse, there are many old grievances you have with other star realms, and they will also flare up now that Xuanyin isn’t here anymore... I suggest that you depart from this place as soon as possible too.”

As she tightly gripped the Snow Princess Sword, Mu Bingyun stared at him and said in a low voice, “Even if I die, I will die in the Snow Song Realm.”

Upon receiving that completely expected reply, Yun Che gave a small nod of his head. He did not speak any further and turned around and left.

“Yun Che!” Behind him, Mu Bingyun’s voice rang out from afar. “Remember this, your life was bought using Big Sister’s life, so I won’t allow you to die!”

“Even if it’s for the sake of revenge, you need to continue to live on!”

“If you continue to behave like you did before, always risking your life recklessly for other people... Big Sister won’t forgive you and I also won’t forgive you!!”

Yun Che left the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake without replying, his figure and aura completely vanishing from Mu Bingyun’s sight and senses.

Inside the quiet Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, Mu Bingyun gently hugged the Snow Princess Sword to her chest... Unknowingly, a crystalline tear drop silently fell, leaving a long trail of wetness on the body of the jade white sword.

She stretched out a finger to gently wipe the wetness away and when she raised her delicate head, a cold and determined light filled her icy eyes.

She knew that no matter how hard she worked, she would never be as good as her elder sister.

The Snow Song Realm that was bereft of Mu Xuanyin would now be faced with countless dangers that it definitely would not have faced in the past.

But she would not compromise or run away. Tomorrow, she would succeed the position of Ice Phoenix Sect Master and Snow Song Realm King. As long as she was still breathing, she definitely would not allow the Snow Song Realm to be harmed!

After she put the Snow Princess Sword away, her icy figure floated up in the air as she slowly departed...

But it was at the very instant when she left the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake that a strange icy light suddenly shone from the center of the silent heavenly lake.

That was the complete Ice Phoenix sigil and it was shining from some unknown place. It was clearly only a projected image, but it was so dense that it practically appeared solid. The icy light coming from it was so bright and radiant that it seemed to be a divine light that should not exist in this world.

But, it only existed for an exceptionally brief period of time and it dissipated after a few breaths, never to appear again.

.....

One month later.

The God Realm continued its pursuit of Yun Che. As time flowed by, the intensity of this search had not only failed to reduce, it was even increasing with each passing day. The scope of the search also swiftly expanded from the three Divine Regions to the lower realms as various types of scrying profound artifacts were set up in the various regions to sniff out Yun Che's aura.

The array of forces being assembled to search for him was no less grand than the force assembled to search for the Evil Infant back then. It was so grand that it caused countless profound practitioners to be shocked and mystified when they heard of it.

However, even though they were searching for him with such intensity, they were actually unable to even find the smallest trace of Yun Che's aura.

The Heavenly Slaughter Star God was already extremely skilled at concealment in the first place, and after she became the Evil Infant, her ability to hide was unrivaled under the heavens. Thus, trying to track down her aura was indeed harder than scaling the heavens. However, even though Yun Che was extremely strong among the younger generation, this was an all-out pursuit being led by the king realms. Given his aura and cultivation, which were both at the Divine King Realm, how could he have hidden from them for such a long time!?

It was as if he had completely vanished from the face of the world. Gradually, more and more people were beginning to suspect whether he had ended his own life due to that immense pressure and despair.

However, never in their wildest dreams would they have imagined that the person they were chasing after with all their might had walked past the spiritual senses and scrying profound artifacts belonging to the powerhouses of the king realms countless times. No matter whether it was a person or a profound artifact, none of their auras had hesitated or stopped when they brushed past his body.

He had stepped out of the Eastern Divine Region, departing from the eastern part of the God Realm as he made his way north, arriving in a foreign world he had never been in before.

It was also during this period of time that the news of the Brahma Monarch Goddess betraying and fleeing the Brahma Monarch God Realm had started to swiftly spread, once again causing countless shock and alarm.

One strange thing had happened after the other and even the lowest profound practitioners with the dullest spiritual senses could faintly sense the change in the air.

In the distant north, in a world enveloped by black energy.

Thud... thud... thud...

It was an exceptionally quiet forest, but when one heard the sound of those footsteps, footsteps which were not heavy at all, it caused one's hair to stand on end.

The earth here was black and the sky was an oppressive grayish-white color. Even the sparse withered trees and vegetation were a dark gray-black color.

Even the air was gloomy and hazy... and this absolutely was not the occasional fog but was something that had existed since time immemorial.

This was not a world that was suitable for normal beings to live in. Even if a divine profound practitioner came to this place, they would begin feeling an extreme oppressiveness and discomfort very soon. They would also start to imperceptibly turn jittery and panicked. Losing control of their emotions was a possibility as well.

Their lifespan would silently leak away, as if it was being devoured by something. Even their profound energy would feel like it was being bound up by an invisible ghost since it was a lot more strenuous and difficult to circulate it.

As such, there were no profound practitioners from the Eastern, Western, or Southern Divine Regions who had ever been willing to enter this world.

In this dim and lonely world, a figure slowly strode out from the black mist. His arrival would not bring this world the vitality that it would normally bring. Instead, it caused it to be even more oppressive and ghastly.

Because his eyes and that barely perceptible aura that radiated from his body were even darker and more desolate than this world's.

It was as if he was a revenant that had managed to return from the depths of hell.

"Northern... Divine... Region..."

His feet came to a stop in the heart of this black forest. As he faced this strange and terrifying world, the corners of his mouth slowly curled upwards as his lips curved into a sinister and wicked grin.

In that instant, even the black fog that had existed in that place since time immemorial seemed to have solidified.

Chapter 1536 - Eternal Calamity of Darkness

The Northern Divine Region, the smallest geographical region among the four regions. It was only about half the size of the Eastern Divine Region, and one-fifth the size of the Western Divine Region.

If the God Realm were to be divided into ten parts, the area that comprised the Northern Divine Region would only make up one of these parts.

Thus, it was natural that they had the least number of star regions as well. Even so, because the yin energy in the Primal Chaos was continuously dissipating, the territory of the Northern Divine Region was constantly shrinking.

The understanding Yun Che had of the Northern Divine Region was limited to the notions of “land of the devils” and “devil region”, and he knew practically nothing else about it. However, this completely foreign world had become the only place he could dwell in right now. Because of the Primal Chaos’ yin energy that blanketed the entire Northern Divine Region... which was also known to the rest of the world as darkness devil energy, no one from the other three divine regions was ever willing to approach it or venture into it.

However, it was not only because they did not want their lifespan and profound strength to be eroded away by darkness devil energy. It was also because the “devils” viewed them as enemies, just like they viewed the “devils” as enemies. Furthermore, this was the devil’s home ground and within this Primal Chaos yin energy, they could display the full might of their darkness profound energy while the strength of the profound practitioners from the other three divine regions would be greatly suppressed. The moment these profound practitioners were discovered, their fates would be no different from when a devil who was traveling outside the Northern Divine Region was discovered by the profound practitioners of the other three divine regions.

After he entered the Northern Devil Region, the darkness devil energy in this place did not give Yun Che any discomfort at all. It did not affect his body, profound veins, or mind. As he moved within the ever-present darkness and silence, he even felt a sort of strange comfort and his heart was also colder and clearer than it had ever been before.

A strange world, a land which was completely unfamiliar to him. Furthermore, he did not know a single person here and he was truly all alone in the world right now.

Yun Che did not stop after he entered the Northern Divine Region. Instead, he continued to delve deeper and deeper. It had to be said that the three divine regions were pursuing him with mad fervor but their search had not yielded any results, so it was possible that members of the king realms would step into the Northern Divine Region to search for him... but even members of the king realms would not go further than the outskirts of the Northern Divine Region, there was practically zero chance that they would infiltrate deeply. As such, he did his best to go as deep as possible into the Northern Region.

He needed to preserve his own life... To the current him, there was nothing more important than that!

He traveled through one star realm after another, passing through one star region after the next. Life in the Northern Divine Region entered his gloomy eyes, one scene after the other.

The environment of the Northern Divine Region was completely different from the environment of the Eastern Divine Region. This place was filled with death and darkness and it was hard to see the light of a sun or moon. Combat and death was the one constant in this place, combat between darkness profound

beasts and between profound practitioners... In the Eastern Divine Region, conflicts were normally due to benefits or grievances, but in this place, conflict was for the sake of survival.

That was right. To survive.

In this dark and cruel world, only the strong survived. The reason they could become stronger was because they were willing to do anything and everything to get stronger. They would put their lives on the line for those extremely limited resources and they left corpses strewn in their wakes.

Yun Che calmly and indifferently observed all of these things happen around him.

As he delved deeper into the region, the darkness devil energy was clearly becoming denser and purer and the level of the star realms was also rising. Finally, after another month had passed, Yun Che came across his first middle star realm in the Northern Divine Region.

He did not know where in the Northern Divine Region he currently was, nor did he know the name of the star realm he was in.

Even though this was a middle star realm, there were exceptionally few living creatures in it. Even when he traveled through the dark forest, he still could not sense any signs of life.

Yun Che had unknowingly arrived at an isolated and wild mountain range. There were more darkness profound beasts here and many pairs of bloodthirsty eyes stared at him from within the darkness... However, when these crazed and violent gazes came into contact with Yun Che's indifferent one, they immediately started to shake. After that, they began to slowly retreat before they started to flee in panic and they did not stop until they had run very far away.

RIP!

A horrifying tearing sound rang in the air. It was the sound of sharp claws cutting through the air as a huge eagle of darkness that was three hundred meters long flew over Yun Che's head. Its sharp claws flickered with a soul-piercing cold light as they lunged forward and grabbed up one of the desperately fleeing darkness profound beasts before it flew off into the distant north.

Yun Che's feet came to a halt at this moment. He walked to a withered tree in front of him and then sat on the ground. He closed his eyes without erecting a barrier. Very quickly, his breathing had grown calm and gentle... In his heart, the darkness profound formation that Jie Yuan had left inside of him before she departed shone with a gloomy light.

After that gloomy light was released, Jie Yuan's figure appeared inside Yun Che's soul.

She looked at Yun Che and it was as if she was standing in front of him.

"Heh," she gave a low and emotionless chuckle that sounded both mocking and sorrowful at the same time. "In the end, you still activated the devil mark that I left behind. It looks like you've finally been forced into a corner."

However, she had never imagined that this devil mark had been activated by Yun Che's extreme rage and malice only a few moments after she had left the Primal Chaos.

Even though the activation of this devil mark had exposed his darkness profound energy in front of everyone, giving the three divine regions a proper reason to exterminate him. However, given the attitudes the three number one god emperors had towards him, even if they were not conveniently given this reason, they would still be able to find some other reason. The activation of this devil mark only brought all of these events forward.

“The darkness profound art 【Eternal Calamity of Darkness】 is sealed within this devil mark. It was not the core profound art of my Heaven Smiting Devil Clan. Rather, it was a profound art that was unique to me alone, and my clansmen were not able to cultivate it. Even Ni Xuan, whose connection to and ability to control darkness profound energy was superior to mine, was not able to cultivate it.”

“But if it’s you, then there’s definitely a chance that you can do it.”

She did not mention why she said that.

“You have Ni Xuan’s profound veins, so you have an extremely close connection to and extreme control over darkness profound energy. As a result, the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, which would allow another person to scale the heavens in a single step, will only provide an extremely limited boost to your strength. Furthermore, its might is far inferior to the Devil God Forbidden Tome that Ni Xuan and I created together... which you also know as the Heretic God Arts.”

“However, if you can perfectly control and use the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, you will definitely be able... to have complete control of all the devils of the current age!”

“You will become the true... and only emperor among the devils!”

This was a memory left behind by Jie Yuan and every word was coming from her own mouth so they could not be doubted.

“Other than the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, all the devil arts I have cultivated in my life are also within the devil mark. You may choose to cultivate them as you please!”

How strong and complicated could all the arts a Devil Emperor had cultivated in her lifetime be? To any other person, cultivating even one of these arts would be something that would be hard to accomplish even if they tried for their entire lives, but she had left all of them behind for him... Because she knew even better than Yun Che just what kind of freak he was.

A freak that even surpassed the Heretic God Ni Xuan!

“There are also three drops of my devil origin blood, they can strengthen your devilish body and soul. If you urgently desire to raise the level of your cultivation within a short period of time, then refining them will also be able to greatly boost the cultivation level of your profound way. However, it is best that you don’t do such a thing.”

“Even though refining them will allow you to scale the heavens in a single step, slowly and perfectly combining these drops of origin blood with your body will allow you to obtain future benefits that are a hundred times better than the former. The lower your cultivation in the profound way is, the more your body and profound veins will be refined and upgraded by merging with these drops of origin blood. So, for the coming period of time, you actually need to suppress your cultivation as much as possible and I trust that you understand every single word I am telling you right now.”

The soul voice that Jie Yuan had left behind spoke in a very meticulous and detailed fashion. Even though she had always acted exceptionally cold and indifferent toward Yun Che whenever they met, the truth was that she always had a special concern for him. Perhaps it was because of the Heretic God Ni Xuan, or perhaps it was because of Hong'er and You'er.

“The origin of darkness profound energy is the Primal Chaos' yin energy, so the 【Eternal Calamity of Darkness】 is also an extreme yin profound art. My devil origin blood is also an extremely yin blood, so both of these things are more suited for women. As a result, if you desire to swiftly cultivate the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, you need to find an exceptional woman and use her as your cultivation incubator. Out of these three drops of extremely yin origin blood, using two drops will be the absolute limit of what you can endure, so the third drop is for the incubator to use!”

“This woman needs to have her vital yin intact and she also needs to have an extremely high comprehension of the profound way and extremely good control of profound energy. The most important thing is that she needs to possess extremely refined and pure profound energy! If you are able to find such a woman, it would be best to directly cripple her or allow her to get rid of all of her profound arts, leaving behind only the most refined and purest original profound energy. In the end, what she will obtain will be countless times greater than what she will lose!”

As he closed his eyes, Yun Che slowly raised a hand in the air. Three pitch black droplets of blood floated above his palm. These three blood droplets flickered with a gloomy black light and even though the light was not strong, it caused the surrounding area to darken dramatically.

He opened his eyes and three extremely deep and dark specks of light were reflected in his eyes. Without any hesitation, he fiercely pressed two of these blood droplets against his chest.

The moment they came into contact with his body, these two dark blood droplets entered his body without any resistance, like mercury flowing over the ground.

Bzzz!

As a bizarre muffled ringing sound that was hard to describe resounded in the air, a dense and chaotic layer of dark mist suddenly burst out of Yun Che's body. His eyes were also releasing two incomparably gloomy black lights... as if they had transformed into two dark abysses which would swallow up everything.

This was no ordinary blood, but the blood essence of a Devil Emperor!

If it were to directly enter the body of any other person, even if that person was one of the current god emperors of the king realms, they would be devoured and rent apart by the incomparably fearsome power of a Devil Emperor.

But he was Yun Che and his profound veins possessed the highest degree of affinity in the universe towards darkness profound energy... no matter what level this power of darkness possessed. However, origin blood was not only the core blood essence of a being, it also contained its own soul... Thus, it also felt a closeness towards Yun Che that came from Jie Yuan herself.

Yun Che's body violently convulsed in pain, but his face was shockingly calm... He had already experienced the ultimate pain and despair in this universe, so what did this small bodily pain even amount to?

After a few short breaths, the black mist that had been stirring agitatedly began to slowly disperse, and the black light being released from his eyes faded together with it. From now on, the two drops of Devil Emperor origin blood that had come from Jie Yuan existed in Yun Che's body... and they had done so in such a simple and easy manner. They had not rejected him at all.

It was impossible to predict... Even Jie Yuan herself would not be able to predict what sort of strange changes would occur to Yun Che's body once her Devil Emperor origin blood had completely combined with his body, which possessed the Heretic God's profound veins.

She was also unable to predict how long her hoped-for "perfect fusion" would take. Tens of thousands of years? Thousands of years? Hundreds of years... Or...

The Devil Emperor origin blood entered his body, but it had not truly begun its slow fusion with his body. Yet Yun Che suddenly felt an incomparably huge change to his senses and perception. His spiritual perception could penetrate even more darkness now. In fact, it had reached a level where it was twice as powerful as what it had been before. This was especially true for his ability to sense darkness auras. His perception of darkness auras was now incomparably clear and he seemed to be able to clearly capture the movements of every single darkness element.

This was a Devil Emperor's origin blood... Even the slightest interference that she made would have an enormous impact on the beings living in this era.

The sounds coming from Yun Che's body had gone completely quiet, but Jie Yuan's voice continued to resonate in his soul.

"Even though I am unable to personally witness what drove you to activate the devil mark, there is one thing that you must remember. If not for the fact that you possess his powers and have inherited his will, if not for the fact that you saved Hong'er and took care of You'er, I definitely would not have decided to leave the Primal Chaos or betray my clansmen. So, to the Primal Chaos Realm that you are living in, you are fully worthy of the title of messiah. This is especially true for the God Realm. Every single person owes you their life and no one has the right to betray you or let you down."

"If you want to take revenge, put down all of your hesitation, compassion, and pity! Even if you massacre all the living beings of this age, there is no need to feel any guilt! Because this is what they owe you!"

"Finally, there are two things that I should probably let you know about."

"The current Primal Chaos Realm is hiding an immense secret and an immense hidden malaise."

The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had said the word "immense" twice, so it certainly was not something that the people of the current age could imagine or understand.

"As for this immense secret, I cannot tell you what it is and I also don't have any right to tell you what it is. But if there ever comes a day where it 'shows itself to the world', you will surely be the first to know."

At the same time, this is also the other reason why I chose to leave the Primal Chaos and block my clansmen's return."

"As for that immense hidden malaise..."

In the world of his soul, Jie Yuan's figure slowly raised a hand. A black light that looked like a cluster of stars shone on her fingertip. "This is a memory fragment and I've put a seal on it. On the day that you perfectly fuse with my Devil Emperor origin blood and are able to perfectly control the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, you will naturally and easily be able to break its seal!"

This sealed memory fragment was the "immense hidden malaise" that Jie Yuan was speaking of.

"Yun Che." The dark cluster of starlight floated from her hand into the deepest parts of Yun Che's soul. After that, Jie Yuan's voice grew gentler as she said, "When Ni Xuan was greatly disappointed and dispirited back in the day, he discarded his title of Creation God and went into seclusion. But you... If you experience a similar situation, I hope that you do not choose to do what he did by holding fast to the light even though you are shrouded in darkness. I hope that you can... take back what you lost millions of times over."

"At the very least, you definitely cannot allow Hong'er and You'er to end up in their former situations. One was forced to discard her identity forever and the other had no choice but to exist in eternal loneliness and darkness."

"This world does not have the right to let you and my daughters down. So, after you have gotten a clearer picture of this world, I want to remember this phrase..."

"It is better to betray the heavens than it is to ever betray yourself!"

Jie Yuan's figure disappeared from the world of his soul. Yun Che opened his eyes, and those eyes, which were as calm as still water, seemed to have grown even gloomier.

Chapter 1537 - A Princess in Distress

"Eternal... Calamity... of... Darkness..."

He muttered those words in a low voice as he took off a black stone that he wore on his right hand.

The Ni Yuan Stone!

The Ni Yuan Stone was the biggest reason why he was able to enter the Northern Divine Region without any surprises or danger despite being hotly pursued by three different Divine Regions. As long as he wore it, the change in his aura coupled with his perfect disguise meant that even a Divine Master would not be able to recognize him, even if that Divine Master was standing only ten steps away from him.

His aura returned to normal and he still remained seated on the ground. He slowly opened his arms and once he closed his eyes, a pitch-black world spread out in front of him. The laws of darkness unique to the **【Eternal Calamity of Darkness】** floated within that pitch-black world along with the Devil Emperor's own divine art.

Jie Yuan had told him before that if a person wanted to perfectly cultivate the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, they had to be assisted by the Devil Emperor's origin blood. His first step however, was not to

merge his body with the origin blood, but to directly try to comprehend the Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

This was the Devil Emperor profound art that Jie Yuan had personally told him that only she could cultivate, the profound art that even the Heretic God could not cultivate!

A thin layer of black energy slowly started to form over his body. This layer of black energy was very chaotic, as if it was comprised of countless dark shadows struggling to break out of their cage with all of their might.

Time slowly flowed by and this layer of black energy continued to accumulate as it grew denser and denser. It gradually rose to a height of over a hundred meters but it was becoming more agitated and its struggles grew more violent.

The surrounding area, which was already dark and silent in the first place, grew even more dreary and quiet and one could not hear the cry of any beasts for a very long period of time.

In the surrounding fifty kilometer radius, all of the profound beasts were fleeing in fear... As profound beasts belonging to this dark world, their temperaments were far more violent and irascible than the profound beasts found in other worlds, and none of them feared death. However, an odd terror that only continued to grow larger was birthed in the deepest depths of their hearts and souls. Their only recourse was to flee in the opposite direction and they did not dare take even a single step back.

They continued their flight until several days later, when the aura that had terrified them had started to recede.

The agitation of the black energy rising up from Yun Che's body started to weaken as it started to gradually dissipate.

Seven days later, the black-colored mist-like energy that was rising from his body had completely disappeared. Gradually even his own aura and breathing started to weaken before they completely disappeared as well.

Yun Che had sat under that withered tree throughout this entire process. He had not moved a single inch the entire time, resembling a corpse that had undergone rigor mortis.

One day, two days, three days... He continued in this auraless state and he still had not moved an inch.

A thick layer of sand and dust had already accumulated over his body, mixing with dead leaves that had come out of nowhere.

On this day, the air, which had remained heavy and stagnant for a very long period of time, suddenly started to quake abnormally. These unusual vibrations had originated from a long distance away.

In the distant horizon, two human figures swiftly approached.

One was a black-robed elder whose hair had already turned half white. The aura of the Divine Spirit Realm rippled across his body. The person beside him was a girl clothed in purple. The black-robed elder's power allowed them to move very quickly, but the trajectory of their flight had started to sway... Upon closer examination, one would discover that the black-robed elder's body was actually completely stained in blood and his eyes had suddenly started to go slack mid-flight.

Following that, his body swayed violently before he and the young girl abruptly dropped from the air, causing the young girl to let out a startled scream of terror.

BANG!!

The old man's body crashed into the ground, leaving a long trail of blood behind it and it came to a stop less than twenty steps in front of Yun Che. The dark dirt that had been thrown up by his fall fell on Yun Che's body but he still did not react.

"Grandfather Qin!" The purple-clothed girl landed on the ground and started to stumble towards the fallen black-robed old man.

The girl had an exquisitely beautiful face. Her long hair was a mess and that jade face was stained with flying dust and fear, but it still could not conceal what was undoubtedly an inborn air of nobility. Even the purple clothes she wore radiated an uncommon luxuriousness.

"Grandfather Qin... How are you feeling?" Streaks of tears stained the girl's face as she sensed the elderly man's extremely chaotic and weak aura. Her heart suddenly felt like it was hanging over the edge of a cliff and she was at a complete loss for what to do.

She knew that he had been forcing himself to endure for the entire journey.

The black-robed old man fiercely bit down on the tip of his tongue and his slackened eyes managed to recover some of its clarity. He said in a weak and frail voice, "Your Highness... Do not worry about me. Hurry up and... leave."

"No." Tears coursed down the young girl's face as she shook her head. "If it wasn't for the fact that Grandfather Qin had used his life to save me time and time again, I would have long ago... How can I abandon you just like that?"

As she said these words, she started to move forward to carry the old man... She possessed cultivation that was at the level of the Divine Soul Realm and she definitely lorded over the rest of her peers in terms of power. But at this moment, she was exceptionally weak and frail and she was nearly completely spent.

She looked ahead, noticing the unmoving human that was sitting under a withered tree with a single glance. However, she did not spare him a second look and she was not shocked either... In the Northern Divine Region, there was nothing more common than corpses.

The black-robed old man's face contorted as he tried his best to struggle free of the profound energy the girl had covered him with. He gave a low roar, "Your Highness... You must not let your emotions affect you! This old slave's life is petty and if anything were to happen to Your Highness, this old slave would feel ten lifetimes worth of guilt and shame towards the king... Hurry up and leave... Leave!!"

"Leave? Hehe, you still think you can leave?"

The old man's shrill cry was still ringing in her ears when a dark and cold voice accompanied by a mocking chuckle rang out in the air above them.

Upon hearing that voice, the pupils of the purple-clothed girl's eyes shrank and she turned around in fear and terror. The black-robed old man's face instantly turned deathly white and a look of despair appeared in his eyes.

Five figures unhurriedly descended from the sky and they were all clothed in gray robes. Even though there were only five of them, four of the five people were releasing an aura that was at the Divine Spirit Realm. In this star realm, this was absolutely considered a shocking display of power.

The young man who stood in the middle of them had just entered the Divine Tribulation Realm but he was undoubtedly the leader of the five. As he gazed upon the purple-clothed girl who was filled with fear and hatred, the corner of his mouth curled up into a mocking, sinister smile, a smile one displayed when facing one's prey. "Princess Hanwei, you really did lead me on a wild chase."

"Ming... Yang!" The purple-clothed girl gritted her jade teeth and a thin sword that flickered with purple light had already appeared in her hand. The body of the sword coursed with both cold energy and darkness profound energy, but her body, and the hand that held the sword, had already started to shake violently.

"Tsk tsk." As he looked at the hate-filled expression on the girl's jade face, Ming Yang licked the corner of his lips as he slowly drew near. "You are indeed worthy of being called the number one beauty of the Eastern Frost Nation, even your enraged appearance is still so moving. Heh... If I had truly let you escape, how big of a loss would that have been? Even if I flattened the entire Eastern Frost Nation, it still wouldn't make up for it."

He eyed the fallen elder, his gaze turning dark. "Old Man Qing, you've spoiled my plans time and time again. It's about time for you to suffer the consequences!"

"You..." The black-robed old man struggled to stand as his body, a body which was heavily injured and on the brink of collapse, was filled with the power of despair. "Even if I die, I still won't allow you to touch a single strand of Her Highness' hair."

Ming Yang laughed as he said, "Good! Then you can go right ahead and die!"

He waved a hand and a strange blade of wind that was mixed up with black energy instantly slashed the old man's body.

"Ouu!"

The black-robed old man let out a low groan as he was sent flying, leaving an arrow of blood in his wake... He was a distinguished Divine Spirit Realm profound practitioner but in his current condition, he could not even endure a casual blow from someone of the Divine Tribulation Realm.

The direction flew in was precisely where Yun Che was located... With a deep thud, his body heavily smashed into Yun Che's body, instantly shattering the withered tree behind them. Yun Che's body, which had remained still for more than ten days, was sent flying along with the old man as he rolled on the ground.

"Grandfather Qin!"

With a sorrowful cry, the young girl rushed towards the old man's side. This time, the old man was no longer able to stand up. Foamy blood continued to gush out of his trembling mouth and he could not make a single sound.

The purple-clothed girl's eyes fell and her heart was filled with boundless grief and sorrow. She knew that there was no way for her to escape today's calamity. She slowly drew back the purple sword in her hand before placing it against her snowy neck... She would rather die than be humiliated.

But Ming Yang had already anticipated her actions long before they had happened. At nearly the same instant, the gray-robed man on his right shoved his arm out and immediately, a huge energy current fiercely enveloped the girl and pressed down on her body.

How could she, a profound practitioner of the Divine Soul Realm, be able to resist or struggle against suppression that had come from a profound practitioner of the Divine Spirit Realm? In an instant, she felt as if ten thousand mountains were pressing down on her body as she fiercely fell to her knees, the sword tumbling out from her hand... This suppression was not merely limited to her body, even her profound energy had been completely suppressed and she was not be able to destroy her own life vein even if she wanted to.

"You..." Her entire body shook and she clenched her teeth so hard that they nearly cracked, but she was unable to break free at all. Only a despair that resembled a deep abyss steadily approached her. "Ming Yang... You definitely... won't die a good death!"

"You want to die? Even if you could bear to, how could I?" Ming Yang started to slowly saunter over towards her with an avaricious and lustful dark light radiating from his eyes that had already narrowed into two long and narrow slits.

But it was at this moment that his gaze suddenly turned away.

A human figure... The human they had all thought was a corpse started to slowly climb to his feet.

"Mn?" Ming Yang frowned and everyone's eyes had unconsciously turned towards that man as well.

As Yun Che, whose cultivation had been interrupted, stood to his feet, he did not brush off the dirt on his body, nor did he turn around to look at any of the people behind him either. He simply started moving forward as he prepared to find a quiet place to cultivate once more. Perhaps it was because his body had been still for too long that his footsteps were rather stiff and heavy.

Ming Yang frowned once more... Seeing a "corpse" suddenly come to life was also not anything new in this corpse-strewn Northern Divine Region. But after this person had gotten up, he had not even spared them a single glance. In this region, who would dare to ignore him in such a manner!?

This feeling of being ignored made him extremely unhappy. The corners of his mouth curled up as he issued the most idiotic command he would ever issue in his entire life, "This eyesore of a brat... Cripple him."

To him, killing a random passerby was no different from killing a dog or a chicken.

The gray-robed man beside him did not even move his body. He merely moved his arm causing a pitch-black wind blade which vibrated with faint spatial ripples to slash toward Yun Che... In an instant, it collided against Yun Che's back.

The purple-clothed girl closed her eyes. She was unwilling to see the miserable scene of this innocent person's annihilation, an innocent person who she had dragged into her own circumstances by complete accident... However, what rang in her ears was actually a "thunk".

As the dreadful blade of dark wind collided against Yun Che's back, the sound that rang out was actually the sound of something hitting metal. The wind blade was instantly deflected, leaving a long furrow in the ground beside him. But his back... Even his outer clothes had not been harmed, much less his body.

Yun Che's footsteps ground to a halt before he started to slowly turn around. One pair of dark and gloomy eyes looked towards five pairs of eyes that had instantly constricted in fright and shock.

"Ah... This..." The face of the gray-robed expert who had just attacked went completely stiff and he could barely believe his own eyes.

Yun Che raised an arm and slowly extended a finger, pointing it at the person who had attacked him. After that, he spoke in a dark and low voice, "Was being alive... not good enough?"

Bang!

A beam of fiery light exploded in front of everyone.

Within that fiery light, the Divine Spirit expert who had attacked instantly burst into countless fiery fragments, and in the next instant, those fiery fragments transformed into drifting ash... He did not struggle at all, nor did he even have time to let out a cry of misery.

Divine Spirit Realm profound practitioners were considered the absolute powerhouses in this region. But one of them had just been instantly annihilated by an attack launched from this man's finger. It was as if he had butchered a small dog.

Chapter 1538 - A Deal with the Devil

The world descended into a terrifying, deathly stillness. Even the air had suddenly become so prickly that it pierced one's heart and bones.

A Divine Spirit expert had actually been annihilated by a single finger and not even a single speck of dust remained.

"A Divine... Divine King!" the black-robed old man beside Princess Hanwei exclaimed in a trembling voice as his eyes widened to their fullest extent. Upon hearing those few words, everyone's body shook violently.

On this plane, a Divine King was on the level of the sect masters of the greatest sects!

And what was even more terrifying than the two words "Divine King" was his eyes. They had never seen such dark and gloomy eyes before. When he turned around and swept that dark gaze over them, the terrifying, stifling oppression... was akin to a demon opening its eyes and grabbing their throats and souls with its wicked claws.

However, Ming Yang was no ordinary person, so his fear and apprehension toward Divine Kings were not as heavy as other common folk. After all, his own father was one of the strongest Divine Kings in this region. He suppressed the odd terror in his heart and took a step forward. There was a faint smile on his face as he made a respectful bow. "For this junior Ming Yang to be able to meet such an expert like Senior in this barren place is truly my fortune. Just now, my servant had eyes but he did not recognize a Divine King, and he actually attacked and offended you. I thank Senior for reprimanding us."

"That's right, my father is the clan master of the Dark Roc Clan, Ming Xiao, and I believe that Senior has heard of him. If Senior doesn't mind, you can journey to our Dark Roc Mountain and stay there as a guest. This junior will definitely look forward to it and I will definitely lavish a feast on you when you come."

Those short few words were clearly respectful but they did not lose any of their dignity or power. This was especially true when he presented the name of his clan and his father, his tone had undergone a subtle change. After all, it was not limited to this mere region, in this entire star realm, who did not recognize the Dark Roc Clan or Ming Xiao's name!?

But...

What shocked Ming Yang was that the face of the black-robed man facing them did not even flinch when he heard Ming Yang's words. What answered him was merely that reraised finger... which was gently flicked once more.

PFBOOOM!!

Three beams of fiery light simultaneously exploded all around Ming Yang.

In his eyes, which had widened so much that they nearly ruptured, the three people beside him, which was also to say the three Divine Spirit Realm experts, had instantly... In that exact same instant, their Divine Spirit bodies exploded within those fiery lights, but they had not let out a single cry of misery or shed a single drop of blood. They had directly been blown into fiery fragments that filled the sky before becoming flying ash that scattered all over the ground.

This completely unforeseen turn of events caused Ming Yang's features to violently tremble. The confidence he possessed before had now turned into a completely uncontrollable trembling. "You..."

A single word spilled from his lips but he was unable to say anything after that.

Yun Che started moving, walking toward Ming Yang step by step. With every step that drew closer, Ming Yang's pupils would contract a little more. The gradually approaching invisible oppression, an oppression that was far too terrifying, very nearly shattered his mind.

His mouth gaped open and his lips kept flapping but he was unable to make a sound no matter how hard he tried. Finally, he tried to flee... However, he was not able to gather even the smallest thread of profound energy. In fact, he could not even feel his own legs as his entire body slowly sank to the ground like wet mud. His body grew even more limp... until he had fallen to his knees.

He definitely was not a cowardly person. On the contrary, given his background and status, he had never behaved in a craven or arrogant in front of the Divine King sect masters of the other big sects.

But in front of Yun Che, all of his courage seemed to have been shattered by something invisible.

While he was in a trance, Yun Che had already arrived in front of him and Ming Yang's pupils had already shrunk to trembling pinpricks... He did not understand why he was feeling such terror. Even when he had the fortune to meet the great realm king back then, he definitely had not felt so fearful or apprehensive.

His trembling lips opened and closed and he wanted to say that he was the young master of the Dark Roc Clan, that he could not kill him. Instead, he exhausted all of his will to force out two words, two words that he barely managed to choke out in a voice that trembled violently. "Spare... me.... aaaagh!"

A hand gripped his throat, directly lifting him off the ground, strangling his voice.

The last voice he would hear in his life rang in his ears... and it was a low voice that was even more dreadful than a devil's.

"Those who defy me, those who offend me, and those who wound me... All of them should die!"

A cluster of black energy circled around Ming Yang's neck before it instantly spread to his entire body. In an instant... the black energy had devoured his body, leaving nothing but pitch-black ashes behind.

This was the first time that Yun Che had used darkness profound energy so naturally.

He let his hand fall... Ming Yang had already disappeared from in front of him, and all that was left was a cloud of black smoke that was slowly dispersed by a dark and cold wind.

No one could understand just what kind of dreadful darkness, resentment, and bloodlust was hidden beneath that icy-cold facade of his at this moment. Ming Yang was merely like an ant who thought too highly of itself, an ant who had gone to offend a death god who had just walked out of a boundless abyss.

As the black smoke cleared, Yun Che turned around and headed north... He did not spare the purple-clothed girl or the black-robed old man a single glance.

The purple-clothed girl had been left in a complete daze, as if she had been caught in an illusory dream.

Ming Yang was not only the son of the Dark Roc Clan Master, he was also known to all as the Dark Roc Clan's young master. He was, in the truest sense of the words, a person who could run amok without fear in the eastern region, a person who no one would dare to offend... But he had actually died just like that!?

It had been an act that had looked as simple as casually brushing off some dirt!

And this had happened even after Ming Yang had clearly given his identity. It was as if... the Dark Roc Clan, whose name resounded throughout the entire eastern region, was completely beneath his notice!?

The black-robed old man came back to his senses with much difficulty. Given his experience, the shock in his heart was even greater than purple-clothed girl's shock. But more importantly, he was feeling the joy that one felt after surviving a major crisis. He sank to the ground limply and he was unable to stand, but a faint smile appeared on his face. "It looks like the heavens themselves are protecting Your

Highness and they sent an expert to save us... Your Highness, you must leave quickly. The Dark Roc Clan definitely sensed Ming Yang's death... after this old one has recovered a little bit, I will catch up to Your Highness."

But the purple-clothed girl did not react to his words at all. Her eyes remained fixed on that black-clothed man's back as they fluctuated continuously... and continued to grow even more restless.

"Senior, please wait a while!"

Her sudden cry gave the black-robed elder beside her a huge shock. "Your... Your Highness!"

His instincts told him that this black-clothed man was someone who they definitely could not afford to provoke.

He had even killed the Dark Roc Clan's young master so casually, what was killing other people to him!?

Yun Che did not respond in the slightest to her cry and he was slowly growing smaller and smaller in her vision.

"Senior!" the purple-clothed girl cried out in an even louder voice. "This junior is the Eastern Frost Nation's Nineteenth Princess Dongfang Hanwei. I thank Senior for saving my life."

She started moving forward before she suddenly knelt to the ground, her voice suddenly filled with deep sadness and pleading. "This junior's motherland has been struck by a great catastrophe, our royal city is on the verge of being attacked, and my royal father and mother are still in the city... This junior is already at the end of her rope and I boldly and shamelessly beg Senior to help us. If Senior can save this junior's royal father and mother, this junior would be willing to give you anything in return!"

"Your Highness, you must... must not!" The black-robed elder struggled to rise to his feet and stop her.

He was not that shocked that Dongfang Hanwei would go to this extent. After all, she truly was at her wit's end and this was something she was very likely to do, given her personality.

She did not dare hope that the other party would help her solve the crisis that imperiled the royal city and if the other party would be able to rescue her parents, she would already consider that a blessing from the heavens.

She and Yun Che were complete strangers and she knew absolutely nothing about him, she did not even know whether he was good or evil. However, like a drowning man, she would desperately cling to whatever she could... This black-clothed man's origins were unknown and his aura was bizarre, but he had crushed the Dark Roc young master like he was stepping on an ant. So in her despair, it was as if she had seen a life-saving straw that flickered with a black light.

Yun Che did not react to her words at all.

"Senior... Senior!"

Yun Che's indifference did not cause her to back down in disappointment. She utilized the last of her profound energy to swiftly surge forward. She directly fell to the ground right behind Yun Che, her blood-stained hand firmly grasping the corner of his robe. Her mournful voice was now interlaced with

sobs as she said, "This junior begs that you save us. As long as you are willing to help, I will agree to anythi..."

Yun Che flung his robe backwards.

Bang!!

With a muffled bang, Dongfang Hanwei was blasted into the distance, resembling a purple butterfly that had been caught up in a hurricane. Her delicate body landed heavily beside the black-robed old man and streams of blood that had flowed in reverse trickled out of the corner of her mouth.

"Your Highness... Your Highness!" The black-robed old man desperately shook his head. "Don't try to force things. Protecting yourself is the greatest comfort you can provide to the king."

Yun Che was still nearby so he naturally did not dare to say that Yun Che was definitely an extremely dangerous person.

Dongfang Hanwei's delicate head drooped low as the blood from her mouth dripped down onto the floor one drop at a time. That already infinitesimal hope... or perhaps it would be better to call it a fantasy, had been extinguished then and there.

But it was at this moment that she suddenly felt her vision dim slightly... She unconsciously raised her head and she saw that the black-clothed man had actually appeared in front of her like a ghost. An unearthly pair of cold and indifferent eyes were staring at her emotionlessly.

"..." She simply sat there in a daze, staring at him but unable to speak.

"You'll agree to anything, right?" Yun Che said, and the scene resembled that of a devil making a contract with a despairing mortal.

The black-robed old man's complexion changed dramatically. He wanted to stop her... but he was unable to make a sound and even his raised hand had frozen in midair.

This was a terrifying person who had destroyed four Divine Spirit Realm practitioners and the Dark Roc young master with a casual wave of his hand. So how could he offend him in any way!?

But Dongfang Hanwei's eyes lit up with a grim and mournful hope. She looked at Yun Che before she gave a slow and resolute nod of her head. "As long as Senior can rescue my royal father and mother... I will agree to any condition. Otherwise, Senior can take my life at any time."

"Fine." Yun Che's eyes narrowed. As he faced Princess Hanwei, whose face was so beautiful and moving that even the Dark Roc young master had lusted over and been infatuated by her, his gaze was so cold and indifferent that it was as if he was looking at a dead body. "Lead the way then."

"...I thank Senior for his great kindness." Dongfang Hanwei deeply bowed her head as her eyes instantly misted over. But it was unknown whether she was shedding tears of joy because she had managed to grasp that life-saving straw or if she was weeping in sorrow at her own fate.

The black-robed old man's hand powerlessly drooped down. From the moment Yun Che had assented, everything had already been far too late. He could only say, "Venerable One, I owe you a great debt..."

and I entrust Her Highness to you as well. I beg that you treat Her Highness kindly on account of her great sincerity towards you... In my next life, this old one will definitely repay you with all that I have.”

“Hmph.” Yun Che turned slightly and as he tapped his finger in the air, threads of the spiritual energy of heaven and earth poured into the old man’s body.

Immediately, the black-robed old man’s complexion changed. He felt as if countless streams of spring water had surged into his originally withered and exhausted body. His vitality was recovering at an unbelievable speed and his mind was swiftly clearing up. He was starting to feel a growing sense of pain from those wounds that he had no longer felt anything from.

Threads of profound energy were also swiftly surging up within his withered profound veins.

The black-robed old man tried to move his hands and legs, and found he could stand up nearly effortlessly. He looked at Yun Che, his old eyes trembling, and it was as if he was gazing upon a divine being who had descended to the world. After that, his entire body suddenly shuddered as he hurriedly bent down and gave Yun Che a deep bow. “This old one’s name is Qin Jian, I greet the Venerable One. The grace the Venerable One has shown me today will not be forgotten as long as this old one lives.”

“Lead the way!” Yun Che’s voice grew even harder and it was clear he had grown impatient of their idle talk.

Chapter 1539 - The Five Nether Ruins

Immediately, the black-robed old man Qin Jian and Princess Hanwei flew with Yun Che towards the royal city which they had escaped from with great difficulty.

Qin Jian did not try to persuade the princess. Dongfang Hanwei had suddenly grabbed ahold of a life-saving straw and given her personality, she definitely would not listen to his advice... He also hoped that this man, whose identity was unknown and whose body coursed with a dangerous aura, would truly be able to save the royal couple who were in mortal peril right now.

In the past, Yun Che would never use his strength to bully or scorn others. If someone else treated him with respect, he would never disrespect them. Because he had deeply received the teachings of both Yun Gu and Xiao Lie, he had always treated unfamiliar seniors with exceptional respect, but today... both Dongfang Hanwei and Qin Jian were continuously pressured by a heavy oppressive feeling as they flew beside Yun Che and they did not even dare to pant for breath.

During the entire journey, whether it was the senior or the princess, he had not even looked at them properly once.

As for why he had changed his mind and decided to help them...

“Senior...” Princess Hanwei finally opened her mouth timidly as she spoke in a very cautious voice. “I don’t know... how I should address Senior?”

“Yun Che.”

Upon seeing that he had given her a direct reply instead of ignoring her, the anxiety in Princess Hanwei’s heart was soothed a little. Qin Jian frowned as he also tried to ask a question, “Given Venerable One’s

abilities, you are definitely some bigshot whose name can shake an entire region, but this old one has never heard of you before... Could it be that Venerable One is from another star region?"

Yun Che continued to look ahead as he coldly replied, "This star realm, what is its name?"

Qin Jian was stunned by Yun Che's reply and abruptly said, "Ah, so that's how it is, Venerable One is really from... Err, in reply to the Venerable One, the name of this realm is the East Ruins Realm. Has Venerable One ever heard of the Five Nether Ruins?"

"I haven't."

Those two cold and testy words caused Qin Jian's heart to thump hard in his chest... He did not even know what the Five Nether Ruins were. Given his dreadful power, there was no way that he was an ill-informed and ignorant person. If that was the case, then it was very likely this person had been born in an even higher plane... that was to say an upper star realm! As a result, he knew nothing about middle star realms, which also meant that it was beneath him to understand.

His attitude and tone immediately grew even more respectful and he hurriedly explained in detail, "The Five Nether Ruins are the five principle star realms in this star region. They are separated into the East Ruins Realm, where we are, the Western Ruins Realm, the Southern Ruins Realm, the Northern Ruins Realm, and the Central Ruins Realm in the middle."

"The East Ruins Realm is made up of three regions, the place we are in is the eastern region of the East Ruins Realm."

"The eastern region is comprised of thirty-six countries, the Eastern Frost Nation that this old one and Her Highness belongs to is one of these thirty-six nations. However, the strongest powers in this area are the 'Nine Great Sects'." Qing Jian quietly looked at Yun Che's expression before he said it anyways. "The people that the Venerable One killed just now were from Dark Roc Mountain, which is one of the Nine Great Sects."

"You're saying that the ones who have forced your Eastern Frost Nation into a desperate situation is this so-called Dark Roc Clan?" Yun Che said l'm passively. No one could tell what was going through his head.

"No," Princess Hanwei shook her head and said in a low voice, "it's the Heavenly Martial Nation. The Heavenly Martial Nation borders our Eastern Frost Nation, they have openly harbored the ambition to swallow up our Eastern Frost for many years now, so we constantly engage in battle. However, this time around, they have, through some unknown means, actually managed to enlist the help of one of the Nine Great Sects, the 'Great Immortal Palace' and there are even rumors that the 'Great Immortal Profound Palace' has already become the guardian sect of the Heavenly Martial Nation."

"This time, they have a Divine King from the Great Yin Immortal Palace to assist them, so we have no way of defending against them." Princess Hanwei's body started trembling. "I had originally desired to live and die together with the royal city, but Royal Father ordered Grandfather Qin to flee the royal city with me... So Ming Yang was basically just taking advantage of our unfortunate circumstances and he was prepared to use this as a pretext to kidnap me. We met him just as we left the royal city. Grandfather Qin put his life on the line to shake them off, but who would have imagined..."

An expression finally appeared on Yun Che's face as a very faint look of scorn appeared on his face. "You're still a royal household from a middle star realm. To think that you don't even have a Divine King, no wonder your country is on the brink of destruction!"

How could Qin Jian and Princess Hanwei dare to get angry at Yun Che's mockery? Instead, Qin Jian gave a soft sigh and said, "I won't hide it from the Venerable One, our Eastern Frost Nation has actually always had a guardian Divine King and his name is Fang Zhou. Our ruler has always been exceedingly deferential and respectful towards him and treated him as the Eastern Frost's guardian and imperial advisor. We even pay an extremely large amount of tribute to him every single year."

Qin Jian paused for a little while, as if he was hesitating about something, but he still continued in the end. "Even though he has a very arrogant personality, he is extremely powerful. If he was around, it definitely wouldn't have reached this point. However, when the Heavenly Martial Nation suddenly made their move with the assistance of the Great Yin Divine Palace this time, Fang Zhou just so happened to leave the city on business a few days before, and we do not know where he went... Sigh."

"..." Yun Che's eyes narrowed.

Qin Jian said, "Venerable One's power is deep and unfathomable, so for us to be able to obtain Senior's assistance this time is definitely the protection of the heavens over our Eastern Frost Nation. If... if Senior is not willing to get too involved, even rescuing our monarch is already the blessing of heaven. This old one's life is insignificant but I am willing to trade my rotten life for this."

There was no way that one did not have to pay an enormous price in order to obtain the help of a master who was completely unrelated to them. But he hoped that the one who paid the price in the end was him and not Princess Hanwei.

At this time, the slight fluctuation of profound energy suddenly appeared on Qin Jian's body. He paused for a small instant before he swiftly took out a sound transmission that was flickering with gloomy black light.

Upon hearing the sound transmission, Qin Jian's expression kept changing before an expression of wild joy finally settled on his face. His head jerked upwards as he spoke to Princess Hanwei in an excited voice, "Your Highness! The monarch sent a sound transmission... The danger imperiling the royal city has been averted for now!"

"Ah!?" Princess Hanwei's delicate head turned around, her eyes trembling. For a moment, she was barely able to believe her own ears. "Is it... true? How is it..."

"It's the Imperial Advisor! The Imperial Advisor managed to return in time!" Qin Jian shouted with barely-suppressed emotion. "The Heavenly Martial Nation was afraid that the battle between Divine Kings would cause too many casualties, so they had no choice but to retreat for now... This is great! Thank the heavens that the Imperial Advisor managed to return in time and our ruler is safe and sound."

Just before this, when Qin Jian had mentioned Fang Zhou, his words were filled with a clear discontent and there was even a faint sense of loathing towards him. He had also called him by his name and without any honorifics. But at this moment, he not only respectfully addressed Fang Zhou as "Imperial Advisor", he was even filled with gratitude and rejoiced about him.

“That’s great... that’s great.” The darkness and terror that Princess Hanwei had always been suppressing was instantly dispersed at this moment. Her eyes filled with tears once again, but this time they were tears of joy.

The guardian Divine King Fang Zhou had returned and he had not only solved the danger that befell the royal city, he had also brought a sense of security for their future.

Even in her excessive joy, she still had not forgotten about the matter with Yun Che. She hurriedly wiped away the tears that were blinking in her eyes as she gave a courteous bow to Yun Che. “Senior Yun, the danger imperiling the royal city has been settled and we no longer need to trouble Senior to take action. But this junior has to repay Senior for the debt of saving my life. So I request that Senior enter our Eastern Frost Royal City as a guest so that this junior can be given the opportunity to repay you.”

Repaying him for saving her life was one of the reasons, but if she could think of a way to make him stay in the Eastern Frost Nation, that would undoubtedly be an incredibly good thing... Qin Jian had personally said that he was a Divine King!

If the Eastern Frost Nation could obtain another Divine King besides its guardian and imperial advisor Fang Zhou, then even if the Heavenly Martial Nation had the assistance of the Great Yin Divine Palace, they would still have to think twice before attacking.

After she finished speaking, she hurriedly added, “Regarding the matter of the Dark Roc young master, no one else was present there and we definitely won’t leak a single word regarding it, so Senior can be at ease.”

This sudden change did not seem to bother Yun Che at all. Even after hearing Princess Hanwei’s words, his reaction was still as calm and tepid as still water. “Then let me see just how you will repay me exactly... Let’s go!”

The Eastern Frost Royal City was shrouded by the smoke of battle but it still retained its imposing manner.

The danger had indeed been lifted and they did not see the Heavenly Martial Nation’s troops or profound practitioners.

This was the first time that Yun Che had truly entered one of the human cities inside the Northern Divine Region... Or perhaps it would be better to say one of the devil people’s cities.

However, if one forgot about the fact that they cultivated darkness profound energy, what difference was there between the people and city in front of him, and the rest of the God Realm?

Just as the three people entered the city, several heavily-armoured profound practitioners, who were clearly city guards, came to greet them from afar. They bowed and said, “Nineteenth Princess, Master Qin, the monarch has ordered us to await your arrival since long ago.”

“What about Royal Father and the rest?” Dongfang Hanwei asked in an anxious voice.

“In reply the Nineteenth Princess, the monarch is currently organizing a grand celebratory feast for the Imperial Advisor. The monarch said that once the Nineteenth Princess and Master Qin have safely returned, they can directly enter the palace.”

“Alright!” Dongfang Hanwei turned around slightly and spoke to Yun Che, “Senior, please follow me. Royal Father has always respected the strong, so once he meets Senior, he will definitely be delighted.”

She had originally thought that given Yun Che’s gloomy, cold, and arrogant personality, he would very likely reject her. So she never imagined that he would actually assent to it with an impassive grunt.

Dongfang Hanwei took the lead as they hurriedly entered the royal city’s main palace. A huge feast was being held in the palace. The people who attended the feast were either royalty, important officials, or the important figures from the various domains and sects within the Eastern Frost Nation so the air and profound aura radiating from every one of these people was indeed uncommon.

“Hanwei!”

Just as Dongfang Hanwei stepped into the palace, the Eastern Frost King had already risen to his feet in excitement. After that, he swiftly approached to personally welcome her back. Upon seeing his most beloved daughter, a barely-concealed concern filled his eyes. “Are you alright? Are you hurt anywhere?”

Dongfang Hanwei shook her head and held back her tears as she said, “With Grandfather Qin putting his life on the line to protect me, this daughter is fine... and now that I see Royal Father safe and sound, I can finally stop worrying.”

As she hurriedly wiped away the tears that ringed her eyes, she stepped aside and said, “Royal Father, this senior is someone this daughter met while she was outside. He is a venerable Divine King.”

When the two words “Divine King” rang out, countless gazes within the palace suddenly shot toward them. The look in the Eastern Frost King’s eyes also changed dramatically. He looked towards Qin Jian and upon seeing his subtle nod, all of his doubts were immediately dispelled. He hurriedly stepped forward and gave him a faint bow even though he was the ruler of a country. “This humble king could not properly welcome the Venerable One and it was completely remiss of me. But since we are holding a grand celebratory feast within the palace right now, if the Venerable One does not find it to be too humble and simple, would you mind joining us?”

Yun Che gave another grunt to express his assent as he directly walked in.

Under the Eastern Frost King’s personal arrangement, Yun Che was given one of the highest seats. His arrival had caused the entire grand palace to immediately become much quieter and all eyes were trained on him at the moment... Divine King, those two words were simply far too intimidating. It was just that his face was simply far too young and unfamiliar to them.

“This fellow cultivator,” a tepid voice rang out from one of the main seats at this moment, carrying with it a nearly imperceptible sense of might and power, “Could you grace us with your name, and which sect you come from?”

The one who spoke was a yellow-robed middle-aged man with a fair complexion. He swirled the wine cup in his hand as he shot a sideways glance at Yun Che... Yun Che was indeed a Divine King and he could clearly sense his aura that was at the first level of the Divine King Realm.

However, when compared to him, a third level Divine King, he was still far inferior. No matter whether it was the level of their power or the density of their auras.

During this grand feast, he was not seated at any part of the banquet hall. Rather, he was seated to the side of the main seats... and he was, astonishingly enough, seated at the same level as the Eastern Frost King!

Because he was the Eastern Frost Nation's guardian Divine King, the Eastern Frost's Imperial Advisor Fang Zhou, who had just accomplished the great feat of saving the city!

Yun Che extended his hand to pick up his bamboo chopsticks and he actually did not even glance at Fang Zhou at all. It was as if he had not even heard what he had said.

Fang Zhou's eyebrows sank slightly but Dongfang Hanwei hurriedly said, "This senior's name is Yun Che and he is not someone from the Eastern Ruins Realm."

"Yun Che? Heh heh..." Fang Zhou chuckled as he said in a leisurely voice, "Fellow cultivator Yun, I don't know which sect you're from... But what exactly is your motive behind approaching the Nineteenth Princess and entering our Eastern Frost imperial household!?"

His voice suddenly grew severe, giving everyone a huge fright. The Eastern Frost King hurriedly got up and said, "Imperial Advisor, this Venerable One is an honored guest that Hanwei personally invited back, he definitely doesn't harbor any evil intentions... Venerable Yun, the Imperial Advisor has always been cautious and he does not mean anything by it, so please do not blame him."

"Hmph!" Fang Zhou coldly said, "This Fang has been in this world for thousands of years. Without even mentioning the East Ruins Realm, there isn't a single Divine King in the entire Nether Ruins star region that I do not know. But I have never ever heard the name Yun Che before."

"Even though you are only a level one Divine King who has just entered the realm of the kings, you should also still have some pride as a Divine King. How could you so easily accept an invitation to come here... Do you truly have ulterior motives!?"

"..." Yun Che still did not respond and his fingers were leisurely playing with the bamboo chopsticks in his hand.

Dongfang Hanwei rose to her feet and gave a formal bow as she said, "Imperial Advisor, Hanwei met Senior Yun completely by chance and it was Hanwei who took the initiative to invite him back to the royal city. Furthermore, Hanwei and Grandfather Qin owe Senior Yun our lives, so Hanwei can assure the Imperial Advisor that Senior Yun is definitely not the sort of person that the Imperial Advisor is worried about."

"Such a thing actually happened?" The Eastern Frost King was completely shocked by those words and he hurriedly bowed towards Yun Che. "So the Venerable One actually saved my daughter's life. This sort of heavy debt... please receive a bow from this humble king."

"Oh?" Fang Zhou's attitude changed and he no longer glanced at Yun Che from the corner of his eye. He smiled in a half-hearted manner as he said, "Oh so that's how it is. It looks like I was worried for nothing. Our Eastern Frost Nation is going through troubled times, so that is why this Fang has no choice but to be on my guard. I hope that my fellow cultivator will forgive me."

"As an apology, if you have the time, this Fang could give you a pointer or two. What do you think?"

These words were to clearly show that Fang Zhou was thinking of the imperial family and that he had a broad mind and a big heart. The word “pointer” was also to tell everyone that this Divine King who had just entered the royal city was far inferior to him.

He was still the sky within the Eastern Frost Royal City.

Yun Che still continued to play with those wooden chopsticks but he finally opened his mouth. The iciness contained in his cold and low voice rang in everyone’s ears as he said, “Who the hell do you think you are? You think you’re worthy enough to give me pointers?”

Chapter 1540 - Eastern Frost Besieged On All Sides

Yun Che’s words caused the entire great hall to instantly fall into a deathly silence as the looks on everyone’s face dramatically changed into ones of shock or fear.

Fang Zhou had been the Eastern Frost Nation’s guardian Divine King for nearly a thousand years and his fame and reputation in the Eastern Frost Nation were exceedingly high. In fact, they were nearly equal to that of the Eastern Frost Monarch. At the same time, his personality was also exceedingly arrogant, and nearly all of the sects in the Eastern Frost Nation, whether big or small, and aristocrats had suffered from his temper and attitude.

However, as the only guardian Divine King of the Eastern Frost Nation, he did indeed have the right and qualifications to be arrogant. No one dared to offend him, even the Eastern Frost Monarch would display deep respect and even flattery towards him, even if it was in public, much less the princes and princesses.

This time, when the Eastern Frost Royal City was facing destruction, Fang Zhou managed to hurry back at the last moment and he rescued the Eastern Frost Royal City from the desperate situation it had found itself in. It would not be an exaggeration to call his accomplishment “saving the nation” and after the Heavenly Martial Nation’s troops had retreated, the Eastern Frost Monarch had even bowed towards Fang Zhou... He had bowed so deeply that his body nearly made a right angle.

So one could well imagine that his fame and reputation in the Eastern Frost Nation would be like a blazing sun at noon from today onward.

But at this time, the Nineteenth Princess had actually brought another Divine King back! This Divine King had not only accepted the Nineteenth Princess’ invitation, he had even accepted the Eastern Frost Monarch’s invitation to join the banquet, so he definitely had some intentions to join the Eastern Frost Nation.

To the Eastern Frost Nation, this was undoubtedly an immensely good thing. However, to the guardian Divine King Fang Zhou, the Eastern Frost Imperial Advisor who had just accomplished an immense feat... Given his personality and way of doing things, he would definitely try to knock this newly arrived Divine King, a Divine King who was clearly far weaker than him at that, down a peg. In the eyes of everyone who was present, this was not something that was out of the norm.

But they had definitely never imagined that the person Fang Zhou had addressed as a “first level Divine King” would actually make such an earth-shattering statement.

As powerful Divine Kings, they should indeed possess the pride that belonged to Divine Kings... or perhaps it would be better to call it arrogance. No one would mock the arrogance of a strong person, because they had the qualifications to behave that way. But this was when it was a strong person versus a weak person. When a strong person faced someone who was even stronger, being arrogant would be tantamount to stupidity.

Yun Che's origins were shrouded in mystery, his aura radiated an uncomfortable gloomy coldness, and he had not said a single word throughout. No one dared to make a comment about those things, but he had not played along with Fang Zhou's provocation... If he had just remained silent, it would have been fine. But he actually dared to insult him in return!?

Fang Zhou's expression did not change too much and his eyes merely narrowed a little. But the cold light that shot out of the slits of his eyes instantly caused everyone to feel as if an icy cold blade had swept past their throats.

The expression on Princess Hanwei's pretty face dramatically changed. She shot to her feet from her seat, which was beside Yun Che, and said hurriedly, "Senior Yun is cold and reserved, and he has never liked to interact with other people. Just now, he was merely politely rejecting the imperial advisor and he definitely did not mean anything else. I hope that the Imperial Advisor can forgive his words."

The Eastern Frost Crown Prince who was seated in the upper seats shot to his feet as well. He was glaring furiously at Yun Che. Fang Zhou was the Eastern Frost Nation's guardian Divine King, so he definitely needed Fang Zhou's support if he wanted to keep his position as crown prince. After he inherited the throne in the future, he would still have to rely on Fang Zhou as well. But today, someone had actually dared to insult Fang Zhou, so how could he simply sit by and watch it happen... This was also an extremely good opportunity to win Fang Zhou over, or perhaps it would be better to call it currying favor with Fang Zhou.

"You bastard..."

Just as those two words left his mouth, an explosive roar that was several times louder than his own rang out in the palace. "You bastard! Do you think there is even room for you to talk here!? Sit down and shut up!"

The one who had let out that furious shout was the Eastern Frost Monarch himself. The Eastern Frost Crown Prince's voice caught in his throat. As he looked at his royal father's ice-cold eyes, he suddenly realized something and his body was immediately drenched in cold sweat.

He had only been thinking of winning Fang Zhou over so he had actually nearly forgotten that Yun Che was a Divine King himself!

How could someone like him afford to offend an existence like a Divine King, even if that person was inferior to Fang Zhou!?

He hurriedly lowered his head and his voice grew about seventy percent weaker, "Nine... Nineteenth Sister's words were a little rude, so this son merely wanted... Royal... Royal Father was right to rebuke me."

As he finished his incoherent babble, the Eastern Frost Crown Prince sat down and did not dare speak another word.

The Eastern Frost Monarch's eyes changed and his originally cold and severe expression immediately turned calm. He gave a loud and clear laugh as he said, "We can never dare to dream that we could reach the Divine King Realm in our lives, so we only have admiration and respect for your sort. But we also know that once someone reaches the level of Divine King, they will naturally possess an overbearing pride that is instilled deep in their bones. Today, even though you two venerable Divine Kings have only used words, both of you have allowed us to experience the pride and the might of a Divine King from such a close distance. It has truly been eye-opening, and we are all left amazed."

"We are truly fortunate to be able to sit together with two venerable Divine Kings." The Eastern Frost Monarch turned around and raised his golden wine cup high in the air. "We use this cup of wine to toast the two venerable Divine Kings!"

The words of the Eastern Frost Monarch relaxed the tension in the air and everyone stood up and raised their wine cups to toast them.

"Hehe." The dark look on Fang Zhou's face faded a little as he raised his wine cup and faced everyone at the feast... this included the Eastern Frost Monarch's standing toast as well. However, he did not stand up and he remained seated in a sloppy fashion. "Fine, this Fang has seen countless arrogant and impolite people in his lifetime, so why would I condescend to lower myself to their level?"

His eyes slanted to the side as he swirled his wine cup in Yun Che's direction. "Please."

This time, Yun Che no longer remained unresponsive. The corner of his mouth twitched... as if he was making a bland smile, but one could not detect a hint of any intention to smile. He grabbed his wine cup and finished its contents in one gulp.

"Hahahaha!" Both Fang Zhou and Yun Che had given him a lot of face as a ruler, so the Eastern Frost Monarch's loud laughter had become a lot more carefree. "Today, the Imperial Advisor displayed his divine might and forced the Heavenly Martial forces back, and we have even received such an honored guest as Venerable Yun, so it can be said that we have been doubly-blessed."

"As the saying goes, if one survives a great calamity, good fortune will surely follow. Although today's crisis very nearly shook our foundations, it also greatly stirred our hearts. With the Imperial Advisor watching over us, our Eastern Frost will never be shaken. From today onwards, this king will strive to make this nation prosperous, and with the assistance of the Imperial Advisor, we will lead the Eastern Frost Nation into a new golden age. These words are definitely not empty!"

After this battle with the Heavenly Martial Nation, the Eastern Frost Monarch had truly come to appreciate just how terrifying a difference in power level was. They had battled many times, each having their fair share of victories and defeats. But this time, when Fang Zhou had not been in the royal city, the Heavenly Martial Nation had been able to easily route their Eastern Frost army with the assistance of a Divine King from the Great Yin Immortal Palace.

That was right, Divine Kings were so strong that even if there were only one or two of them, they could easily turn the tide of even a huge battle.

The difference in power level was absolutely not something that could be easily made up for with numbers.

Fang Zhou was the central figure of this grand celebratory feast, but the Eastern Frost Monarch's eyes kept covertly glancing towards Yun Che as well as he racked his brains to come up with a way to make him stay.

Other than that, he was also thinking of the Dark Roc Mountain.

The Dark Roc young master had always lusted after the Nineteenth Princess, Dongfang Hanwei, this was something that everyone knew about.

Dongfang Hanwei was his most beloved daughter and not only did she possess beauty that could overturn an era, she was publicly acknowledged as the number one beauty in the Eastern Frost Nation. Her innate talent in the profound way was even unrivaled amongst her siblings. As a result, as long as Dongfang Hanwei was not willing, even if it was the Dark Roc young master making the request, he would still tactfully decline it.

But this time, after facing the Heavenly Martial Nation that had obtained the support of the Great Yin Immortal Palace, he had no choice but to change his way of thinking.

The smog of battle had yet to disperse from over the royal city, but the grand feast being held in the main palace was getting more and more lively. The great nobles and sect masters all vied with each other to talk to Fang Zhou. In front of Fang Zhou... they, who were all hegemon and governors in their own domains, displayed a humble and fawning attitude, and it was as if they hated that they could not simply kneel on the floor to pay their respects to him.

Because Fang Zhou had just "crossed swords" with Yun Che, no one dared to approach Yun Che... Because if they did, would that not be offensive to Fang Zhou?

Both were Divine Kings, but one was the guardian Imperial Advisor while the other came from a completely unknown background. Furthermore, Fang Zhou was clearly stronger than Yun Che, so their choice was obvious.

"Senior Yun." Dongfang Hanwei stood in front of Yun Che's seat and bowed to him. She said respectfully, "I was unable to repay you for the great debt of saving my life. But I ask that Senior still stay at the royal city for a little longer. Even though the Eastern Frost isn't a wealthy nation, if Senior has any requests, this junior and my royal father will definitely do our best to fulfill them."

Yun Che closed his eyes softly and he did not pick up his wine cup. Instead, he suddenly said in a cold voice, "Mind your words."

Shock ran through Dongfang Hanwei's heart as she hurriedly replied, "This ju... This junior knows she is wrong. Please correct me Senior."

"I'm only a few years older than you." Yun Che crossed his arms over his chest and no one knew what was going through his mind.

"..." Dongfang Hanwei's lips parted slightly... Only a few years older than her, which meant that he was around thirty years of age?

Putting aside the matter of a thirty year old Divine King in the first place, even a sixty year old Divine King was completely unheard of. Such a thing definitely did not exist even among the upper star realms. Dongfang Hanwei thought he was cracking a joke, so she could only play along by cracking a somewhat stiff smile. "Senior... you must be joking. How could Hanwei dare to joke about your seniority to Senior."

Yun Che did not reply, instead he quietly glanced outside of the palace through the corner of his eye.

"Report!!"

A panicked roar rang from far outside the palace. Following that, a soldier wearing light armor hurriedly rushed over and knelt in front of the palace.

The Eastern Frost Monarch's brow furrowed greatly, "What has left you in such a fluster?"

"Reporting to our ruler, the Heavenly Martial... the Heavenly Martial Nation has returned and right now, their army is already within twenty-five kilometers of the city!"

"What!?" Everyone in the grand palace stood up in shock and alarm.

The Eastern Frost Monarch's eyebrows sank as he said in a deep voice, "How many troops are there?"

"Around five thousand."

"...Five thousand?" This number caused astonishment to appear on the faces of the Eastern Frost Monarch and all the people present.

"Hehe." Fang Zhou stood up, both hands behind his back, and he slowly walked down. "A mere five thousand troops. It's clear that they have not come to do battle, but to make peace. With this imperial advisor watching over this city, I can forgive them for losing their appetite for battle... Is this army being personally led by the Heavenly Martial Monarch?"

"Yes."

"I suspected as much." A faint smile appeared on Fang Zhou's face as he said, "Let's go, this imperial advisor will personally go out to meet them."

Fang Zhou's words caused everyone's taut heartstrings to relax as smiles began to appear on their faces. In an instant, the sound of clapping started to ring out wildly, resounding incessantly in everyone's ears.

"That's right! With the Imperial Advisor watching over the royal city, the Heavenly Martial Nation can forget about shaking us."

"The so-called news about the Great Yin Immortal Palace becoming the Heavenly Martial's guardian sect is complete rubbish."

"The Imperial Advisor is not only the immense pillar of the Eastern Frost Nation, his feats and accomplishments will also forever be recorded in the history of the Eastern Frost Nation..."

Fang Zhou had long ago grown accustomed to such flattery and praise. He had walked out of the grand palace with a faint smile on his face, his hands still behind his back. Whether it was unintentional or not, astonishingly enough, his position when he exited the palace was in front of the Eastern Frost Monarch and he had not even glanced in Yun Che's direction.

Dongfang Hanwei said to Yun Che, "Does Senior want to rest for a while? If you don't mind..."

But Yun Che chose to stand up at this time as he said in a bland voice, "Let's go and watch a show."

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Outside the Eastern Frost Royal City, the Heavenly Martial Nation's troops had drawn near.

There were really only five thousand troops, but the Heavenly Martial Monarch was really standing at their head. Beside him was the Heavenly Martial's guardian Divine King, whose fame and prestige was extremely high in the Heavenly Martial Nation... Bai Pengzhou!

The Eastern Frost army was spread out in front of their royal city in a grand array. All of the hegemon and governors of the Eastern Frost Nation were present as well, and the aura of this force greatly suppressed the one coming from the Heavenly Martial Nation's forces.

Bai Pengzhou was a second level Divine King, so he was weaker than Fang Zhou. But when he saw Fang Zhou appear, the corners of his mouth curled into a strange, bland smile.

"Heavenly Martial Monarch, fellow cultivator Bai, since you have come back in such a hurry, it seems like you have something to say." Fang Zhou raised his head as he spoke in a bold and haughty manner.

The Eastern Frost Monarch was beside him, but he had actually spoken first... Even though the Eastern Frost Monarch had long ago become accustomed to Fang Zhou's arrogance, both armies were arrayed against each other at this moment, so his expression still turned ugly for an instant. But, it immediately returned to normal as he stepped forward and said, "Heavenly Martial Monarch, if you want to fight, my Eastern Frost will battle you to the end. If you want to make peace, it will have to depend on your Heavenly Martial's sincerity."

Upon hearing the Eastern Frost Monarch's words, the Heavenly Martial Monarch and Bai Pengzhou started laughing at the same time. The Heavenly Martial Monarch said with a hearty laugh, "The reason why this king has returned is not to battle nor to make peace. Rather... it is to grant your Eastern Frost a chance, a final chance."

"What do you mean?" The Eastern Frost Monarch's face darkened. As he looked at the expression on the Heavenly Martial Monarch's face, his previous confidence was swiftly turning into unease.

"It's very simple," the Heavenly Martial Monarch said with a hearty laugh. "From today onward, allow this Eastern Frost Nation to become the Eastern Frost Province of my Heavenly Martial Nation. As such, this king can avoid wanton slaughter and all of you can also keep your lives and protect your fortunes. This king is even willing to grant you the title of Eastern Frost Duke.... Dongfang Zhou, do you choose to kneel down and thank me for my favor, or do you choose to continue this foolish struggle?"

Dongfang Zhou was precisely the Eastern Frost Monarch's name.

The Heavenly Martial Monarch's words caused everyone's face to darken. But Fang Zhou started giving a hearty laugh of his own instead. He slowly sauntered forward, his eyes projecting the oppressive might of a Divine King as he stared straight at the Heavenly Martial Monarch, "Heavenly Martial Monarch, this Fang is really very curious as to who gave you such great confidence, so that you actually dare to utter such arrogant words."

He stretched out a hand, his palm facing the Heavenly Martial Monarch. "At this distance, if this Fang wants to take your life, it would be as easy as flipping my hand over and even Bai Pengzhou wouldn't be able to dream of protecting you... At that time, I'm afraid you wouldn't even be able to have nightmares, much less beautiful dreams."

"Oh really?" There was no fear or apprehension on the Heavenly Martial Monarch's face and he did not even try to cower behind Bai Pengzhou's body. Instead, a strange and bland smile appeared on his face.

"Fang Zhou, you sure are acting high and mighty, huh."

A cold and low voice suddenly rang out from the rear of the assembled troops.

It was a woman's voice, but upon hearing that voice, Fang Zhou's face suddenly went stiff and when he clearly saw the figure that was slowly stepping through the air toward them, his pupils fiercely shrunk as he could not help but blurt out, "Fairy... Fairy Zixuan!"