

The Gods 1621

[Chapter 1621 - Devil Queen's Mark](#)

"It has only been three years... Is this really possible?" murmured the Eternal Heaven God Emperor.

He had witnessed Yun Che's performance during the Conferred God Battle and his nine stage lightning tribulation... The boy had created so many miracles that he had even started getting used to them.

He once called Yun Che a genius, the miracle of the eastern region, the one true god child and even a monster... but even a monster that transcended common sense shouldn't transcend all senses that existed in this world, right?

The God Realm had existed for several million years. It wasn't a particularly long or short period of time. Every once in a while geniuses would appear and astound the world, but the marks they left behind were almost nothing compared to Yun Che.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor could not believe or accept that Yun Che had grown from a Divine King to someone who could kill a grievously wounded Tai Yin in less than three years.

His mind was in chaos, and he found it difficult to think properly. His fingers hadn't stopped shaking ever since he saw the black energy constantly rising from Zhou Qingchen's body.

Having followed Zhou Xuzi his entire life, Tai Yu knew very well how much he valued his son. After a moment of hesitation, he said, "Yun Che killed Qu Hui and Tai Yin, but left Qingchen alive. It's clear he's..."

Tai Yu wasn't able to continue further, but the Eternal Heaven God Emperor clearly knew what he was going to say. To turn his son into a devil person... there was no crueler revenge one could take against him.

Having cultivated his mind for tens of thousands of years, even he wasn't aware that he was capable of feeling so much pain and helplessness until now.

"Maybe we're not out of options yet," Tai Yu said. "Darkness is deathly afraid of light. The Dragon Queen might be able to save Qingchen."

"No." The Eternal Heaven God Emperor's eyes looked sluggish as he shook his head slowly. "Yun Che saved the world from destruction, but he was hunted by the entire world because he was a devil person, not to mention that we, the Eternal Heaven God Realm are leading this hunt..."

"My son, Qingchen... If I try to defend and save him from harm, the world will surely criticize me for it. My personal reputation is nothing, but I will not allow Eternal Heaven's honor to be tarnished." The Eternal Heaven God Emperor closed his eyes. "Furthermore, it is true that light profound energy is effective against foreign devil aura, but Qingchen's body, vitality, and even profound energy have changed into a devil's... If light profound energy could purify them, Yun Che would've purified himself back to normal already. Don't forget that he's also a wielder of light profound energy."

"But these two cases are not the same," Tai Yu said. "Yun Che's transformation was a natural occurrence, and the threat he represents as he is is unimaginable. No matter how great his achievements were, he's someone that must be eradicated for the sake of world peace. But Qingchen

was artificially changed into a devil person, and he's your son. I'm sure the world will be understanding even if the truth is revealed. Also, I'm sure that the Dragon Monarch and the Dragon Queen wouldn't publicize this even if it turned out that there was nothing they could do to save Qingchen."

"We... cannot..." The Eternal Heaven God Emperor replied in a daze. It was only two words, but the pain and helplessness they carried were as heavy as a million mountains.

Tai Yu inhaled deeply as deep sorrow welled inside his heart.

If Yun Che hadn't existed, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor wouldn't have been this stubborn. But Yun Che did save the world, and the payback he got was the whole world hunting for his head just because he had transformed into a devil person. Moreover, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor was the one who caused Yun Che's change in the first place, and the Eternal Heaven God Realm was the leader of the hunt.

Zhou Qingchen was the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, but he was incomparable to Yun Che in any other way. That was why Zhou Xuzi and the Eternal Heaven God Realm couldn't defend Zhou Qingchen—if they would hunt down someone as great as Yun Che because he was a devil person, then what right did they have to protect Zhou Qingchen!? The only right course of action here was to carry out the Eternal Heaven God Realm's long standing code and belief by killing the devil person, Zhou Qingchen.

But... Zhou Qingchen was also the crown prince of Eternal Heaven God Realm, the chosen successor of power and will, and his most beloved son.

"Royal... father..."

Suddenly, Zhou Qingchen's voice rang beside their ears. Neither Zhou Xuzi nor Tai Yu had noticed his awakening because they were too distracted.

Considering Zhou Qingchen's cultivation and the injuries he had suffered, he should've woken up a long time ago. Clearly, the mental damage he suffered was many, many times worse than his actual injuries. He was unconscious because he couldn't accept his current state at all.

"Qingchen!" Zhou Xuzi appeared before his son immediately.

Although Zhou Qingchen's eyes were open, they were devoid of any spirit. His voice was especially powerless. "The Eternal Heaven God Realm's reputation... cannot be tarnished by me..."

"Royal father... kill me."

A violent shudder coursed through Zhou Xuzi's body.

"Qingchen." Tai Yu tried to keep his voice steady, but he was unable to look Zhou Qingchen in the eye. "You don't need to act like this. We will find a way. Trust in your father and Eternal Heaven."

Surprisingly, the comforting words meant for Zhou Qingchen caused Zhou Xuzi's expression to loosen a little. He let out a small sigh before saying, "That's right, we will find a way. For now... you should get some sleep."

He pushed his palm downwards and knocked Zhou Qingchen out again.

Although Zhou Qingchen hadn't shown signs of irritation or mental breakdown, he was overflowing with suicidal thoughts. It wasn't suitable for him to be awake right now.

"Tai Yu, I'm taking Qingchen to the Old Ancestor... please stay here and guard this place."

"I understand," Tai Yu said with a nod.

The Old Ancestor... really was their last hope.

Beneath the Eternal Heaven Tower, inside a world where only the Eternal Heaven God Emperor had the right to traverse freely.

It was a pale white world where one couldn't feel the passage of time or space.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor could be seen walking through it while holding Zhou Qingchen in his arms. His feet had never felt so heavy until now.

He reached a spot and put down Zhou Qingchen. Then, he knelt on one knee and cried out sorrowfully, "Old Ancestor, please tell me how I can save my son, Qingchen."

"Qingchen hasn't known the secular world for long. He has never had any evil thoughts or committed any evil actions. Yun Che should've taken it out on me. Qingchen doesn't deserve this devilish fate."

The pale white world was silent for a very long time. Finally, an unbelievably old and transient voice entered the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's ears. "It is the Eternal Calamity of Darkness."

"Eternal Calamity... of Darkness?" The Eternal Heaven God Emperor repeated in a daze.

"Back in the days when gods and devils still existed, there were many arguments as to who was the strongest of the four devil emperors. But if we evaluate based on the mastery of darkness profound energy alone, then the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was known to be the best. Since her Eternal Calamity of Darkness represents the pinnacle of the laws of darkness, it wouldn't be inaccurate to call her the strongest of all four devil emperors if this is the only criteria to be considered."

"The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor... left behind the Eternal Calamity of Darkness... to Yun Che?" The Eternal Heaven God Emperor murmured again.

The Eternal Calamity of Darkness was the devil art of a devil emperor!

"Qingchen may be young, but his cultivation level is impressive. It shouldn't be possible for someone to change a Divine Sovereign like him into a devil by force. From what I know based on the incomplete memories of the 'Eternal Heaven Pearl', the only art that can do this is the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's Eternal Calamity of Darkness."

"This proves that the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor must have left behind her core bloodline and her core devil art to Yun Che. It is the only possibility."

Eternal Heaven God Emperor, "..."

"However..." The old voice sounded even more transient. "The profound art of devil emperors and creation gods belonged exclusively to themselves. No devil emperor can cultivate a creation god's profound art, and vice versa. It goes without saying that a mere mortal cannot cultivate either."

“To progress this far in just a couple of years... just what kind of monster is Yun Che?”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor was shocked. The Old Ancestor’s words must be the truth because they were pulled from the memory of the Eternal Heaven Pearl itself. Moreover, he didn’t know any other profound art that could forcefully change a Divine Sovereign into a devil person... This meant that Yun Che now possessed the inheritance of the Heretic God and the Devil Emperor!

His future was unimaginable.

“Old Ancestor... is there a way to save Qingchen?” The Eternal Heaven God Emperor begged. Right now, all of his thoughts were focused on this.

“There are two ways.”

The old voice’s reply caused the Eternal Heaven God Emperor to look up suddenly.

“The first method is this,” the old voice started. “Shatter his profound veins and wipe clean his profound energy. Then, sever his nerves, extract his marrow, and replace his blood. Finally, when his vitality reaches its lowest point, use light profound energy to purify it by force... if he survives this, he might just be able to free himself from darkness.”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor couldn’t say anything.

“The chance Qingchen might die during the process is over fifty percent. Even if the treatment is successful, Qingchen will be forever crippled and have to rely on spirit medicines and profound jades to survive. But even then, his lifespan probably won’t exceed a thousand years.”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor swallowed once before forcing his mouth open. “Please tell me the second method, Old Ancestor.”

There was no way Zhou Qingchen, or any other profound practitioner for that matter, would accept this. It would be a fate far worse than death.

“The second method... is Yun Che.” The old voice said slowly.

“... !” The Eternal Heaven God Emperor’s pupils widened. “Old Ancestor, you’re saying...”

“There is no profound art that can control darkness profound energy better than the Eternal Calamity of Darkness. If Yun Che can use it to transform someone into a devil person by force, then he can use it to wipe away all traces of darkness profound energy as well.”

“Yun Che is the only one who can do this.”

“These are the only two methods I know of that can cure Qingchen. I don’t know any other way even with all my knowledge and the Eternal Heaven Pearl’s incomplete memories.”

“...” The Eternal Heaven God Emperor looked up and fell silent for a very long time. The dead silence lasted over an hour before he finally moved and left the pale white world with Qingchen. Somehow, his footsteps were even heavier than before.

Eternal silence returned to the pale white world after Zhou Xuzi's departure. But it wasn't long before the transient voice said to itself, "Yun Che... he is obviously a mortal, but why do I feel like he could transcend the impossible limit that blocked even the creation gods and the devil emperors..."

"Yun Che's hatred is deep enough to make nine abysses. There is no way to change his mind."

"Could it be that the anxiety I've been feeling for the past years wasn't caused by Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor, but..."

One look at the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's expression told Tai Yu everything he needed to know when the former had returned to the divine palace. Instead of asking about the details of his master's conversation with the Old Ancestor, Tai Yu said, "Shall we go after Yun Che now, my lord?"

"No," The Eternal Heaven God Emperor said while shaking his head. "After what he did to Qingchen, it's clear that he is confident in his own safety. He must have left the God Realm of Absolute Beginning by now. Moreover, that place is extremely dangerous and not somewhere the average profound practitioner can enter. If we were to announce this to the public, countless people would barge into the God Realm of Absolute Beginning recklessly for the reward. The consequences would be unimaginable... not to mention that there is a chance Qingchen may be revealed in the process."

Honorable Tai Yu nodded slightly before asking, "What should we do then?"

When the Eternal Heaven God Emperor looked up, it looked like some mettle had finally reentered his dispirited eyes. "Do you still remember the year we fought against the Devil Queen of the Northern Divine Region?"

Honorable Tai Yu replied slowly, "Of course. Chi Wuyao... there will never be a more frightening woman than her, now or ever."

"But if not for that battle, we wouldn't have known that a female Divine Master had appeared in the Snow Song Realm, the closest realm to the Northern Divine Region... She's also the reason why Yun Che managed to escape in the first place."

They were of course talking about Mu Xuanyin!

Tai Yu abruptly raised his eyebrows when he thought of Mu Xuanyin. He added, "It has been almost ten thousand years since that battle. Mu Xuanyin had only entered Divine Master Realm back then, and it was rumored that she was at level four several dozen years ago. Her progress was already very impressive, but it was nothing compared to the time she rescued Yun Che by force. At that time, she was already a peak Divine Master. If it wasn't for her, forget escaping, Yun Che would have died in the Moon God Emperor's hands already."

"The cold northern region, a poor middle star realm and a thin inheritance of the ice phoenix... I still don't understand how she suddenly reached the pinnacle of power."

"She is gone. There's no longer any point discussing her," the Eternal Heaven God Emperor said. However, his eyes grew darker the more he recalled the memories of the past. He said a little distractedly, "Ten thousand years ago, when the Clear Sky God Emperor died suddenly, his newly wed wife replaced him and renamed the king realm to 'Soul Stealing Realm'. The sudden change in

leadership was supposed to result in civil war, but not long after her ascension that woman came to the Eastern Divine Region for some reason.”

“You, me, Qianye Fantian, and Qianye Wubei were planning to end her life then and there, but instead we were fooled by her losing act and lured to the borders of the Northern Divine Region. It was there that she summoned all the devil energy for about five thousand kilometers and executed that terrifying Soul Stealing Demon Art... Even someone as powerful as Qianye Fantian couldn’t speak of Chi Wuyao without feeling afraid on the inside.”

Tai Yu couldn’t stop his eyebrows from twitching in reaction. It had been a long time since that battle, but his heart still clenched every time he recalled the names “Chi Wuyao” and “Soul Stealing”.

That battle was the main reason why the Eastern Divine Region never dared to enter the Northern Divine Region recklessly again.

However, that battle also had some unexpected effects. The impact of that battle reached the inhabited realm closest to the Northern Divine Region... and the recently crowned realm king, Mu Xuanyin.

Of course, it was impressive that Mu Xuanyin managed to become a Divine Master despite cultivating in a middle star realm, but that battle was a battle between the Devil Queen, the God Emperors, an Eternal Heaven Guardian, and a Brahma God. A new Divine Master didn’t qualify to participate in that battle, but she dove in anyway without a care for her own life at all.

After that battle, it was revealed that devil people who tried to leave the Northern Divine Region often stumbled upon the Snow Song Realm because the two realms were too close to each other. Since she was born into a realm king’s bloodline, her family stood at the forefront of the resistance against the devil people. That meant that her ancestors and even her loved ones had died at the hands of northern region devil people.

It was no wonder her hatred for devil people went as deep as the soul.

Qianye Fantian was powerful, but even he had fallen for Chi Wuyao’s tricks and suffered massively as a result. The shadow of that battle still lingered in his mind to this day. Naturally, it wasn’t hard to imagine the fate of a new Divine Master like Mu Xuanyin.

Chi Wuyao had captured her after she was knocked out by “Soul Stealing”.

Strangely, Mu Xuanyin was able to escape with her life after that. No one knew how she was able to escape from Chi Wuyao’s clutches... not even herself.

Perhaps it was because Chi Wuyao was on her last legs, or perhaps it was because she didn’t want to spend her final strength killing a random stranger instead of escaping.

“Why are you bringing this up after all these years, my lord?” Tai Yu asked.

He was aware that the Eternal Heaven God Emperor hated bringing up that fight. In fact, the public had never even heard of it... It was a battle where a woman from the Northern Divine Region had single-handedly messed up the two strongest god emperors of the Eastern Divine Region, the strongest Eternal Heaven Guardian, and the strongest Brahma God. Of course they wouldn’t let anyone hear about it.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor fell silent for a moment before asking, "The imprint that Chi Wuyao left behind back then... is it still intact?"

Tai Yu was caught off guard by the question. Then, he frowned and said, "My lord, you can't be planning to..."

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor closed his eyes and said in a heavy tone, "Qingchen is suffering today because of me. He cannot lose his future because of me... Otherwise, I won't be able to face my ancestors or her when my time arrives."

"Chi Wuyao made her ambition as clear as day that day. Her attack was clearly a bold and ambitious examination of our strength." The Eternal Heaven God Emperor clenched his fists slowly. "In that case... I will make a trade with her."

[Chapter 1622 - Savage Growth](#)

The border of the Northern Divine Region.

Even though he had not been gone for long, Yun Che's strength had undergone an earth-shattering change upon his return to the Northern Divine Region. Another very big difference was that there was also a Qianye Ying'er at his side this time.

When he had lost everything back then, with nothing to bind him and nothing for him to hold onto, the only thing he desired was vengeance. His thirst for power became so strong that it bordered on obsession, unwittingly causing him to continuously unearth his own personal talents.

The progress he made with the Eternal Calamity of Darkness was so eye-popping that even the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor would be shocked.

The law of nothingness, the principle he had not understood at all before, was now constantly displaying its might, a power that was growing more and more terrifying.

Qianye Ying'er was a cultivation incubator of the highest degree. Adding the law of nothingness to Ying'er resulted in Yun Che's strength growing at such a ridiculous rate that it would shatter the knowledge of everyone in the entire history of the God Realm... In fact, his growth in under three years had even shattered the basic principles governing the profound way, laws that had been set in stone.

Qianye Ying'er had witnessed everything... She really wanted to be there to personally witness what sort of face the Eternal Heaven God Emperor would make when he discovered that Honorable Tai Yin had been killed by Yun Che.

It was obvious that Yun Che did not feel a hint of satisfaction toward his current progress. On the contrary... in the period of time that was to come, thanks to the fortuitous encounters they had in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, his power, and Qianye Ying'er's power, would once again grow tremendously.

"I was able to refine two Untamed World Pellets using the Untamed Divine Marrow and the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning."

A pinprick of silvery-scarlet shone in Yun Che's hand.

Qianye Ying'er's gaze momentarily froze when it came into contact with Yun Che's palm, but she was unable to clearly see the shape of the Untamed World Pellet. This was because her eyes were unable to pierce that light even though they were very powerful. The light itself was not very glaring yet it was extremely deep.

"Even though it's only half a pellet, its medicinal strength definitely far exceeds the one that the Eternal Heaven Ancestor obtained back then," Yun Che said in an unhurried manner. "You have the blood of a Devil Emperor as your foundation, so half a year should be enough time for you to completely refine it."

Qianye Ying'er stretched out a hand and simply snatched up that Untamed World Pellet between her fingers. As she felt that divine spiritual aura which instantly pervaded her body, the corners of her lips curled up and she said, "Back then, before the Eternal Heaven Great Ancestor had been fully recognized by the Eternal Heaven Pearl as its master, before she had completely inherited the Eternal Heaven divine power, a single Untamed World Pellet had allowed her to jump from the fifth level of the Divine Master Realm to the seventh level of the Divine Master Realm in a single step. All in the span of one short year."

"Jumping two small realms in the Divine Master Realm within the short span of a year; this is a feat that no one could replicate in her era. A feat that no one could replicate even in the eras after her. The entire universe was shaken by her accomplishment and ever since then, the Untamed World Pellet became known as a 'divine miracle' of the profound way."

"Though I don't know what sort of divine miracle it will cause in my body... Hmph, I'm really looking forward to it."

Qianye Ying'er slowly closed her hand. When she was still the Brahma Monarch Goddess, her goal was to break through the limits of the profound way. In order to obtain an even stronger power, no matter how slim the possibilities were, there was nothing she would not do.

However, even during that period, she had never once truly wished that she could obtain an Untamed World Pellet. It was simply too hard to obtain a Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. The Eternal Heaven God Realm possessed the Eternal Heaven Pearl, which could sense its aura, and extremely strong spatial powers, so they still had a chance of obtaining it. For the other strong king realms, obtaining just a single fruit was as hard as scaling the heavens.

As for the Untamed Divine Marrow... Even in the distant past, rumors about the disappearance of the Untamed Divine Marrow from the universe had been circulating in the Primal Chaos.

But today, although she was holding an Untamed World Pellet in her hand, Qianye Ying'er did not feel too emotional or excited.

Perhaps, it was because obtaining this Untamed World Pellet had simply been far too easy. Or perhaps it was because her heart, goals, and destiny had become completely different from what they had been back then.

"So are you going to refine the other half when you reach the middle stages of the Divine Master Realm in the future?" Qianye Ying'er asked in a seemingly casual manner.

"No," Yun Che replied indifferently. "I only need to wait until I enter the Divine Master Realm."

As the highest grade medicine to ever appear in the history of the God Realm, even though its medicinal strength was considered a divine miracle, it required one to be at least at the middle stages of the Divine Master Realm before it could be consumed and refined.

However, Yun Che was clearly an exception to this rule.

He was absolutely sure that he could directly refine the other Untamed World Pellet in his possession the moment he stepped into the Divine Master Realm.

They were currently inside the world of the Primordial Profound Ark. The world contained within the Primordial Profound Ark was vast and boundless but the level of its aura was very low. It was barely superior to the aura found in the Blue Pole Star, so it was a place that was extremely unsuitable for cultivation.

But upon returning to the Northern Divine Region, this was undoubtedly the safest place for them.

Furthermore, during the upcoming period of time, Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er would not be cultivating. Qianye Ying'er would refine her Untamed World Pellet while Yun Che would use the law of nothingness to completely absorb those wild beast profound cores that Caizhi had given him... each of these profound cores had come from a vicious beast that was more terrifying than the last.

When the Star God Realm had been flourishing at its peak, if one counted both the Star Gods and the elders, they had fifty-one Divine Masters. When Caizhi had thrown those wild beast profound pellets at him, thirty of those radiated the aura of a Divine Master. This meant that she had hunted more than thirty wild beasts of the Absolute Beginning which were at the Divine Master Realm.

The number of such profound pellets was more than half the Divine Masters that the Star God Realm had at its peak.

It was hard for Yun Che to imagine exactly how she had accomplished such a feat... It was even harder for him to imagine just what sort of cultivation purgatory that small and delicate body, which was so colorful and lithe, had to go through in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for him.

Qianye Ying'er had already swallowed the Untamed World Pellet somewhere inside the Primordial Profound Ark. Following that, starlight and spiritual energy engulfed a fifty kilometer radius around her, but she had already begun to focus on refining the Untamed World Pellet.

Yun Che also released one Divine Master Profound Core.

It was much harder for him to increase his cultivation compared to other profound practitioners of the same level. However, by borrowing the power of the law of nothingness, these wild beast profound cores were definitely enough to give him a significant boost in profound strength.

Three small realms... The seventh level of the Divine Sovereign Realm. They would definitely be enough!

If he could climb to the seventh level of the Divine Sovereign Realm, this coupled with the power Qianye Ying'er would obtain after refining the Untamed World Pellet would be enough to allow them to stand at the highest peak of the Northern Divine Region.

It could also... be the first real step toward his goal!

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What exactly is the law of nothingness?

In the world of his consciousness, the origin energy within the wild beast profound cores was gradually being dissolved into “nothingness”, and this “nothingness” was gradually producing power that belonged to him within his profound veins.

There was no way to explain it with the common principles that governed the profound way. In fact, it did not even fit any of the logic and laws which governed the universe at large.

All creation returns to nothing, but is also birthed from nothing.

So does nothingness actually exist?

If it doesn't exist, how did it birth all of creation? If it does exist, why is it called “nothingness”?

If everything in the world can return to nothing, then besides the things one could see, what about things like space? Things like time? What about things like thoughts and even destiny...

Destiny?

Why did I think of destiny?

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When a person was immersed in the world of their consciousness, it was nearly impossible to sense the passage of time. At some undetermined point in time, his consciousness suddenly blurred and he sank into an illusory dreamscape.

Blue Pole Star, Blue Wind Nation, Floating Cloud City, Xiao Clan.

“Grandfather, how did Father die? Grandfather previously said that you would tell me once I turned ten.”

Xiao Che, who had already turned ten, was sitting on Xiao Lie's lap. Beside him was Xiao Lingxi, who had just turned nine and always stuck close to him. She was playing with a lotus leaf she had just plucked when Xiao Che spoke. Upon hearing those words, her starry eyes swiveled toward them. She stared unblinkingly at Xiao Lie as she waited for his reply.

“Hoho.” Xiao Lie shook his head in a rather helpless manner. Even though he had let out a very gentle laugh, there was a wounded grief in his eyes that stared into the distance. A wounded grief that he did not want these two children to see. “Even though I've never told either of you, over the last few years, both of you should have heard several rumors regarding this. After all, Che'er's father, Ling'er's older brother, my son... He was the brightest and most dazzling star in our Floating Cloud City back then.”

“I know,” Xiao Che said as he nodded his head. “Yuanba also said the same thing to me. He said that Father was the most outstanding person in Floating Cloud City... and he said this was something that Uncle Xia told him. Was he really killed by bad people?”

“I heard that he only died because he tried to save the city lord's daughter...” Xiao Lingxi said in a very soft voice.

“Mn.” Xiao Lie gave a small nod of his head. “Back then, not long after Che’er had been born, Governor Situ’s daughter was born. However, due to the illness of the governor’s wife, when the child was born, she was very weak and on the brink of death.”

“If her life was to be saved, they needed someone who was at least at the Spirit Profound Realm to even have a chance. One could count the number of people who had reached the Spirit Profound Realm in Floating Cloud City with their fingers, and every single one of these people possessed extraordinary status. In order to save her, they would definitely harm their own foundations. As a result, nearly every one of them was unmoved despite the governor’s desperate begging.”

“The only exception was Ying’er. He risked serious harm to himself and nearly exhausted all of his profound strength to stabilize that child’s vitality. As a result, she was able to survive.”

When he said those words, Xiao Lie looked at Xiao Che and gave him a small smile as he said, “Che’er, that was how the destined wedding between you and the governor’s daughter happened. At that time, Governor Situ was so grateful to Ying’er for saving his daughter’s life that he became sworn brothers with Ying’er there and then. Furthermore, he announced in front of everyone that his daughter would be married to Xiao Ying’s son in the future in order to repay heaven’s kindness.”

“Hmph.” Xiao Lingxi turned her nose upwards as she said in a very soft voice, “I don’t like that Situ Xuan at all. She’s always so aloof... and she’s even like that when she sees Little Che.”

“I don’t like her either,” Xiao Che agreed. “Also, I feel like she really detests me.”

Xiao Lie laughed, but he declined to comment. Instead, he continued speaking, “Because of that rescue attempt, Ying’er exhausted most of his profound energy and severely damaged his vitality. However, it was at that time when he suddenly met a villain... and fell to his evil hands.”

“A villain? So who is the villain that killed Father?” Xiao Che asked.

“I don’t know.” Xiao Lie shook his head. As he stared into the distance, his gaze started to focus as his voice grew thicker, “But we will definitely find him. We will definitely find him.”

Even though Xiao Che and Xiao Lingxi were very young, they could still hear a deep and heavy pain in his voice. For a moment, they both obediently decided not to talk.

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Yun Che’s eyes sprang open.

In a place not too far in front of him, Qianye Ying’er’s body was still immersed in that silvery-scarlet light. At times, the spiritual energy surrounding her would be as peaceful as mist, but at other times, it would turn as violent as a hurricane.

Yun Che’s brow furrowed slightly... It was that dream again.

When he counted them, he realized he had already had three such dreams.

All three times he had dreamed such a dream, it was when he had suddenly fallen into a deep and unexpected sleep. The world he found in his dreams was always centered around Floating Cloud City

and it was always when he was still a child. However, the world in his dream was subtly different from his own past and experiences.

He could clearly remember in his last such dream, that he was sixteen and he was about to marry someone named Situ Xuan, not Xia Qingyue.

What was even weirder was that the name "Situ Xuan" had actually appeared once again in this dream. Furthermore, the person that Xiao Ying had risked his life to save had not been Xia Qingyue, but the daughter of the Floating Cloud City Governor, Situ Xuan... This had tied together the events that had happened in his last few dreams in a decidedly perfect fashion.

Even though he had always been puzzled and suspicious about the reason he would have these weird dreams every now and then, in the end, these dreams were merely illusory bubbles. He did not pay this dream any mind and he closed his eyes once more, swiftly slipping into the state where he circulated the power of nothingness.

"Sigh..."

A very soft sigh rang out in the world of "nothingness". A sigh that no one could hear.

"He has made contact with 'nothingness' and he is also finally beginning to touch upon the 'truth' buried underneath 'nothingness'."

"Well the good thing is that he isn't 'her' in the end. Even though he is the **【only one】** who can come into contact with nothingness other than 'her'. However, he can only touch the borders of nothingness, never to reach its core. He is destined to only see those 'dreams' which emerge every now and then. He will never be able to see the whole 'truth'."

"Destiny is the one thing that one should not interfere with in this world."

"I interfered with **【her】** destiny, and that is the one thing I regret the most in my life. And today, even if I do want to interfere with your destiny, I am already unable to do so."

"Your destiny rests solely in your hands. No matter what you face in the future, you need to continue living on. It is only by doing this that you won't dishonor her sacrifice, and her... **【wishes】** ."

The voice that echoed in the nothingness faded away. No one had heard even the slightest trace of it and it was as if it had never appeared on even existed before.

In the world of the Primordial Profound Ark, both Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er were in the state of cultivation, but both of their auras were growing at a dramatic and incomparably shocking rate.

[Chapter 1623 - Heaven's Lone Swan](#)

The God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

Two slender and graceful women stood in this ash gray world. They clearly stood out, giving off a feeling that they did not quite belong in this place.

"Are you sure it's here?"

Xia Qingyue floated in midair, her beautiful eyes surveying the scene below her. The ground in this place was full of pockmarks. Furthermore, only power on the level of a Divine Master could devastate the land in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

Even though these marks of destruction were very startling, when they took everything into account, it was clear that this fierce battle that was on the Divine Master level had not lasted for too long... In fact, this battle was extremely short, and it was very likely that it ended in the span of a few short breaths.

“Reporting to Master, this maidservant has already used the secret technique to verify this many times. It is indeed in this place,” Lian Yue replied without any hesitation. “The traces of blood found in this place have also been confirmed to be the blood of an Eternal Heaven Guardian.”

Xia Qingyue thought about it for a moment before speaking, “Has there been any changes with Zhou Qingchen?”

Lian Yue replied, “There have been no changes in the situation. The news coming out of the Eternal Heaven Realm is that the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince sustained heavy injuries when he was training in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning seven months ago. He is currently recovering from his wounds in seclusion and no one is to disturb him.”

“So his brothers and sisters, and even the Guardians themselves, are not allowed to visit him, correct?”

Lian Yue considered the question before she replied, “That seems to be the case.”

Xia Qingyue closed her eyes and remained silent for a long period of time.

“Master,” Lian Yue raised her delicate head and spoke in a puzzled voice. “Even if an Eternal Heaven Guardian truly did fall here, it isn’t of much concern to our Moon God Realm. Why would Master even deign to come all the way here to personally confirm this?”

“...” After a long period of silence, Xia Qingyue’s beautiful eyes opened, an icy purple light shining in them. “The person who killed that Eternal Heaven Guardian was Yun Che.”

“What!?” Lian Yue’s head jerked upwards, unable to believe what she had just heard. Her very first reaction was that something had gone wrong with her hearing.

What sort of existences were the Eternal Heaven Guardians, whereas Yun Che... Even if he had truly come to this place, how could he possibly have killed an Eternal Heaven Guardian.

“He killed Qu Hui, killed a Guardian, but Zhou Qingchen is still alive...” Xia Qingyue muttered in a relaxed voice. “But of course. Since they happened to meet him, how could he let go of such a perfect opportunity to take revenge?”

Lian Yue’s lips parted slightly, and she was still dazed.

Even if it had been anyone else, they would still not be able to register the phrase “Yun Che killed an Eternal Heaven Guardian”.

“Lian Yue, you can go first,” Xia Qingyue suddenly said. “There’s no need to monitor the Eternal Heaven’s affairs any longer. Devote all of your efforts towards investigating **【those two people】**. You can start right away.”

“Yes,” Lian Yue replied. She was just about to take to the skies when she noticed the direction that Xia Qingyue was looking in. She blurted out, “Master, you...”

“I still have other things to do.”

“Yes, this maidservant will take her leave.”

Lian Yue departed and Xia Qingyue also took to the skies as she flew straight into the depths of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning... the most dangerous place in the entire Primal Chaos.

In the deepest part of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning was a place that many records speculated was the center of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning—

The Abyss of Nothingness!

An abyss that stretched out for an eternity, an endless and eternal gray fog.

Xia Qingyue slowly descended from the sky and faced this terrifying “world” that could bury everything, that could return everything to nothingness. Even a god emperor such as herself was as tiny as a grain of sand in front of it.

She slowly walked forward, and she only stopped when her feet came to rest at the very border of this terrifying place. The soundlessly moving mist coiled around her feet and if she even took another step forward, she would fall into the abyss and dissolve into nothingness... even if she was the Moon God Emperor.

In the history of the God Realm, there were countless people who tried to explore its mysteries and anyone who could make it this far was undoubtedly a person who stood at the peak of the profound way. But once something fell into this abyss, whether it was a living creature, a corpse, an inanimate object, aura, or even light, it would be completely annihilated, they would disappear without a trace.

Thus, no one knew what this “Abyss of Nothingness” was actually hiding and no one knew the reason for its existence. This was even the case during the Primordial Era of the Gods.

One day...

Two days...

Three days...

Xia Qingyue quietly stood at the border of the Abyss of Nothingness, her eyes dyed ash gray.

She stood like this for seven days before she finally turned around and soundlessly left.

As she departed, a very light and shallow smile flitted across her face, a faint smile that no one would ever be able to understand.

When she returned to the Moon God Realm and reached the outskirts of the Divine Moon City, she sensed several auras that did not belong to the Moon God Realm. However, she did not stop or even spare those auras a glance. She simply returned to her own bedchambers.

Very soon, Jin Yue rushed over to make a report. "Master, you've finally returned... The new realm king of the Glazed Light Realm, Shui Yingyue, and their former realm king, Shui Qianheng, have already been waiting outside Divine Moon City for several days. They are here to visit Shui Meiyin, who has been imprisoned in the Seventh Moon Prison."

"Throw them out." Xia Qingyue didn't even turn her head to glance at Jin Yue. She simply said those three words in an incomparably cold and harsh manner.

"..." Jin Yue was slightly taken aback by that response. She strove to bury the unwillingness in her heart as she replied, "Yes."

"Tell them," Xia Qingyue continued, "that they must honestly face up to the consequences of doing such a stupid thing. During these thousand years, Shui Meiyin can forget about taking even half a step out of her Moon Prison, and they can forget about seeing her until her imprisonment ends as well."

"This time, I am only going to throw them out. If they dare to come and disturb us again... I will personally cripple one of Shui Meiyin's legs."

"...Yes. This maidservant will convey your words to them," Jin Yue anxiously replied. After that, she hurriedly took her leave.

The Moon God Emperor discovered that the Glazed Light Realm had hidden the devil Yun Che back then. Even though the Eternal Heaven God Emperor pleaded on their behalf, the Glazed Light Realm was still punished severely. Shui Qianheng had been crippled and Shui Meiyin was imprisoned in the Moon God Realm for a thousand years. This was something that the entire world knew about, drawing countless sighs.

But the people were not sighing about how Shui Qianheng ended up. Rather, they were sighing about Shui Meiyin's fate. This was a woman who had been blessed with the Stainless Divine Soul by the heavens themselves, whose life had been illuminated by a dazzling halo. She was the next person to be crowned with the title of "Goddess" after Qianye Ying'er and she should have had a boundlessly dazzling future. However, because of a single error in judgement, she had protected a devil that was being pursued by all the king realms and ended up in her current situation.

Given the Moon God Emperor's vicious ruthlessness toward Yun Che, one could well imagine that Shui Meiyin's fate in the Moon God Realm would not be good at all... In fact, it was very likely that her fate would be a miserable one, so miserable that no one even wanted to think about it.

.....

Northern Divine Region.

Qianye Ying'er and Yun Che started to move. Previously, they had unintentionally poked two gigantic hornet nests because of the Untamed Divine Marrow, leaving them no choice but to leave for a while. It had not even been twelve months since they had left the Northern Divine Region, but now that they had come back, they did not show any signs of fear or panic.

"Aren't you going to the Thousand Desolation Realm to see that little girl?" Qianye Ying'er asked. "If we were to find out that the little girl has been destroyed together with the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan, that would simply be perfect."

“There’s no need,” Yun Che replied indifferently.

He was well aware that Qianye Ying’er dearly hoped for Yun Shang’s death.

Currently, they were in a star realm where fragmented black clouds always floated in the skies. It radiated an extremely dense darkness aura, a darkness aura that far exceeded the darkness aura found in the Thousand Desolation Divine Realm.

This was undoubtedly one of the Northern Divine Region’s upper star realms.

Yun Che did not know this upper star realm’s name, he was merely passing through this place. If one had to find a reason for their arrival in this star realm, it was probably because he sensed a large amount of profound practitioners and auras swirling in this place when they had approached it.

Furthermore, Qianye Ying’er had not asked a single thing about where he was going or what he was intending to do. It was as if she was not concerned about it at all.

As he faced the oppressive cold wind, the sleeves of Yun Che’s robes fluttered in the air. The Glazed Sound Stone that hung around his neck constantly bumped against his skin, imparting to him the only warmth he felt right now, a warmth that pierced his heart.

Three years had passed. If Wuxin was still alive, she would already be seventeen... He had wanted to see her grow up so badly. He had wanted to see her grow into a fine and beautiful young woman.

Three years... was very short.

But to Yun Che, these three years had been far too long compared to any other three year period in his life.

As long as he was willing, he could wait another hundred years, another thousand years... However, he simply could not wait that long. He could not wait at all. The hatred and malice that filled every drop of his blood constantly erupted. Before he could vent it, every day, every instant he was awake, he felt as if he was walking through the deepest and gloomiest level of a hellish abyss, a place that was filled with poisonous thorns.

Rumble!

A huge sound rang in the air and a small hill in front of them was split in half. They could hear the sounds of intense combat being carried on the wind and the furious and crazed roars of darkness profound beasts were mixed in as well.

Several huge shadows appeared in front of them. Shockingly enough, they were five darkness profound beasts more than three hundred meters long. Their bodies were pitch-black and weirdly-shaped fangs extended from their mouths. Divine King level darkness profound energy exploded from their bodies.

Two extremely tiny human figures were trapped in their midst. It was a man and a girl and they looked rather young. They were wearing similar clothes and radiating similar auras and the profound artifacts they wielded in their hands were extraordinary. Their cultivations were also in the Divine King Realm.

Everything about them clearly showed that these two people possessed an extraordinary status.

Yet, they were currently in the midst of what was perhaps the most hopeless situation they had ever encountered.

Given their strength, if it was a one on one fight, they could easily escape without a single scratch. They could even join hands to defeat their opponents. But they had met five of these beasts at the same time, so the two people were completely suppressed by the devilish claws and sharp fangs of these five enraged profound beasts. Every single second was fraught with danger, with more and more wounds appearing on their bodies. Their hope of escaping was almost entirely gone.

At this time, they spotted Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er, who were flying through the air. Their spirits were violently shaken and hope lit up in their eyes.

The man let out a grunt, and struggled to find the time to yell in a hoarse voice, "My two friends! This humble one is the son of the Heavenly Net Realm's realm king, Luo Ying, and I am here with my royal sister to participate in... Urgh! I beg the two of you. Please help us! We will definitely show you our gratitude!"

The girl also let out an excited yell right after her brother. "I beg the two of you, please save us... Our Heavenly Net Realm will definitely not forget this debt of gratitude that we owe to you."

They had announced their identities almost immediately. Everyone in the Northern Divine Region knew that the Heavenly Net Realm was one of the upper star realms in their region. As the son and daughter of the realm king of an upper star realm, their revered status was not something that needed to be said. If they really saved them, they would owe Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er a huge favor.

However... Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er turned a deaf ear to them. In fact, they did not even spare them a glance. They maintained their speed as they flew right by them, and soon, they had flown far into the distance.

The ray of hope that had appeared had been cruelly shattered. Lou Ying's excited expression instantly twisted into one of despair and he yelled in rage, "You bastards!!"

RIP!!

However, it was in that instant that the dusky sky suddenly brightened.

Five beams of purple sword light fell from the sky like bolts of thunder. In an instant, they skewered five of the wild Divine King beasts. Exploding electricity instantly covered their bodies, completely freezing their gigantic bodies and powers in place.

RIP!

In the midst of the two siblings' utter shock, lightning abruptly flashed. They heard a tearing sound that was not too piercing to their ears, but in that same instant, the Divine King bodies of those five wild beasts were mercilessly ripped apart.

Boom——

As those bodies, which were as big as mountains, fell to the ground, not a single drop of blood leaked out of their corpses.

It was at this moment that a human figure slowly descended from the sky and landed in front of the Luo siblings who had yet to regain their composure. The purple sword strapped to his back still rang with a rumble of thunder which was faint but still shook the soul.

He was a tall and well built man dressed in simple blue robes. His face was like white jade and it was exceptionally handsome. He looked very young, but his bearing and temperament made them feel like they were face to face with a true immortal.

His face was calm and his eyes seemed to twinkle with a gentle smile. They could not even use the words simple and elegant to describe his bearing and temperament. It was as if they were looking at a superior being who had completely transcended the mortal realm.

He had instantly killed the five Divine King profound beasts which had plunged them into despair, so his cultivation could truly be described as shocking. Luo Ying swiftly came back to his senses and gave the man in front of him a deep bow as he said, "I thank Senior for magnanimously lending us his aid. We can't repay you for saving our lives."

"Ah!"

Before he could finish speaking, the girl suddenly let out a sharp cry. Luo Ying immediately glanced to the side. He was just about to rebuke her when he saw that his sister's eyes had gone wide and both hands had flown to her mouth. Her gaze was scorching and her eyes were trembling incessantly as she said, "You... You are... You are..."

When they had been rescued from their desperate situation, Luo Ying had been so shocked that he had not taken a good look at the blue-robed man's face. But at this time, his eyes swiveled toward the man and abruptly widened to the same size as his royal sister's. After that, his body started to violently tremble as well.

However, this time his body was not trembling because of despair. It was trembling because of the boundless excitement and disbelief he was currently feeling. "You... Could it... Could it be that... you are... Sir Lone Swan!?"

The blue-robed man laughed. He declined to comment but his eyes suddenly turned in the direction Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had flown. After that, he spoke in a clear and bright voice that did not suit this dark world, a voice that cut through the space they were standing in. "If one's own strength is insufficient or if one holds a grudge against the other person, it is only reasonable that you don't extend a hand to help."

"These two people were beset by profound beasts and even though the both of you possess the power of a Divine Sovereign, you left them to die despite having the ability to resolve the entire situation with the flick of a finger. You indifferently departed from the scene, how did that not sully the prestige of a Divine Sovereign?"

"I'm afraid that the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly being held this time around won't welcome two guests such as yourselves."

The sound of his voice entered their ears, and it was hard for anyone to find such a clear and bright voice in the entire Northern Divine Region. The owner of this voice possessed a status that was the

symbol of an entire generation of Northern Divine Region profound practitioners. He was also an unsurpassed legend in a region.

Qianye Ying'er's face did not even twitch when she heard those words, much less turn around. Her reaction to hearing the squeaking of a mouse by the road would probably be greater than her reaction now.

However, Yun Che's eyebrow twitched and his eyes narrowed, his body gradually coming to a halt.

[Chapter 1624 - The Leader of the Heavenly Sovereigns](#)

Qianye Ying'er also stopped. Her eyelids drooped slightly as she shot Yun Che a languid and forlorn look.

Yun Che shot the man in blue a sidelong glance. His eyes were as bright and clear as his voice, and his temperament seemed to transcend the mortal plane. Not even someone from the three divine regions would believe that he was a devil person from the Northern Divine Region if they saw him right now.

A glance later, Yun Che suddenly said, "Let's follow them."

"Getting impatient?" Qianye Ying'er's slim and delicate waist turned slightly.

"It's too slow to wait passively," Yun Che said slowly. "Also, that Heavenly Sovereign Assembly he mentioned sounds interesting."

"It is very interesting," Qianye Ying'er said with a half smile. "If I'm not mistaken, this Heavenly Sovereign Assembly happens once every one hundred years. Only Divine Sovereigns younger than six hundred years of age are allowed to participate in it."

Divine Sovereigns below six hundred years of age... In other words, only those extremely young Divine Sovereigns listed in the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking had the right to participate. It was clear that it was a stage meant for these dazzling "Heavenly Sovereigns".

"Also," Qianye Ying'er's full pink lips curved up slightly as she said in a quiet voice, "I have heard that person's name before."

"...Oh really." Yun Che's eyes flickered as he glanced at the man in blue once more.

Given Qianye Ying'er's previous habit of looking at everything with contempt, it was surprising that she would even know the name of this person from the Northern Divine Region... From that point alone, one could well imagine that he absolutely possessed an extraordinary status.

"There's no need to be too shocked. No matter how cut off the Northern Divine Region is from the three other divine regions and vice versa, people who create too big of a wave will definitely be noticed."

Qianye Ying'er calmly said, "Even though he is only someone from the younger generation, all the great king realms in the Eastern Divine Region, Southern Divine Region, and even the Western Divine Region should recognize this person's name. Just like how the three king realms of the Northern Divine Region will definitely recognize your name."

"Then if you compare him to me?" Yun Che expressionlessly spat out those words.

“There really is no comparison between the two of you,” Qianye Ying’er said as her phoenix eyes slanted slightly. “His fame in the Northern Divine Region is far greater than your fame in the Eastern Divine Region.”

Yun Che, “...”

“This was especially true three years ago. Besides the fact that he was never as miserable and pathetic as you were, he far surpassed you in every other aspect. He even has more women than you did.”

“Oh really?” Yun Che suddenly extended a hand to grip her white and flawless chin. “Are his toys as useful and fun to use as you are?”

“If that’s the case, then no.” Qianye Ying’er used a jade finger to slowly push his hand away. Her long eyelashes fluttered and her smile was so provocative it seemed to be mocking him. “As the man who turned the Dragon Queen and Goddess into playthings for his crotch, in this aspect alone, you truly are unrivaled. So for you to end up in the state you’re in today is far too cheap a price to pay for that.”

Yun Che’s voice went cold. “Shen Xi is not the Dragon Queen, nor is she a toy. Only you are!”

“Weren’t you going to follow them? They’re already quite far away.”

“Hmph!” Yun Che turned around and took to the skies. He withdrew his aura as much as he could and soundlessly flew after them.

The Luo siblings had exhausted much of their strength, but because the profound art they cultivated was extremely effective at defense, they had not suffered any serious injuries. Perhaps the blue-robed man shared the same destination as they did, because he started to travel together with them after he had saved them.

“This humble one is the Heavenly Net Realm’s Luo Ying and this is my royal sister... younger sister, Luo Yun. I really don’t know how I can repay you for saving our lives.” Luo Ying repeatedly thanked him. But he was not doing so out of the gratitude that he felt. Rather, he was doing it due to his excitement and terror.

“Are... Are you truly... Sir Lonely Swan?” Luo Yun was misty-eyed. A long time had passed since they had been rescued, but she looked as if she was still daydreaming. In fact, the terror and despair that she had just experienced not too long ago had already been tossed to the back of her mind.

The blue-robed man gave a faint smile and replied, “That is truly this humble one. Our two esteemed guests from the Heavenly Net Realm must have come here to observe the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly. Yet you met with such danger in my Imperial Heaven Realm. This was the negligence of our Imperial Heaven Realm. The fact that the two of you aren’t blaming me is already a blessing. There’s no need for you to keep thanking me.”

“No, no.” Even though Luo Ying was the noble son of an upper star realm king, he was so excited that his speech had grown somewhat incoherent. He did not have any of the grandeur he normally possessed. “To be saved by Sir Lonely Swan means that the encounter we had was not a disaster. Rather, it was a fortune bestowed upon us by the heavens... We siblings have revered Sir Lonely Swan our entire lives, and our greatest wish for the coming Heavenly Sovereign Assembly was to witness Sir Lonely Swan’s

magnificence. We've never imagined that we would actually... actually have such a fated meeting with you."

Luo Yun's head bobbed up and down like a small chick's and her eyes stared unblinkingly at the blue-robed man.

"So it is the Imperial Heaven Realm," Qianye Ying'er said. "it's definitely him."

"Is that the leader of all the upper star realms in the Northern Divine Region, the number one star realm below the king realms?" Yun Che said as his eyes narrowed slightly.

Over the last few years, Qianye Ying'er had not told him a lot about the Northern Divine Region... because she herself did not know a lot about this region. However she had mentioned the name "Imperial Heaven Realm" before.

Below the king realms, the Imperial Heaven was number one.

He really had not expected that his random choice of direction would actually end up with them entering the number one upper star realm in the Northern Divine Region.

"His name is Tian Guhu," Qianye Ying'er said. "He's the youngest child of the Imperial Heaven Realm King. If this was the only thing significant about him, he would not be worthy of being known by me."

The entire world is filled with sparrows, I am the lone swan... Yun Che gave a contemptuous laugh. This name was filled with a wild arrogance that held everything else in contempt. It was extremely different from the impression he gave.

"You made your name in a single battle during the Eastern Divine Region's Profound God Convention, and it was the same for him," Qianye Ying'er continued. "Around five hundred years ago, during the Northern Divine Region's 'Profound God Convention', the road he walked was a series of flawless victories. Furthermore, in the final battle, even though he was weaker than his opponent by two small realms, he still completely dominated his opponent and his legend was made in that battle."

"Once your profound strength reaches the divine way, even crushing an opponent that is at the same level as you is a feat that only one in a hundred million can accomplish. To be able to crush an opponent despite being two small realms weaker than them? That can only be described as a miracle in the profound way. In the current Northern Divine Region, the only one who has accomplished such a feat is Tian Guhu."

"The irony of this all lies in the fact that the Northern Divine Region could produce such a person in this era, while even the Eastern Divine Region's Luo Changsheng would not be able to accomplish such a feat.

Qianye Ying'er stared at Yun Che. "Well that's with the exception of freaks like you and Shui Meiyin. Hmph, the Heretic God legacy and the Stainless Divine Soul! Heresies that should not even appear in this current era!"

"He's but a mere level seven Divine Sovereign," Yun Che said coldly.

"Mere?" Qianye Ying'er said. "We're talking about a level seven Divine Sovereign who hasn't even reached six hundred years old. The current head of the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking.

Even though he can't be compared to me back then, if we compare him to you three years ago, when you also shocked the rest of the world... The you back then would not even be able to measure up to one of his toes."

"Heh." Yun Che gave a cold chuckle. "The Yun Che of three years ago? That person was only a naive and foolish piece of trash! A piece of trash who saved people who should have died and caused all of his loved ones to die! Why would you even compare him to that piece of trash who has already died?"

"..." Qianye Ying'er glanced at Yun Che before saying, "Tian Guhu can be said to be absolutely invincible in his generation. It's said that he's able to crush people who are two levels higher than him in the Divine Sovereign Realm and he can go toe to toe with the ones who are three levels above him."

"So if the rumors aren't false, that means that he, who is currently a level seven Divine Sovereign, can go toe to toe with a level ten Divine Sovereign. Compared to his cultivation, this is the most shocking thing about him. Even that old dog Qianye Fantian has mentioned the Northern Divine Region's Tian Guhu more than once. He said that if he could still crush everyone at the same level as him once he entered the Divine Master Realm, then he might very well become the most dangerous person in the Northern Divine Region in the future."

Yun Che did not react to her words at all.

"What a pity though," Qianye Ying'er said in a gloomy voice. "After staying with you for three years, no matter how much I look at this Tian Guhu, he only amounts to this much."

A level seven Divine Sovereign who was at most six hundred years old. A level seven Divine Sovereign who was on par with a level ten Divine Sovereign.

He was ranked number one on the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking, and he was undoubtedly the most outstanding person of his generation in the Northern Divine Region.

He was a junior that even the king realms of the other three divine regions had taken note of.

Any single one of these brilliant halos that adorned him was so dazzling that others would not even dare to look at him directly.

"Very good." Yun Che nodded his head.

Right. He was very satisfied with this person's status and his accomplishments.

"Since these lands already have a Yun Che, then they don't need some Tian Guhu."

Upon hearing those words, Qianye Ying'er silently shot a glance at Yun Che.

The him three years ago would never have said such a thing.

"Sir Lonely Swan, were those two people really Divine Sovereigns?" Luo Ying asked the blue-robed man. Even though they traveled together, his heart was relatively calm. As he faced this legend who was close enough for him to touch, a legend who put on no airs at all, he had started to feel far more comfortable in his presence.

"That's right," Tian Guhu said. "Those two people were level seven Divine Sovereigns."

“Ah!” Luo Ying and Luo Yun both cried out in alarm.

Even in an upper star realm, Divine Sovereigns were transcendent existences that were second only to the great realm kings themselves. To think that those people were actually Divine Sovereigns, level seven Divine Sovereigns who were approaching the late stages of that great realm of power!

Even if they were to search their entire Heavenly Net Realm, they would not find more than ten Divine Sovereigns who had reached the seventh level or above.

“Then... does Sir Lonely Swan recognize them?” Luo Ying asked.

Tian Guhu shook his head. “I don’t know. Perhaps they are the rulers of some middle star realm.”

Level seven Divine Sovereigns. There was no way he would not recognize anyone of that level if they were born in the upper star realms. Thus, those two Divine Sovereigns who were completely unfamiliar to him could only have come from a middle star realm.

And in a middle star realm, Divine Sovereigns were undoubtedly kings.

Once they heard the three words “middle star realm”, the respect and reverence that had started shining in the eyes of the Luo siblings when they had heard the two words “Divine Sovereign” instantly dimmed.

They were the children of an upper star realm’s realm king. Their father was a Divine Master who lorded over the world. As such, if they were to come into contact with a Divine Sovereign from the upper star realms, they would definitely show utmost respect to that person. In fact, they would not even dare to offer a differing opinion.

However, when it came to Divine Sovereigns from a middle star realm... even if they were late stage Divine Sovereigns, they could still greet them with a haughty stare.

This was the difference in level.

“I see.” Luo Ying nodded his head.

“Hmph, to think that they, as Divine Sovereigns, would actually just let us die... That’s completely detestable.” Luo Yun said in a hateful voice.

“Everyone who can become a Divine Sovereign has been blessed by the heavens,” Tian Guhu said in an unhurried manner. “They could have saved two lives if they simply lifted their hands, yet they left in such a cold and indifferent manner. Their actions were no different from murder.”

He gave a soft sigh. “No matter what status those two people possess, they have soiled the name Divine Sovereign.”

“Sir Lonely Swan is right,” Luo Ying said with sunken brows. “Even if these sort of people become Divine Sovereigns, they will still be despised by others!”

Tian Guhu’s words caused Luo Yin’s eyes to turn starry. She said with a worshipful expression on her face, “For Sir Lonely Swan, a figure who is just like a heavenly star, to not only save our lives, but also

personally escort us all the way here, this is simply no different from a dream. As fellow Divine Sovereigns, they are far too inferior compared to Sir Lonely Swan.”

“Little Yun, you’ve made one big mistake,” Luo Yin said as he laughed. “Those kinds of people are not even worthy of being called Divine Sovereigns. They do not even have the qualifications to be compared to Sir Lonely Swan.”

“Mn, Thirty-Eighth Brother is right.” Luo Yin hurriedly nodded her head and asked, “Could those two Divine Sovereigns also be people who are ranked in the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking?”

“Of course not,” Luo Yin said frankly. “Most of the Divine Sovereigns in the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking are Divine Sovereigns who are in the beginning stages of the Divine Sovereign Realm. The only person who has become a level seven Divine Sovereign by the age of six hundred is Sir Lonely Swan himself. Since those two are also level seven Divine Sovereigns, how could they be numbered amongst those in the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking? It’s obvious that they have only come here to observe.”

Tian Guhu lifted his head slightly to look ahead. “The Northern Divine Region is barren and filled with misfortune. Every moment, there are countless living creatures who are dying in their fight to survive, dying in their fight to grow stronger. As a result, our future is growing dimmer and dimmer. For people like us, people who have been blessed by fate, we need to do our utmost to find light in the darkness that shrouds the future of the Northern Divine Region. That is the only way we can live up to the power bestowed upon us by the heavens.”

“They could have saved two lives if they had simply lifted a hand, yet they chose to blatantly disregard the lives in front of them. These kinds of heartless and inhumane people are not worthy of entering our Imperial Heaven Tower! Even if they are Divine Sovereigns!”

As he spoke those words, a cold light glinted in his calm eyes.

“As expected of Sir Lonely Swan,” Luo Ying said in a voice filled with praise. “Such wise words could only be said by someone as exceptional as Sir Lonely Swan. The fact that Sir Lonely Swan exists in this world is the fortune of our entire Northern Divine Region.”

Tian Guhu laughed and shook his head, but after that, he let out a small sigh. Even though he was traveling together with the Luo siblings, even though they were so close that they could touch, it seemed as if they were living in two completely different worlds.

Luo Yun kept staring at Tian Guhu. But after that, her head quietly drooped, her eyes sad and dim.

She was the daughter of the Heavenly Net Realm King, but she knew that only the most beautiful women in the world were worthy of him. Besides her status, she did not possess any other quality that might catch his eye.

In a place far behind them, Qianye Ying’er’s eyes turned slightly as she said in a quiet voice, “It turns out that this Tian Guhu is actually someone who is devoted to the future of the Northern Divine Region. His current appearance is truly quite similar to how you looked back then when you saved the God Realm...”

“Shut up!” Yun Che gave a cold rebuke, his brows sinking slightly.

Qianye Ying'er gave a cold snort and her voice turned languid and indolent. "You've never said those two words any of the times you've forced me to kneel in front of you."

Yun Che, "..."

"The Imperial Heavenly Tower." She seemed to be musing to herself in a soft voice. "That is a place that I'm actually looking forward to seeing."

[Chapter 1625 - Imperial Heaven Tower](#)

The Imperial Heaven Tower was located at the peak of the tallest mountain in the Imperial Heaven Realm. It was said to be the place that was closest to the heavens.

It was a place where countless profound practitioners of the Northern Divine Region would make a pilgrimage to.

Today, the Imperial Heaven Tower would once again welcome the most festive and grand day that came once every hundred years.

Countless Northern Divine Region profound practitioners arrived from all directions, coming from different star realms entirely. A black cloud of hundreds of thousands of people could be seen slowly filling up the place.

Even though the number of people was comparatively small, most of the elites from the upper and middle star realms had come. Anyone in the crowd would either be the master of a realm, the sovereign of an area, or someone with a remarkable background.

Because they were all gathered at the Imperial Heaven Tower today for the Northern Divine Region's Heavenly Sovereign Assembly!

The title of Heavenly Sovereign was a special title for the Divine Sovereigns in the Northern Divine Region. This title belonged only to Divine Sovereigns who were not from the king realms and had not reached their six hundredth birthday. They were the youngest and most brilliant profound practitioners of the Northern Divine Region, the ones who possessed limitless futures and possibilities.

The Profound God Convention was a stage that belonged to the young profound practitioners of a divine region and it had given birth to countless rising stars.

However, with so many bright and talented practitioners around, there were bound to be many who would gradually turn dim or even become completely devoid of light.

However, the Heavenly Sovereigns were truly the blazing suns of the Northern Divine Region.

The fact that they had become Divine Sovereigns before reaching the age of six hundred meant that their innate talents and futures could no longer be doubted. The future Divine Masters of the Northern Divine Region would mostly come from this group of people.

In every era of the Northern Divine Region, there would be about one hundred Heavenly Sovereigns ranked in the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking. The names that appeared on this list would eventually go on to become the next rulers of the Northern Divine Region in the following era.

As a result, the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking had always been the most valued and esteemed of all the profound rankings in the Northern Divine Region.

Moreover, the gathering of Heavenly Sovereigns that was being organized at the Imperial Heaven Tower was an event that belonged solely to these Heavenly Sovereigns of the Northern Region.

This generation of Northern Region Heavenly Sovereigns would soon display their talents in this place. When they made a name for themselves, it was also possible that their fates and futures would change there and then.

The Imperial Heaven Realm King Tian Muyi had taken his seat long ago. As the ruler of the star realm ranked first after the king realms in the Northern Divine Region, his exalted status and overwhelming aura far outstripped all the other upper realm kings.

For him to be able to occupy such a position meant that his cultivation as a level eight Divine Master was akin to a dragon who could encompass the universe in the Northern Divine Region and overlook this dark divine region.

Two men, both with different postures and attitudes, occupied the seats on his left and right.

The middle-aged man on his right was dressed all in red, his face was cold and stiff but his eyes were fierce. Anyone who looked at him would have no doubt that he was a person with an extremely violent temper.

The person on his left was an old man dressed in black, a beaming smile on his face. Wrinkles covered his face and his complexion was extremely dull. But what caught everyone's attention was his eyes... Even though they resembled dull brown orbs, his pupils were needle-like, long and narrow, just like a snake's.

Even though his smile radiated a warm gentleness, when it was coupled with his eyes, it made everyone feel a chilling sensation, as if a needle had been pierced directly into one's bone marrow.

These two people did not belong to the Imperial Heaven Realm. They were actually the realm kings of two other great star realms.

The great realm king of the Desolate Calamity Realm—Huo Tianxing.

The great realm king of the Divine Python Realm—Great Viper Sage.

The Imperial Heaven Realm, Desolate Calamity Realm and the Divine Python Realm were the three strongest great star realms in the Northern Divine Region below the king realms. The Imperial Heaven Realm stood at the head of these three realms.

This meant that they were the only star realms in the Northern Divine Region whose words the king realms acknowledged as having a considerable amount of weight.

Their positions in the Northern Divine Region were equivalent to the Eastern Divine Region's Holy Eaves Realm, Glazed Light Realm, and Shrouding Sky Realm.

The presence of all three great realm kings showed just how important this Heavenly Sovereign Assembly was.

Even the realm kings of the other upper star realms were inferior to them, much less the rulers of the middle star realms.

At this point in time, there were a total of a hundred and one people on the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking. All of their mighty names resounded throughout this region. Anyone, whether they were a realm king or a mere mortal being, would definitely remember these names.

At this moment, ninety-nine of the Heavenly Sovereigns had already arrived at the venue and they were the center of everyone's attention. The gazes of the three great realm kings of the Imperial Heaven Realm, Desolate Calamity Realm, and Divine Python Realm constantly swept over these ninety-nine people.

Although the Heavenly Sovereigns who had not reached the age of six hundred years old and the Divine Sovereigns who had cultivated for more than ten thousand years were all Divine Sovereigns, these two groups of people were as different as night and day. Everyone, including the three great realm kings, had to regard each and every one of them with great importance.

"I heard that Beihan Chu, who was new to the Heavenly Sovereign Ranking, was attacked by someone and died in the Five Nether Ruins." The Great Viper Sage's long and narrow eyes narrowed even further as he laughed, "From the looks of it, this news is undoubtedly true."

"A mere Nine Lights Heavenly Palace was extremely lucky to produce a genius who was good enough to be one of the Heavenly Sovereigns yet they did not have the ability to protect him. What a joke," Huo Tianxing said as he gave a cold snort of extreme disdain.

However, Tian MUYI replied in a deep voice, "This matter is not as simple as it seems. The Nine Lights Heavenly Palace should have been utterly enraged by their loss of a Heavenly Sovereign who could have changed the fate of their entire sect in the future. Their normal reaction would have been to get to the bottom of things, no matter what."

"However, they chose to hide this matter and not disclose it. Furthermore, it doesn't look like they have tried to pursue this matter any further. On the contrary, they have kept their lips sealed. They have shown no intention of attending today's Heavenly Sovereign Assembly. Given all of these signs, it is very likely that Beihan Chu died because of..."

Tian MUYI did not continue his sentence. Instead, he stretched out a hand and pointed his finger toward the sky.

"Was it a king realm?" Huo Tianxing refused to avoid the subject and he spoke that name aloud. After that, he wore a mocking and sarcastic expression on his face. "Since they dared to anger a king realm, even calling them stupid is a compliment.

"He was a blossoming young man whose light burned brightly but went out far too soon. Though it's a pity, what is gone is gone." A smile still remained on the Great Viper Sage's face. It was unknown if that was a habit of his or if it was merely because of the way his features were put together. "Could it be that your son still wants to participate in this Heavenly Sovereign Assembly?"

When he mentioned this, Tian MUYI gave a small, bland smile and said, "Could it be that the Great Sage has some advice to give my son?"

“Haha, I wouldn’t dare to give any advice to your son.” Great Viper Sage continued, “It’s just that with your son present, he will outshine all the other Heavenly Sovereigns.”

“Even though the stars are bright, how can they be brighter than the blazing sun? In this old one’s view, your son should have had a ranking board of his own two hundred years ago, to show that he alone stands above all the other Heavenly Sovereigns.

“Hmph.” Huo Tianxing snorted lightly but had no words to refute that statement.

These words seemed to be flattery, but anyone who heard them would not think that the Great Viper Sage was exaggerating.

After Tian Guhu rose into the ranks in the Heavenly Sovereign Ranking, he ascended above all other Heavenly Sovereigns in the short span of a hundred years. Furthermore, following the passage of time, his peers had not just failed to catch up to him. The gulf between them was instead growing wider with each passing day...

Second place of the current Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking belonged to the daughter of Huo Tianxing. Huo Lanji was a level five Divine Sovereign, while Tian Guhu, the person ranked first, was a level seven Divine Sovereign... However, rumor had it that if he used all his strength, he would even be able to fight a level ten Divine Sovereign on equal footing!

It was only a difference of one rank, yet their strengths were worlds apart.

They were all Divine Sovereigns, yet he was like the brilliant sky while the rest were but dim and obscure stars.

“Hahahaha.” Tian Muyi laughed heartily and said, “The Great Sage is too gracious. Your grandson is also a Divine Sovereign, but he is still young. Otherwise his achievements would surely not be any less than those of Guhu.”

“Hehehe.” The Great Viper Sage gave a strange chuckle and said, “If only that brat was as hardworking as your son. Then even if my old bones were turned to ash right now, I would still be at peace.”

“Elder Viper’s words are half right.” Huo Tianxing spoke suddenly, “That son of yours should indeed not be compared against the other Heavenly Sovereigns. He is too dazzling and blocks out everyone else’s light. And that is not a good thing.”

“The two of you are right indeed.” Tian Muyi gave a hearty laugh. His face was calm and it was clear that he had already expected such comments and planned for them. “This Tian has already pondered this matter for quite some time. Thus, Guhu will indeed not be fully participating in this upcoming Heavenly Sovereign Assembly.

“However, he is still young enough, so he will remain in the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking. To simply remove his name from the rankings would not be appropriate. Thus, Guhu will only observe during the main event of this gathering, the ‘Battle of the Heavenly Sovereigns. If the winner wants to, he can challenge Guhu after that. If he does not wish to, Guhu will not take any action during the main event. This makes it so he won’t block out anyone else’s light. What do the two of you think of this arrangement?”

Huo Tianxing and Great Viper Sage pondered his words for a moment. Following that, the Great Viper Sage gave a hearty laugh and said, "You are indeed deserving of your position as the Imperial Heaven Realm King, you have truly thought this through. This way, your son's position will not be weakened and the other youngsters will also have a proper stage to compete on. This is truly the best solution."

"This is very good." Huo Tianxing also nodded his head. After that, he turned his gaze towards the daughter he was most proud of and used a sound transmission to inform her of this matter in order to relieve her of the pressure that was weighing down on her.

"Where are the whereabouts of the three important guests from the king realms?" the Great Viper Sage asked.

Before Tian MUYI could reply, Huo Tianxing gave a heavy snort and said, "The guests from the king realms are all of exalted status. They won't deign to show themselves until the very last minute. Humph."

Tian MUYI replied, "I have already sent people ahead to welcome them. I believe that they will arrive very soon."

"Speaking of which, why has your son not arrived yet?" The Great Viper Sage gave a forced smile and continued, "It looks like the majority of the young people gathered here have come for your son alone."

Tian MUYI replied, "Guhu has been training outside for some time now and he only set out on his journey back home yesterday. He already used a sound transmission to notify me that he saved two guests from the Heavenly Net Realm who were attacked by profound beasts. As those two guests possessed extraordinary status and were also injured, he decided to escort them here, thus delaying his arrival."

"But given Guhu's personality, he would not be this late in arriving."

At the mention of his son, who was celebrated and feted throughout the Northern Divine Region, Tian MUYI's cold and imperious face would always unconsciously become much more gentle.

Immediately after Tian MUYI had spoken, an announcement that had been deliberately dragged out rang out from outside the Imperial Heaven Tower. "Sir Lonely Swan has arrived!"

The Imperial Heaven Tower instantly fell into a hush as all eyes simultaneously turned in the same direction. This was especially so for those young profound practitioners who had followed their seniors here. This was the first time they had entered the Imperial Heaven Tower. All of their eyes glowed with a strange light and they were so excited that all of the blood in their bodies had started to boil.

Everyone's gazes were on Tian Guhu as he arrived through the main gates and floated down before the main seat. He bowed before Tian MUYI and greeted him, "Your son Guhu greets Royal Father and greets all the other seniors present."

Even though he was his father and the number one realm king, Tian MUYI still stood up to greet his son as he gave a hearty laugh and said, "You may rise."

His gaze shifted as he looked at the people who had journeyed together with Tian Guhu, the siblings of the Luo Clan. They however, were too nervous to speak. Tian MUYI asked, "Could they be?"

“Yes.” Tian Guhu simply replied with a single word, without any further explanation.

At this moment, the agitated voice of the Heavenly Net Realm King rang out, “Ying’er, Yun’er, was it truly... was it truly Sir Lonely Swan who saved you?”

“Yes! Sir Lonely Swan was the one who saved us and personally escorted us here,” Luo Yun nodded her head vigorously. Every moment she had spent traveling together with him over the last few hours had felt like a surreal dream.

Luo Ying said with incomparable seriousness, “We were at the foot of Nine Heavens Mountain and unexpectedly met with five Giant Fanged Beasts. As our lives were hanging by a thread, we were fortunate enough to have Sir Lonely Swan descend from the sky and save us from our peril. Were it not for Sir Lonely Swan, Little Yun and this son would have long been...”

“Royal Father, we were wrong.” Luo Yun hung her head in shame and said in an embarrassed voice, “We should have listened to Royal Father and journeyed together with you. In the future...we will not be so stubborn anymore.”

The Heavenly Net Realm King was not concerned with Luo Yun’s apology, neither did he feel any lingering fear. Rather, he felt a crazy surge of excitement and joy. He swivelled around and bowed deeply towards Tian Guhu and Tian Muyi saying, “This Luo cannot thank Sir Lonely Swan enough for the debt of saving the lives of my worthless son and young daughter. My worthless son and young daughter will forever remember this debt of gratitude and will spend their lives repaying this debt!”

Mistake? What mistake had they made! Without even mentioning the fact that they were not seriously injured, even if they nearly died, it would still be the greatest fortune of their lives for their fates to become entwined with Tian Guhu because of this incident.

Because it was very possible that Tian Guhu would become the number one person in the Northern Region in the future!

Tian Guhu turned around and bowed back, saying, “Senior is too gracious. Guhu was just lending a helping hand and should not receive such heavy words and promises. Brother Ying and Little Sister Yun are the precious guests of the Imperial Heaven Realm yet they met with such a calamity. The Imperial Heaven Realm cannot hide from the blame. Guhu is already extremely grateful that Senior is not putting the blame on us. I definitely cannot accept such heavy gratitude from Senior.”

The Heavenly Net Realm King was about to speak again but Tian Muyi’s voice had already rung out, “Haha, Heavenly Net Realm King, you must not take this matter to heart. Guhu has always treasured life and hated evil since he was young and he cannot stand to see the strong bully the weak. He definitely would not just leave a person to sink or swim. He doesn’t do it so he can be rewarded. Rather, he does it so that he can have a clear conscience. To Guhu, your beloved son and daughter’s safety is already his comfort and reward.”

Heavenly Net Realm King was stumped for words and simply bowed deeply once more.

There was not a single person present at the scene that was not moved.

The Northern Divine Region was a realm where the laws of survival were extremely cruel. For one's survival, for one's own interest, every day, every moment, was filled with an endless amount of spilled blood, death, and wickedness.

Kindness was far too luxurious a commodity in the Northern Divine Region.

As the existence who stood at the top of the pyramid, Tian Guhu not only possessed peerless innate talent and resounding fame, his future was also boundless and inestimable. Yet he had always possessed an innocent and untainted heart.

He was too outstanding, too precious for this Northern Divine Region, a region that had been swathed in darkness since ancient times.

At this moment, Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had finally arrived outside the Imperial Heaven Tower after following Tian Guhu from afar.

Yun Che stopped in his tracks. When he stared at the door of the Heavenly Tower, which pierced through the clouds, his eyebrows sank heavily.

"Now this is going a little overboard," Qianye Ying'er said languidly as she sensed the auras that were radiating from the Imperial Heaven Tower. "There aren't even two hundred upper star realms in the entire Northern Divine Region. So from the looks of it, it seems like half of the Divine Masters of the Northern Divine Region have gathered in this place."

"But it's a good place to seek out death." A faint smile appeared on Qianye Ying'er's face as she glanced at Yun Che.

[Chapter 1626 - Stirring up Trouble](#)

Yun Che did not immediately enter the Imperial Heaven Tower. Instead he suddenly said, "For the last few years, you've been trying all means, whether openly or covertly, to get me to cooperate with that Northern Region Devil Queen."

"It's not 'you', it's 'us'," Qianye Ying'er corrected him.

"I'm going to confirm this one last time." Yun Che turned his head to look at Qianye Ying'er. "Is she really that 'useful'?"

"Her degree of usefulness depends on how much you can control." Qianye Ying'er's brows slanted slightly. "I am only sure about one thing. As long as you are strong enough, she definitely won't disappoint you."

Yun Che did not say anything else. Instead, he started walking toward the Imperial Heaven Tower.

As the two of them drew near, the Imperial Heaven disciples who were guarding the gates of the tower did not try to stop them.

The Heavenly Sovereign Assembly was not an event that only invitees could attend. Anyone who was qualified to enter could do so freely. However, the "qualifications" needed to enter were quite harsh... one's cultivation needed to be at least at the level of the Divine King Realm.

If any person's cultivation was lower than the Divine King Realm, they would be directly repelled by the invisible barrier that surrounded the Imperial Heaven Tower.

The Imperial Heaven Tower was not a large structure. If one did not possess a sufficient level of cultivation, just being amongst all the densely packed auras radiating from these elites would be hard to endure.

Aside from Beihan Chu, who had died at a tragically young age, every one of the Heavenly Sovereigns who were on the ranking was present. All of them were either staring openly or glancing covertly at Tian Guhu. Actually, all of them were incredibly aware of the fact that even though they were all Heavenly Sovereigns of the Northern Divine Region, Tian Guhu existed in a realm that was far above them... in every single aspect.

Upon Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er's arrival, the auras of two level seven Divine Sovereigns instantly drew much attention. Furthermore, these were two completely unfamiliar auras and faces, causing more than a few people to wrinkle their brows in suspicion... but that was all anyone did.

Because they were not invited to this event, they could only observe from the sidelines. However, at this moment, a voice suddenly rang out. "It's them!"

It was a woman's voice and it was clear that she had blurted those words out. Her shout had been exceptionally ear-splitting and sudden in this solemn and quiet event. It instantly drew everyone's attention.

The one who had yelled was, shockingly enough, Heavenly Net Realm's Luo Yun, the girl who had just been saved by Tian Guhu. She had just taken her seat and when she had inadvertently glanced at the newly-arrived Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er, she immediately let out an involuntary yell.

Luo Ying's eyes swiveled toward them and his brows immediately sank.

The Heavenly Net Realm King rebuked her, "What do you think you are doing!? Causing a disturbance during such an event!"

Luo Yun's shout had undoubtedly drawn the attention of Tian Guhu. The moment he saw Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er, his brow immediately furrowed and he said, "Please escort those two people out."

What sort of status did Tian Guhu possess? This was especially true because they were in the Imperial Heaven Tower right now, so one could well imagine how much weight his words had. The moment his words took form, all eyes zeroed in on Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er.

This was because the only people Tian Guhu could have been referring to when he said "those two people" were the two level seven Divine Sovereigns who had just entered the Imperial Heaven Tower, whether it was the direction of his gaze or the timing of his words.

Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er stopped in their tracks. Yun Che's face was completely expressionless, while a trace of playful mockery could be seen in the depths of Qianye Ying'er's eyes... They did not even need to contrive a reason to stir up trouble. The moment they walked in the door, someone delivered the opportunity straight to them.

The Northern Divine Region was truly an interesting place.

Tian Muyi stood up and looked at Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. He asked, "Guhu, what's going on? Have you had some sort of past conflict with them?"

Tian Guhu said, "Reporting to Royal Father. This child has never had any conflict with them or grievance against them. In fact, we do not even know each other. Even if I did bear a grudge against them, this child would also never disrupt the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly due to a personal grievance."

"It's just that..." Tian Guhu turned around and faced the silent Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. "In my opinion, these two people are not worthy of entering our Imperial Heaven Tower!"

His voice was as calm as a pool of placid water, but each word resounded in the hearts of everyone present. Even more eyes focused on Yun Che and his companion. Half of these gazes were amazed, half of these gazes were filled with pity. It was very clear that these two unknown figures had definitely crossed Tian Guhu's bottomline in some way or form.

To stir up such revulsion in the heart of the distinguished Sir Lonely Swan, the audience could not help but feel pity for their future.

"Why does my esteemed nephew say such a thing?" the Great Viper Sage said with a bright and cheery smile.

Tian Guhu's expression was as calm as still water. He answered with a calm voice, "Just half a day ago, the Heavenly Net Realm's Brother Ying and Little Sister Yun met with danger and their lives were hanging by a thread. But these two people simply passed them by."

"Moreover, Brother Ying and Little Sister Yun were not entangled up in some personal grievance, they were being beset by profound beasts. Given their cultivation as level seven Divine Sovereigns, they merely needed to lift a hand to resolve the danger and save two young Divine Kings who possessed a boundless future, while also forming a good relationship for the future."

"However, they actually completely ignored their cries for help and coldly left instead." Tian Guhu slowly shook his head. "This sort of conduct isn't something I can sit by and look at without doing anything, much less tolerate."

"Such a thing really happened?" The Heavenly Net Realm King asked.

Luo Ying rose and said, "It is indeed true. When Little Yun and I were in mortal danger, we saw those two pass by. Originally, our hearts were filled with surprise and joy, and we shouted for help. They were a little more than three thousand meters away from Little Yun and I, but they turned a deaf ear to us and did not even glance our way."

Upon finishing, he looked at Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er, elation flashing in his seemingly calm eyes.

"That's enough," Tian Muyi waved his hand instead. "Even though it was not right for them to not lend a helping hand, it was not wrong either. There is no need to look any deeper into this."

It was indeed extremely cold and heartless for them to coldly abandon two people to death. However, abandoning someone to their death was all too common in the Northern Divine Region. In fact, from a certain perspective, the fact that they did not take advantage of their misfortune and plunder them was already a very humane thing to do.

Tian Guhu gave a soft sigh before he turned around and bowed. He said, "This child will respect and obey Royal Father's words. It's just that as a junior upon whom many hopes have been placed upon, I have no choice but to say a few words to all of the heroes gathered here today."

"..." Tian Muji did not say anything. There was no one who understood his son better than him, so he more or less knew what Tian Guhu was about to say.

Tian Guhu faced the crowd. His eyebrows knit together slightly as he spoke in clear and bright voice, "The Northern Divine Region we live in used to be one of the four divine regions of the God Realm. Yet we were abandoned by the world and became enemies with the other three divine regions because of this. They made it so that we don't even dare to take a step out of this place, forcing us to stay here forever."

"So the ground under our feet. These lands which are given the title of divine region. How is it any different from a gigantic prison?"

The Imperial Heaven Tower grew quiet and all eyes fell on Tian Guhu.

"The darkness energy in the Primal Chaos has constantly been dissipating. The territory of the Northern Divine Region is shrinking with every passing moment. From time to time, we will even hear of the eternal demise of a star realm or a star region, and one day, it will be our turn as well."

"Given these current circumstances, the future of the Northern Divine Region falls upon the shoulders of we profound practitioners who are fortunate enough to step into the upper echelons of the profound way. If we, the people who control the lifeline of the Northern Divine Region, still do not join our hands together and show our benevolence to the world, if we still continue to devour each other for our own benefit and our hearts continue to be cold and indifferent, then what future does this Northern Divine Region still have? How could we live up to these powers that have been bestowed upon us by the heavens?"

Tian Guhu swiveled around and stared straight at Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. "The wickedness that Guhu saw today is deeply rooted in my heart. If I had not happened to pass by just in time to lend a helping hand, these two young Divine Kings, who might shoulder the future of the Northern Divine Region together with us, would have lost their lives to the claws of those profound beasts. Since that is the case, then the indifference of these two individuals was no different from personally sending them to their deaths!"

"If a person does not know what compassion is and humanity does not exist in their heart, then what difference is that person from a beast!?" Tian Guhu's voice grew deeper. "This child does not dare to defy Royal Father's will. However, I'm absolutely not willing to allow these sort of people to stain the Imperial Heaven Tower. As a fellow Divine Sovereign, I am filled with shame!"

As those heavy words fell, everyone's expression changed. There were some who approved, some who gasped in admiration, some who fell silent, and even some who shook their heads.

Anyone who knew Tian Guhu's name naturally also understood why he would change his name to "Guhu". It was not just because his talent was singular in this realm. It was also because his heart and his ambition were far beyond the people of his generation. This was also why he disdained being compared to his peers.

Perhaps, his words sounded far too naive to these weathered and experienced elders. However, they still caused everyone to gasp in admiration. It even gave everyone present a feeling that it was truly a blessing from heaven that the Northern Divine Region managed to produce someone like Tian Guhu.

“Heh heh.” Tian Muyi spoke before anyone else could. A warm smile appeared on his face as he said, “Guhu, your father is truly comforted by your intentions and aspirations. Today is a day that belongs to you young Heavenly Sovereigns. It is an event held specifically for all of you. So there’s no need to get distracted over this. The three observers from the king realms will soon arrive, so I ask that everyone quietly take your seats. I believe that today’s assembly definitely won’t let down anyone’s expectations.”

Just as he had finished speaking, before anyone in the crowd could respond, an exceptionally sweet and velvety voice rang out in the air. A woman had started speaking. “I’ve seen many idiots in my life, but this is truly the first time I’ve seen someone who is this ridiculously stupid. I heard that Tian Guhu is nearly six hundred years old. This means he still has nearly six hundred years of experience under his belt. Could it be that he spent it all lying on a dog’s back?”

The woman’s voice was velvety and provocative. It sounded like her voice was singing mournfully, but it also sounded like she was lazily talking to herself. However, every word was incredibly grating and it left everyone completely flabbergasted.

It was as if the chorus of replies that were just about to erupt had been covered up by a giant wok that descended from the heavens. Everyone’s gaze fell on the woman who had spoken... Astonishingly enough, it was one of the two people whom Tian Guhu was disgusted with.

Qianye Ying’er’s delicate head drooped slightly, the icy-blue mask on her face rippled with misty cold energy, making it so that no one could clearly distinguish her features. But as long as a person had eyes, they could catch the openly languid demeanor revealed on the exquisite portion of her face that was revealed by the mask.

It was as if she had just said words that could not be any more simple or ordinary.

Tian Muyi was a naturally prudent man. When he heard that three esteemed guests from the king realms were about to arrive, he did not want to leave any minor issues unresolved. That was why he had overlooked this matter.

In everyone’s eyes, the fact that Tian Muyi did not chase these people out after Tian Guhu had said such words was already a huge kindness toward Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er.

But they had never even dreamed that this Divine Sovereign who had escaped her previous predicament, and a woman at that, would actually insult Tian Guhu in front of everyone!

Moreover, this was the Imperial Heavenly Realm! The Imperial Heaven Tower!

Qianye Ying’er’s words had no doubt violently stirred up a huge hornet’s nest. Tian Muyi’s calm face suddenly darkened and everyone in the Imperial Heaven Sect stared at Qianye Ying’er with rage in their eyes. Imperial Heaven Great Elder Tian Muhe slammed the table in front of him and stood up. His seat immediately split apart as he pointed at Qianye Ying’er and roared furiously, “You scoundrel! How dare you behave in such a manner in our Imperial Heaven Tower!?”

“Oh?” Qianye Ying’er glanced at him as she said in a very slow manner. “This is amazing. When he called us animals, you did not even let out a fart. But the moment I said that he’s wasted his life, you stood up and barked crazily at me. Could it be that you’re actually the dog he wasted his life lying on?”

“YOU!!” Tian Muhe’s eyes grew as dark as an abyss and his body had even started to shake... He had lived for more than ten millennia, but this was the first time he had ever been in this situation. As the Imperial Heaven Great Elder, there were hardly any people who did not treat him with respect, much less a person who would dare to say such words to him!

At this moment, everyone could have heard a pin drop in the Imperial Heaven Tower. The scene they were witnessing was something they could neither imagine nor understand, no matter how hard they tried.

A level seven Divine Sovereign actually dared to insult Tian Guhu in front of everyone in this Imperial Heaven Tower! She had even dared to insult the Imperial Heaven Great Elder.

Furthermore, her insults were simply far too vicious! Even the calmest person here would be incapable of tolerating them, much less people like Tian Guhu and Tian Muhe!

Tian Guhu turned around, his sword-like brows slanting slightly. But he did not show any anger.

“Great Elder, there’s no need for you to get angry.” Tian Muyi slowly rose to his feet. “These two pathetic and insignificant characters are not worthy of your wrath.”

Tian Muyi’s expression was as calm as before and no ripples could be seen from his face. However, Huo Tianxing and the Great Viper Sage, who were sitting to his right and his left, could clearly feel a shockingly cold intent leaking out of him.

He could calmly deal with the fact that Tian Muhe had been insulted. However, when it came to Tian Guhu... Everyone in the Imperial Heaven Realm knew that his son was the greatest pride and joy in his life, a reverse scale that absolutely no one could touch.

Just based on the first few words that she had said, this woman and her companion were already destined for a fate worse than death.

[Chapter 1627 - Witch Yao Die](#)

“It looks like the two of you are here to pick a fight,” Tian Muyi said slowly and quietly. No hint of anger could be detected in his voice. “This Tian is very curious what gave you the courage to cause trouble in our Imperial Heaven Realm.”

“Pick a fight?” Despite the sudden pressure from the people of the Imperial Heaven Realm, Qianye Ying’er didn’t change her tone or posture in the slightest. “We came to watch the assembly, but out of nowhere your stupid son suddenly insulted us and smeared our reputation with shit. And you say we’re the ones who’re trying to pick a fight?”

“Does that mean the people of the Imperial Heaven Realm can bully us without reason, but cannot tolerate any verbal retaliation at all? How very lordly and mighty of you. It’s no wonder you’re the number one star realm of the Northern Divine Region!”

Tian Guhu raised his arms and said calmly, "Bully without reason? I don't know the two of you at all. What I said was exactly what I saw, and the reason I pointed it out was because your actions are something I cannot tolerate no matter what. Despite that, my royal father still tolerated your presence because he's a broad-minded person, so how can you say we bullied you without reason?"

"But you, everything you said was a veiled insult of some kind. I wouldn't have minded if you only insulted me, but..." His expression and his tone changed suddenly as power exited his clothes and formed a terrifying aura. "How dare you insult our sect's great elder too!? I, Tian Guhu, will not allow you to leave the Imperial Heaven Realm safely even if my father and my great elder can forgive your transgressions!"

"Oh?" Qianye Ying'er shot him a glance before asking meaningfully, "You think you... can do harm to us?"

Qianye Ying'er's words caused everyone to stare at her in astonishment. Some of them nearly burst out in laughter.

Who in the entire Northern Divine Region didn't know that Tian Guhu was a living miracle who could easily crush opponents two levels above him, and eke out a draw against opponents who were three levels above him?

Qianye Ying'er was also a level seven Divine Sovereign, so her counter provocation was just...

Not even ignorance could describe the sheer stupidity of her words anymore.

"Sir Lonely Swan," the Heavenly Net Realm King said while standing up, "today should be a good day for you Heavenly Sovereigns. These idiots don't deserve to spoil it, much less earn a personal lesson from yourself."

"Qiong Wu, Yuan Dian... kick them out!"

The two old men beside the Heavenly Net Realm King slowly rose to their feet. One of them was a level ten Divine Sovereign, and the other a level nine Divine Sovereign. Their heavy, peerless auras instantly locked onto Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er.

Everyone knew that they were going to do worse than just "kick out" the uninvited "guests".

They were at the Imperial Heaven Tower, and the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly was about to start soon. This was the absolute worst place to start a fight. Therefore, the two top level Divine Sovereigns' plan was to kick them out of Imperial Heaven Tower first before killing them.

Even if they somehow survived this attack, their life in the Northern Divine Region would never be the same again.

"Heh, what foolish people," said another higher realm king with a sneer.

"Sir Lonely Swan is right, these two are a shame on us Divine Sovereigns."

"Heavenly Net Realm King, don't forget to investigate their background," another higher realm king said. "This king wants to know where these idiots were born. It must be quite the place."

By now, everyone was staring at Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er with scorn. Whatever pity they might have felt earlier was completely gone. Cultivating to level seven Divine Sovereign was no easy feat for anyone, and at their level there were countless places for them to flaunt their power as they wished. But they just had to cause trouble at the Imperial Heaven Tower.

If this didn't count as digging one's own grave, then nothing did.

Tian Muhe slowly took a seat again. Neither he nor Tian Muyi said anything, but they both shot the Heavenly Net Realm King a meaningful look. The latter understood what they wanted and nodded slowly.

Suddenly, the dark clouds covering the blue sky disappeared without warning. At the same time, three intimidating auras poured down from above and dispelled the changed atmosphere in the Imperial Heaven Tower and the energy that was about envelop Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er in an instant.

Tian Muyi and Tian Muhe's seats were barely warmed before they jumped to their feet again. Huo Tianxing and Great Viper Sage also stood up while looking at the sky.

Three different auras appeared from three different directions at the same time, but it was an old man's voice that reached everyone's ears first, "Yan Sangeng of Yama Realm is here to visit."

The speaker sounded old, but his appearance was that of a middle-aged man. He wore a gray robe that looked entirely too big for him. His face was stiff and grayish, and his eyes were listless. He looked like a living corpse.

Yan Sangeng was the strongest profound practitioner of the thirty six Yama Demons of the Yama Realm. His status rivaled that of the terrifying ten Yamas.

There was even a saying that came from Yan Sangeng's name. "If the Yama King wants you dead by twelve, who dares keep you alive until five". He was so infamous that he struck fear in anyone who knew him.

No one expected the leader of the Yama Demons, Yan Sangeng himself to act as the supervisor of today's Heavenly Sovereign Assembly. His name alone enveloped the entire Imperial Heaven Tower in a menacing aura.

Tian Muyi immediately greeted loudly, "Muyi welcomes the King of Yama Demons."

"Hahahaha, how have you been, Imperial Heaven Realm King? It's been some millennia since we last met."

An incredibly unrestrained laugh came from another direction before a young-looking man descended slowly to the ground. He made no attempt to hide the mark of the Burning Moon on his body, and his eyes were slanted upwards in arrogance even though he was facing a whole group of upper star realm experts and realm kings.

"Hahahaha," Tian Muyi also laughed loudly. "You have entered the Divine Master Realm in just a couple millennia, Your Highness? This one is truly impressed."

"My minor achievement is nothing compared to Sir Lonely Swan," said the prince of the Burning Moon Realm with a smile before shooting Tian Guhu a sharp glance.

He was none other the Burning Moon God Emperor's own son, and a prince of the Burning Moon Realm.

"You must be joking, Your Highness," Tian Muyi said with a chuckle. "You are the moon that will dazzle the world in the future. My son will be lucky to obtain even a tiny bit of your divinity, much less be compared to you."

The third person finally entered everyone's gazes right after Tian Muyi was done speaking.

She was a woman dressed in yellow, with sleeves that looked like they were constantly floating and long hair as black as ink. She also wore an incredibly beautiful butterfly mask to cover her face and eyes just like Qianye Ying'er.

She didn't seem to be carrying a presence at all, but the moment she landed on the ground, Yan Sangeng and the Burning Moon Prince's auras were annihilated instantly.

"A... Witch!?"

Her aura was so powerful it was almost dreamlike. It felt shapeless, but there was no denying the sudden, rapid heartbeats in their chests. Her appearance caused everyone's expression to change, and some higher realm kings were even groaning in fear and disbelief.

Tian Muyi turned around to face her and put on a serious expression. Then, he bowed deeply before saying, "Tian Muyi of Imperial Heaven welcomes Lady Yao Die. Your arrival alone has blessed this Heavenly Sovereign Assembly beyond imagination."

Almost everyone's hearts trembled the moment they heard her name.

It was because it was the name of the fourth Witch of the Soul Stealing Realm, one of the nine Witches who served the Devil Queen!

The young Divine Sovereigns of the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking would undoubtedly become the future rulers of the Northern Divine Region. That was why the king realms highly valued the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly, which they showed through the level of supervisors they sent. For example, the Yama Realm sent the King of Yama Demons to act as supervisor, and the Burning Moon Realm a prince, the prince who was most likely to become Crown Prince no less.

However, no one expected the Soul Stealing Realm to send a Witch over.

Yao Die didn't react to Tian Muyi's greeting at all.

Very few people had ever witnessed a Witch's true face with their own eyes. It was because they were the "shadows" of the Devil Queen. As "shadows", it was only natural that they seldom showed themselves in public.

No one was really surprised by her lack of reaction, not to mention that her mask kept anyone from seeing her countenance or gaze. That was why no one noticed that she was staring at Yun Che right from the start.

Everyone stood up to welcome the three king realm supervisors loudly.

Fen Jieran, the Prince of Burning Moon Realm, leisurely entered his seat before saying, "It is sad that no worthy talent has made an appearance among the juniors for the past hundred years or so, although your reputation is the exact opposite of that, Sir Lonely Swan. That is why I personally asked my royal father to send me over, so please don't disappoint me... Hmm?"

Suddenly, his gaze landed on Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. He asked, "What's up with these two?"

"No need for concern, Your Highness," Tian Muyi said. "They're just two arrogant and suicidal fools. They were even picking a fight with us right here in the Imperial Heaven Tower just now."

He then turned around and ordered harshly, "What are you waiting for? Do not spoil our honored guests' mood."

"Yes, my lord!"

"Wait."

A woman's voice rang out right after the Heavenly net Realm elders acknowledged the order. The word sounded as soft as the wind, and yet there was something magical and irresistible about it. At the same time, a shiver coursed through everyone's body and soul.

The two elders who were about to attack Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er froze like statues. The person who stopped them was none other than the fourth Witch of the Soul Stealing Realm, Yao Die.

Tian Muyi froze for a second before asking, "My lady, what is your order?"

But Yao Die ignored him and asked Yun Che directly, "What is your name?"

Yun Che stared at the woman who stood at the topmost peak of the Northern Divine Region without any fear at all. He replied in an indifferent tone, "Ling Yun."

"Ling Yun?" She nodded slightly. "Are the two of you here to watch the assembly?"

Yun Che's lips curled into an incredibly disturbing smile. "What do you think?"

His reply detonated in everyone's hearts like a bomb. Expression changing, Tian Muyi quickly said, "How dare you speak to the Lady like that! This is beyond the realm of bravery... They must truly be insane."

"Kick them out of here already!"

"That is unnecessary." Yao Die easily canceled the auras pressing toward Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er again. She shot Qianye Ying'er a glance before turning back toward Yun Che. "Would you like to sit with me?"

In that moment, everyone—even Yan Sangeng and Fen Jieran—thought that they had heard wrong... some even suspected that they were experiencing an auditory hallucination.

"Acceptable." Yun Che was the only one who didn't freeze up. His reply was also simple and rude.

"Come." Yao Die turned around and took a seat at the supervisor's stand. Her hand gesture left no room for any interpretation except the obvious.

For all his status, cultivation, and experience, Tian Muyi was speechless for several breaths before he finally returned to himself. He exclaimed in shock and disbelief, “My lady, what are you...”

Tian Muyi suddenly stopped himself even though Yao Die didn’t move or even look at him. His voice died inside his throat just like that.

“Do I need the Imperial Heaven Realm King’s permission to offer an invitation?” Yao Die said quietly.

Tian Muyi lowered his head immediately. His forehead was covered in a sheen of cold sweat before he realized it. “Of... of course not. Please excuse my rudeness.”

[Chapter 1628 - Angry Crowd](#)

The crowd watched in utter shock as Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er exchanged a brief glance with each other before sitting on the right side of the Witch, Yao Die.

Moreover, they were sitting right next to each other. Less than half a person of space separated them both, meaning they could touch each other directly if one of them so much as stretched their arms.

Yao Die frowned slightly but didn’t say anything. She didn’t try to separate them either.

Silence reigned over the Imperial Heaven Tower. The crowd—especially those from the Heavenly Net Realm—were stupefied and unsure what they should do.

The Witch wasn’t just an intimidating name in the Northern Divine Region. They were the most enigmatic existences in this corner of the world. Countless people knew about them, but most never got the chance to meet them even once in their lives.

Tian Muyi was the greatest realm king of this realm, but even he had never seen a Witch’s true face. The fact that he was able to identify Yao Die accurately was already a testament to his strength.

So why did someone like her choose to invite two Divine Sovereigns who disgusted Tian Guhu and maliciously insulted the Imperial Heaven Sect right in their home territory!?

It wasn’t like they knew each other either, or Yao Die wouldn’t have asked for the man’s name in the first place.

No one could understand what the Witch was thinking, but they dared not make unnecessary questions. After all, even Tian Muyi didn’t qualify to speak with the Witch as equals, much less the rest of them.

For a time, the atmosphere became very strange. Somehow, the offenders of the Imperial Heaven Realm were welcomed into the Imperial Heaven Tower’s most honored seats by Yao Die herself. Although Tian Muyi couldn’t wait to cut Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er into a million pieces, he had no choice but to bottle up this urge and smile genially at his guests.

He said, “My lady, King of Yama Demons, Your Highness. You are the honored guests of the Imperial Heaven Realm and the supervisors of the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly. I’m sure that this assembly will proceed smoothly and fairly with your protection and supervision.”

“It is time to begin, as all our honored guests have arrived. I declare that the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly begins now!” Tian Muyi declared. “Young Divine Sovereigns, all of you are the pride and future

of the Northern Divine Region. This assembly belongs to you, so please shine as much as you can and imprint your light to the skies for eternity!”

Tian Muye then looked at the three supervisors and raised his voice even further. “If you are fortunate enough to be recruited by a king realm, then your future will be unlimited. It is up to you whether you can seize this once-in-a-century opportunity...”

Tian Muye then went on to recite the rules. He also mentioned that Tian Guhu wouldn’t be entering the battlefield, and that challenging him was a privilege reserved for the winner of this assembly. Not only did no one complain about this, they all let out a huge sigh of relief.

Beside Yao Die, Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er were both staring at their feet and keeping quiet. They didn’t look at the Heavenly Sovereigns or the battlefield even once.

On the other hand, countless people were shooting shocked and puzzled glances at them. They just couldn’t understand what this Witch was planning.

A rumble and a flash of profound light later, a huge barrier was erected at the center of the battlefield. It also signaled the official start of the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly. A man with sharp eyebrows held a sword in each of his hands before jumping onto the battlefield. Then, he declared in high spirits, “I am Nan Qingyu of Fallen Province Realm. Please meet me in battle!”

Another Heavenly Sovereign jumped onto the battlefield right after he spoke. The duo clashed without a word as a spatial rift spread swiftly in between their weapons.

Thus the war between the Heavenly Sovereigns began, with everyone staring at the battlefield fully concentrated. No one here was unworthy of attention and memorization.

The Heavenly Sovereign Assembly never failed to bring pleasant surprises, with Tian Guhu being the biggest of them all during the last couple centuries. Tian Guhu’s eyes were fully focused on the battlefield. Sometimes he would shake his head, and sometimes he would nod approvingly, but it was clear that he didn’t view these Heavenly Sovereigns as equals at all. His attitude was that of a superior’s.

More and more exclamations of surprise and praise filled the Imperial Heaven Tower as one battle happened after another. The quietest corner of the assembly without a doubt belonged to the Witch’s.

It felt like she was watching the battles despite the butterfly mask covering her face, but she was dead silent to the point it was scary. Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er hadn’t said anything either this whole time.

They were undoubtedly the strangest trio in the entire Imperial Heaven Tower.

Some time later, the daughter of Huo Tianxing, Huo Lanji entered the battlefield and single-handedly defeated all the warriors present on the battlefield, raising the quality of the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly to a whole new level.

Huo Tianxing smiled as he stroked his short beard. Tian Muye shot him a glance and chuckled. “She really is your daughter, Brother Huo. I’m sure no other woman of her age could reach her level of prowess.”

Huo Tianxing withdrew his smile and shot Tian Guhu a sideways glance. Then, he snorted coldly and said, “Coming from you, that doesn’t sound as pleasant as you think.”

Tian Muyi chuckled again and asked, “Guhu, what is your opinion regarding our Heavenly Sovereigns?”

Tian Guhu said, “Royal Father, the Heavenly Sovereigns are even stronger than they were a couple centuries ago. Fairy Huo and Young Master Kui’s drastic improvements were especially praiseworthy.”

“This child is still young and inexperienced, but today’s show instilled much hope in him towards the future of the Northern Divine Region. I am even more certain now that our generation will not disappoint the seniors’ expectations.”

Tian Guhu caused all the realm kings to smile and nod at him in appreciation. Even Huo Tianxing’s frown had softened a little.

“Ling Yun.” Suddenly, Yao Die spoke up against everyone’s expectations. “What do you think about these Heavenly Sovereigns?”

There was something magical about Yao Die’s voice. It was incredibly quiet, and yet it penetrated everyone’s soul like mercury and drew everyone’s attention—even the Heavenly Sovereigns fighting on the battlefield—toward her like magic.

She was clearly doing this on purpose.

Yun Che raised his head slightly and half-opened his eyes. But instead of looking at the battlefield, he let out a disdainful snort. “To think that these trash would dare call themselves Heavenly Sovereigns. What a joke.”

Since Yao Die had attracted everyone’s attention, his answer entered their ears with perfect clarity. Fury instantly raged across the entire Imperial Heavenly Tower like a rock chucked into a pool of still water.

Even the Heavenly Sovereigns fighting furiously on the battlefield had stopped to glare at Yun Che with sudden anger.

They were the one hundred youngest Divine Sovereigns of the Northern Divine Region. They were also the only Divine Sovereigns of their generation to be gifted the title of “Heavenly Sovereign”. They were looked up to by their peers, and they were praised throughout their growth. Naturally, their pride was as great as their strength.

This was their assembly, and more than half of the higher realm kings had shown up to watch their performance. Even the king realms had sent over important figures to act as supervisors. They might still be young, but their status and power in the Northern Divine Region was obvious for all to see.

Who dared to look down on them? Who even had the right to look down on them!?

To say that Yun Che was looking down on them was a massive understatement. These children of miracle felt like someone was slapping them when Yun Che called them “trash” with all the humiliation and arrogance he could muster.

They were the youngest Divine Sovereigns of the Northern Divine Region. To insult them was to insult every Divine Sovereign that exists in the Northern Divine Region!

Not even the emperors of the king realms—the supreme rulers of the Northern Divine Region—would underestimate these true geniuses, much less call them trash like Yun Che just did.

“How dare you!?” Every Heavenly Sovereign standing on the battlefield glared at Yun Che with overwhelming power and killing intent.

“What a clown.” Huo Lanji sneered before looking away. It was as if she was afraid of dirtying her eyes.

Since someone had taken the initiative, every Heavenly Sovereign followed suit and attacked Yun Che verbally with all they had. If he wasn’t sitting right next to the Witch, someone would’ve already taken the initiative to cut him down with weapons and profound energy.

“Hahahahaha!” Prince Fen Jieran laughed madly while rocking back and forth. “Interesting, how interesting to hear this from a level seven Divine Sovereign, hahahaha.”

“Hehe, that is an understatement, Your Highness.” The Great Viper Sage’s eyes narrowed into dangerous slits. “This is the first time this old one has seen such a joke despite having lived for nearly fifty thousand years. This kid is either crazy or bearing a death wish.”

“Hmph, he is a shame to all Divine Sovereigns,” The Heavenly Net Realm King said in a low voice.

“It’ll dirty my hands to kill this evil creature!”

“Hehe, the journey to Divine Sovereign Realm is no easy feat for anyone, but this guy... I doubt he’ll even have an intact corpse after this.”

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Cold stares, snorts, scorn, anger... Everyone was staring at Yun Che like he was a clown who was about to die a horrible death. At the same time, they found their own reaction hilarious because someone like Yun Che didn’t deserve their anger at all. However, emotion wasn’t something one could control just because they wanted to.

On the honored guest’s seat, the corpse-like Yan Sangeng shot Yun Che a glance before saying indifferently, “My lady, this man deserves death.”

How many people in the world could protect Yun Che after Yan Sangeng himself had sentenced him to death?

Witch Yao Die didn’t give him a reply.

“Hmph.” Tian Muyi stood up with a relatively calm expression, but he didn’t bother to hide the murderous intent in his eyes. “This man has insulted not just these great Heavenly Sovereigns, but all the Divine Sovereigns in the Northern Divine Region. His crime is unforgivable.”

“If you wish to die so badly, then this king shall fulfill your wish!”

“Wait!” Tian Guhu suddenly spoke up before flying out of his seat. He said, “Royal Father, we Heavenly Sovereigns are the ones who are insulted so the ones to respond should also be us. You and all the seniors shouldn’t dirty your hands with his blood.”

Tian Muyi accepted his son’s persuasion and nodded slowly.

Everyone watched as Tian Guhu stopped in front of Yun Che before bowing deeply toward Yao Die.

“Senior, please permit this junior to speak with Ling Yun for a bit.”

Although Yun Che was a dead man in everyone's eyes, Tian Guhu still showed Yao Die all the respect she deserved.

"Do as you please," Yao Die said indifferently.

Although she hadn't attacked Yun Che herself, her response was practically a declaration that Ling Yun's fate had nothing to do with her.

"Thank you, senior." Tian Guhu bowed again before turning to face Yun Che. His gaze was impressively calm and void of anger as he faced Yun Che. "Ling Yun, do you dare repeat what you just said earlier?"

Yun Che looked up and shot him an indifferent glance. Then, he said, "Trash."

"You!" The Heavenly Sovereigns' fury exploded once more.

But Tian Guhu forced them to calm down with a raise of his hand before a half-smile passed across his face. "We Heavenly Sovereigns are prideful creatures, but we never torment those who are weaker than us, and we definitely don't tolerate insults from anyone! If you don't justify yourself now, I suspect that you won't be walking out of the Imperial Heaven Tower alive."

"..." Yun Che didn't say anything at all.

"You may be displeased if our seniors attacked you, or if we attacked you all at once, not to mention that you definitely don't deserve such special treatment. So..." Tian Guhu's eyes looked as sharp as a pair of swords as he said slowly, "As a proud Heavenly Sovereign of the Northern Region, it is only right that I show a level of magnanimity that is equal to my strength. I shall grant you a chance on behalf of my brothers and sisters."

"We are both level seven Divine Sovereigns, so I, the 'trash' you speak of shall be your opponent. If you win, we will admit that we don't deserve our title. Naturally, we will not pursue you for your transgression because you are perfectly right in your assessment. But if you lose to me, the one you called a piece of 'trash'..." He smiled before continuing, "I suppose you will know the price of humiliating we Heavenly Sovereigns of the Northern Divine Region, won't you?"

"Don't turn me down yet, I can grant you another huge favor." Tian Guhu stretched a finger before Yun Che could reply. "Seven. If you can withstand seven attacks from me without losing, then I shall concede that you are the victor. What do you say?"

Tian Guhu's words drew a smile from the raging crowd. Tian Muyi especially was filled with fatherly pride.

Both Tian Guhu and Yun Che were at the same realm, but he offered to concede defeat if he couldn't beat Yun Che in seven attacks. Normally, a statement like this could only be described as impossibly conceited and idiotic coming from most profound practitioners.

But this time, the one who made the statement was Tian Guhu, the level seven Divine Sovereign who could fight a level ten Divine Sovereign to a draw!

No one thought that Tian Guhu would lose even though it was a massive handicap. He was also the only Divine Sovereign present who could crush another opponent at the same cultivation level within seven moves.

Tian Guhu's offer was a superb move because he could further his reputation, vent the Heavenly Sovereigns' anger, and humiliate his opponent all at the same time. He would be killing three birds with one stone. He could make this "Ling Yun" lose all dignity before his death and become a joke for a very long time even after he died.

That's right. It would be far too easy to just kill Ling Yun for his crimes against the Imperial Heaven Realm and the Heavenly Sovereigns.

The anger in everyone's eyes turned into ridicule. Even the Divine Kings who normally had naught but admiration for Divine Sovereigns were staring at Yun Che with disdain and pity.

"Ling Yun... surely someone as bold as you will accept such a handicap, right?" Tian Guhu said slowly. A couple of Heavenly Sovereigns even snorted out loud when they heard this.

Yun Che finally lowered his arms to his side and got up to his feet. Then, he said weakly and indifferently, "Seven attacks are too much. Let's make it three."

[AGAINST THE GODS](#)

[Chapter 1629 - Overestimating Oneself](#)

Yun Che's words caused Tian Guhu to narrow his eyes slightly and the surrounding snorts and chuckles to grow several times louder than before. Many people also looked away from Yun Che because they felt that he no longer deserved even their attention.

Tian Guhu's smile turned derisive, and his voice grew disinterested, "You are a clown, but it looks like I still overestimated you."

At this point, everyone and even Tian Guhu himself felt deeply that the word "shameful" couldn't even begin to describe how pathetic really Yun Che was. He might be a level seven Divine Sovereign, but he didn't deserve to be Tian Guhu's challenger at all.

Tian Guhu shouldn't have offered to fight him. It brought nothing but shame to his status and standing.

"But... very well." Tian Guhu agreed with a slow nod. At this point, he couldn't be bothered to speak with Yun Che anymore than was necessary, much less taunt him. "I'll fulfill your demand exactly as you desire."

He raised three fingers before Yun Che. However, his current expression and tone were far more disdainful than before. "You win if you can survive three moves from me. Do you have anything else to say!?"

That's right, he would beat "Ling Yun" in three moves even though they were both level seven Divine Sovereigns!

Tian Guhu was the only one with the courage and strength to say such a thing.

It was also the most arrogant and humiliating response he could send at "Ling Yun".

Yun Che shot him a sidelong glance. He looked like he was looking at a termite. "Tian Guhu, I think you're mistaken about something. What I meant to say, is that you win if you can withstand three hits from me."

The entire Imperial Heaven Tower was silent for a moment. Then, an uproar of uncontrollable laughter. Even the parallels of the heavens, the higher realm kings were close to losing their self-control altogether and join in on the laughter.

"I may as well grant you another favor." As if untouched by the wanton, scornful laughter pointed toward him, Yun Che continued lazily and quietly, "If you manage to stand up after three hits, you win as well."

"Heh..." The corner of Tian Guhu's mouth twitched slightly. It was probably the most exasperated and scornful smile he had ever mustered in his life.

"I can't believe how much time we're wasting on a madman. This is ridiculous!" Huo Tianxing uttered coldly.

"But it's fun, isn't it?" The Great Viper Sage replied smilingly.

"Hahahahaha!" Fen Jieran, the Burning Moon Prince, was laughing so hard he almost fell over.

If they thought that Yun Che was a funny clown earlier, then now they thought that he was a clown who had gone utterly insane.

If Tian Guhu was the one who claimed that he would beat an opponent at the same profound level as him in three hits, no one would think that it was a joke at all. But right now, this clown was saying that he would beat Tian Guhu in three hits... It was probably the funniest joke in the entire profound history of the Northern Divine Region.

"Guhu, end this quickly," Tian Muye said. Despite the hilarity of the situation, it was clear that the old man had already run out of patience. Even if his son managed to beat a stupid and insane level seven Divine Sovereign like this in one hit, it would only bring him more filth than glory.

"Yes, royal father." Tian Guhu straightened his expression and regained his cool completely. His expression also affected the people around him and made them fall silent. For a while, everyone watched him calmly amidst the dead silence.

"This is a bet where one's honor and pride is on the line." The low, raspy voice came from the Yama Ghost King, Yan Sangeng. "No one should interfere with this battle, and no fault is to be pursued after the battle is over. What do you all think?"

Despite his words, no one had any doubt that he was speaking to Yao Die.

Out of the three king realms, the Yama Realm was closest to the Imperial Heaven Realm. No one was surprised that Yan Sangeng would voice his support of them.

"Don't worry, Yama Ghost King." The Great Viper Sage's narrowed into slits. "Everyone here is a dignified person except for a certain clown or two. They'd never do something that was beneath their station."

Everyone echoed in agreement.

“That’s right.” To everyone’s surprise, it was Witch Yao Die who spoke up. “There’s nothing the Soul Stealing Realm loathes more than despicable behavior! This is a bet both sides have agreed to, and since I’m witnessing this I will ensure that fairness is protected at all costs... anyone who dares to shield their charge, cheat, interfere, or carry out something after the bet is over will face my wrath!”

Yao Die’s declaration caused everyone to fall silent for a second.

The reason Yan Sangeng spoke up earlier was to prevent Yao Die from lending Yun Che a helping hand secretly or openly. He was sure that she had invited Yun Che and the masked woman to sit next to her for a reason.

However, her declaration of impartiality was several times more ruthless than even his own.

The people of the Imperial Heaven Realm relaxed completely after their fear of the Witch had subsided. It was because their last worry was dispelled.

“In that case, let us begin,” Yan Sangeng said.

“You may attack first.” Tian Guhu said while placing his hands neatly behind his back. Despite facing another level seven Divine Sovereign whom he made a bet to defeat in just three moves, he didn’t show his weapon or even put up his guard.

He hadn’t even circulated his profound energy.

It wasn’t blind arrogance, of course. He was just that confident in his own power... and he was showing Yun Che how much he despised him.

Yes, he had never despised someone so much until now.

But Yun Che didn’t move as he expected him to do. Just like Tian Guhu, he neither produced a weapon or circulated his profound energy.

“Never mind,” Tian Guhu muttered to himself before pointing a finger. Black light glowed from his fingertips before turning into purple lightning. “What a boring game. Let’s end this immediately.”

The world turned dark, and black energy spread everywhere before he was done speaking. The sky crawled with purple lightning. As a Northern Divine Region profound practitioner, Tian Guhu’s mastery over darkness profound energy and lightning profound energy were at the absolute peak. An instant was all it took to cause everyone’s face to change drastically.

Although Tian Guhu could defeat another Divine Sovereign at his profound level in three moves, no one ever said that it was going to be easy. He could look down on his opponent, but he couldn’t afford to be stingy with his power.

“Is... is this really the power of a level seven Divine Sovereign?” The one who shouted this was a core member of an upper star realm. He was a level ten Divine Sovereign, but he was standing on his feet with an expression of shock.

Tian Guhu was famous throughout the Northern Divine Region. In fact, he was so famous that even the three divine regions had heard of him. But after he became a middle level Divine Sovereign, not very many people got to see him fight at his full strength. It was why many level ten Divine Sovereigns were surprised to find themselves pressured by Tian Guhu's opening move.

As for those who were at his profound level, they couldn't even draw a breath of air into their lungs. Their shock was even more indescribable.

"It looks like Guhu is planning to kill him in one blow," Tian Muyi said. His expression was calm and utterly free of worry.

Great Elder Tian Muhe coldly snorted. "This Ling Yun is lucky to be alive for this long, so why should Guhu show him any face? Much better to kill him immediately and save us all some time."

"Kneel."

Tian Guhu whispered before vanishing behind a pillar of black lightning.

Crack!

The lightning pouring down from the sky tore a black scar that was several kilometers wide in the middle of the Imperial Heaven Tower. An immeasurable amount of lightning could be seen flashing and howling inside it, and even the tiniest wisp contained enough power to destroy entire mountains.

Tian Guhu reappeared where Yun Che was standing earlier, the black scar behind him still carrying out its destructive work. However, his expression had changed from disdain to astonishment.

He turned around immediately and saw Yun Che standing in his earlier spot. His expression was blank, his hands were placed behind his back, and his posture was the exact same as before. Not even his hair or his sleeves were ruffled by the attack.

It painted a stark, uncomfortable contrast when compared to the astonished look on Tian Guhu's face.

"What's going on?" Tian Muyi rose to his feet in shock.

No one answered him. Everyone around him was just as astonished as he was. The Burning Moon Prince's smile turned stiff, and even Yan Sangeng's eyes were frozen by what he saw.

At their level, there was practically no profound movement skill that they hadn't seen in their lives. However, not a single person had seen how Yun Che had switched positions with Tian Guhu.

This was without mentioning the strength of Tian Guhu's aura. Another seven Divine Sovereign would've found it nearly impossible to move, much less teleport away to safety.

So... how did Yun Che manage to switch positions with Tian Guhu unharmed despite being suppressed by him? And how was he able to do it while remaining terrifyingly calm?

Yao Die raised her head and squinted her eyes once.

"That's your first move." Yun Che said coldly. When the words reached Tian Guhu, they actually caused an uncomfortable vibration in his ears.

“Sect Master Tian, did you see how he moved?” Huo Tianxing asked seriously.

Tian Muyi shook his head.

“Well, this is a bit hard to believe.” Huo Tianxing also rose to his feet and stared at Yun Che uncertainly.

“It only appeared for an instant, but his profound energy is definitely that of a level seven Divine Sovereign,” the Great Viper Sage said. “Also, I think I sensed an icy aura just now.”

“Ice?” Tian Muyi frowned. “There are very few people in the Northern Divine Region who cultivate ice profound energy besides darkness profound energy, and most of them are focused on defense, not movement...”

While Tian Muyi was speaking, Tian Guhu had already regained his calm. No longer trying to withhold his profound energy any longer, he created a rapidly growing black whirlpool around himself.

Tian Muyi stopped talking and humphed again. “Never mind, it’s not like I’ll ever have to worry about Guhu.”

“Very good.” Tian Guhu’s hair danced in the air, and purple lightning flashed across his pupils. Countless profound practitioners felt like their hearts were being squeezed by his aura. “I’ve never seen that strange profound movement skill before. It looks like I underestimated you, you actually made me look bad for a moment.”

“But if that profound movement skill is all you have to rely on...” Tian Guhu frowned slightly. “Then I must say that I’m very disappointed.”

Crack!

The sky rumbled, and everyone subconsciously looked up. It was only then they realized that a black thunderstorm tens of kilometers wide had blotted out a section of the sky.

Giving Yun Che no chance to escape or even react, Tian Guhu extended a finger and dropped the thunderstorm on Yun Che and himself instantaneously. A small half of the Imperial Heaven Tower was submerged in a sea of lightning.

It was clear that Tian Guhu’s initial failure had provoked his anger. This time, he wasn’t holding back at all.

No matter how powerful Yun Che’s profound movement skill was, there was no way he could escape the giant thunderstorm in just a few breaths’ time. He didn’t make a move either. He simply let himself be engulfed by the thunderstorm without a struggle as if he had submitted himself to his fate.

To be fair, that thunderstorm far exceeded the preconceived limit of a level seven Divine Sovereign’s power. It was a power that terrified even level ten Divine Sovereigns, and it was certainly enough to crush a level seven Divine Sovereign’s willpower completely.

“It looks like this is the end,” Huo Tianxing said. “There was a flash of surprise, but the ending is as dull as you can ima...”

He suddenly stopped talking, and shock overwhelmed his features. Beside him, Tian Muyi and the Great Viper Sage were experiencing the exact same thing.

It was because Yun Che's aura hadn't disappeared as they thought it would. In fact, the strength of his aura and his position hadn't changed at all.

They concentrated their eyes and saw through the black lightning. They saw Yun Che standing in the middle of the sea of thunder, unharmed and untouched by the destructive elements.

"How did—!?"

Tian Guhu was the closest person to Yun Che, and he was inside his own domain of power. Naturally, he also noticed that something was amiss and felt his pupils shrink.

"Guhu!" Tian Muyi let out a growl. "Kill him!"

Tian Guhu was the one who made the "bet" to beat Yun Che in three moves. He couldn't lose when so many people were watching.

Clang!

Tian Guhu pulled the Imperial Heaven Sword from its scabbard before moving it in circles. Black lightning immediately started swirling around the blade of the sword. Then, he and the sword pierced through the thunderstorm and appeared in front of Yun Che in an instant. The blade glowed like it was signalling the descent of a god before hitting Yun Che in the middle of the forehead.

However...

The blade didn't penetrate Yun Che's forehead or cause an explosion of power. The rampaging thunderstorm and the world itself suddenly fell eerily silent.

The black thunderstorm vanished and revealed Tian Guhu and Yun Che. The Imperial Heaven Sword every Northern Divine Region denizen knew was pressed up against Yun Che's forehead. The sword was still powerful, lightning was still crawling across the blade, and its divine light looked as glaring as ever. But forget penetrating Yun Che's head... it didn't even manage to pierce the flesh and draw a drop of blood.

As Tian Guhu's pupils widened to their limits, Yun Che looked up and raised a powerless finger. His voice was as cool as ever. "Do you really think you're worthy to be my opponent, Tian Guhu?"

He then flicked the Imperial Heaven Sword gently.

[Chapter 1630 - The Witch's Invitation](#)

Ding!

There was a ring that was soft as a mosquito's buzz the moment Yun Che's finger touched the Imperial Heaven Sword. Around the blade, the black light crumbled instantly, and the vicious lightning shrank like a snake that was struck at its weak point. It then vanished in the blink of an eye.

That wasn't all. Tian Guhu's sword arm also exploded in a shower of blood.

Crack

Tian Guhu's bones broke clearly and terrifyingly after the ringing ended. Not only did the energy break the Divine Sovereign's arm into dozens of pieces, it also ravaged his flesh and completely exposed it to the air. Not done yet, it poured into his body and caused the exact same effect—the blood shower, the breaking bones, the ravaging—to his chest and his limbs. His sternum, his ribs, his arms, his legs... everything was cruelly broken into dozens of pieces in an instant.

“Ah—”

A terrible scream cut through the air but Tian Guhu neither retreated nor released his grip on the Imperial Heaven Sword. He simply collapsed to the ground like he didn't have a single intact bone inside his body.

The scream lasted for only half a breath before Tian Guhu silenced it with his amazing willpower. His face was deathly pale and completely distorted by pain. His entire body was shaking violently like he was struggling. His blood and sweat quickly spread into a pool of liquid beneath his body.

Pain actually wasn't the most dominant emotion in his eyes right now. Shock, disbelief, and a gripping fear that came out of nowhere all held a tighter grip over his mind than pain.

A silent shock filled the Imperial Heaven Tower like a balloon. Everyone was standing on their feet, feeling like someone had punched them in the eye and the heart.

“Ling Yun's” power had only lasted for a short moment, and they had no doubt that it was the power of a level seven Divine Sovereign. However, the explosiveness of that power was so terrible that even the Divine Masters were feeling trepidation.

There was no one in the Northern Divine Region who hadn't heard of Tian Guhu, leader of the Heavenly Sovereigns. He was a miracle child who could crush any other profound practitioner at his profound level. Yet Yun Che... had defeated and wounded him severely with only one finger!

“...” Tian Muqi was shocked to say the least. His mind was blank, and he felt like someone had affixed his soul to something immovable with nails. He was the strongest realm king in the Northern Divine Region and an impossibly powerful level eight Divine Master, but he couldn't believe what was happening right before his eyes.

His lack of reaction lasted several breaths before he finally growled shakily, “Gu... hu!”

The growl also broke the stunned people in the Imperial Heaven Tower out of their shock and caused them to start screaming in confusion.

“Th... th... this is...”

“Ah... Sir Lonely Swan is...”

“Guhu...” Imperial Heaven Great Elder Tian Muhe muttered before his eyes turned sharp. Then, he launched himself toward Tian Guhu and Yun Che like a hawk while screaming angrily, “Die, fiend!”

Having seen the shocking blood showers and the soul wrenching sound of breaking bones, it didn't take a genius to figure out just how severe Tian Guhu's wounds were. The Imperial Heaven Realm would

never forgive any outsider who hurt a hair on Tian Guhu, the son of the strongest realm king and the greatest pride of the Imperial Heaven Realm, much less injure him to this extent.

Tian Muyi's fury was no less intense than Tian Muhe's despite his shock. However, he shouted hastily when he saw Tian Muhe's reaction. "Stop!"

But it was too late. Tian Muhe had already gotten close to the battlefield and was stretching his arm toward Yun Che. All sense of dignity thrown to the back of his mind, he was clearly determined to kill Yun Che on the spot.

No one was surprised that someone from the Imperial Heaven Realm would lose control and attack Yun Che. Tian Muhe, the Imperial Heaven Great Elder might not be nearly as powerful as Tian Muyi was, but he was still a powerful Divine Master. His aura felt as vast as the sea as he attacked Yun Che in anger.

Yun Che didn't move a muscle. To an outsider, it might look like he was immobilized by the pressure of a Divine Master. In reality, a closer look would reveal that he wasn't affected at all by the approaching danger. Tian Muhe's power had failed to ruffle even Yun Che's clothes.

The attack had happened in the blink of an eye, and most people hadn't even come back to their senses yet. By the time they did, Tian Muhe had already gotten to the center of the battlefield, looking like he would kill Yun Che in the next instant. But suddenly, the world faded into black, and the outline of a butterfly flashed across his vision for an instant.

Pu

He felt like his power and his strength had slammed into an invisible wall of air. The wall felt incredibly soft and breezy, but somehow it caused cracks to appear all over his internal organs.

Bzzz!

There was a strange noise, and Tian Muhe was thrown back to the Imperial Heaven Realm's seats several times faster than he flew out from them.

Even his energy was somehow reflected back to himself before exploding around him.

Boom!!

Tian Muyi reacted immediately, but he wasn't able to suppress Tian Muhe's power completely. Hundreds of Imperial Heaven Realm members were thrown into the air while screaming and bleeding.

Huo Tianxing and the Great Viper Sage joined in to help Tian Muyi, and finally the explosion was dispelled.

Tian Muhe knelt weakly on the ground and threw up blood again and again. Instead of checking his injuries, Tian Muyi turned around to look at the Witch, Yao Die.

No one knew when Yao Die had gotten to her feet, only that she was withdrawing three fingers and saying coldly, "I said that no one is to interfere with this bet. You dare defy me, Imperial Heaven Sect?"

"N-never!" Tian Muyi clenched his fists tightly as his heart clenched with fear, not daring to even check out Tian Guhu's condition. His soul had never trembled so hard in his life until now.

He was the Imperial Heaven Realm King. He had to control himself and avoid offending a Witch even in a situation like this.

“My lady, Muhe lost control because Guhu was wounded. He deserved the punishment he got,” Tian Muyi hurriedly said before bowing deeply. “Now that the bet is over, please allow me to check Guhu’s condition.”

Although Yao Die was wearing a mask, Tian Muyi could sense that she was calm and seemingly unsurprised by this outcome at all. It made his heart skip a beat.

In contrast to her calmness, Yama Ghost King Yan Sangeng had risen to his feet and was staring at Yun Che with impossible shock. His eyes still looked like a dead person’s, but that only amplified the unusualness of his reaction.

It was likely that not even the denizens of the Yama Realm had ever witnessed such a reaction from him.

Burning Moon Prince Fen Jieran’s reaction was even worse. Before this, his languid behavior made it clear that he was only here to have fun and enjoy a good show. But now, not only was he completely unaware that his sitting posture was ugly, his eyes were bulging like he was seeing a ghost or a god.

“Over?” Yao Die said serenely, “Tian Guhu said that Ling Yun wins if he can’t defeat him in three moves. Since that turned out to be a joke, we can forget about it.”

Tian Muyi’s already ugly expression twitched visibly at the jab.

“But Ling Yun said that Tian Guhu wins if he can stand up after enduring three moves from him.” She turned and looked at Tian Guhu. “Ling Yun’s words shall be the foundation of this bet. It’s because the weak don’t have the right to make the rules.”

“Tian Guhu. This means that this bet is your win if you can stand up now.”

The weak don’t have the right to make the rules... Coming from the Witch, the careless line was the biggest insult Tian Guhu had ever heard in his life.

“This bet is your win if you can stand up now”... It sounded like the charity one offered to the weak.

“Ugh... Ah...” Up to now, Tian Guhu had refused to let out even a squeak of pain. But after hearing the words of the Witch, he started screaming hoarsely again and again. No one knew if it was out of pain or shame.

Tian Guhu struggled to get up to his feet, but it was an impossible task. His limbs had been cruelly broken by Yun Che, and his profound energy had suffered a complete breakdown. He felt like a worm wriggling before Yun Che’s lofty gaze, and every moment he spent on the ground was a dose of unprecedented humiliation.

Everyone stared blankly at the center of the battlefield. The arrogant Heavenly Sovereigns who were spurred into anger by Yun Che froze like statues because they never even dreamed of such an outcome.

The members of the Imperial Heaven Sect felt cold and icy. Everyone’s scalp was tingling with fear. In another setting, Tian Muyi would’ve charged forward and already helped his son, but the person standing right next to him was Witch Yao Die, the shadow of the Devil Queen! Her forceful attitude from

earlier and her declaration just now pressed against his throat like a poisonous sting, preventing him and everyone else from taking even a step without permission.

"I surrender on behalf of Guhu," Tian Muyi said.

"I already said that I am a witness to this bet. This means that no one is allowed to interfere until the bet is resolved on its own, even if you're the Imperial Heaven Realm King himself!" Yao Die didn't relent in the slightest. "Guhu must be the one to make the declaration of surrender... and who knows, maybe he still has enough strength in him to stand up?"

Tian Muyi felt like his internal organs were turning against themselves, but he dared not allow even the slightest bit of anger to appear on his face. He abruptly turned around and said quietly, "Guhu, you've lost... now surrender!"

Tian Muyi hadn't gotten to his position without going through countless tribulations in his life. However, he was barely able to spit out the word "surrender".

It was because he knew that his son had never lost a single fight until now, much less surrendered.

Crack!

Guhu had clenched his teeth so hard that he actually crushed them. Blood instantly poured out of his lips. Although his struggle looked incredibly ugly, he never gave up on getting back up on his feet... Surrender? He couldn't say it. He could never say it because he was Tian Guhu!

"Tian Guhu." Yun Che looked indifferently at him from above. "Earlier, you said that my inaction was the same as killing them with my own hands."

"I have the power to kill you, but I chose not to. Using your own words, doesn't that mean I saved your life? I'm sure a kind, righteous person like you understands what it means to return a favor many times over, much less a favor as heavy as this."

"So tell me, how should you repay your benefactor?"

Tian Guhu felt like he was listening to a dream's murmur. More accurately, Tian Guhu felt like he was trapped in a nightmare even now.

He was famous throughout the Northern Divine Region. He had always been the one to crush his peers, so when someone offered to concede victory if he could withstand three moves... no, it wasn't even three moves, just one. One move, and he had collapsed to the ground like a dying dog, unable to stand up no matter how he tried. How could he accept this? How could he endure this?

He slowly looked up and met Yun Che's eyes. Suddenly, his struggles ceased.

It was because he couldn't see any joy or satisfaction in Yun Che's eyes or even any expression at all. There was only indifference, and perhaps a bit of ridicule that the man hid away because he found it to be beneath him to show it.

That's right, Yun Che's reaction to his success in defying all expectations and stunning everyone was indifference and boredom. It was almost as if... he was stepping on an ant he happened to pass by.

His gaze froze for several breaths, and suddenly his pride, his reluctance, his shock, his shame, his anger... everything except submission and self-derision had faded away into dust.

He thought that “Ling Yun” was a mad clown, but now, he realized that he was the lowly clown dancing foolishly before the man.

No matter how much he struggled, no matter how long he held on, all he really managed to do was wriggle limply on the ground. He didn’t even have the right to obtain scorn from his opponent.

“I... surrender...”

He said the words and it was easier than he had imagined.

He ceased struggling and lay perfectly still on the ground. Although he hadn’t lost consciousness, he looked like all his energy was sucked out of his body. He didn’t wish to lift even a finger.

The words should’ve incited deep humiliation in him, but in that moment Tian Muyi thought that the heavens had spoken to him. He pulled Tian Guhu into his hands and enveloped him in profound energy. Then, his mouth finally caught up with his hands and shouted, “Quick! Bring over the Devil Heaven Powder!”

Everyone from the Imperial Heaven Sect instantly surrounded Tian Guhu. Doses of profound energy were injected hastily but carefully into his body to keep his injuries under control. However, Tian Guhu only stared blankly at the sky like he had lost his soul.

Outside, the people were dead silent. Almost no one was whispering among themselves. They stared at Yun Che and engraved the name “Ling Yun” into their brains... Both profound practitioners were level seven Divine Sovereigns, but Ling Yun had severely injured Tian Guhu in a single blow. It didn’t take a genius to realize that something big was about to change in the Northern Divine Region forever.

“Is this everything the ‘leader of the Heavenly Sovereigns’ has?” Yun Che turned around and let out a quiet sneer. “Heavenly Sovereign, hah. To call you people trash would already be praising you.”

The Heavenly Sovereigns shook in anger again... but this time, no one said a word, nor put on a display of scorn or ridicule.

He was a Divine Sovereign who had defeated Tian Guhu in one move. He... really did have the right to humiliate all of them.

“This Heavenly Sovereign Assembly turned out to be quite the joke. What a waste of my time.” Yun Che said scornful words that not even the god emperors themselves would’ve used in front of these northern region experts. “Let’s go, Qianying.”

Qianye Ying’er got up and followed behind him.

“Wait.”

A lifeless voice that sounded dead enough to freeze even the soul suddenly spoke up. It was Yan Sangeng. “Who are you people, and where do you come from.”

Everyone fell silent when the Yama Ghost King spoke. No one wanted to attract even the slightest bit of attention from him.

At the same time, an invisible aura wrapped around Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er.

But to everyone's surprise, the Yama Ghost King's question failed to elicit any response from Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. Not only that, their movement didn't slow at all.

They were actually ignoring him completely!

The Imperial Heaven Tower was completely silent. The people were even holding their breath.

That was Yan Sangeng, the leader of the thirty-six Yama Ghosts of the Yama Realm! Who would dare ignore his questions!?

Yan Sangeng frowned slightly. That tiny bit of movement caused the temperature in the entire Imperial Heaven Tower to drop several degrees lower.

Just when everyone thought that Yan Sangeng was going to explode, a voice called out.

"Please, wait."

There was a flash of movement, and a butterfly-like figure appeared in front of Yun Che. It was none other than the Witch, Yao Die.

Yan Sangeng also stopped doing whatever he was planning to do.

Yun Che shot her a glance and said, "What is it?"

Despite facing a Witch, his voice was as cold and arrogant as ever. Everyone's heart skipped a beat yet again.

But Yao Die didn't look offended by his tone in the slightest. She said, "In the name of the Witch, I would like to invite the two of you to join me in the Soul Stealing Realm as honored guests, please."

Unlike how she poked Tian Muyi earlier, her voice was as gentle as a breeze. Her words especially shocked everyone—even Yan Sangeng and Fen Jieran—like a thunderbolt.

Yan Sangeng was the Yama Ghost King, and Fen Jieran was the Burning Moon Prince. They knew better than anyone the meaning behind Yao Die's invitation.

How many people in the world had had the honor to receive an invitation to the Soul Stealing Realm from a Witch?

But before their shock had a chance to recede, Yun Che's reply exploded beside their ears like a devilish thunder...

"You want me to visit the Soul Stealing Realm? Acceptable," Yun Che replied while shooting a glance at Yao Die, but only once. He didn't look at her at all after that. "But you are not qualified to be my inviter."

"Go back and tell your master, Chi Wuyao, to invite me herself."