

The Gods 1641

[Chapter 1641 - The Nine Witches \(2\)](#)

The air of the Soul Stealing Realm was clearly different compared to the outside world. They passed through a couple of black Soul Halls before Qing Ying came to a stop. Then, she soared fifty meters into the air and landed on a dark, floating island, Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er following closely behind her.

The space of this place was dark and silent. It was like touching a dark, eternal sky.

The floating island was about fifty kilometers long. It was completely empty aside from the three of them.

Qing Ying finally turned around and said, "This is the Soul Sky. My master has ordered me to bring you here. She will be with you shortly."

Qianye Ying'er looked around and narrowed her eyes a little. The ghost of a smile flitted across her face. "I have heard stories about the barren lands of the Northern Divine Region since long ago, but I didn't expect this wretchedness to spread to the king realms as well. This is an eye-opening experience alright."

"Watch your words, Yun Qianying." Away from prying eyes, Qing Ying finally stopped hiding her disgust for Qianye Ying'er. "This isn't your Eastern Divine Region anymore. Don't think you can look down on the Soul Stealing Realm just because you injured fourth sister! This is not a place where the likes of you gets to throw a tantrum!"

The gleam in Qianye Ying'er's eyes turned dangerous and playful. "That's not up to you to say..."

"Quiet!" Yun Che suddenly silenced Qianye Ying'er before adding, "We'll wait."

Qianye Ying'er raised her eyebrow, turned halfway toward him and asked, "Since when are you a patient man? If you're not forceful enough, how can you possibly..."

"I said we'll wait!" Yun Che's tone grew heavier.

"..." Qianye Ying'er looked like she wanted to say something, but in the end she simply snorted and looked away. At this moment, she wasn't willing to see him or speak to him.

Qianye Ying'er's attitude toward the Witches was terrible to say the least. Yun Che knew this. It was evident from the moment they met their first Witch, Chanyi.

He also knew that the reason she hated them so much was because of her own circumstances. She was the proud Brahma Monarch Goddess, and she was brought down to the level of a man's attachment and a devil person of the Northern Divine Region. That was why she hated anyone whose status, power or both was close to her previous self... she wanted nothing more than to make them fall down to her level.

Clearly, the Witches fell under this category.

No one spoke for a time, but the silence didn't endure too long before Yun Che abruptly looked in a certain direction. Qianye Ying'er was the same as well.

What a powerful aura!

The air vibrated slightly as a woman clad in darkness slowly walked down from the sky. It was almost as if the air itself was solid enough to support her footing. Eventually, she stopped beside Qing Ying before shooting a dark and imposing look at Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er.

The woman wore black, and her face was hidden behind a black fog just like all the other Witches. Her body was unusually slender; so slender that it was almost a match for Qianye Ying'er herself.

"Third sister." Qing Ying bowed her head slightly in greeting. Her words also revealed who the newcomer was.

She was Ye Li, the third Witch. She was the better of all Witches except the Great Witch.

The reason Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er could tell who she was was because she was clearly stronger than the fourth Witch, Yao Die.

Yao Die was one small realm stronger than Qianye Ying'er, but despite her superiority she failed to make Qianye Ying'er feel too threatened at the time. This woman though... Qianye Ying'er could clearly sense that she was impossible to beat for now.

However, her aura wasn't as strong as Qianye Ying'er at her peak, so she couldn't possibly be the Great Witch, Jie Xin and Jie Ling. That left only one possibility.

The Third Witch, Ye Li watched Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er for a while, but it was clear that neither of them were planning to speak up or acknowledge her arrival. So she turned to Qing Ying and asked, "Are they Yun Che and the Brahma Monarch Goddess of the Eastern Divine Region?"

Qing Ying nodded. "Even you have come home this quickly? Master's announcement must be very important."

Ye Li suddenly focused her gaze on Qianye Ying'er. Her tone was harsh and direct. "Are you the one who hurt Yao Die!?"

"That's me." Qianye Ying'er looked at her and smiled. "If the man beside me wasn't an appreciator of beautiful women, I could've killed her as well."

The temperature behind Ye Li's eyes dropped several degrees lower. "I will not go against my master's order and attack you in this place and time. But we will take revenge for Yao Die and Chanyi one day!"

Ye Li's threat definitely wasn't an empty one. The Nine Witches were "created" by the Devil Queen's own hands, so in a sense they were closer than sisters.

To wound or humiliate one of them was to wound or humiliate them all!

"Very good." The Third Witch was intimidating, but all her threat managed to do was awaken a mixture of excitement and madness in Qianye Ying'er's heart. "There is nothing more I want than a sharpening stone to test my strength on right now! Do not disappoint me like that useless butterfly!"

"Useless butterfly? Heh, are you talking about me?"

A quiet, cold voice came from afar. A pair of women dressed in yellow and blue respectively appeared in the sky and landed before Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. Both women wore a frigid expression on their faces.

The woman to their left was the fourth Witch Yao Die. She took quite a bit of damage yesterday, so her aura was a bit weak right now.

The woman to their right wore a blue dress that made her look like she was bathing in pure, bluish water. Her aura was a lot gentler than the rest of the Witches.

In fact, even her gaze on Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er was missing the pressure and oppressiveness that was present in every other Witch. She looked as calm and gentle as water.

She was the sixth Witch, Lan Ting.

Ye Li took a look at Yao Die's injuries before frowning deeply. She had heard that Yao Die was injured, but she hadn't known how serious it was until now. She asked in a chilly tone, "Yao Die, should I put her in shackles?"

"No." But Yao Die shook her head evenly. "I lost fair and square, so I have nothing to say. However, the one who defeated me isn't this so-called Lady Goddess, so she certainly doesn't have the right to taunt me!"

Yao Die stared at Yun Che for a moment before looking away.

"Third sister, fourth sister... Aiya! Fifth sister and sixth sister are here as well?"

The youthful voice sounded very happy and excited. It was as clear as the sound of pearls hitting the ground. The owner of the voice hadn't shown up yet, but her voice alone was enough to create the lively image of a cheerful girl in everyone's mind.

The clear voice quickly chased away the tension in the atmosphere. Soon, a girl who looked as delicate as a fairy landed hastily on the ground.

The girl looked about the same size as Cai Zhi. She probably liked lustrous gems and tassels a lot, because her white dress below the waist was covered in them. Even her shoes were white and shiny.

Although her face was hidden like everyone else's, the impression she gave off was that of an innocent girl not older than sixteen.

She was the eighth Witch of the Soul Stealing Realm, Yu Wu.

And she wasn't alone. A light gold figure landed next to her after Yu Wu made it to the ground, and it was an aura both Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had identified immediately.

Nanhuang Chanyi!

Third Witch Ye Li, Fourth Witch Yao Die, Fifth Witch Qing Ying, Sixth Witch Lan Ting, Eighth Witch Yu Wu and Ninth Witch Chanyi... six of the nine Witches had shown up in the blink of an eye!

They could only have gathered here this quickly because of Chi Wuyao.

Neither Yun Che nor Qianye Ying'er had expected this level of decisiveness from the Devil Queen. It went completely against her show of reluctance when she met them earlier.

Most of the Witches carried themselves with overbearing auras of power, but Yu Wu was clearly different from them. Like a child who was eager to be pampered, she ran up to each Witch, hugged them and fooled around with them for a bit before moving onto the next one. When she was finally done, she looked at Qianye Ying'er and Yun Che with a clear look of wariness and hostility.

"Are they the ones who hurt Chanyi and fourth sister?" Yu Wu intentionally asked in a loud voice. Her tone was completely different from before.

"Right now, they are guests master has invited herself," the sixth Witch, Lan Ting said. Her voice sounded as gentle as the clouds. "Everything else can come later."

"Hmph!" Yu Wu frowned and clenched her tiny fists tightly. "I won't forgive you even if master doesn't punish you!"

Yun Che swept his gaze across the six Witches. Yu Wu's words failed to incite any reaction from him at all because he didn't see them as the six Witches of the Soul Stealing Realm. No... they were tools of the highest quality that he would use to exact his revenge!

A golden figure moved forward and caught his attention. It was the ninth Witch, Chanyi. She extended a hand to Yun Che and said, "Give it to me."

Her words had completely lost their former warmth and gentleness. The only thing left was ice and nothing else.

When she woke up at the Central Ruins Realm and discovered that she was completely naked, when Qianye Ying'er's arrogant voice entered her ears and ravaged her insides... she couldn't even begin to describe the sense of humiliation she had felt at the time. It might even become the memory of a lifetime.

She had submitted to the threat and didn't track down Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. She was deathly afraid that they would reveal the Profound Imagery Stone to the world if she tried anything at all... Despite being a Witch—especially because she was a Witch—her fear of losing her honor was a thousand times greater than the average woman. It was because her honor didn't belong only to herself. When one Witch was shamed, all the Witches were shamed. And when all the Witches were shamed, the entire Soul Stealing Realm was shamed as well.

Qianye Ying'er was called the "Goddess", but her ruthlessness and lack of conscience didn't fit her title at all.

It took her a long time to confess her mistake to Chi Wuyao and the rest of the Witches. It was because she knew how humiliated her sisters would feel.

Today, Qianye Ying'er and Yun Che were alone in the Soul Sky, while they were six Witches strong. She would make them surrender the Profound Imagery Stone and eliminate this knife behind her back once and for all.

“Oh? What do you want from us, little Chanyi?” Qianye Ying’er stared at Nanhuang Chanyi’s hands as if she was admiring the latter’s delicate fingers.

“Hmph, let’s cut the pretenses already, shall we?” the third Witch, Ye Li said coldly. “Give us the Profound Imagery Stone you used on Chanyi now!”

“Yeah! Give it to us now!” The eighth Witch, Yu Wu leaped next to Nanhuang Chanyi and glared at Qianye Ying’er. “If master hadn’t told us not to hurt you, we would’ve... hmph!”

“Correction,” the fourth Witch Yao Die interrupted, “Master told us not to hurt Yun Che, and only him. Everyone else is fair game.”

“That’s right.” Chanyi nodded and stared at Yun Che for a moment. Then, she forced herself to turn away and look at Qianye Ying’er. “Brahma Monarch Goddess, you have violated my bottomline a long time ago, but I will not disobey my master. If you surrender the Profound Imagery Stone now, I promise I will forget this indignity temporarily. Otherwise...”

“Bottomline?” Qianye Ying’er snorted. “Did you forget that you are the one who forced our hands first? You tore apart our secret, I tore apart your clothes. I think it was a perfectly fair trade.”

“As for the recording, it was just insurance so that you wouldn’t stab us in the back.” Qianye Ying’er’s smile turned colder. “You are a Witch, right? Don’t tell me you don’t understand the basic rules of survival?”

“Ridiculous.” Nanhuang Chanyi withdrew her hand. It was clear from her shaking fingertips that she was barely holding back her anger. “I take it that you have no plans of surrendering the stone?”

“Of course. This is the one and only Profound Imagery Stone in the world where a Witch’s full glory was captured. Why would I give up something so precious to someone else?” Qianye Ying’er smiled tauntingly at Chanyi.

Nanhuang Chanyi didn’t hold a shred of malice toward Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er back then. In fact, she had helped them out in some ways. The fault was completely on Qianye Ying’er and Yun Che, and Qianye Ying’er’s so-called “insurance” was especially despicable.

Since their “guests” had set foot in the Soul Stealing Realm, the Witches thought that they could resolve this without a hitch. They didn’t imagine that Qianye Ying’er would be this unreasonable, however.

“It looks like further conversation is unnecessary.” The third Witch started walking toward Qianye Ying’er. She left behind a dark, transient mark on the floor every time she took a step. “Brahma Monarch Goddess, you must think that the Witches are easy to bully!”

She slowly extended her hand. “You have five breaths. Surrender the Profound Imagery Stone while you can, or... we will take it ourselves. Don’t blame us if you lose more than just the Profound Imagery Stone!”

High above the sky and standing atop a black cloud, Chi Wuyao watched the scene with a curious smile on her face.

“Is this the true nature of the Brahma Monarch Goddess?” The indifferent voice of a woman rang behind Chi Wuyao.

“Not even close.” Chi Wuyao smiled tenderly. “She is a woman who will do anything to achieve her goals. Back in the Eastern Divine Region, to call her methods ‘despicable’ would be massively understating things.”

“But she isn’t being her usual scheming self. She is simply trying to build some momentum for her master.”

“Momentum?”

“She wants Yun Che to order her to give them the Profound Imagery Stone. This way, he can establish some semblance of authority over my beloved Witches... However, she’s clearly unfamiliar with the concept of altruism, which is why she isn’t as successful as she might have hoped.”

“The fact that she would even try though, is interesting beyond words.”

Chi Wuyao pressed a finger to her lips, but had no intentions of showing herself at all. A soul stealing gleam shone behind her gray, dark pupils. “How will you make my cute little children, submit? Show me, my good Che’er... If you fail, I’ll be very disappointed.”

“...???” The eyes behind Chi Wuyao froze for several breaths.

[Chapter 1642 - “Compensation”](#)

If the Witches weren’t triggered before, they were now. A dark, soundless pressure started spreading from all six of them, their hair floating menacingly as a result.

Chi Wuyao gave them strict orders not to injure Yun Che, but only Yun Che. Not once did they mention Qianye Ying’er.

Their self-restraint was incredible, but Qianye Ying’er had crossed the line that shouldn’t be crossed completely. At this point, they were seriously going to attack Qianye Ying’er if she still refused to surrender the Profound Imagery Stone.

The bubble was about to burst when Yun Che suddenly spoke up. “Qianying, give it to her.”

His words immediately caught the Witches’ attention. The tense atmosphere also subsided a little thanks to that.

But Qianye Ying’er didn’t move at all. She said coldly, “I would’ve given it to them if they begged for it the proper way, but these so-called Witches don’t even realize their proper places—”

“Give it to her!” Yun Che repeated the order in a harsher tone before she could even finish speaking.

Qianye Ying’er raised her eyebrows but stopped talking. Then, she surprised the Witches by pulling out a normal-looking Profound Imagery Stone and throwing it to Chanyi with a flick of her finger.

Chanyi accepted the item and scanned it with her spiritual perception. A second later, the Profound Imagery Stone exploded into dark dust and vanished from the world.

All the Witches started withdrawing their auras at once. They hadn’t planned for it, but they all turned to stare at Yun Che for a moment.

They lived in the Soul Stealing Realm, but even they had heard of the Brahma Monarch Goddess. Her strength and status was almost equal to the god emperors, and she was supposed to be the next Brahma Monarch God Emperor before she went into hiding.

One might even say that she was better than the god emperors. After all, there were dozens of god emperors throughout the world, but there was only one “Goddess”.

She was crippled after the incident, but not even the Witches could deny that she had the qualification to look down on all of them. Her temper was as ferocious as the rumors suggested as well.

So why was she so “obedient” in front of Yun Che!?

When the six Witches, the true powers of the Soul Stealing Realm tried to force the Lady Goddess into submission, all she had to give them was arrogance and disdain. But when Yun Che gave an order... she had actually obeyed it.

Most of the Witches’ understanding of the Brahma Monarch Goddess came from the Devil Queen herself. According to Chi Wuyao, one of Qianye Ying’er’s key characteristics was that she absolutely despised men.

Right now though, the woman before them didn’t match that description at all.

“There is only one.” Yun Che said. “I’ve never watched it or showed it to another person. You may be at ease.”

He wasn’t lying. He had never watched the contents of the Profound Imagery Stone. As for Chanyi’s actual, naked body... that was a different story.

“Be at ease?” Third Witch Ye Li walked slowly toward Yun Che. Right now she was the leader of the group of six, so it was her duty to defend the honor of the Witches. “I trust what you say, Yun Che. But this isn’t a grudge you can resolve just by surrendering your blackmail material! What if this had happened to a woman you care for!?”

Ye Li stopped walking forward right after she finished speaking. The black fog kept her reaction hidden, but her pupils were shaking slightly.

Spiritual pressure... It had nothing to do with cultivation level or aura. It was a natural, invisible pressure that one felt when they were facing an equal or superior being.

Before this, the Witches had only ever felt spiritually pressured by three people in the entire Northern Divine Region: The Yama God Emperor, the Burning Moon God Emperor, and the Devil Queen herself.

But every time Ye Li looked at Yun Che, she felt as if a rock was pressing down on her entire soul. It was a feeling a subject felt when they were facing their monarch; a kind of pressure, fear and respect that just appeared in one’s soul without any reason at all.

She had barely taken a couple steps forward, but the pressure was several times stronger than before.

When the Witches were close to one another, they could connect their minds anytime they wanted. That was why Ye Li wasn’t the only one who was feeling the pressure.

The Witches weren't afraid of Qianye Ying'er at all, but every time they faced Yun Che they couldn't help but lose a bit of momentum... The Devil Queen's order was definitely not the only reason the Witches acted less forceful around him.

"That's right!" Yu Wu said angrily, "You are the ones who were careless enough to let yourselves be discovered! What does it have to do with Chanyi at all? Not only did she never trouble you, she even helped you out when you were in a tight spot! But you repaid her kindness with blackmail instead! We won't allow this to be settled lightly!"

"Heh." A sneer was the only reply Qianye Ying'er gave her.

"We will speak of this after our master has returned." Lan Ting finally broke her silence and spoke up, her gentle voice loosening the atmosphere without trying. "There is nothing more our master values than our honor. She won't let us go uncompensated. She was the one who invited the Brahma Monarch Goddess, so she must already have something in mind."

"No." But Qing Ying rejected her suggestion with cold eyes. "We shouldn't trouble our master with something we can handle ourselves. Besides..."

Her voice turned softer, and it almost looked as if she was sending a sound transmission to her fellow Witches. In reality, she did no such thing and didn't care if Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er heard her threat at all. "Master hasn't shown up yet, so it's probably her intention to let us deal with this ourselves. Remember, master only invited Yun Che, not the Brahma Monarch Goddess... we should deal with this ourselves."

Qing Ying's words caused a tremor among the Witches.

"Oh?" Qianye Ying'er's eyes suddenly turned misty, and her voice lazier. "What are you going to do then?"

"That depends on you, doesn't it?" Ye Li said coldly. "You either give something up that'll satisfy all of us... or we'll wring a compensation out of your wounded body ourselves!"

"Hahahaha!" Qianye Ying'er laughed like a mad woman before sweeping her arm in front of her and summoning black stars around her fingertips. Her golden hair danced in the air like the sun. "I've harmed, tricked, and murdered countless people in the past, but no one has ever managed to get a 'compensation' out of me!"

"You lowly Witches actually think you'll be the first?!"

Had both sides taken a step back and used the Devil Queen's invitation as the key to resolve things peacefully, this clash could've been avoided.

But who was Qianye Ying'er? She was the Lady Goddess down to her very bones. Even if she was fully crippled, she would never allow another person to look down on her.

Her words were like a bucket of oil poured into the fire. Even the gentlest of the Witches, Lan Ting grew sterner and colder.

"You are right. The fault is ours."

An indifferent voice stopped the Witches in their tracks before they could do anything. The speaker was none other than Yun Che himself.

Surprised by his interruption, the Witches didn't stop him as he continued, "Back when we escaped to the Northern Divine Region, neither of us was expecting to run into a Witch in a middle star realm, much less be recognized for who we are."

"Both of us had barely survived our complications, so we weren't going to trust anyone or leave our fates in anyone's hands. That was why we abused Chanyi's kindness to protect ourselves."

Yun Che looked up to stare at Chanyi. "Today, we are here to cooperate with the Soul Stealing Realm. Since this is a cooperation, it would be unwise to allow such ill feelings to linger between us. Therefore, I am willing to compensate for your loss of dignity."

All the Witches were caught off guard. They seemed to find it difficult that this person with a bizarre spiritual pressure—a person who could make even the Brahma Monarch Goddess submit to his authority—would say such a thing.

Qianye Ying'er frowned deeply before sneering. "Yesterday, you murdered Yan Sangeng without even sparing him a word, but now you're going to compensate these people? Your sexism hasn't changed since the day I met you!"

It sounded like Qianye Ying'er was expressing her scorn toward Yun Che, but in reality she was reminding the fools that Yun Che was a man that had killed the Yama Ghost King on a whim.

And in one hit no less!

A strange silence hovered over the Soul Sky for a moment. Three full breaths later, Eighth Witch Yu Wu was the first to break the silence. She shouted angrily and aggressively, "Compensate? How are you going to compensate us? No one... no one knows if you didn't take a peek at all! This isn't a matter of honor to Chanyi alone, you know! This is important to all of us!"

"And the Brahma Monarch Goddess' attitude is absolutely terrible too! We're not going to let this go lightly!"

"My name is Yun Qianying!" The temperature behind Qianye Ying'er's eyes and voice dropped several degrees lower. "Call me by the wrong name again and I won't hold back any longer!"

Once upon a time, it was the title of the greatest woman in the world. But now, all Qianye Ying'er felt every time she heard or recalled the name was irony... and shame.

"My compensation will of course, satisfy all of you." Yun Che said indifferently before sweeping a glance across all six Witches. "Are the Nine Witches ranked by their strength?"

Nanhuang Chanyi wasn't sure why he wanted to know, but she answered, "Sometimes. But for our generation, you assume correctly."

"Does this mean that you are weaker than the Eighth Witch?" Yun Che asked.

Both the Ninth Witch Chanyi and the Eighth Witch Yu Wu were level eight Divine Masters, but Yu Wu's aura was clearly stronger than Chanyi's.

“That’s correct.” Chanyi replied without hesitation, prompting Yu Wu to speak up hurriedly. “It hasn’t been too long since Chanyi inherited her divine powers. I’m sure she’ll beat me in a thousand years at most.”

“A thousand years? Heh.” Yun Che acted to chuckle, but he wasn’t smiling at all. “In ten breaths’ time, I can increase your power to the point where it surpasses the Eighth Witch completely. Will this ‘compensation’ be up to your satisfaction?”

Yun Che’s statement caused the air itself to freeze for a second. Everyone except Qianye Ying’er was absolutely dumbfounded by his declaration.

But their shock lasted for only an instant as the atmosphere turned strange again... it was the lousiest joke the Witches had ever heard in their life.

Whatever minor expectations they had earlier had transformed into greater fury.

“Do you think this is a joke, Yun Che!?” Qing Ying said harshly.

At the Divine Master Realm, any gap between two profound practitioners, even if they were at the same level, could be a chasm that couldn’t be bridged forever. Chanyi and Yu Wu were both level eight Divine Masters, but the Witches knew better than anyone how far apart their strength really was. So when Yu Wu said that Chanyi could surpass her in a thousand years, it was more of an encouragement from an “older sister” than actual expectation.

Then Yun Che claimed he could make Chanyi stronger than Yu Wu in just ten breaths. Completely.

What else could this be but a joke?

Even that legendary pellet that could supposedly increase a Divine Master’s level drastically, the “Untamed World Pellet”, took several years to refine successfully, if not longer.

“You’re as bad as each other!” Ye Li was absolutely furious. “Is your true goal to taunt the Soul Stealing Realm!?”

“This is too much!” Yu Wu was just as angry. “To think I was stupid enough to believe you actually feel sorry for your mistake!”

But Yun Che ignored them both and stared directly at Chanyi. “Do you want this compensation or not?”

Unlike the rest of the five Witches, Chanyi didn’t feel like she was being lied to. It was because she had seen Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er’s strength and skill with her own eyes.

Two years ago, both of them were only Divine Sovereigns. Today, one of them killed Yan Sangeng, and the other injured Yao Die.

“What will you be doing?” Chanyi asked quietly. Clearly, she hadn’t dismissed the claim completely.

“It’s very simple.” Yun Che said. “Discard all your defenses and allow me to inject you with my darkness energy. Don’t attempt to reject or isolate my power.”

“How dare you!” Butterflies started appearing behind Yao Die. It was clear she had reached the limits of her patience.

He wanted Chanyi to discard all her defenses and allow his aura inside her?? This was the man who killed Yan Sangeng! It would be the same as surrendering her life into his hands!

Chanyi was just as disturbed. She was about to turn down the offer coolly when a soft, melting voice suddenly appeared in her soul. "Cooperate with him on everything."

Chanyi shivered in shock as her eyes widened... It was the Devil Queen's soul voice!

"Alright." She changed her mind and nodded at Yun Che. "There is no reason for me to reject this."

"Chanyi!?" All five Witches were shocked by her reply. Ye Li said hurriedly, "Not even the ancient gods and devils would dare make such a ridiculous statement! You can't seriously trust him?"

"I agree with you on all fronts, but he is the man master placed her trust in. Therefore, I will place my trust in him this once," Chanyi said slowly.

At the same time, she bowed her head and sent a sound transmission to her fellow Witches. "It is the will of our master."

"..." The five Witches were about to stop her by force, but Chanyi's sound transmission caused them all to freeze in their tracks.

"Alright..." Ye Li forced down her anger and confusion from her throat. As a Witch, she would never disobey the Devil Queen's command. However, she still couldn't understand why their master would put her trust in a complete joke like this, and surrender a Witch's life into his hands.

It was a natural reaction. No one could've understood this.

"If this is your wish, then we can only obey," Ye Li said. Then, she appeared next to Chanyi and said, "However, we will be watching you from close by. We will take action if he dares to try anything at all."

"Don't worry, I trust him." Chanyi smiled and turned slightly. In an instant, her profound energy and her profound light were completely withdrawn.

Before Nanhuang Chanyi had become a Witch, she was already the most beautiful woman in the Five Nether Ruins. After she inherited a Witch's powers, her beauty had only grown even better.

"Let's begin." She watched Yun Che calmly. However, she was surprised that Yun Che didn't react at all to her true appearance.

Was it because he had the Brahma Monarch Goddess? She couldn't help but think to herself.

Yun Che neither spoke nor walked toward Chanyi. He simply aimed his palm at her and let out a ball of dark energy. The dark light then sped toward Chanyi.

The five Witches stood next to Chanyi and watched the ball of darkness closely. Tensed and ready to act at any moment, they watched as Yun Che's darkness energy entered Chanyi's body without any resistance.

If they sensed any malice from Yun Che at all, they would act immediately and cut off his power.

But to their surprise, the darkness energy Yun Che slipped into Chanyi's body was unspeakably weak. It was so weak that it couldn't have hurt Chanyi even if it was a booby trap through and through... even without the protection of her profound energy, Chanyi was still a Divine Master.

That wasn't all. It was both weak and low level to the extreme. It was like the creation of a child who just got introduced to the profound cultivation. It was so terrible that even the adjective "weak" was too much.

[Chapter 1643 - Rebirth of a Witch](#)

The faint black aura swam all over Chanyi's body. Soon, every inch of her body was enveloped by a dark and blurry profound light.

The light only lasted for a short time. So short in fact, that it disappeared just as the Witches were about to probe it. At the same time, Yun Che withdrew his palm and stopped whatever he was doing.

Chanyi opened her eyes and checked her profound veins immediately. However, she frowned when she found no changes in herself whatsoever.

It was the same with the rest of the Witches. Ye Li spoke up first and asked, "How do you feel?"

"..." Chanyi slowly shook her head in response.

Although they never believed that Yun Che could do what he claimed he could do in the first place, the confirmation was the last straw that broke the camel's back. If the Witches weren't livid before, they were now after being provoked and made fun of repeatedly.

In contrast, Yun Che was acting distant and indifferent, much as he had since the beginning. It was as if the world itself was of no concern to him. Qianye Ying'er's lips had curled into an exquisite but derisive smile, clearly mocking them for their foolish choice to believe them in the Witches' opinion.

"Very good." Ye Li's tone actually grew tamer as she approached the limit of her anger. "In the end, outsiders are just outsiders. Yesterday you killed Yan Sangeng, and today you provoked us repeatedly in the Soul Stealing Realm. It would seem that you're—"

"Wait!"

Chanyi's sudden exclamation of surprise drew the Witches' attention immediately. They quickly discovered that the normally collected Witch was looking unusually stunned and lost. In fact, her shock and disbelief seemed to be growing by the second... it was as if she was seeing an unbelievable dream that only she could perceive.

"What is it?" Yao Die asked.

Chanyi didn't say anything. She simply raised her arm very, very slowly and spread open her palm.

The confused Witches watched as a ball of darkness suddenly appeared in Chanyi's hand. It took only an instant to transform into a big, black lotus.

The dark lotus carried the aura of a dark purgatory. It soundlessly devoured all the light in its surroundings and dyed every Witch's eyes black, eyes that were filled with pure shock and disbelief.

“Ah...” Eighth Witch Yu Wu opened her mouth unconsciously. Her eyes were about as widened as they could be. “How... how did you do it, Chanyi?”

Chanyi was the Ninth Witch and overall the weakest of all of them. Her power couldn't easily affect or suppress her fellow sisters, and thus far the black lotus she created hadn't exceeded their knowledge of her limits.

However, the same couldn't be said about the speed at which the black lotus had been created... it was so fast it should've been absolutely impossible.

Chanyi had created her black lotus out of nothing in barely an instant, and it was more than twice her usual speed!

Even stranger was how quiet—or more accurately, docile—the black lotus in Chanyi's hand was. Darkness profound energy was a symbol of negativity, violence and destruction, and every time it was used, it was like unleashing a violent and berserk devil god that wants to devour everything in the world. This didn't change even when the profound practitioners controlling it had reached the Divine Master Realm, the supposedly highest realm in this world.

Darkness profound energy had never had anything to do with the word “tame”.

It was the common sense of common senses in today's Northern Divine Region and world.

But Chanyi's darkness profound energy was so stable that it defied common sense. It was almost as if it was a sentient being that had submitted entirely to her will.

In other words, Chanyi had... perfect control over her darkness profound energy!

“Chanyi, wh... what's going on?” Ye Li stuttered, but the Witch in question still didn't give her an answer. Since it was her body that was transformed, her shock was many times greater than her sisters'.

Chanyi closed her palm tentatively, and the lotus of darkness vanished completely without a trace.

Again, her action caused her sisters to shiver in shock.

Not even the strongest Witch of them all, no, the god emperors of the Northern Divine Region... could withdraw their darkness profound energy immediately and leave no traces behind.

“The devils were an independent race, and darkness profound energy was a power they wielded alone.”

Yun Che's indifferent voice cut through the haze of shock. “Today, all the so-called devil people in the Northern Divine Region were people who actively or passively corrupted themselves with darkness profound energy. Although they gained the ability to control darkness profound energy and cultivate dark profound arts as a result—some were even forced to pass it down to the next generation forever—they ultimately weren't true devils. At most, they were half-devils.”

“This applies to all the devil beasts and devil spirits existing in the Northern Divine Region as well.”

That is why none of you can ever be fully compatible with darkness profound energy... except you.” Yun Che stared at Nanhuang Chanyi and dropped landmine after landmine. “Starting now, you are more or less a true devil person.”

“You... you’re saying...” Yu Wu’s words spilled out of her mouth faster than her conscious thoughts.

“From today onward, you have complete mastery over your darkness profound energy. Your ability to gather, circulate and regain darkness profound energy will be many times faster than what you’re used to. Although your profound strength hasn’t changed one bit, there is no one in the entire Northern Divine Region who is a match for you, assuming that your power levels are identical.”

“Your cultivation speed will be several times faster than before.”

“Darkness profound energy will never consume your life force again, much less spiral out of your control.”

“Its natural effects on your mind will be suppressed to a minimum.”

Every time Yun Che spoke, the Witches felt as if someone was striking their souls with thunder.

As some of the strongest powers in the Northern Divine Region with the highest level of mastery over darkness profound energy, they knew all too well what this transformation meant.

It was a complete defiance of the common sense they and the world held toward darkness profound energy. Theoretically, it was something that should only be possible during the ancient times, when the True Devils still existed!

“He is... speaking the truth.”

It almost sounded like Chanyi was sleep-talking. She stared at her hands quietly, her recognition of darkness profound energy having changed forever.

Previously, darkness profound energy was to her a powerful blade that could devour anything, including herself if she didn’t suppress it from time to time. The possibility that it might spiral out of her control was also very real.

But now, it had turned from a double-edged sword into something that was hers and hers alone. It was like a third arm that she could use to do whatever she wanted with perfect control.

Chanyi’s confirmation and the fearful look on her face—more specifically, the fear that this was all just a dream—left the five Witches stunned and speechless for a long time.

“Also,” Yun Che wasn’t quite finished yet, “assuming that you were to leave the Northern Divine Region this moment, you would find that your circulation and recovery speed aren’t too different from before. The ‘common sense’ that a devil person’s strength is halved the moment they leave the Northern Divine Region no longer applies to you.”

“If you withdraw your aura completely, you won’t even be recognized as a devil person unless you run into a profound practitioner who is much stronger than you are.”

Maybe it was a dream... the Witches of the Soul Stealing Realm were powerful, but right now they felt as dumb as a toddler.

What they didn’t know was that the ability to make a creature’s body fully compatible with darkness profound energy was just one of the most basic abilities of Eternal Calamity of Darkness. When Yun Che

had used the ability on Dongfang Hanwei for the first time, he had succeeded right away. But because he was unfamiliar with the skill, it took him some time and effort before he succeeded. Now, he had fully cultivated the middle realm of Eternal Calamity of Darkness, and he could make anybody compatible with darkness profound energy... even if the target was a Witch, a high level Divine Master.

“How long will these abilities last?” Ye Li’s breathing had obviously become shorter. If everything Yun Che said was true, forget the Witches, even the god emperors would feel exactly the same as them.

“It will last... forever...”

Chanyi was the one who answered, not Yun Che.

It was her power in every sense of the word. Naturally, she was well aware of its “characteristics”.

The Witches’ focus fell on Chanyi once more. Yu Wu asked blankly, “Is it true? Is everything he said... true?”

Chanyi nodded slowly but without any hesitation.

Yao Die suddenly looked at Qianye Ying’er. “Is this why you were able to fight against me even though it’s been less than three years since you cultivated darkness profound energy!?”

The biggest reason Qianye Ying’er was able to fight Yao Die, a level nine Divine Master despite being only a level eight Divine Master was because of the Devil Emperor’s blood, but she was too lazy to explain herself. So she said, “Your master invited us to her realm at first notice when the rest of you were screaming bloody murder over Chanyi and Yao Die... have you all never wondered why? Hmm?”

The Witches were as quiet as mice. Chanyi’s dream-like transformation had chased all their anger and grudges out of their minds.

“Is this compensation to your satisfaction?” Yun Che asked. He had just torn apart a common sense of the world, but he looked like he didn’t care at all.

Chanyi turned to face him with none of the calm she had before. “This is no different from being reborn. I doubt I’ll ever be able to repay this favor.”

It was true. It was a perfect rebirth she never even bothered to desire even in her own dreams. Her earlier grievance seemed as insignificant as a speck of dust compared to this.

“Please!” Yun Che abruptly raised his hand and stopped Chanyi before she could give him a bow. “Since you are satisfied, I will assume that my debt is fully settled. If you have any doubts left, you may challenge the Eighth Witch and see if you can beat her.”

Cultivation wise, Chanyi was still weaker than Yu Wu, but her control and recovery speed were far better than before. She might be at a disadvantage at the beginning, but it would only be a matter of time before Yu Wu lost to her.

The Witches knew each other’s strength well, so Chanyi didn’t need to bother. She was certain she could beat Yu Wu, who was in the same realm as her.

Now that she thought about it, Yun Che had carried out his promise exactly as he claimed. He really did give her the power to beat Yu Wu in less than ten breaths!

"It's fine." Chanyi said immediately, "Your words are all true, Young Master Yun."

She didn't realize it, but she was starting to address Yun Che the way she did in the past again.

Yu Wu's lips moved slightly, but she didn't say anything.

"Still, I have received far too much." Although Yun Che had turned her down, Chanyi still said with determination, "The Witches of the Soul Stealing Realm don't owe any favors or grudges. Chanyi will repay this favor one day whether you accept it or not, Young Master Yun."

Yun Che gave her a strange smile. "Oh, don't you worry about that. You will."

Chanyi: "?"

[Chapter 1644 - "Calamity and Misfortune"](#)

"Hehehehe..."

A chuckle that melted into one's bones suddenly came down from above. The dark clouds parted, and Devil Queen Chi Wuyao slowly descended to the ground.

She was followed by two white figures.

"You really are the man this queen has chosen, Yun Che. All it took was a little show, and my cute children were awed into obedience."

Her feet hit the ground lightly. The smile behind the black fog was as bewitching as it was demonic.

The six Witches bowed toward the Devil Queen in deference the moment she arrived.

While they were doing so, Yun Che looked at the white figures standing behind the Devil Queen.

A presence that far exceeded either one of the six Witches who were already present, an aura that put Qianye Ying'er on high alert instantly, and a pair of faces that were exactly identical. The pair of white figures hadn't said a word, but their appearance alone was a declaration of their identity.

Two level ten Divine Masters!

The leader of the Nine Witches, the Great Witch Jie Xin and Jie Ling!

Witches never showed their faces to anyone. At the very least, all the Witches Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had encountered so far had masked their faces one way or another.

However, it looked like the rule didn't apply to the two Witches standing behind Chi Wuyao.

The Great Witch was dressed in plain white robes. Their clothes were completely devoid of any patterns, and they weren't wearing any jewelry. However, they were so beautiful that just by standing there, they turned that particular corner of the world into an exquisite painting.

Their eyes were devoid of any emotion, but it wasn't frigidness that rejected all human contact. It was a kind of indifference toward everything and anything that exists in the world.

Chi Wuyao was the one and only exception. It was as if she was the only person in the world who was reflected in their eyes and hearts.

Twin sisters weren't rare, but no matter how identical they were to each other, there were always some differences to be found. Normally, an expert could identify those differences immediately with their spiritual perception.

Moreover, even if their appearances were exactly identical, it was only natural that their cultivation levels and auras would differ in some ways as they grew up. Anyone with enough spiritual perception should be able to differentiate between twins with ease.

But not only did Jie Xin and Jie Ling share the exact same appearance, clothes, and eyes, their life force and aura were identical as well!

Even their footsteps and breathing were perfectly in sync.

It was as if they were a living mirror of each other.

Qianye Ying'er watched them for a long time with a deep frown on her face. She had seen plenty of twins in her life, and until today she had thought that the rumor of "the indistinguishable Witches" was nothing but a joke. As it turned out, the world was bigger than she had imagined.

Yun Che removed his gaze from Jie Xin and Jie Ling, and gave a cold snort at Chi Wuyao. "Must you wait until now to appear?"

Qianye Ying'er narrowed her eyes. The six Witches looked surprised as well. The meaning behind Yun Che's words was clear: he knew that Chi Wuyao was somewhere in the area all along.

Chi Wuyao smiled. His discovery of her presence hadn't surprised her at all. "Curiosity is a woman's nature. Not even I am immune to it."

"I'm not going to waste my breath." Yun Che avoided her gaze and did his utmost to chase her devilish voice out of his soul. "You know why I'm here, so stop wasting my time and get to the point. I'm warning you, my patience is a lot shorter than you think!"

Yun Che's words disturbed and angered the Witches a bit.

No one had ever dared to speak to the Devil Queen this way... no one!

But Chi Wuyao simply looked at him and chuckled. "Hehehe, what an impatient man you are."

The anger on the Witches' faces turned to astonishment.

Not only did Chi Wuyao accept Yun Che's terrible attitude like it was nothing, everyone could sense that the emotion behind her smile and voice despite fog covering her face. It was almost as if she was trying to...

Seduce him??

For an instant, they felt as if the ground was splitting apart beneath their feet.

But Chi Wuyao's smile eventually faded away into an invisible, dominant presence. Once again, she looked like the unparalleled devil everyone in the world thought her to be.

Yun Che's desire for revenge was desperate and intense, and she hadn't tried to challenge his patience any longer. She said seriously, "You wish to bathe the three divine regions in blood, and this queen wishes to visit all of them. You have an art that defies the natural order, and this queen possesses the perfect medium for you to execute it. Neither of us will find a more perfect collaborator than each other."

The Witches turned toward their queen in alarm after hearing her declaration.

They could already see the dark storms coming their way in the very near future.

"The Northern Divine Region is ruled by three king realms, and out of the three the Burning Moon Realm and the Yama Realm have no plans of changing the current status quo. If I were to attack the three divine regions, not only would they not support or acknowledge my efforts, they would do everything in their power to stop me and save their own hides."

"Therefore, if you and I want to unite all the power in the Northern Divine Region, we must start by taking over the Burning Moon Realm and the Yama Realm."

Although the Witches were aware of the Devil Queen's biggest desire since long ago, her words still shook them greatly.

Ye Li and Yao Die turned around and created a gigantic sound isolation barrier together.

This was the Soul Sky, a private world none dared to get close without permission. But it was better to be safe than sorry considering that this was just the beginning of the Devil Queen's controversial statements.

"Of course, the Soul Stealing Realm must first have enough power to crush both realms before we take action." Chi Wuyao smiled again as she looked at Yun Che. "In fact, you've proven that you've the ability to do that, and with incredible ease no less... Lord Devil Emperor's Eternal Calamity of Darkness definitely deserves its name."

"..." Yun Che wasn't too surprised to hear the art's name from Chi Wuyao.

"Eternal Calamity of... Darkness?" Yu Wu whispered. The name sounded incredibly familiar, but the memory kept eluding her for some reason... she wasn't exactly wrong. Her subconscious was preventing her from reaching that impossible answer.

"Wait!" Ye Li exclaimed in shock in disbelief. "Master, are you talking about that ultimate devil art you told us about, the one that belonged only to the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor... the Eternal Calamity of Darkness?"

"Oh? Why are you so surprised?" Chi Wuyao looked at her and smiled slightly. "Haven't you witnessed its ability just now? What else besides the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's Eternal Calamity of Darkness can transform Chanyi so thoroughly and so miraculously in just a few breaths?"

"Ah!" All six Witches cried out involuntarily in realization.

Chi Wuyao continued, "Moreover, Yun Che was able to kill Yan Sangeng in one hit despite only being a level seven Divine Sovereign. He may be the Heretic God's inheritor, but without the profound veins and power the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor gifted to him—her origin blood and her origin power no less—it would've been an impossible task... how enviable."

The four Devil Emperors were the highest existences of the devil lineage since the beginning of Primal Chaos. Although they only existed in legends and historical records these days, they were worshipped higher than religion in the Northern Divine Region.

It was no wonder that the Witches reacted the way they did when they heard that the legendary Yun Che, the Heretic God inheritor also inherited the power of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor.

They finally understood why he was able to perform that miraculous transformation on Chanyi in just a couple of breaths... it was because he was using the Devil Emperor's ability!

"I will give them all perfect mastery over darkness profound energy," Yun Che said indifferently.

"Not just them." Chi Wuyao picked up immediately where he left off. "The core that forms the strength of the Soul Stealing Realm is the Nine Witches, the Twenty-seven Soul Spirits and Three Thousand Six Hundred Soul Attendants. At the minimum, this is the amount of people you need to 'transmute' during the next period of time."

This time, even Jie Xin and Jie Ling looked visibly moved.

In the eyes of the Witches, Chanyi's transformation was a miracle through and through.

But the Devil Queen was planning to refine the powers of every Witch, every Soul Spirit, and every Soul Attendant as well!

Could this impossible miracle... truly be replicated more than three thousand times!?

"Acceptable." To their shock, Yun Che nodded barely without any hesitation whatsoever. It almost looked like he was talking about a small and insignificant thing.

"You know the Northern Divine Region far better than I do, so I will do my best to cooperate with you in this regard. However..." Yun Che changed his tone suddenly. "I will be the one who decides when to devour the Burning Moon Realm and Yama Realm!"

"Tell me," Chi Wuyao said.

Yun Che knitted his eyebrows and lifted three fingers.

"Three... three thousand years?" Yu Wu subconsciously muttered.

The Burning Moon Realm and Yama Realm were superpowers that had stood strong in the Northern Divine Region for hundreds of thousands of years. It was already shocking and unreal enough to claim to be the one to topple them, much less do it in three thousand years. Was it really possible to pull off such a feat in three thousand years, even if their core were completely transformed?

"Okay." Chi Wuyao nodded and accepted the proposal without hesitation. "Three years it is."

"Three... three years!?"

Ye Li, Yao Die, Qing Ying, Lan Ting, Yu Wu, Chanyi and even Jie Xin and Jie Ling couldn't believe their ears at all.

This was the Burning Moon and Yama realms they were talking about!

No one was denying the power of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness. Given enough time, the increase in cultivation speed and power ceiling alone would snowball the Soul Stealing Realm's power to the point where it could easily crush the other two king realms.

However, that was assuming that they had several thousand years or more for the process to take place.

Three years? That was nothing more than a pipe dream.

Instead of explaining herself to the Witches, Chi Wuyao suddenly changed the subject and said, "When I was reading through the ancient records, I noticed something that was quite interesting. The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was definitely not the strongest of the four great Devil Emperors. But surprisingly, she was the most respected... Right, the word 'respect' was used again and again across multiple records when the relationships between the Devil Emperors were described. All three Devil Emperors respected the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor."

"After the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor fell to the plot of the gods and went missing, fury washed over the other three Devil Emperors, no, the entire devil race. It was one of the major fuses that started the great war between the gods and the devils."

Yun Che: "..."

"The Heaven Smiting Devil Race led by the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor possessed the strange ability to transform into 'Devil God Swords'. But if we were to ignore this special ability, their strength was in fact much poorer than the devils led by the other Devil Emperors."

"If they were to leave the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's side, they weren't even that much stronger than a normal devil."

"But the opposite was equally true. If the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was close to them, they could slaughter the three Devil Emperors' great devils without breaking a sweat."

"Legend says that it was caused by a special power called 'Calamity and Misfortune'."

Chi Wuyao's voice turned unusually soft and seductive as she stared at Yun Che. "I wonder, if this part of the records true... or false?"

Yun Che frowned a little as something dark flashed across his eyes. This woman was much scarier than he had initially imagined.

It was fortunate that she was a collaborator, not an enemy... at least not now.

He said seriously, "I wouldn't show myself to you so soon if I didn't have something up my sleeve."

"Very good." Chi Wuyao's smile grew wider after she got what she wanted. "It looks like our cooperation will be a pleasant one."

Qianye Ying'er frowned. She had never heard of this "Calamity and Misfortune", and Yun Che definitely hadn't mentioned it to her.

However, his reaction to the eerie-sounding name was silent admission!

"You seem to know far more than you let on!" Qianye Ying'er said coldly before sneaking a glare at Yun Che.

"This is the Northern Divine Region. It's only natural that we have more records about the ancient devils than the Eastern Divine Region, isn't it?" Chi Wuyao was smiling cheerfully when suddenly she turned toward the southwest. "Oh? It seems that we have some guests."

[Chapter 1645 - The Devil Queen's Designs](#)

"The Yama God Realm's Yan Tu, Yan E, and Yan Huo have come to pay a call on the Soul Stealing Realm's exalted Devil Queen! We plead for an audience with her!"

A deep and oppressive voice rang out from the borders of the Soul Stealing Realm's sacred region. Even though the words and tone used were respectful, they were accompanied by a deathly aura that seemed to come from the bottom of the Yellow Springs, instantly causing the Soul Stealing Realm's sacred region to fall into an oppressive silence.

Countless eyes suddenly turned in the direction the voice had come from and expressions of shock and amazement appeared on everyone's faces.

Because Yan Tu, Yan E, and Yan Huo were the names of three of the Ten Yama Devils!

The Yama Realm's Yama Devils had suddenly come to pay them a visit... and there were three of them at that!

Within the Soul Sky, all of the Witches started to frown. Ye Li said in a deep voice, "To think that three Yama Devils would come at once. The last time we received such grand company was when Master was being crowned emperor. What are they up to now?"

"Master," Jie Xin said as she stepped forward, her pure white robes and her long ink-dark hair fluttering in the wind, "I will go meet them."

"Don't bother." Chi Wuyao was not the least bit surprised by the arrival of the three Yama Devils. "Since the Yama Realm has shown us such 'great face', then this queen will go out and personally welcome them."

"They are not worthy of being greeted by Master personally," Jie Ling said.

However, Chi Wuyao had already raised her head. Without releasing any profound energy at all, her voice had already penetrated the sound obstruction barrier that Ye Li and Yao Die had formed and permeated the air. "What happened?"

When those three faint words fell on everyone's ears, they sounded as soft and ethereal as mist. But when that voice penetrated the soul, it made all the living creatures in the Soul Stealing Realm's sacred region feel as if the heavens themselves had been overturned, causing all of them to hold their breath.

It was also these three words that caused the silent Yun Che's eyes to suddenly change as they darted towards Chi Wuyao... and his gaze lingered on her for several full breaths before he finally slowly shifted it away.

The arrival of the three of the Ten Yama Devils was no small matter. However, even though they had sent such a grand delegation, they did not harbor any hopes of being able to truly meet with the Devil Queen.

After they heard the Devil Queen's unexpected voice, the three Yama Devils were clearly caught by surprise. A long period of silence passed before their voices finally rang out once more. "May the protection of the devil gods bless and keep the Devil Queen. We have specially arrived on the orders of the Yama Emperor to capture that wicked fugitive from the Eastern Divine Region who borrowed the name 'Ling Yun' yesterday and killed the Yama Ghost King without cause or reason, Yun Che!"

"We hope that the Devil Queen will grant our request and allow us to escort Yun Che back to our realm."

Even though the voices of the three Yama Devils were hard and cold, everyone could clearly hear fear and reverence contained within them... Because the person they were speaking to right now was the Devil Queen Chi Wuyao!

"How does the Yama Realm know that Yun Che is here?" Chanyi whispered.

"They probably... exposed themselves while they were traveling here?" Yu Wu whispered back. "After all, the Yama Realm launched an all-out hunt for them yesterday."

"Even if that is the case... this has still happened way too quickly," Lan Ting said in an even softer voice. After all, Yun Che had just entered the Soul Stealing Realm but the Yama Realm had already come calling. They had even sent three Yama Devils over, so it was clear that they were extremely confident that Yun Che was in this place.

Even though the three king realms of the Northern Divine Region were in very close proximity to one another, they were still several hours apart. The arrival of the three Yama Devils at this moment meant only one thing... They had already arrived here before Yun Che had even taken a single step into the Soul Stealing Realm.

Chi Wuyao's voice filled the air once more. "Your Yama Realm is not the only one who has a grudge against Yun Che. Since he has already fallen into this queen's hands, then this queen shall deal with him as I see fit. So what does that have to do with your Yama Emperor?"

There were two reasons why the Yama Emperor had sent three Yama Devils at once. The first was because Yun Che's power was simply far too abnormal. He had been able to kill Yan Sangeng with a single stroke of his sword, so the Yama Emperor was worried that a single Yama Devil would not be enough to restrain him.

As for the second reason, on the surface it seemed like the Yama Emperor had been utterly enraged by the Yama Ghost King's death, but in truth... Yun Che's Heretic God inheritance and Sky Poison Pearl were things that posed an irresistible attraction to anyone!

The Yama Devils replied solemnly, "We have indeed heard that these two wicked fugitives from the Eastern Region not only hurt a Witch but offended the Devil Queen as well. However, their crimes

against you pales in comparison to their murder of our Yama Ghost King. The Yama Emperor is utterly enraged by this turn of events and he sternly ordered us to drag Yun Che back to our realm to be punished. So we hope that the Devil Queen will grant our request. Our Yama Realm will compensate you well.”

Chi Wuyao gave a light and tinkling laugh. “Since the Yama Emperor regards this matter with such importance, ask him to come and ask for these people himself. This queen will gladly attend to him if he comes. The few of you aren’t worthy yet.”

The Yama Devils lapsed into another brief period of silence. When their voices rang out again, they were colder and darker than before. “The Yama Emperor gave us an order to bring them back no matter what...”

“This queen has already said all that I want to say.” A soft and gentle voice cut the Yama Devils off. But after that, the voice that permeated the air suddenly changed. “Could it be that you want to hear it a second time?”

It was a cold which pierced the soul and penetrated the bone.

When Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er had dealt with Chi Wuyao, her voice had been devilish and seductive. In fact, it was so bewitching and seductive that it practically turned their bones to water. However, at this moment, her voice had suddenly turned ice-cold and that sentence made them feel as if they had been transported to the border between an icy hell and death. Every single nerve, every single strand of their souls were trembling and spasming uncontrollably.

The entirety of the Soul Stealing Realm’s sacred region fell silent. After a long period of deathly silence, the Yama Devils finally spoke once again, “We will relay the words of the Devil Queen to our Yama Emperor just as you have spoken them. We take our leave.”

After they said those words, the auras of the three Yama Devils swiftly sped off into the distance. They did not dare take a single step into the Soul Stealing Realm’s sacred region.

After the Yama Devils left, the Devil Queen’s cold might disappeared into thin air. Qing Ting spoke up, “It’s so strange. How did the Yama Realm know that Yun Che was here? And how did they get here so quickly?”

To the gathered Witches, the fact that Yun Che possessed the power of a Devil Emperor was an enormous secret. Right now, it was something that was probably only known to the Devil Queen and those who were present. This secret and their “alliance” were things that absolutely had to be kept under wraps, especially in the beginning.

Thus, given the Soul Stealing Realm’s position, they would naturally try to hide or seal away any information regarding these two things with all of their might.

“Heh.” A cold chuckle rang in the air as Qianye Ying’er said in a cold voice, “This is something you should ask your master then!”

Qing Ting glared at her furiously, “Yun Qianying, what do you mean by that!?”

Qianye Ying'er ignored Qing Ting as she stared at Chi Wuyao with cold eyes. "Chi Wuyao, the only people who knew that we were coming here were the Seventh Witch and you."

"We aren't familiar with this Northern Divine Region and we had to conceal our auras too, so we couldn't travel at too quick a pace. However, you arrived even later than we did."

"What is even stranger..." Qianye Ying'er said as her lips curled up into a mocking smile and her beautiful eyes grew even colder, "is that only eight of the Nine Witches are present. Even you, the Devil Queen, are present but the Seventh Witch remains unaccounted for. Let me guess, just where did she go?"

"Shut up!" Qianye Ying'er's words had undoubtedly incited the wrath of all the Witches. "If you dare to slander our Master's name again, don't blame us for being impolite!"

"Aiyah." Chi Wuyao let out a seductive sigh as she said in a merry voice, "I really couldn't hide it from the two of you. The reason why Hua Jin isn't around is because this queen dispatched her to several places... The first one being the Yama Realm itself."

"Right now, both the Yama Realm and the Burning Moon God Realm know that you are here. Before long, half of the Northern Divine Region will also find out about this news."

The gathered Witches were stunned by this revelation and Ye Li said, "Master, this... this is?"

"The reason?" Yun Che was not anxious or angry. He simply asked for a reason in a calm voice.

"Reasons? There are many." Chi Wuyao was even less anxious than Yun Che and she entirely ignored the soul-piercing gaze that Qianye Ying'er was directing toward her. "Then let's just start with the closest and simplest reason."

"This queen wants people to know that you have fallen into this queen's hands. It's as simple as that. Furthermore, this isn't limited to the Northern Divine Region alone. If we continue to spread the news, the Eastern Divine Region will also hear about this after some time has passed."

"Especially..." Her dusky eyes seemed to flash. "The Eternal Heaven God Realm."

"Chi Wuyao!" Qianye Ying'er could not hold back her rage any longer. Her body blurred and she closed the distance between her and Chi Wuyao in a single instant. Their gazes collided as they stood less than half a foot from each other. "Just what exactly... are you trying to do!?"

At this moment, she suddenly started to question something that she had insisted on since she had entered the Northern Divine Region—influencing and exhorting Yun Che to strike up an alliance with the Devil Queen Chi Wuyao.

This was the very first day of their alliance and they had started it without a single hitch. However, she now realized that Chi Wuyao's thinking and actions were beyond her comprehension, and they were also beyond their control.

Even as Qianye Ying'er glared at her from so close that their noses were practically touching, Chi Wuyao simply smiled sweetly as she leaned in a little. It was as if she was admiring what she could see of her unreasonably perfect face. "Speaking of which, this is actually something that you enlightened this queen about."

“...” Qianye Ying’er did not back down one bit. Her voice was ice-cold as she said, “You had better give me a proper explanation!”

Chi Wuyao said, “Since this is an alliance, this queen will definitely give you a nice and proper explanation. After all, the two of you are the true main characters, this insignificant queen is just here to set the wheels of destiny in motion.”

“How ridiculous!” Qianye Ying’er replied coldly, “In just this matter alone, you’ve clearly acted entirely on your own, you did not even deign to ask for our opinions or consult with us. By reporting our location to the Yama Realm, you’ve already made us suspect you of foul play. Even now, you still have the face to mention our ‘alliance’? You still think that we’ll obediently play along with whatever you say or do?”

Chi Wuyao said with a cheery smile, “How about you wait for this queen to finish first? As for whether we will continue cooperating or not, it’s not simply up to you.”

“Speak.” Yun Che spat out a single word.

“Then the both of you should listen very closely. Especially you.” She directed those last words at Qianye Ying’er as she gently pursed her lips.

The corners of Qianye Ying’er’s brows twitched.

“Yun Qianying, you previously said that the great gift you were giving this queen in compensation for the ‘Untamed Divine Marrow’ was a marvelous ‘opportunity’. You said that I could use this deal that Zhou Xuzi suggested to this queen to utterly enrage him and cause him to launch an all-out attack on the Northern Divine Region in his insane rage and sorrow. Thus, I could use this as a pretext to create an opportunity for myself.”

“When you lay it out like that, it sounds wonderfully perfect and even this queen can’t help but be moved by it. However, after this queen pondered your plan for a moment, I discovered that this ‘great gift’ of yours seemed to have two glaringly large holes in it.”

“What holes!?” Qianye Ying’er said.

“The first hole,” Chi Wuyao replied, “is that your imagined opportunity occurs only after the three king realms have been united and we have prepared our strength. After that, you plan to enrage the Eternal Heaven God Emperor and bait him into attacking us. You will then use this as an excuse to launch a counterattack using our moral high ground and superior power, while counting on the two other great divine regions, the West and the South, to sit on their hands in the initial stages of the war.”

“However... my Soul Stealing Realm must rely on Yun Che’s power if we are to swallow up both the Burning Moon Realm and the Yama Realm. Moreover, any war with another king realm, no matter how small it is, will shake up the entire Northern Divine Region and this will naturally be news that can be easily obtained by the king realms of the Eastern Divine Region. If that is the case, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor will naturally find out that this queen did not capture Yun Che but is working together with him instead. Why then would he take the bait and deliver his son to us?”

“Heh.” Qianye Ying’er sneered disdainfully. “As the Soul Stealing Devil Queen, don’t you even have the ability to seal away this tiny bit of news?”

“Seal away?” Chi Wuyao gave a disdainful smile of her own. “There isn’t anything in this universe that is more momentous than a war between king realms. So how exactly am I supposed to seal that kind of news?”

“How about this. Since you once held the title of Brahma Monarch Goddess, why don’t you tell this queen something. No matter how hard I try to contain the news of such a momentous event occurring in the Northern Divine Region, is the Eastern Divine Region’s ability to gather information truly so lousy that they’ll be the none the wiser while it is happening?”

“...” Qianye Ying’er did not respond.

“Now let’s proceed to the second hole in your plot,” Chi Wuyao continued. “Let’s assume that none of my fears come true and everything goes exactly as you wished and we provoke the Eternal Heaven God Emperor’s rage after we complete our preparations, how can you be so sure... that he will definitely lash out in rage and attack the Northern Divine Region with the full might of the Eternal Heaven God Realm?”

Qianye Ying’er said in a low voice, “Based on the guilt he harbors towards his dead wife, based on the fact that he places Zhou Qingchen’s life above everyone else’s, based on the fear and panic he will experience when he witnesses Yun Che’s growth... Aren’t all of these reasons enough!”

“How would this queen know if those reasons are good enough?” Chi Wuyao said. “However, this queen does know one thing at the very least and it is that a person can’t even control their own thoughts sometimes. If you gamble on what you ‘think’ another person may do... it often ends up as a bad joke!”

She glanced towards them and said, “I mean, aren’t both of you that sort of joke as well?”

“You!” Qianye Ying’er’s golden hair flared up around her and black light flashed in her eyes... But she could not truly bring her anger to a full boil.

They, who had once respectively held Zhou Xuizi and Qianye Fantian in the highest regard, had ended up in such a state.

So how exactly was she mistaken when she called them “that sort of joke”?

[Chapter 1646 - Qianye’s “Crisis”](#)

“Moreover, from this queen’s perspective, if that Zhou Xuizi truly values Zhou Qingchen that much, he actually won’t launch an all-out assault against the Northern Divine Region after Zhou Qingchen dies.”

“Because Zhou Qingchen’s death will not only cause him to go insane with anger, it will also cause him to feel shame! Since the person has already died, the last thing he can do for his son will be to do his best to protect his reputation. Zhou Xuizi won’t allow the people of the world to find out about the fact that his son was transformed into a ‘devil’.”

“Launching an all-out assault in a fit of pure rage would vent his anger for a moment, but it would also greatly harm the Eternal Heaven God Realm. It would also very likely expose the fact that Zhou Qingchen had been transformed into a devil, expose the fact that he was the one who broke the taboo and tried to make a deal with this queen. It would also result in many other unforeseeable consequences.”

“But if he buries his anger and chooses not to act despite the fires of rage burning within his heart, he will be able preserve the last of Zhou Qingchen’s dignity while not exposing himself to any of the things I just mentioned.”

Chi Wuyao drew even closer to Qianye Ying’er. “You definitely understand far better than this queen just how much the Eternal Heaven God Realm is repulsed by the word ‘devil’ and how disgraceful it would be for any one of them to become ‘devils’.”

“So which option do you think he will lean towards?”

“Oh, that’s right.” Without waiting for Qianye Ying’er’s response, Chi Wuyao suddenly said, “This queen will first help you recall one thing... Zhou Xuzi’s age, experience, and time spent as emperor also far exceeds Qianye Fantian’s.”

“Moreover, during his time as emperor, in the Eastern Divine Region... No, in fact, in all three divine regions, he has always been the most esteemed and respected god emperor of them all.”

Qianye Ying’er, “...”

“Just how likely is it for a person like that to lose complete control of his emotions due to extreme rage?”

Qianye Ying’er’s hands were tightly clenched. Even though rage simmered in her heart, she was not the sort of person who would fly off the handle easily. Furthermore, Chi Wuyao’s words had actually left her speechless for the moment.

When she had described her plan to Yun Che, she had explained just how special Zhou Qingchen was to Zhou Xuzi and that she was about sixty percent confident that Zhou Xuzi would go berserk if he died. However, she did not have enough time to make sure her plan was completely foolproof.

When she heard the words that Chi Wuyao just said, even though she really did not want to acknowledge them, she could not help but come to the sudden realization that the chance of the plan succeeding were truly only ten percent or so, maybe even less.

She was very familiar with Zhou Xuzi’s past relationship with his proper wife. As a result, she was utterly convinced that Zhou Qingchen was Zhou Xuzi’s greatest and perhaps only weakness. Yet she had overlooked such an important point... and that was Zhou Qingchen’s “reputation and dignity”, something that would exist even after his death.

However, after she had given Chi Wuyao a simple explanation of her plan, she had actually actually perceived this gaping “hole” in her plan, a hole that she had always overlooked, after just half a day.

This woman...

“Since that is the case, why did you deliberately publicize Yun Che’s whereabouts and allow this news to leak out to the Eastern Divine Region?” Qianye Ying’er asked.

“Of course it’s to borrow your ‘suggestion’ and lure him into meeting this queen with Zhou Qingchen in tow,” Chi Wuyao said.

“Now?”

“Of course.”

Qianye Ying'er did not flare up immediately. She pondered Chi Wuyao's words for a brief period of time before she spoke in a low voice, “Let's not even mention uniting the three king realms first. If we enrage the Eternal Heaven God Realm now without even taking the first step in our plans, it would be akin to wasting the best opportunity we have right now.”

“And if he truly goes berserk from rage and launches an all-out attack against the Northern Divine Region, it will be at a time when we haven't even been able to stand firmly yet. Even talking about using this opportunity to launch a counterattack will be nothing more than a huge joke.”

“He won't.” Chi Wuyao chuckled dryly. “Even if he does, it is of no matter. If this land of darkness were so easily conquered, how could it still be standing to this very day?”

“Then what exactly do you mean to accomplish by doing this?” Qianye Ying'er's mind swiftly raced through several possibilities, but none of them made any sense to her.

“It's very simple. As long as he comes here, that will be enough.” That was Chi Wuyao's reply.

Yun Che, who had been silently listening to Chi Wuyao all this while, suddenly spoke up. “What do you mean by that?”

“There is a very colorful proverb that I believe that two of you have heard before. Chi Wuyao's eyebrows arched a little as she softly whispered those words in a breathy voice, “If yellow mud stains your pants, it's treated as shit even if it isn't actually shit.”

The Soul Sky lapsed into a long period of silence after she said those words.

When Qianye Ying'er raised her head once more, she finally understood Chi Wuyao's intentions. She gave a low and hearty laugh as she said, “When it comes to being despicable and underhanded, I am indeed still far inferior to you.”

Those words were both a mocking jibe and a wistful sigh.

Chi Wuyao's smile remained fixed on her face and her devilish voice grew effusive. “When this queen has to choose between relying on an opportunity someone delivered up to me versus a scheme I have personally crafted, the difference being that the former is passive while the later is active, I far prefer to take the active option. After all, being the one who sets the gears in motion and being the one who has to passively endure anything that happens to them are two completely different things altogether. Yun Qianying, don't you agree?”

Qianye Ying'er's eyebrows furiously twitched and she turned her head sharply away from Chi Wuyao. However, she had already unconsciously softened her stance.

As her smile grew more reserved, Chi Wuyao turned around and said something quite mysterious. “This queen has always disdained these sorts of wicked and petty tricks. However, if it is that Zhou Xuzi we're talking about... then that's an entirely different story.”

She had said those last words with a deeply hidden malice.

“Yun Che, you will cooperate with me in this matter, right?” Chi Wuyao said. However, she already knew what his reply would be before he even answered.

Because Yun Che was looking forward to this more than anyone else.

“When,” Yun Che said.

Qianye Ying'er did not object either.

Chi Wuyao gave a soft chuckle as she said, “Given the degree to which the Northern Divine Region and Eastern Divine Region are isolated from each other, it might take as long as a month before Zhou Xuzi finds out that you’ve fallen into this queen’s hands. We should also conveniently mix in some fragmented rumors that you’ve angered this queen on multiple occasions. At that time, he will definitely send a sound transmission to me as soon as he possibly can and arrange for us to meet.”

“As for when this meeting will take place, it cannot be too soon or too long.”

“If it takes too long, it will gradually wear his patience down and a long delay will naturally give rise to hitches in the plan.”

“If we move too quickly... If this queen does not take the opportunity to demand the world from him and tries to press him into a meeting at the first available opportunity, it will arouse suspicion in him instead.”

“How does one hundred days sound to you?” Her eyes swept past both Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. To her surprise, she discovered that strange fluctuations had occurred in their auras when she had proposed the date, fluctuations that should not have appeared at all.

“Oh?” Her eyes narrowed slightly, “Could it be that the amount of time I proposed is not to your liking?”

“No.” Yun Che opened his mouth and both his expression and voice were devoid of irregularities. “I find this amount of time... very much to my liking.”

Chi Wuyao, “...?”

Qianye Ying'er quietly shot a glance at Yun Che and bit back the words she was about to say.

At this time, a gentle breeze brushed by them and a woman covered in twinkling rainbow light floated down towards them. It was the Seventh Witch Hua Jin.

With her arrival, all nine of the Soul Stealing Realm’s Witches had been assembled before Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er’s eyes.

“Reporting to Master,” Hua Jin greeted Chi Wuyao, “Young Master Yun’s bedchambers have been prepared.”

“Mnn.” Chi Wuyao replied softly. She turned towards Yun Che, a sweet and beautiful smile on her face. “Yun Che, you’ve been forced to live as a fugitive for the past few years. Since you’re already here, why don’t you allow yourself to rest for a single day. From tomorrow onward, it’ll be hard to find a moment to relax even if you want to.”

“Chanyi, escort Yun Che and Yun Qianying to their bedchambers. Today, you will serve outside the palace. If they desire to tour the sacred region, you will be in charge of guiding them.”

“Yes,” Chanyi replied. Even though she had been entrusted the role of “attendant” despite her status as a Witch, she did not feel too repulsed by the role she had been assigned to. After all, there was no way that she could truly repay Yun Che for the gift he had given her.

Yun Che gave a very disinterested nod of his head.

Chi Wuyao turned her devilish body around, her gaze coming to rest on each and every one of her Nine Witches. “Jie Xin, Jie Ling, Ye Li, Yao Die, Qing Ying, Lan Ting, Hua Jin, Yu Wu, Chanyi.”[1]

She recited the names of each of her Nine Witches, her voice containing a gentleness reserved just for them. “This queen has described her dream of the future to all of you many times. In the past, this would always be a foolish wish, an extravagant hope. However... the day I have waited for has suddenly come and my dream starts from this day forward.”

“This queen cannot even begin to imagine what the future will hold, so it is even more impossible for me to promise you anything. In fact, I might even end up being unable to protect all of you. As such...”

“Master, you need not say another thing,” Jie Xin said. “Your life and your dream are the very reasons for our existence.”

The other eight Witches did not say anything, but their eyes were saying the exact same thing.

“Fine.” Chi Wuyao nodded her head, a faint smile on her face. Indeed, there was no need for any useless words between her and her Witches. “Then all of you may leave.”

The gathered Witches dispersed. From this day on, the arc of their fates and the very world they lived in would undergo an enormous upheaval.

All because of Yun Che’s arrival.

“Young Master Yun, please.”

Chanyi arrived at Yun Che’s side and she now displayed a degree of deferential respect towards him.

As she recalled their encounter in the Central Nether Ruins, her heart was filled with boundless rueful emotions.

Yun Che glanced at Chi Wuyao but he did not say a single word. He turned around and followed Nanhuang Chanyi out of the Soul Sky.

However, Qianye Ying’er, who was moving alongside Yun Che, suddenly stopped the moment Yun Che descended out of the Soul Sky. She turned her body slightly as she spoke to Chi Wuyao in a cold voice. “Chi Wuyao, you truly do know how to pick a date.”

“What exactly is wrong with the date that I’ve chosen?” Chi Wuyao asked.

A complex look flashed through Qianye Ying’er’s eyes and she gave a soft sigh as she said, “One hundred days from now, it will be his daughter’s eighteenth birthday.”

“...” Chi Wuyao was stunned by that revelation.

“Also, remember these words well.” Qianye Ying’er’s back faced Chi Wuyao as her voice turned frosty, “I admit that I am your inferior in certain aspects.”

“Oh?” Chi Wuyao’s eyebrows arched as amusement played across her face.

“However, that is only because I am far younger than you are. If we were the same age, I would definitely be far superior to you!”

Chi Wuyao gave a laugh as she replied in that soft and cottony voice, “Are you sure that difference between us lies only in our ages?”

Qianye Ying’er’s brows sank slightly.

“Every single person in the Northern Divine Region knows the name ‘Brahma Monarch Goddess,’” Chi Wuyao said in a languid manner. “The legendary Brahma Monarch Goddess has extraordinary talent and succeeds in everything she tries her hand at. There is nothing that you cannot obtain, no person you cannot trick.”

“However are all of these achievements truly because of your excellent and exceedingly cruel schemes or are they because... of the Brahma Monarch God Realm that backed you up at every turn, the Brahma Monarch God Realm that no one even dares to offend?”

“Then what about you?” Qianye Ying’er retorted sarcastically, “The Northern Region’s Devil Queen Chi Wuyao. A woman who rose from a middle star realm king to a higher realm king before finally becoming a god emperor. However, you did this by riding on one man after the other. How wise and brilliant you were!”

“Hahahaha.” Chi Wuyao laughed loudly, but no one in this universe would understand the meaning behind her laughter. She raised her eyes to the heavens and said in a carefree voice, “All the men of this world who have risen to high places, the women who catch their eyes will only ever be lesser than they are. If that is the case, then why can’t a woman see men as her lessers and use them as tools?”

Qianye Ying’er, “...”

“This queen started off as a common mortal woman. But with my own two feet, I climbed up to the top by trodding on these stepping stones that these men personally laid out for me. Whether it was their sect, their lives, their families, or even their... king realm!”

“Until not a single man in this universe dared to look down on this queen in the slightest.”

“So you, someone who has been born into the lap of luxury, someone who has always stood at the highest point in this universe, are the one person in the universe who is the least qualified to look down on this queen.”

“...” Qianye Ying’er stood rooted in place, and she could not bring herself to say anything for a long time.

“However...” Chi Wuyao’s tone suddenly changed again and it now contained several hints of playful mockery. The emotions she was putting on full display seemed to forever be changing according to her own fickle mood and no one could even guess at what she was going to do next. “There really isn’t any

need for you to harbor such enmity towards this queen and there is even less of a need for you to feel such a huge sense of peril. After all, you were the one who was by his side constantly during his darkest years. This is something that no one can change, no one can replace.”

“And it was also the same for you.”

“...What do you mean by that?” Qianye Ying'er's head violently whipped towards her.

“A good question,” Chi Wuyao gave a dry laugh as her feet crossed the borders of the Soul Sky. “This is a question that you have to ask yourself, and it is also a question that only you can answer accurately. This queen is merely blathering on pointlessly.”

With a seductive laugh that was so soft and charming that it melted straight into the bone, Chi Wuyao flew into the distance. Only Qianye Ying'er was left standing within the Soul Sky, and she stayed inside for a long period of time.

1. Their names might actually be together like Chanyi or said like titles, but they will be left alone for now until we have further evidence.

[Chapter 1647 - Eternal Heaven's Gamble](#)

Eastern Divine Region, Eternal Heaven God Realm, at the bottom of the Eternal Heaven Tower.

The entire place was a sea of gray. There were only a few dim pinpricks of light coming from the profound jade set in the area.

It was not just limited to light. Everything in this place was isolated from the outside world, including sound and even aura.

This was the most important place amongst important places in the Eternal Heaven God Realm. If one did not obtain personal permission from the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, they would not be able to step inside, no matter who they were. However, at this moment, layer after layer of the barriers were being peeled back.

Zhou Qingchen quietly sat in the center of this dim, dark space. This was the two hundred and twenty-ninth day he had spent here.

He could remember the time he had spent here all too clearly. Because every single day he had spent in this place felt far longer than any other period of his thousand year lifespan.

In the past, whenever he had started a closed-door training session that lasted several years, he had been able to pass the time in quiet meditation. However, these few short months had made him realize just how dreadfully slow the flow of time could be.

Bzz.

A sound rang in the air, and he saw that the great door that had been sealed for a long time was being slowly and carefully pushed open. The soft sound that had rung in the air at first had now also completely dissipated.

As the door was pushed wide, a ray of light shone into the area. It was not too bright, yet it caused Zhou Qingchen to unconsciously raise his hand and shield his face.

After being confined to this dark place for so long, he clearly longed for the light. Yet such a faint ray seemed so glaring to him.

Because, the current him had become a devil.

“Royal Father.” Zhou Qingchen stood up and made a formal bow.

Zhou Xuzi slowly walked inside. In just the span of a few short months, he seemed to have aged yet again. However, that mild and gentle smile still remained on his face. “Qingchen, how’ve you been lately?”

Zhou Qingchen replied, “Reporting to Royal Father. During the last half a month, the darkness profound energy within my body has not been agitated at all and this child has been a lot calmer as well.”

“That’s good then.” Zhou Xuzi smiled as he nodded his head. “The situation is far better than I had imagined. This also means that our ancestor has been protecting you from the shadows, so you need to believe that there will definitely be a day when this darkness energy will be purged from your body.”

This time, Zhou Qingchen did not give the same reply as he always had. Instead, he suddenly said, “Royal Father, this child has constantly been thinking over things during this period of time and I suddenly thought of something... that I perhaps should not even be thinking of and I don’t know if I should even ask Royal Father about it.”

“Heh heh, there’s no need to hold anything back. Feel free to ask me anything,” Zhou Xuzi replied. He was the real reason for everything that had befallen Zhou Qingchen. Due to the pain in his heart and the deep guilt he felt toward him, he was far warmer to Zhou Qingchen than he ever had been.

“This child wants to ask...” Zhou Qingchen still hesitated even after he had started to speak. But upon seeing his father’s warm and gentle gaze, he finally managed to ask the question. “Is darkness profound energy truly so unforgivable and impermissible?”

“Oh?” Zhou Xuzi started to frown, but he still kept a warm smile on his face as he replied, “Darkness profound energy is a symbol of negative energy. If darkness profound energy disappears from this world, it will also mean there will no longer be any sinful powers existing in this world. This is especially true for those of us who have inherited the legacy of the gods, exterminating all of the darkness profound energy in the universe is a duty that has been passed down from generation to generation. A duty so ingrained that nothing need be said about it.”

“Why did you suddenly ask such a question?”

Ever since Zhou Qingchen had started cultivating the profound way, he had heard Zhou Xuzi and many other people say these exact words to him countless times. In the past, he had never once doubted them. Because to him, it had simply been common sense, just like how water and fire could not mix.

As he looked into his father’s eyes, he finally verbalized the truest doubt that had formed in his heart. “The devils who possess darkness profound energy will have their humanity eradicated by it. They will become cruel, bloodthirsty, and violent. They will not hesitate to do anything, commit any crime for

their own gain... Darkness profound energy is a heresy in this universe and as profound practitioners of the God Realm, we must do our very best to destroy it, no matter whether it exists in the form of devil people, devil beasts, or devil spirits.”

“Ever since I’ve become a devil, I’ve always been terrified that my humanity would be slowly eroded by the darkness profound energy within me, that I’d become a heartless and inhumane monster.”

Zhou Xuzi, “...”

He lifted both of his hands and as profound energy circulated within his body, a layer of black energy slowly appeared over his palms. His fingers did not tremble and his eyes and voice remained calm. “It’s already been more than seven months and the darkness profound energy in my body has been rioting less and less frequently. My body has already completely adapted to its existence and compared to what it was like initially, I have now become a true devil person.”

“But...” he slowly closed his eyes, “why is it that I am not degenerating into some kind of beast? My sense of rationality, my sense of right and wrong still clearly remain. The things that I have never been willing to do in the past, the things that I could never bring myself to do in the past, that hasn’t changed one bit. I still don’t want to do those things, I still can’t do those things.”

“The only negative change that I have truly noticed is that my mood will become violent and aggressive whenever my darkness profound energy starts to riot...”

He raised his hands even higher as the darkness profound energy covering them grew even more dense. “Royal Father, could it be that darkness profound energy isn’t that dreadful? Could it be that what we’ve always known about darkness profound energy, about devils... has been mistaken from the very start?”

“That’s enough!”

That furious rebuke robbed Zhou Xuzi’s face of all of its warmth. As the universe’s most upright god emperor, the god emperor who lived to destroy all darkness and sin, he was not able to believe or accept such words. And they had actually come from his own son, the son he had personally chosen as the successor to the throne of the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

What sort of disgraceful behavior was this!?

Zhou Xuzi, who very rarely lost his temper, was about to slap his son, his eyes flaring in anger... But the moment he saw the dark energy in Zhou Qingchen’s palm, his eyes trembled and he forcefully suppressed the rage that had welled up inside of him. Instead, he stretched out a palm and instantly dispersed the darkness energy that Zhou Qingchen had released.

“Qingchen, how could you say such a thing?” Zhou Xuzi forcefully maintained his calm expression, but his voice still trembled as he said those words. “Darkness energy is a heresy that should not exist in this world! It has ever been that way! It is the teachings of our ancestors! The way of heaven!”

As Zhou Xuzi rebuked him, the normally respectful and obedient Zhou Qingchen suddenly retreated a single step. When he started to speak again, his voice had grown far graver. “If darkness is truly a sin that cannot be tolerated, then why... why did the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor sacrifice herself and all of her kinsmen in order to save the world!?”

“Why did the Heavenly Slaughter Star God, the one who controlled the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations, expose herself to the possibility of being trapped and annihilated by making an appearance at the Wall of Primal Chaos? Why did she help to seal it?”

“Why did Yun Che, who clearly possessed darkness profound energy, face the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor all by himself in order to save this world...”

“Shut up!”

PAH!

The long sleeve of his robe flew in the air as he slapped Zhou Qingchen so hard that he sent him flying. Zhou Xuzi’s hair and beard stood on end as his entire body shook. “Qingchen, do you... do you even know what you are saying!? You’ve already gone mad! The darkness profound energy has already started to devour your reason, erode your very nature! Wake up!”

“Ke... keh, keh.” Zhou Qingchen leaned against a wall as he slowly stood up. He used a finger to wipe away the blood trickling from the corner of his lips and bent his head down low. He started to speak slowly, “A person whose mind isn’t clear will only rant and rave like a lunatic. He will speak complete nonsense and gibberish. However, what this child has just described are things that both Royal Father and I have personally witnessed, personally experienced...”

“I thought I told you to shut up!!”

Bang!

All of Zhou Xuzi’s blood rushed to his head as the profound jade beneath his feet exploded into fine powder and flew everywhere.

Zhou Qingchen’s long hair had fallen into disarray and his breathing was violent and heavy. He slowly knelt to the ground, his head deeply bowed. “This child has spoken rashly and offended you with his words... I beg Royal Father for his forgiveness.”

However, to Zhou Qingchen, these last two hundred and twenty-nine days, the darkest days of his life, had also become the period in which his mind was most clear.

It was only after having darkness within him that he truly came to understand it.

Perhaps, this was truly the most cruel aspect of Yun Che’s first act of revenge against the Eternal Heaven.

He had not only destroyed the body of their successor, but also obliterated his long-held beliefs and convictions.

Blood slowly dripped from the corner of Zhou Qingchen’s lips, and every drop that splashed against the ground stabbed at Zhou Xuzi’s heart. All of his rage soon transformed into a piercing pain. He let out a long sigh and slowly strode forward. As he tapped a finger in the air, profound light dimly flashed and the red mark on Zhou Qingchen’s face started to fade.

“Qingchen,” he slowly said, “don’t you worry, I’ve already found a way to help you recover. No matter what, no matter what price I have to pay, I’ll definitely see it through.”

“This is something that I, your father, swear to you, my most important son.”

“This child... believes Royal Father,” Zhou Qingchen replied softly. However, his head still remained bowed under his dishevelled hair and he did not raise it up to look at him.

Zhou Xuzi turned around and left the room. His footsteps did not make a single sound, but he felt as if they were as heavy as a mountain.

As he walked through the layers of barriers, Zhou Xuzi did not leave the Eternal Heaven Tower. Instead, he went to the lowest floor of the tower, the most secret place in the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

That was where the Eternal Heaven Pearl lay.

It was just that his footsteps were erratic. At times, they were heavy and plodding, and at other times, they were light and quick.

“The teachings of our ancestors... the will of the Eternal Heaven... something I’ve pursued all of my life... something I’ve devoted half of my life to... How could it be wrong, how could it be wrong...” he mumbled over and over again.

During this period of time, he had come to consult the spirit of the Eternal Heaven Pearl in hopes that he could find a way to save Zhou Qingchen amongst its ancient memories. But he received the same reply every single time, and it was that “if Yun Che could forcibly inject it into his body, then he will also be able to purge it from his body... and that is the only possible way.”

Just as he wanted to step into the forbidden area where the Eternal Heaven Pearl lay, a sound transmission suddenly rang in his mind.

This sound transmission caused him to come to a sudden halt. His body violently trembled as he spun on his heel and swiftly flew out of the tower.

When he left the Eternal Heaven Tower, Honorable Tai Yu was already waiting for him in the main hall. Zhou Xuzi landed in front of him and spoke in a grave voice, “Tai Yu, is what you’re saying true!?”

“I am absolutely sure.” Honorable Tai Yu slowly raised his head. Given his position, if he was not absolutely sure, even if he could say it with ninety-nine percent certainty, he still would not use those four words.

“Do you have any details?” Zhou Xuzi said.

Honorable Tai Yu shook his head, “It’s hard to find any details. Yun Che has indeed fallen into the hands of the Soul Stealing Realm’s Devil Queen and the Yama Realm has even tried to get him from them before.”

“The Yama Realm?” Zhou Xuzi gave a slight frown.

“Mn.” Honorable Tai Yu said, “Even though Yun Che possesses darkness profound energy, he is still viewed as someone from the Eastern Divine Region by the people of the Northern Divine Region. Due to the ancient grudges and enmity that exists between both realms, they would naturally view him as a heresy to be snuffed out once they discovered his identity.”

“It is also possible that the king realms of the Northern Divine Region have heard about his Heretic God inheritance and the Sky Poison Pearl. Yun Che definitely won’t have a good time in the Northern Divine Region once his identity has been exposed.”

“The reason he even appeared in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning in the first place was probably because his identity had been exposed. He fled to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning to hide from the people trying to hunt him down, but after he harmed Qingchen and exposed his whereabouts, he was forced to flee back to the Northern Divine Region once more.”

“Also, before he fell into the Devil Queen’s hands, it seems like he had already deeply offended her. As for the Yama Realm, it seems like he killed one of their important personages. Given the circumstances at hand, it seems like Yun Che is still surrounded by enemies, even though he’s grown bizarrely strong.”

No one would be surprised by this news if they heard it. No matter whether it was due to Yun Che’s identity or the secrets that he possessed.

Zhou Xuzi fell into his thoughts for a brief moment before saying, “Approximately when did this occur?”

“It should be about a month ago,” Honorable Tai Yu replied. After that, he frowned and said, “The Devil Queen clearly made an agreement with us at first. However, after she obtained him, she did not do anything for an entire month. It might very well be that she has no intention of using Yun Che to broker a ‘deal’ after she captured him. After all, how could she let go of the secrets that Yun Che possesses!?”

“No,” Zhou Xuzi replied as he slowly shook his head. “A secret, in the end, is still a secret. It cannot be seen or perceived. However, the bargaining chip I’ve laid on the table is one that she cannot resist. What’s more, my only condition is for her to force Yun Che to expel the darkness in Zhou Qingchen’s body and I’ve sworn that I won’t suddenly try to kill him or take him back to the Eastern Divine Region... So she has even less reason to refuse.”

“She must have been confident that I would receive this news sooner or later. She is waiting for me to contact her first.”

Honorable Tai Yu gave a soft sigh. He knew that even if Zhou Xuzi was completely put on the back foot, he would still definitely bend to her demands.

“The queen of those devils is cunning and rapacious. The more anxious I seem, the higher a price she will demand... However, Qingchen can’t afford to wait. The darkness has already started to eat away at his mind. He’s slowly being transformed by it, day by day. If we wait too long, I fear that he might reach the point of no return. Ai.” Zhou Xuzi looked completely exhausted. “However, the good thing is that she truly managed to capture Yun Che.”

Honorable Tai Yu looked at Zhou Xuzi before saying, “However, it looks like my lord does not seem to be too worried about this deal.”

Zhou Xuzi stared into the space in front of him as he slowly said, “That bargaining chip is something that is impossible for her to reject. In fact, it is impossible... for anyone to reject.”

Honorable Tai Yu’s brow deeply furrowed as he asked, “My lord, what bargaining chip are you going to use exactly?”

But the moment those words left his mouth, he suddenly thought of something and his expression immediately changed. He stuttered in alarm, "Could it... Could it be..."

Zhou Xuzi closed his eyes, but he did not say anything else.

A look of shock froze on Honorable Tai Yu's face and it took a long time for him to regain his composure. He let out a long and drawn-out sigh before he said, "My lord has devoted half of his life to the Eternal Heaven and the world. You are finally living for yourself just this once."

Zhou Xuzi slowly said, "After this matter is over, I will no longer be the Eternal Heaven's emperor so Qingchen will have to pay back this debt himself."

"Tai Yu... thank you for those words," he said in a heartfelt voice. Even though Honorable Tai Yu had just said those short few words, they had greatly comforted his heart and soul.

Honorable Tai Yu chuckled as he shook his head. "There's no need for such words between us brothers. There's just one thing I'm worried about. That Devil Queen is not only supremely cunning, her soul power is also dreadful and bizarre. We already experienced it once. You must be careful."

"Don't worry," Zhou Xuzi said. "If I did not make thorough preparations first, how would I dare to step inside the borders of the Northern Region. Before this happens, the most important matter is how I can hide my actions and cover my tracks... Tai Yu, I'll have to leave that part to you."

"Do not worry my lord."

Tai Yu left after he withdrew his sound isolation barrier. As far as he could recall, this was the first time Zhou Xuzi had truly acted selfishly since he had become emperor.

And perhaps only Zhou Qingchen could make him behave in such a manner.

[Chapter 1648 - Day of the Meeting](#)

Northern Divine Region, Soul Stealing Realm.

Yun Che impassively stood in the middle of the Soul Stealing Realm's sacred region. He stretched out an arm, his palm facing a bewitchingly beautiful man who was seated on the ground with his eyes closed.

This was the Spirit Lord of the Soul Stealing Realm's twenty-seven Soul Spirits, Sheng Shiyan.

A few dozen people were standing around him in silence. If anyone were to see who these people were, they would be completely flabbergasted.

Devil Queen Chi Wuyao, the Nine Witches, and the twenty-seven Soul Spirits!

All of the thirty-seven core members of the Soul Stealing Realm were gathered in this place, and that included the Devil Queen herself! Not a single one of them was absent.

The twenty-seven Soul Spirits were each in charge of their own star region and the Nine Witches were seldom in the realm. It was an exceedingly rare thing for all of them to gather in one place. In fact, it was an event that might not even happen once a millennium.

Yun Che withdrew his arm and after the black light had faded, the dark refinement of the last Soul Spirit had been perfectly completed.

Sheng Shiyao opened his eyes and started to circulate his profound energy. Even though he had long ago witnessed the rebirth of each and every Soul Spirit, all of his blood started to churn with excitement when he sensed the dream-like change that had occurred in his body.

He did not rise to his feet. Instead, he got on his knees and gave Yun Che a heavy bow. After that, he spoke with great emotion in his voice, "This Shiyao thanks Young Master Yun for this heavenly blessing... At first, this Shiyao had eyes but could not see and I rudely offended you. Young Master Yun may deal with me as he pleases, this Shiyao will never utter a single word of complaint."

He had achieved perfect compatibility with the darkness profound energy in his body. This was a pinnacle of darkness that none of the previous god emperors of the Northern Divine Region had ever reached.

Even the two words "heavenly blessing" were not enough to describe such a gift.

This was a genuine divine miracle, yet Yun Che seemed to be able to perform it with no effort at all... In fact, he had even mass-produced this miracle!

When any of them even began to ponder this notion, they realized that the emotion they felt the most was not admiration or reverence... It was a fear so strong that it sent shudders through their bodies.

Today, no matter whether it was the Witches or the Soul Spirits, not a single one of them were puzzled by the Devil Queen's attitude towards Yun Che any longer.

If the Burning Moon God Realm or the Yama Realm knew about this ability of Yun Che's, they would come to the Soul Stealing Realm begging on their knees.

Yun Che made no reaction as he turned around.

To him, everything in the Soul Stealing Realm was nothing more than a tool. He would use them and they would use him. It was as simple as that and he felt absolutely nothing towards them. All the effort he was making today was for his own future benefit... In fact, he expected to get a payoff worth several times the effort he put in.

Now, every single one of the Nine Witches and twenty-seven Soul Spirits had undergone this refinement and had achieved their rebirth of darkness.

In other words, it was only now that all of them had become true devil people of darkness.

"The three thousand and six hundred Soul Attendants are up next," Yun Che said in a bored voice. It was as if he was talking about a simple, every-day affair.

But those words were so shocking that every single one of the twenty-seven Soul Spirits nearly fell to their knees.

Even to the Soul Spirits of the Soul Stealing Realm who possessed the power of a Divine Master, obtaining this sort of blessing was something they could only dream of. But, to think... he actually even wanted to bestow this gift on all of the Soul Attendants!?

This was madness... This was madness, right?

What sort of monster was this man called Yun Che!? Was he the reincarnation of one of the primordial Devil Gods!?

Chi Wuyao said, "All of the Soul Attendants have already started to gather. You may begin tomorrow."

"Master," Qing Ying suddenly said, "There are three thousand and six hundred Soul Attendants after all. If all of them were to gather in one place, it's possible that our actions will be quickly exposed."

"Isn't it better if we are exposed?" Chi Wuyao said with a faint smile on her face.

"Ah?" Qing Ying could not comprehend the Devil Queen's words and a puzzled expression crossed her face.

"However," Chi Wuyao continued as her tone changed once more, "before we settle that matter, it is indeed better to hide it for the time being. Just to prevent any needless complications."

"Before we meet the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, all Soul Attendants are to be confined to the sacred region so you won't need to worry about it." She had said those words mainly for Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er's benefit, but at the same time, she was also giving a warning to the twenty-seven Soul Spirits, the ones who commanded the Soul Attendants.

"Devil Queen, please do not worry," Sheng Shiyan replied solemnly. "Without the Devil Queen's command, if even half a word of this is breathed outside, I, Sheng Shiyan, will kill myself to atone for my crimes."

"Very good," Chi Wuyao said. "From tomorrow onward, send a hundred people here every day. We will complete the rebirth of all of the Soul Attendants within a month."

"Dispatching people is a small matter, but I'm sure that all of you are aware of the meaning that lies behind this action... This matter concerns far more than the fate of our Soul Stealing Realm!"

Chi Wuyao's tone was not heavy at all, but it sent a violent shudder through the hearts of all the Soul Spirits.

Even after they had left, torrents of emotion were still crashing about in their hearts like tidal waves.

After all of the twenty-seven Soul Spirits had received their orders and left, Ye Li stepped forward and said, "Master, we sisters and the rest of the Soul Spirits have achieved perfect compatibility with the darkness. Only Master is left."

Just as Ye Li had finished speaking, a cold and apathetic voice rang in the air. "She doesn't need it."

"...?" Ye Li was stunned by that revelation and the rest of the Witches were also taken aback.

Qianye Ying'er suddenly glanced to the side, her elegant eyebrows knitting together slightly.

A small smile crossed Chi Wuyao's face, but she ignored their reactions and said, "Yun Che, the three years that you have set is too short a period of time for this queen's beloved children. They won't be able to grow much within this period of time."

“However, this queen believes that you definitely have a way to swiftly quicken their growth, right?”

Her eyebrows arched wickedly as she shot Yun Che an exceedingly amorous and seductive glance.

“Of course there is.” The one who replied was not Yun Che, it was Qianye Ying’er. Her eyes narrowed wickedly as she said, “Do you want to hear it?”

All of the Witches turned their gazes towards Qianye Ying’er in anticipation. Because all of the things that they had thought were impossible had been realized by Yun Che, they now believed that he could make anything a reality.

After all, three years ago, Qianye Ying’er had merely been a half-crippled Divine Sovereign, but now, she could stand toe to toe with Fourth Witch Yao Die.

However, Chi Wuyao realized what “method” she was talking about nearly instantly. She laughed alluringly as her devilish voice grew cottony, “How about we forget it. That’s a ‘method’ that belongs solely to you. How can this queen’s children be so impolite as to share it with you?”

“Oh no, I actually welcome it very much.” Qianye Ying’er matched Chi Wuyao’s beautiful smile with one of her own. “It’d be best if all nine of them did it together, so I can take a good long look at the true beauty of the Soul Stealing Realm’s Nine Witches. It’ll definitely be a feast for the eyes.”

“???” The Nine Witches exchanged glances but all of them were completely mystified by this exchange of words. It was as if they had suddenly been pulled into a misty labyrinth.

Chi Wuyao’s beautiful eyes narrowed and she appeared both intrigued and a little shocked at Qianye Ying’er’s reaction. However, she seemed to realize something after that as her lips curved in a bewitching and seductive arc. “Oh, so that’s how it is. Amusing... How truly amusing. A Goddess whose wings have been clipped. How can she tolerate seeing other people parade around with their wings beautiful and unbroken?”

“What is Master talking about?” Yu Wu cautiously sent out a sound transmission.

“I don’t know.” Chanyi shook her head. “It’s probably... about the fact that Yun Qianying’s profound strength was crippled before. So Master must have been prodding at the dark shadow that this event left in her heart?”

“Ah?” Yu Wu grew even more confused.

“...” Qianye Ying’er’s heart suddenly tightened as she lightly clenched her white teeth. She did not say anything, but the gaze she directed at Chi Wuyao now carried a dangerous coldness.

“Tell all nine of them to follow me,” Yun Che suddenly said.

Chi Wuyao and Qianye Ying’er’s silent duel was forcefully interrupted by those words. Chi Wuyao turned toward Yun Che, her lips slightly parted. She twisted her face into an exaggerated look of shock and astonishment “It can’t be that you’re truly going to help all of them... raise... their... cultivation... are you?”

“If you take all nine of them at once, aren’t you afraid that you won’t... be able to last?”

Yun Che glared at her as he said, "I do have a method to help them grow quickly. But it isn't here or now."

"Oh?" Shock appeared in Chi Wuyao's eyes as her gaze turned thoughtful.

"Aren't you very interested in 'Calamity and Misfortune'?" Yun Che started speaking slowly, every word of his was dark and heavy. "So for this very first time, we'll let them be the medium for this darkness!"

This was not a question, it was a pronouncement.

The Calamity and Misfortune Formation, the darkness devil formation that was recorded in the middle part of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness. However, even to this day, Yun Che still had no confidence in being able to freely control it. As a result, he had never tried to use it on Qianye Ying'er as he could not guarantee her safety in the process.

This was the first time he had decided to use it, and this time, he would test it using the bodies of the Nine Witches.

The Heretic God Arts boosted the body of its user, allowing its user to instantly break through his limits without any restraint, allowing him to display unfathomable power.

Whereas the Eternal Calamity of Darkness was mainly focused on controlling other people... and this included all forms of darkness.

As powers on the same level, in a world without True Gods, they were well and truly heaven-defying powers in their own domains.

From Qianye Ying'er's response, it was clear that even she did not know about the existence of "Calamity and Misfortune". This made it obvious that Yun Che had never used it on her before. Given Chi Wuyao's cunning and intelligence, how could she not realize that Yun Che was planning to use the Nine Witches... the nine most important people at her side, to conduct an experiment.

However, she did not refuse. Instead, a strange black light flashed in her eyes. Other than Yun Che, she was the only other person in the world who truly understood what the words "Calamity and Misfortune" meant.

The miraculous power that had perfected the Witches' compatibility with the darkness was only one of the basic powers of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

However, Calamity and Misfortune was one of its intermediate powers, so one could well imagine just how powerful it was.

"Fine," Chi Wuyao said in a cheery voice. "Since you've shown such interest, how can this queen bear to reject you?"

She turned towards her Nine Witches and said, "From today onward, Yun Che's words are the same as this queen's words. All of you must obey him as you would me."

When she said those words, everyone, including Yun Che, was so shocked that they froze in place.

Even though she had just uttered that short and simple line, she had undoubtedly handed the control of the entire Soul Stealing Realm over to Yun Che.

Understanding a person was an extremely difficult thing to do, and trusting a person was something even harder than that. Both Yun Che, whose life had been ruined by the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, and Qianye Ying'er, who had been abandoned by the Brahma Heaven God Emperor, were keenly aware of this point.

As for the unfathomable and enigmatic Chi Wuyao, she was always on her guard when it came to dealing with other people.

She was the last person they would expect to make a decision that was so bold that it nearly seemed crazy.

"Oh? Do you have any questions?" Chi Wuyao asked with a faint smile on her face.

"No, we will obey Master's command." Jie Xin and Jie Ling were the first to speak.

"But... what exactly is this Calamity and Misfortune?" Ye Li asked, her expression grave and serious.

"You'll find out very soon," Chi Wuyao said with a mysterious smile on her face. "The day you can freely control that power is also the day... that we will be able to set foot in the Burning Moon Realm and the Yama Realm."

Chi Wuyao's words instantly dispelled all of the doubts and strange thoughts in the Witches' hearts, leaving behind only a resolute determination.

———

Time flowed swiftly and a hundred days passed in the blink of an eye.

No one was aware of how the negotiations between Chi Wuyao and Zhou Xuzi went, but in the end, the date that was set was the date that Chi Wuyao had initially chosen, the day that was "a hundred days later".

Her prediction had been so accurate that it sent chills down their spines.

Once it passed an hour after midnight, Yun Che, who had been taking a short rest, opened his eyes. Wild black light shook in his eyes and it took him several breaths to make it slowly disappear.

Today was the day that Chi Wuyao and Zhou Xuzi were going to make their deal.

If Yun Wuxin was still alive, today would have been her eighteenth birthday.

"Let's go," Qianye Ying'er, who was standing by his side, said.

Yun Che rose to his feet and slowly strode forward. A dim dark energy curled around his feet with every step he took.

He pushed the hall doors open and found Chi Wuyao standing there. She had already been there for some time. As she saw the two people emerging, she turned her bewitching body around. "Let's go. This

queen has been waiting for the upcoming spectacle for far too long. I wonder just how much that Zhou Xuzi has grown over the last ten thousand years.”

A dark profound ark that was over three hundred meters long and wide descended to the ground. Great Witch Jie Xin and Jie Ling, and Seventh Witch Hua Jin were already waiting for them in the profound ark. It seemed like they were also accompanying them on this trip.

The profound ark took off and flew toward the south. It was an extremely long journey from here to the borders of the Northern Divine Region, but the profound ark was flying at a moderate speed. After all, the one who was truly anxious was Zhou Xuzi.

Yun Che stood at the stern of the profound ark as he coldly surveyed the vast and boundless world of darkness before him. He had not uttered a single word during their journey, and his hands were knotted into tight fists that had not been relaxed even once.

Eternal Heaven God Emperor Zhou Xuzi...

The person who had destroyed everything that he had, the person who had plunged him into this cruel and pain-filled nightmare... After three years, he was finally going to see him again.

It was clearly too early, it was clearly not the best opportunity they could take, but he could no longer hold himself back, could no longer control his own emotions!

[Chapter 1649 - Devil Emperor's Soul](#)

Qianye Ying'er was standing on the other side of the profound ark. She was staring at a different but equally vast star region of darkness.

Chi Wuyao paused for a moment when she walked over and saw Qianye Ying'er.

Her golden hair and the belt of her skirt were fluttering slightly in midair. The secular world often used the idiom “as beautiful as a painting” to praise beautiful women, but even the side view of this particular woman could never be captured or described by something so simple.

The Brahma Monarch Goddess was a perfect creation the heavens spent all their energy and creativity on. But today, it had become the private tool of a devil of vengeance... there was probably no one who wouldn't feel saddened by this.

“Normally, you wouldn't move three feet away from him when this queen is around. But today, you're standing over a hundred feet away from him. What a rare sight,” Chi Wuyao mocked lazily.

Qianye Ying'er snorted coldly in response. “His mood is at its worst every year today. I can't be bothered to provoke him at this time.”

She shot Chi Wuyao a sideways glance. “It doesn't look like you're worried that this operation of yours will fail. Our opponent is the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, isn't it?”

“This queen never underestimates her opponent.” Chi Wuyao smiled. “Herself, even less so. Plus, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor is the reason I'm this confident.”

“You're talking about his bargaining chip.”

“That’s right.” Chi Wuyao stroked a hand down her hair, and the black fog that covered her face permanently thinned just enough to reveal the outline of a dreamy countenance. “In his opinion, his bargaining chip is something neither this queen nor anyone else could ever turn down.”

“To be honest, this queen is still surprised that he would give away something this valuable.”

Qianye Ying’er sneered. “Heh. Excluding the matter of Zhou Qingchen, he’s breaking a terrible taboo just by visiting the Northern Divine Region to deal with you. He has every reason to want this deal to succeed the first time, so I’m not going to be surprised no matter what he offers.”

Chi Wuyao looked at her and let out an exclamation of surprise. “You’re not going to ask me what he offered me?”

“If you want to talk about it, then talk.” Qianye Ying’er said expressionlessly without looking at the Devil Queen. There was no way she was going to play Chi Wuyao’s game.

The Devil Queen’s lips curled into a smile. “Aiyah, what a disobedient child.”

“If you want an ‘obedient child’ to play with, you should seek out your boy toy.” Qianye Ying’er taunted.

“Boy toy? Hehehehe...” Chi Wuyao burst into a giggle. “Back when the Clear Sky God Realm was still around, most of its power was inherited by men. But during my reign, all of its inheritors are women.”

“Moreover, do you know what this queen values the most when selecting her Witches? Their looks. To me, it weighs more than any talent or background.”

Qianye Ying’er: “...”

“Every one of my Witches’ beauty is one in a billion. From Jie Xin to Chanyi, the first all the way to the ninth, all of them had to go through a painstaking selection process. Not even the Burning Moon God Emperor’s favorite concubine can hold a candle to my Witches.”

“Can you guess the reason I went through all this?”

“...” A wave of discomfort suddenly came over Qianye Ying’er. Frowning unconsciously, she asked, “What are you trying to say?”

“What this queen is trying to say is...”

Chi Wuyao suddenly sounded a lot closer, so Qianye Ying’er subconsciously glanced sideways to see what the former was doing. She was shocked to discover that the Devil Queen’s face was mere inches away from hers, so close that she could even feel her warm breath brushing against her lips. There seemed to be stars shooting across the pupils behind the black fog. “If you ever get tired of men, you may find women more to your liking one day.”

Qianye Ying’er jumped back a step and watched Chi Wuyao with apprehension. Every bone in her body was melting against her will.

“Hahahaha!” Chi Wuyao laughed loudly as she turned away.

The next person she went to meet was Yun Che.

A storm of darkness blew persistently against his body, but Yun Che's mind remained as calm as a pool of dead water. He didn't turn around when he sensed Chi Wuyao approaching him from behind.

"What is the anomaly I sense in your soul!?" he asked suddenly.

Chi Wuyao stopped only when she was standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Yun Che. Parting her lips slightly in a coquettish manner, she said, "This queen is honestly surprised you managed to keep yourself from asking for this long."

They were incredibly close to each other, so the devilish voice reached all the way to the core of his soul.

Had he been another man, had he been his old self, he doubted he would be able to remain standing.

"Will you answer the question, or not?" Yun Che asked coldly.

"If it's your question, then sure, I will." Chi Wuyao smiled cutely at him. Now that she was alone with Yun Che, she acted more like a succubus than the Devil Queen.

Yun Che: "..."

"You have probably figured it out yourself. After all, you're the only one who have the power to detect it," Chi Wuyao said. "As you suspect, I have a certain soul inside of me. But unlike you, I was not so lucky as to obtain a whole soul. It's so small you almost can't see it. A long time ago, this soul belonged to..."

"The Nirvana Devil Emperor."

Yun Che frowned visibly at the reveal. "I thought so."

The Nirvana Devil Emperor was one of the four ancient Devil Emperors. They were at the same level as the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor.

Back at Soul Sky, when Chi Wuyao had addressed the three Yama Devils personally, her soul aura had actually caused a bit of fear in his Dragon God Soul.

The Primordial Azure Dragon was the emperor of dragons. Back in those days, it was a class above almost any True God.

Therefore, the soul that could strike fear in the soul of the Dragon God had to be a class above its own. It had to be a Creation God's soul or a Devil Emperor's soul!

Due to Chi Wuyao's own admission, he now knew that she possessed a sliver of a Devil Emperor's soul!

Who would've thought that there were other relics of the past besides the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor that survived to this day?

It might be just the wisp of a soul, but it was still the power of a Devil Emperor!

No wonder she was able to climb all the way to the impossible top despite being a common woman at the start. No wonder she was able to leave a lasting shadow in Qianye Fantian and Zhou Xuzi's hearts even though it had been tens of thousands of years since they clashed against one another.

It might even be the source of her terrifying insight and intelligence.

“You are the only one who knows this besides myself.” Chi Wuyao smiled lightly. “You are the only one in this world I cannot look down on from above. In fact, what I possess is almost worthless compared to yours. It would be foolish to try to hide this from you.”

“Hmph. There’s no one in the world who has the right to look down on a devil emperor’s soul!” Yun Che said.

But Chi Wuyao shook her head and said quietly, “What you have inherited is the Creation God’s power, the Heretic God’s profound veins, the Devil Emperor’s power, and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor’s origin blood. You have even cultivated their unique profound arts.”

“But the devil emperor’s soul in me is as small as a grain of sand. Not only is it completely incomparable to what you got, the most it can do...” She looked at Yun Che strangely. “...is to play a trick or two once in a while.”

“Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been trapped in this prison.”

Yun Che suddenly looked at her with a cold expression. “How did you hear about the Heretic God’s Profound Veins?”

At the edge of the Primal Chaos, he had revealed his secret in front of everyone to appease the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor. However, he only said that he had the Heretic God’s origin power. He never revealed the fact that he had the Heretic God’s Profound Veins.

Mu Xuanyin had warned him more than once to keep the Heretic God’s Profound Veins a secret even if he had no choice but to reveal his power one day. Origin power, especially a Creation God’s origin power seemed impossible to rob, so it wasn’t the worst thing in the world to reveal it. But a complete set of profound veins was a different story. Even if it was impossible to take them away from Yun Che, some would be willing to try anyway.

Besides his close friends and family, he never revealed the fact that he had the Heretic God’s Profound Veins to anyone in the Eastern Divine Region. That was why he could hardly believe his ears when Chi Wuyao spoke like it was an open secret.

“...” Chi Wuyao was actually caught off guard for a second. Then, she parted her lips slightly and whispered, “Everyone likes to know a secret, and secrets are a woman’s greatest asset. Why don’t you take a guess and see if I would be willing to part with one of mine for you?”

“Just so you know, the same rule applies to men as well.”

Rip!

An air current suddenly cut apart the space between Chi Wuyao and Yun Che. It also cut off the connection between their eyes completely.

Qianye Ying’er had appeared between the duo like a ghost to glare at Chi Wuyao frigidly. “If you like to reveal your secrets so much, you can make your women beg for it to your heart’s content! But Yun Che and I are not. Interested. In. Playing. Your. Games!”

Chi Wuyao withdrew her gaze and looked away with a sorrowful expression. She sighed. "That's true. It's been several months since you've come to the sacred region, but neither of you tried to catch a glimpse of my true appearance even once. Your heartlessness is saddening indeed."

"Heh." Qianye Ying'er sneered at her. "Chi Wuyao, feel free to play your cheap tricks on those lowly men all you want, but don't think for a second that it will work on Yun Che. You will only bring shame to yourself!"

"Also, don't say I didn't warn you." Qianye Ying'er's gaze and voice turned even colder. "But since the first day of our cooperation, we already told you not to entertain any foolish thoughts. You won't want enemies like Yun Che and I!"

With her back facing Qianye Ying'er, an enigmatic smile crossed Chi Wuyao's lips. "What a sensitive girl. You are positively growing on me, Yun Qianying."

Qianye Ying'er: "... !?"

The darkness profound ark started slowing down at this moment. Hua Jin landed soundlessly next to her master and said, "Master, we'll be arriving in another hour. Would you like Hua Jin to scout ahead?"

"It's fine," Chi Wuyao said. "Our 'friend' is the one who should worry about this meeting going awry, not us."

"Okay. Hua Jin understands."

The Witch disappeared, and the darkness profound ark returned to its normal speed. They were rapidly approaching the border of the Northern Divine Region.

Not once did Chi Wuyao worry over the fact that her movement might be seen by others at all.

"We are one hour away from our destination." Chi Wuyao turned around to look at Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er. "Do you want me to capture you personally, or do you want to do it yourself?"

Yun Che turned away and punched himself in the solar plexus right after she was finished speaking.

Bang!

The entire ship was shuddering from the impact.

Wounds and blood spread across Yun Che's body wantonly like tree roots, drenching half his black clothes in just the blink of an eye. He was bleeding from all orifices, and blood was positively gushing out of the corner of his lips.

"You..." Qianye Ying'er took half a step forward before she forced herself to stop.

A flash of darkness later, the blood turned dry and dark. It looked like it was several years old at least.

"You didn't need to go this far." Chi Wuyao looked away. "It's highly unlikely that Zhou Xuzi would take anyone with him besides Zhou Qingchen. At most, he will bring his greatest Guardian, Tai Yu."

"If he came alone, then all the better."

“This is why this queen brought Jie Xin and Jie Ling today. Although there’s nothing we can do to Zhou Xuzi and Taiyu, brute-forcing our way through and killing Zhou Qingchen shouldn’t be a problem at all... are you sure you want to do this yourself?”

“...” Yun Che didn’t give her a reply. He walked past Chi Wuyao and stood at the forefront of the profound ark, hateful droplets of blood dripping through his clenched fists non-stop.

Qianye Ying’er walked next to Chi Wuyao and taunted her. “I didn’t think you would ask something that stupid. And you call yourself the Devil Queen?”

Chi Wuyao smiled back. “Plenty of men like intelligent women, but no one likes a woman who’s too intelligent for her own good. Acting foolish once in a while makes it easier to win a man’s heart... what do you think?”

“Heh, so this is how the Northern Devil Queen slept her way to the top. Very enlightening. But I can understand why it worked for you... after all, the men of the Northern Divine Region are a bunch of trash who are satisfied with being trapped in a prison.”

Qianye Ying’er retorted curtly and mercilessly before turning away... but for some reason, she couldn’t forget what Chi Wuyao had just said.

[Chapter 1650 - The Contest of Two Emperors](#)

The border of the Northern Divine Region.

This place was the closest region of darkness in the Northern Divine Region to the Eastern Divine Region. Because it was so close to the Eastern Divine Region, the aura of darkness in this place was exceptionally thin. There were no devil people within a full five hundred kilometers of this area and even devil beasts were an exceedingly rare sight.

On the other side of the border, the closest star region to the Northern Divine Region was the star region where the Snow Song Realm lay.

Zhou Xuzi was standing outside the border of the Northern Divine Region and peered into the land of darkness that was just within reach. Zhou Qingchen was standing beside him and he wore a bleak and gloomy expression on his face.

The hope of his salvation seemed to be at hand, but he did not seem too excited or nervous about the whole thing.

Of course, in the eyes of Zhou Xuzi and Honorable Tai Yu, this was undoubtedly due to the influence of darkness on Zhou Qingchen’s mind.

Ten millennia ago, Zhou Xuzi and Qianye Fantian had taken Chi Wuyao’s bait and chased her into this land of darkness. It created such a huge commotion that it accidentally drew in Snow Song Realm King Mu Xuanyin, who had just entered the Divine Master Realm.

At that time, he had stepped into darkness to chase after the Devil Queen, so even if the world knew, he had nothing to hide.

But today...

“My lord, let us act,” Honorable Tai Yu said. “I will stay behind and guard this area. I won’t let anyone draw near to this place or detect anything. If anything happens on the other side, I will immediately rush over. You don’t need to worry.”

Zhou Xuzi and Tai Yu; one was the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, and the other was the leader of the Eternal Heaven Guardians. The two most important people in the Eternal Heaven God Realm were preparing to conduct the most taboo of transactions and they were painstakingly hiding it from the rest of the world.

Tai Yu took a deep look at Zhou Qingchen before he gave a soft sigh and sent him a sound transmission. “Qingchen, your father betrayed his principles for the sake of his beliefs once before by betraying his promise to Yun Che. The guilt and the pain he felt from doing such a thing nearly destroyed him. But today, he is even willing to cast aside his beliefs for a short while, just to save you.”

“If you do get saved, you must definitely become the greatest and most magnanimous Eternal Heaven God Emperor in the future. That is the only way you will be able to live up to your father’s sacrifice and painstaking effort to save you.”

Zhou Qingchen lifted his head and shut his eyes, his body gently trembling.

In Tai Yu’s eyes, Zhou Qingchen was having a hard time controlling his emotions because he had been moved by his father’s sacrifice. However, he was unaware that the thoughts reverberating in Zhou Qingchen’s heart were the exact opposite of what he believed them to be.

If everything had been wrong from the start...

If their beliefs and convictions had been distorted in the first place...

Who was the true savior of the world... Who was the one who had truly done a wicked thing... Who had truly created this entire mess... Who was the one who truly could not be forgiven...

Why did you let me see the darkness so clearly...

Why couldn’t you have allowed me to continue to be blinded by the light, allowed me to remain ignorant and delusional...

Yun Che, you’ve succeeded in taking your revenge.

You did not kill me, but you made me... so deeply regret the way I have lived, made me so deeply regret that I am... actually the Eternal Heaven God Emperor’s son.

To think that the halo of light I used to look up to, and the glory that I used to take pride in, were actually things that were completely mired and twisted up in a million years of sin and filth.

How ridiculous... How ridiculous all of this is!

“Qingchen let us be off.” When he looked at Zhou Qingchen, the dark haze that covered Zhou Xuzi’s face disappeared. He gave him a warm and gentle smile as he said, “Don’t worry, if I didn’t have enough confidence, your father would not bring you to this place. Once this day has passed, everything will be over.”

“Mn.” Zhou Qingchen nodded his head. After that, he followed after Zhou Xuzi and walked toward the land of darkness in front of him.

The darkness profound ark finally came to a halt.

Yun Che was the first to get off the profound ark, but he did not take any independent action. Instead, he quietly stood where he had landed as he stared straight into the darkness in front of him. He remained motionless for a long period of time.

Given the deliberately slow speed that Chi Wuyao had been traveling at, Zhou Xuzi had definitely arrived long ago. He was somewhere in front of them, just outside of the range of his spiritual perception.

“Hua Jin,” Chi Wuyao called.

Hua Jin gave a gentle nod of her head. Her willowy body whirled lightly in the air as she silently disappeared into the darkness without leaving behind a single trace.

“Jie Xin, Jie Ling. You only have one mission. Everything else that happens is none of your concern. Do you understand?”

Chi Wuyao very rarely repeated her orders, but this time she had repeated herself to emphasize her point.

Two pairs of beautiful eyes unconsciously flitted in Yun Che’s direction. But after that, they gravely nodded their heads before flying off in two different directions and disappeared into the darkness as well.

The darkness profound ark was not stored away, but instead left hovering where it was.

Qianye Ying’er was just about to get off the profound ark, when Chi Wuyao suddenly appeared in front of her and blocked her way.

“Yun Qianying, you should stay here.”

“...The reason?” Qianye Ying’er asked icily instead of exploding in rage.

Chi Wuyao replied, “It isn’t convenient for you to participate in this event, because your very presence will very likely reveal a flaw in our plan. Allowing you to follow us here is the very furthest I can go.”

“Me? A flaw?” Qianye Ying’er looked like she had just heard a huge joke as her gaze instantly grew cold and dark. “Chi Wuyao, let me warn you one last time. Don’t try to taunt or provoke me again. Because it will be too late once I lose my patience. Even kneeling before me will be useless!”

Chi Wuyao did not seem the least bit angry. She started to slowly move forward as she looked into Qianye Ying’er’s frigid eyes, her towering bosom very nearly brushing against Qianye Ying’er’s own. “Of course, the one who used to be the Brahma Monarch Goddess will not cause us any worry. Because once she has locked onto a target, she will use all of her cunning and every method available to her to obtain it. She won’t allow anything to distract her from it, especially such a thing as emotion.”

“But is the current Yun Qianying still the Brahma Monarch Goddess she was in the past?”

“...” Chi Wuyao’s fragrant breath gently brushed against Qianye Ying’er’s lips and face. However, Qianye Ying’er did not back down this time. Her eyes grew even colder as she said, “What sort of joke are you trying to tell right now!?”

“Of course you don’t understand. Because if you truly did understand, you wouldn’t have become like this.” Chi Wuyao gave a dry chuckle. “After all, you are the Brahma Monarch Goddess in every other aspect. But in ‘a certain aspect’, you are a little chick who can’t even compare to an ordinary woman.”

Qianye Ying’er said, “You...”

“I hope that you’ll think through these two things properly,” Chi Wuyao continued. “The first thing is something that you’ve mentioned time and again. That vengeance was the reason you were willing to stain yourself with darkness and it was everything to you.”

“Perhaps it really was that way at first. But, if you think back carefully, is the thing that has occupied your heart and mind the most during this period of time still ‘vengeance’?”

“...” Qianye Ying’er’s eyes suddenly froze.

“The second thing is this. As long as it concerns a certain subject, you will speak without any thought or prudence, and you will lose your cool and all sense of propriety. This is also why this queen is forbidding you from following us. Because Yun Che regards this matter with far too much importance and desire. If it isn’t perfect, or if it’s ruined somehow... it would be such a pity.”

Qianye Ying’er stood rooted in place. She was not able to utter a single retort. Her golden eyes looked like shattered stars beneath her mask as they shook wildly.

Chi Wuyao turned around and said, “Of course, if you insist on going, this queen won’t be able to stop you either.”

Her steps were light and graceful as she slowly walked away from Qianye Ying’er.

Qianye Ying’er did not chase after them. She did not take a single step forward, not even after Chi Wuyao and Yun Che’s figures had disappeared into the distant darkness.

She was the only figure left in this empty and vacant world of darkness.

This was the first time Yun Che had completely disappeared from all of her senses since they had met in the Northern Region.

And her soul suddenly felt empty.

———

Zhou Xuze had waited a whole six hours.

However, he had not grown anxious or tried to venture any deeper into the darkness. The Northern Divine Region had been pressed into a small and pathetic cage by the other three divine regions, so now that Chi Wuyao had finally gotten this opportunity that she could only dream of, as the Devil Queen of the Northern Region, how could she let such an opportunity to vent her anger go to waste?

Finally, Zhou Xuzi started to move again as he raised his head and stretched out an arm. The boundless power of a god emperor surged up out of it and engulfed Zhou Qingchen, forming a barrier around him that could repel ten thousand mountains.

He withdrew his arm after the barrier had been formed, but a thread of energy tethered the two of them together

If it was anyone other than... him, they would not be able to think of reason for why Chi Wuyao would suddenly try to kill Zhou Qingchen. After all, to Chi Wuyao, this bargaining chip should be a trillion times more valuable than killing his son to show off her strength and vent some anger.

Unless she had gone mad.

However, he would not be caught unprepared.

Chi Wuyao sauntered toward him from inside a dense black fog. After she arrived, the already sinister and gloomy land of darkness grew even more oppressive.

Zhou Xuzi felt as if the dusky sky was being pressed down and the atmosphere turned so stifling that he could barely feel his heart beat in his chest.

Gray light was reflected in Zhou Xuzi's eye and the woman in front of him was bathed in a thin layer of black mist. However, neither his eyes or his spiritual perception could pierce that mist.

Even though her figure was hazy and her face was hidden, Zhou Xuzi had been convinced that she was the Northern Region's Devil Queen from the very first moment she appeared.

Because he would never ever forget this darkness aura, not even to the day he died.

However, his gaze immediately swiveled to the figure following along behind Chi Wuyao. Upon seeing this person, his pupils contracted slightly.

Yun Che!!

Zhou Qingchen finally lifted his head up as well.

Yun Che's figure slowly strode out of the black fog.

He was dressed in tattered black clothes and his hair was wild and disheveled. Blood covered his body, a body encased in a layer of black mist. This definitely was not his own power. It was clearly a darkness power that had originated from the Devil Queen.

His steps were plodding and heavy as he trudged through the black fog, but his body looked as hard as strong steel. His eyes were clearly a little blurry and unfocused but they still radiated a devilish malice.

The moment he saw Zhou Xuzi, Yun Che's entire body went stiff. His eyes glowed with the blood-red light of hatred as he snarled, "Old... Dog... Eternal... Heaven!!!"

Every word contained a bone-piercing hatred, filled with broken teeth and blood. He staggered a single step forward before he charged toward Zhou Xuzi like a lunatic. He looked like an evil spirit whose soul had been pierced by thousands of blades.

Chi Wuyao lightly tapped the air, causing the black mist to bear down on Yun Che and violently press him against the ground. All of his limbs violently spasmed in the air, but he was unable to stand up. The only thing he could do was let out hoarse roars of pain.

His rage, his hatred, his wounds, his blood, and the look in his eyes. All of it was real.

His profound strength and soul power had indeed been completely suppressed and sealed away by Chi Wuyao... However, he could escape from this suppression at any time.

Chi Wuyao did not even spare Yun Che a single glance as she spoke in a languid and indolent manner, "Eternal Heaven God Emperor, it's been ten thousand years. To think that you've grown so old. If this queen had known that this would happen, I would not have wasted so much effort all those years ago. In a few more years, I will have outlasted you."

"Heh heh. Someone far better than this old one will take my place long before my life withers away so I'm afraid that the Devil Queen's wishes will be hard to fulfil."

Zhou Xuzi said those words with a faint smile on his face. His hair and beard fluttered slightly in the wind, giving him the air of a true immortal.

"Is this your youngest son?" Chi Wuyao's gaze fell on Zhou Qingchen. She allowed it to linger on him as her voice suddenly became soft and cottony. "He's truly such a handsome child. Since he shares such a destiny with my devil race, why don't you let this queen keep him? I'll let him be my 'Eternal Heaven Child' and the relations between both of our realms will be repaired. Wouldn't that be perfect?"

Zhou Qingchen's entire body went limp as his eyes instantly turned colorless. A trickle of drool dribbled down the corner of his lips.

Buzz!

Zhou Qingchen felt as if millions of bells had exploded in his head as his body swayed and his eyes regained their focus. However, his entire body was already matted in cold sweat... Zhou Xuzi pressed a palm against his chest, pushing Zhou Qingchen behind him. His voice grew deeper as he said, "Devil Queen, both you and I want something. If our deal falls through, this old one guarantees that you will never be given another chance like this!"

"Aiyah." Chi Wuyao gave a soft cry of affected displeasure as she withdrew her soul power. She smiled cheerily and said, "This queen only decided to play a tiny joke after seeing how handsome this child was. As a god emperor, there's no need for you to be so petty. However..."

She took a single step forward. "This queen never imagined that you'd come by yourself... Oh, but it's no wonder, the distinguished successor to the throne of the Eternal Heaven has actually become a devil person. And you, the grand and distinguished Eternal Heaven God Emperor, actually came all the way to this dark land to beg this queen. If any of this ever got out, it would shock all of the holy men in the three divine regions so badly that their eyes would pop out. It would be such shocking news that the entire world would laugh until their jaws dropped off, so how could you possibly assemble a large task force for this? Hahahaha..."

He knew that the Devil Queen would definitely ridicule him, so Zhou Xuzi remained unmoved. He said, "Devil Queen, you really do think highly of this old one. You've even brought two other Witches along with you this time."

"The two Great Witches who are said to be the most powerful of them all." His old eyes briefly flickered. "It looks like the Devil Queen is not as calm as she seems when it comes to the object in this old one's hands."