

The Gods 1811

Chapter 1811 - Some Fish Which Slipped The Net

The Seven Star Realm, a star realm that was located near the southern border of the Southern Divine Region. It got this name from the seven stars that surrounded it.

The vast God Realm had forty thousand star realms, but thirty thousand of those star realms were lower star realms. As one of these lower star realms, the star region the Seven Star Realm was located in was very small. In fact, its profound energy aura was weaker than most of the other lower star realms.

It was very clear that it wasn't a star realm that was focused on the profound way. Such star realms were very rare in the God Realm, and most of them had their own unique qualities.

"We're here! This is the Seven Star Realm! Let's go down and take a look!"

The capital of most star realms was where the sect of their realm king was located, but the Seven Star Realm was different. Its capital was called the Seven Star Trading Region.

When they arrived in the skies above the Seven Star Trading Region, they instantly felt the hustle and bustle of the city below them. Shui Meiyin tightly grasped Yun Che's hand. She could hardly wait to visit the city.

The Seven Star Trading Region was several thousand kilometers long and there were countless shops of different sizes located within. There were small stalls laid out at every corner of the city, and they sold all sorts of things.

Weapons, profound artifacts, strange stones, mysterious plants and flowers, ancient jade, formation plates, decorations, food, clothes, profound arks, profound beasts, news... and many other items.

There were some items that were so strange that they even stunned someone like Yun Che.

"Wah! Wah!" Shui Meiyin cried out happily. Her starry eyes eagerly drank in her surroundings, but there was simply too much to take in. "It's so lively! And there are so many strange things! This is exactly how Ninety-ninth Brother described it... Wah!"

It was the ambience of a busy marketplace... It hadn't been too long since Yun Che had last experienced this, but it made him feel as if he had been transported to another time in his life. It was almost as if he had fallen into an illusion of sorts.

The Snow Song Realm, the various king realms, and god emperors, his ascension to Devil Master... Ever since he had entered the God Realm, he had moved too fast and climbed too high. As such, the paths he had walked and the positions he had ascended made him feel as if what he was seeing now was from another life.

As someone who had both been born in a place like the Glazed Light Realm and been extremely sheltered from birth, this was the first time Shui Meiyin had ever been to such a world.

"There is a similar star realm in the Eastern Divine Region. Even though it's a bit smaller than this one, it's also as rowdy and boisterous as this one," Yun Che said.

When they landed, Shui Meiyin and Yun Che used their profound energy to change their appearances. After that, they withdrew all of their profound energy and aura into their bodies. They did this because the entire God Realm knew the Devil Master's face, and the Seven Star Realm would instantly be thrown into huge disarray if he simply strolled in without any warning.

After she heard those words, Shui Meiyin immediately turned toward Yun Che and asked, "Really?"

"It's a star realm called the Darkya Realm," Yun Che replied. "That should be the lower star realm with the most merchant guilds in the Eastern Divine Region. However, the one thing that's different from this place is that the Darkya Realm also pursues the profound way very seriously."

Back when he had visited the Darkya Realm, a rather strong sect known as the Black Soul Divine Sect reigned in that place. However, Yun Che's spiritual sense had not picked up any sect that was on the same level of the Black Soul Divine Sect in the Seven Star Realm. All the sects that were scattered around the place were only of middling power.

"The Darkya Realm... I think my grandfather mentioned that star realm to me before." An inquisitive expression suddenly appeared on Shui Meiyin's face. "Big Brother Yun Che, I remember that you joined the Snow Song Realm's Divine Ice Phoenix Sect the moment you entered the God Realm, so why do you know about the Darkya Realm? It also sounds like... you've actually been there before."

As a wave of memories assaulted him, Yun Che closed his eyes and said, "I committed a huge mistake soon after I arrived in the God Realm by offending Master. I was so terrified that I chose the coward's path by running away and the star realm that I fled to happened to be the Darkya Realm."

It was also there that he met He Lin, and it was only through this chance meeting that Shen Xi had allowed him to stay in the Forbidden Realm of Samsara. It was also the reason for his connection with He Ling.

This just went to show that what a person thought as failures and disappointing acts could sometimes end up greatly influencing their destiny in a positive fashion.

"Ah?" Curiosity gleamed in Shui Meiyin's eyes. "Big Brother Yun Che... actually ran away before? Did you really do something that offensive to your master?"

"..." Yun Che shook his head and quickly changed the subject. "Where is the place that your ninety-ninth brother mentioned? It must be something special if he kept recommending it to you."

"It's just around the corner! In fact, we should be reaching there very soon."

Shui Meiyin chose not to probe Yun Che any further. She shouted in an excited voice, "That place is called the Pavilion of Delightful Dreams. Ninety-ninth Brother said that if I ever came to the Southern Divine Region to play, I definitely needed to go there and try their Rippling Heart Jade Soup."

"..." Yun Che chuckled as he gently squeezed her hand. "We crossed over such a vast star region just for a bowl of soup?"

"Hey, this is no ordinary soup, you know," Shui Meiyin retorted as her long eyelashes fluttered like butterfly wings. "Ninety-ninth Brother said that it is one of the greatest delicacies you can ever find in

this entire universe. He said that it's so delicious that it will make you feel as if your soul is leaving your body, that just a taste would make you forget all your worries and cares."

"Even though that description sounds kind of crazy, Ninety-ninth Brother has never lied to me before. However, this Heart Rippling Jade Soup needs to be consumed almost immediately after it's made. Its delicious flavor will take a huge hit if you let it sit for even fifteen minutes. So the only way to get a true taste of it is to come here and eat it yourself."

Once a profound practitioner reached the divine way, they no longer needed to consume food or water to survive. Things like food and wine were consumed purely for enjoyment.

Traveling over vast star regions just to taste a delicacy might very well be a normal thing for divine profound practitioners.

As she followed the memory fragment that Shui Yinghen gave her, Shui Meiyin scanned her surroundings. "It should be somewhere around here. Let me ask around."

"Grandfather, do you know where the Pavilion of Delightful Dreams is?"

The "grandfather" in question was a white-haired old man with a face full of wrinkles. His cultivation had just entered the Emperor Profound Realm and he was definitely no older than five hundred years of age. There were a bunch of strange rocks laid out in front of him, and it looked like he was a regular vendor over here.

Even though Shui Meiyin had concealed her appearance and never used her Stainless Divine Soul in her interaction with others, she always seemed to be able to charm other people without so much as batting her eyes. In fact, most people were completely unguarded in front of her.

This "grandfather" was no exception. Upon hearing Shui Meiyin's question, his cold and aloof expression instantly turned gentle and he replied with a hearty chuckle, "Little lady, you have the worst timing. The Pavilion of Delightful Dreams just closed shop seven days ago and the previous owners no longer reside in the Seven Star Realm."

"It closed?" Shui Meiyin asked in a stunned voice. After that, she said, "Why did it close? It was so popular, business couldn't have become that bad, right?"

"This had nothing to do with its popularity," the old man replied as his bright expression turned grim. He gave a long sigh and said, "The devils of the Northern Divine Region have invaded our Southern Divine Region and the Southern Sea God Realm was destroyed just like that. And when I think of the other three king realms, I feel even... Sigh!"

"Even though everything seems peaceful now, you never know when those devils will flip our divine region upside down. When that time comes, we'll be nothing more than lambs to the slaughter."

Yun Che, "..."

"This isn't only happening in the Seven Star Realm. Every well-to-do family in this star region has fled as far away as they can. Of course, most of them fled to the Western Divine Region, because the Dragon God Realm is there, but it isn't a place that most ordinary people can go to. So there are even more of us normal folk who chose to hide in the lower realm, even though the aura there is turbid and muddy."

The old man shook his head and continued, "As for people like me? We can only wait here and see what the heavens have in store for us. If the Dragon God Realm manages to destroy those devils, all will be well. But if they can't... Sigh, I daren't even think about that."

Shui Meiyin's expression also grew sad and somber as she asked, "Then... does Grandfather know where the owners of the Pavilion of Delightful Dreams fled to?"

"I don't know, but if you really want to find out, you should try asking Master Ke, who sells beef right next to where they used to be."

"...Mmm, thank you, Grandfather."

When she arrived back at Yun Che's side, Shui Meiyin's delicate head drooped a little and a smile could no longer be found on her face.

"It looks like we came here in vain, huh," Yun Che said as he glanced at her face from the side.

She pouted for just a single instant, but when she turned to look at him, she wore a bright and dazzling smile on her face. "No way! As long as I'm together with Big Brother Yun Che, I'm the happiest girl alive! No matter where we go or what we do!"

"..." Yun Che gave her a deep and meaningful look. "Now that we can't go to this Pavilion of Delightful Dreams, where should we head to next? Shall we return to the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm?"

"I don't want to," Shui Meiyin said as she tightly grasped his hand. She didn't care if people from the crowd gawked at them as she pressed her slender body into his side. "Right now, Big Brother Yun Che is mine and mine alone. There's no way that I'm gonna go back this early! Furthermore, even if the Pavilion of Delightful Dreams isn't here anymore, this place is bustling with so much activity that I'm sure that we'll be able to find a lot of delicious things to eat and fun things to do. Let's go over there and take a look!"

Shui Meiyin simply tossed all thoughts of the Pavilion of Delightful Dreams to the side as she dragged him even deeper into this merchant city.

They strolled through the Seven Star Trading Region for a full two hours and Shui Meiyin had bought a whole bunch of strange and wondrous things.

The days were very short in this realm, so it had turned to evening before they even realized it. Shui Meiyin was currently pulling Yun Che through the outskirts of the Seven Star Trading Region with seemingly boundless energy. As she strolled through the streets, she happily munched on a rainbow candy stick that could be found in any small city in the lower realms.

As they laughed and talked, they walked into a copse of trees far away from the cities. The sound of birds chirping occasionally rang out in the silence and very few people could be seen around them.

It was at this moment that four people darted out. One of them let out a chilling laugh as he said, "Heh, stop right there."

Two of them were in the late stage of the Divine Origin Realm while the other two were in the middle stage of the Divine Soul Realm. As four auras started to press down on the two seemingly helpless

victims and suppressed their auras, the eyes of the men started to roam up and down over Yun Che and Shui Meiyin's bodies.

"Oh you poor things, did you come from the Seven Star Trading Region?" The leader of the robbers grinned wickedly, his teeth flashing with a cold light. "If you want to live, then obediently leave all of the profound crystals you have..."

Yun Che could scarcely bear to listen to a second more of this drivel. He didn't even bother twitching a finger as black light flashed through his eyes. The four unfortunate robbers instantly turned into black powder that scattered into the wind.

To think that they would actually try to rob the Devil Master himself. Would these hapless robbers be considered too lucky or too unlucky, because the chance of this happening to them in the first place was a trillion to one.

Shui Meiyin stopped nibbling on her candy as she said in a sad voice, "As a star realm that mainly focuses on trading, the Seven Star Realm is visited by countless people from other star realms every day. As a result, it is protected by the laws of many star realms that are more powerful than it. For example, big profound arks are not allowed to be parked in the skies above the trading region and you're not allowed to release too strong of an aura while you're in the city."

"It is also a very serious crime to use your strength to bully others into submission or rob them of their things in this star realm. If anyone gets caught committing these crimes, they will be very heavily punished."

"But robbers like these are actually starting to appear in a place like this and they were radiating a very heavy stench of blood. This meant they were cold-blooded killers as well."

"..." Yun Che didn't say anything. He quietly listened to Shui Meiyin.

"Those who possess lower power levels don't have the qualifications to join a war between the higher powers. They don't even have the ability to cause the smallest of ripples in such a battlefield. Therefore, it seems like these battles wouldn't affect them either. However, the truth is that they're probably the ones who are the most affected."

"To think that even a huge trade hub like this has become this lawless and chaotic. It's hard to imagine what it's like on the other star realms of this level..."

As she stared into the distance, Shui Meiyin gave a very soft and sad sigh. "When a storm uproots a giant tree, perhaps the ones who suffer the most are the innocent plants and insects around it."

Yun Che stopped and stared at the young girl's profile before saying, "Is this what you're trying to tell me today?"

"Huh?" Shui Meiyin looked as if she had just been startled awake and she immediately turned to look at Yun Che. She blinked a few times and said, "I'm not. I was just a little overcome by sudden emotion."

Yun Che hunched over slightly as he firmly grasped Shui Meiyin by the shoulders and turned her toward him. He stared straight into those starry eyes as a small helpless smile appeared on his face. "You're still not telling me the truth."

“So you made me travel such a long distance during such a critical period of time just for a bowl of Heart Rippling Jade Soup? Do you really think that I’m a little piglet who’s just three months old?”

“Heh!”

When she heard the dreadful and malevolent Devil Master utter those childish words in such a sarcastic way, Shui Meiyin couldn’t help but let out a laugh.

“You’re normally very clever, but you used such a cheap, simple, and rigid method to bring me to this place, heh. It looks like you very anxiously want to tell me or show me something, correct?”

“...” Shui Meiyin opened her mouth to say something, but she immediately bit down on her lower lip to stop the words from coming out. She muttered in a very soft voice, “I didn’t use some cheap trick. I just know that Big Brother Yun Che wouldn’t be able to reject me, no matter how wilful my request was, so I just said it.”

The starlight in her eyes started to waver and it looked like she was struggling over something right now.

“Let me guess,” Yun Che said with a soft chuckle. “You hope that I’ll do my very best to not hurt the innocent during this vicious war with the Dragon God Realm. You also... hope that I’ll restore order to the universe once I replace Long Bai as its ruler and treat the world with kindness and compassion, right?”

Shui Meiyin’s eyes continued to tremble. She didn’t nod or shake her head... She simply stared at Yun Che for a very long time before she finally opened her mouth to speak. “When Qianye Ying’er sent me that sound transmission, I heard a very deep worry in her voice. Big Brother Yun Che is so anxious to destroy the Dragon God Realm that I... that I feel very afraid... that your haste will be accompanied by a huge danger to yourself.”

“Just like how you didn’t hesitate to gamble on whether your powers would work on a super-dangerous weapon like the Titanic Sea God Cannon when you set your mind to destroying the Southern Sea God Realm.”

“So... So...”

“...?” Yun Che stared at her with a slightly puzzled expression.

It looked like he had been completely wrong about what Shui Meiyin wanted to say to him.

“After I received that news, my very first reaction was that I needed to tell you about ‘that thing’. But... but I’ve always been hesitant and worried about it. Even up till now... I still don’t know if I should tell you or not.”

“I... I really don’t know if now is the right time to tell you.”

Yun Che’s eyebrows started to knit together...

Something that would make someone like Shui Meiyin so hesitant and flustered couldn’t be any ordinary thing.

He couldn't bear to continue watching this young girl's painful struggle, so he gently patted her on the shoulder and said, "It's alright. It doesn't matter what this is about, it doesn't even matter if it's good or bad news. If you want to tell me about it, just say it. If you don't want to, it's fine al..."

Yun Che's voice suddenly broke off as his head jerked towards the southwest. His eyes instantly grew dark and cold.

It was at this moment that Shui Meiyin sensed something as well. As she stared in the same direction as Yun Che, the very first thing that flitted through her eyes was a look of flustered panic.

"Hmph, what a strange and wonderful fate this is," Yun Che barked out in an ugly voice. After that, he lifted Shui Meiyin's jade hand and said, "Meiyin, listen to your own heart. No one will force you to say anything, not even me. No one will blame you either. But before you decide, let's go catch some fish which have slipped the net."

After he finished speaking, he flew into the air with Shui Meiyin before releasing his profound energy and shooting off southwest.

Chapter 1812 - Departure

Ever since the Southern Sea God Realm's destruction and the devils' invasion of the Southern Divine Region, the normally peaceful Seven Star Realm had been slowly becoming more lawless and violent.

Even though the skies were merely shrouded in darkness and a true calamity had yet to strike, panic had caused the ugly side of human nature to rear its head once more.

People who had fallen into madness and evil were slowly dismantling law and order in the realm. As a result, panic and crime began to spread through the world like a pandemic, causing society to degrade even more quickly... It would eventually collapse if this continued.

During this grim period, seven criminals had been using their strength to slaughter all the weak profound practitioners in this area. They had hunted them down like seven flesh-starved wolves. Perhaps they were trying to accumulate enough resources to flee to the distant Western Divine Region, or perhaps they were simply taking advantage of the chaos to give vent to all the unspeakable desires that had festered in their dark hearts.

After all, even king realms had bent the knee to these devils, so why did they have to continue maintaining this facade of justice and righteousness.

However, this band of villains had chosen the wrong "target" today.

During an evening that seemed much more desolate and quiet than most evenings, a woman slowly walked out of the gloom.

She was dressed in a simple light cyan robe and its sleeves were made of a silky translucent material which seemed to teasingly reveal tantalizing glimpses of her fair and translucent arms. The aqua-colored cloth belt around her waist rustled seductively as she moved gracefully forward.

Her face was so beautiful that even the bright moon and stars paled in comparison to it. Her skin was as white as snow, her features seemed to be carved from the finest jade, and her beautiful eyes were as clear as pools of pure water.

Her simple clothes, unthreatening and unassuming appearance, and the traces of both sorrow and fragility in her beautiful eyes made her seem like a perfect target. However, there was an ineffable nobility faintly radiating from her in spite of all of these things... a nobility that a tiny star realm like this couldn't possibly produce.

She was currently carrying a little girl that looked to be about eight or nine years old in her slender arms. The little girl looked similar to her and her powdery jade-like face was extremely adorable. She tightly clung to the older girl and it was almost as if she was snuggled up in her own world.

The seven wicked wolves who had been quietly waiting for their prey fell into a long period of dazed silence as this unearthly celestial maiden, a beauty the likes of which had only ever appeared in their dreams, suddenly descended to earth in front of them. By the time they had come to their senses and rushed out to surround her, all thoughts of profound crystals had been banished from their minds. Only their wild and wicked desires remained, and they looked as if they couldn't wait to ravish and soil the ephemeral beauty in front of them.

The young girl was neither flustered nor panicked, she merely flicked her jade-like fingers gently in the air. The seven villains cried out softly as all of them slumped to the ground, but none of them had died. The beautiful maiden was not willing to take any lives in front of her little sister.

Even though she only used the briefest hint of her strength in that exceedingly short instant, what had surged out of her fingers was the power of a Divine Master!

"Big Sister, why have there been so many bad guys appearing lately?" asked the little girl. There wasn't a single trace of fear in her eyes and it was obvious that this wasn't the first time she had been in such a situation.

The cyan-robed girl shook her head and replied in a gentle voice, "There have always been many bad people in this universe. However, there's no need for Wei'er to worry, there's no one who can harm us here."

"Yeah!" The little girl nodded her head vigorously as she turned to show her sister the brightest smile. "No matter how many bad guys there are, they won't be able to beat Big Sister! I'm not afraid!"

"That's right, yesterday I saw Grandfather preparing the profound ark and I even heard Father say that we were going to take a vacation in the lower realms for a while. Is that true?"

"Oh, it looks like you already found out," the cyan-robed girl said in a gentle voice. "Wei'er, don't worry. No matter where we go, I'll always..."

Everything suddenly went dark.

The expression on the cyan-robed girl's face dramatically changed as a huge amount of terror surged into her widening eyes. She gave the Wei'er, whom she had been holding onto, a forceful shove as she shouted in fear, "Wei'er, hurry up and run... Hurry up and run!"

The little girl was pushed very far away and she tumbled along the ground until she finally came to a stop. She had turned to stare at her ashen-faced sister in dazed puzzlement when a man radiating a cold and dark aura suddenly appeared in front of them. A black-robed girl had also appeared right beside him.

As the light continued to fade, the entire world seemed to shrink away and curl up in fear of this man's stiflingly dreadful aura.

"Young... Master... Yun..." The girl in cyan robes gasped out his name as if she was stuck in a dream... Perhaps it was half a nightmare as well.

"Jin Yue," Yun Che said the cyan-robed girl's name in a cold and dry voice. The most dangerous smile in the entire universe slowly appeared on his face, "To think that I would meet you in such a place, and in good health as well. This truly is a rather pleasant surprise."

Those chilling words brought her back to cold, cruel reality... The man in front of her had long since ceased to be the Young Master Yun of the past, whose gentle eyes caused her heart to secretly race. He was now the Devil Master of the North, the man who had destroyed the entire Moon God Realm and scattered her family to the winds. The man who had killed the Moon God Emperor and plunged the entire God Realm into terror and darkness.

Both her eyes and her body trembled uncontrollably as she rushed in front of the dazed girl who was staring blankly at them. She wrapped her ice-cold arms tightly around the little girl as she begged Yun Che in a heart-rending voice. "Devil Master, she's only a child. Please... Please let her leave. You won't even have to trouble yourself with me... because I'll kill myself once she leaves."

The edge of Yun Che's lips curled up into a cruel and sinister smile. He raised his right hand and a cluster of black mist swirled into life in the palm of his hand. After that, he said one soul-piercingly cold word. "Die."

Jin Yue, Lian Yue, and Yao Yue had been the three personal maidservants of the Moon God Emperor Xia Qingyue. Among the three of them, Jin Yue was the one who had been closest to her.

He had personally witnessed the destruction of the entire Moon God Realm. The power that had ripped it apart was something that only a Moon God might be able to flee from, so how had Jin Yue, a mid-stage Divine Master, managed to survive that?

Unless she had not been in the Moon God Realm at the time!

Whatever it was, the reason is no longer important! Now that I've met her, I just need to kill her!

His hatred toward Xia Qingyue and the Moon God Realm knew no bounds, so how could he spare Jin Yue, the person who had received most of Xia Qingyue's love?

Even if this girl had left the best of impressions on him before his fateful transformation.

"No! Don't!" Jin Yue hugged her sister even tighter in fear as she sank to her knees and knelt before Yun Che. A hazy mist filled her eyes as she said, "The Devil Master can do whatever her wishes to Jin Yue... but I beg that you let off my little sister. She's only an innocent child who doesn't know anything. I beg the Devil Master..."

"Innocent?"

Jin Yue's sorrowful pleading didn't lessen Yun Che's malice by a single iota. On the contrary, it actually caused his face to warp in hatred and anger. When he spoke again, his voice had turned even darker and

colder. "How dare you use that word in front of me? Your family is innocent... but my family... deserved to die!?"

Jin Yue was left completely speechless by those words.

At this time, the little girl in her arms suddenly showed an alarming amount of strength as she struggled free from Jin Yue's embrace and leapt in front of her. After that, she spread her arms wide and blocked Yun Che's way as she yelled, "Bad guy... Don't hurt my sister... Don't hurt my sister!!"

The little girl's body was shaking violently in fear, but her tear-filled eyes were filled with a stubborn determination.

Emotion throbbed in Yun Che's heart for a fraction of a second... but it only lasted for that tiny instant.

Bang!

A deft blow landed on the back of the girl's neck, causing her vision to go completely black. After that, she collapsed silently back into Jin Yue's arms.

As she quietly and carefully infused all of her power into the little girl's body, Jin Yue made one final plea. "Devil Master, as long as you're willing to spare Wei'er, Jin Yue is willing... to be your slave for all of my lifetimes..."

Yun Che was no longer willing to listen to these words. Instead, he stretched his hand wide as darkness began to howl around him.

Jin Yue was a mid-level Divine Master after all, so Yun Che would have to expend a bit of energy to kill her.

"Big Brother Yun Che!"

The hand which had started to glow with black profound light was suddenly seized by Shui Meiyin. Yun Che glanced to the side and looked into Shui Meiyin's shimmery eyes.

"Can you spare them? Please?" she asked in a soft and gentle voice.

"..." Yun Che hesitated for a brief moment before saying, "You know that you have to pull trouble up by the roots to prevent it from coming back to haunt you in the future. What's more, she's no ordinary survivor of the Moon God Realm."

Jin Yue was stunned by this turn of events, she could scarcely believe what she was witnessing right now. There was no reason for Shui Meiyin to intervene on her behalf... Her father Shui Qianheng had been personally crippled by the Moon God Emperor and she herself had been imprisoned at the bottom of the Moon God Realm's Moon Prison for many years.

She should also be someone who deeply hated the Moon God Emperor and the Moon God Realm.

"I know." The light in Shui Meiyin's liquid eyes wavered for an instant, and they rippled like water that was being stirred up by strong winds. "But in truth, Big Sister Jin Yue is no longer a member of the Moon God Realm. The reason she is completely safe and sound in spite of the Moon God Realm's destruction is because she was banished from the Moon God Realm by the Moon God Emperor."

“She was not only banished from Xia Qingyue’s side, even her entire clan was expelled from the Moon God Realm.”

“...” Jin Yue turned to stare at Shui Meiyin, a dumbfounded expression on her face.

Why did she... know about this?

“Hmmm? Such a thing actually happened?” Yun Che’s eyebrows twitched as he shot a sidelong glance toward Jin Yue. He smirked and said, “Didn’t the Moon God Emperor value you the most out of all of her subjects? She would actually banish your entire clan from the Moon God Realm? Tell me. What sort of delightful thing did you do to her to make her respond in such a way?”

Yun Che’s words instantly stirred up those most painful memories in her heart... The Moon God Emperor’s cold and apathetic eyes, her cold and cutting words, and that slap which pierced her to her very soul...

Being Xia Qingyue’s personal maidservant had been the pride and glory of her life. During those years, her respect and reverence for Xia Qingyue even exceeded all the other convictions in her heart. She was willing to serve under her for her entire life and she wouldn’t even hesitate to sacrifice her life at any given moment for her.

But...

As she shook her head in pain, Jin Yue whispered, “It was a misunderstanding... I didn’t do anything that would let Master down... I never have.”

Even now that it had come to this, her heart simply wouldn’t allow her to do anything that would hurt the Moon God Emperor.

“A misunderstanding? That really sounds like such a pity,” Yun Che said with a cold laugh. The dark light in his hand started to gather again. “Since that’s the case, then you should go down to hell to find her and clear your name!”

“Ah! Don’t!”

Shui Meiyin grabbed his hand once again and shook her head very forcefully. A hint of pleading had crept into her starry eyes.

To the current Yun Che, Shui Meiyin’s heartfelt plea was undoubtedly the one thing in the world that he couldn’t reject.

Yun Che replied in a rather puzzled voice, “Meiyin, your father was crippled by Xia Qingyue and you were imprisoned in the Moon God Realm’s Moon Prison for so many years. Why are you trying so hard to protect her?”

Shui Meiyin definitely wasn’t someone who was naive and unversed in the ways of the world. She also wasn’t some kind of saint who overflowed with mercy. On the contrary, she was far too cunning and clever... which was why her current actions had absolutely stunned Yun Che.”

Shui Meiyin gently bit down on her bottom lip before she looked at him with those watery eyes and said, "During the time I was imprisoned in the Moon God Realm, Big Sister Jin Yue was always very good to me. So, I... really like her."

"..." Yun Che shot her an incredulous look.

Just because of that!?

However, what Yun Che was unaware of was that the shock in Jin Yue's heart far exceeded his own right now.

When Shui Meiyin came to the Moon God Realm, she had been imprisoned in the lowest layer of the Moon Prison and on the very first day she had arrived, Xia Qingyue had given the stern command that no one was to approach Shui Meiyin without her express permission.

As the person closest to Xia Qingyue, Jin Yue had only gone to the bottom of the Moon Prison twice during those years and both times had been on Xia Qingyue's command. Furthermore, she had always been slavishly obedient to Xia Qingyue's commands, so she wouldn't do anything other than what was explicitly ordered of her. As such, she had not even spoken to Shui Meiyin once during either of those visits.

Therefore, the words "been very good to her" had no basis in reality whatsoever.

She could only quietly and fervently thank Shui Meiyin's kind compassion in her heart.

"Furthermore, have you forgotten one thing, Big Brother Yun Che? My Divine Stainless Soul can look into a person's soul to a certain extent and determine whether they are good or wicked. I can guarantee that all of her thoughts are directed towards her family right now. She definitely won't become a problem that Big Brother Yun Che will need to worry about in the future."

Shui Meiyin's starry eyes curved slightly as she laughed. "A person who can throw away her life to protect her sister's at a moment's notice will value peace and tranquility above all else. How could she possibly become some kind of future 'plague'? Moreover..."

She tightly grasped Yun Che's hand before she looked at Jin Yue and said, "Big Sister Jin Yue is a very kind and wonderful person. I believe that Big Brother Yun Che knows this better than most, right?"

Even though the black profound light in his hand had not dissipated, the killing intent in his eyes had.

He was no longer the soft-hearted and compassionate person he had once been. In fact, he bore incredible hatred and resentment toward his previous kindness and compassion.

This was purely the result of Shui Meiyin's earnest pleading.

"Fine." His killing intent had completely dissipated, but he continued to stretch out the hand that was glowing with black profound light. "I won't kill you today. I'll only cripple your profound strength. You should be grateful for that!"

"Stop! Stop! STOP!!!"

Shui Meiyin grabbed his arm once more. She shook that arm vigorously as she said in a coquettish voice, "Since you've decided to spare her, then you should do it all the way! Big Sister Jin Yue is so pretty! If you cripple her profound strength, she's gonna... be bullied everywhere she goes!"

To become the personal attendant of the Moon God Emperor, a person needed to not only have exceedingly high strength and talent, they also needed to be good-looking enough to topple a city. As such, Jin Yue was definitely beautiful enough to drive most realm kings crazy.

If she was stripped of the power that allowed her to reign over most of creation, her unearthly beauty would definitely become a nightmare for her in the future.

"Sigh." Yun Che gave a deliberately heavy and helpless sigh. The dark light in his eyes had completely vanished and he suddenly raised a hand to gently pinch Shui Meiyin's tender and adorable face. "Why are you being so wilful today? Are you doing this on purpose?"

"Then... can Big Brother Yunn Che allow me to be wilful just one more time?" Shui Meiyin said as she raised his other hand to her face. Her fairy-like voice trembled as her eyes misted over.

"What else can I do?" Yun Che said with a helpless laugh. "If I wreck my precious Meiyin's mood just because of some wretches who were expelled from the Moon God Realm, wouldn't I be simply shooting myself in the foot?"

"Heehee." Shui Meiyin's eyes narrowed in delight as a musical laugh escaped from her throat. Her smile was cloyingly sweet and satisfied and there were even tears shimmering in her eyes.

He had been so cold and malicious to Jin Yue, but he was always so kind and tender to her... Just this moment alone made her wish that she could melt into him forever and ever.

The shock and fear in Jin Yue's eyes had yet to dissipate, but the tension had already started to bleed out of her delicate body. She could scarcely bring herself to believe that she would actually be able to leave safe and sound with Wei'er.

"But!" Yun Che's voice suddenly turned cold and dark as he turned to look at Jin Yue. "No matter what her current status is, no matter what circumstances she had, no matter what she's thinking today, she used to be someone who stood by Xia Qingyue's side, so there is no way I'm just going to let her off like this."

"She still... has to pay!"

As he finished speaking, Yun Che's hand suddenly arched into a claw as he thrust it forward. A gale wind shot toward Jin Yue.

"Aaaah..."

Jin Yue gave a frightened cry, but she did not dare to resist. She only managed to push away her little sister in time before her body was caught up in the wind and dragged toward Yun Che.

Yun Che's fingers curled up slightly as he cruelly grasped Jin Yue's snowy neck. Once he had a firm grasp of her smooth flesh, power surged from his hand...

Rip!

Jin Yue's outer and inner garments instantly disintegrated into dust

Her flawless and satiny skin, which was as white as snow, was bared for all the world to see.

Chapter 1813 - Someone Who Shouldn't Exist

"Ah!"

Shui Meiyin let out a startled cry as she unconsciously took a step forward, but she didn't end up intervening this time. Since Yun Che had already said that he wouldn't kill or cripple Jin Yue, she knew that he wouldn't go back on his word.

"..." Jin Yue's face had lost all of its color. She couldn't speak or even struggle, and her eyes grew dimmer with each passing second.

Yun Che's eyes were ice-cold as darkness seeped out of his hand and began to spread from Jin Yue's neck to her solar plexus and lower abdomen. The darkness swiftly pooled in those two locations before forming a dark sigil about the size of a grown man's palm.

As he stared at the dark mark that he had left on her body, he coldly said, "Are you filled with shame right now? Then let that shame carve itself into your very soul, so that you'll never ever forget this moment."

His family had died... so how could he simply let these people off just like that!?

After he finished speaking, he loosened his grip on Jin Yue's neck and casually pushed her aside.

Jin Yue fell heavily on the ground and immediately curled up into a fetal position. She panickedly conjured up a layer of moonlight to cover up the jade body that had been defiled by devilish power, but she would never be able to hide the shame that had been carved into her very soul.

"Listen up, you'd better leave this black sigil exactly where I put it. Don't ever think of trying to get rid of it. If I ever sense its existence disappearing... I will come back and annihilate your entire clan!"

Yun Che hadn't only used his darkness profound energy to create this black sigil, he had also used a bit of his soul power. Therefore, he would be able to sense Jin Yue's location as long as the mark remained.

In other words, this also meant that she would always be under Yun Che's watchful eye and she could forget about ever taking any rash actions against him... Even though she had never once thought of doing anything against Yun Che in the first place.

"This is already the greatest forgiveness and grace that I can give you!"

"As a casual aside, I'll bestow upon you one more piece of advice. You should forget about ever getting a man in this lifetime, because if they see this dark sigil that I have personally blessed you with... Tsk!"

As Shui Meiyin stood behind Yun Che, she sensed that dark malice flaring up from him once more. Her delicate head drooped as she quietly bit down hard on her lower lip.

"Cough... cough cough..."

Jin Yue gingerly held her snowy neck as she was seized by a fit of violent coughing, but she didn't say a single word after that. Her other hand was quietly planted on a piece of dirt behind her. She was holding something very small in her hand... and she was holding onto it very tightly, as if she was terrified that Yun Che would see it.

Unfortunately for her, Yun Che had already caught sight of it the moment it fell from her body.

It was a very small bronze mirror that couldn't be any more ordinary. Xia Qingyue had once worn it around her neck because it was something that Yue Wugou had left to her. Back then, Yun Che had been so curious about it that he had even asked her about it, and he had even opened it once.

A profound image was engraved in that bronze mirror. In the picture was a young Xia Hongyi, and Xia Yuanba, and Xia Qingyue when they were only three and four years old respectively.

"Why is this bronze mirror with you?" Yun Che asked with slightly narrowed eyes. He had asked the question in a very casual manner, and it was clear that he didn't really care what the answer was.

A divine profound practitioner normally carried their important items in a spatial ring or in their own personal spatial pocket, but Jin Yue had actually been wearing this bronze mirror. It was clear to see that she still possessed a deep reverence... and affection for Xia Qingyue even in spite of her cruel banishment.

Jin Yue's entire body instantly went rigid. She gripped the bronze mirror even tighter, but she did not dare to answer that question. In the end, she replied in a soft and tremulous voice, "Master... tasked me with destroying it... I was afraid that Master might regret it one day, so I secretly kept it without telling her..."

Now, it was the only thing she had to remember Xia Qingyue by.

"Then you should keep it properly, and I hope that that woman's possessions won't bring you too much misfortune in the future," Yun Che said in a derisive voice.

"What are you still doing here?" Shui Meiyin said.

Once she knew that Yun Che wouldn't try to seize or destroy the bronze mirror in her hand, the stiffness went out of Jin Yue's body. She slowly got to her feet and changed into another set of blue robes before she picked up the unconscious Wei'er and swiftly flew off into the distance.

When she left, her eyes did not contain any hatred or shame. Instead, they were filled with a dispirited brokenness and a quiet sorrow.

Being able to serve Xia Qingyue would always be the greatest pride and joy of her life. However, she had also suffered this great humiliation because she had once served Xia Qingyue... What was even more complicated was that this great humiliation was practically a boon that the Goddess Meiyin had managed to secure on her behalf.

As she flew through the night sky, drops of heart-rending starlight fell from her beautiful eyes.

She did not know whether the events of today would be a form of release or the beginning of a never-ending nightmare.

Now that Yun Che was done with his business, he let out a small sigh. When he turned around, his eyes had become warm and gentle once more.

“Big Brother Yun Che, thank you,” Shui Meiyin said in a soft and gentle voice.

Yun Che shook his head and said, “Then, in regards to what you wanted to tell me today... Have you thought things through?”

“Yes, I have,” Shui Meiyin said as she vigorously nodded her head. After that, she laughed and said, “I’ve decided that I will tell you after we’ve beaten the Dragon God Realm. However, I can tell you this right now. It’s something wonderful... In fact, it should be a very happy surprise for you.”

“Okay.” Yun Che decided not to pursue the topic any further. “For the sake of this happy surprise, I will definitely smash the Dragon God Realm flat.”

“Then let’s go back to the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm,” Shui Meiyin said as she stepped forward and grabbed his arm. “We didn’t bring those three strange grandfathers with us this time. If we don’t return soon, both them and the Devil Queen will start to worry about us.”

“Yeah.” Yun Che looked in the direction that Jin Yue had left. “But before we leave, let me make sure that there aren’t any other fish swimming out there. Since Jin Yue is here, there might very well be other people from the Moon God Realm as well.”

After he finished speaking, he released his divine senses and swiftly started scanning the entire star realm.

When they had first reached the Seven Star Realm, he had only done a casual sweep of the auras on the Seven Star Realm. But right now, he was using his divine senses to carefully scan every single living creature on this star realm. He didn’t leave a single blade of grass unturned.

Shui Meiyin quietly stood to the side as her black eyes stared unblinkingly at the serious expression on his face.

One breath... Two breaths... Three breaths...

Given Yun Che’s current soul power, he wouldn’t need to waste much time scanning the entire Seven Star Realm.

All of the sudden, his body jerked up straight as his aura shuddered violently.

He started convulsing as well, and it looked like he had suddenly been smashed in the chest by a gigantic mallet.

Shui Meiyin jumped up in fright as she rushed forward and said, “What’s happening!?”

“Ah... Ah...”

Yun Che’s eyes snapped open and they were rippling in violent shock. He couldn’t even bring himself to speak intelligibly at the moment.

“Big Brother Yun Che... Big Brother Yun Che!” Shui Meiyin was now completely and utterly frightened by what was happening. She embraced him tightly in helpless panic.

Yun Che had reached such dazzling heights that Shui Meiyin couldn't imagine what could elicit such a frightening reaction from him.

"Im... possible..."

"Impossible..."

"Impossible..."

He kept repeating those words in a trance as his fingers started trembling and his aura grew more and more chaotic. He then suddenly seemed to have snapped awake from his reverie as profound light exploded from his body. He shot toward the south like a streaking meteor.

Due to his loss of control, his exploding power flattened the ground for hundreds of kilometers around him. It was so strong that it even pushed Shui Meiyin back a few steps.

"Big Brother Yun Che!" Shui Meiyin yelled anxiously as she shot after him.

Yun Che was flying very quickly, leaving a trail of shattered space and flattened land in his wake. Shui Meiyin could only barely keep up with him after she had unleashed her full power.

A fierce and terrible battle was currently taking place in the southern part of the Seven Star Realm.

A muscular young man that resembled a tiny mountain was currently fighting against two opponents.

He was a divine profound practitioner and his current cultivation was in the middle of the third level of the Divine Origin Realm. His opponents, however, were both at the fourth level of the Divine Origin Realm.

Anyone could tell how the battle was going with a single glance. The muscular young man's body was covered with wounds and his power was being completely suppressed by both of his opponents. However, there wasn't a single hint of fear on his face and his attacks kept growing fiercer and fiercer as he forged ahead through gritted teeth.

BOOOM!!

A muffled explosion rang out in the air as the muscular man's attack was completely countered. A huge force slammed into his body, causing blood to gush out of his mouth, but he didn't retreat a single inch. Unfortunately for him, the attacks didn't end there, as another huge force shot forward and slammed straight into his abdomen.

The muscular man gave a low groan as he flew across the ground, tumbling many times before finally coming to a stop.

"Heh, not bad. His bones are pretty solid." The Seven Star Realm profound practitioner who had hit him shook his hand, which was throbbing in pain, as a cold smile appeared on his face.

"It's too bad that this tough guy is rushing off to become the lapdog of a devil. Ptooey!" the other Seven Star Realm profound practitioner spat in a contemptuous voice.

“Hooo...” The muscular man blew out a long breath as he pushed himself off the ground. He glared at his two assailants with eyes as ferocious and wild as those of a fierce beast. Even though he had been completely beaten by his opponents, he still radiated a stubborn pride that would bend to no one.

“I’ll say this one last time,” the muscular man rumbled in a grim voice, “the Yun Che that I’m looking for isn’t this Devil Master of the North that you keep talking about! He’s a normal human being! My brother-in-law!”

“People who share the same name are countless in this vast universe. Are you guys so stupid that you don’t even understand what I’m saying, or are you... deliberately using this opportunity to bully the weak!?”

“Woah! He actually dares to scold us?” the Seven Star Realm profound practitioner on the left scoffed as he arched one of his eyebrows sardonically. He swung his arm up and down, causing the joints in his arm to make a popping sound. “You don’t think that you’re going to die an ugly enough death already?”

“Heh, looking at you right now, you must be some hick that just climbed up from one of the lower realms.”

The Seven Star Realm profound practitioner on the right looked at the muscular young man with an arrogant disdain and contempt. It was as if he was the arbiter of this young man’s fate. “The person you’re trying to find might very well not be the Devil Master of the North. However, you daring to mention that name in front of us means that you must die!”

“That Devil Master of the North is a demon that both the heavens and the earth condemn, an evil that is beyond all redemption! Right now, he is stepping on the head of the Southern Divine Region with just a single foot, and as men of the Southern Divine Region, all of us have the right to punish him! As such, anyone who believes in, is willing to submit to, or is related in any way to the Devil Master of the North... is someone we have to kill! It would be better for us to kill an innocent by mistake than to spare someone associated with him!”

After he finished speaking, he lunged forward. The full power of a level four Divine Origin profound practitioner gathered in his right arm as he cruelly slammed his right fist down toward the muscular young man’s skull... Even though he was well aware that this person had just ascended from the lower realm and couldn’t possibly be related to the Devil Master.

Unfortunately for this young man, being weak was the original sin.

BOOOM—

The young man raised an arm that was popping with engorged veins as he took his opponent’s blow head on.

The fury in his eyes swiftly transformed into a shocking violent malice as his voice grew incredibly deep. “YOU’VE... TAKEN... THINGS... TOO FAR!!!”

BANG!!

A gigantic power that couldn’t belong to someone who was only at the third level of the Divine Origin Realm suddenly erupted from the young man’s body and sent the man who had just attacked him flying.

“Ah!”

As he let out a flustered and panicked cry, the Seven Star Realm profound practitioner heavily slammed into the ground. The force of the blast caused him to tumble many times before he could stagger to his feet. He was just about to launch into a tirade and attack the young man again... when he saw that his companion was staring dazedly at him.

As the muscular man slowly stood up, a golden light that was so dense that it dazzled the eyes started radiating from his chest, the place where everyone’s profound veins were located.

The golden light was accompanied by a soul-shaking power that made them feel as if a mountain was pressing down on their hearts and souls.

“The Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins!?”

Both the Seven Star Realm profound practitioners cried out that name at the same time and they looked as if they were staring at a ghost.

The muscular man raised a fist and a faint golden hue could be seen within the profound energy that was gathered there. It made it seem like his arms were covered in profound metal.

“I didn’t wish to expose this at all,” he said in a deep voice, a murderous look forming in his eyes. “But since you’re trying to push me beyond the point of no return, you can... die!!”

Even though they were currently facing a denizen of the lower realm whose profound strength was weaker than theirs by an entire level, both Seven Star Realm profound practitioners took a step backwards.

The Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins, the legacy of the ancient War God, was a type of dreadful profound veins born purely for the sake of battle, destruction, and raw power.

As the primordial aura in the Primal Chaos Dimension grew thinner and thinner, the Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins had slowly started disappearing from the God Realm.

However, there was one thing that was always true when someone with the Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins appeared. The ones who possessed the Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins would always end up becoming rulers. The least among them would become kings of a star realm, while the greatest among them had become god emperors!

“Wha... What do we do?” The profound practitioner on the right said in a shaky voice. They had never dreamed that this denizen of the lower realm whom they had been bullying because of the name “Yun Che” would turn out to be some freakish monster out of legend.

The profound practitioner on the left gritted his teeth before he yelled, “What else can we do!? We’ve already completely offended him! If we let him grow, we’re only dooming ourselves!”

Both of them exchanged a glance before nodding. After that, they forcibly swallowed their fear and started circulating their profound energy. Their hands started to flash with profound light as they took out their strongest profound artifacts and weapons.

Right now, it was no longer about having fun or bullying someone weaker than themselves, it was a matter of survival. They had to kill the young man in front of them, no matter what price they had to pay.

Even though those who possessed the legendary Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins were said to have the shocking ability to best those stronger than them, they... no longer had any other choice.

Just as the two of them had resolved to battle to their death, the piercing screech of space being splintered resounded in their ears. They saw the ground start to undulate like the waves of the ocean before a dark and cold storm engulfed them.

"UWAAAAH!!!"

All three men gave a cry of misery as they were sent flying by this dark storm that seemed to have descended from heaven.

When they raised their heads to stare at the sky in shock... they saw a black figure floating high in the skies above them. His arrival had caused the blue dome of heaven to darken rapidly and everything seemed to freeze up amidst that cold darkness. They felt as if countless devilish fangs were sinking into their bodies, souls, and hearts as a great terror unlike any they had ever experienced before washed over them.

Chapter 1814 - Madness

In the southernmost region of the Seven Star Realm, an aura like nothing the world had ever experienced before was brimming like a volcano.

Yun Che's gaze and aura were fully locked on the muscular man in front of him. His chest was heaving up and down, his eyes were trembling... he had never been shaken this badly since he entered the Northern Divine Region and became a devil.

He couldn't forget the brawny man before him even if he tried. He was a friend who was closer than family, and a brother who should've been dead many years ago...

He was none other than Xia Yuanba himself!

It had been more than four years since they had last met, but Xian Yuanba was a bit less brawny than Yun Che remembered him to be. The Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins must have altered his physique slightly after he entered the divine way.

His features were firmer than before, and his aura stronger.

However, even if he were to change several times more drastically than this, Yun Che would still recognize him instantly. It was because he was Xia Yuanba, not to mention that the Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins were shining like the sun on his chest right now.

To Yun Che, there were only a handful of people he could identify faster and easier than Yuanba, and yet he couldn't stop looking the man up and down and scanning him with his spiritual perception again, and again, and again. He just... couldn't believe it.

A doppelganger?

His life aura and profound aura are identical to Yuanba's, and he has the Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins...

But he should already be...

Xia Qingyue, a god emperor, had destroyed the Blue Pole Star with her own hands, so how could he still be alive? Forget the people living on that planet, there was barely any debris when all was said and done.

While he was staring at Xia Yuanba, Xia Yuanba was staring at him as well.

If Xia Yuanba's change was significant, then Yun Che looked almost nothing like he used to.

His hair was more than twice as long as it used to be, and it looked like it was woven from the fabric of night itself. The way it spread out like an infinite curtain of darkness behind his back was intimidating to say the least.

The Yun Che Xia Yuanba knew preferred pale-colored clothing. This was especially true after he entered Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace and wore white almost all the time. However, this Yun Che wore a black robe with dangerous, devilish runes etched onto the fabric.

His skin color looked unnaturally pale. His eyes and aura looked completely different from before. Yuanba felt like his blood had turned into ice, and his soul wouldn't stop trembling like a leaf.

The only thing this man had similar to Yun Che were his face and his body shape.

He... he's not brother-in-law!

For a time, the two brothers who grew up in Floating Cloud City together and were closer than most blood-related brothers... dared not call out to one another.

"De... dededdededede... Devil Master!"

An unpleasant noise cut through the haze temporarily. It was the two Seven Star Realm profound practitioners letting out a cry of abject terror from the bottom of their souls. When they saw Yun Che, every hair on their bodies stood on end, and the fear pouring out of their pores seemed almost tangible.

"Mer... cy... Devil Master... mercy... mercy..."

They had no doubt that the Devil Master had heard every word of the "bold" claim they made to the lower realm profound practitioner with the Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins.

They couldn't believe that such bad luck actually existed in this world.

They wanted to be anywhere but here, but they couldn't inject any energy into their legs at all. Forget standing, they didn't even remember how to use profound energy. All they could do was crawl away like a pair of legless, despairing larvae.

Yun Che didn't move, but the two profound practitioners suddenly scattered into black dust without a sound.

The world turned silent once more, but Xia Yuanba didn't notice because he was too absorbed by Yun Che.

Meanwhile, Shui Meiyin had finally caught up to Yun Che. Her confusion turned into shock when she saw Yun Che and Xia Yuanba staring at one another.

"Yuan... ba..."

Yun Che whispered so softly it was as if he was afraid that it would shatter the illusion. "Is it... you?"

Xia Yuanba's eyes bulged. The moment he heard his name, all his fear and doubts turned into wild joy. He jumped to his feet and cried out in excitement, "Yes, it's me, brother-in-law! It's me! You... you're still alive! You're still alive!"

The familiar name rocked his body like an energy blast.

There were only two people in the entire world who addressed him like this, and they were Caizhi and Xia Yuanba.

So he had to be Yuanba...

Yuanba is alive?

Yuanba's... alive??

The Devil Master was terrifying to say the least, but it was as if Yuanba couldn't perceive his aura at all. He ran up to Yun Che with obvious joy and excitement on his face.

No matter what Yun Che turned into, no matter how high he climbed in the future, Yun Che would always be Yun Che to Xia Yuanba; a brother he loved and trusted unconditionally.

"I finally found you, brother-in-law! I finally... finally..."

The brawny man had to bite his lips and suppress a sob before he could even get two sentences in. Tears still welled in his eyes, however.

He grinned while wiping his tears away. "You disappeared for so many years that I thought... Sss... that's not important anymore. As long as you're safe, then all is well. Thank goodness..."

Shui Meiyin couldn't close her mouth when realization struck her. Gradually, a pool of complex emotions colored her eyes, and she let it all out in a quiet sigh.

Is this what they call... fate?

Xia Yuanba was so agitated that he was crying and smiling at the same time. On the surface, it looked like Yun Che was untouched by the reunion, but in reality he was reacting even worse than Yuanba was. Excitement, confusion, and all sorts of other emotions he couldn't describe nearly caused his brain to stall.

He stretched out and touched Xia Yuanba on the arm. He felt his powerful, volcano-like life aura.

'You're... alive,' he whispered.

“Heh, hehe, of course I am!” Xia Yuanba thumped himself in the chest. “The ascension to the God Realm is as dangerous as you said, brother-in-law, but I’m no pushover anymore. In fact, I even managed to find you!”

He obviously failed to get what Yun Che really meant.

“Speaking of which,” he looked Yun Che up and down again before chuckling. “You’ve changed a lot, I see. It looks strange, but... it’s a bit cool too.”

“Also, didn’t those two bullies call you the Devil Master earlier? Are you really the... huh?”

He turned his head to check on the two scumbags who attacked him earlier, only to trail off in confusion. It was because they were nowhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, Yun Che had been doing his utmost to steady his heart and breathing. It was only now that he calmed down just a little.

Yun Che’s grip on Xian Yuanba’s arm tightened as he asked, “Did you leave the Blue Pole Star four years ago?”

Considering the power that was used to Blue Pole Star back then, there was no chance Xia Yuanba could’ve survived the attack.

Therefore, the only possibility left... was if he was never there to receive it in the first place; if he had left Blue Pole Star before it happened.

Thanks to the Divine Water of Life, Xia Yuanba was already at the first level of the Divine Origin Realm at the time. He would have had the power to travel across space by then, albeit barely.

“What? Of course not.” But a surprised Xia Yuanba shook his head immediately. He was puzzled as to why Yun Che would say such a strange thing. “I departed four months ago and arrived at this Seven Star Realm just the day before today, so you can imagine how pleasantly surprised I was to find you so soon.”

Besides that, there were many things he wanted to ask Yun Che about.

For example, he wanted to know why everyone he tried to talk to had run away like the plague when he brought up the name “Yun Che”. The two scumbags just now had even attacked him outright.

“Four months ago...” Yun Che shook his head. “No, that cannot be.”

Xia Yuanba scratched his head and said embarrassedly, “I know I made it way slower than I should’ve. I ran into several major spatial turbulences and even landed on several dead planets on the way. Seriously, I was as aimless as a headless fly at the time. Obviously, I’m nowhere as good as you are, brother-in-law.”

“It doesn’t matter anymore though. Now that I know that you’re safe, I can’t wait to travel back right away and tell everyone you’re fine,” Xian Yuanba said with a grin.

Yun Che’s mouth opened and closed mechanically. “Everyone... you mean...?”

“Well, you went missing for several years straight. Everyone was worried about you, you know?” Xia Yuanba turned serious. “Do you know how long Wuxin cried after you missed her eighteenth birthday? She was going to come to the God Realm herself after you missed her nineteenth birthday as well. I had to promise her that I would travel to the God Realm right away and many more to stop her.”

“...” It was like a bomb had exploded in Yun Che’s head.

Wuxin... nineteenth birthday...

Clap, clap, clap. Every word felt like a lightning bolt to the soul.

Three whole breaths of wordless shock later, Yun Che’s grip around Xia Yuanba’s tightened like a vice. “What the hell are you talking about... what Wuxin... what nineteenth birthday... what are you... which Wuxin are you talking about? Which Wuxin... which Wuxin!!”

His grip had tightened to the point where Xia Yuanba had to grimace in pain, but it was nowhere as disturbing as Yun Che’s current expression.

Eyes widening like saucers, a panicked Xia Yuanba shouted in confusion, “Who else I’m talking about? I’m talking about your daughter, of course! Ow—brother-in-law, you... are you okay?”

Yun Che bit the tip of his tongue, filling his mouth with pain and the scent of blood.

Chest still heaving up and down rapidly, he forced himself to calm down... and let go of Xia Yuanba. Gritting his teeth and stealing his gaze, he uttered, “You’re lying... you’re lying!”

“We are in the southern realm of the Southern Divine Region! There’s no way you could make it here in four months from the outer rim of Eastern Divine Region! Everything you told me up until now is a lie!”

He had witnessed with his own eyes Xia Qingyue destroying the Blue Pole Star in a single strike. He had felt the wave of planet dust and smelled the bloody stench of the death of countless lives... that couldn’t possibly be a false memory.

Even if it was, the god emperors and realm kings nearby couldn’t possibly have been mistaken as well.

He had stared at his own home planet from space many times. It was blue, mysterious, and enchanting even when compared to the dazzling stars around it. He could never mistake its light, its space, and its position. He just couldn’t.

Just the same, there was no way his daughter could still be alive.

“The outer rim of Eastern Divine Region?” Xia Yuanba’s eyes somehow bulged even wider. “Now that you mention it, that is another thing I wanted to ask you about! Didn’t you tell me that the closest divine region to the Blue Pole Star is the Eastern Divine Region? That was why I tried flying west after I left our planet. However, I quickly discovered that I was flying in the wrong direction because the further I traveled, the thinner and murkier the energy became.”

Yun Che: “...”

“It was only after I changed my path and flew north that I finally arrived here. If I hadn’t gotten this wrong from the start, I’m sure I would’ve arrived much sooner.”

Yun Che's eyes grew darker. "You flew north and arrived here? You're telling me that Blue Pole Star is to the south of the Southern Divine Region?"

"Of course." Xia Yuanba nodded affirmatively. "I was worried that I would screw up the direction again, so I even left a ton of soul imprints to be sure."

He pointed to the south and said, "That is where Blue Pole Star is; to the south of the Southern Divine Region. In fact, it's almost directly south from this Seven Star Realm... er, am I wrong?"

He suddenly shivered from head to toe.

It was because a cold, murderous intent had wrapped around his person.

Chapter 1815 - Long Lost Frozen Cloud

"Heh... hehe..."

Yun Che's eyes turned chilly as he let out a low chuckle. "I don't know how you managed to disguise yourself so perfectly, but you can't be Yuanba... who are you? How dare you... make a fool... out of me!"

Yun Che was somehow both perfectly aware and confused at the same time.

His fury and killing intent were real, but he controlled them carefully so that they wouldn't hurt a hair on his friend.

He was certain that the man before him was Yuanba, but he was equally certain that he couldn't be Yuanba.

His appearance, aura, expression, eyes and Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins all pointed to him being the one and only.

Yet all the words coming from his mouth were complete nonsense! The kind that touched on his most taboo subject no less!

The Yuanba he knew would never lie to him.

Yun Che felt so confused he felt like he was being split into two.

Xia Yuanba wasn't faring much better himself.

When he arrived in the God Realm and encountered Yun Che almost immediately, he felt so happy it was as if the heavens had dropped a boon in his lap. His biggest fears and worries had all but vanished in the blink of an eye.

Sure, Yun Che was so different that he was reluctant to address him at first, but that all changed to wild joy and excitement after the young man had made the first move. However, everything he said and displayed after that worried him deeply... especially the last part where Yun Che denied his very identity and directed his killing intent at him.

After his shock had passed, Xia Yuanba stared at Yun Che's twisting features and replied firmly, "Brother-in-law, I'm not sure what's the problem here, but I am the one and only Xia Yuanba. If you truly are my brother-in-law, then you will never mistake me for someone else."

He extended his arms and showed Yun Che a jade tablet that was shining a golden light in his left hand, and a short ruler surrounded by an ancient aura in his right. He said, "This is Absolute Monarch Sanctuary's Saint Emperor Seal and the Primal Chaos Heavenly Ruler. At the Supreme Ocean Hall, the former Saint Emperor, Huangji Wuyu himself handed them to me right before your eyes."

"..." Yun Che's trembling gaze focused onto the Saint Emperor Seal and Primal Chaos Heavenly Ruler immediately.

Next, Xia Yuanba flipped his palm around and back to reveal a white pill overflowing with snowy aura. "This is the Snow-colored Pellet you gave to me back then. You wanted me to give this to my future wife as a beauty gift, but er, women are so troublesome, so I, uh, I haven't... ahem!"

"Oh right!" He suddenly pointed at the stones hanging around Yun Che's neck. "The three stones you're wearing around your neck are the tri-colored Glazed Sound Stones Wuxin gifted you. You boasted to me about it back then."

"Also, I was asking you about my sister back then, and you told me that you would take me to the God Realm yourself if I could solidify my cultivation in two years... it has been more than four years since that day though."

"You and my sister got married at sixteen... after that, we entered New Moon Profound Palace together and made the acquaintance of Cang Yue. She called herself 'Lan Xueruo' at the time..."

"When you were seventeen, you fought in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament held at Heavenly Sword Villa and defeated my sister..."

"Later on, you took heavy injuries in order to protect me and were sealed into the Sword Management Terrace together with a demon. You later discovered that the demon was your grandfather, Yun Canghai..."

"Also... and..."

Xia Yuanba went through one experience after another like an inexhaustible pipe. Many of them were known only to him and Yuanba.

They crushed the suspicions Yun Che had forced himself to conjure into nothing.

Xia Yuanba was undoubtedly Xia Yuanba. At this point, there was nothing he could come up with to deny it.

But why... did he say those things?

Blue Pole Star was in the Eastern Divine Region... right?

Blue Pole Star was destroyed right before his eyes... right?

He had lost Wuxin forever a long time ago... right?

He allowed his killing intent to fall away and grabbed Xia Yuanba's arms again.

“Yuanba.” Yun Che tried his best to speak in a calm voice. “Blue Pole Star... is to the east of the Eastern Divine Region. Moreover, it was... destroyed four and a half years ago! Wuxin, everyone... they all died a long time ago!”

“...” This time, it was Xia Yuanba who nearly saw his eyeballs fall out of his eye sockets. “Brother-in-law, what in the world are you talking about? Like I told you, I left the Blue Pole Star just four months ago! And before that, I was living in the Profound Sky Continent most of the time! Sure, I occasionally traveled to the Illusory Demon Realm to take a look, and twice I sneaked a peek at the Azure Cloud Continent you mentioned to me because I was curious, but I have been on Blue Pole Star all this time!”

“All the continents are doing just fine! Even the demon beast stampedes that were plaguing us earlier quickly faded into nothing after you left. So what in the world do you mean by... destroyed?”

“...” The light in Yun Che’s pupils, his aura, his very being turned as motionless as a statue.

“During the first two years of your departure, Wuxin wished day and night for you to return to her. After that, she started cultivating like crazy so she could look for you in the God Realm herself. The Little Demon Empress, Fairy Yuechan, Feng Xue’er... everyone did their best to conceal their feelings and console each other, but even I could see how depressed they were. Just like Wuxin, they cultivated day and night in hopes of looking for you one day!”

“Every time I visit Uncle Yun and Aunt Mu... I can feel their sorrow. Grandpa Xiao and Grandpa Mu ask me almost everyday if you’ve come home...”

“You said that you would come home in no time that year, but one year turned into two, two turned into three, and three turned into four... it was just a worry at the beginning, but over time it turned into... something no one dared to say for fear that it would come true. We were all terrified that you... that you were... in the God Realm...”

“...” Yun Che staggered half a step backward. His mind had been blown to smithereens at this point.

“So, why haven’t you come home to see us? Why did you say that the Blue Pole Star was destroyed? And why did you think that everyone was dead?”

Xia Yuanba actually took half a step forward and pressed, “Is something wrong, brother-in-law? What in the world happened to you? I don’t understand a word of what you just told me! Just what in the world is going on?”

Yun Che’s mind was imploding even now. It ravaged his mind and soul, halted his thoughts, shattered his cool, and even blurred his vision like a kaleidoscope.

The death of the Blue Pole Star had shattered his heart and soul. It was the event that pushed everything—his life, his soul, and his faith... into the absolute abyss.

Hate and the thirst for vengeance were the two biggest things that kept him going all this time. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that they had reforged his entire soul.

They had wiped out all the goodness, the hesitation, the ties in his heart, and his natural respect toward the heavenly way, humanity and life itself. They had driven him into going on a mad crusade for power, violence, killing, and destruction...

In fact, he had just threatened and humiliated a woman he knew was innocent a moment ago.

Now... Xia Yuanba had destroyed practically everything he believed in with his words. He felt like stars were exploding inside his very soul and tearing it apart.

He clutched his head with both hands. His fingers pressed down so strongly that he nearly crushed his own skull.

The Blue Pole Star... is untouched...

Yun Wuxin, the Little Demon Empress, Chu Yuechan... father and mother... both my grandfathers...

Are still alive...?

Alive...?

Where is this coming from...

What I saw with my own eyes back then...

What I heard from Xia Yuanba now...

Is this a dream? ...chaos? ...or have I fallen into a completely different world without knowing?

This cannot be true... where am I... it's real... no, it can't be real... I...

"Big brother Yun Che."

It sounded as crisp as an abacus counter striking against the wood. A pure voice had reached the deepest depths of his soul, dispelled the madness that was fogging his mind, and returned clarity to both vision and mind.

He looked up and saw Shui Meiyin. Then, his pupils shrank to the size of needles.

He saw a light so red that it hurt the soul.

A long time ago, the same light had caused countless realm kings and god emperors to quake in fear.

It was because it looked almost identical to the crimson crack that appeared on the Wall of Primal Chaos!

Right now, Shui Meiyin was holding a black needle that was only about as long as her forearm and half an inch wide. It looked like nothing special besides the fact that it was completely black in color.

The crimson light had come from its tip.

Yun Che had seen this needle before. In fact, many realm kings and god emperors had seen it as well.

It was because it had made its first appearance alongside the Heaven-smiting Devil Emperor herself!

It was the artifact she had used to carved a literal passage through the walls of Primal Chaos...

The World Piercer!

Everyone including Yun Che had thought that the Heaven-smiting Devil Emperor had taken the World Piercer with her, that the Profound Heavenly Treasure was permanently lost to the world. He had no idea that it was in Shui Meiyin's hands!

Xia Yuanba was staring at the profound artifact with his mouth agape as well. It was as if his soul was sucked into the crimson light.

"How did you—"

"Big brother Yun Che," Shui Meiyin said gently again, "Cease your questions and thoughts for now, okay? I'm going to take you to a place. You'll understand everything once you're there."

"I will explain everything to you then."

Meanwhile, Xia Yuanba shook his head violently and broke free from the attraction that was the crimson light. It was only then that he looked closely at Shui Meiyin.

He had expected this, and he was not surprised: it was yet another fairy-like beauty.

The Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins were born for war. Therefore, his battle lust would grow alongside his power and divine veins until its owner was transformed into a complete battle maniac.

However, it meant that the rest of his desires would be devoured by that battle lust as well.

It was why Yuanba couldn't understand Yun Che's tendency to add a new woman to his harem every outing or two at all. The mere idea of interacting with a woman and being managed by one sent shivers up his spine.

More than one? Please, anything but that!

"But before we go, I must request that you suppress your aura to the maximum. All of it... I know you can do it, big brother Yun Che."

Shui Meiyin understood how confused Yun Che was feeling right now, which was why she injected her voice with her unique power of the soul, the Stainless Soul Sound.

Despite Yun Che's confusion, he still noticed that something was about to happen.

So he stopped asking and thinking as Shui Meiyin requested and activated both Hidden Flowing Lightning and Moon Splitting Cascade. He withdrew his aura until he was practically untraceable.

Shui Meiyin let out a soft sigh of relief before bringing up the World Piercer. Then, she made a tiny wave.

There was no sound or spatial aura at all, but Yun Che, Shui Meiyin and Xia Yuanba suddenly vanished into thin air.

An instant later, the scenery before them changed, and a cold wind blasted against their faces.

The cold energy of this place was several tiers weaker than Snow Song Realm's. It couldn't cool even the weakest divine way profound practitioner.

Yun Che shivered from head to toe, however.

It was because he once thought that he would never be able to feel this cold ever again.

The world beneath his feet was white and infinite. The ice and snow whipping across the air looked like they would never stop.

There was one thing that was different from the seemingly infinite expanse of snow, however. It was a series of connected palaces, and they looked as sacred as they were lonely in this white world.

Yun Che felt like someone had pulled the rug from beneath him.

Below him was the Snow Region of Extreme Ice.

The palaces at the distance were none other than the Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace he and the fairies had constructed together.

Chapter 1816 - So Close Yet So Far

“Eh? Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace? H... how?”

Xia Yuanba stared at the Snow Region of Extreme Ice in front of him in shock before looking at Shui Meiyin.

Oh my god, this girl is amazing!

Wait a second, it took me four months to get to the God Realm! I haven't even stood on its soil for three days, and now I'm all the way back already!? Come on!

Xia Yuanba complained a bit in his head before facing toward Yun Che again, shouting, “See, brother-in-law!? This is the Snow Region of Extreme Ice! Not only is the Blue Pole Star fine, it's way more stable than it was several years ago. And you wonder why I'm surprised when you said that it was de... de...”

“...” Yun Che didn't react in the slightest. He looked like his soul wasn't present in his body.

“Palace Master Murong and Fairy Yuechan should be inside the building right now. Wuxin frequents here daily as well... ah! That's right!” Xia Yuanba abruptly grabbed Yun Che's arm and pulled. “Come on! Let's go meet them already so they can rest easy—”

Shui Meiyin's eyes flashed before he could finish his sentence, and Xia Yuanba abruptly froze like a statue. His eyes widened when he realized that he could neither move nor speak. From an outsider's point of view, the only thing that proved that he was still conscious was his moving eyeballs.

“Big brother Yun Che,” whispered Shui Meiyin while moving closer to Yun Che and feeling the tremors in his soul, “Don't doubt that this is the Blue Pole Star. You are without a doubt in the home planet you miss so, so much right now. This is neither an illusion nor a dream.”

“Your relatives, your family, your best friends, your lovers, your daughter... they are all alive. They have always been alive and well.”

“... Ugh...” Yun Che's fingers shook in Shui Meiyin's palm. His teeth were chattering visibly as well.

Shui Meiyin continued, "It's because the planet the Moon God Emperor destroyed was a planet called Sky Water Star. You mistook it for the Blue Pole Star because they are similar in terms of size and color. It is even harder to differentiate them from space."

"The position we're at right now is where the Sky Water Star used to be."

"Blue Pole Star and Sky Water Star had switched places before that destruction. The Blue Pole Star was teleported to the south of the Southern Divine Region, and the Sky Water Star was teleported to the east of the Eastern Divine Region."

"...???" Xia Yuanba's eyeballs nearly fell out of their sockets. He felt like he was listening to some impossible myth.

Shui Meiyin raised the World Piercer and said quietly, "Moving planets sounds like the kind of miracle only an ancient True God can pull off, right?"

"But there is still one item in the world that can do this... it was a one-time miracle that may never happen again, but it happened perfectly because of you."

Her voice brushed his soul again and again like a gentle wind.

Yun Che's fingers twitched as he slowly, very slowly, stretched his arms forward. He looked like he was trying to touch the world before him.

A world he thought he had lost forever in his life.

The shivering in his arms wasn't a conscious action. It was a kind of desire born from the bottom of his heart.

At the same time, he released his soul perception in an attempt to reach out to the people and souls he thought he had lost forever.

A surprised Shui Meiyin tried to stop him, but Yun Che himself shivered as if realizing something and withdrew it in a panic. He even stopped breathing as if the action was enough to reveal his presence to the world.

"Big brother... Yun Che." Shui Meiyin felt a twinge in her nose and hugged him gently.

Yun Che hadn't stopped shivering since the beginning. He clenched his teeth tightly and forced down something primal that was threatening to escape his throat.

Shui Meiyin's voice caused a tear to fall off, however. It fell toward the infinite snow beneath his feet and vanished from sight.

Ten breaths... twenty breaths...

It was so quiet that only the wind, the snow, and the occasional sound that escaped Yun Che's throat could be heard.

"Big brother Yun Che."

Shui Meiyin tugged at his sleeve once, and the silence was finally broken. Yun Che slowly turned around to face Yuanba.

His eyes were closed, and he was doing his utmost to control his expression, his emotions and his aura... but his facial muscles were still twitching uncontrollably against his will.

When he finally spoke, his voice sounded hoarse and distant, "Go home, Yuanba. Don't... tell anyone that you've seen me."

To regain what he lost...

But to have to conceal his presence from his loved ones, much less meet them...

Right now, his soul felt like a lone boat braving the biggest storm he had ever seen in his life.

Shui Meiyin released her soul shackle on Yuanba, and the latter regained control of his body and his senses after a shiver.

A sudden pressure pressed against his heart when he looked at Yun Che again. He felt so heavy that he almost couldn't breathe.

Xia Yuanba had far too many questions he wanted to shoot at Yun Che, but he wasn't the innocent, foolish youth he used to be anymore. He knew that this was not the time.

He simply asked, "When... will you come back, brother-in-law?"

A short silence later.

"When I have killed... everyone... who deserves to die."

He said the darkest things in the shakiest voice.

"Got it." Xia Yuanba nodded before sucking in a small breath. "I haven't forgotten the day you risked your life to save me, brother-in-law. Later on, you saved Blue Wind, Illusory Demon Realm, Profound Sky Continent, and even the entire Blue Pole Star..."

"Although I've not truly seen the broader world with my eyes, you will always be the greatest hero in my heart. I know that you are bearing something I can't understand again, and it's something heavier than anything you've ever borne in the past. But no matter what happens, you must come back safe and sound."

"There are countless people who are worried about you and waiting for you to return. You are far more important to them than you can ever imagine. That is why... you must come back safe and sound, okay?"

"..." Yun Che didn't reply or turn away. The only visible reaction Yuanba could see was Yun Che's fingers whitening from the sheer amount of force he was exerting on them.

A long time later, after Yun Che finally looked away from Yuanba, the brawny man exhaled a little and got ready to jump down to the snowy region below him. That was when he saw something that caused his eyes to shrink, and his mouth to blurt out, "Wuxin!?"

Yun Che's shivering abruptly ceased completely.

One breath... two breath...

Yun Che's already shaky reason was instantly torn apart by burning desire. He abruptly turned around and stared at the direction Yuanba was facing toward. Shui Meiyin tightened her grip around his hand, but didn't stop him.

He saw a woman walking slowly across the snow.

The snowy region should've been a scenery nothing in the human world could top, and yet they all turned into mere decorations when she showed up. It was as if every light in the world was focused on the woman.

When Yun Che left, Yun Wuxin was less than fifteen years old.

Today, she was almost twenty.

This period was the most beautiful period of a girl's life. Every year was a beautiful, once-in-a-lifetime transformation.

The childishness and naivety Yun Wuxin freely displayed in front of him was no longer present in Yun Wuxin. She had become an extraordinarily pure and beautiful woman just like her mother.

Her footsteps were slow and light. It was almost as if she wasn't willing to disturb this eternal world of ice with her presence.

Her hair had grown past her waist. It swayed in the same rhythm as her skirt. Her eyes looked like stars surrounded by nebulae... unfortunately, the nebula cloud was made up of heart-aching sorrow.

The snow she was stepping on was pure white, and yet she seemed to shine even holier and whiter than it was. Her beauty was so pure and ethereal that it was as if she was the most perfect creation of the heavens. One look was enough to drown anyone in her beauty.

She... was his daughter.

Warmth threatened to burst out of his heart. His blood felt boiling hot in his veins. Yun Che gripped Shui Meiyin's hand tightly for fear that he would lose control and hug Wuxin.

She had grown up... his daughter had grown up...

Not only had he missed every day; every year of her miraculous growth...

It was a period he could never regain.

"We should leave, big brother Yun Che."

Shui Meiyin called out quietly and broke him out of his reverie.

"..."

Wrenching his eyes away from Wuxin with willpower that bordered on cruelty, he closed his eyes and remained that way.

“Yuanba,” he said quietly, “I promise you that I will return safe and sound... not only that, I will return... faster than you can imagine!”

Xia Yuanba couldn't say a word.

Yun Che had stopped himself from approaching Yun Wuxin after seeing her with his own eyes. He couldn't even imagine how heavy the burden Yun Che was carrying on his back was.

He did the only thing he could, nodding to Yun Che and hitting his chest once as solemnly as possible. “Very well, brother-in-law. I'll be waiting! Until you return, I promise that no one will touch Blue Pole Star unless I'm dead!”

After that, Xia Yuanba attempted to jump off the cliff again. However...

“Wait.” Yun Che called out to him again. “Can you... ask Wuxin something for me?”

Xia Yuanba looked back at him and listened seriously.

“Can you ask her if she... hates me?” He never opened his eyes as he said this.

“Er...” Xia Yuanba looked conflicted, but he could hardly turn Yun Che down especially in a situation like this. In the end, he forced himself to nod and say, “Okay.”

“Speaking of which, there's one thing I would like to ask you as well,” Xia Yuanba said, “How is my sister doing?”

Shui Meiyin: “...”

“...” Yun Che didn't react much to that question. He replied in a low tone, “I promise I'll tell you everything after I've returned.”

It wasn't a real answer, but Xia Yuanba didn't push further. He nodded strongly again before saying, “Got it! Don't forget your promise, brother-in-law! You must return to us safe and sound, okay!?”

“Oh, and sister too! You must bring her home safe and sound as well! I'm still looking forward to seeing how your children will look, you know? Hehe!”

Xia Yuanba gave him a bright smile and withdrew his aura. He then walked off the cliff and dropped down to the snowy region below.

Yun Che remained where he was like a statue, and Shui Meiyin stayed by his side quietly. She didn't speak or urge him to move. She indulged him just like he always indulged her.

After he judged that he had dropped enough distance, Xia Yuanba abruptly released his profound energy and sped up. He landed right in front of Yun Wuxin.

The girl halted and stared at Xia Yuanba in surprise. “Uncle Xia, you're... back?”

“Er...” Xia Yuanba scratched his head with a regretful look on his face. “I ran into a couple spatial turbulences I couldn't overcome as I approached the God Realm, so I had to come back to prepare. Don't worry, I'm sure I'll succeed on the next trip.”

Wuxin's lips curled into a small smile. Her complexion looked whiter than even a snow sparkle. "Thank you, Uncle Xia, and rest well. I'm sure the journey to that world was a difficult one."

After that, he gave him a small nod, passed by him, and continued toward the nearby Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace.

The years had made her as dispassionate as her mother was.

"Wuxin," Xia Yuanba hurriedly stopped her before she could vanish, "I have... a question I would like to ask you about."

Yun Wuxin stopped in her tracks and looked back at him. "Please ask, Uncle Xia."

His heart rate quickened for no real reason. He was fully aware that Yun Che was watching them from the sky.

"You... do you hate your father... just a tiny bit?"

Xia Yuanba squeezed the voice out of his throat. Despite his best attempts, his voice sounded a little dry even to himself.

Chapter 1817 - Like a Burst Dam

The snowy winds suddenly stopped howling and one could even faintly hear the beat of a wildly-pounding heart in the vast still whiteness that seemed to stretch on forever.

"Of course I do."

That calm and quiet reply caused Xia Yuanba's heart to drop in his chest... because he knew that Yun Che was definitely listening.

"How can I not hate him?"

She didn't turn around to look at Xia Yuanba. Instead, she kept staring into the distance as her voice turned even colder and gloomier than the boundless snow. "He wasn't around when I was born. He wasn't there as I was growing up. He didn't even come... to my coming-of-age ceremony when I turned eighteen."

"He told me that I was his whole world... He told me that he'd never let my mother and I get hurt or cry again... He told me that he'd be back before I even knew it... He told me that he wanted to watch me grow older, to make up for everything that he owed me..."

"But... he broke every promise he made... over and over again..."

"He's the most unreliable father, the most ill-qualified father... the worst father in the world."

Her voice was very soft and light, and although it sounded a little faint at times, one couldn't hear any emotion in it.

In the skies high above them, far higher than where her senses could reach, Yun Che slowly closed his eyes. He had clenched his jaw so hard that a small rivulet of blood was slowly trickling from the corner of his mouth.

Shui Meiyin stretched out a hand to wipe away the blood before she gently closed her palm.

“He clearly said that... he wouldn’t allow anyone to steal him away from me... But why... does he keep choosing to abandon me time after time, again and again...”

“I hate him, I hate him so much.”

After she softly muttered those words, she started to slowly walk away.

Xia Yuanba couldn’t see her expression right now and her voice had been so cold and calm that it had practically frozen his heart. He stretched out a hand to stop her but he simply couldn’t find the words to say.

At this time, Yun Wuxin suddenly stopped and turned around to look at him.

“Uncle Xia,” she said as she stared straight into Xia Yuanba’s eyes with those clear and innocent eyes of hers. “Have you already met him?”

This sent a jolt through Xia Yuanba, who was currently deeply emotional. He anxiously waved his hands and exclaimed, “No, no, no, no! Absolutely not! If not, I would’ve... definitely brought him home.”

Upon seeing Xia Yuanba’s reaction, a flowing light flashed through Yun Wuxin’s beautiful eyes. She opened her mouth to speak but she ended up stopping herself several times before she finally asked in a slow and measured voice, “You... really did see him, huh? You saw him... and he’s still around... right?”

Xia Yuanba had always been terrible at lying. He wasn’t even as good as your average human being, much less someone like Yun Che, who could spin a web of lies with an absolutely straight face.

It would’ve been better if he hadn’t tried to deny it, because this denial had so many holes in it that it was practically an admission in Yun Wuxin’s eyes.

“Er... this... I...”

Xia Yuanba panickedly retreated a few steps as Yun Wuxin continued to stare at him. He wanted to make another strong denial, but the moment he opened his mouth, all the air went out of him and his head sagged in defeat instead.

“Huuuu...” He let out a long sigh as a look of resignation crossed his face. After that, he made sure that he didn’t look towards where Yun Che was as he avoided Yun Wuxin’s gaze and replied, “Yes. In truth... I successfully managed to go to the God Realm, and I met your father under extremely fortuitous circumstances.”

Since everything he said was true this time, Xia Yuanba didn’t show any of the tells he gave away when he did try to lie.

Once he said those words, Xia Yuanba’s body instantly relaxed. He felt guilty toward Yun Che, but he felt a lot better now that he had gotten it all out.

Silence... A very long and drawn-out silence ensued after that. Xia Yuanba stared at Yun Wuxin with apprehensive eyes as she quietly stood in place. Her face was still as cold and calm as ever, and not a single ripple of emotion could be seen on her face.

Yun Wuxin finally spoke, "Then why didn't he come back to me? Why did he ask you to hide the truth? Did he receive some sort of debilitating injury... that crippled him?"

"No, no, absolutely not. He's extremely fine, not a single wound on him! I can guarantee that much at least."

Since matters had already come to this, Xia Yuanba chose not to hide anything any longer. He solemnly said, "There are some very important tasks that he has to complete. Tasks so important... that even I can't quite understand them."

"Wuxin," Xia Yuanba hurriedly continued, "I understand your father very well. The only reason he wouldn't have returned after all these years is because there have been some unforeseen difficulties and obstacles tying him down. After all, the place called the God Realm is unimaginably vast, and there must be something that's keeping him there."

"However, he did promise that he would return very soon... That was something that he said himself. A promise he was very sincere about."

Xia Yuanba had already racked his brains to craft this answer for Yun Wuxin, so the only thing he could do now was anxiously wait for her response.

"Is that so..." Yun Wuxin said in the softest of voices. After that, she simply turned around, her back facing Xia Yuanba once more.

"I got it. Since he didn't want us to know about the chance meeting that two of you had, I won't tell Mother or my masters."

"Uncle Xia, you've been gone for several months, so Absolute Monarch Sanctuary has been worried to death about you. You should return as soon as possible and give them some peace of mind."

She was already wandering into the boundless flying snow even as she said those words.

"Wuxin, are... you okay?" Xia Yuanba asked in a worried voice.

Unfortunately, he did not receive a reply. Yun Wuxin's figure had already become indistinct and blurry as she disappeared into the neverending blizzard.

After Xia Yuanba shot a very apologetic look into the skies above him, he remained where he was standing for a while, a troubled look on his face. After that, he gave a short sigh before he turned around and flew toward the south.

After all, Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace forbade all males besides Yun Che from entering, and he was no exception.

The snowy winds were growing more and more frantic. This had become a common occurrence in the Snow Region of Extreme Ice since four years ago, when the entire Blue Pole Star had shuddered violently. Ever since then, this region had grown even colder than it had been before.

Yun Wuxin's steps grew slower and slower, and before she even knew it, her path had deviated away from where Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace lay.

Thud!

She suddenly staggered as she fell to her knees in the icy snow.

She remained still for a very long time, her delicate shoulders gently trembling. However, this trembling began growing more and more intense...

A hoarse sob that she desperately tried to suppress rang out in the snowy winds.

“Da... Daddy...”

She cried out those words in a desolate and miserable voice as a single tear fell from the eyes she had shut tight. It transformed into the purest and most lustrous snow crystal in the universe as it silently fell into the eternal ice that shrouded this land.

“As long as you’re safe... As... long... as you’re safe...”

“As long... as you’re safe... I’ll wait for you... no... matter... how... long... it takes...”

“Daddy... I hate you... But... I also really... really... miss... you...”

Finally, she couldn’t hold back her sobbing any longer and tears fell from her eyes like water from a burst dam. She knelt in the snow as she clutched one hand to her chest and cried her heart out in the midst of that boundless land of ice and snow. The dim skies and howling winds hid her heart-rending cries from the world as the snow swirled around her.

Every teardrop, every pain-filled sob was filled with boundless longing, anger, sorrow, worry, and fear...

In the clouds high above her, Yun Che desperately clutched at his chest, his fingers sinking deep into his flesh.

“Let’s... go.”

Those two short words were said in such a tremulous voice that they were nearly unintelligible.

Every second he stayed in the Blue Pole Star increased the danger it was exposed to.

He definitely couldn’t let the nightmare of yesteryear come to pass again. He couldn’t allow anyone to detect its existence, no matter what... Even if there was an infinitesimally small chance of that happening in the first place.

He could not meet her, could not stay here, could not even go a little bit closer... until there were finally no threats in this world.

Shui Meiyin took out the World Piercer and gently swished it in the air.

Light and space bent around them as they returned to the Seven Star Realm. They also just so happened to appear in the place they had been before.

Because he had discovered Xia Yuanba, the energies that Yun Che had unleashed had left a clear mark on the landscape. As a result, no one who was tracking him would realize that the planes had been broken in this place.

Bang!

Yun Che fell to his knees heavily, his fingers still painfully digging into his flesh. His face was a mask of warped anguish and his entire body was shaking like a leaf in a storm. The harsh grating sound of teeth grinding on teeth could be heard from his mouth.

Shui Meiyin squatted down beside him and whispered, "Big Brother Yun Che, I'm the only one here. No one else will be able to approach us."

Those short few words actually caused the Devil Master, the ruler of the Northern Divine Region, the monster who had stained two divine regions in blood, to completely collapse. His head smashed against the ground as he wailed loudly like a helpless child, his tears instantly staining the ground around him.

His home, his family and friends, his clan, his wives and lovers, his daughter...

They were actually still alive.

He had never actually lost them...

There was no greater blessing and joyous surprise in the universe than this for Yun Che.

However, this great joy was also accompanied by a huge sorrow.

A father and daughter lay separated by two worlds as both of them knelt in the ground and bitterly wept. They wailed their hearts out as they clutched their chests, and even the heavens and the earth seemed to mourn with them.

Within the world of the Sky Poison Pearl, He Ling held both hands to her lips as she sobbed uncontrollably.

"Wu... This is wonderful... This is simply wonderful... Wuuuu..." She barely gasped as tears poured down her cheeks.

"WAAAAAAAAAAAAH!" Hong'er was also wailing loudly, her tears scattering everywhere.

Meanwhile, You'er was staring at them with a vacant look on her face. She didn't know what to do right now.

.....

"So the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor gifted the World Piercer to you quite soon after she arrived, huh?"

Yun Che's weeping lasted for more than an hour before his sobs gradually died down.

Even now, his eyes were still red and swollen. Even though it seriously hurt his proud and dignified image as the Devil Master, he wasn't willing to use profound energy to fix it.

Besides, the only person who could see him right now was Shui Meiyin and she would always think that he was the most handsome person in the world, no matter what happened.

He rested a hand lightly against his chest as he spoke... His heart no longer felt cold and dead. It was slowly throbbing with a warm heat.

“Yes, she gave it to me quite soon after she had arrived,” Shui Meiyin nodded her head as she gently traced the surface of the World Piercer with a slender, jade-like finger.

If anyone saw the ordinary black needle in her hand, an object that radiated no aura whatsoever, they would never think that this was the artifact ranked sixth among the Seven Heavenly Profound Treasures, the World Piercer.

“No wonder you told me that the Moon God Emperor wouldn’t be able to lock you up if you didn’t wish for it,” Yun Che said with a dry chuckle.

Shui Meiyin replied, “I didn’t want to endanger the Glazed Light Realm any further or expose the fact that I held the World Piercer, so I obediently allowed myself to be locked up in that place. I would only ever use the World Piercer to sneak out a few times when I was absolutely sure that I wouldn’t be caught.”

“Big Brother Yun Che, in truth, Senior Devil Emperor wanted to leave the World Piercer to you,” Shui Meiyin suddenly said.

Yun Che didn’t look the least bit surprised when he heard those words.

When he had finally calmed down and taken another look at the World Piercer in Shui Meiyin’s hands, the first emotion that actually flooded his heart was shock. Why hadn’t the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor simply give it to him if she wasn’t going to take it outside of the Primal Chaos!?

After all, both her daughters were bonded to him directly!

The Void Illusion Stone was publicly acknowledged as the most powerful spatial artifact in the universe. It was so powerful that it could instantly teleport someone without leaving a single trace behind... The only flaw was that even the user did not know where he was going to be sent to.

Back at the Wall of Primal Chaos, Yun Che had used a Void Illusion Stone the enslaved Qianye Ying’er had thrown to him to escape from certain doom.

Back when the Blue Pole Star had been “destroyed”, Yun Che had escaped together with Mu Xuanyin’s body using a Void Illusion Stone as well.

In the annals of the God Realm, the Void Illusion Stone’s power came from the World Piercer. There were very few of them left in the universe, and since there was no way to reproduce them in the time the World Piercer was exiled from the Primal Chaos together with the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor, the already-small supply dwindled with every use.

However, the World Piercer could not only do what the Void Illusion Stone did, it could also allow its user to set the coordinates to where they wanted to be teleported to! And it could be used an unlimited amount of times!

This treasure was absolutely ridiculous in its ability to allow its user to escape, so he simply couldn’t understand why the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor hadn’t left it to him.

What’s more, during the Era of Gods, the World Piercer was the Heavenly Profound Treasure that had belonged to the Heretic God! Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Jie Yuan was only in possession of it

because he had given it to her as a betrothal gift. However, that was also why the Sky Poison Pearl had ended up in Yun Che's hand as Jie Yuan had given it to the Heretic God as her betrothal gift.

He stared intently at Shui Meiyin as he waited for her to continue. Even though he was beyond puzzled by her decision, he knew very well that the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor must have had a very special reason for doing what she did.

Chapter 1818 - The Truth

Shui Meiyin slowly started recounting her tale. "However, there was a problem with that. When Senior Devil Emperor used the World Piercer to create that 'crimson crack' in the Wall of Primal Chaos, the effort nearly drained it of all of its power. It was so drained that it wouldn't even be able to perform the jump that we just did more than a few times."

This didn't surprise Yun Che either. The God Realm had known about the crimson crack for several years, and that was because it took the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor that long to cut open the Wall of Primal Chaos. During those years, the World Piercer had definitely expended all the energy it could before it needed to recharge itself again, and the cycle of being used and recharging its energy went on until the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor finally broke through.

Hence, when she finally did manage to break through to the other side of the Wall of Primal Chaos, the World Piercer was in an entirely drained state, to the point where it had even been significantly overtaxed.

Furthermore, in the current Primal Chaos Dimension, there was no doubt the World Piercer would take a very long time to recover its strength... for the same reason as the Sky Poison Pearl and the Eternal Heaven Pearl.

"This wasn't all. Its artifact spirit was also on the brink of death after many years of being in a state of constant release and it fell into a deep sleep after the World Piercer had broken through the Wall of Primal Chaos."

"Senior Devil Emperor said that the current aura in the Primal Chaos Realm was too thin and turbid, and it was possible that the World Piercer's artifact spirit might never wake up in such an environment. She even said that it was very possible that it may die while still in its state of slumber."

Yun Che, "..."

Shui Meiyin's words made him recall the previous poison spirit that dwelled within the Sky Poison Pearl.

Even though the Sky Poison Pearl had managed to recover its poison origin in the Azure Cloud Continent, its poison spirit had already died. As such, the rate at which the Sky Poison Pearl regained its ability to poison was... incredibly slow.

It was only when He Ling became its new poison spirit that the Sky Poison Pearl's power began to properly recover. In fact, it had even managed to unleash its "Heaven Wounding Thought Severing Poison" on the Brahma Monarch God Realm a few years ago, an act that had brought the mighty king realm to its knees.

If the needle spirit of the World Piercer remained in its deep sleep or died, then the power of the World Piercer would undoubtedly remain dormant forever.

Perhaps He Ling's spirit could also merge with the World Piercer...

However, he instantly quashed that thought the moment it surfaced in his head.

No, that wouldn't do! He Ling could perfectly control the Sky Poison Pearl as she was a wood spirit, but taking over the Eternal Heaven Pearl had dramatically increased the burden on her soul. In spite of that, she still tried to merge her spirit into the Primordial Seal of Life and Death on a regular basis, even when it was clear that it was hurting her.

Given her willingness to sacrifice herself for him no matter what the cost, this World Piercer...

Wait a minute! The needle spirit was asleep, it wasn't dead! I'm getting ahead of myself here.

"However, Senior Devil Emperor did not want the World Piercer to accompany her into her eternal exile from the Primal Chaos. So, she handed it over to me before she left."

"Is it because you have the Stainless Divine Soul?" Yun Che asked. This was the unique trait, a blessing from the heavens themselves, that only Shui Meiyin had.

"Yes." Shui Meiyin nodded her head. "The World Piercer was born in the core of the primordial universe. So she said these words to me. 'Only your Stainless Divine Soul, birthed by the primordial energies of this universe, can nurture and temporarily awaken the needle spirit that slumbers within the World Piercer'."

"The Stainless Divine Soul was then used as a medium to connect to the needle spirit which had been roused from its slumber for a little while, and I would then proceed to use my own strength to forcibly activate the World Piercer's dimensional powers."

Emotion filled Yun Che's face as he said, "So you're saying that you managed to switch the Blue Pole Star with another planet using this method?"

She had used the Stainless Divine Soul to temporarily awaken the needle spirit slumbering within the World Piercer before using it again to connect with the roused needle spirit. After that, she had used her own power to forcibly activate the World Piercer's dimensional power to accomplish this huge spatial swap.

If completely destroying two planets was as hard as lifting a boulder, completely swapping the locations of two planets was as hard as lifting a mountain.

This enormous endeavour had definitely exhausted most of Shui Meiyin's soul power and profound power. However, the one that had borne the brunt of the burden had undoubtedly been the already-weak needle spirit.

No wonder Shui Meiyin had said that this was a one-off divine miracle... Unless the needle spirit recovered enough of its strength, it might not even be possible to try to forcefully pull this stunt off again. In fact, even attempting to do this again would inevitably result in the complete destruction of the needle spirit.

Given the current state that the Primal Chaos Dimension was in, the needle spirit could perish at any given moment. Even if it could make a complete recovery while resting within Shui Meiyin's Divine Soul, there was no telling how long that would take.

Shui Meiyin continued, "Swapping the locations of two planets is the very limit of what the World Piercer can do in the current universe. This was something that Senior Devil Emperor told me after she passed it to me. At that time, I had never thought that there would actually be a day where I had to... and I had never dreamed that it would come so quickly either."

Yun Che's heart throbbed with a gentle warmth as he stared at Shui Meiyin, but he did not know how to put this feeling into words.

"You found a replacement for the Blue Pole Star very early on?" Yun Che asked. This felt just like... when Shui Meiyin had used the Illusory Glazed Imagery Jade to secretly record the truth of what happened back then, before the god emperors had betrayed him.

She had told him that it was because her Stainless Divine Soul could predict danger to a certain extent.

"Senior Devil Emperor told me something back then and I still remember each and every one of her words like it was yesterday." Shui Meiyin started to speak slower as she repeated Jie Yuan's words. "The true devils have never been the devil race which live within the darkness. Instead, they exist within the depths of every living being's soul. Therefore, do not be so naive as to expect your kindness to be repaid in turn and never ever underestimate the depths that people can stoop to."

"..." Yun Che had also come to fully understand those words.

Back then, he had found Chu Yuechan and his daughter, regained his power, and his friends, family, and lovers were all safe and sound. He had even managed to find Jasmine in the God Realm in the end. As such, he had decided to return to the Blue Pole Star and disappear from the God Realm forever. Furthermore, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, the person he had trusted and respected the most in the God Realm, had even personally... vowed in the most public of fashions to ensure that he would not be disturbed by anyone from the God Realm.

Everything seemed so beautiful and perfect at that moment and he was deeply grateful to the protection and benevolence that life had shown to him thus far.

In the end, it was this innocence of his that sent him hurtling into the deepest abyss.

"At first, I thought that the cruel misery that Senior Devil Emperor had endured during her years outside the Primal Chaos had naturally caused her to view everything from the bleakest and most cynical viewpoint. After that, I saw Big Brother Yun Che slowly become the God Child Messiah that everyone revered and respected, and my heart was filled with joy. However, a strange unease started to grow in my heart..."

"At that time, I didn't think that anything bad would happen to you. I also desperately hoped that all would be well, but the unease in my heart caused me to start thinking about the worst possible ending for you."

"As a result, I carefully used the Illusory Glazed Imagery Jade to secretly record the scenes of Big Brother Yun Che saving the universe. At the same time, I also started looking for a planet that was similar to the

Blue Pole Star... Because, in the worst-case scenario that I had thought of, Big Brother Yun Che's home planet, which was your greatest weakness and where your heart truly lay, would also be..."

Shui Meiyin suddenly stopped speaking. She didn't continue, but Yun Che understood what she was saying.

Yun Che broke the awkward silence by saying, "Speaking of which, why did you know where the Blue Pole Star was located? I don't remember ever bringing you there."

Shui Meiyin's delicate head drooped slightly before she looked at Yun Che and flashed him a sweet smile. "That is naturally because Senior Devil Emperor told me where it was. I also know that it was the planet that Senior Devil Emperor and Senior Heretic God created together in the far distant past."

"..." Yun Che gave the softest of sighs. When he recalled the raw emotions the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had shown when she saw the Blue Pole Star once again, he found it hard to imagine what her reaction would be if she found out about everything that had transpired in recent years.

In the Ancient Era, the Heretic God and Jie Yuan had created the Blue Pole Star together and it had originally been situated in the north of the Primal Chaos, near where the current Northern Divine Region was.

After that, the war between the True Gods and True Devils broke out, and the Heretic God shifted the Blue Pole Star to the east of the Primal Chaos in order to protect it... However, the Blue Pole Star had suffered severe damage during this process, causing most of its land to collapse. Only three percent of its landmass remained, with the remaining ninety-seven percent being turned into ocean.

And now, it had leapt through space once more to arrive in the south of the Primal Chaos.

No one in this world, and that included all the living beings on the Blue Pole Star, would ever dream that this tiny planet, which was as common as dust in the Primal Chaos Realm, had actually leapt through space three times.

"It must have been very difficult to find a planet that was similar to the Blue Pole Star, right?" Yun Che asked in a soft voice.

"No." Shui Meiyin shook her head instead. "In fact, the Blue Pole Star's special characteristics actually made it the most simple of things."

"Oh?" Yun Che looked at her, his curiosity and confusion evident in his eyes.

Shui Meiyin continued, "Most planets are primarily made out of mountains and land and these vast stretches of land would often be populated by complex and even unique geographical landmarks. Hence, if the Blue Pole Star was one of these planets, it would have been extremely hard for me to find a similar planet in such a short period of time, and finding a planet that completely matched it would have been nearly impossible."

"However, the Blue Pole Star has a very unique composition of three percent landmass and ninety-seven percent water. From the outside, it looks like a pure blue planet, and even the small amount of landmass that does exist is completely disguised by the vast amount of water. As a result, I just needed to find a planet the same size as the Blue Pole Star which was mostly composed of water."

“Furthermore, the Blue Pole Star doesn’t exist within the plane of the God Realm, and it is a lower realm planet that couldn’t be more ordinary. Its aura is weak and turbid and all of the elements on the planet are in harmony. So it was not only easier to find a similar planet, the turbulence that occurs from time to time in the energies of the universe also made it very hard for even people familiar with the planet to tell it from another one.

Shui Meiyin’s starry eyes curved slightly. “These two factors were heaven’s way of protecting the Blue Pole Star.”

“...” Yun Che stared at Shui Meiyin dazedly. Back then, when his life had been a bed of roses and the future had been bright, he would never have imagined that there was a person who was quietly looking out for him, doing things for him, and sacrificing so much for him.

“Then when did you complete the swap between the Blue Pole Star and the Sky Water Star?” Yun Che’s voice had unconsciously grown gentler and his eyes had even started misting up with tears.

As she stared into Yun Che’s emotion-filled eyes, Shui Meiyin whispered, “It was right after Senior Devil Emperor left, when you were hurt and betrayed by those you trusted in front of the Wall of Primal Chaos and agitated into unleashing your darkness profound energy.”

“Before the time came to send off Senior Devil Emperor at the Wall of Primal Chaos, I felt a deep terror emerge from within my Stainless Divine Soul... That was also why my father, sister and, I stayed in the Glazed Light Realm instead of venturing forth to the Wall of Primal Chaos at that time.”

“Soon, news arrived and you had been declared a devil that all the king realms were trying to hunt down and kill.”

“The worst-case scenario I had prepared for had truly occurred, and it happened with such breathtaking speed. Once I received the news, I left the Glazed Light Realm without anyone’s knowledge and used the World Piercer to teleport to the Eastern Divine Region.”

“Even though I had managed to use the Stainless Divine Soul to rouse the incredibly frail needle spirit within the World Piercer, I was still not convinced that I could accomplish a divine miracle like swapping the location of two planets in the universe. However... destiny must have definitely been quietly protecting Big Brother Yun Che, because I managed to succeed. The only differences after I made the swap were some deviations in where both planets had once been, something that no one would be able to detect unless they already knew what had happened.”

“No,” Yun Che said with a faint smile. “It was your pure heart and soul that moved that temperamental and fickle thing called fate.”

Shui Meiyin’s starry eyes grew a little vacant as she continued her story, “After that, I returned to the Glazed Light Realm and someone soon arrived and handed you over unconscious to Big Sister. After that...”

Yun Che knew better than anyone what happened next. He woke up, heard that the Blue Pole Star’s location had been exposed by the Eternal Heaven God Realm and that many god emperors and realm kings were already making their way there. He disregarded everything else and used the Vanishing

Moon Celestial Palace to rush over to the Blue Pole Star... before he personally witnessed the Moon God Emperor destroying the "Blue Pole Star" with a single slash...

"Big Brother Yun Che," Shui Meiyin said as she stepped forward and weakly grasped Yun Che's hand. Her eyes were misted over with tears as she continued, "At that time, I wasn't able to keep you from rushing over here, nor was I able to tell you that it wasn't the real Blue Pole Star."

"I understand. I understand everything," Yun Che said as he gripped her hand tightly.

"No." Shui Meiyin shook her head. "What I'm trying to say is that I knew that you had a Void Illusion Stone with you, so I knew that you'd be able to escape no matter how dangerous the situation became. More importantly, at that time.. I... I wanted you to... personally witness the destruction of the Blue Pole Star..."

"I knew that doing that to you was the cruelest thing to do in the world, but... but..."

Yun Che shook his head vigorously as he folded the shivering girl into a tight embrace. He closed his eyes and suppressed the wild beating of his heart as he crooned to her in a gentle voice, "No, you didn't make a mistake, you didn't do anything wrong. You were the person who saved the Blue Pole Star, saved my home, saved my family and friends... You were the one who saved my everything."

If Shui Meiyin had told him in advance that the planet that had been destroyed was not the Blue Pole Star, then he would not have fallen into an abyss of pain and despair and even if he still fled to the Northern Divine Region, the worry, longing, and fear he would have always felt for his home would have prevented him from growing so rapidly.

He would have never truly been able to abandon and give up... his home, family, friends, and lovers.

The only way he could truly become strong was if he was robbed of all his weaknesses and attachments and plunged into an endless abyss of despair. All of the weakness and hesitance in his heart had to be purged and any sympathy and kindness he may have shown toward his enemies had to be killed. The only way he would truly be reborn and quickly ascend to the peak of the universe was for him to crazily pursue strength within that boundless abyss of hatred and vengeance.

It was only like this that he would no longer have to worry about any threats once he regained what he had lost.

What Shui Meiyin had given him... was true rebirth and a shadowless future. In fact, one could even say that she had saved him.

"Meiyin." His arms tightened around her as his voice turned soft and gentle. When he opened up his mouth to speak again, every word came from the bottom of his heart. "How can I... ever... repay you for everything..."

As it turned out, there was really such a thing as a debt of gratitude that could not be repaid in one's life. It was a debt that he couldn't repay with ten or even a hundred lives.

"..." Shui Meiyin fiercely shook her head.

It seemed as if she wanted to say something, but the only thing that came from her lips were hoarse sobs that she wasn't able to stifle.

Perhaps she was crying because she felt guilty over letting Yun Che experience such pain and despair, or perhaps it was because of the touching words that Yun Che had whispered to her in such a warm and gentle fashion. Whatever it was, her slender shoulders continued to shudder as her tears fell like spring rain and quickly drenched the front of Yun Che's shirt...

It went on and on and on.

Chapter 1819 - Blood Debt

Shui Meiyin had been trying her best to stop herself from crying all this while, but as her shoulders started to tremble, the dam completely burst. She kept trying to clench her teeth or bite down on her lower lip, but nothing worked.

"Alright, don't cry, don't cry," Yun Che consoled her in a soft and gentle voice.

It hadn't been an easy task for Shui Meiyin to stop his tears, but now, she suddenly ended up crying herself.

"I... I... Wuuuuuu..."

Yun Che didn't say anything else, he only hugged her tightly... and he wouldn't let her go ever again.

He knew that Shui Meiyin was also giving vent to her emotions. She had been keeping them bottled up in her heart all this while, and there was no way she could confide in anyone else either. It must have been a huge burden and torture for her.

Furthermore, every single teardrop that was falling from her eyes right now was shed because of him and for him.

She cried for a full fifteen minutes before she finally managed to stop her weeping. However, when she turned her delicate head up to look at Yun Che, her starry eyes were still filled with tears that had yet to fall.

As he bent his head to stare straight into Shui Meiyin's reddened eyes, he chuckled to himself and said, "If your big sister were to see you now, she'd definitely come straight at me with her Jade Rivulet Sword."

"Hmph, my big sister is really gentle! There's no way she'd do that. Haha!" Shui Meiyin protested as she giggled. "Besides, you're the grand and mighty Devil Master, who would dare to swing a sword at you..."

Her fingers lightly tapped against Yun Che's chest as she said with teary eyes, "However, Big Brother Yun Che's chest has become really warm now. It's not like a cold block of ice anymore. That's the reason why... I wasn't willing to let go. Hee hee."

Yun Che himself could very clearly sense that his blood was no longer as cold as ice.

"But..." Shui Meiyin's finger suddenly stopped tapping his chest, as it gently nestled against his robes. She spoke in a soft and gentle voice, "Big Brother Yun Che, you can only give this warmth to me and the people that you care about. As for your enemies and the threats that you must eliminate, you must still be the pitiless and cruel Devil Master, okay?"

“Alright.” Yun Che gave a heavy nod of his head. “This was also one of the reasons why you were so conflicted with your decision, correct?”

“Yeah.”

Shui Meiyin’s voice fell to a hush as she continued, “I had originally wanted to tell you everything after you beat the Dragon God Realm and cleaned up all of the remaining threats.”

“I was afraid that if I told you too soon, you would start acting rashly and end up exposing the Blue Pole Star to danger. I was also afraid that your hatred and resentment would disperse once you found out, and you wouldn’t be as ruthless as you used to be. I was even afraid that your worries and attachments would start to mess with your decision-making process...”

“However, the method you used to deal with the Southern Sea God Realm caused my blood to run cold. Furthermore, your order to attack the Dragon God Realm was far too reckless and sudden... I was convinced that your confidence and determination to face the Dragon God Realm was due to some extremely cruel method you possessed. A method that would exact an equally cruel price on yourself.”

“...” Yun Che was unable to deny those words.

“I understand,” Yun Che said with a heart filled with guilt. “Don’t you worry, whether it’s the Dragon God Realm or the Western Divine Region, I will do my very best to protect myself while fighting them... I will no longer take such dangerous risks anymore.”

Now that it had come to this, he obviously understood why Shui Meiyin had wanted to tell him everything before he launched that attack on the Dragon God Realm.

She hoped that he would stop recklessly putting his life on the line once he saw the Blue Pole Star again, and that he would start thinking about his own self-preservation once more so that he could reunite with them once everything was over.

Shui Meiyin still ended up conflicted about whether she should tell him even when they were about to leave the Seven Star Realm, and their encounter with Jin Yue had clearly made her lean toward continuing to hide it.

However, fate had decided that they would meet Xia Yuanba, who had come to the God Realm to find Yun Che, today.

“Even if it is to use the rest of my life to repay my little Meiyin, I will make sure that I’ll live a good, long life from now on,” Yun Che said in a half-joking manner.

Shui Meiyin looked at him pensively before suddenly saying, “Big Brother Yun Che, if... if you really want to repay me, can... can you just promise me three things?”

Yun Che was taken aback by the request at first, but when he looked into Shui Meiyin’s starry eyes, which were trembling with a strange light, he slowly nodded his head and said in an extremely serious voice, “Alright, I’ll agree to anything, no matter what it is.”

This was an extremely solemn vow that he had made from his heart, because the debt he owed Shui Meiyin was far too great. Even if he slaved away his entire life, he wouldn’t ever be able to repay it, so what were three small promises?

Shui Meiyin wiped away the tears on her face as her expression turned solemn as well.

“The first thing I want Big Brother Yun Che to promise me... is that no matter what you encounter in the future, even if it is more dreadful than the traumatic events of the past, even if it plunges you into an even deeper despair, you must... must be kind to yourself. Don’t ever allow your hatred and resentment to harm you... and cause you to risk your life in hopes that you will die.”

“Because...”

Shui Meiyin, who had just calmed down a moment ago, started to crinkle her nose again as tears welled up in her eyes. “Your life and your wellbeing no longer belong to you alone. In this world, there is someone... who cares about you... and loves you... far more than you could ever imagine. For your sake, she truly was able to... give up everything... everything for you... Even... even...”

“Even if it is for the sake of not letting h... them down, you can never... throw yourself into that deep abyss again. Because even if they... even if they truly leave you... forever... To them, you being able to live on happily is... their eternal wish... even after they have departed.”

Tears fell from her face like a squall as she said those words.

Yun Che’s heart throbbed violently. He stretched out a hand to gently brush away the remaining tears on the girl’s face. After that, he said in a gentle but solemn voice, “Alright. I will remember every single word that you just said. I will never ever behave that way again. I promise... I promise for the rest of my life.”

What reason did he have to hold on to hatred and resentment if there was a person who was willing to do such much for him?

Shui Meiyin waited until she could compose herself again before she continued, “The second thing I want Big Brother Yun Che to promise me is that he will treat the rest of the universe with kindness and compassion once he defeats the Dragon God Realm and becomes the new ruler of the universe.”

Yun Che, “...”

Yun Che wasn’t the least bit surprised by this request. He had already more or less discerned it when he had spent time with Shui Meiyin in the Seven Star Trade Region.

“Even though the Dragon God Realm bit the hand that fed them by betraying Yun Che and the Dragon Monarch can’t be forgiven for his act of killing your master, the Dragon God Realm has been the best ruler that the God Realm could have asked for over its history. It’s done so well that no other king realm could ever hope to replace it.”

“The Dragon God Realm has unrivaled power and it could easily quash any of the other king realms if it so desired, however the dragon gods are a proud race that despise bullying the weak. Though they do not fear battle, they have never been the instigators of war. As a result, they’ve never used power to plunder others, despite the fact that they could easily do so. The other king realms also had no choice but to curb their own excesses and tyranny since the Dragon God Realm ruled over them with a watchful eye.”

“If it had been the Brahma Monarch God Realm or Southern Sea God Realm who had the power to rule the God Realm instead, you can well imagine how dreadful that would have been.”

Yun Che listened to her words sincerely. Even though he hated the Dragon God Realm to the core and would never spare Long Bai’s life, he could not deny Shui Meiyin’s words.

For the past million years, the Dragon God Realm had indeed been the best candidate to rule the God Realm.

“This Seven Star Realm is an extremely small corner of the God Realm, but they also know the truth about what happened because of the images broadcast from the Eastern Divine Region. They know that Big Brother Yun Che was hurt and betrayed, and that you were the one who actually saved all of them.”

“However, with the invasion of the Northern Divine Region, the very first reaction they will have is extreme fear and unease. As you have seen, some of them have even abandoned their ancestral homes and fled. The star realms have also become chaotic and lawless. Some of them may very well collapse before too long.”

“No one in the God Realm can imagine a world where the devils reign above them, and they are all deathly afraid of it coming to be.”

“Everything that is happening now is unavoidable. They are all things that have to come to pass. But...” She affectionately looked at Yun Che. “I believe that, in a future not so far from now, Big Brother Yun Che, who will have become the new sovereign of the universe, will do an even better job than the Dragon God Realm, right?”

Yun Che slowly stretched out a hand and stared at his own palm.

Back when he had died in the Star God Realm and had been reborn in the Profound Sky Continent, he had gone through a period of gloom and despair. However, he had also met Chu Yuechan and Yun Wuxin, which helped him step out from the gloom and into a never ending light...

Back when Yun Wuxin had sacrificed her own talent and risked her life to save him, he had stared at his hands just like this and vowed to never again stain those hands which he used to hug and protect his daughter in blood and sin.

That had caused a great change in his heart and temperament. Warmth and kindness had taken hold of his heart and soul, and he had even felt revulsion towards his past actions. Sin and bloodshed used to be a regular part of his lifestyle, but he began to reject them wholesale as the hatred, malice, resentment, and violence in his heart unconsciously started to wither away.

One memory struck him at this moment. When he had returned to the God Realm, Xia Qingyue had pinned him down with a single question. “Did your heart become soft because of your daughter?”

Not too long after that happened, his heart went to the other extreme... and it went to the most extreme of extremes.

Since then, his hands had been stained in more blood and sin than words could ever describe, and he would never ever be able to wash them clean.

“Alright,” Yun Che said in the softest of voices as he looked away and he clenched his hands.

All of this slaughter, blood, and sin are my responsibility.

I once wished to plunge this world into eternal darkness, to turn this filthy God Realm into a dark purgatory.

But now...

Even if just for the sake of not letting this boundless sin touch them, I will bestow light upon this world.

But that will only be after everything has come to an end!

Before that, everyone who needs to die, all possible threats... must be completely and totally eliminated!

Even if I have to steep myself in a thousand times more sin than I already have, I can never allow the mistakes of the past to repeat themselves again!

"Then what is the third thing?" he asked as a faint smile began to form on his face.

However, the look of sudden pain and loss in her eyes caused that smile to disappear even before it was fully birthed.

"You need to... atone... together with me."

"A... Atone?" Yun Che asked in puzzlement and shock.

His body was stained with far too much sin already. In fact, the number of people who had died because of him had already grown beyond counting.

Atone together... for her sin?

Shui Meiyin's delicate head sagged as she whispered, "The Sky Water Star that replaced the Blue Pole Star... It wasn't a dead planet."

Yun Che, "..."

"If the planet that replaced the Blue Pole Star didn't have any trace of blood or countless souls being dispersed into the ether after its destruction, the people there would have immediately detected an anomaly."

"So the Sky Water Star was also a planet teeming with life. Its aura of life was nearly as dense as the Blue Pole Star."

"Every living being on the planet, down to the smallest blade of grass and the tiniest insect, were completely innocent. However, because of my selfishness, all of them... all of them were..."

"It isn't your fault." Yun Che cut her off. "They were killed by the Moon God Emperor and they died because of me. You merely teleported them there... None of this has anything to do with you!"

Before they had left the Northern Divine Region, he had destroyed three entire star realms in the Northern Divine Region in order to frame the Eternal Heaven God Realm and create an "excuse" to attack the Eastern Divine Region.

At that time, his heart hadn't even rippled once throughout that entire undertaking. He hadn't even felt a single ounce of guilt or hesitation.

However, Shui Meiyin was different from him.

She was the only person who possessed the Stainless Divine Soul in the universe. She was of exalted birth and near-unparalleled potential, and her profound cultivation had reached the exalted heights of level seven of the Divine Master Realm...

However, one couldn't even smell the hint of blood on her and her eyes always seemed to glow with pure and unblemished starlight.

Even though she had already reached the late stages of the Divine Master Realm, it was very possible that she had never killed anyone before and had never stained her hands with sin even once.

Yet she now bore the guilt of killing an entire world because of him.

Shui Meiyin didn't nod or shake her head. She merely mumbled these words in a very soft and drowsy voice, "Let's atone together, okay?"

"..." Yun Che tried very hard to think of something to say, but he came up empty in the end.

No matter how many words he used, no matter how he tried to console, advise, or thank her, no matter what sort of guilt he tried to bear on her behalf, all of it seemed incomparably empty in front of Shui Meiyin's starry eyes.

As such, Yun Che could only gently nod his head.

Could you atone for the sin of killing a man by saving a hundred more?

He didn't know, and he didn't think that anyone else could answer that question either.

If a hundred people weren't enough, then he'd save a thousand. If a thousand weren't enough, then he'd save ten thousand!

He could go to the deepest of hells, bear a boundless amount of sin on his back... but he would never allow Shui Meiyin to feel the way he did.

Chapter - 1820 - The Final Fragment of the World-Defying Heaven Manual

Yun Che agreed to all three things.

After that, Shui Meiyin closed her eyes and her tear-stained face seemed to be a lot more at ease.

"I'll fulfill them, each and every one of them," Yun Che vowed solemnly.

Shui Meiyin managed to make a cute little pout before she finally laughed in a voice that was still a little stuffy from crying. "Mmm! Thanks Big Brother Yun Che!"

"There's no need to thank me." Yun Che grinned as he pinched the tip of her pretty white nose. "If we're really going to be thanking each other, even a million years wouldn't be enough for me to say all of those 'thank yous'."

Shui Meiyin, "..."

Today was undoubtedly yet another rebirth for Yun Che.

A long period of time passed before the two of them finally managed to compose themselves. They didn't linger in the Seven Star Realm any longer. Instead, they immediately shot into the air and returned the way they came, back to the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm.

Even though they could have used the World Piercer to arrive there in the very next instant, it was a waste of its remaining power, a power that might very well prove invaluable in the near future. They also didn't want to leave any traces of teleportation near the Seven Star Realm.

"Now that I think about it, the timing with which you produced your Illusory Glazed Imagery Jade was simply sublime. It caused the battle lines that the Eastern Divine Region had just begun to form to completely collapse. Everything fell into place like a pile of dominoes after that. Also, even though you were struggling with this decision all this while, the timing with which you chose to tell me everything couldn't have been more perfect. At least that's the way that I see it."

Yun Che grasped Shui Meiyin's hand gently as a faint smile appeared on his face. However, the meaning behind this smile was completely different from what it had been for the last few years.

"I was actually really worried just now, but now that I see the look on Big Brother Yun Che's face, I believe that we will definitely attain the best possible ending in the future," Shui Meiyin said with a happy smile.

"That's right! Let me make a guess right now," Yun Che suddenly said. "Did you borrow the spatial divine power of the World Piercer to secretly scout out the Northern Divine Region from the very beginning?"

A surprised look appeared on Shui Meiyin's face, but she didn't deny his words immediately. She grinned at him and replied, "Why do you ask?"

"About one and a half years ago, we were laying the groundwork to create the excuse we needed to attack the Eastern Divine Region. At that time, Chi Wuyao lured Zhou Xuzi to the border of the Northern Divine Region and I killed Zhou Qingchen in front of him."

"After that, the Devil Queen told me a very strange thing. She said she sensed an aura flash past us during that confrontation and she was utterly convinced that she wasn't mistaken."

"However, she couldn't find that aura again, no matter how much she swept the area with her spiritual senses." Yun Che glanced at Shui Meiyin. "The Devil Queen possesses a very unique devil soul, a soul strong enough to cause the dragon soul of the strongest Dragon God to collapse, but she wasn't able to find the aura that she had already sensed again. This was something she simply couldn't accept for a very long period of time... In fact, I don't think she's quite accepted it even now."

"Now that I think about it, that aura most likely came from you. After you discovered that she had sensed you, you instantly used the power of the World Piercer to teleport away. If that's the case, even the Devil Queen wouldn't be able to find you."

"Am I right?"

Even though he was posing it as a question, Yun Che was absolutely convinced that he was right. Because this was the only way that aura could have suddenly vanished from Chi Wuyao's spiritual senses without a single trace. There was no other possibility he could think of.

"...Heehee." Shui Meiyin suddenly giggled. She shifted her eyes away and looked to the front, "I got caught by Big Brother Yun Che. Yup, that was me! It's just that I couldn't reveal myself at that time, so I immediately fled the moment I was discovered."

"Just as I had thought," Yun Che said with a smile on his face. "Let me make another guess. Long Bai... You were the one who lured him away, right?"

Long Bai just so happened to leave the Dragon God Realm a few days before the Northern Divine Region launched their invasion of the Eastern Divine Region, and he still hadn't returned yet.

He had already confirmed that this had nothing to do with Chi Wuyao or Qianye Ying'er... They definitely wanted to do it, but they simply didn't have the means.

As a result, the only person who would be cognizant of the timing of the Northern Divine Region's invasion and be able to use a special method to lure Long Bai to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning right before then was Shui Meiyin. After all, she had just confessed that she would occasionally use the World Piercer to spy on the situation developing inside the Northern Divine Region.

She had even been able to do it without being caught.

"Mmmm, Big Brother Yun Che is right again," Shui Meiyin simply confessed. "At that time, I thought that the Dragon God Realm would pose the greatest threat to your plans. It was the greatest unknown variable that could easily have turned things around for the Eastern Divine Region. Furthermore, since Long Bai has absolute and unquestioned authority in the Dragon God Realm, his disappearance would mean that the Dragon God Realm would most likely stay put unless you directly invaded the Western Divine Region."

"However, it seems like Big Brother Yun Che isn't the least bit afraid of the Dragon God Realm. Did I... do something unnecessary?"

Yun Che smiled and shook his head. "Before the events of today, I was eagerly awaiting my meeting with Long Bai. But now... I realize that you luring him away was for the best. If not, we'd be facing an utterly different situation right now. Just thinking about it sends a shudder down my spine."

As he looked at Shui Meiyin's profile, his heart throbbed with emotion and he said, "Meiyin, I'm really lucky... to have you in my life."

They had first met when she was only fifteen. It had been during one of the rounds of the Profound God Convention's Conferred God Battle. When faced off against her terrifyingly strong Stainless Divine Soul, he had no choice but to use a despicable method to attain victory. He thought that she would fiercely hate and despise him because of that, but she had instead become infatuated with him! To the point where she would simply ignore her elder sister's advice and her father's wrath.

This infatuation of hers had also been a huge headache for him back in the day.

Amazingly enough, this love hadn't dimmed one bit during the three thousand years she had spent in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm.

And now, it had turned his destiny around and saved his heart, soul... and everything dear to him.

He did not dare to imagine what the situation would be like... if he had never met her, if he hadn't been fortunate enough to gain this wholehearted love of hers.

"Then, what method did you use to lure Long Bai into the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for so long? To the point where he still isn't willing to come out to this day?" Yun Che asked. He was extremely curious as to how Shui Meiyin had accomplished this feat.

"That..." Hesitance appeared in Shui Meiyin's eyes before she said, "I used a very special method that's a bit hard to explain. If Big Brother Yun Che really wants to know, you can personally ask Long Bai after you've gallantly beaten him."

"Oh right, there's something that I have to give to Big Brother Yun Che."

Perhaps Shui Meiyin was trying to avoid this question she wasn't willing to answer, but she looked as if she had suddenly recalled something as she stopped and held her hands up toward Yun Che. A weak light faintly flashed from them before a floating black stone tablet appeared in front of her.

It was a square-shaped stone tablet that was three feet wide and as black as night. A row of strange and profound-looking runes were inscribed on this tablet.

An indescribably mysterious aura that barely seemed to exist radiated from the tablet, and it caused Yun Che's soul to violently shudder.

This feeling...

He reached out to touch the stone tablet, his fingers tracing the lines of those strange and bizarre runes.

These unique strokes, this strange and wondrous feeling...

The Divine Text of Absolute Beginning!?

Could this be...

Yun Che's head whipped up violently to look at Shui Meiyin. His eyes were filled with shock as he asked, "Was this something that the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor passed to you as well?"

"Yes, Senior Devil Emperor told me to pass it to you at the appropriate time," Shui Meiyin replied.

Yun Che's heart started to ripple agitatedly.

The Divine Text of Absolute Beginning. The thing that the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had passed to Shui Meiyin... was the fragment of the Ancestral Divine Art that she had owned!

The profound art that was also known as the World-Defying Heaven Manual in this current era!

In the Ancient Era, Heaven Punishing Divine Emperor Mo E set a trap for the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor because of this fragment of the World-Defying Heaven Manual. That was the event that caused Jie Yuan to be banished from the Primal Chaos Dimension in the first place.

He had always assumed that this fragment had followed the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor back to the void beyond the Wall of Primal Chaos, but it turned out that she had passed this to Shui Meiyin as well.

Strange... Why didn't she just hand it over to me? Why did she have to pass it to me through Shui Meiyin?

A suspicion flashed through his mind.

He stretched out a hand and grabbed hold of the stone tablet that was floating in the air... Once he combined this with the other two fragments he was holding, he would possess the unified World-Defying Heaven Manual, the whole Ancestral Divine Art.

No one had ever managed to complete it before! This was true even in the Era of Gods!

This was truly a historic moment! Something that had never happened in the entire history of the Primal Chaos!

As he suppressed the wildly-surging emotions in his heart, he voiced his suspicions to Shui Meiyin. "When the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor handed it over to you, did she leave you any special instructions?"

Shui Meiyin paused for a moment before replying, "She said that she would rather that this thing had never come into her possession in the first place."

Yun Che, "..."

He had not obtained the answer he desired, but the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's words contained a boundless sorrow and regret that no outsider could ever understand.

The law of nothingness that Yun Che had grasped had come from the two fragments of the World-Defying Heaven Manual he already possessed.

It was an extremely unique and vague enlightenment, because Yun Che didn't even understand how he attained this enlightenment in the first place, nor did he know just how much of this law he truly understood.

Now that he had unified the World-Defying Heaven Manual, the completed Ancestral Divine Art might be able to help him delve into the deeper mysteries of the law of nothingness.

However, he could not read the Divine Text of Absolute Beginning. The only person in the universe who could do so was Xiao Lingxi.

Unfortunately for him, he wasn't able to reveal himself to her at this time.

Yun Che put away the black stone tablet, and put all thoughts of the World-Defying Heaven Manual and the Ancestral Divine Art out of his mind. After that, he turned to Shui Meiyin and said, "Meiyin, after we return to the Deep Sea Realm, can you promise me one thing..."

.....

When they returned to the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm, Yun Che thought that the ocean-blue sky was as pretty as a picture as his eyes and soul drank in its splendor.

The world seemed so much more colorful and vibrant to him now.

The Three Yama Ancestors rushed toward Yun Che at the highest speed the moment they sniffed out his aura. They reverentially stopped in front of him and greeted him. "We welcome Master back to the realm."

Yun Che was softly caressing the tri-colored Glazed Sound Stone around his neck, a warm and gentle smile on his face. The Three Yama Ancestors' voices caused him to look up at them reflexively, but the smile on his face was still there when he looked at them.

The moment they saw that smile, the Three Yama Ancestors felt a violent shudder run down their spines. After that, they practically pissed themselves as they frantically prostrated themselves before Yun Che.

"Maaaaaasssster! Please do not be angry! This old slave deserves... deserves to die a thousand deaths!" Yan One howled as he smashed his head against the ground. His crooked body was practically glued to the ground as he shook in terror.

"This old slave repents! I beg for Master's forgiveness." Yan Two was shaking even harder than Yan One.

"This old slave is incompetent and dull-witted. Since I have incurred Master's wrath, I fully deserve to die a thousand times over. I beg Master to bestow his punishment upon this old slave. You mustn't become so angry that you hurt yourself," Yan Three howled as his head banged off against the ground with the steady rhythm of a pounding hammer.

"..." Yun Che's lips twitched... He immediately realized that his faint smile had scared the three old men witless.

"Rise."

After he let go of the Glazed Sound Stone in an incredibly gentle manner, he flung a hand out and said, "Stop being eyesores and disturbing the peace! Go take a break somewhere!"

Yun Che immediately walked off after he said that. The Three Yama Ancestors scrambled to their feet as they stared at his shrinking figure with eyes that were as wide as saucers. Their brains simply couldn't process what had just happened.

After he sent sound transmissions to Chi Wuyao, Qianye Ying'er, Caizhi, and Yan Tianxiao, Yun Che stood in the center of the Deep Sea Royal Hall, closed his eyes, and whispered, "He Ling, prepare to open the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm."

He Ling's excited voice very quickly rang out in his mind. "Master, you've finally... thought things through!"

"Yes," Yun Che said as he smiled and nodded his head.

"Before today, I was only thinking of using the most violent and cruel method to rip Long Bai apart. Every day I had to wait was a torture because of my violent desire, and I wouldn't hesitate to pay any price to make that desire into a reality."

"But now, things have completely changed."

As he spoke, a faint smile remained on his face, even when he mentioned the name “Long Bai”.

The figures of all the people who had reappeared in his life once more floated up in his mind as he closed his eyes and said, “Now, I wouldn’t mind if I had to wait three hundred years, or even three thousand years in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, much less a measly three years.”

“Because Long Bai and the Dragon God Realm... are no longer opponents that I will risk my life to defeat!”

Crack!

The joints in his hands cracked as he clenched his fists. His voice was rich with malice and the promise of violence as he continued, “I am going to use the safest possible method to smash... him... to death!”