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Chapter 241 - Battle Between Husband and Wife (3)

“Dragon Fault?” Ling Jie felt that this name sounded somewhat familiar. He thought about it for a while before saying with astonishment: “Dragon Fault, wasn’t that the heavy sword recorded in our sect’s history? Don’t tell me...”

“Dragon Fault’s written accounts could be traced back to a thousand years ago. Heavenly Sword Villa had just been recently established then, and the Villa even had a heavy sword department.” Ling Yuefeng explained slowly: “But it only took two generations for this department to decline. During the third generation, those who practiced the heavy sword dwindled to such a small number that did not even reach ten. At that time, in order to make a breakthrough and revive the heavy sword, the elder of that department left for the Wasteland of Death with Dragon Fault... Records say that the Dragon Fault Sword was forged by our ancestors using Ten Thousand Year Old Ardent Gray Stone. Sealed within the sword is the soul of a young Sky Profound Dragon’s soul, which was why it was named Dragon Fault. But ever since the Dragon Fault Sword had been born in this world, it had never once displayed its true Sky Profound might. After that heavy sword department elder entered the Wasteland of Death with Dragon Fault, he had never once come out. And from that point onwards, the Dragon Fault Sword vanished without a trace.”

“According to the information that I’ve received, Yun Che had once gone deep into the Wasteland of Death before. The Sky Profound sword in his hands is exactly the same as the Dragon Fault written in our records... Without doubt, that must be Dragon Fault.” Ling Yuefeng creased his brows as he said that. He deeply understood what kind of concept it was to have “gone deep into the Wasteland of Death.”

“Ah... Father, are you thinking... of demanding to have the Dragon Fault Sword back after the ranking tournament?” Ling Jie probed as he carefully assessed Ling Yuefeng’s reaction.

“No.” Ling Yuefeng shook his head: “At that time, Heavenly Sword Villa had searched for the Dragon Fault Sword for many years, yet ended up empty-handed. In the end, they gave up. Him obtaining Dragon Fault is due to his own ability and luck. Our Heavenly Sword Villa has no right to demand it... But this can also be regarded as fate between him and our Heavenly Sword Villa. After all, that is a heavy sword that our ancestors themselves, personally casted.”

“This is the last battle of this session’s ranking tournament. The victor, will become the new leader of Blue Wind Empire’s younger generation and also receive the ‘Dragonscale Armor’ bestowed by one of the Sacred Grounds, the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region...”

When he said the words “Dragonscale Armor”, a pained expression of heartache clearly flashed past Ling Yuefeng’s face. A Sky Profound protective armor was obviously even more rare and precious than a Sky Profound Weapon, and this Dragonscale Armor was also the highest of highest grade. It was originally suppose to belong to their Heavenly Sword Villa. Never did they expect that “making feints” would become a “submissive hand over”. Not feeling brokenhearted would be weird.

“Blue Wind Imperial Family’s Yun Che against Frozen Cloud Asgard’s Xia Qingyue... Battle start!!”

Bang!!

Dragon Fault was pulled out by Yun Che from under his foot, bringing along small pieces of broken rock that flew in the air as it released an unrestrained powerful yet dignified imposing aura. Both his hands firmly held onto Dragon Fault. In the blink of an eye, his aura had already become one with Dragon Fault's aura. While watching Xia Qingyue, he spoke lowly: "Do you still remember what I told you that night? If we become adversaries, I hope that you will use all our strength, without ever holding back!!"

"Burning Heart... Open!"

Yun Che suddenly roared in a loud voice, and Evil God's Second Gate — Burning Heart, opened without the slightest hesitation! In an instant, the profound energy aura on his body suddenly increased explosively at an incomparably shocking rate. The aura's level was still of the tenth level of the True Profound Realm, but it was not known how many times the thickness of this aura exceeded the limits of the True Profound Realm. It was actually so strong that it quickly drew near to the intensity of Xia Qingyue's aura.

"AHHHHHHH!!" Ling Jie leaned forward as his mouth gaped open and released a seemingly frightened yell. Originally, even when he had been defeated yesterday, he still felt that it was not an easy win for Yun Che. However, when he brought out Dragon Fault, his self-confidence immediately took a hit. And at this moment, the intensity of Yun Che's profound energy suddenly increased explosively. It was obviously not the same as yesterday's, and this fact ruthlessly hammered at Ling Jie's heart.

It turned out that in yesterday's duel, not only did Yun Che go easy on him weapon-wise, in regards to profound energy, he did not even go all out.

If Yun Che had displayed such a profound strength and used Dragon Fault for a weapon, wanting to defeat him, would have been a completely easy task.

However, the situation was not as simple as what Ling Jie believed it to be. Yun Che's profound strength was just too low. Even with the support of the second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha that he had broken through to, he could barely maintain the Burning Heart state. It was still "barely", so if the battle lasted too long, it might perhaps leave a definite repercussion.

And the limit in which he could maintain the "Burning Heart" state, was approximately five minutes.

And these five minutes of the "Burning Heart" state, was the only thing he could rely on to withstand Xia Qingyue! In other words, he had to defeat Xia Qingyue in less than half a quarter of an hour. Otherwise, after he becomes incapable of maintaining "Burning Heart", he would not even have a sliver of hope.

Yun Che's sudden dramatic rise of profound energy startled everyone, including Ling Yuefeng and Qin Wushang. From the start of the ranking tournament up until now, one after another of ridiculous and incredible situations emerged from Yun Che, but he had actually never revealed his true strength. Through the progression of the ranking tournament, his opponents grew stronger and stronger, yet he had only released only a bit of his true strength... And at this moment, he had truly released all the strength he possessed without reservation.

Yun Che horizontally gripped Dragon Fault in front of him. With a loud shout, he suddenly smashed towards Xia Qingyue. Among the enemies in his past life, there were countless foes that far surpassed him. He was the most clear about what to do against an enemy that far surpassed him in strength during a situation in which he could not escape. The most foolish way to hand it would be to contend, and

attempt to control the other. The best way to handle it would be gather all his strength for a concentrated all out attack!

So once Yun Che approved, he mobilized his full strength without a trace of restraint! Atop the Dragon Fault that weighed more than four thousand kilos, surged the aura of a devil's berserk strength.

Boom!!

The oppressiveness of this strike made Xia Qingyue choose to not block it, and she floated far away. Following a booming sound, the pitiful Sword Discourse Arena suffered a large amount of destruction once again. Yun Che, who had hit empty air, did not stop at all. He suddenly leapt up as another strike shot straight for Xia Qingyue's chest. The heavy sword brought about a howling noise similar to that of an evil spirit's.

The Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon had also surrounded Xia Qingyue's entire body at this time. Facing against Yun Che's oppressive strike, the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon did not retreat one bit as it made Yun Che's strike miss again. Then, it suddenly scuttled along Dragon Fault and tightly wrapped around it...

The Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon had once sent Ling Yun's Celestial Yuan Sword flying, but Yun Che and Dragon Fault were perfectly synchronized, as if it was Yun Che's own arm. Even if it was the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon, sending it flying was a definite impossibility.

Right when the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon's tearing force was recently unleashed, Dragon Fault suddenly released a soul-shaking dragon roar. A tyrannical force suddenly exploded, and shook the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon open. Yun Che's gaze was as sharp as a sword as Dragon Fault abruptly smashed down. And when Dragon Fault was going down, he activated Star God's Broken Shadow at the same time, instantly conjuring three figures that looked exactly the same. The third shadow appeared diagonally above Xia Qingyue and struck downwards...

"Overlord's Fury!!"

The activation of Star God's Broken Shadow was silent and formless. The broken false shadows and true shadow were entirely identical, and the scariest thing about it was that during its launch, there was no fluctuation in profound energy. One could only depend on the profound energy aura that could be felt after the true shadow shifted to determine its position, but when that happens, it was oftentimes too late.

Xia Qingyue's Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon unfurled forward with the intent to meet Yun Che's overbearing strike. But weirdly enough, a dangerous aura suddenly came from the behind. Shock was revealed in her eyes as she realized that there was simply not enough time for the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon to defend her rear. She had no choice but to quickly use Frozen Cloud Arts to construct a thick ice crystal barrier.

BOOM!

PING!!

The three layered ice crystal barrier was completely shattered consecutively in an instant. As though a storm, an enormous thrusting and explosive force rammed Xia Qingyue flying. Without waiting for Xia

Qingyue to regain her balance, Yun Che had already roared. Along with Dragon Fault, which followed his shadow, he immediately rushed towards Xia Qingyue...

“What!?” Chu Yueli stood up with wrinkled brows. She had never expected that once they had began to fight, Yun Che was actually the one who took the initiative. The intensity level of that last strike’s profound energy fluctuation was enough to make Xia Qingyue receive internal injuries.

However, this obviously did not mean that Yun Che’s all out strength topped Xia Qingyue. Rather, it was his approach. The crazed attack was like the sudden attack of a berserk beast that forced Xia Qingyue into a passive state.

One Overlord’s Fury was like a heavy hammer that fell on her shoulder, and directly numbed Xia Qingyue’s entire left arm. Her internal organs had also suffered light injuries under the profound energy assault but she did not panic. Instead, her expression had calmed down. With Chu Yuechan’s word of advice from last night still beside her ears, the fact that she had to use her entire strength echoed along with it. She slightly concentrated and instantly became as cold and pure as ice and snow. With a slight fluttering spin, she stabilized her balance. Like a streak of white lightning, the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon charged at Yun Che.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!!

Each and every strike from Yun Che all brought along an ear-splitting explosion. Directly engaging against a heavy sword with a frontal attack was the most foolish of decisions. But when facing against Xia Qingyue, Yun Che’s heavy sword had met its match...

The Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon was as soft and flexible as water, and as nimble as a snake. When exchanging attacks with Dragon Fault, its overbearing Frozen Cloud power actually did not collide with the heavy sword. Instead, the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon used its nature to form a large pulling force, drawing each of the heavy sword’s attacks towards empty air every single time. At the same time, an increasingly cold energy silently enveloped towards Yun Che. Then, with a “crack” sound, a thick layer of ice solidified on both his shoulders.

The ice-cold energy bore into the heart with a bone-chilling coldness, as if countless numbers of knives had stabbed into one’s body. Yun Che’s gaze went cold. After a low growl, a cluster of scarlet colored flames suddenly combusted on his body, and rose to a height that was close to ten feet in the blink of an eye. Under the scarlet fire, the ice-cold energy was rapidly dispersed. The layer of ice was also quickly melted.

Meanwhile, Dragon Fault had also been completely wrapped up in the scarlet phoenix flame, and became an enormous flame sword. It brought along dancing sparks as it directly assaulted forward once more.

“He actually is able to ignite such an intense flame! Looks like his fire attribute profound art is absolutely not as simple as the one he had displayed earlier.”

“It’s only the lowest level scarlet fire...” The young disciple who had said that suddenly opened his eyes wide at this moment, and continued with shock: “This... this... how is this possible!!”

An innumerable amount of ice crystals from all directions came flying to Xia Qingyue's front, and condensed together to become a fantastical light blue ice lotus. The ice lotus slowly rotated, and then suddenly dispersed. Each flower petal had transformed into seven ice crystals that flew at Yun Che. Each ice crystal was as thin as a cicada's wing, and was as clear as pure gems, yet it was also bone-piercingly cold!

"Star Scorching Demon Lotus!"

With Yun Che's body at the core, a flame lotus that was at least ten times as large as Xia Qingyue's ice lotus blossomed from the soaring heat wave like a flame gigantic flame beast opening its mouth, and completely swallowed up the ice crystals flying there. None of those ice crystal were able to approach Yun Che because they had already disappeared completely.

The surrounding audience were all stupefied... Even Ling Yun's sword beams could not shatter Xia Qingyue's ice lotus, so how could it be easily melted by an insignificant scarlet flame!?

"That's..."

"Phoenix Flame!" Fen Moli said with shock.

Ling Yuefeng's gaze immediately turned towards the Blue Wind Imperial Family's seats... Does this mean that the sect Yun Che was taught by, was actually the Divine Phoenix Sect!?

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Not only did the suddenly exploding Star Scorching Demon Lotus easily engulf Xia Qingyue's ice lotus, it enveloped Xia Qingyue within as well. The scorching heat that was far beyond her expectations caused Xia Qingyue's expression to slightly change. In an instant, the ice spirits around her body stirred violently, forming an extremely strong barrier of ice. Her Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon waved about quickly as well, sweeping away all of the oncoming Phoenix flames, as she retreated at the same time.

When the Star Scorching Demon Lotus was completely extinguished, Xia Qingyue had already been forced back a distance of close to a hundred meters.

However, Yun Che did not continue to push his offensive like before. He looked at Xia Qingyue in the eye, and said with a frown. "I shall say this again. Use your full strength. What I wish to defeat, is the you, at full strength. And not the current you!"

Yun Che's speedy attacks, the might of his heavy sword, and the flames erupting from his body, caused Xia Qingyue to feel astonished and taken by surprise. In the few collisions they had, she was actually the one who was at a slight disadvantage. Looking at Yun Che's current expression, what she could capture from it, was a sort of arrogance that was imprinted in his bones. And this arrogance was not the sort of natural arrogance one would usually have, but was simply targeted at her!

His expression told her that if she were to not use her full strength, what she would be giving him would not be mercy, but humiliation!

Xia Qingyue's chest gently rose. She closed her eyes, and then slowly opened them as her cold voice flowed out from her lips. "As you wish..."

A cold wind blew from all four directions, and the ice spirits surrounding Xia Qingyue fluttered erratically, as they gently brought her body up to the air. Her toes left the ground and quietly floated in the air, until only her long snow-dress was in light contact with the ground. Her arms gently spread open. Then, the long hair that was draped on her shoulders and the snow-dress she was wearing began to lightly flutter.

The fluttering of the ice spirits became even faster, and the surrounding temperature fell at an astonishing speed. Right at this moment, a blue glow suddenly radiated from Xia Qingyue's body, and immediately after, a spiraling cold wind filled the entire Sword Discourse Arena.

"Ah!!"

"This... This... This is..."

That sudden flashing blue glow ruthlessly pierced into Yun Che's eyes, causing him to instinctively shut his eyes. He immediately opened them but the moment his eyes fell on Xia Qingyue, he suddenly stood there lifelessly.

The cold wind had calmly dispersed, however, her snow-dress was still fluttering even without the wind. The veil on Xia Qingyue's face had already disappeared, as it seemed to have flown away somewhere after the windstorm of profound energy. What was revealed was a fairy-like appearance, which could eclipse the heavens and earth, and could even put the sun and moon to shame. However, her pair of eyes had undergone an earthshaking change... They were entirely ice-blue in color, like sapphires which were flashing with a bright and cold light. Her deep black hair had disappeared, and what replaced it was an ice-blue hair which swayed even without any wind. Even her brows and eyelids had turned into flawless crystals, which flowed with an ice-cold blue color.

The ice spirits floating in her surroundings underwent great changes as well. Earlier, every ice spirit was as small as diamond, now, it was as though they had turned into twinkling stars. And Xia Qingyue, who was under these endless clusters of stars, seemed to have been born from the ice and snow, a fairy in the snow who had not been tainted by the mortal world at all.

"F... Frozen Cloud Seventh Realm... Ice Body Jade Bones..."

The voice of the Heavenly Sword Villa Master, the current era's number one overlord of Blue Wind Empire, Ling Yuefeng, was currently stuttering a little. Looking at Xia Qingyue who had turned into a snow fairy, the astonishment in his heart had reached an indescribable degree. He did not know just how many astonishments and shocks this seventeen-year old girl would give him before she would bring herself to stop...

Frozen Cloud Seventh Realm... That was an extremely high realm which only Gong Yuxian, the current Asgard Mistress of the Frozen Cloud Asgard, whose profound level had reached the third level of the Emperor Profound Realm, could achieve!!

Genius, prodigy, monster, freak... Currently, in Ling Yuefeng's heart, even when adding all these terms together, it would not be enough to explain Xia Qingyue.

The Ling Yun beside him was trembling even more so, he was shocked entirely speechless. In yesterday's match, even though he lost terribly, he believed that he lost due to the Domain that should not have

appeared. If not for that Domain which broke the profound laws, by just the strength of their profound arts and combined abilities alone, he believed he was capable of suppressing Xia Qingyue... After all, his Sword Spirit Doppelganger yesterday was completely able to suppress Xia Qingyue.

But now, in his astonishment, did he finally realize that Xia Qingyue basically did not reveal all of her profound arts yesterday. And the profound aura currently being released by Xia Qingyue, was much, much stronger than the peak moment yesterday. The current strength of her profound aura was to the point where, even if he were to unleash his Sword Spirit Doppelganger, it would still be hard for him to resist.

“Mn? What’s going on?” Chu Yueli’s elegant brows tightened, as she said puzzlingly. “Why did Qingyue expose her trump card? If she wants to defeat Yun Che, using the Fifth Realm of the Frozen Cloud Arts would have been completely sufficient.”

“Junior Sister Xia is not a rash person, she must have her reasons. But since she has brought out the Frozen Cloud Seventh Realm, this match should be ending pretty soon.” Shui Wushuang said with a quiet voice.

There were countless of Profound Arts in the world. The higher one reaches, the more one will find out the possible existences of extremely bizarre and knowledge-breaking Profound Arts. When those people who saw Ling Yun’s “Sword Spirit Doppelganger” for the first time, they deeply felt that it was incredible. But the Frozen Cloud Seventh Realm Xia Qingyue used actually caused her entire body to undergo an immense change.

The change in her aura was even more incomparably huge; it was more than twice as strong as before. An ice-cold pressure enveloped Yun Che’s body and soul. It was so heavy that it was like a bone-piercing ice mountain, which had been frozen for ten thousand years.

“Hu...aaaah!!”

Yun Che roared loudly. The Phoenix flames on his body began to burn wildly, as scarlet red flames rose to a few meters in height, allowing him to break through the ice-cold pressure. In his body, the three drops of the Phoenix blood burned wildly, as flames that contained the might of a Phoenix spread throughout his every meridian, and every drop of fresh blood.

Just by strength alone, Yun Che’s Profound Fire was obviously incomparable to Xia Qingyue’s Frozen Cloud, and the difference was not just by bits. However, Yun Che’s flames were not just regular profound flames, but Phoenix flames originating from three drops of Phoenix Blood! By levels alone, it undoubtedly suppressed her Frozen Cloud. The Divine Phoenix Sect was able to dominate the world with just the first four stages of the 《World Ode of the Phoenix》, allowing them to become the imperial family of a country, which also allowed them to become the number one powerhouse, excluding the Four Great Sacred Grounds, in the Profound Sky Continent. Naturally, it was not something Frozen Cloud Asgard’s Frozen Cloud Art could compete with.

Hence, even if his strength fell far from Xia Qingyue’s, it still possessed the qualification to barely resist against her!

The ice cold wind and searing wind constantly collided against each other, emitting out constant tearing shrieks. Bathed in flames, Yun Che’s hair flew wildly, and his clothes fluttered. His gaze was as sharp as

lightning, and his two hands held onto his dark grey heavy sword, which looked especially terrifying. He slowly pointed it to the front. Coordinating with his straight standing posture, he looked as though he was a towering mountain that overlooked the entire world. Even though he was facing Xia Qingyue, whose aura had surged, he did not have the slightest intention of retreating.

Just his imposing manner and boldness, was enough to unconsciously cause everyone to have a feeling of being forced into submission.

Just by their imposing manners alone, what people saw in Ling Yun was a grandmaster whom would be worshipped by many people in the future, Xia Qingyue as a fairy who had descended from a surreal world, and Yun Che... as an earth-shaking supreme overlord!

And at this moment, a cold light flashed in Yun Che's eyes, and the rock beneath his legs suddenly burst apart...

“Omm!!”

Following the violent stir in the air, Yun Che struck out. The Dragon Fault slashed out a gigantic grey crescent, which pushed out layers of air ripples, and blasted towards Xia Qingyue, whose aura was unbelievably breathtaking.

However, when facing Yun Che's attack this time, Xia Qingyue did not choose to retreat. Gently reaching out her right hand, her palm looked as though it had turned into glistening white jade, causing people to not be able to believe that it was a palm of a young girl. And with that small movement of hers, Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon shot out as fast as lightning. Like the kiss of from the god of death, it struck directly onto Dragon Fault.

Boom!!

Like an explosive roar caused by lightning, the rocks beneath his feet were instantly pulverized into dust, and they were sent flying towards the sky by the wild torrents of profound energy. Within the surrounding ice crystals and blazing light, Yun Che was instantly sent flying back. His back dragged across the stage for dozens of meters, before he finally stabbed his Dragon Fault into the ground, and stopped his body. Xia Qingyue's body simply swayed gently, and even the starry ice spirits surrounding her did not have any hint of being disarrayed.

This was the first time in the Ranking Tournament that Yun Che was in a disadvantageous position after a direct clash with his heavy sword!

In his earlier match, what he used was not Dragon Fault, but the Overlord's Colossal Sword. He did not use his full strength in that match, and moreover, he did not activate Burning Heart and his Phoenix flames, yet Ling Jie totally did not dare to clash with him directly at all. However, facing Xia Qingyue, who had unleashed all of her abilities, Yun Che, who had similarly unleashed all his abilities and went for a direct clash which he should have the most advantage in, was completely thrown into a disadvantageous position instead.

Tenth level of the True Profound Realm and the third level of the Earth Profound Realm... Between them, was a gap with the bottlenecks of two large realms!

“Why don't you try to take my strike again...”

With his powerful defense, even though he lost in that exchange, he basically did not suffer any injuries. He leapt off the ground, and with a loud roar, he rose high in the air. Dragon Fault, which was enveloped with Phoenix Flames once again struck down, and the strength of the airwaves that had been raised were even larger than earlier.

“Overlord’s Fury!!”

The majesty of this imposing sword strike, even made the audience who were far away feel as though an entire mountain was crashing down on Xia Qingyue. However, just when Dragon Fault was about to make contact with Xia Qingyue, Yun Che’s body suddenly jerked, and his movements instantly slowed down... Streams of cold air, as though they were devastating and all-pervasive metal needles, pierced through the Phoenix flames, and struck onto the surface of Yun Che’s body and his meridians, causing his entire body to feel a moment of numbness. Even though these streams of cold air had already been expelled by the Phoenix flames in the next instant, just that single moment, was enough to cause fatal damage.

Bang!!!

Before Dragon Fault could land completely, the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon had already flown out like an intelligent snake, and swept against Yun Che’s waist with a thump, causing him to let out a low groan. Within the whirling storm, he was swept dozens of meters up high towards the sky...

“Haah. The difference is still too big. There’s already no need to continue watching this duel. Even with ten Yun Ches, it would not be possible to defeat Xia Qingyue.”

“Yun Che’s performance is already shocking enough. It’s not that Yun Che is weak, rather, Xia Qingyue is simply too frightening. I really wonder how Frozen Cloud Asgard actually managed to bring up such a disciple.”

Seeing that Yun Che’s second active strike had still resulted to a terrible defeat, and that the Xia Qingyue in front of him still did not move a single inch, the surrounding audience let out a wave of sighs. And just at this moment, defying common sense, Yun Che who was supposed to have completely lost all balance after being sent flying up towards the sky by the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon, was descending towards Xia Qingyue...

“Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!!”

A human, when sent flying by a strong force, has nowhere to apply force from, and it was almost impossible for him to bring about any force. To maintain one’s balance was already an extremely difficult task itself, yet Yun Che actually initiated an attack while his balance was completely lost... And the speed he was descending at was extremely quick. In a mere instant, he had already charged right in front of Xia Qingyue, and heavily smashed onto Xia Qingyue’s body, who was completely unprepared. Behind him, a pair of Phoenix wings formed out of flames was searing mightily.

BOOM!!

A large fireball suddenly exploded. This unexpected attack finally shattered Xia Qingyue’s ice crystal defenses, blasting her far away. Yun Che tumbled backwards, and forcefully swallowing down the blood

that had rushed up to his throat. Before waiting for his body to stand firmly, Dragon Fault had already begun to release gigantic shadows of blaze one after another as it was swung about...

“Phoenix Break!!”

Phoenix-shaped flames which carried the tyranny of a heavy sword continuously flew towards Xia Qingyue one after another. Xia Qingyue, who had yet to maintain her balance after being struck away by his Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing, was engulfed in the concentrated blasts of dozens of Phoenix Breaks. The blazing light that rose explosively from the chaos completely drowned Xia Qingyue within...

However, these blazing rays of light did not last for long, and were suddenly extinguished completely by a flashing blue light within them. After the blue light, a gigantic ice crystal phoenix flew out aggressively, shattering the two oncoming Phoenix Breaks. Then, with an undiminished might, it struck heavily onto Yun Che’s chest.

Pff...

Yun Che spat out a mouthful of blood in the air, and was sent flying thirty meters back. The Phoenix flames on his body were extinguished at the same time, and the clothes covering his chest had been completely torn, replaced by a thick layer of ice. And beneath the layer of ice, was an ice-sealed wound which did not have the time to burst out.

“Erghh...”

Yun Che rolled over, and with the support of his heavy sword, he stood up expressionlessly, a streak of blood slowly flowed out from the corner of his lips... In front of him, Xia Qingyue’s face was snow-white, her eyes were like blue crystals, and her snow-dress gently fluttered... Forget about injuries, there was not even a single speck of dust on her entire body.

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“He’s actually able to stand up after taking a strike from the Ice Phoenix. His defensive power is truly shocking.” Chu Yueli murmured, but right after, astonishment emerged on her face.

“G... ahh!”

The extinguished phoenix flames on Yun Che’s body ignited once again. Whether it was Yun Che’s aura or the intensity of the flames, none of them were weaker than before. He raised Dragon Fault. With a loud bellow, he slashed out a gigantic grey colored sword beam, and lashed towards Xia Qingyue shortly after.

“...Not only did he stand up, he didn’t even weaken. How could this be?” Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin both let out cries of shock.

The inflamed Dragon Fault was like a dancing fire dragon coiling in the air in the midst of its dragon roar. The Frozen Cloud profound energy imbued Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon was equivalent to a white snake, and charged at the dancing fire dragon while releasing an incomparably frightening Frozen Cloud power...

Sky Profound weapons were extremely difficult to subdue. Within Dragon Fault rests the soul of a young dragon, while within the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon rests the soul of an Ice Phoenix. Both were evenly matched in terms of quality and strength.

Yun Che released profound skill after profound skill in a crazed, unrestrained manner. Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing, Overlord's Fury, Falling Moon Sinking Star, Phoenix Break... Each one of those skills could shake the heavens, but in front of the Xia Qingyue who had cultivated Frozen Cloud Arts to the seventh stage, they were easily knocked down one after another. Xia Qingyue's retaliation was even more terrifying. If Yun Che did not possess Star God's Broken Shadow, he wouldn't even be qualified to be in a brief stalemate with Xia Qingyue.

Boom!

An ice lotus exploded on Yun Che's left shoulder, causing Yun Che to tumble onto the ground. His left shoulder was completely bloody and damaged, but he acted as if nothing happened and suddenly lept up from the ground. He once again reignited his phoenix flames and attacked. The heavy sword swung widely without the slightest weakening in power.

Bang!

His heavy sword was forcefully pushed aside, and the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon shot towards him, firmly wrapping around his body extremely quickly, and raised him into the air. In a blink of an eye, all of the phoenix flames on his body were extinguished and what replaced it was a thick layer of ice that bounded his entire body. Then, he was ruthlessly smashed onto the ground by the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon...

Bang!

The thick ice burst open and a huge hole had been smashed out on the ground. Yun Che had already disappeared from the surface of the stage and had been smashed who knows how deep beneath ground. This heavy strike had let the surrounding younger generation cry out in shock, but Xia Qingyue's light blue eyes were unshakeable in comparison... This kind of strike would have completely knocked out a profound practitioner at the peak of the Spirit Profound Realm, cause severe internal damage, and scatter his profound energy. Yet Xia Qingyue had suddenly felt a tyrannical counter force from the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon. The Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon's binding had actually been roughly broke apart!

Yun Che jumped up from within the crevice and fiercely sent an Overlord's Fury towards Xia Qingyue... Although his clothing was completely tattered, the fire within his eyes was raging furiously, yet was calm. The profound energy he was emitting from his body had not even weakened by a bit compared to before.

Everyone simultaneously felt an unexplainable terror in their hearts.

In terms of profound strength, Xia Qingyue completely crushed Yun Che. In Yun Che and her exchanges, he was at a complete disadvantage and mostly ended with bruises. Having trained in the Great Way of the Buddha and having his body fortified by the Dragon God's blood, aside from profound strength, his body's fierceness and intensity was by no means weaker than a True Dragon. Even though Xia Qingyue

possessed an overwhelming strength that allowed her to successively wound him more than ten times, she had never caused any real damage to him.

Each time he had taken strikes from the Frozen Cloud techniques, Yun Che would always stand up. Even if his entire body was covered with injuries, both his aura and his momentum had never reduced. The audience could only stare with shock.

Although Xia Qingyue's profound strength had reached the third level of the Earth Profound Realm, keeping up the Frozen Cloud Art's seventh stage with this kind of profound strength was unquestionably extremely taxing. The burden put upon Xia Qingyue's body in order to conjure the Frozen Cloud Seventh Realm was by no means less than Yun Che's Burning Heart. Yun Che was knocked down once and once again, but the strength of his aura did not weaken throughout the match. It was instead Xia Qingyue, whose aura had always been gradually, and evenly, decreasing.

"Do not assume that victory is in your hands. When you pressure him to his limits, that is when he is at the most terrifying. He can bring out power from his soul..."

Looking at the Yun Che who stood up once again and imbued himself with phoenix flames, those words that Chu Yuechan spoke resounded by Xia Qingyue's ears. And at this time, all of the ice spirits around her body had already started to become slightly fainter. Her breathing had also gotten slightly heavier.

The Yun Che before her was originally not supposed to pose any threat to her, yet she was now feeling a faint pressure from Yun Che. Deep within her heart, a voice was telling her that she had to quickly finish this duel. Otherwise, if this dragged on even longer, it was unknown just what unexpected events might occur.

"Let's end this..."

Xia Qingyue's lips slightly moved, and her snow white hands slowly clasped together before her body. In an instant, all of the surrounding cold energy within several kilos of radius swarmed in, and concentrated into a enormous whirlpool of frozen cloud before her.

Yun Che was just about to advance towards her, but suddenly stopped in his steps... The aura force on Xia Qingyue's body sharply surged up, and the frozen cloud whirlpool grew bigger and bigger. Then, it suddenly transformed and condensed into a gigantic Ice Crystal Phoenix. At the same time, a chilling cold pressure engulfed the entire arena, and made everyone's heart shudder.

The Ice Crystal Phoenix faced the heavens and let out a cry. Extending out its huge wings, it charged towards Yun Che with a cold energy that could freeze the surrounding fifty kilometers. Where ever it passed, it caused the air to condense by the inch.

"WAAAAHH... It's over, it's over! Be careful, Brother-in-law!"

Xia Yuanba clenched both of his fists tightly while shouting in panic. Even though Xia Qingyue had used all of her power, she had mostly been defending and counterattacking during their exchanges. She had never taken the initiative to attack. She understood Yun Che's mindset very well and knew that if she had beaten him too quickly, she would severely hurt his pride. At the moment, after finally deciding to attack, she had unleashed a frighteningly large Ice Phoenix imbued with Frozen Cloud power, capable of shaking the entire arena. Even the observing Xia Yuanba was able to feel how terrifying this Ice Phoenix

was. At Heavenly Sword Villa's seats, Ling Yun was also equally shocked... Because blocking just the oppressive power of the cold energy contained within this Ice Phoenix would be extremely difficult even if he had used his Sword Spirit Doppelganger to transform into two Ling Yuns.

As a terrifying level of pressure came charging towards him from the front, Yun Che retreated extremely quickly, his steps as fast as lightning. As the phoenix flames on his body burned and the Ice Phoenix approached, a flash of madness could be seen within Yun Che's eyes. He imbued all of his profound energy and phoenix flame into Dragon Fault and created a gigantic visage of a Fire Phoenix. Following his roar, with a swing of his hands, Dragon Fault flew towards the Ice Phoenix, carrying the visage of the enormous Fire Phoenix with it.

The Ice Phoenix and Fire Phoenix violently collided in midair, and both phoenix fire and frozen cloud profound energy exploded at the same time. The cries of both phoenixes resonated throughout the sky as they clashed.

The profound energy barrier shattered once more as the sky was completely enveloped by azure and scarlet light. Half of it was frozen, and the other half was burned into distortion. Without the obstruction of the profound energy barrier, the spectators on the eastern side felt like they had fallen into an icy hole as their entire body stiffened. As for those in the west, they felt as if they were about to combust from being roasted by the fire. Only after they immediately started releasing profound energy, did they barely managed to protect themselves. The shock in their hearts had subsequently increased by several folds... Just the residue of their strength was already this shocking, so it was imaginable as to how truly terrifying Xia Qingyue's Frozen Cloud and Yun Che's flame had been.

Even though Xia Qingyue who had such power from conjuring the seventh stage of the Frozen Cloud Art was astonishing, it was not too unexpected. Whereas Yun Che... he was actually able to contend against this kind of frozen cloud using flames supported by profound energy of the tenth level of the True Profound Realm!

However, this kind of balance did not maintain for a long time.

Ice and fire were both natural counters to each other. Fire could melt ice, while ice could thwart fire. There were no natural advantages to either side. In terms of plane, Yun Che's power was completely superior to Xia Qingyue, but in terms of intensity, Xia Qingyue unquestionably suppressed Yun Che.

The fire phoenix and ice phoenix intensely clashed and rampaged in midair. The interweaving ice-blue and scarlet-red radiances interweaved and covered the entirety of the Sword Discourse Arena. After the chaotic radiances lasted for a few breaths of time, the radiance of the ice phoenix slightly surpassed that of the fire phoenix. But if an advantage forms, it would become irreversible like a broken dam. In the blink of an eye, the fire phoenix became smaller and smaller. In the end, it was completely devoured by the ice phoenix, and all that was left was a frozen Dragon Fault in midair. The phoenix that only shrunk by one-third of its size fiercely rushed forward and dove at Yun Che amidst a cold and long cry.

As the pale blue visage of the ice phoenix quickly grew bigger within his eyes, Yun Che heavily huffed as both his eyes stared straight at the ice phoenix mirage. He did not retreat, and only the sound of a low mutter could be heard in the air....

"Evil God Second Style... Sealing Cloud Locking Sun!"

BOOM!!!

The ice phoenix exploded, and its pale blue radiance completely swallowed Yun Che. The dispersing ice shards were like razor sharp blades and deeply penetrated into the ground.

“It finally ended. Who knew it would drag out that long.” Shui Wushuang said.

“Although Junior Sister Xia used the seventh stage of the Frozen Cloud Arts, she had never attacked with full strength. Coupled with Yun Che’s unexpected tenacity...Mmn... AAAHHH!” Before Wu Xuexin had even finished speaking, she suddenly let out a surprised shriek.

From within the pale blue radiance left behind by the ice phoenix, Yun Che shot out like a bolt of lightning. His body was surrounded by a translucent spherical barrier that was almost hard to see with the naked eye. When he had completely left the ice phoenix’s radiance, the barrier also completely vanished. Catching Dragon Fault with a grab, all of the profound energy within him instantly erupted as if gunpowder that had been lit. Behind him, the mirage of a blue wolf that howled towards the heavens emerged...

“Sky... Wolf... Slash!!!”

As the heavy sword slashed downwards, a gigantic illusory wolf pierced through the air as the ground shattered...

In order to maintain Frozen Body Jade Bones, Xia Qingyue had already expended quite a bit. Furthermore, in order to swiftly defeat Yun Che, she had exhausted even more profound energy to release the ice phoenix. She was now in a temporary power deficient condition and had not recovered yet, and in addition to believing that this was a strike that could directly decide the match, she simply wasn’t on guard at all. No matter what, she had never expected that Yun Che would actually emerge unscathed from the ice phoenix’s diving attack...

What was even more impossible for her to expect, was that this was the chance Yun Che had been patiently waiting for all along!

Evil God’s first style, “Falling Moon Sinking Star”, was an berserking attack with ten times amplified profound energy, while Evil God’s second style, “Sealing Cloud Locking Sun” was a ten times amplified profound energy defense!

Only, executing Sealing Cloud Locking Sun consumed a lot of profound energy and the longer it was active, the higher the rate of consumption. So even if he was continuously struck by Xia Qingyue, Yun Che had chosen to not use Sealing Cloud Locking Sun. When Xia Qingyue was no longer able to genuinely defeat him, he would at last release all of his profound energy to immediately execute “Sealing Cloud Locking Sun”. When the incredibly tough defense formed around his body, it forcibly blocked the ice phoenix’s assault. Then, he took the chance to swing out his most powerful attack toward Xia Qingyue, who would be caught off guard.

The howls from the sky wolf were deafening. They were even more terrifying than the piercing cries from the fire phoenix and ice phoenix from before. As the gigantic wolf shadow rushed towards Xia Qingyue with an incomparable might, it easily crushed the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon’s defense...

At this moment, Xia Qingyue, who had always been as calm as snow, lost all the color in her rosy face for the very first time. She had not expected Yun Che to be able to break free from the ice phoenix's charge, and even more, had not expected... that Yun Che's previous attacks were not even his limit. This strike was so powerful that it had put her in a situation where even her heart and soul had subconsciously shuddered...

Just in the nick of time, a thick layer of ice rapidly appeared on her body, and quickly wrapped around her entire body...

Bang!

The shadow of the sky wolf engulfed Xia Qingyue, carried Xia Qingyue's ice body with it and directly shot straight out like an ice blue meteor! She flew all the way to the edge of the Sword Discourse Arena and the terrifying impact smashed open a large portion of the ground. And the direction in which she had been thrown in, just happened to be where Frozen Cloud Asgard was seated, which was about to meet with disaster. Even though Chu Yueli and company's seating area was completely protected, everything else in front of them was completely wrecked.

The Sword Discourse Arena fell into dead silence. Everyone was speechless while looking at the massive ravine, which stretched from the center of the stage, all the way to its edge.

As the dust settled, Xia Qingyue stood up. Only, she was no longer able to maintain Frozen Body Jade Bones and its effects had already vanished. Her long hair and both her brows were no longer blue, but had returned to their original black. Her face was covered with a layer of a faint paleness and her the strength of her aura had immensely weakened. She covered her left shoulder with her right hand, and a touch of red slowly spread on the snow-white clothing of the shoulder.

Chu Yuechan's icy eyes were a field of calm. She did not feel that this sort of outcome was the least bit unexpected... She had even warned Xia Qingyue the night before to never assume that she had beaten Yun Che under any circumstances... Even though she bore that in mind, just a moment ago, she had still fully expected that the ice phoenix had defeated Yun Che... and had thereby suffered a great loss.

Chapter 244 - Burn! Phoenix Blood!

Even though that one, earth-shaking "Sky Wolf Slash" only resulted in a not so heavy injury for Xia Qingyue, it still shattered her "Ice Body Jade Bones" form.

Her Frozen Cloud Arts also couldn't be brought up to the seventh stage again in a short period of time. Yet this strike did not cause Yun Che to reach his limit. While Xia Qingyue's aura had not yet calmed, Yun Che had already rushed up once again, and a Phoenix Break shot flying out from several tens of meters away.

Chu Yueli abruptly stood up, and said to Xia Qingyue who was right in front of her: "Qingyue, do not hold back anymore, and defeat him by opening a Domain immediately! This fellow, can create unexpected events at any time!"

For this battle, originally, Chu Yueli wasn't worried at all; so much that there wasn't even a single trace of worry. The two's composite strength had indeed a very big difference, and during the match, Xia Qingyue had always maintained an oppressive standpoint. But as the two's battle went on, Xia

Qingyue's aura became weaker and weaker. Yet not only did the Yun Che, who was once and once again beaten down not receive any great injuries, his aura did not grow weak in the slightest. Now, he miraculously broke out from the strike that Xia Qingyue had intended to decide the match with, and moreover injured Xia Qingyue instead. This made Chu Yueli cannot help but to be stricken with fear.

This battle's victory or loss, was not that important to Xia Qingyue on a personal level. But as for Frozen Cloud Asgard, it was incomparably important; because if they won, it would be breaking the history, and push Frozen Cloud Asgard onto the pinnacle of Blue Wind Empire for the first time ever. Since Xia Qingyue had already beaten Ling Yun and reached this step, then she absolutely could not lose here.

With a swing of the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon, all of the Yun Che's Phoenix Breaks were blocked. In the process of defending, Xia Qingyue also felt that Yun Che's power had already greatly decreased... That Sky Wolf Slash, had indeed exhausted Yun Che to a great extent. In addition to the continuous activation of the Burning Heart state, the burden on Yun Che's profound veins and body was already incredibly heavy. He was entirely sustaining with his teeth clenched, but the distance to the critical point of collapsing, was also nearing by the second.

Yun Che dashed toward Xia Qingyue with quick steps. But before he even neared, a blue light suddenly flashed before his eyes, and the surrounding world instantaneously transformed into an illusory blue color.

A wave of an incredibly ice-cold feeling suddenly assaulted him from every single direction, and made Yun Che's steps stall right away.

"Domain! It's that Domain from yesterday!"

"It's Domain again... this is simply just like cheating! Let alone the younger generation, even if one looks through the entire Blue Wind Empire, the number of people that could use a Domain could be counted with two hands!"

"I really didn't expect that Yun Che actually had such a terrifying strength. Feels like that he isn't weaker than yesterday's Ling Yun at all! At least he was able to injure Xia Qingyue... But what a pity, even if he was ten times stronger, against a Domain, it is fundamentally impossible for him to have the ability to counter it."

"Sigh, we really have grown old. I had originally thought that Ling Yun was the limit that a youth could reach, but I hadn't thought that this youth, who is only at the True Profound Realm would bring me such an astonishment that is not below Ling Yun at all; the aura of his explosive power earlier was also entirely not below him. If he reached Ling Yun's age, he would definitely far surpass him. But as for this girl named Xia Qingyue... She has entirely flipped my common sense upside down."

"To reach this point, Yun Che can already shake the entire world with his name, and astonish everyone. But unfortunately, other than him, there is also a Xia Qingyue in this world. The Domain she released that transcended the natural law, is simple impossible to resist against for anyone below the Sky Profound Realm."

Cold wind blew from all directions. As an overwhelming amount of snowflakes floated from above, the ground was quickly covered with a layer of frost. Accompanied by "crackling" sounds, very thick layer of ice rapidly condensed on Yun Che's body, and quickly covered over half of his body.

This Frozen Cloud Domain was somewhat smaller than the one yesterday. After all, Xia Qingyue had conjured the seventh stage of the Frozen Cloud Art earlier and took a Sky Wolf Slash from Yun Che as well; the expenditure was huge. The moment the Frozen Cloud Domain opened, Yun Che felt as if countless steel needles had stabbed into his entire body. His body, as well as his limbs, were all rapidly numbing under the extreme cold. Let alone dashing, even merely taking steps had become exceptionally difficult.

At this moment, he truly understood why Ling Yun had become so unresisting under the Frozen Cloud Domain yesterday, and directly forfeited even without any last struggles after being smacked out of the Domain. This kind of strength called Domain, would frequently appear within battles above the Sky Profound Realm, but fundamentally should not appear at his and Xia Qingyue's level. Once it appeared, that kind of oppression, can't even be fully described as curb stomping.

The cold energy crazily entered his body, and his entire body numbed to the point where his consciousness was even quickly fainting. Yun Che fiercely breathed in, wanting to ignite phoenix flames; but before the flames on his body even had the time to ignite, it was already extinguished from the roots by the terrifying coldness.

Unlike to Yun Che, the environment within the Frozen Cloud Domain was most advantageous for Xia Qingyue. In here, all of her attacks would be maximized. It could said without any exaggeration that if one could not break through the Frozen Cloud Domain, then Xia Qingyue would be a complete ruler within the Domain, dictating the win or loss of this match. If she wished to, she could easily dictate Yun Che's life and death.

As the Frozen Cloud Domain opened, Xia Qingyue's body also slightly swayed a little. Only after staying in place for a while, did she finally manage to calm her breath. Seeing the Yun Che who stood in place with clenched teeth, yet could not take a single step forward for a long time, she took up the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon and walked before him with slow steps. An extremely quiet voice came from her mouth: "Sorry..."

As her voice fell, the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon weightlessly danced, and brushed toward Yun Che's shoulder.

Just as the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon was about touch Yun Che, the phoenix imprint that had always been hidden on Yun Che's forehead suddenly appeared, and emitted a golden radiance so intense that it was glaring to the eye...

This sudden change made Xia Qingyue's movement pause, and subconsciously retract the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon. And in the next moment, three drops of golden brilliant flames poured out from the place where the golden phoenix imprint flashed...

Those were three drops of Phoenix Blood Yun Che had released out of his body.

Looking at these three drops of golden colored blood, Yun Che tightly clenched his teeth, and an incomparably overcast voice sounded from his throat: "Phoenix Blood... For me... Burn to your heart's content!!"

The phoenix flames he normally burned, used the Phoenix Blood as the source.

But this time, he forced out the Phoenix Blood, to directly burn these three drops of Phoenix Blood!

He understood very clearly the consequences of this action. After completely burning these three drops of Phoenix Blood's divine power to exhaustion, it was unknown just how long it would take for them to recover. Moreover, before their divine phoenix power recovers, he would only be able to ignite normal profound flames, and won't be able to use the Phoenix Flame again until then. However, this was the only method he could think of that may break through the Frozen Cloud Domain.

As the three drops of Phoenix Blood came out, an incomparably enormous imposing air shrouded the entire Sword Discourse Arena, and even all of those experts of Sky Profound and Emperor Profound Realm that stood on the pinnacle felt a sort of heavy pressure... Even though it was just three drops of blood, it after all contained true divine power, and it's imposing air was one that came from the Phoenix Divine Beast. Xia Qingyue who was the closest, also felt the heaviest pressure. At the same time, she more so felt a type of danger that was fatal. This kind of danger made her retreat backwards with her fastest speed possible without even taking the time think.

Rumble!!

Amidst Yun Che's low roar, the three drops of Phoenix Blood started to burn at the same time. From three dots of tiny luminescence, in just an instant, it expanded to become a monstrous fire that was several tens of meters high. The Frozen Cloud Domain's cold aura was bone-piercing, but how could it defend against the intense burning of the divine beast's blood?

No matter what kind of flame, they would all need a medium to burn. The phoenix flames Yun che emitted, used profound energy as the medium to burn, yet the combustion medium for the Phoenix Blood's divine power... was precisely this Frozen Cloud Domain!

The attribute of the Frozen Cloud Domain was ice, and could be said as the most improbable thing to combust in the world. Yet under the Phoenix Blood's divine power, they burned and dispersed like the purest of kerosenes with an incredibly astonishing speed. Before everyone had even recovered from the shock when the flames appeared and could react, the entirely red blaze had already filled up every single corner of the Frozen Cloud Domain. The Domain that was azure in color, was burned into a scarlet colored purgatory of flames.

Even though these flames did not touch the surrounding audiences, the overly scorching heat wave had still affected them. It made them abruptly suffocate, and their entire bodies felt as if they would ignite from the torridness. And right after, the clothes on their body suddenly ignited along with their hair, driving them into chaos amidst their panicked shouts as they quickly fled. Only until over a dozen experts of the Heavenly Sword Villa jumped out and blocked in front of them, did the situation finally ease.

"Wh... wh... what is going on here..." Chu Yueli stood up, her pair of charming eyes was filled with deep shock.

"Don't tell me... don't tell me that this Domain was actually... broken by Yun Che's fire?"

"Using fire... to burn down Frozen Cloud Domain? How is this possible..."

As the fire spread, the Frozen Cloud Domain disappeared... Even the last hint of blue light and coldness was fully consumed by the flames. The phoenix flames that thoroughly burned out the Frozen Cloud Domain and lost its medium for combustion, also extinguished along with it... However, the three drops of phoenix blood that floated in front of Yun Che, had already lost their original golden color. They turned dim and muddle, as if they were fluid of ordinary profound beasts.

Plop....

Yun Che fell onto the ground with one knee, and sweat rained down on his entire body as he started gasping roughly from his mouth. Controlling the burning of these three drops of Phoenix Blood, had almost exhausted every ounce of his remaining strength. The three drops of Phoenix Blood also flew toward the flame imprint on Yun Che's forehead by themselves at this time; they returned to his bloodline, and at the same time entered a long lasting slumber.

At least within the next three months, it would be impossible for Yun Che to ignite the phoenix flames again.

At the same time, it was also extremely likely for his phoenix blood to be exposed... Others may not notice, but amongst the people present, there was still a Ling Kun! This frightening person who hailed from the Sacred Grounds, the level of knowledge he had was such that none of the experts in the Blue Wind Empire could ever compare to.

He understood this kind of price very well. However, he absolutely did not regret it.

Frozen Cloud Domain vanished. It totally, and completely, disappeared...

The entire Sword Discourse Arena was deathly silent as though it was a ghost house, and only bursts of gasping and gulping sounds from the throat could be heard. Everyone had already stood up, and dumbfoundedly looked at the two on the arena. Extreme shock was clearly written on their distorted facial features.

"Phoenix Blood?" Ling Kun's eyebrows sunk. A mutter came from his mouth as a surprised expression flashed across his face: "Phoenix Blood, wasn't it already extinct from a long time ago. The phoenix bloodline now, are all inherited from their ancestors... His Phoenix Blood could actually separate from the bloodline, which proves that the Phoenix Blood is incomparably pure."

"The phoenix flame skills he used, is also completely different from the Divine Phoenix Sect."

"Hmph! How really interesting, I wonder what kind of reaction the Divine Phoenix Sect would have after they get a hold of this."

Ling Kun's indifferent gaze swept across the entire arena, and he slightly made a cold smile: "With so many people present, some are bound to leak these things to the Divine Phoenix Sect... This youth's aptitude is extraordinary, and even if he comes to the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, he will be qualified to become the bottom of the barrel. He also seems to have had fortuitous encounters before. But unfortunately... he is destined to be short-lived, and I'm afraid he won't live to see the day he joins my Mighty Heavenly Sword Region."

Chapter 245 - The Last Strike

Chu Yueli was not just shocked; she was already completely speechless. The amount of astonishment she felt in her heart, even greatly exceeded that of what others felt. This was because she most clearly knew what Yun Che's condition was like eighteen months ago. Honestly speaking, the Yun Che back then was only a pile of mud that could never support a wall in her eyes. If not for Xia Qingyue's own insistence on marrying him, she would not have even taken a single straight glance at him.

Meanwhile, Xia Qingyue's aptitude, comprehension ability, as well as her mentality, were completely unheard of in Chu Yueli's entire life. Her constitution that could cultivate profound arts disregarding profound strength requirements and could even directly open a Domain, made even the Asgard Mistress Gong Yuxian unable to hold back her amazement. She had taken Xia Qingyue as a disciple since she was twelve and had instructed her in Frozen Cloud Arts. She had even personally helped Xia Qingyue tune her body using her own power of the Sky Profound Realm. During the time she was in Frozen Cloud Asgard, countless priceless treasures they had collected over their thousand year of heritage were all unrestrainedly used on her. Furthermore, Xia Qingyue not only had Chu Yueli as master; the two strongest beings in Frozen Cloud Asgard—Chu Yuechan and Gong Yuxian—had both spent a large amount of effort on her. To make her Frozen Cloud Energy reach extreme purity, Chu Yuechan had even gone to obtain three Sky Profound Realm beast cores despite facing immense risk...

Looking through the history of Frozen Cloud Asgard, they had never invested so much on any single disciple.

Only after all that, did the current Xia Qingyue come to be.

Yet right now, Chu Yueli had just stood there and watched as that youth who could only be considered trash originally, break down Xia Qingyue's Frozen Cloud Domain!

Xia Qingyue being able to open a Domain, had flipped everyone's knowledge of common sense upside down. But Yun Che actually being able to destroy the Domain, could only be described as an inexplicable miracle.

After destroying the Frozen Cloud Domain with the use of phoenix blood, Yun Che's strength was nearly depleted, and Xia Qingyue's condition was also no better off than his. Opening a Domain by utilizing a profound strength of the Earth Profound Realm, the expenditure was undoubtedly extremely enormous. Just conjuring the Domain had already drained over seventy percent of Xia Qingyue's profound energy. Sustaining it for a few short breaths of time after, again depleted over sixty percent of her remaining strength. In addition to the various expenditures earlier, the current her did not even have five percent of her usual strength left. Moreover, when the Domain was destroyed, it also made her suffer a certain amount of backlash, which had damaged her profound veins quite a bit, causing her control over profound energy to start becoming awkward.

Xia Qingyue's face was already snow white to begin with, but right now, it was white to the extreme, to the extent where you could not even see the slightest hint of blood color. But at least, she looked a lot better than Yun Che who could not even stand steadily.

Both of them looked straight at the other across less than thirty meters of distance between them. Pain and strenuousness continuously flashed amidst the calm within Yun Che's eyes, while Xia Qingyue's eyes instead turmoiled intensely, as if she had yet to recover from the shock she received just now.

“Ugh...” As he quietly groaned with pain, Yun Che slowly stood up using the Dragon Fault as support. He lightly clenched his teeth, looked at Xia Qingyue who was right in front of his eyes, and said in a low voice: “You actually... did not get injured by the flames just now... That’s fine too. The flames just now, even I was unable to fully control them. If you had been engulfed by them, perhaps... they would have severely injured you... If... your clothing were burnt down... Heh, I don’t want my wife, to be seen by others...”

Yun Che’s words were spoken discontinuously, and every few words were accompanied by heavy gasping.

Xia Qingyue: “...”

Yun Che’s hands were tightly gripped on the Dragon Fault, but he did not pull it out from the ground, as if he no longer had ample strength. Yun Che closed both of his eyes, and after a long burst of intense gasping, his aura and voice suddenly started to gradually calm down: “My remaining strength, is only sufficient enough for me to swing out one more strike... If you’re able to receive this strike, then it means that you have won... However...however, I absolutely...absolutely will not lose to you... So this sword strike, no matter what you do, it will be impossible to receive!”

Poof!

The Dragon Fault was pulled out of the ground. Over four thousand kilograms of weight, caused the two hands Yun Che gripped on it to slightly tremble: “Prepare to receive my sword... Qingyue. Keep the glory for your sect in mind, and also recall what I said to you before the fight; give me everything you’ve got! Otherwise, you will be letting the Frozen Cloud Asgard down, letting me down, and also letting yourself down!”

Xia Qingyue: “...”

The youth of the same age in front of her seemingly appeared very distant; because compared to when his Profound Veins were crippled back then, the Yun Che in front of her eyes and the Xiao Che from before were in all ways people from two different worlds. But in the eyes of Xia Qingyue, the youth in front of her whose fate flipped upside-down was incomparably familiar. His gaze, the tone when he spoke, the pridefulness that was carved into his bones... Especially the stubbornness that could not be pulled away with even a hundred thousand bulls; they were all exactly the same as the Yun Che she had gotten to know after those short few days and nights with him.

Xia Qingyue did not say anything, but the ice spirits that had originally disappeared once again appeared and floated around her. Behind her, a gigantic ice lotus gradually bloomed. The Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon floated in front of her, and displayed a strange “S” shape. An extremely dangerous aura was released and emitted from every single centimeter and inch of the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon, exerting an extremely heavy pressure towards Yun Che.

“This is... ‘Frozen Cloud Ultimate Skill: Ode of the Crescent Moon’s elementary style. Junior Sister Xia’s presence... is extremely weak right now. Can she still execute this skill?” Looking at Xi Qingyue’s condition, Shui Wushuang worriedly said.

“It’s barely possible. Looks like, Qingyue is also going to give it her all. This move, is not something that’s possible for Yun Che defend against.” Chu Yueli said. But when she spoke those words, she more or less

lacked confidence. Although the current Yun Che didn't seem to be able to even keep his balance, the various things he displayed from him before, especially the flames that burnt through even the Frozen Cloud Domain, made Chu Yueli no longer dare to look down on this seemingly unthreatening young man at all.

She already did not dare guess what earthshaking feat he would do next.

The Dragon Fault was gradually raised by Yun Che above his head. The fifty four Evil God's Profound Entrances speedily expanded, madly gathering all of the remaining Profound Energy in his body. Suddenly, he let out a loud roar as the surface of the ground under his feet shattered. And just as he leapt from the ground, the heavy sword soared through the air and heavily slashed downwards...

"Overlord's Fury!"

Although the power behind this sword strike was much weaker than the previous one at the start, it's was still very frightening. Xia Qingyue also jumped upwards, all of the ice spirits around her flashed with a chaotic brilliance. Her Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon turned softness into resilience, and folded into a snow white crescent moon. While being imbued with Frozen Cloud Energy, it glimmered with a blinding radiance of ice crystals and fiercely clashed in midair with the Dragon Fault.

With a loud sound, an enormous ring of spatial distortion rippled out far away from where Dragon Fault and Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon clashed. The incomparably cold aura completely engulfed Yun Che, and the enormous power that came from the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon forcefully smashed the Dragon's Fault into a crescent moon shape.

Yue Che's eyes were widened abruptly. In that instant of collision, his hands became almost completely numb. He unyieldingly clenched his teeth, and channeled all of his power into the Dragon Fault. But his remaining power was too far-off from Xia Qingyue's strike of full strength. The power of the Overlord's Fury was completely blocked, and even the power's residue were being rapidly engulfed, and a burst of icy cold power, which could thoroughly defeat him, pounced towards his face.

So there was no choice but to use that after all...

This kind of situation, did not surprise Yue Che in the slightest. After all, he understood his own current situation better than anyone else. Feeling that his own power being completely suppressed, he took a sudden breath, and let out a beast-like howl from his mouth...

My profound veins and body... You must to hold on!

"Evil God's Third Realm: Purgatory!!"

Following Yun Che's internal silent chant, the Evil God's Profound Vein's third gate... Purgatory, opened for the first time.

In the instant "Purgatory" opened, a strange, demonic red light was suddenly released from the third gate, illuminating the entirety of the Profound Veins with crimson red as if they were dyed in fresh blood. The red light did not only exist within the Profound Veins, and also gushed out from the profound veins, forming a layer of blood red radiance around Yue Che's body.

The whites in both of Yun Che's eyes completely disappeared, and replacing them, were two pupils that turned completely blood-red. An wicked and malicious aura akin to that coming from the purgatory, was also suddenly emanated from his body, causing Xia Qingyue to completely suffocate in an instant .

“Evil God's Third Style: Destroying Sky Decimating Earth!”

BOOM!!!!!!

This was an explosive rumble as if the sky and earth had collapsed. The entire Sword Discourse Arena trembled with incomparable intensity, and even the entire area of the ground started to sway, as if a terrifying natural disaster had suddenly descended. Within the huge explosive sound, some lower-leveled profound practitioner's ears immediately lost their ability to hear. And on the Sword Discourse Arena, the flying shattered rocks and sand flew to a height of nearly three hundred meters, and for a moment blotted out the sky and the sun, while also completely hiding Yue Che's and Xia Qingyue's figures.

Screams of fear resounded throughout the entire Sword Discourse Arena, and incomparable astonishment emerged onto every single person's face once again. No matter if it was Yue Che, or Xia Qingyue, they were both clearly near exhausted of their profound energy; yet the might of this strike surpassed their everything from before. It was entirely not inferior to that overwhelming flame wave, which even burnt down the Frozen Cloud Domain, in any way. It was difficult for even a powerful Earth Profound Realm expert to generate such a terrifying wave of air current and might, so how was it possible for it to appear within the clash between two young profound practioners who already had a large portion of their power depleted!

The dust filled the air, and no one could clearly see what exactly was happening. Even if they were to try to imagine, they were completely unable to imagine just what they used to create such an earthshaking collision.

The tremoring of the Sword Discourse Arena soon stopped, and the dust also started to disperse. As their lines of sight became clear, everyone fiercely took in a gasp of cold air.

What appeared before their eyes, was a huge crater of at least two hundred meters in diameter!

The edges of the Sword Discourse Arena had also been completely destroyed, and not a single complete piece of the stage could be found.

In the center area of the huge pit, were two completely still silhouettes... Looking at them, everyone held their breaths. Their gazes froze, and they were unable to even make the slightest trace of sound from their throats.

Xia Qingyue silently stood there, her long black hair in a mess, and her entire body tainted by dirt. There was a type of indescribable “daze” within her clear eyes, as she stupefyingly looked at the Yun Che in front of her.

Yun Che had collapsed less than ten steps away from her. All of his clothing were in shreds and his entire body lied flat on the ground face down. From the corner of his mouth, forehead, limbs, back...on basically every single possible part of his body, streams of blood were flowing out. His left hand gripped

the ground, the back of his right hand was already completely dyed red by the bloodstain, yet it still firmly grasped onto the Dragon Fault's handle.

"Finally... It's over."

Although "Purgatory" had merely opened for no longer than three breaths of time, for Yun Che's body that was almost entirely out of strength, it was without doubt a burden that was almost destructive. Furthermore, while under "Purgatory", he also forcefully executed the complementary Evil God's third style "Destroying Sky Decimating Earth" That was the ultimate strike he released using the strength from his willpower and his soul. It made even his soul withstand an immense amount of burden that wasn't in the slightest short of the burden on his body. It was nothing short of a miracle that he was still able to temporarily maintain his consciousness.

The surface of his body had innumerable wounds, and only his internal organs were not as badly damaged. Yun Che managed to widen the corner of his mouth with great difficulty and let out a relaxed, satisfied smile that also carried a deep joyousness. He closed his eyes, freely letting his consciousness plummet toward the darkness. The last bit of awareness, turned into a trace of voice that only Xia Qingyue could hear...

"The second reason I came to the Ranking Tournament... was to prove to you that... I... Yun Che... am qualified to be your husband... and not... your return of gratitude...

...and...char..ity..."

Xia Qingyue: "..."

Time slowly passed in dead silence... One breath, two breaths, three breaths, four breaths...

It was only until Yun Che fainted and there was no longer any movement, did the audience finally regain their senses.

This match, has finally ended...

Nine breaths, ten breaths...

Ling Wugou had always been the closest to the match from the start to finish, and was also the one who most vividly felt the earthshaking strike earlier. If someone came close to him right now, they would realise that his forehead was fully and densely covered with cold sweat... That's right! A supreme expert of the Sky Profound Realm rank eight, who held an extremely high position even in the Heavenly Sword Villa, was actually startled to the point of coldly sweating from a battle between two youngsters.

After ten breaths of time passed, Ling Wugou finally regained his wits. He glanced at Yun Che with an extremely complex gaze, before quickly calming his state of mind and loudly declaring with a vigorous voice: "Yun Che has fallen for ten breaths of time. The winner of this Ranking Tournament's final battle is...";

Chapter 246 - Victor

Yun Che had fainted and had yet to get up for a long while. This also signified that the battle between him and Xia Qingyue had finally ended. The final battle of the Ranking Tournament had finally closed its curtains.

The tournament had ended, but nobody was able to suppress the amount of shock they had for quite a while. None of the two finalists had been from Heavenly Sword Villa. The crown of victory had fallen in Frozen Cloud Asgard's hands in the end... But none of this was important at the moment. This match had been an eyeopener and had allowed every spectator to walk through the Fire and Ice of the Nine Heavens. Every scene had all ruthlessly rammed at their vision and spirit.

Both of the finalists were only seventeen years old, but they had fought a battle that was several classes above their own Profound Realms and had shattered any understanding anyone had in regards to battles. Yun Che in particular, even though he had ultimately been defeated by Xia Qingyue, his profound strength was indeed only at the True Profound Realm, yet had allowed him to bring about a shock that was even more shocking than Xia Qingyue. In front of the glory of both of these youngsters, any glory Heavenly Sword Villa had was covered up. Even the publically recognized 'strongest of the young generation', Ling Yun had apparently been defeated without room for debate.

"Fairy of Frozen Glass, congratulations on obtaining first place." The Sect Master sitting on the right of Frozen Cloud Asgard's seats, said hurriedly. However, even as a Sect Master, he did not have the courage to dare to speak to Chu Yuechan.

The Sect Master sitting on the left immediately flattered: "The great Asgard being able to train such an outstanding talent is well deserving of first place. I imagine Frozen Cloud Asgard's fame will spread throughout the world..."

Chu Yueli slightly tightened her eyebrows and did not reply. The final outcome had let her breathe a huge sigh of relief. This was her ideal ending. This would be the first time Frozen Cloud Asgard had broke tradition and the first time they had seized first place. Henceforth, the results of today's Ranking Tournament would spread and the recognition and fame Frozen Cloud Asgard would obtain, would also far surpass its former glory. However, the road to obtaining this perfect ending had been more difficult than she had expected. The biggest obstacle she had expected was actually not Ling Yun, but was instead, someone who she had nearly forgotten... a boy who crippled profound veins eighteen months ago, who did not even have one good point about him, and had even been expelled from his clan!

Yun Che had lost consciousness, but Xia Qingyue looked completely fine. Chu Yuechan should have felt relieved. However, as Xia Qingyue's master, she had complete understanding of Xia Qingyue's abilities and knew that the earthshaking force released just now was definitely not released by Xia Qingyue. Although it had looked like Yun Che had fallen and Xia Qingyue was unharmed, she was unable to calm down.

"Yun Che has fallen and has not gotten up within ten breaths' time. The winner of the Ranking Tournament is Frozen Cloud Asgard's..."

"Wait!"

Before Ling Wugou could utter "Xia Qingyue", a cold voice interrupted him.

The one who said that, was shockingly, Xia Qingyue. As she spoke, she moved towards Yun Che and stopped by his side. She waved both her hands forward and a light blue ice spirit slowly descended upon Yun Che's body, enveloping him. After she silently looked at the ice spirit gradually freeze his wounds, she turned around and softly said: "The winner is not me. It's him. For this match... I admit defeat."

WHOOA~~~~

The Sword Discourse Arena went into an uproar. Everyone had looked at one another in amazement. Yun Che had passed out while Xia Qingyue was perfectly fine. It was obvious as to who was the victor and who had lost. Yet, Xia Qingyue one sentence had actually deliberately given the victory to another. Nobody was able to discern the reason as to why she would do this.

Chu Yueli stood up, astonished, and yelled: "Qingyue, what are you saying? Immediately retract what you've just said!"

Chu Yuechan suddenly coldly said: "Look up."

Chu Yueli subconsciously raised her head and then froze. Her expression, too, had froze in place. She was speechless.

At this time, a long white ribbon slowly fell from the sky. It coincidentally landed on Xia Qingyue's shoulder and she grabbed onto it. Ling Wugou was about to ask something, but as he watched the falling Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon, the words that were about to leave his mouth was swallowed down his throat.

Although Yun Che was unconscious, Dragon Fault had always been firmly gripped within his hands.

Even though Xia Qingyue appeared to be unharmed, nobody had realized she had lost her Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon.

It had taken until now for the Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon to fall from the sky. One could only imagine how high it had been knocked up...

"He had unleashed his last strike upon my Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon... If he had chosen to do so on me, I would have probably died. He has rightfully won this. I've lost."

Chu Yueli was startled for a while before letting off a long sigh. She closed eyes, and did not speak for a long while.

Even though the outcome had been flipped over due to Xia Qingyue's admittance of defeat,, the results of the match may have been unchanged even with that. After all, everyone present had witnessed Yun Che passing out. Even Ling Wugou, as the referee, may not accept the obvious victor's admittance of defeat.

However, from the descending Ice Phoenix Snowflower Ribbon and what Xia Qingyue had said, everyone had understood who the true victor was.

Ling Wugou nodded, and did not try to question Xia Qingyue again. He raised his hands once again and loudly proclaimed: "Xia Qingyue has admitted defeat, the champion of the Ranking Tournament is..."

"Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che!!"

As he declared the conclusion of the finals, the ranking tournament was finally over. Shortly after, the atmosphere around Sword Discourse Arena became rowdy. Before the Ranking Tournament, nobody had even expected it to end like this. It was impossible for them to expect this outcome. If someone had

proclaimed that the overall winner would be from Blue Wind Imperial Family, everyone would regard that person as a crazy retard.

Blue Wind Imperial Family. Originally, this name should have carried majestic might, but it had been ridiculed and insulted in the profound cultivating world. Today, for the first time in history, it had been announced as the overall champion!

“...Even though we didn’t manage to obtain first place, at least we beat Ling Yun and suppressed Heavenly Sword Villa. At the very least, we’ve done what we had set out to do.” After a brief period of disappointment, Chu Yueli said while slightly smiling. Her expression had resumed its former tranquil state: “Unexpectedly, the biggest surprise this Ranking Tournament has brought me was Qingyue’s husband. Fate, is truly the most mysterious thing in this world.”

Chu Yuechan did not speak. With eyes like ice crystals, nobody could understand what she was thinking of.

“Too awesome, too great... as expected of my Boss! To be able to be the Boss of me, Ling Jie, you have to at least be able to do something like this!” Ling Jie clasped both his hands tightly while shouting. To Ling Jie, who had already bragged to others that he was Yun Che’s younger brother, he had felt considerably honored. He had long forgotten that Heavenly Sword Villa had met with defeat yesterday.

On the side of the Blue Wind Imperial Family, there were no shouts of joy. After Ling Wugou had announced the results, Cang Yue had loudly shouted “Junior Brother Yun”, disregarded everything else, and rushed towards at the Sword Discourse Arena in the quickest speed possible. Xia Yuanba was closely behind her with a face full of terror. While Qin Wushang had been somewhat slower to react, his speed was naturally quicker than both of them. He reached Yun Che’s side in a flash and quickly began examining his wounds.

“H... How is Junior Brother Yun?” Cang Yue stretched out both of her hands but she did not dare to touch Yun Che. Tears were already flowing on her face.

As Qin Wushang’s hands left Yun Che, his face revealed a relieved expression and said: “Rest assured, Princess. Although his wounds look terrible, they are all external wounds. If he recuperates for at most a month, he will be able to fully recover. He has only suffered light internal injuries and the only cause of concern would be that he had overly stressed his profound veins. While that will take time to heal, that is not impossible to make a full recovery from. Only, sigh... I’m afraid he won’t be able to explore the Heaven Basin Secret Realm in his current condition.”

Hearing this, Cang Yue could finally calm down a little. She tightly gripped Yun Che’s hand and refused to let go.

Cang Yue’s care, tears and the way she had spoke of Yun Che... were all seen by Xia Qingyue. She slowed down her steps and did not approach. She quietly kept the bottle of Snow-colored Pellets she had gotten from her teacher.

“Palace Chief Qin, ten thousand congratulations.” Ling Wugou said. Even though Heavenly Sword Villa had been defeated and lost the first position that has always belonged to them, Ling Wugou remained very calm and took the initiative to congratulate Qin Wushang. Without waiting for him to reply, he added: “Palace Chief Qin need not reply. I’ll lead you to the Heaven Returning Pavilion.”

Qin Wushang nodded and carried Yun Che: "I'll count on Elder Ling to lead the way."

As the Ranking Tournament's final victor, Yun Che was actually unable to receive the cheers and attention of the audience. He had been carried away shortly after the match ended. Although he, the main character, had already left, the Sword Discourse Arena remained rowdy for a very long time. The younger practitioners were completely shaken by the match. They had lost all of the arrogance that they once had. Before, they had all proudly proclaimed that they were talented individuals, but today, they had seen that before a truly talented individual, they were not worth anything.

This had been the most special Ranking Tournament yet. It had defied over thirty years of history. Its process and conclusion were filled with excitement and surprises. This ranking tournament was expected to spread throughout the Blue Wind Empire like a giant wave and be discussed for a very long time.

Of course, there were also people who were upset about the conclusion.

A good example would be the Burning Heaven Clan. They had been badly beaten and even their Great Elder had lost control and had been shamed by Yun Che.

Another example would be the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress who had been rude towards Yun Che. Although, compared to the the Burning Heaven Sect, the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress were restless. Mu Tianbei had not expected that Yun Che's true power would be this terrifying. Even more so, he had not expected him to be the ranking tournament's champion.

A talent like this would definitely grow up to become one of the Blue Wind Empire's Thrones! In the hundreds of years of history of the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress, they had yet to produce a Throne, nor did they dare to invite a Throne.

Thinking of this, Mu Tianbei was unable to calm down. Cold sweat flowed down onto his back while his face was green with regret.

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Blue Wind Imperial Family, the Emperor's Chambers.

Even as the current Emperor of the Blue Wind Empire, Cang Wanhe's face was flushed red and the light in his eyes was faint, as if he was dreaming.

Even Cang Wanhe himself had thought he was dreaming.

He had received Qin Wushang's sound transmission: Blue Wind Imperial Family had obtained first place in the Ranking Tournament...

Immediately, he also received a sound transmission from his daughter: Blue Wind Imperial Family had obtained first place in the Ranking Tournament...

While holding the Sound Transmission Jade, Cang Wanhe had been left in a muddled state. Even after half a day, he hadn't regained his wits. He trusted Qin Wushang, he trusted Cang Yue even more, but he didn't dare to believe what they had told him, even though it had been the same thing. Because that would be too fantastical, too unreal... as if these were the voices within his dreams about a fantasy.

Rapid footsteps resounded from outside. Very quickly, his personal eunuch had rushed into the chamber and knelt before him, loudly shouting in a hoarse voice: "Congratulations, Your Majesty! Congratulations! The Ranking Tournament has finally ended today, and our Imperial Family... Imperial Family... has actually gotten first place! First place!"

Cang Wanhe's mouth twitched, trembling while asking: "This news, are you sure this is true?"

"That is the news that Heavenly Sword Villa has released, it's definitely true! Right now, the same message is being spread all over the Empire. Not a word is false!" The eunuch continued in extreme excitement: "Yun Che, who represented the Blue Wind Imperial Family had won all of his matches in the first group stage, had won all of his matches in the second group stage as well, had fought against the Xiao Sect, Burning Heaven Clan, Heavenly Sword Villa, and Frozen Cloud Asgard in the elimination stage, and completely beat all of them to obtain first place!! If even half of this is false, may the heavens strike this servant with lightning!"

Cang Wanhe's face became even redder as excitement rushed throughout the entirety of his body: "Good... Good... Good!! Haha... hahahaha... hahahahahaha..."

Cang Wanhe started to heartily laugh with an incomparable jubilation. He had been in power for over ten years and this was the first time he had ever been this carefree. It was as if all the pent up frustration and worries over the years had been released through this unreserved laugh: "This is the glory my Blue Wind Imperial Family deserves! This is what is truly means to look down upon the world from above! Send an imperial order to all related parties. Say... Say... From today onwards, for the next three years, the resources given to each Profound Palace will increase! Blue Wind Profound Palace's reward will be proclaimed another day! From today onwards, we will prepare the greatest banquet in the Blue Wind Palace's main hall, We want to personally receive Yun Che when they return... As for Yun Che's reward, I will proclaim it at a later date!"

"This servant has received the order..."

"Wait! Serve me some good wine immediately. I want to properly enjoy a drink, hahaha!"

Cang Wanhe usually had bad appetite, but because he was in a good mood today, his appetite was good. At the moment, he was extremely satisfied, and deeply felt that he wouldn't even regret anything even if he died now.

Chapter 247 - Waking Up

A room which was quiet and neatly arranged. Rays of light which were not too bright spilled through the half-open bamboo window, hence, the room was not overly dim.

Yun Che quietly laid on the soft bed, his entire body was smeared with medicine which did not have a heavy smell. He had already maintained this posture for three days, which also meant that he had been in a coma for entire three days.

In front of the bed, ice spirits floated, and then, gradually, a figure of a woman dressed entirely in a snow dress appeared. She raised her snow-ice like palm, and placed it on Yun Che's chest, sensing the recovery situation of his wounds and profound energy. A few moments later, the ice spirits around her

body began to flutter quickly. Her palm was fully opened as well; as she held it in front of his chest, a pale, ice-blue glow silently enveloped his body...

This state lasted for an entire half a quarter of an hour. At this moment, footsteps that were intentionally made light could be heard from outside the door. The woman retracted her palm. With a gentle turn of her body, she disappeared from the spot, as though it was all but a dream.

And at this time, Yun Che's eyes showed a slight tremble, and then, they were slowly opened.

There was nowhere in his body where he could not feel any pain, but the pain was not that unbearable, and there was even a trace of a cool feeling which made him especially comfortable. Yun Che tried to move his body, and he was pleasantly surprised by the outcome. Although his movements were sluggish, the mobility of his body did not seem to be stiff. At the very most, he would feel a little pain from over-exaggerated movements, but this was enough to prove that his body functions had basically fully recovered.

As expected, the recovery ability bestowed by the Second Realm of the Great Way of the Buddha was not a joke!

The door to the room was pushed open. Cang Yue walked into the room with a bowl of soup in her hands, and following behind her was Qin Wushang. Currently, Princess Cang Yue looked really frail, as though she had not slept a wink for several days and nights. Yun Che slightly moved his body, and gently called out. "Senior sister, Palace Chief Qin."

"Ah!" Cang Yue let out a tender cry, and had almost thrown aside the bowl of soup in her hands. She placed the bowl of soup on the table, and hastily arrived before Yun Che, saying surprisingly. "Junior brother Yun, you're... you're awake... This is great! Grandmother Jiumu said you might have to be in a coma for dozens of days, but I knew that you would definitely be safe and sound much sooner."

The "Grandmother Jiumu" Cang Yue said out was referring to the number one genius doctor in Heavenly Sword Villa, who had lived in the Heaven Returning Pavilion for quite a while.

"I'm already fine. I'm sorry I had to cause Senior sister to worry." Seeing Cang Yue's expression, Yun Che answered with a pained heart. As he was speaking, he even raised out the right hand he could already freely move to grab onto Cang Yue's small hand, to prove to her that he was really alright.

"Hoho, it's good that you're awake. This way, the Princess and I can finally feel at ease." Qin Wushang nodded and laughed, as a relaxed expression revealed on his face. "Yun Che, do you know? Currently, you're already famous throughout the world, and you're even titled as number one among the younger generation this year. And you are entirely worthy indeed of this title. But, I believe that with your character, you wouldn't overly care about such fame."

"Things like titles, though they sound nice, there are many a time they can be a form of burden." Yun Che smiled indifferently, and then, he asked. "Senior sister, how long have I been asleep for?"

"It's already been three days." Cang Yue replied. "Junior brother Yun, how do you feel right now? Do you feel especially uncomfortable anywhere?"

“Don’t worry, I feel that my body has already recovered to a certain extent... Three days...” Yun Che suddenly recalled something, and hurriedly asked. “When is the exploration of the Heaven Basin Secret Realm going to be conducted?”

“The Heaven Basin Secret Basin will open on the day after tomorrow.” Qin Wushang sighed. “But, in your current state, you should be unable to participate in the exploration this time. But, don’t worry. You’re only seventeen this year. Even if you miss this out, you will still have another chance three years later.”

“The day after tomorrow...” Yun Che closed his eyes. Within his Sky Poison Pearl, there were a large amount of Great Heaven Returning Pellets which he had refined himself, and adding his extremely powerful self-recovery ability, the injuries on his body should be healed by more than ninety-percent the day after tomorrow. However, it was impossible for the recovery of his profound energy to be as quick, and not even half of it could be recovered by then. Adding that he had burned the power source of the Phoenix blood, at the very least, he would not be able to make use of the power of the Phoenix flames for three months. His overall strength was thus greatly reduced.

Yun Che himself understood the condition of his body and its self-recovery ability. If he could recover about a half of his strength, it was not that impossible for him to participate in the exploration of the Heaven Basin Secret Realm the day after tomorrow; the danger would just be raised by a lot.

After all, entering the Heaven Basin Domain, was equal to leaving the Heavenly Sword Villa’s domain. People that did not dare to act rashly in the Heavenly Sword Villa, could finally act on their own free will.

“It might not have to be that pessimistic. My profound art carries a very strong self-recovery ability, when that day comes, I will make my decision of entering the Heaven Basin Secret Realm based on the state of my recovery. But, the matter of me waking up, please do not tell anyone as of yet.” Yun Che said.

Qin Wushang did not know what Yun Che’s “Profound Art” was, and in the end, no one else was able to find out either. He nodded, and no longer said anything else.

Cang Yue fed the medicinal soup to Yun Che, and left after keeping him company for a while longer, allowing him to rest quietly by himself.

“You sure are reckless. Aren’t you afraid of being crippled?” Jasmine said snappishly.

“I have countless of similar experiences, and I have considered most of the factors in my mind. No matter how reckless I am, I wouldn’t really cause myself to be crippled.” Yun Che took up a more comfortable lying posture, took out a Great Heaven Returning Pellet from the Sky Poison Pearl and threw it into his mouth. Then, he slowly refined it with the little amount of profound energy he had recovered. “But in only three days, my injuries on the surface are actually healed to such great extent, and my internal injuries are completely healed. The second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha is extraordinary, as expected.”

“Hmph, do you really think that, by borrowing the strength of the second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha, could heal you to such an extent?” Jasmine coldly snorted.

“... Could there be another reason?”

“In these three days, there’s someone who came by twice every day, and used a large amount of profound energy to heal your injuries. Otherwise, you would have been in coma for at least another two days, and it would have been impossible for your internal injuries to be completely healed this quickly.”

Yun Che was stunned, and then, he was suddenly agitated. “Could it be... Little Fairy?”

“This woman had always treated you coldly. Bluntly speaking, back then, she had even blasted you out of the room. But when you’re injured, she actually sneakily entered your room by herself, and treated your injuries without minding the large amount of profound energy she used. A woman’s way of thinking is really strange.” Jasmine said casually. However, no matter who it was, he would feel awkward when he realized the last line was actually said by a girl who was only fourteen years old.

“Haha, when you grow up, and become a real woman, you might be able to understand.” Yun Che laughed loudly, and his mood instantly improved greatly. “When does she usually come?”

“Noon, and midnight. What? You want to wait for her?”

“Of course! She definitely wouldn’t have imagined that I have already woken up, so, she will definitely come again.” Yun Che said very pleasantly.

“Dirty-minded!”

“Dirty...” Yun Che was angry now, as he growled. “Hey hey! Where the hell did a little brat like you learn this phrase? How can I be called dirty-minded? I really wish to see her out of very pure intentions, alright!? Even though you’re much stronger than me, and you even have much more knowledge stuffed in your brain than me, no matter the case, you’re still only a thirteen or fourteen year old little girl. Of course you wouldn’t understand the pure and beautiful feelings between us adults.”

“You... an adult? Me... a little brat?” Jasmine smiled coldly. “You actually dare to disrespect your master! There had never been anyone who dared to call me a little brat!”

Jasmine’s voice, evidently carried the thing called “killing intent”. Yun Che’s neck suddenly cramped, and he said hurriedly. “I-I-I’m in the wrong... Aaah... Jasmine, I definitely, definitely, definitely did not call you a small brat, you must have heard wrong...”

.....

That night, it was exactly midnight, and everything was completely quiet and still.

The window in Yun Che’s room gently opened, and following after, a cool breeze blew. The figure of a woman, whose skin was snow-white like that of a dream’s, quietly appeared in front of Yun Che’s bed. Although the light was dim, it was still possible to see the blurred figure of her flawless and graceful curves. Yet, the aura emitted out of her body was cold and noble, imperceptibly carrying a resolute form of cold pride.

She raised out her hand, and gently placed it on Yun Che’s chest. Just when she was about to investigate the conditions of Yun Che’s injuries again, at this moment, Yun Che, who should have been in a coma, suddenly stretched out his right hand, and grabbed onto her hand which was placed on his chest.

With Che Yuechan’s current strength, there were not many in the Blue Wind Empire that could approach her. However, she was focused on Yun Che’s injuries, and was currently concentrating all her

thoughts on gathering the purest profound energy within her. And, adding that she completely did not think that Yun Che would actually be awake, her palm was thus instantly grabbed just like that.

Che Yuechan's hand was soft and cold, just like a piece of smooth, soft jade. However, her hand was not grabbed by Yun Che for that long of a time, as after that moment of pause, she abruptly broke away from his grasp. Chu Yuechan retreated quickly as well, and the aura emitted from her body turned bone-piercing cold.

"Little Fairy, I just knew that, you will definitely be worried about me..." Yun che straightened his upper body, and gently called out.

"So you were already awake." Chu Yuechan's cold voice did not have a single hint of emotion. She did not give Yun Che the opportunity to speak too much, and coldly said. "You don't have to think too much about it. After all, you were injured because of Qingyue, as her Senior Master, I have that little bit of responsibility to heal your injuries. Since you're well enough, then there's no longer a need for me to act... And, do not call me Little Fairy. You can call me Chu Yuechan, or... Senior Chu!"

After saying that, Che Yuechan resolutely turned, and prepared to leave.

"Little Fairy..." Yun Che hurriedly shouted, and wanted to stand up in a rush. Suddenly, with an "Ah", a large mouthful of blood suddenly splurged out of his mouth, and his entire body instantly fell towards the bed.

When Chu Yuechan, who was about to leave, saw that Yue Che had suddenly spit out blood, her entire body trembled, her snow-like body quickly charged towards Yun Che to support him. Although the light was dim, Yun Che could clearly see the hint of franticness that flashed past her usually ice-cold face... A man that could cause the heart of the world-famous Fairy of Frozen Beauty to fluster, he believed that he was the first, and was also the only one.

The blood he spat out from his mouth, was actually the bad blood that was forced out from his internal organs after taking in the Great Heaven Returning Pellet. It should have been spat out much earlier, but he desperately suppressed it, so as to prevent Chu Yuechan from leaving decisively after seeing that he had woken up. Evidently, this plan of his was completely effective. With the bad blood forced out, his organs momentarily relaxed. When Little Fairy held onto him, he followed up and embraced her cold, yet soft and tender waist... Although Chu Yuechan trembled slightly, facing this "heavily injured person" who had just spat out a large amount of blood earlier, she basically did not dare to break free. She simply allowed him to embrace her, and the embrace gradually became tighter.

Chapter 248 - The Night Before Heaven Basin

"Are you alright?" Chu Yuechan said, trying to sound less cold. However, because she was being hugged, her heartbeat had gone out of control and she had to make use of the Frozen Cloud Arts to calm herself.

Over the past five months, she had constantly been embraced by him. She could not possibly be more familiar with his touch. Sometime within that period of time, she had unknowingly started to enjoy the feeling of being embraced. However, a voice within told her that she had no choice but to be embraced because she was paralyzed and had to depend on him for protection. It was different now... She had already made a grave mistake by sleeping with him and she should not continue making more mistakes...

Yun Che pressed the entirety of his body weight onto Chu Yuechan, looking very feeble in a half-dead manner. He said in a very weak voice: "I... I'm okay. Little Fairy... don't leave me..."

"..." Chu Yuechan could not reply. Hearing Yun Che speak with such a weak voice had sent pain equivalent to needles piercing through her heart. She couldn't bear to push Yun Che aside. She could only quietly be embraced by him... She had actually tried to steel herself to push him aside, but she couldn't bear to do so in the end.

It's already very late. There's only the two of us here and there'll be nobody around to disturb us. He's also badly wounded... I'll give in this once. It'll be the last time... This was what Chu Yuechan constantly repeated in her heart to console and convince herself.

It was only until Chu Yuechan had sent her profound energy into Yun Che's body to check Yun Che's current condition...

Bang!

The moment Yun Che had been pushed away by Chu Yuechan, his back hit the wall and he grimaced in pain and shouted: "Ah, it hurts. It hurts!"

"You actually dare to deceive me in this manner!" Chu Yuechan coldly said, her face still as cold as ever but her eyes showing her sullen mood. Although on the surface she was angry, she had felt relief in her heart upon knowing that his wounds were taking a turn for the better. However, this sort of relieved feeling had caused her mind to go into disorder... She was not supposed to be able to feel this way.

Yun Che rubbed his back with his hands and said in a pitiful manner: "I thought my Little Fairy would have just left like that. Little Fairy, I know that for the past few days, you have always..."

"You're not allowed to continue talking!"

Chu Yuechan's chest was trembling as she interrupted Yun Che with a cold tone. She turned around, and said with a cold voice devoid of emotion: "What has happened between you and I was a mistake. I have almost forgotten about it. I hope that you will do the same. If you're unable to forget about it, then just pretend it was all but a dream. Please do not attempt to make it a reality."

Yun Che: "..."

"What has happened between you and I cannot be known by outsiders. If you do not wish to encounter difficulties because of it, please do not reveal the six stages of the Frozen Cloud Arts that you have obtained... You are Qingyue's husband. If you do not wish for her and Frozen Cloud Asgard to become the laughing stock of the world, and be questioned about their morals ethics, please forget about me..."

Chu Yuechan closed both of her eyes, and the ice spirits around her body floated around her in a crazed manner: "Once we leave Heavenly Sword Villa, we shall never meet again."

After saying that, Chu Yuechan vanished from Yun Che's sight. Yun Che could only silently gaze at the ice spirits which have yet to disappear...

"Sigh." After a while, Yun Che returned to the bed and let out a long sigh. He put both of his hands on his nose and could still vaguely smell her fragrance, which was similar to an ice lotus.

“Looks like you’re unable to attain your goals.” Jasmine gloated.

“You won’t understand.” Yun Che tilted his head and muttered before sighing again. He gave Chu Yuechan’s parting words some thought... “Laughing stock of the world’, ‘questioned about their morals ethics’... these words had been deeply etched into his mind.

Xia Qingyue was his wife.

Chu Yuechan was Xia Qingyue’s Senior Master, and at the same time, was also partially her teacher.

Matters that had violated moral ethics would definitely draw the attention of the world... Especially if it concerned a respected sect in Blue Wind Empire, like Frozen Cloud Asgard.

Even if Chu Yuechan truly had feelings for him as an individual, at the same time she was Frozen Cloud Asgard’s Fairy of Frozen Beauty. She could not knowingly ruin Frozen Cloud Asgard’s thousand year reputation without regard for the consequences.

Regardless of how she felt, rejection, was the only choice she could make.

The Ranking Tournament at both the main and the secondary arena had finished. The rankings of over five hundred sects had been decided.

1st Place: Blue Wind Imperial Family

2nd Place: Frozen Cloud Asgard

3rd Place: Heavenly Sword Villa

4th Place: Xiao Sect

5th Place: Burning Heaven Clan

After these rankings were announced, it had caused large waves amongst those in Blue Wind Empire’s profound circle. Yun Che and Xia Qingyue were both only seventeen years old, but their names had already spread throughout every corner of the Blue Wind Empire and traveled towards the six other nations very quickly.

The other nations had always paid close attention to the Blue Wind Empire’s Ranking Tournament. The results of the Ranking Tournament had greatly shocked the other nations as well, making them unable to not remember the names Yun Che and Xia Qingyue.

Yun Che’s origin, his circumstances, the incidents he had been involved in within the Blue Wind Profound Palace, his performance at the Ranking Tournament... were all fabricated into various books which circulated around the market. His battle with Xia Qingyue had especially been exaggerated and hyped to be earthshaking and described as if it had been a battle between deities... The others, even included the exceeding sentimental love story of him and the Blue Moon Princess that could move even the heaven and earth...

If Yun Che was walking around any of the streets at any of the cities in Blue Wind Empire that talked about his exploits, he would have had a convulsion on the spot.

Yun Che had greatly underestimated the influence of the Ranking Tournament. While he was staying at the quiet Heavenly Sword Villa, he was clueless of the fact that his name and his deeds were being exaggerated and spread around as legends.

After the Ranking Tournament had ended, the various big sects had started to leave. Only the top ten sects of the Ranking Tournament had remained for the sake of entering the Heaven Basin Secret Realm. None of them were willing to pass this chance up.

As the days passed, the day when the entrance to the Heaven Basin Secret Realm would open quickly approached.

After Yun Che had awakened, the recovery of his wounds had considerably sped up. He did not go anywhere during the next two days and had quietly nursed his wounds. Based on his injuries on the Sword Discourse Arena the other day, nobody would believe that he had already woke up. Furthermore, his wounds were already mostly healed.

The night before the opening of the Heaven Basin Secret Realm.

Ling Yuefeng stood under an ancient tree in his courtyard, gazing at the crescent moon in the night sky. His clothes had gotten moist from the misty night atmosphere. It had shown that he had been standing here for a long time.

“Sigh.” Ling Yuefeng suddenly let out a very long sigh.

“Yuefeng, what has happened, has already happened. There’s no point in dwelling on it. Even though we had lost, it doesn’t mean that our Heavenly Sword Villa’s disciples are weak. Both Yun Che and Xia Qingyue being this strong was unexpected. Our loss was not without justifiable reason.”

Xuanyuan Yufeng walked over and consoled him.

Ling Yuefeng continued to gaze at the crescent moon while deep in thought. He had not realized that Xuanyuan Yufeng was nearby. He had a complex look in his eyes as he turned around and sighed, while saying: “It has been about a thousand two hundred years since our ancestors had constructed Heavenly Sword Villa. Nobody had ever challenged our position as the number one sect. But during my time as Villa Master, I actually... I have been trying to calmly accept the facts, but I am unable to let go. I have let our ancestors down. I have let the thousand year history of Heavenly Sword Villa down.”

“Don’t put it like that.” Xuanyuan Yufeng consoled: “You’ve taken up the heavy responsibility of Villa Master since you were young. It has been twenty one years since then. I’ve been with you throughout. We’ve watched Heavenly Sword Villa grow, we’ve watched Yun’er and Jie’er get strong under your care and surpass the younger you. We’ve already done enough to be proud of ourselves. Although we didn’t perform as expected during the Ranking Tournament, the Ranking Tournament is only a competition between the younger generation. Whether it is our foundation, resources, prestige or overall strength, we wouldn’t lose even if you put the nine other ranked sects together. Why can’t you just let go if that’s the case?”

Xuanyuan Yufeng’s words had greatly calmed Ling Yuefeng down. He embraced Xuanyuan Yufeng and said with emotion: “My wife, you’re right. To be wed to you in this lifetime is my, Ling Yuefeng’s greatest blessing. What can’t I let go?”

Xuanyuan Yufeng gently smiled and leaned on her husband's shoulder.

Ling Yuefeng shifted his gaze, looked into the distance, and said: "There's still light in Yun'er's room... Sigh, I can tell that he has been very restless lately. I believe the one who'll have the hardest time letting go would be Yun'er. I'm worried that his self confidence and love towards swordsmanship will take a hit. I should pay him a visit and talk to him about this."

Xuanyuan Yufeng stood up and slowly shook her head: "Yun'er's restlessness has nothing to do with his defeat the other day."

"You mean..."

Xuanyuan Yufeng said: "That's good too. Yuefeng, go ahead and pay him a visit. Let him speak of his troubles and maybe you can give him some advice. He will know what to do from then on."

Ling Yuefeng nodded, then walked out of the courtyard slowly, towards the direction of Ling Yun's courtyard.

Xuanyuan Yufeng returned to her room. Not long later, someone had knocked on the door: "Yufeng, it's me."

Hearing that, Xuanyuan Yufeng immediately went to open the door. Surprisingly, it was Ling Kun.

Ling Kun sat down upon entering the room. He looked at Xuanyuan Yufeng for a bit before saying: "Yufeng, how have you been for the past years? Did that Ling Yuefeng brat ever mistreat you?"

"Yuefeng has always treated me well. Thank you for the concern, Uncle." Xuanyuan Yufeng replied with a smile. She poured a cup of tea for Ling Kun before sitting down opposite him. She asked sullenly: "I wanted to meet Uncle this late at night because I wanted to know... I wanted to know if my father... Is my father still... Is he still mad at me?"

"Heh heh." Ling Kun laughed and said: "Yufeng, as his daughter, you should be the most clear about what kind of person your father is. The Ninth Elder has gotten over it a long time ago. Do you really think that the relationship between Mighty Heavenly Sword Region and Heavenly Sword Villa could be facilitated by a lowly aide like myself? The Ninth Elder had always been secretly pulling strings from behind. The Dragonscale Armor that I had brought over was from the Ninth Elder. Although the Ninth Elder had long accepted your marriage with Ling Yuefeng... his stubborn personality had prevented him from saying anything. The only thing he has been displeased with over the years is that you have not went back to visit him even once."

Xuanyuan Yufeng's eyes became watery: "That year, father flew into such a huge rage and I had even caused him to lose face. How would I dare to go back?"

"Sigh, silly girl. You're wrong... You are the Ninth Elder's only daughter. He would never truly resent you. Even though he doesn't openly say so, anyone can tell that he sorely misses you. If not, he wouldn't keep talking about what you did in the past... After we've sealed the demon, you should bring Yuefeng, along with Yun'er and Ji'er and visit Mighty Heavenly Sword Region with me. When the Ninth Elder sees you along with his two grandsons, he will be extremely elated. After you have reunited with the Ninth Elder and removed the gap between you and him, he might regularly visit you and his grandsons. At that

point of time, Heavenly Sword Villa will greatly benefit. If Yun'er and Jie'er are able to personally receive guidance from the Ninth Elder, their prowess will definitely skyrocket.

Xuanyuan Yufeng, with great difficulty, controlled her emotions and slowly nodded her head: "...Alright. When Yuefeng returns, I will talk to him about this."

"That's good." Ling Kun laughed. He then casually asked: "When I was coming over, I saw Yuefeng rushing towards the southeast, is there an urgent matter?"

"He went..."

Xuanyuan Yufeng's voice suddenly changed as she abruptly raised her head. She had an ugly expression on her face: "Southeast? You said... southeast?"

Chapter 249 - Heaven Basin Secret Realm (1)

Ling Kun knitted his eyebrows, gave it some consideration and nodded saying: "It's definitely the southeastern direction. Why do you ask?"

Xuanyuan Yufeng stood up, her face turning extremely ugly. Ever since the various sects left, Heavenly Sword Villa's guest area had been virtually empty. The only sect that had remained in the southeast area... was Frozen Cloud Asgard!

"Uncle Ling, do me a favor..."

A lone moon hung in the night sky, with several stars shining brightly.

Ling Yuefeng flew through the night sky. He was originally heading towards Ling Yun's courtyard, but changed directions midway and went towards Frozen Cloud Asgard's residence.

The atmosphere around Frozen Cloud Asgard's courtyard carried a unique calmness. Ling Yuefeng shut his eyes and lightly inhaled, as if he was savoring something. A short while later, he opened his eyes and gazed at the room Chu Yuechan stayed in. The lights were still on. Though, as he gazed upon the light in the room, he felt a piercing cold chill emitted from within... He knew he had been discovered. Chu Yuechan's current cultivation wasn't beneath his.

Ling Yuefeng inhaled slightly, then used voice transmission, projecting his thoughts towards Chu Yuechan: "I, Ling Yuefeng, would like to request a meeting with the Fairy of Frozen Beauty. Would you grace me with your presence?"

"What do you want? Speak!"

Chu Yuechan didn't appear. She only replied with five short words, each of them without a shred of emotion in them. They were cold to the point where they could freeze humans into ice sculptures.

In the Blue Wind empire, only Chu Yuechan would dare to speak to Ling Yuefeng in such a manner. Even the Mistress of Frozen Cloud Asgard wouldn't dare. Hearing such cold words from Chu Yuechan, Ling Yuefeng could only bitterly smile. "Ever since the first time we met in the Ranking Tournament, I've gone

to Frozen Cloud Asgard twenty times within ten years, but I've never been able to see you even once, until this year's Ranking Tournament..."

"There's no need to speak of matters of the past. If Villa Master Ling has any matters, please speak of them immediately." Chu Yuechan coldly said.

Ling Yuefeng sighed: "Back then, everyone knew about how I felt for you. Even if I had to be the laughingstock of the entire world, even if I had to incur my parent's anger, I still continued to visit Frozen Cloud Asgard. All I hoped for was to meet you once again... Alas, after so many years, my memories of you are still of that year... Even today, the greatest wish of my lifetime is that I could see you once again... I no longer wish to obtain your love, all I wish is to see you once more, so I can see how you look like now..."

Ling Yuefeng was a passionate person, but it wasn't easy to get him infatuated. Before meeting Chu Yuechan, he had devoted all of his efforts into swordsmanship. But on the day he met Chu Yuechan, the emotions he'd been burying burst open. Thirty years have passed since that moment. Figuratively speaking, any emotion should have waned over the long period of time, but in Ling Yuefeng's heart, Chu Yuechan's image had never waned. Was it because of Lin Yuefeng's undying passion, or was it because Chu Yuechan was simply too charming? Nobody knew.

"You already have a wife and plenty of kids. You and I are simply strangers who've met a few times, there's no need to meet again. My current appearance has nothing to do with you. If you have no further matters, please leave. Your hospitality should not include disturbing female guests late in the night!" Chu Yuechan remarked, with a faint hint of anger in her voice.

"Sigh, your temper hasn't changed since that year. All I wish is to see you once more, so I can put aside my wish. I have no other hidden agendas. Once I've seen you, I will immediately leave. I will not bother you for as long as I live after that..."

"Rip!"

Following a slight tearing sound, an icicle came out of nowhere and flew directly towards Ling Yuefeng. Ling Yuefeng stuck his hand out and grasped the icicle. The icicle's freezing feeling quickly spread throughout his hands, into his heart.

Without bidding Chu Yuechan farewell, without having said anything, Ling Yuefeng left. His lonely figure vanished in the night sky very quickly. That year, he was not only the Young Villa Master of Heavenly Sword Villa, but also an incomparably outstanding youth. The amount of female admirers he had was not few... but he had blindly fell in love with one he wasn't supposed to. With his strength, in the Blue Wind Empire, he could obtain fame and power easily. There was nothing he couldn't obtain within his lifetime, with the sole exception of Chu Yuechan... The heavens had blessed her with the most beautiful outer appearance, but had given her an icy cold heart. She was the only missing piece in Ling Yuefeng's life.

Not far away at a dark corner, Xuanyuan Yufeng was trembling with a very ugly expression on her face.

Under Ling Kun's profound strength's isolation, neither Ling Yuefeng nor Chu Yuechan were able to sense their presence. Although they have been communicating using voice transmission, everything they've said had been silently tapped by Ling Kun. Xuanyuan Yufeng was only trying her luck originally,

but when she had heard everything Ling Yuefeng had said to Chu Yuechan with her own ears, she exploded with rage.

“Ling Yuefeng... You really are a passionate man... It has already been thirty years, thirty damn years, but you’re still unable to forget that woman... I thought you were unable to accept what happened in the Ranking Tournament, so I comforted you for half a day... but who... knew you were actually thinking of that woman! You even dared to ask to meet her in secret!”

Xuanyuan Yufeng uttered each word with deep hate and rage: “I, Xuanyuan Yufeng, shortchanged myself, shamed my family, and married into this migre Heavenly Sword Villa for more than twenty years... Yet I am still not equivalent to a woman who had made a fool out of you in front of the world, who refuses to even meet you. Ling Yuefeng... you’ve really outdone yourself!!”

When a woman had sufficient hate and envy, she would transform into the most terrifying demon. Ling Yuefeng and Ling Kun were still members of the same clan, so Ling Kun didn’t want this matter to continue spiraling out of control. He immediately urged: “Yufeng, you don’t have to get this angry. You’ve already been with Yuefeng for more than twenty years and should know his personality. What he has said just now was very clear, all he wanted was to see Chu Yuechan one last time. From then onwards, he wouldn’t think about her again. I’ve heard that in the past, in order to obtain her love, he’s made many visits to Frozen Cloud Asgard within a span of ten years but has never succeeded. All he’s doing now is to fulfill what he was unable to do in the past: to see her again.”

“Rightfully speaking, as the Villa Master of Heavenly Sword Villa, nobody would dare to humiliate him and not give him face. But today, that woman treated him coldly, without giving him any face. As his wife, this is where you should feel bad for him. If instead, you return and start quarreling with him, all you would be doing is creating discord between the both of you. However, if you do not stop him from doing what he’s doing and treat him as per normal, he might feel guilty because of what he’s doing. If that’s what happens, you would benefit instead, right?”

“Not stop him? How can I not stop him?!” Xuanyuan Yufeng’s chest shook while saying so, but the anger in her voice was already half gone. She stared at the light within Chu Yuechan’s room and softly said: “Uncle Ling’s words have enlightened me. I should not be blaming Yuefeng. The fact that he hasn’t forgotten that woman also shows that he’s honest to his feelings... If this woman no longer existed, what I wouldn’t want to see wouldn’t happen! While Chu Yuechan has harmed Yuefeng... someone else is doing the same to Yun’er. Yun’er hasn’t been himself as of late, I suspect he’ll make the same choices as his father once did.”

“You’re talking about Xia Qingyue?”

“I’m going to destroy Frozen Cloud Asgard for causing harm to my husband and son.” Xuanyuan Yufeng colded remarked.

Ling Kun furrowed his eyebrows as a strange light flited past his eyes. Towards Xuanyuan Yufeng’s proclamation out of envy and hate, he had not only not stopped her, but instead nodded, saying: “If you really intend to do so, there’s no reason for me not to help you. Except, Frozen Cloud Asgard is not a normal, easy to destroy sect. The fact that it has existed for a thousand years shows its considerable influence. How about you return to Mighty Heavenly Sword Region with me and let the Ninth Elder know of this matter. He has missed you for so many years and would not reject any request from you. At

that time, I will personally volunteer myself to carry out this mission. Within three years, we'll make Frozen Cloud Asgard vanish, never to be seen again. Nobody will know that Mighty Heavenly Sword Region was behind this. How about it?"

Xuanyuan Yufeng had only said that she wanted to destroy Frozen Cloud Asgard in a moment of rage. Who knew that Ling Kun had actually agreed to do so. If one of the Four Great Sacred Grounds had agreed to help, getting rid of Frozen Cloud Asgard was as easy as squashing an ant. Bearing great hate towards Frozen Cloud Asgard, how could Xuanyuan Yufeng disagree? She nodded, saying: "We'll do as Uncle Ling had advised. Yufeng thanks Uncle Ling."

"Hoho, it's only a small matter." Ling Kun laughed. His laughter had concealed deeper meaning.

Deep into the direct north of Heavenly Sword Mountain Range was a flat clearing. Within the imposing Heavenly Sword Mountain Range filled with sword energy, this place was one that was completely different. The atmosphere was calm and quiet, and even the sounds of the wind were exceptionally soothing.

At noon, a group of people arrived. This group of people were all of the ten sects who had ranked in the top ten of the Ranking Tournament. This was the entrance to the Heaven Basin Secret Realm. Everyone here carried varying levels of excitement, especially those who've yet to enter the Heaven Basin Secret Realm before. Their eyes were oddly bright and looked as if any possible encounters were already in front of them, within reach.

However, within this group of people, Yun Che was not present. Representing Blue Wind Empire's group was solely Qin Wushang.

Ling Yuefeng stood at the front and announced: "Shortly, the entrance to Heaven Basin Secret Realm will appear. Before that happens, I will need to remind all of you of some things."

"Heaven Basin Secret Realm can only take at most fifty people at a time. With that said, each sect can only send five representatives. As for which five, you are free to choose. After entering the realm, you will only stay for two days. After forty-eight hours, you will all be teleported back here against your free will. There's only one exception to this rule..."

Ling Yuefeng coldly said: "And that is a dead person!"

Chapter 250 - Heaven Basin Secret Realm (2)

"Do not ever think that the Heaven Basin Secret Realm only contains innumerable resources and treasures. At the same time, it also contains immeasurable danger! If you pay no heed to safety and are driven by greed, you may very well lose your life! The Heaven Basin Secret Realm is immeasurably huge and there has never been anyone who was able to travel to the end. At the same time, what you see within the Secret Realm changes every single time. Even if you've once traveled deep into the Secret Realm, you might see a completely new world this time around."

"While exploring the Secret Realm, you can choose to travel alone or travel in a group. But in order to truly gain experience, the young and older generation should split up."

Ling Yuefeng's speech had left everyone in deep thought. If the younger generation still needed the older generation's protection, that would be wasting this precious training opportunity and incur the embarrassment.

"Within the Secret Realm, sound transmission does not work. Nobody will be able to communicate via sound transmission."

"The Secret Realm is a place for exploration and training, it's not for settling grudges! If you wish to settle your grudge within the Secret Realm, I would advise you to not do so. Do not waste this precious chance to train! Especially the older generation, I hope that you wouldn't stoop that low and disregard your dignity and attack someone of the younger generation. If I happen to find out, you wouldn't like the outcome." Ling Yuefeng distinctively said. "Even if there's conflict between the younger generation due to a treasure found at the same time, the older generation is not allowed to intervene."

"The deeper you go into the Secret realm, the higher the danger! If you are not strong enough, do not try to push your luck. Even the season within the Secret Realm is not fixed. Sometimes we'll get the warm spring season, sometimes we'll get a cool summer season, but if luck is not on our side, we might get a harsh winter..."

The younger generation who did not have experience entering the Secret Realm earnestly listened to Ling Yuefeng's long speech and took them to heart. At this time, a "Zizi" sound came from behind Ling Yuefeng, beckoning people to look towards the sound. To their surprise, a spatial distortion had formed behind Ling Yuefeng. Its surface was just like a stormy wave, with layers and layers of constantly forming ripples.

The spatial ripples started to speed up its vibrations and began to revolve at high speed until it formed a gigantic swirling vortex. The surrounding air currents around the vortex were sucked towards it, giving rise to the howling of the wind. Eventually the revolution of vortex started to slow down, and when it completely stopped, it became a jet black hole which was almost three meters long in diameter. Through the jet black hole that floated in midair, nothing could be seen other than complete darkness.

"This is the entrance into the Heaven Basin Secret Realm." Ling Yuefeng stood in front of the entrance, looked at the crowd who had faces of astonishment and excitement, and said: "Each time the Secret Realm has been accessed, on average there will be two or three people who get left within the realm, never to return. Now that the entrance to the Secret Realm has opened, it will only stay open for seven and a half minutes. Anyone who wishes to back out may choose to do so now!"

There were none who wished to back out. Those who were afraid of death were meant to never become truly strong. Furthermore, the risk was not high. Two or three out of fifty wasn't even comparable to the risk they took when they chose to join their respective sects' special training. Within some of the sects with higher standards, those that had several hundred to thousands of deaths weren't uncommon.

"I've already said what has to be said. Let us enter the secret realm based on the results of the Ranking Tournament. Our friends from Blue Wind Imperial Family shall enter first."

Of the Blue Wind Imperial Family's representatives, only Qin Wushang proceeded. Xia Yuanba's cultivation was too low and he would only be seeking death if he had entered, as much as he was

curious as to what was within. Cang Yue's cultivation was too low as well, but she had no interest in the Heaven Basin Secret Realm to begin with. Both of them remained at the Villa to take care of the heavily injured Yun Che.

As such, only Qin Wushang represented the Blue Wind Imperial Family and entered the Heaven Basin Secret Realm.

"Palace Chief Qin, go ahead." Ling Yuefeng was naturally aware of the circumstances. He didn't say anything unnecessary and just led Qin Wushang towards the entrance.

"Hmph! As expected, he really did not show up! What a waste of my time." Fen Juecheng coldly remarked, at the same time he took quick glance at the nearby Mu Tianbei. Mu Tianbei looked similarly upset.

"It's okay. When I'm done exploring the Heaven Basin Secret Realm and leave the Heavenly Sword Villa, I'll be able to kill him any time I want!"

The one who said this was Fen Juebi. After a few days of recuperation, his injuries could be said to be roughly half recovered. However, the aftereffects of damaging his blood essence were still there. Currently, he could only display half of his strength at best. However, this was his only chance to enter the Heaven Basin Secret Realm, so he couldn't give it up regardless.

Not only did he get heavily injured from Yun Che's attacks, he had also lost all of the face he had and he would inevitably be punished upon returning to the Burning Heaven Clan. He had completely remembered all of the above as debts that Yun Che owed him, and he would make sure to collect them. His desire of wanting to kill Yun Che wasn't less than that of Fen Juecheng's.

"It's not the same." Fen Juecheng whispered: "Killing someone in the Heaven Basin Secret Realm will not give us any future troubles. Once the Heaven Basin Secret Realm closes, there will be no traces of evidence left. Having gotten first place in the Ranking Tournament, Yun Che's fame has gone through the heavens. He's not someone we can kill whenever we want! It'll be very difficult to kill him without leaving behind evidence, much more difficult than doing so within the Secret Realm. Besides... although Mu Tianbei bears a similar grudge towards Yun Che, he wouldn't dare to strike outside of the Secret Realm!"

At that moment, someone hurriedly shouted from the distance: "Hey! Palace Chief Qin, wait for me!"

The crowd turned their heads, and surprisingly, they saw a Yun Che anxiously running towards them. After the Ranking Tournament, towards the seventeen year old youth capable of destroying a Domain to obtain first place, the younger generation only had faces of awe and respect.

The current Yun Che didn't look very well. His face was a serious illnesses' pale white, and his steps were weak. From time to time, he revealed marks of bandage wrapped indents on his body..

Although the distance from Heavenly Sword Villa to this place was far, to someone who was able to achieve top ten in the Ranking Tournament, even if they had ran at top speed, it wouldn't take much effort. But when Yun Che had come dashing here, he was out of breath and his breathing was unsteady. Looking at his condition, he only had twenty to thirty percent of his usual strength.

Compared to what he was like five short days ago, his recovery speed was almost miraculous and very shocking.

“Yun Che, why have you...” Yun Che had given Qin Wushang a huge shock.

Yun Che waved both of his arms and calmly said: “Rest assured, Palace Chief Qin, my injury is already about sixty to seventy percent recovered and I’ve regained some of my profound energy. Furthermore, this is a rare chance. Forget about me being able to freely move, even if I had to crawl here, I wouldn’t miss it!”

Qin Wushang looked at Yun Che, and helplessly said: “Since you’re already here... so be it.”

“Yun Che, the Heaven Basin Secret Realm is not as its name makes it out to be. It carries significant danger within and you have to be extremely careful, especially with your current condition. Don’t force it.” Ling Yuefeng reminded.

“Mn. Thank you, Villa Master Ling, for the reminder.” Yun Che nodded. He glanced around him and saw Ling Jie and Ling Yun. Ling Jie made a “It’s okay, I’ll protect you” gesture... When he looked at the group of five from Frozen Cloud Asgard, Chu Yuechan had already looked away... Lastly, he took a glance at the people from Burning Heaven Clan and Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress before he followed Qin Wushang through the entrance to the Heaven Basin Secret Realm.

When Qin Wushang and Yun Che’s visages vanished through the entrance, Fen Juecheng couldn’t control his laughter anymore: “The heavens gave you a path, but you chose to barge through hell instead!”

Yun Che was no stranger to the feeling of spatial travel. This was the exact feeling he had when he had entered the Dragon God Trial Grounds. Very quickly, the mysterious feeling vanished and an ice cold air assaulted him. He involuntarily shivered. He opened his eyes and couldn’t help but stare at what was before him.

The bone chilling cold wind blew snow to fill the entire sky. A mirror-like smooth ice field continually extended beyond what he could see and giant mountain range of ice stood erect before him like steep cliffs. Unable to be seen, the highest peak towered beyond the clouds and radiated coldness even in this thick cold climate.

An uncountable amount of hail that had been broken by cold wind pelted down. When it hit the face, it caused severe pain. If people with lower cultivation were to be here, they might have already been covered with bloody holes just the hail.

“This is the Heaven Basin Secret Realm?” Yun Che murmured in a daze. What was before him was nothing compared to what he had imagined. Looking at the nearby Qin Wushang, it would seem that he too, was shocked.

Behind him, the spatial vortex constantly distorted, and each time it distorted, someone else was sent here. When they opened their eyes, their reactions were even more exaggerated than Yun Che’s. Nobody had expected the legendary Heaven Secret Basin to contain a snow white world.

Ling Yuefeng was the last to enter, and he said furrowed brows: “Looks like we are very unfortunate this time. To have drawn Heaven Basin Secret Realm’s harsh winter climate! This is the worst and most dangerous condition. However, this should be favorable... to our friends from Frozen Cloud Asgard.”

“Yueli, let’s go!” Ling Yuefeng’s words were unable to affect Chu Yuechan at all. Without making eye contact with anyone, amongst the fluttering cloaks, she had already left into the distance. Her figure soon changed into a strip of white in the winter sky, looking at home with the blowing snow.

“Wushuang, Xuexin, you should both travel together. Qingyue, you should travel alone. It’ll be up to your abilities to obtain benefits here.” After a short exchange, Chu Yueli also vanished into the winter sky, following Chu Yuechan.

Ling Yuefeng helplessly looked towards the direction Chu Yuechan left in before floating up and said: “It is time that we left too. Let the younger generation choose where they want to go. They will have to depend on themselves for everything from now onwards.”

Without saying a word to Ling Yun and Ling Jie, he too, vanished far into the winter sky. The regions that the older generation explored could not be compared to those that the younger generation did. The rest of the elders did not object to what Ling Yuefeng had said and had only given at most, simple instructions before leaving in different directions and quickly disappearing from their line of sight. If they had stayed out of concern to protect the younger generation, it would cause more harm than good.

All that was left were the people of the younger generation. Among the younger generation, other than the disciples who had participated in the Ranking Tournament, there were other outstanding individuals... such as Xiao Sect’s Xiao Kuangyu and Burning Heaven Clan’s Fen Juecheng.

All of the sects had left at least three younger disciples and at most five members except the Blue Wind Imperial Family. Therefore, Yun Che was especially awkward amongst the group of young disciples. Him being alone was secondary, because due to his placing in the Ranking Tournament, most of the other disciples were eager to travel with him. But the problem was, due to his injuries, he was only able to display twenty to thirty percent of his strength. Without doubt, the current him was going to be a burden to whomever he went with.