

The Gods 761

Chapter 761 - Fateful Turning Point

“Xue’er, let’s go.”

Yun Che didn’t continue his sentence. He couldn’t. He did not spare a glance for single person as he pulled Feng Xue’er’s hand and flew off into the distance without turning back.

He had overwhelmed them with killing intent that sent shock and fear rippling down their spines a moment ago, but then abruptly released Xuanyuan Yufeng and departed with his head bowed low. This turn of events was something that left Xuanyuan Jiuding and Mu Yuanzhi dazed for a good while.

“This Yun Che is even harder to deal with than the rumors said.” Yun Che’s departure caused Mu Yuan to feel an astonishingly huge sense of relief overtake him. This was the first time in his life that a youngster made him feel this way. He immediately added a few words to his sentence, “He has a terrifyingly strong master to support him after all, so he does have the backing to be this forceful and cocky.”

“Master? Heh.” Xuanyuan Jiuding gave a faint smile. “Don’t worry. He won’t be able to prance around much longer. There will naturally come a day where he will pay for all that he’s done!”

“Oh?” Mu Yuan looked at Xuanyuan Jiuding with an astonished expression. “Thirteenth Elder, your words...”

“Don’t ask any further. When the time comes, all will be made clear to you,” Xuanyuan Jiuding said, his lips peeling back as a strange smile stretched across his face.

Once they left the vicinity of the Heavenly Sword Mountain Range, Yun Che’s speed slowed down a bit. His brows knit together tightly as he silently pondered about something.

Feng Xue’er could tell that Yun Che’s current mood was very heavy and she tried to console him in a soft voice, “Big Brother Yun, don’t be too worried. Chu Yuechan and her child are definitely safe and sound. They must be in some safe haven waiting for Big Brother Yun to find them.”

“...” Yun Che exhaled lightly and a faint smile appeared on his face. “You’re right. They’re definitely okay. I have firmly believed that all this time.”

“It’s just that, I only found just out today that Heavenly Sword Villa tried to kill her after she left Frozen Cloud Asgard all those years ago.” Yun Che’s fists were tightly clenched. Since Xuanyuan Yufeng was Ling Jie’s mother, he was unable to bring himself to kill her.... Otherwise, he would not even have taken the fact that she was some daughter of some Sword Region Elder into consideration. Even if she were the Queen Mother of the Heavens, he would still slaughter her in rage.

“I wonder... how she managed to escape then?” Feng Xue’er knew that since Xuanyuan Yufeng had schemed about how to kill Chu Yuechan day and night, the three people that she had sent to do the deed would definitely have the ability to fulfill their end of the bargain... Therefore, the situation that Chu Yuechan faced at that time had to have been quite desperate.

Yun Che replied softly, "The real reason why Xuanyuan Yufeng spread the news of the Little Fairy's pregnancy to the whole world all those years ago was so that she would have a chance to kill her. She was certain that, upon returning to Frozen Cloud Asgard, there was a high chance that Little Fairy would be expelled from the sect. Just to prepare for this possibility, she hid a force of ambushers within the Snow Region of Extreme Ice far in advance... Little Fairy would not have been the match for the three people that she dispatched even if she were at the peak of her powers. Furthermore, Little Fairy was pregnant, her profound aura was weak and fluctuating, and she had just crippled her own profound arts. The moment she appeared, she must have sustained heavy injuries... It just so happened that the Snow Region of Extreme Ice had fortunately been struck by a blizzard that day, and there was also a Snow Phoenix Beast in the vicinity. While stuck in the blizzard, the speed, the profound energy circulation, and the vision of ordinary profound practitioners would be greatly reduced. For the Snow Phoenix Beast, however, it just so happens to be the opposite, so Little Fairy borrowed the power of the Snow Phoenix Beast to make a narrow escape under the cover of the snowstorm..."

If not, the results would have been too ghastly to think about.

The only problem was, Yun Che was completely unaware of what happened after that... where she had fled, whether her injuries had been healed, and whether the child in her belly had been harmed... he did not know a single thing. He was unable to even imagine the circumstances she faced at that time. Every time he thought about it, it caused his heart to bleed.

At that time, she was probably all by herself and extremely helpless....

"My royal father once said that good fortune will definitely come in the wake of calamity. If she could avert disaster despite the perilous situation she was in, then it definitely means that even the heavens could not bear to see her harmed and has been protecting her all this time," Feng Xue'er said in a soft, graceful voice as she tried to comfort him.

"Yes. After hearing Xue'er's words, I feel much better already," Yun Che said as he smiled. However, his face soon began to sink once more....

From Xuanyuan Yufeng's memories, he had also discovered... that she had some sort of relation to the calamity that had struck Frozen Cloud Asgard.

To put it plainly, the relation was that Ling Kun!!

"Big Brother Yun... Big Brother Yun!!!"

An anxious cry rang out from behind them. It was Ling Jie's voice. Yun Che's expression grew complex as he hesitated for an instant before gradually coming to a stop.

Ling Jie had expended all of his energy chasing them. After much difficulty, he finally caught up and was already so tired that he was gasping for breath. Yun Che turned around and spoke as he looked straight at him, "Little Jie, do you desperately desire to kill me with one stroke of your sword?"

Ling Jie shook his head vigorously as he replied, "No... why would I... I... I have actually come here to thank you."

"Thank me?" Yun Che gave a bland smile. "Why would you want to thank me? I just turned your Heavenly Sword Villa on its head several times over, fiercely rebuked both your father and grandfather,

and I nearly killed your mother. It is good enough that you don't want to kill me... but instead you want to thank me?"

Ling Jie shook his head yet again. This shake of his head was even more vigorous than the last. He stared straight into Yun Che's eyes and spoke in a sincere tone, "I know that you let my mother go for my sake... All those years ago, just for the act of kidnapping your family, the Burning Heaven Clan was exterminated down to the last man. Just a few months ago, it is rumored that you killed quite a few princes of Divine Phoenix Nation... and despite my mother doing something that was far more heinous than anything the Burning Heaven Clan did, you still... it was clear that you were extremely angry, but you still let her go. I really have to thank you. Your forgiveness and mercy is something that I will remember for the rest of my life.... The mistake that my mother has made, I... I will definitely do all that I can to make up for it."

"..." Yun Che silently observed Ling Jie and looked at him for a long time... They had not met for three years and Ling Jie's aura, figure, and appearance had undergone great changes, but his eyes were still as clear as water. His spirit was slightly moved by this and he extended a hand to lightly pat Ling Jie on the shoulder. "Little Jie, you do not need to thank me, and you definitely shouldn't mention whatever 'debt' you owe me ever again... or could it be that you've forgotten that we're good brothers?"

Ling Jie's eyes lit up. They gradually began to sparkle as he replied, "I... I... Can I still call you 'Boss' like I did in the past?"

"What nonsense are you saying? Of course you can!" Yun Che vigorously shook his shoulder as he replied, "Don't forget that you became my little brother because you lost to me all those years ago! Are you telling me that you're now trying to weasel your way out of it?"

"No... of course not!" Ling Jie's eyes were moist and he took in a large breath of air, struggling against the tears that threatened to leak from his eyes. "Boss, I just knew that you wouldn't die so easily... I've finally, finally gotten to see you again! Furthermore, you've become so... so powerful. It is truly my, Ling Jie's, greatest fortune in life to have been able to meet you."

Yun Che could clearly hear the joy in Ling Jie's voice as it quivered with emotion. It reached his heart as well.

"No, the fortunate one is me," Yun Che said sincerely. "Little Jie, did you know that, when I first met you six years ago, there was a reason why I took the initiative to suggest that we compete with three strikes, and that whoever lost had to be the little brother of the other... At the time, I only wanted to use your status as the young master of Heavenly Sword Villa, so that it would be more convenient for me to make moves in the future... Yet, after that, you braved danger for my sake by coming to the Burning Heaven Clan by yourself. You used your very life to block his sword just so you could stop your grandfather from killing me. Just so you could cheer me on, you travelled to Divine Phoenix Nation by yourself for five thousand kilometers ... I really don't know how it is possible for me to have received such sincere and ardent devotion."

"Hehe..." Ling Jie was moved once more, so he laughed in embarrassment before replying, "I am your little brother after all. It's only proper that I do some things for my boss. Furthermore, to be able to follow in your footsteps is something that is... very special to me, a pride that cannot be replaced by anything else."

“Hahahaha...” Yun Che laughed as he said, “Little Jie, because of what you just said, I must definitely become someone who can make the entire world tremble. I definitely won’t disappoint you.”

Yun Che’s voice trailed off and his face grew solemn. His expression changed, causing Ling Jie’s laughter to subconsciously subside as he spoke, “Boss, do you... have something to say to me?”

“Little Jie, we haven’t met in three years, but your profound strength is so high now. This has something to do with you going to Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, right?” Yun Che asked in an even tone.

“Yes.” Ling Jie nodded his head. “Grandfather loves me a lot and treats me very well. He is also very strict with my training, and during these three years, he spent most of the time personally imparting Heaven’s Might Absolute Sword to me. He has even managed to obtain many Sacred Ground quality resources for me as well.”

As he said this, Ling Jie’s eyes began to light up once more. Yun Che had confirmed many years ago that, even though Ling Jie’s personality was pure and open, deep inside, he was also someone who loved the sword to the point of irrationality. Being able to train his sword skills in a place at the level of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region with a Monarch as his teacher was something that Ling Jie would naturally dream of night and day.

“The words that I am about to say will be hard for you to understand. They may leave you at a loss or even cause you to feel disgust, but it is something that I must say regardless.” Yun Che’s face grew incomparably solemn.

“Ah?” Ling Jie’s expression tightened as he grew nervous.

“This time, Mighty Heavenly Sword Region dispatched two elders. Their goal should be to bring you back to Mighty Heavenly Sword Region to see your grandfather, Xuanyuan Jue. I think that, for you, this is something that you have been anticipating ever since you came back to the villa. I, however, hope that... you never return to the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region.”

“Ah? Why?” Ling Jie asked, mystified.

“I can’t explain it to you clearly.” Yun Che gave a faint shake of his head. “Perhaps, if you stay in Mighty Heavenly Sword Region long enough, you will be able to find the answer with your own eyes. By then, it may already be too late. I can only tell you this: Mighty Heavenly Sword Region may be a sacred land of swords in your opinion, but that is only its outer appearance. What it wears on the inside is far dirtier than you can imagine, and far more terrifying as well. The reason why I hope that you do not intertwine yourself too much with Mighty Heavenly Sword Region is because I do not want to see your bright, diamond-like soul get sullied. It may result in a situation where it will not be possible to extricate yourself from that place.”

“I...” Ling Jie’s expression was vacant.

“I also hope that you don’t inherit Heavenly Sword Villa. In terms of either innate talent in the sword or current skill, you are superior to your older brother, Ling Yun. Just based on these points alone, it is only right and proper that you inherit the position of Villa Master of Heavenly Sword Villa. Yet the title of Villa Master does not just come with status and glory. It also comes with far too many burdens, responsibilities, and often leaves your hands tied. The pressure that this status brings will forcibly twist

your will and your personality at times... Ling Yun is far more stable than you are. In the future, the position of Villa Master is far more suitable for him than it is for you.”

Ling Jie, “...”

Yun Che patted Ling Jie’s shoulder before finally withdrawing his hand. He began to move backwards, but a faint smile lit up his face as he spoke, “Little Jie, I have said everything that I wanted to say. It is your own life, so you are the one who has to choose your path in the end. Everyone else can only observe and provide counsel. From today onward, if you ever encounter a problem that you can’t solve on your own, you can come to Frozen Cloud Asgard to look for me.”

He waved his hand at the Ling Jie who stood there staring blankly into space. After that, Yun Che took Feng Xue’er’s hand once more and they soared toward the north.

“Boss!!”

Suddenly, Ling Jie’s full-throated yell rang out from behind them, “You are the person I believe in the most... so I’ll listen to what you said... I won’t return to Mighty Heavenly Sword Region... From tomorrow onward... I will leave Heavenly Sword Villa... and roam the entire world... I will be chivalrous and heroic... leaving a good name for Heavenly Sword Villa... I will also work hard to find the Fairy of Frozen Beauty... to redeem my mother’s sins... and I, Ling Jie... will do as I say!!”

Yun Che turned around but Ling Jie had already become a distant blur. He smiled faintly as the burden in his heart became lighter.

Interlude - Looming Clouds of the Devil Sword

Southwest of the Profound Sky Continent, Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. Late into the night beneath a waning moon and sparse stars.

The imminent arrival of a new moon was precisely when the bright moon was at its most incomplete state. It was currently late into the night and the sky was veiled behind a thin layer of black clouds. If one raised their heads and looked into the distance, they would only vaguely see an indistinct, slender crescent. Not long after, dark clouds of unknown origins began to silently float over, coming together to form a cluster until they gradually blocked out the light from the waning moon and stars, causing the entire world to not have the slightest sliver of light.

The time of a waning moon at night was also when the power of a certain seal was at its weakest.

In a certain secret underground space so dark that one couldn’t see anything, slow, light footsteps suddenly echoed. The sound of the footsteps echoed steadily. However, the owner of the footsteps had no intention of lighting a lantern nor illuminating a profound light and just continued to walk within the complete darkness, all the way to the bottom of this underground space.

Following the sound of the footsteps stopping, a dusky light was slowly lit. This beam of light appeared to be a murky gray and even released an especially eerie aura. If a normal person were to see this light, they would feel an uncomfortable chill.

What released this murky gray beam of light was astonishingly a sword... the sword was six and a half feet long and a foot wide. Its entire body was pitch-black and was surrounded by a strange black aura.

What was even more stranger was that a pair of long and narrow black eyes slowly appeared on the oddly shaped sword hilt.

It was like the eyes of a devil which had suddenly woken up.

This pair of pitch-black eyes was sometimes clear, then dark, as its terrifying gaze looked at the human figure that walked up before it.

“Honored Devil Lord, it has been months since we’ve last met. Today is finally the time when the night is at its darkest during a waning moon.” The human figure slowly began to talk. From the voice alone, it seemed to have come from a middle-aged man.

It was because this sword’s seal would be at its weakest only during the darkest waning night. The “devil lord” in the sword would then have a short period of relative freedom... like being able to talk. Otherwise, if it were to forcibly appear during any other time, it would only cause the seal to accelerate its engulfment. This specific kind of engulfment was irreversible as well, causing it to disappear even quicker.

As for this sword, it had a well-known name.

Heavenly Sin Divine Sword!!

“How goes the process of undoing the seal... and that person named Fen Juechen!”

The Heavenly Sin Divine Sword uttered in a frightening voice. Like the mournful roar of a devil in pain, its voice bounced in waves inside the pitch-black space.

The middle-aged man faintly smiled, “Everything is going smoothly. In just two more months, it will be the precise moment when all thirteen stars are aligned. This happens once every three thousand years and will also be when the Devil Sword Conference is held. When all thirteen stars align, that will also be when the yin energy of the world will be at its pinnacle. The collective power of all the experts of the Profound Sky Continent can definitely undo the seal.”

“As for that Fen Juechen, he will also be there at that time. After all, he is the one who wishes to obtain the Heavenly Sin Devil Sword more than anyone else.”

Beneath the dusky light, one could faintly see the corner of the middle-aged man’s mouth curl into an extremely faint smile.

“Very good.” The terrifying voice rang from the sword, “Once you help this lord undo the seal and seize back the devil blood, this lord will naturally assist you in killing everyone to become the supreme ruler of this world! There won’t be anyone who could be your match then.”

“I only hope that you can keep your word. I wouldn’t want to get an unacceptable result after the troubles I’ve gone through for an entire millennia.” An ominous tone could be heard within the middle-aged man’s flat voice.

“Hahahaha, what kind of an existence am I? How can I possibly lower myself to scheme against you mere humans! After all, in the end, this lord is but a sword so I do need a wielder. And you are the most suitable wielder!” The Heavenly Sin Divine Sword’s voice suddenly became malevolent at this time. “This lord had also said this to that man surnamed Ye. This lord only wishes to be free and didn’t even

hesitate to lower myself to beg him. This lord even offered my only drop of devil blood, beseeching him to help me undo the seal, promising that I would grant them unrivaled power...”

“But once that man surnamed Ye obtained this lord’s devil blood and devil arts, not only did he not help me undo the seal, he had even added several more layers of seals, locked this lord inside the Flame Lake, and told his clan to stand guard there, swearing that this lord will never see the light of day again! If not for you saving this lord, the last wisp of this lord’s remnant soul may have already completely dissipated by now and I would have eternally become a dead sword!”

“You humans are truly the world’s most shameless, lowly creatures!!”

“Hahaha,” The middle-aged man laughed, “Do not worry, Honored Devil Lord, I am not as stupid as the Eternal Night Royal Family which bites the hand that feeds it. During these past years, I have paid an enormous price to slowly undo the seals the Eternal Night Royal Family added to your seal. For the purpose of undoing your last seal, I have even planned the Devil Sword Conference. All this is enough to show my sincerity.”

“This lord believes you! Whether in terms of strength or strategy, you can be considered to be at the peak out of the humans on this plane, worthy of becoming this lord’s wielder. If I were to talk about your greatest fault, it would be that you killed Ye Mufeng a thousand years ago without leaving a single bone! Otherwise, why else did you have to go through so much trouble?!”

The middle-aged man didn’t object, “I had not yet met Honored Devil Lord that year, so how would I know that Ye Mufeng’s bloodline would be of great use? However, in order to leave behind his bloodline, Ye Mufeng didn’t hesitate to call upon the wrath of heaven, using the “forbidden reincarnation technique” Honored Devil Lord mentioned to revive the devil blood that should have been extinguished. That was quite a great help, hahahaha.

“I sealed Ye Mufeng’s soul in the Soul Sealing Coffin, leaving it in Black Fiend Nation’s land of extreme yin, just to keep his remnant soul from dissipating. I even gave the key to the Soul Sealing Coffin to Burning Heaven Clan’s Grand Sect Master Fen Yijue after his son had reincarnated in Blue Wind Nation. I hinted in his consciousness that the key was an inheritance given by their ancestors that could be used during a desperate time. Everything went off without a hitch.

“I originally planned to slaughter Burning Heaven Clan three years before the Thirteen Star Alignment appeared and only leave Fen Juechen alive, letting him take the key to have a reunion with Ye Mufeng. Once he received the previous incarnation’s memories, in order to take revenge and obtain the power to take revenge, he would definitely wish to retrieve the Heavenly Sin Divine Sword and naturally be present at the Devil Sword Conference.

“I never thought that an unexpected accident would happen in my plans. Burning Heaven Clan was actually exterminated by that Yun Che brat. Fortunately, he did not kill Fen Juechen. He had almost ruined my great plans! If he did, dying more than ten million times wouldn’t be enough of an atonement for his crimes!” Contained within the middle-aged man’s voice was a clear-cut sinister killing intent.

“What happened after went exceptionally smoothly. Even though the time frame of my plan happened far too early, Fen Juechen successfully found Ye Mufeng’s remnant soul and his strength has even

increased at a shocking rate. However, this event couldn't be even more wonderful. If he's too weak, it wouldn't be easy to 'logically' allow him to obtain the Heavenly Sin Divine Sword."

The middle-aged man's voice had been flat the entire time, yet within the flatness was an extreme proudness. It was as though nothing in the entire world escaped his eyes, as though any turbulent changes were within his control.

"Honored Devil Lord. I still don't get it, why must Fen Juechen obtain the Heavenly Sin Divine Sword? Why can't we just capture him and forcibly take the devil blood?"

"Hmph, if that was possible, this lord would've done it twenty years ago instead of going through all this trouble!" The pitch-black devil sword quietly roared. "The seal on my body was in fact, left behind by a primordial god called the 'Evil God'! Although a million years have passed since then with the seal having become extremely weak, this lord has still been engulfed, with only the smallest remnant soul remaining!! If this seal is not undone soon, this lord will completely disappear! At present, it is already extremely difficult for this lord to exist. It is fundamentally impossible for me to actively take away the devil blood power! That Fen Juechen must release the devil blood and offer it to this lord of his own accord! It can only be so!!"

"With a mere thought of his, this lord shouldn't even think about seeing the light of day again! All of your hard work would vanish into thin air! Not to mention you forcibly seizing the devil blood!"

"So that's how it is." The middle-aged man slowly nodded with a face devoid of emotion. He turned around and then said indifferently, "The Thirteen Star Alignment will happen in two months. At that time, the world will be encased in darkness, yin energy will cover the sky, and it will also be the time when the seal will be at its weakest in three thousand years. By then, almost all of Profound Sky Continent's Monarchs will be there with a great majority of the Overlords. The gathering of the power of all those Monarchs and Overlords will surely break the seal open."

"Honored Devil Lord, don't worry. They will definitely do their best. After all, they are all incomparably anxious to know the 'devil sword's' secrets. Even moreso, they wish to know the so-called 'secrets of the Divine Profound', hahahahaha..."

The sound of footsteps echoed once more within the loud laughter as the middle-aged man disappeared within the darkness.

He possessed enough power and influence to blot out the sky with one hand.

He also possessed a devil's scheming and shrewdness... Even to this day, he still had all the heroes of the realm dancing in the palm of his hand.

Yet not a single person was aware of this.

Nor did was anyone aware that his monstrous plan of becoming the world's master was already approaching its last step.

Mighty Heavenly Sword Master Xuanyuan Wentian!

Chapter 762 - Hatred Higher Than the Heavens

Floating Cloud City, Xiao Clan.

“Grandfather, Seventh Sister has been pregnant for three months, but we’ve been unable to tell our father and mother all this time. Therefore, Seventh Sister and I are ready to pay respects to them today. Their deceased souls will be very happy to hear this.”

Xiao Yun and Number Seven Under Heaven stood in front of Xiao Lie while wearing joyful expressions on their faces. While they were at Floating Cloud City, and not tied down by the hideous mess that was their family relationships, it was the most relaxed and happy moment the newlyweds had spent in their lives... and that was without mentioning the great joy within Seventh Sister’s belly.

“Hehe, that will be the best of course.” Xiao Lie chuckled and nodded.

“I’m coming as well.” Xiao Lingxi walked over and said cheerfully, “Big Brother and Sister-in-law’s souls would definitely bless the baby...”

“Fifth Elder, Ju... Junior Master Lingxi...”

It was at this moment that an urgent cry came from outside. Then, a young disciple of the Xiao Clan ran in with hurried footsteps and a flustered look.

“What is it that made you look so flustered?” Xiao Lie lowered his eyebrows.

“It’s... it’s Fen Juechen!” The Xiao Clan disciple stopped and exclaimed while panting heavily, unable to even attend to his salutations.

“Fen Juechen!?”

This name caused everyone present to feel shocked on the inside. Number One Under Heaven swiftly took a step forward and said, “Can it be that Fen Juechen is not resigned to defeat, and has come back to seek vengeance?”

N... no.” The Xiao Clan disciple shook his head hurriedly and said pantingly, “S... someone found him... he’s lying at the eastern side of the city... bloody... all over... He looks like he’s... about to... die. None of us dare to approach him...”

Fen Juechen was a name that struck absolute fear in Floating Cloud City and especially Xiao Clan... even though he was the one who protected Floating Cloud City from destruction by the hands of the Divine Phoenix Army.

“Ah?!” Xiao Lingxi cried out in shock before running over, “Quick... bring me to him now, quickly!”

“Lingxi!” Xiao Lie stretched out his hand, but Xiao Lingxi had already hurried out of the courtyard just as he finished his words.

“Don’t worry, I’ll go after her right away. Since Fen Juechen is grievously injured and near death, then naturally he is of no threat.” Number One Under Heaven said before flying into the air and chasing after Lingxi.

“Fen Juechen may be an extremist, but he isn’t a bad person by nature. Moreover, Lingxi, I, and the entire Floating Cloud City owes him a great debt... Sigh.” Xiao Lie let out a heavy sigh.

“...” Number One Under Heaven floated into the air, summoned a gust of clear wind and flew straight towards the south.

“I will send word to Big Brother right away.” Xiao Yun took out the sound transmission jade a little clumsily.

However, Xiao Lie stretched out his hand and halted Xiao Yun’s arm. He shook his head and said, “Leave this matter to Lingxi. Che’er is her family, and that Fen Juechen is her benefactor... Lingxi has been soft and good hearted since she was young. She must be extremely afraid to watch them see each other and fight to the death...”

“Still, that is the hatred born from the destruction of one’s entire family... how can it possible be resolved...?” Xiao Lie closed his eyes and let out yet another long sigh.

At the east side of Floating Cloud City, Fen Juechen’s black clothes were torn to shreds and was stuck on his body almost entirely by many layers of dry blood.

Although he was severely defeated and injured by Yun Che two days ago, with his current constitution and recovery of profound energy, over two days of time, his injuries had lessened somewhat. At the least, they should not have worsened further. Originally, he was going to leave Floating Cloud City, after leaving the Eastern Ocean and find an uninhabited place to fully recover his injuries and profound energy. However, he ran into Jasmine who searched his soul after he was severely injured by Yun Che... Although Jasmine’s soul searching technique wasn’t as bad as the common soul searching technique that it would turn him directly into a human vegetable, it was definitely unlike the simple read of Yun Che’s Profound Handle Soul Search either. Moreover, Jasmine’s Star God powers were incomparably potent. It may have only been for a short instant, but it was still enough to severely damage Fen Juechen’s mind.

If it wasn’t for the fact that his will was far stronger than the ordinary man, he would’ve died in the Eastern Ocean a long time ago.

With his profound energy almost depleted, and his body and soul both damaged severely, he had crawled with all his might away from the Eastern Ocean, up the shore and all the way to this place... but he did not know where or how far he had climbed. The only thing that drove him so far was the pain and his desire to live.

Very soon, the people of Floating Cloud City found him, and they had all backed away from him in fear, far, far away. No one dared to approach him, much less help him... even though the current Fen Juechen was so weak that a normal kid could’ve taken his life easily.

“I... can’t... die...”

He lay on the ground, so weak that he could not even feel his own breath. He wanted to continue climbing forwards, but his arms had already lost all strength. The only thing that proved that his consciousness hadn’t faded yet was the raspy and cryptic mutters from his mouth.

“Big... Big Brother Fen...”

Xiao Lingxi's footsteps hurried over. Fen Juechen's current appearance shocked her greatly. She hurriedly arrived by his side and cried out urgently, "Big Brother Fen, Big Brother Fen..."

Xiao Lingxi's voice sent a huge impact through Fen Juechen's soul... perhaps Xiao Lingxi's voice was also the only thing that could've returned some clarity and wakefulness to his currently muddy mind. He tremblingly turned his head sideways, and through blurry vision saw Xiao Lingxi's face...

"It's... you..."

"Yes! It's me... It's me, Xiao Lingxi!" Seeing that he wasn't dead, and that he was able to speak barely, Xiao Lingxi's worry lessened a little. She stretched out a hand in attempt to lift him to his feet, but just as her palm touched Fen Juechen's arm, she withdrew it back as quick as lightning...

This was because his arm was actually so cold it was as if it was encased in ice.

"Don't go near him!"

Number One Under Heaven dropped down from the sky. Although Fen Juechen's current state was not much different from a dead person's, his expression was still filled with caution, "This man is too dangerous."

"Big Brother Under Heaven!" Number One Under Heaven was without a doubt a savior in Xiao Lingxi's eyes to have arrived now, "Help him, quickly. His injury is so severe. If you don't help him then he'll... he'll be in great danger."

"Save him?" Number One Under Heaven's eyebrows lowered, "He is an extremely dangerous person who tried to kill Brother Yun! I personally want to kill him now so we can be rid of this threat."

"No!" Xiao Lingxi hurriedly stood up and blocked Number One Under Heaven, "Big Brother Fen is not a bad person. He really isn't. The root cause behind his reason to kill Little Che... is all me. It's not his fault. On the contrary, I owe him my life twice, and it was also thanks to him that Floating Cloud City was safe when it was being invaded by the Divine Phoenix Army. Otherwise, god knows how many people would've died at the hands of the Divine Phoenix Army."

Number One Under Heaven, "..."

"Therefore, I beg of Big Brother Under Heaven, please save him. Think of it... think of it as repaying his favor. Please, Big Brother Under Heaven, I beg you..."

Xiao Lingxi's eyes rippled with pleading.

Fen Juechen's spiritual perception might be impossibly weak at the moment, but it was still enough to hear Xiao Lingxi and Number One Under Heaven's voices. He let out a painful and raspy voice with trembling lips, "Ignore me... I don't... need you to care for me... Ugh..."

He stretched out a trembling palm, ready to climb away from this place. However, his entire arm moved only half an inch before it could proceed no longer.

"Big Brother Under Heaven..." Xiao Lingxi begged him once more.

“Sigh!” Number One Under Heaven waved his hand and stopped her from continuing any further. He swept a complicated glance at Fen Juechen at his feet before sighing, “Two days ago, during the final moments of the battle, although Brother Yun’s profound energy was greatly depleted, he was in great condition and should have had the ability to kill him easily. Still, he released him... so I suppose even Brother Yun does not truly wish to see him die.”

“Never mind. I hope I’m not doing something stupid.”

Number One Under Heaven might be warlike in nature, but as an elf he was also a good hearted person and disliked killing. Moreover, Xiao Lingxi’s pleading was really hard for him to resist. After a long internal struggle, he ultimately stretched out his hands and formed a refined lump of nature energy in his palm.

The tension on Xiao Lingxi’s face instantly turned into a very faint smile. She said gratefully, “Thank you, Big Brother Under Heaven.”

“However, if he does anything that I believe is dangerous, then I will kill him immediately!” Number One Under Heaven said seriously.

“He will not. He will definitely not. I know better than anyone that he is definitely not a bad person.” Xiao Lingxi said with absolute certainty.

Number One Under Heaven did not say anything. He crouched down and pressed his palm to the back of Fen Juechen’s heart... the second he touched him, his eyebrows abruptly twitched as a nature’s aura swiftly entered Fen Juechen’s body.

“Don’t... touch me!” Fen Juechen roared weakly in disgust and anger.

“Hmph. Goodwill is regarded as malice.” Number One Under Heaven snorted impatiently and swiftly withdrew his hand after injecting a full surge of nature energy. Then, he stood up and looked at Feng Juechen no longer. The nature energy he injected into Feng Juechen could swiftly aid his severely injured body in regaining its life energy. Moreover, it could to a certain degree quicken the recovery of his wounds, although it would not aid in the recovery of his profound energy. In Feng Juechen’s current state, even if he recovered his ability to move, there was no way he could be a threat for a very long time.

Under the miraculous power of the elven energy, Feng Juechen’s eyes gradually regained their clarity. Even his breathing had obviously grown heavier. Xiao Lingxi let out a heavy sigh of relief as she said gratefully to Number One Under Heaven, “Big Brother Under Heaven, thank you... may I trouble you once more to carry him to Xiao Clan? In his current state, he will need a quiet place to be able to recover.”

Number One Under Heaven looked deeply at Xiao Lingxi. He was not surprised at all by her decision. He nodded slightly, grabbed Feng Juechen by the collar and jumped straight into the air, lifting him to fly straight towards Xiao Clan.

—————

During the time Feng Juechen stayed at Floating Cloud City, he had lived in a courtyard at the corner of Xiao Clan. After he left, no one had ever dared to approach it. Number One Under Heaven threw him

right through the window and into the house inside the courtyard. Then he left straight away. He was not a man to let his emotions affect his decisions, and he would never have done something like saving an infinitely dangerous and scary person and bringing him back to his family... However, even if he did not save him, Xiao Lingxi would have thought of a way on her own to take him back to the house, and the process in doing so would've been filled with countless hardships. If that was going to be the case, then he might as well do it himself.

It was even more impossible for him to kill Feng Juechen right before her eyes... not to mention that Yun Che did not kill him two days ago either.

That being said, although he had turned around and left, he did not in fact stay too far away from the house. His spiritual perception continued to lock tightly on the courtyard Feng Juechen was in, staying alert against any potential incidents.

“Big Brother Fen, how are you doing? Are you feeling better?”

Xiao Lingxi crouched beside him and asked in concern. With the assistance of Number One Under Heaven's nature energy, Feng Juechen's five senses had already recovered mostly. Even his body had regained some strength, although it seemed insufficient to support him just yet.

“Ignore... me...” Fen Juechen turned his head away. The short sentence took him a lot of energy to utter. He was numbed to the intense pain in his body and soul from long ago, but that pain seemed to have decreased quite a bit now that his profound energy was depleted, and his body was grievously injured.

“What's with the wounds on your body? After you met Little Che that day... did you meet with another enemy?” Xiao Lingxi asked softly. Everyone in Floating Cloud City was afraid of him, and the people in Xiao Clan were so terrified of him they even lost control of their bowels when they saw him. Xiao Lingxi was the only one who was never afraid of him, because she was firmly believed that he was not a bad person.

When he heard Yun Che's name from Xiao Lingxi's mouth, Feng Juechen's pupils abruptly shrank as a fierce hatred gushed up his throat, “I told you... to ignore... me!”

While roaring, he abruptly stretched out and pushed Xiao Lingxi on the shoulder. Xiao Lingxi let out a cry and abruptly fell down on the floor.

Feng Juechen panted heavily, a moment of panic flashing across his eyes... he didn't think that he had regained this much energy.

Xiao Lingxi was neither afraid, nor angry, nor withdrawn by Feng Juechen's scolding, anger, hatred and violence. She stood up and said with her voice still as gentle as ever, “Big Brother Fen, I know that you have never been one to depend on others. However, you should not force yourself in your current state. It is best if you set your mind to rest and recover first.”

“I will find you some recovery medicines. Although Xiao Clan is very small, we still have some very good herbs in stock. They will definitely be good for your injuries... Big Brother Fen, rest well for the moment. I will come back in four hours.”

Once Xiao Lingxi finished softly, she stood up and left with light footsteps.

When the girl left, and the door was closed, Feng Juechen's expression was frozen, and his eyes were blank. For a moment, he looked as if he had lost his soul. After a very long time, he raised his heads and leaned against the icy cold wall behind him. His fists gradually clenched together...

"The death of one's whole family is absolutely irreconcilable... Yun Che... I will kill you... no matter what... no matter what!!"

The moment Xiao Lingxi exited the courtyard Feng Juechen was settled into, she immediately saw Number One Under Heaven standing there with a solemn expression.

"Big Brother Under Heaven, please... do not tell Little Che about Feng Juechen for the moment."

"I know." Number One Under Heaven nodded, "However, that is under the premise that he is not strong enough to threaten me. If his profound energy recovers near to the point where I cannot control him, then either he leaves, or I... will tell Brother Yun."

"Mm." Xiao Lingxi nodded lightly and said gratefully, "Thank you, Big Brother Under Heaven."

Number One Under Heaven let out a faint laugh and shook his head, "You don't have to thank me. You are the person Brother Yun appreciates the most, so you have the right to be headstrong." He paused for a moment before choosing to continue, "You should know that a great threat towards Brother Yun will be gone if he is to die. By saving him, you will add a deadly threat towards Brother Yun. Are you... trying to resolve his hatred towards Brother Yun?"

"I know that this is very, very difficult." Xiao Lingxi lowered her head and muttered softly, "But he did save my life after all. He saved father and Floating Cloud City, and he is definitely not a bad person by nature. The tragedies inflicted on him all started because of me, which is why I cannot ignore it. I only hope... I only hope that..."

"May it be as you wish." Number One Under Heaven said indifferently before flying away.

"Sigh." He turned around to glance once at Xiao Lingxi's delicate figure. When he recalled Feng Juechen's hatred and killing intent that was so icy that it was impossibly scary when he was facing Yun Che, Number One Under Heaven let out a soft sigh, "That is the hatred of one whole family's death. To say that it is absolutely irreconcilable is an understatement. So how can it possibly be resolved?"

Time quickly approached evening. After Xiao Lingxi exited the medicine pavilion, she entered Feng Juechen's courtyard with quick steps.

She pushed open the door and entered, and Feng Juechen was still in the same state as before. His aura seemed to have calmed down quite a bit, and his eyes were half-lidded. He did not appear to be asleep, but he did not react at all towards Xiao Lingxi's arrival.

"Big Brother Fen, are you better now?"

Xiao Lingxi walked closer while holding a black soup bowl, "This is a freshly cooked medicinal soup. The medicine pavilion elder said that it can improve one's blood circulation and recover one's strength..."

Xiao Lingxi wasn't yet finished when the lifeless Fen Juechen suddenly slapped out and flung the soup bowl in her hands fiercely against the floor. With a pang the bowl shattered as the medicinal soup sprayed everywhere.

“Ah!!” Xiao Lingxi cried out and retreated a step. She said anxiously, “Big Brother Fen, you... never mind. I’ll go cook another bowl for you.”

“I’ll repeat this once more... ignore me!!”

Four hours of rest was enough for Feng Juechen to recover some strength in his voice. His tone was also deeper than before, “I will leave here before it is dark. From here on... we will never meet each other again!”

“No!” Xiao Lingxi shook her head and said anxiously, “Your wounds are so severe. If you are met with any danger out there, then you may lose your life. At the least... At the least, please heal your wounds before you leave.”

“Do... do you know what you’re doing!!” Feng Juechen abruptly raised his head with clenched teeth, “The reason I’m alive is all to kill Yun Che! If I die, then he’ll be able to live a bit longer. Isn’t that exactly what you want!? Then why are you still trying to save me!?”

Xiao Lingxi shook her head, “No. I do not wish any harm upon Little Che, but I also cannot stand by and watch...”

“Do you think that if you save me, I will be deeply grateful to you and not kill Yun Che!?” Fen Juechen roared through seething teeth, “Don’t be naive! All these years, everything that I’ve worked for, everything that I’ve endured are all to kill him! To this moment I am still doing my best to survive in order to kill him... there is no one and nothing in this world that can stop me from killing him! As long as I still live in this world, I will sacrifice everything to kill him!”

Feng Juechen’s every word was like a heavy hammer that struck Xiao Lingxi in her chest. While holding in her pain, she said softly, “Big Brother Fen, I’ve always known that you’re not a bad person. On the contrary, you’re a very, very good person. Yun Che and I have done you wrong back then, but I believe that you know yourself that Little Che is not a bad or cruel person as well. Back then, everything he did was to protect my father and I... Can the grudge between you two truly not be resolved? Why must it be this way...?”

“Resolved? My entire family died!!” Fen Juechen’s face writhed in pain, “The murder of one’s father is already utterly irreconcilable, but he... he killed all of my relatives; exterminated everyone in my family! He is the one who took away my family and my home and turn me into a lone demon who lives only to claim vengeance! This hatred is higher than the heaven itself... how can it possibly be resolved!? For what reason should it be resolved!?”

“No!” Xiao Lingxi shook her head strongly and placed both her hands before her chest. She stared into Feng Juechen’s terrifying, hatred filled eyes with her own warm and honest eyes, “Who said that Big Brother Fen has lost all of his family and home? Big Brother Fen is definitely not alone.”

Amidst Feng Juechen’s startled gaze, Xiao Lingxi lightly knelt on one knee, and with a raised head and sincere eyes she said, “With the heavens as witness, I, Xiao Lingxi am willing to take Big Brother Fen, Fen Juechen as my elder brother. From this moment onwards, Big Brother Fen is my elder brother. Blessings or hardships, I will bear them both together with Big Brother Fen. The home of Xiao Lingxi, is the home of Big Brother Fen. As Big Brother Fen’s sister, I will do my best to take care of Big Brother Fen, listen to

his words, lend him my care and company and endure everything for him. I will never leave Big Brother Fen alone and solitary ever again.”

“If I am to go against this oath, then may both heaven and earth destroy me.”

Words of sincerity. Oath of solemnity. Feng Juechen’s gaze shook greatly as he followed Xiao Lingxi’s gradual lowering hands. His eyes were blurry, and he felt as if he had fallen into a dream. Then, his body and even his soul began to tremble intensely and uncontrollably...

Sis... ter...

Family...

Home...

Chapter 763 - Tears of a Devil

Familial love... Home...

These were things that had long ago vanished from his world and he did not even dare to dream about them any longer...

From the moment he had begun to absorb Ye Mufeng’s devil soul, the only things that were left in his world were pain, ruthlessness, despair and an icy hatred... If an average everyday life was heaven then his life had become complete hell.

And Xiao Lingxi had become the only source of warmth in his entire universe.

She was the only reason he had stayed at Floating Cloud City all this time. As long as he could just catch a glimpse of her once a day, it would bring him endless satisfaction. It even made the enormous pain he had to endure while absorbing the devil origin almost bearable. But when it came to drawing closer to her... he had never dared to do so before, because to everyone else, he was terrifying devil god, and it was only in front of Xiao Lingxi that he would feel madly ashamed of the boundless inferiority and timidity that was birthed in his heart.

Because he had long ago stopped regarding himself as a human, and now he only thought of himself as an ugly and repulsive devil; a devil whose soul had been completely stained with filth.

He thirsted for the death of Yun Che... he had originally thought that Xiao Lingxi would not consent to ever see him again after he had left Floating Cloud City that day. He thought she would only be repulsed by him from that day forth, feeling only loathing and hatred for him. During the three months before his duel with Yun Che, he could not control the urge to return to Floating Cloud City so that he could see Xiao Lingxi again. He only gazed at her from afar... because he was afraid that she would find out.

Today, she had not only dragged him back from the borders of death, she had even taken the initiative to recognize him as her brother and become his family, giving him a new home again.

No one knew that her every word and action had such a profound effect on his very soul. It was as if a raging blizzard had blown through his icy world.

He was caught up in a fantasy that he did not dare believe in... but after that Fen Juechen drew back in fright, his body shrinking backwards as he shook his head vigorously, "No, it can't be... it shouldn't be like this, you're definitely... definitely doing this so that I will stop going after Yun Che's life..."

Xiao Lingxi replied in a very forceful tone, "Big Brother Fen, every single word that I have said, and the vow that I have just made, has come from the bottom of my heart! If... if it was because of Little Che, why would I get Big Brother Under Heaven to bring you back..."

"No, you don't understand!" Fen Juechen shook his head even more vigorously, his eyes closing shut as his face was filled with pain, "Right now, I've become... a devil, a devil who is filled with sin and only lives for vengeance, you can't understand this... you can't understand at all!"

"You're the one who doesn't understand!" Xiao Lingxi shouted, "Big Brother Fen, do you still remember how, for the sake of protecting me four years ago, you suffered a broken arm at the hands of your brother Fen Juecheng? Yet you still refused to let go of him... This is something that I, Xiao Lingxi, will remember for the rest of my life. So how can someone like this be a devil!?"

"During your time in Floating Cloud City, I always thought that you were constantly suffering. You made yourself cold and cruel, and you even called yourself a devil... But you did all of this for the sake of avenging your family. A true 'devil' is someone that is selfish and brutal. How could a true devil give up his own humanity for the sake of his dead relatives and plunge himself into a world of pain!?"

"I am afraid of the danger that you pose to Little Che... but what I am even more sure of is that from start to finish, you have been blameless and you have only ever been a victim this entire time. At the very least, you are definitely not the villain that you make yourself out to be..."

"No... do not speak any further." Xiao Lingxi's words did not put him at ease, on the contrary, his expression grew even more tortured as he clutched both hands to his head, "You don't understand, you really don't understand... I really have become a devil..."

"I don't have the right to be treated this way by you!"

"Whether you possess the qualifications or not is not something that Big Brother Fen can say." Xiao Lingxi replied in a soft voice as she shook her head, "For me, the word 'family' is sacred. In my entire life, the only family I have ever had was Father, Little Che and the newly-returned Xiao Yun. I have never ever once thought of calling someone who was unrelated to me by blood family. But Big Brother Fen isn't the same... When the Divine Phoenix Army descended on our Floating Cloud City, it was Big Brother Fen who protected us and protected the home where Little Che and I grew up in. So to me, Big Brother Fen is not only a good person and my benefactor, he is also a true hero!"

Fen Juechen, "....."

"So, I will always respect and feel a sense of intimacy with Big Brother Fen. If Big Brother Fen is willing to become my elder brother, then we can rely on one another, and protect our family together. To me, that will be a most fortunate event that will bring incomparable joy to my heart. If Big Brother Fen rejects me, I will definitely be very sad and despondent."

Fen Juechen's body trembled as it froze in place. He stood there, stock still, his eyes glazed over, as if he had become a statue.

“But it seems like Big Brother Fen does not want to be part of my family.” Xiao Lingxi raised her head and looked at him, her eyes clouded by sadness and loss.

“I... I...” Under her unrelenting gaze, the man, who had caused a Divine Phoenix Army that was two hundred thousand strong to tremble in fear and had filled Yun Che with a profound dread, was all of a sudden at a loss for words as he was completely flustered.

“Anyways...” Xiao Lingxi said as she laughed once more. Her blossoming smile caused the world in front of Fen Juechen to explode in light, “I have said all I have wanted to say, and I’ve even sworn such a venomous curse. So I don’t care if Big Brother Fen is unwilling to accept this little sister of yours, because he will always be an elder brother to me from now on! From now on the Xiao Clan will always be Big Brother Fen’s home, and this room will always be yours as well. When Big Brother Fen is at home, I will take care of Big Brother Fen as if he were my own elder brother, and I’ll share both the good and the bad with Big Brother Fen from now on!”

“However, if Big Brother Fen does something wrong, as your younger sister, I will not hesitate to criticize and correct you!”

Without waiting for Fen Juechen’s reply, Xiao Lingxi stood up, a pretty and coquettish smile appearing on her face, “It’s decided then! Big Brother Fen is badly wounded right now, so no matter what, you can’t resist me! So...”

“Give me a moment, I’ll be back straight away!”

Xiao Lingxi finished her little monologue and immediately scampered away... but before long, she pushed open the doors yet again and she carried a set of clean gray-white clothes in her hands.

“Big Brother Fen, all of the clothes that you were wearing are tattered and torn, and they’re really stinky too. Put on some clean clothes first. Big Brother Fen isn’t used to relying on other people and it looks like you’ve already recovered quite a bit of strength, so you can definitely wear these clothes by yourself. I won’t ask Big Brother Under Heaven to come and help.” She said as she smiled merrily, gently placing the clothes into Fen Juechen’s hands, “Right, these are Little Che’s old clothes, so they should fit rather well.”

When Fen Juechen, whose heart was numbed by his internal turmoil, heard the two words “Yun Che”, a violent emotion instinctively stirred in his heart, “Yun... Che!?”

“Yes!” Xiao Lingxi paid no attention at all to the irregularity in Fen Juechen’s voice and aura and she still smiled sweetly as she replied, “These are the clothes he left behind before he left the last time, and I just laundered them not too long ago. I know that Big Brother Fen truly hates Little Che, but the clothes didn’t do anything wrong. A mighty person like Big Brother Fen definitely shouldn’t be so petty that he won’t even let a set of clothes off... I’ll go and boil up a new batch of medicine, so Big Brother Fen needs to be good and wear these clothes. I’ll be back once the medicine has finished boiling.”

Xiao Lingxi gave a gentle smile as she turned around to leave, closing the door behind her.

The world had suddenly fallen into a dead silence, and Fen Juechen felt his heart beating in his chest with such clear intensity.

He sat there blankly for a very long time, before finally stretching out a hand towards the clothes beside him.

The clothes were folded in a neat and tidy manner, they were completely clean and one could still smell a faint fragrance emanating from them.

These were the clothes of the person he hated the most, Yun Che, and he hated him so much that he hated everything associated with him... he should have been completely repulsed by them, tearing these clothes into shreds and going into a simmering rage. But... at this moment, his heart was bereft of any rage or killing intent when he held them in his hands. Even the act of picking up the clothes was subconsciously done in a careful and gentle manner.

.....

“With the heavens as my witness, I, Xiao Lingxi, take Big Brother Fen as my elder brother... from now on, I am part of Big Brother Fen’s family and my home has also become Big Brother Fen’s family...”

“You’re the one who doesn’t understand... I am afraid of the danger that you pose to Little Che... but what I am even more sure of is that from start to finish, you have been blameless throughout, and you have only ever been a victim the entire time. At the very least, you are definitely not the villain that you make yourself out to be...”

“...So to me, Big Brother Fen is not only a good person and my benefactor, he is also a true hero!”

“If Big Brother Fen is willing to become my elder brother... To me, that would be the happiest and most fortunate thing...”

“I don’t care if Big Brother Fen is unwilling to accept this little sister of yours, because he will always be an elder brother to me from now on! From now on the Xiao Clan will always be Big Brother Fen’s home...”

.....

Xiao Lingxi’s voice, her every word, and her every action, resounded in his heart again and again as it rippled across every corner of his soul.

Drip...

The soft sound of dripping water was exceedingly clear in this quiet space. Fen Juechen dazedly hung his head... and a damp moistness began to silently spread to the corners of the gray clothes in his hands.

Te... ars...

He extended a trembling finger and touched his face... his fingertips coming into contact with a long trail of wetness...

Tears...

I had clearly already become a devil that had erased all traces of his humanity and emotion, a devil that was only left with sin and vengeance...

Why... do I still have tears...

His fingers were trembling, but his soul was shuddering with even more ferocity. He did not recognize the emotion that filled his soul right now. The only thing that he was aware of were the tears dripping uncontrollably down his face. He could not stop them...

So it turns out that I... could still be... "human", huh...

Chapter 764 - The Approaching Devil Sword Conference

"Big Brother Fen, the medicine is ready... but I'm going to say this first! This time you better not throw it away petulantly, because if you do, I'm really going to get angry with you!"

Xiao Lingxi pushed the door open as she strode into the room. The medicine in her hand was still boiling so the first thing she did was place the medicine on the little table in front of the door. When she looked at Fen Juechen she discovered that he had already changed his clothes and was standing... Even though his aura was rather weak and his face was pale, he still stood very straight.

Xiao Lingxi's eyes lit up and she crowed with joy, "Big Brother Fen, it seems like you're already able to stand up, that's great!"

No one would have thought that it was possible for Fen Juechen's heart to have gone through such a tumultuous change in the short period between Xiao Lingxi's departure and return. Xiao Lingxi's figure appeared once more in his sight, and nervousness, an emotion that would not have appeared in front of anyone else, crept across the face of the usually calm Fen Juechen as he stuttered, "Xiao Lingxi, I..."

"You're not allowed to address me like that anymore!" Xiao Lingxi said in a serious tone, "Don't forget, right now you've already become my elder brother, so you need to call me sister, or... you can just call me Lingxi if you like. The three words Xiao Lingxi are far too distant."

"Hm... these clothes really fit you very well, it is practically as if they were measured and made just for you." Xiao Lingxi said with a smile as her eyes roamed across Fen Juechen's body, "But that's to be expected, because your figure has always been very similar to that of Little Che's. When I think about it, besides your figure, there are many other similarities that you share with him."

"I am similar to... Yun Che?" Fen Juechen said in a daze.

Xiao Lingxi raised eyes which were filled with astonishment. This was because Fen Juechen did not give off a bone-chilling, icy-cold murderous aura at the mention of the name "Yun Che". She gave a light nod of her head, "Yes, you really resemble him in many ways. For example, normally Little Che is a very gentle and warm person, but when he goes up against people who want to harm those who are important to him, he becomes very extreme, just like Big Brother Fen who has been consumed with the desire for vengeance. Also, he has an extremely strong ego. He is very obsessive about things that he wants to do, and he will always bear the burden for every single thing... these are the areas where the both of you are alike."

Fen Juechen, "..."

"Actually, Little Che recently told me that he did not regret doing what he did four years ago. Yet at the same time, he had always felt some remorse when it came to you. He said that given your personality, not killing you all those years ago was actually far crueler than the alternative. And now, even when he

had the chance to kill you, he was unable to bring himself to do the actual deed. If there is any way he can make it up to you, he will definitely do all that he can to make it so.”

“...” Fen Juechen’s arms began to tremble violently.

“Big Brother Fen, I know that asking you to set aside your desire for vengeance is a very selfish thing indeed. After all, you lost all of your relatives. But... but you are clearly such a good person, and Little Che is also such a good person as well. The past can’t be changed anymore, so does it mean that one of you has to die before this matter can reach its ultimate resolution? Is there truly not a slight... not a slight possibility that this does not need to come to pass?”

Fen Juechen raised his arm, and it was as if his gaze penetrated his flesh, and that he was looking at his ice-cold blood which was far darker than a normal person’s, “In order to kill Yun Che, I have paid an enormous price to attain the power that I have today. If I just give up like this... what is the worth of this power that I have given up everything to attain...?”

“Oh, it’s really simple.” Xiao Lingxi said in a soft voice, “Great power need not only be used for vengeance, it can also be used to protect the people that you desire to protect.”

“Pro...tect...”

“That’s right!” Xiao Lingxi said as a faint smile bloomed across her face, “Like Big Brother Fen, Little Che has always been diligently pursuing strength, but the reason he is chasing after strength is not to be able to be victorious in battle, it is so that he can protect the people that he wants to protect, and keep them from coming to any harm. This is also why he chose the heavy sword as his weapon, it is also for the sake of ‘protecting’. So Big Brother Fen can use his own power to protect the ones that he wants to protect... Besides, Big Brother Fen is already so powerful, the ones who are being protected by Big Brother Fen will definitely feel very safe and happy.”

Xiao Lingxi slowly raised her eyes and her starry pupils expanded to form two delicate moons, “And I don’t know if I can also have the privilege of being someone that Big Brother Fen wants to protect? Heh... if that’s possible, then not only will I have Little Che’s protection, but I will also have Big Brother Fen watching over me. Just the thought of this makes me feel like I’m the most fortunate person in the entire world.”

Protect...

My power does not only need to be used for vengeance, it can also be used to... protect her...

Fen Juechen placed a hand on his chest and the evil and icy-cold power that resided in his body, the power that caused even him to feel fear and disgust, suddenly felt rather warm...

“If... I kill Yun Che, will you still be willing to accept my protection?” Fen Juechen mumbled.

Xiao Lingxi did not shake her head, but she did not nod her head either. She merely replied in a soft but resolute tone, “If Little Che is no longer around, then I won’t tarry on this earth for much longer either.”

Fen Juechen, “...!!”

Xiao Lingxi closed her eyes and said in a very soft voice, “Little Che is the person who grew up together with me and he is also the person that treats me the best. In my entire life, almost every single happy

thing that has happened to me has occurred because of him. So to me, Little Che is like half of my life. In fact, he is the more important half, so if he isn't around... then I will never be able to experience happiness ever again."

"Three years ago, when I received the news of his death, I desired to accompany him as well... but I still had my dear father, so I could not leave him to fend for himself. But right now, Xiao Yun has returned, so now that he is around to accompany father, if anything ever happens to Little Che, I can have peace of mind when I go to accompany him."

"..." Fen Juechen's breathing had become rough and heavy, his hand tightened strongly and it seemed as if he was going to rip the flesh off his chest. He recalled the time that he had spent in Floating Cloud City, and during that period, he had seen Lingxi everyday, but he had never seen her smile even once. Her face had been etched with a sorrow and despondency which seemed like it could never be erased.

During the times he had visited Floating Cloud City after Yun Che had returned alive, he no longer saw the sorrow on her face anymore. Instead it had been replaced by a gentle happiness and a warm smile, as if her life had already been completely fulfilled, and she no longer had any regrets in this life.

"Okay... I promise you that from now on, I... will no longer try to kill him."

The words that had come from his mouth resounded in their souls like peals of heavenly thunder. Xiao Lingxi's head jerked up violently and her eyes began trembling violently as well, "Big Brother Fen, you... what did you just say? You just... what you said... is... is it true?"

Fen Juechen had thought that saying these words would cause him incomparable pain, but the moment the words had left his lips, it felt as if a huge burden had been lifted off his chest instead. Lingxi's face was filled with astonished joy and disbelief, a deep sense of satisfaction appeared in her heart.

What was going on...

Why was it like this...

The tens of thousands of lives that were lost when my entire clan died... the absolutely irreconcilable grievance and hatred that I had for him... the hell that I have endured over the past few years...

In the end... all of these things cannot be compared to her smiling face?

Why do I not feel any discontentment or pain...

Just why...

"I will no longer try to kill Yun Che, and even if he stands before me, I will no longer take any action against him... and I won't do so ever again." Fen Juechen's voice did not waver this time, and it was instead filled with sincerity and resoluteness.

"I... I..." Every word sounded like a celestial chorus which had descended from the heavens. Xiao Lingxi's eyes instantly grew misty as a trail of tears steadily trickled down her face.

"Big Brother Fen... thank you... thank... thank you..." She pressed her lips together with force, she could not stop the joyous tears that were streaming crazily down her face, and her entire body was wracked by sobs.

The corner of Fen Juechen's mouth crooked slightly... If he was looking at a mirror, he would be able to see that a small smile was playing across his face... and he had thought that he would never be able to smile again.

Lingxi... From this day forth, as long as I am still breathing, anyone can forget about harming a hair on your head ever again... I will not allow anyone to do so!

Number One Under Heaven hovered in the air above the room, his face filled with shock, and a long time passed before he regained his senses.

"Whether it comes to appearance, profound strength or status, she is a far cry from the Little Demon Empress, but Brother Yun had kept pining for her day and night when he was in the Demon Imperial City, could it be... could it be that..."

"Not only does she possess an unmatched intellect, but she also has a soul that shines like a precious diamond." Number One Under Heaven mused to himself.

Time continued to pass, and within the blink of an eye, two months had passed. It was finally approaching the day that the Devil Sword Conference would be convened.

"Whoosh!!"

Yun Che breathed a great sigh of relief as he returned to his ice pavilion. With a backwards flip, he planted himself on his ice bed... because today, his "grand scheme" had finally come to complete fruition. Aside from the few young disciples who had just been admitted into Frozen Cloud Asgard and could not endure the strength of the medicine, all the other Frozen Cloud disciples had been given a boost in profound strength through his skillful use of the Overlord Pellet... Furthermore, every single person's power had increased by at least one great realm.

In this short span of time, he had forcefully dragged his sect to a whole new level. This entire undertaking had been equivalent to a few thousand years of accumulation and expansion by any other sect. In the history of the Profound Sky Continent, it was definitely an event that had never ever happened before.

What was even more terrifying was that in the process of increasing the profound strength of the Frozen Cloud disciples, Yun Che had also conveniently opened up all of their profound entrances, so their profound cultivation would be many times faster than it had been from now on... Right now, every single Frozen Cloud disciple had attained the Heavenly God's Spiritual Veins that other sects could only dream about attaining once every few thousand years or so... so Yun Che's actions were practically begging for the punishment of heaven.

The process of raising the profound strength of all the Frozen Cloud disciples also counted as a rather rigorous cultivation for him as well, so in these last two months, his profound strength had undergone some growth as well. Ten days before, he had finally managed to break in the sixth level of the Emperor Profound Realm.

"Big Brother Yun, can I come in?"

Feng Xue'er's tender, graceful and lovable voice came from outside his door and just by hearing that sweet voice, Yun Che felt as if all of the aches and pains on his body had simply vanished. He got up with a "swish" as he replied, "Xue'er, hurry up and come inside."

Today, Feng Xue'er still wore a set of snowy clothes, she was as beautiful as a divine maiden, as graceful and pretty as a fairy. She was enveloped in Yun Che's embrace, and with a soft cry, she practically melted into his bosom... During these five months that they had lived together, she had practically become used to his frivolous ways.

"Big Brother Yun, Royal Father just sent me a sound transmission to inform me that the Devil Sword Conference would be officially convening in four days time and that he has already arrived at the Supreme Ocean Palace. He also told me that the majority of the invited powers have already reached the Supreme Ocean Palace as well. When is Big Brother Yun going?" Feng Xue'er softly asked as she was embraced by him.

"Ah? There's still four days?" Yun Che was slightly shocked as he raised his head and silently calculated the time before nodding his head and replying, "It is not strange that they would all arrive early. After all, the ones who have been invited are all the peak powers that exist within the Profound Sky Continent. The leaders of the Four Great Sacred Grounds will all be in attendance as well. This kind of spectacle has probably only happened a few times in the history of the Profound Sky Continent. Furthermore, the attraction this time is rather enticing, the secret of the Divine Profound huh... heh heh."

"Then when are we going to make our move?" Feng Xue'er asked. If they were going to fly to the Supreme Ocean Palace from their current location, even given their speed, it would still take them at least ten days. However, with the Primordial Profound Ark, this problem was clearly no longer a problem.

"Hmm..." Yun Che pondered the question for a while before replying, "Then let's leave tomorrow morning. I still have some other things to do at that place, so it will be good to arrive a bit earlier as well.

"Let's go and inform all the Junior and Senior Masters first."

Yun Che and Feng Xue'er arrived at the Frozen End Divine Hall. Murong Qianxue and the others were all within the hall, and every single person was surrounded by a hazy layer of ice crystals and mist. At Yun Che's arrival, the ice crystals and mist immediately vanished and all of them stood up as they paid their respects towards Yun Che.

"Greetings, Asgard Master."

Yun Che did a quick examination of the aura of the six people in front of him. His brows knitted together as he asked in an astonished and confounded voice, "To think that not a single one of you was able to make a breakthrough? That is exceedingly strange, all of you have outstanding innate talent, all of your profound entrances have been opened and your profound strength has already reached the Tyrant Profound Realm. You should be able to handle higher-level laws of nature... so why haven't any of you been able to comprehend the Frozen End Divine Art despite laboring at it for so long... it truly is strange."

When he had begun cultivating the Frozen End Divine Art, he had only needed a few minutes to comprehend it, and he had only needed a day and a night for his comprehension to deepen. But Murong Qianxue and the others had the Frozen Cloud Art and the Frozen Heart Art as their foundation, moreover, all of them had the Heavenly God's Spiritual Veins as well, but in the end not a single person could comprehend the Frozen End Divine Art... none of the six of them could make the first step into understanding the Frozen End Divine Art, much less beginning to cultivate it.

"Asgard Master, even though we have tried to forcefully understand the profound art, in the end we cannot circulate our profound energy in accordance with it. Furthermore, the laws of nature that are contained within flit in and out of our minds and they are exceedingly hard to grasp... many years ago, when we tried to cultivate the Frozen End Divine Art, the results were the same. Despite undergoing an enormous breakthrough in our profound strength, the results are still the same." Mu Lanyi said as she furrowed her crescent brows together.

"It seems as if we are destined to never be able to learn the Frozen End Divine Art." Murong Qianxue said with a soft sigh, "However, this isn't because we are slow or lacking in talent. In the thousand year history of the Frozen Cloud Asgard, there have only been three people who were able to cultivate the Frozen End Divine Art. The first person was the Frozen Cloud Ancestor, and the other two people are the Asgard Master and Xia Qingyue."

Yun Che raised a hand to his jaw and just as he was about to lapse into deep thought, Jasmine's voice resounded in his heart, "It's better if you just saved your strength and stopped trying. Even if you gave them another ten thousand years, they would still not be able to cultivate the Frozen End Divine Art."

"Eh? Why?" Yun Che said in shock.

Chapter 765 - The Peculiar Frozen End Divine Art

"The Frozen End Divine Art made a sudden appearance a thousand years ago due to the Frozen Cloud Ancestor, Mu Bingyun. Before that there were no previous records of it. Didn't you find something fishy about that? This profound art is not as simple as you believe it to be... and if you want to cultivate it, you will need the blood or soul of a certain divine beast. If not, even if your comprehension is top-notch and you are able to understand it, you will never be able to release even the teeniest bit of its power."

"Just like how someone that does not have the Phoenix bloodline will never be able to truly cultivate the 'World Ode of the Phoenix'!"

"What?" This time Yun Che was not just taken aback, he was truly shocked, "So what you're saying is that the Frozen End Divine Art is actually a primordial divine art that was left behind by a certain divine beast?"

"Wait, wait, that's not right!" Yun Che suddenly recalled something as he blurted out a response, "If that's the case, then how come I can cultivate it? And how the heck did Qingyue cultivate it as well?"

"Hmph, that is because Xia Qingyue has the Nine Profound Exquisite Body, so she can break through the boundaries of most natural laws! As for you, you have the Evil God Profound Veins, so you can ignore both the natural order and the laws of nature. Moreover, you also have the Water Spirit Evil Body... All those years ago, you managed to forcibly skip four levels of the World Ode of the Phoenix and comprehend the fifth and sixth level of it, so forcibly cultivating the Frozen End Divine Art was the much

easier feat by far.” Jasmine explained in a bland voice. However, she had not mentioned any of this before Yun Che had returned to the Profound Sky Continent, she only felt that the Frozen End Divine Art seemed somewhat familiar.

“However, whether it was you or Xia Qingyue, even though the Frozen End Divine Art that the both of you use far outstrips that of any normal ice-based profound art, it is merely a pale shadow of the true Frozen End Divine Art... but if you think about it, the true ‘Frozen End Divine Art’ is a primordial divine art that is on the same level as the World Ode of the Phoenix!”

“On the same level as the... World Ode of the Phoenix?” Yun Che exclaimed in shock. He had rarely used the Frozen End Divine Art after he had learned it because even though it could produce several peculiar effects in certain situations, in terms of raw strength it was far weaker than the World Ode of the Phoenix or the Golden Crow’s Record of the Burning World. If their strength was supposed to be on the same level... then did it also mean that the primordial divine beast who passed it down was an existence that was on the same level as the Phoenix?”

“During the Primordial Era of the Gods, the Vermillion Bird, the Phoenix and the Golden Crow were the three supreme fire attribute beasts. The element of water also had three supreme rulers as well, and that was the Blue Dragon, the Ice Phoenix and the Ice Qilin! Ice was the form of water that possessed the most might, so the Ice Phoenix’s and Ice Qilin’s power was governed by ice. Only the Blue Dragon’s power was governed by water, so the power of its ice was inferior to that of the Ice Phoenix and the Ice Qilin.”

“Furthermore, this ‘Frozen End Divine Art’ is actually the primordial divine art that was passed down by the Ice Phoenix!”

“Ice... Phoenix?” This was the first time that Yun Che had ever heard that name, he replied in a low voice, “Phoenix... Ice Phoenix... Could it be a primordial divine beast that was related to the Phoenix but possessed a contrasting element instead? Since this was something that was passed down by the Frozen Cloud Ancestor, Mu Bingyun, then it means that she could cultivate it, which in turn means... that she received the inheritance of the Ice Phoenix Divine Beast?”

“So this means that besides the legacies of the Dragon God and the Phoenix, there is also a place in the Profound Sky Continent that contains the legacy of the Ice Phoenix?” Yun Che asked. If that was truly the case, then if he was able to find out where the legacy of the Ice Phoenix Divine Beast was concealed and obtain either the blood or the soul of the Ice Phoenix, his own Frozen End Divine Art would definitely receive a huge boost in power. Frozen Cloud Asgard would also then be able to ascend to even greater heights.

“Heh...” Jasmine naturally knew exactly what Yun Che was thinking of and she replied in a disinterested voice, “And how do you know that she obtained the legacy of the Ice Phoenix on the Profound Sky Continent?”

“I can definitely confirm one thing for you, this world definitely does not contain the legacy of the Ice Phoenix. If my conjectures are accurate, Mu Bingyun lost all of her memories all those years ago, and after that, as she slowly recovered, she established the Frozen Cloud Asgard and left behind the Frozen End Divine Art. Yet, no one could cultivate it. After that, when she recovered her memories, she also

remembered that the Frozen End Divine Art could not be learned by ordinary folk, so she created the far-inferior 'Frozen Cloud Art' which could be cultivated by normal people.

Yun Che, "..."

"But do keep in mind that everything that I'm saying is merely conjecture. The real truth is something that probably nobody knows, and there is no need for you to dig any deeper as well. All you need to know... is that asking them to learn the Frozen End Divine Art is merely a waste of time."

After Jasmine had said her piece, she did not bother herself with him any further.

Yun Che stood there, staring blankly into space for a good long while. Jasmine's words had clearly indicated that the Frozen Cloud Ancestor, Mu Bingyun, was not a person who belonged to the Profound Sky Continent.

No, Jasmine had said "in this world", so she was not only referring to the Profound Sky Continent.

Could it be that the person who had created the Frozen Cloud Asgard was actually someone from another world!?

It was also clear that Jasmine knew something about it, but she did not intend to clarify it for him in the slightest.

"Asgard Master, we will continue to try for a while longer. But if we haven't accomplished anything within a year, then the only option we have left is to give up." Jun Lianjie said.

"If it's the Frozen End Divine Art..." Yun Che looked for the right words before he opened his mouth to speak, "There are a few things about it that are quite unique, and there are a few hurdles that cannot be overcome by hard work or comprehension. It's through no fault of your own that all of you are unable to cultivate it. Thus, let's set aside the matter of cultivating the Frozen End Divine Art for now. Cultivate the Frozen Cloud Art to its highest level, its power should not be any weaker than the Frozen End Divine Art."

"Yes, we will do as Asgard Master commands." Currently, the entire Frozen Cloud Asgard had long ago begun to regard Yun Che as a deity, and so his word had become law.

"Tomorrow morning, I will travel to Supreme Ocean Palace with Xue'er, so that we can attend the Devil Sword Conference. It will be roughly six or seven days before we can return. During this period of time, I will have to trouble Senior and Junior Masters to guide and supervise all the other disciples in building up their foundations. It would be best if they did not hastily attempt to cultivate the Frozen Cloud Art for the next two to three months." Yun Che reminded them, "Other than that, if any accidents happen during this period of time, let me know immediately and I will rush back as soon as I can."

"You're leaving tomorrow?" The six of them huddled closer and Murong Qianxue glanced at Feng Xue'er before speaking, "I heard that the Devil Sword Conference will be a gathering of all the heroes of the realm, and the peak experts of the Four Great Sacred Grounds will all be present as well... when Asgard Master reaches that place, he must definitely be cautious."

"Xue'er, we will have to trouble you to protect our Asgard Master." There was a layer of worry that was hidden just beneath Murong Qianxue's calm exterior... After all, it was a gathering that was on the level

of a Sacred Ground. Even though Yun Che was strong, once he reached that place, there would be far too many people that were stronger than him.

Especially Sun Moon Divine Hall, who had a grudge against him...

After all, they were painfully aware that Yun Che's "master" did not exist. The moment this flimsy pretence was laid bare, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"Mn, I will protect Big Brother Yun. Furthermore, we are not going to the Devil Sword Conference to do battle, so there shouldn't be too much danger involved." Feng Xue'er said with sweet laugh.

"...Asgard Master." Chu Yueli hesitated for a while before stepping forward, "Qingyue has not sent us a sound transmission after all this time. Since the Devil Sword Conference is going to be a gathering of all the heroes of the realm, perhaps we might be able to find out some news from there?"

"Mn, I understand." Yun Che said as he nodded his head, but in his heart, he was aware that it was extremely likely that Xia Qingyue was not on the Profound Sky Continent anymore. Or else, she would have long ago attempted to make contact with Frozen Cloud Asgard.

And as for where exactly she ended up in... his desire to find out was stronger than anyone else's.

At the same time. Illusory Demon Realm, Southeastern Region.

The normally quiet and peaceful mountain range had presently been transformed into a sea of fire. Startling explosions ripped through the air; they were so loud that they could be clearly heard within a fifty kilometer radius. The nearby mountains shook violently and seemed to be on the verge of collapse as boulders tumbled through the air.

"Duke Ming, you reprehensible traitor, stop resisting and accept your fate!!"

Mu Feiyan, Mu Yubai, Su Xiangnan and Lin Guiyan exerted all of their strength, profound light exploding from their bodies and their faces flushed red from the effort, as they tried their best to surround one man... Besides the four of them, there were still another eight people prowling in the background, waiting and preparing for the moment their prey attempted to escape the encirclement. Each and every one of these eight people was on the same level as a grand elder of a Guardian Family.

Any one of these twelve people could be counted amongst the most powerful practitioners within the Illusory Demon Realm. Such a startling array of strength had been assembled, all for the sake of one person...

Because that person was Duke Ming!!

"Hahahaha, you vermin think that you are worthy enough to force this duke to submit!?"

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!!

When it came to desperate battles at the level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, every single profound energy explosion would contain earth-shattering might. As the battle raged on, the land in a hundred

kilometer radius of the fight had been completely devastated, countless profound beasts were buried before they could even react to their demise.

Duke Ming had used the blood escape to flee from Demon Imperial City at that time, but that also caused him to lose a lot of his blood essence, greatly injuring his vitality. After that, he was constantly fleeing for his life, and he could barely find a moment to catch his breath. Given the power that Duke Ming had previously, even if Mu Feiyan and the others combined their strength, all four of them would still have tasted bitter defeat at his hands. But right now, they could actually suppress Duke Ming and prevent him from fleeing.

“Duke Ming, you old villain! This old man was truly befuddled and confused all those years ago! To think that I believed you instead of the Demon King, holding your words as truth and his words as false... Today, this old man needs to bury you personally!!” Mu Feiyan roared in fury as he and Mu Yubai forged an enormous ice-cold domain; Duke Ming was being assaulted by unending shards of ice every single second, and many bloody wounds had been gouged in his body.

“You want to bury this duke!? Hahahahaha... I will bury you first!!”

Duke Ming’s expression turned sinister as a wild laugh tore from his throat. His entire body suddenly glowed with a bloody light, and two enormous skulls made of red-black flames suddenly coalesced in the air above them before fiercely descending down from above.

“Patriarch Mu, be careful!!”

These were flame devils conjured by Duke Ming, so they possessed an incomparably terrifying might. Su Xiangnan’s heart was jolted by shock and he swiftly changed his angle of attack, a hundred thousand sword shadows instantly congealing into one sword as it thrust towards the flame devils, wild gales howling in its wake.

“Divine Wind Sword!!”

But as the two flame devils descended, they changed their trajectory midair. They no longer targeted Mu Feiyan, but rushed towards Lin Guiyan instead.

Boom!!

It would be extremely hard for Lin Guiyan to even fend off one flame devil, much less two of them. Lin Guiyan’s face blanched as he tried to endure the full might of the assault, but after a single breath, he let out a miserable cry as he was engulfed by crimson black flames. In the next instant, the attack had sent him flying, blood spraying in the air as he went.

Riip!!

Su Xiangnan’s Divine Wind Sword had opened a hole in Duke Ming’s shoulder, a bloody, gaping wound that one could see through. But the four man encirclement had been blasted wide open. Duke Ming had to eat this attack, but he let out a wild laugh instead as he took his opportunity to swiftly flee.

“Dammit... hurry up and restrain him!!” Mu Yubai roared.

The moment Mu Yubai yelled, the eight grand elders that had been lurking in the shadows simultaneously rushed towards Duke Ming. But Duke Ming had long been prepared for this moment,

even before he had broken out of his encirclement. Before the two closest grand elders neared him, two clusters of crimson black flames suddenly exploded from his palms, their terrifying might instantly shattering the nearby space into fragments.

A wounded tiger was still a tiger after all. Duke Ming had been the strongest person in the entire Illusory Demon Realm at one point, so even though he had lost a lot of blood essence, causing his profound strength to fall dramatically, a grand elder from a Guardian Family would still find it exceedingly hard to restrain him.

Amidst the huge explosions, both of the Mu Family's grand elders were tossed aside like ragdolls. By the time they had managed to regain control of their bodies, Duke Ming's wild laughter already echoed from several hundred meters away.

"Shit... chase him! Quickly! It was really hard for us to pin down his location in the first place, so this time, we can't let him escape no matter what!" Mu Feiyan yelled shrilly. The Little Demon Empress had given them a time limit three months ago, and if they were not able to capture Duke Ming within three months, they would all have to sever a finger in apology.

Boom!

A dull and heavy explosion suddenly rang out in the distance as a golden light illuminated heaven and earth. Duke Ming's wild laughter was abruptly cut off, and what replaced it was a miserable scream of pain.

Bang!!

Duke Ming was fiercely smashed from the air to the ground, a cluster of golden flames slowly burning on his chest. He rolled on the ground in pain as all of the crimson black flames on his body desperately surged forth. It took several seconds before they could finally suppress and extinguish those golden flames. He raised his head to the sky, and his eyes showed a fear that he had rarely displayed in his lifetime.

A figure clad in rainbow colors slowly descended from the air above. Her figure was petite and delicate, her exquisite features were so beautiful that they would cause the sun and the moon to lose their luster, but those delicate, slanted brows held an incomparable dignity and majesty that caused all to tremble before her.

Her appearance seemed to cause the entire world to stop in place, and even the sound of the roaring flames had completely disappeared.

Chapter 766 - Crippling Duke Ming

"Li... Little Demon Empress!" Duke Ming held a hand to his chest, his entire body trembling uncontrollably... he had been strong enough to arrogantly look down upon the entire world, so he did not want to display fear in front of anyone, but right now his body betrayed him as it shivered uncontrollably...

Because his body had clearly felt the approach of death itself.

The moment Lin Guiyan, who had been sorely wounded by Duke Ming, saw the Little Demon Empress, he ignored the blood streaming from his mouth as he hurriedly knelt down to the ground and said in a quavery voice, "I greet the Little Demon Empress!!"

The ones who had been marked with the Slave Imprint had all become the loyal dogs of the Little Demon Empress.

"We greet the Little Demon Empress."

All of those present paid their respects to her. Mu Feiyan quickly strode forward, bowing towards her as he said, "With the Little Demon Empress personally taking a hand in this, Duke Ming will find it hard to flee even if he suddenly grows wings!" His eyes swiveled towards Duke Ming and he barked out a furious command, "Restrain the traitor!!"

Before the words had even finished escaping his lips, Mu Yubai, Su Xiangnan and the eight grand elders moved in unison, but this time, a clear and indifferent voice rang across the intervening space, "Withdraw, nobody is allowed to interfere."

A shudder passed through Mu Yubai and the others. They ground to a halt in panic and began to scramble backwards.

It was clear that the Little Demon Empress wanted to kill Duke Ming herself... to use his blood to quench the hatred and need for vengeance of the Illusory Demon Imperial Family.

Even though Duke Ming was strong, given the Little Demon Empress' current strength, killing him would be as easy as swatting a fly.

Right before this, the world had been filled with explosions that seemed to come from hell itself but right now, that same world was deathly silent. The Little Demon Empress' eyes bored into Duke Ming, her flat and emotionless expression bearing no trace of rage or indignation, no signs of joy or sorrow. Yet everyone who was present felt a pressure building up in their hearts and souls and found it hard to even breathe.

"Huan Caiyi..." The terrifying silence caused Duke Ming to feel as if his chest was about to explode. In the end, he could no longer endure it and croaked out hoarsely, "This duke... really regrets deciding not to simply kill you one hundred years ago!"

"Hmph, you're about to die yet you still dare to spout such arrogance!" Mu Feiyan rebuked him furiously.

The Little Demon Empress did not say anything, and she also did not get agitated by Duke Ming. She slowly and gently raised her petite and exquisite little hand, her tender white palm pointed in Duke Ming's direction.

This simple gesture of hers caused Duke Ming's pupils to suddenly contract. He let out a fierce and desperate howl, both his palms thrusting outwards as all of the profound energy in his body crazily surged forth. Fallen Devil Flames raged throughout the sky as Duke Ming thrust them towards the Little Demon Empress with a yell.

If the extremely dense Fallen Devil Flames released their full might, they were able to reduce a city to ashes within a matter of minutes.

The Little Demon Empress' face did not even twitch; it remained completely emotionless, but a golden light flashed in the center of her brows. She pushed her little hand forward lightly and a brilliant golden light covered the sky. Golden Crow flames began igniting furiously as they moved against the Fallen Devil Flames. Every time the terrifying and sinister Fallen Devil Flames came into contact with the Golden Crow flames, they reacted in the same way as a devil touched by holy light. The Fallen Devil Flames let out an ear-piercing shriek, trying to flee away as they were distorted and quickly consumed...

"Hahahahaha..." Duke Ming's hoarse and wild laughter could be heard behind the cover of the Fallen Devil Flames, "Huan Caiyi... you think that you are able to kill this duke... stop dreaming!!"

Pfft!!

A large cloud of blood violently sprayed out from Duke Ming's mouth, the blood mist fell from the sky and poured over him, causing his entire body to slowly become transparent as he began to... disappear within the bloody mist.

"It is the Blood Escape!!" Mu Yubai yelled in shock. During that time in the Demon Imperial City, Duke Ming had used this marvelous and strange Blood Escape to slip through the Little Demon Empress' grasp.

The Fallen Devil Flames that Duke Ming had used to attack the Little Demon Empress at full force were only to obstruct her. His real motive had been to pull the same trick once more, and run away using the Blood Escape... the Blood Escape was conjured by spending blood essence, but using it also came with disastrous consequences. If it was not a life-or-death scenario, he definitely would not even contemplate using it. Moreover, the two times that he did use it were when he was facing the Little Demon Empress... because if he did not pay this terrible price, the only outcome waiting for him would be a miserable death!

"Hmph!!"

The Little Demon Empress' eyes, which were brighter and more beautiful than a full moon, narrowed slightly. She gave a faint but cold snort as the flames all around her flashed and in an instant, they pierced through the layered Fallen Devil Flames. She sketched a small gesture with her hand as she pointed towards the location where Duke Ming had just vanished from.

When they had searched the hidden sanctuary that had been buried underneath Duke Huai Palace, they had also managed to find the forbidden Blood Escape technique. And given the long period of time that she had to study the technique, she had already grasped its entirety. Therefore, Duke Ming was the person who was dreaming if he thought that he could use the Blood Escape to flee from the Little Demon Empress once more.

Bang!!!

Flames exploded everywhere as the very air itself was explosively torn apart. Amidst the exploding spatial fragments they could see Duke Ming, who had already disappeared, being hurled screaming back out. His body smashed heavily against the ground, his entire body twitching and spasming. He glanced at

the Little Demon Empress's ice-cold face and his entire body started trembling in fear. His expression warped into one of abject terror, as if he had seen a ghost.

"You... could not possibly... could not possibly..." Duke Ming stuttered, his face and lips losing all their color. Given his might and power, if he went all out in a fight against the Little Demon Empress, he could definitely still hold his own for a period of time. But when he used the Blood Escape technique, he had lost a lot of blood essence. Not only did this injure his innate strength, it would also put him in a severely weakened state for the next few days.

At this time, even a single Mu Yubai could consign Duke Ming to death with a twitch of his fingers, much less the Little Demon Empress.

The first time he had used the Blood Escape, he had managed to run away successfully.

This time, not only had he not succeeded in his endeavor, he had even wasted all of that blood essence for nothing, putting himself in even more dire straits.

The Little Demon Empress' eyes were like two chips of ice. Her hand lifted up and fell again, as a cluster of golden flames mercilessly struck the location of Duke Ming's dantian.

Boom!!

The flames blew apart and the ruthless Golden Crow flames crazily surged into Duke Ming's profound veins. The flames mercilessly incinerated the profound veins that had been drastically weakened by his loss of blood essence... Duke Ming's incomparably miserable and wretched howls rang out into the sky, they were so shrill that he felt like his throat was about to be ripped apart. Moreover, all the profound strength and profound arts that he had painstakingly cultivated for nearly a thousand years were being swiftly burned away by those cruel Golden Crow flames...

The faces of everyone present warped in fear as a bone-tingling chill was sent down their spines... For people on their level, having one's profound strength crippled was a fate even more dreadful than death.

The Golden Crow flames only stopped burning once they reduced Duke Ming's profound veins to cinders. Duke Ming did not lose consciousness, but he had lost nearly all his profound strength, so his ability to endure pain was only a small fraction of what it had been before. His face was so distorted that he looked like an evil spirit and his body was curled up into a fetal position. From his trembling lips, he issued a voice that was incomparably weak but also extremely malicious, "Huan Caiyi... even if this duke... descends into the depths of the netherworld... I... will never let you off!!"

"I'm afraid you won't have the chance." The Little Demon Empress said, her voice so cold that it cut to the bone, "Because once you reach the netherworld, the ancestors of our Illusory Demon Imperial Family will not let you off either, and neither will the ancestors of all the Guardian Families. In fact, even your own ancestors will not have mercy on you!!"

"ARGHHHHHHH!!" Duke Ming's blood-curdling howl of frustration and hate was as desolate and hopeless as any demon's.

The Little Demon Empress raised a palm and she made a simple gesture with her finger as four beams of fire shot towards Duke Ming's arms and legs. They instantly charred his limbs black and one last beam of

fire shot directly into his mouth, causing all of his teeth to explode... and before the fragments could even fall to the ground, they had already been burned up in midair.

Duke Ming's eyes rolled back as his whole body went rigid and he directly passed out due to the extreme pain.

It was during a warm spring afternoon, but Mu Yubai and the rest who were watching felt their entire bodies go cold. They had slowly and cautiously crept closer... but Duke Ming's miserable state did not elicit the slightest bit of pity from them.

Because the sins that he had committed could not be repaid even if the cruelest punishments on the earth was inflicted on him!

"Little Demon Empress, why didn't you kill him?" Mu Feiyan asked cautiously. The Little Demon Empress had not taken Duke Ming's life, she had only crippled his profound strength.

Moreover, she had also destroyed all four of his limbs and all of his teeth, so he would not be able to take his own life even if he wanted to.

"He caused my royal father to die, killed my royal brother, brought the clan of the Demon Emperors to the brink of extinction, nearly consigned the Yun Family to the abyss, and plunged our entire Illusory Demon Realm into a hundred years of chaos... With crimes of this magnitude, killing him like this would simply be doing him a favor!"

"Oh, I won't let him die. In fact, this empress will make sure that he lives on no matter what! For the next hundred years! And during these hundred years, this empress will ensure that each and every day, every single second of his life, will be filled with the cruelest and most painful tortures imaginable!"

Mu Feiyan fiercely fought down the shudder that threatened to course through his body.

Everyone else felt their bodies tense up and they dared not even breathe too loudly.

"Furthermore, as Yun Che has said before. A living person is far more useful than a dead person can ever be." The Little Demon Empress glanced to the side and did not spare Duke Ming a further glance, "Patriarch Mu, how much longer will it be before the Yun Family's Space Splitting Ring can be used again?"

Mu Feiyan's words practically tumbled over each other as he replied, "This old man has personally confirmed this sound transmitted with Yun Qinghong yesterday. Within ten days, the Space Splitting Ring will be fully operational. After that, it can make a single trip to the Profound Sky Continent."

"Ten days?" The Little Demon Empress asked, her brows faintly creasing.

"Ten days was the conservative estimate. At this present moment, the Yun Family is doing all that they can to restore the Space Splitting Ring's functionality. The various Duke Palaces are also doing all that they can to assist the Yun Family so I believe that it will be shorter than the estimated ten days... Pardon my impudence, but once the Space Splitting Ring becomes operational again, can this old man also accompany you on your trip?" Mu Feiyan asked cautiously. He also missed Yun Che very much.

"There is no need!" The Little Demon Empress said, giving a flourish of her robe as she turned around and floated into the air, "This empress will make this trip alone!"

The Little Demon Empress' figure wavered like a misty cloud, but in the blink of an eye, she had already disappeared into the distance. It was only then that Mu Feiyan let out a heavy sigh of relief. He gave Duke Ming a glance before spitting out a few words, "Capture this evil traitor and drag him back to the Demon Imperial City! Remember, we need to reserve some profound energy to stabilize his wounds, we must definitely not allow him to die."

"To think that the Little Demon Empress wants to venture forth to the Profound Sky Continent by herself." Mu Yubai mused as he walked over, his expression strange.

"This actually isn't that surprising. To the people of the Illusory Demon Realm, that is an extremely dangerous place. Every additional person means that there will be one additional source of possible trouble and danger. Contrary to expectations, it would actually be safer for the Little Demon Empress if she went by herself. This old man believes that given the Little Demon Empress' current power, there isn't anyone on the Profound Sky Continent that can pose a threat to her." Mu Feiyan said truculently

"Heh heh." Su Xiangnan chuckled as he walked over as well, his tone thick with suggested meaning, "The Little Demon Empress is extremely worried about dear nephew Yun Che. Every time she meets Patriarch Mu or Brother Yun, she will definitely ask about the Space Splitting Ring. So it seems like the relationship between our Little Demon Empress and our dear nephew is most certainly not only the 'Golden Crow Divine God's will'."

"Tsk, tsks! For someone like Yun Che, there are only girls who are unworthy of him. There will never be a girl that he can't match up to, so the intensity of the feelings that the Little Demon Empress has for him is simply the way things should be. After all, just whose grandson is he? Hahahahaha!!"

Mu Feiyan placed both hands behind his back, striding forward as he roared in laughter. Every time he either thought or mentioned his grandson, his face would turn ruddy and he would release a vigorous and hearty aura.

Profound Sky Continent, Divine Incense Nation.

Divine Incense Nation was located at the southern part of the Profound Sky Continent and it was also the location that was closest to the Profound Sky Southern Ocean. Thus, it was also the country closest to Supreme Ocean Palace.

It was early in the morning and the sky had just started to light up. Yun Che and Feng Xue'er were sitting in the Primordial Profound Ark, having teleported from the Frozen Cloud Asgard to Divine Incense Nation in the blink of an eye.

"Grandfather said that Divine Incense Nation is known for growing a mysterious plant called 'Thousand Fragrance', and the fragrance of this plant would spread very far. So one can smell this fragrance everywhere in the Divine Incense Nation, and it is also possible that this is how the name Divine Incense Nation came about in the first place."

Yun Che flew steadily in the direction of the Southern Ocean, as he wracked his brains for any stories about Divine Incense Nation that he could tell to Feng Xue'er.

The reason they had not directly teleported into the Southern Ocean Region was naturally to prevent the existence of the Primordial Profound Ark from being exposed.

“I will soon be able to see royal father once more. After leaving Lord Phoenix God, this is the first time I have left royal father’s side for so long. I wonder how he’s been doing during this period.” Feng Xue’er said softly.

The sky grew brighter and brighter and the moment the warm sun finally appeared in the eastern sky, the boundless blue ocean also appeared in their vision.

The Profound Sky Southern Ocean!

One thousand five hundred kilometers to the south of the border of the Profound Sky Southern Ocean lay one of the Four Great Sacred Grounds—Supreme Ocean Palace.

Chapter 767 - Floating Ocean Palace

Not long after flying over the coastline and reaching the airspace of the Southern Ocean, a peculiar blue radiance finally appeared in the vision of Yun Che and Feng Xue’er... emitting this blue glow was a not so large island.

“This is it, let’s descend.”

Yun Che pulled on Feng Xue’er’s little hand, and together, they descended onto the island. As Feng Xue’er raised her hand and gently touched her face, her absolute beauty which eclipsed the world suddenly appeared from below the layer of satin.

Yun Che retrieved the hexagonal jadestone which Ji Qianrou had given him from within his Sky Poison Pearl. This jadestone was specifically a piece of Sea God Jade. It had been engraved with the invitation for and date of the Devil Sword Conference, as well as the directions to Supreme Ocean Palace.

Arriving atop the island, a cool, refreshing sea breeze blew over as if greeting them. The entirety of the small island was empty, but when Yun Che and Feng Xue’er had descended, two figures appeared in front of them like ghosts.

“Have the two of you come for the Devil Sword Conference? If so, please show your Sea God Jade. If not, leave!”

Both of them wore blue clothes and had stiff expressions. Although respectful, there was still a clear trace of undisguised arrogance and pride.

This was because they were the disciples of Supreme Ocean Palace! Although all of the visitors this time were the most powerful practitioners and forces amongst the Profound Sky Continent, the only ones who could be considered to be on equal footing with them atop the continent were those from the other three sacred grounds. Thus, unless they met someone from one of the other three sacred grounds, they wouldn’t retract their arrogance even the slightest bit.

The Four Great Sacred Grounds were the ruling figures within the Profound Sky Continent. It was a position they had held onto for tens of thousands of years without the slightest bit of weakness.

Yun Che didn't bother to reply and directly took out his Sea God Jade. Right when he was about to throw it to one of the disciples, a familiar voice bearing extreme joy suddenly emanated over from behind as it breezed over with the wind.

"Brother-in-law! Brother-in-law!"

Yun Che and Feng Xue'er simultaneously turned around. Yuanba was quickly flying over from the southeast in an impressive manner. Besides him, there was also an old man wearing white robes who exuded an unique demeanor... it was none other than Spiritual Master Ancient Blue who he had met so many years ago in Divine Phoenix Nation.

Xia Yuanba landed on the ground first and quickly rushed in front of Yun Che, his face full of excitement as he said, "I'm way too lucky, to be able to actually meet brother-in-law here! Hehe, I see Little Sister Xue'er also came."

"Yuanba, how come you and your master have come alone? Where are the rest of the sanctuary's people?" Yun Che casually asked after patting Xia Yuanba's shoulder. Being so close to Yuanba, Yun Che could clearly feel just how much stronger Yuanba had become from their last meeting...

Moreover, it had been an extremely great increase.

The Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins... Jasmine's so called "unparalleled Tyrannical Divine Veins"!

"Oh, the major party from the sanctuary set out two days before us. Recently, I just had another small breakthrough, so master and I left later." Xia Yuanba chuckled as he spoke. From his tone, it was clear that he was incredibly happy to see Yun Che

"So it was like this." Yun Che slowly nodded as he silently thought: I myself arrived nearly four days early, but Absolute Monarch Sanctuary's people actually arrived even earlier due to the Saint Emperor's order. It seems that the Four Great Sacred Grounds are also extremely interested in this sword, huh.

After all, towards all those respected, powerful practitioners who had been stuck at the peak of the Sovereign Profound Realm for hundreds to thousands of years, the words "secrets of the Divine Profound" contained an irresistible attraction.

Upon seeing Spiritual Master Ancient Blue, the two Ocean Palace disciples no longer cared about Yun Che and Feng Xue'er, and instead quickly walked forward to greet him. The arrogance on their faces had disappeared without a trace as they saluted in an extremely respectful and humble manner. They simultaneously greeted, "Junior Ocean Palace disciples Du Changming and Gong Kaichuan greet Spiritual Master Ancient Blue."

Spiritual Master Ancient Blue slightly flicked the whisk in his hand as he faintly smiled and nodded his hand. Afterwards, he directly moved towards Yun Che, chuckling as he said, "Little friend Yun, when we met in the past, this old one believed that you would become a dragon in the future. Today, only three short years later, you have already become a true golden scaled dragon which can look down on the heavens. Even this old one cannot help but shower you with praise, ha ha ha ha."

"Junior Yun Che greets Senior Ancient Blue. This junior feels ashamed to be praised so highly by Senior Ancient Blue," Yun Che respectfully greeted as a faint smile emerged on his face.

While Spiritual Master Ancient Blue spoke to Yun Che, his eyes slightly moved, sweeping over the figure of Feng Xue'er beside Yun Che. As he did so, his pupils and face momentarily stiffened. Even his footsteps had obviously paused for a moment.

The higher one's profound energy, the longer one would live. Thus, one simply couldn't use appearance to judge the age of a powerful profound practitioner. However, even though appearances could be kept youthful, profound practitioners with enough experience could still roughly guess a person's age from their aura.

Using this method, Ancient Blue perceived that the girl beside Yun Che was only in her twenties. At the very least, she was definitely younger than Xia Yuanba.

However, her profound aura was actually...

Sovereign Profound Realm... eighth level!?

This greatly surprised him, but he then immediately thought of a person... and the ridiculous, unbelievable rumors which had been recently floating around.

Could it be that those rumors... were actually true?

Spiritual Master Ancient Blue's gaze fixated on Feng Xue'er's figure as he suddenly asked with difficulty, "This little friend, could it be that you are Divine Phoenix Sect's Princess Snow?"

In the face of the question, Feng Xue'er courteously replied, "Junior Feng Xue'er greets Senior Ancient Blue Cang."

"Mn." Spiritual Master Ancient Blue slowly nodded. However, the waves in his heart took much longer to suppress. He heavily sighed then said, "Ah, the younger generation will truly surpass the older one. Even after living these thousand years, it seems like I have still been a frog in a well this entire time, hoho."

The moment Yun Che had revealed his name, the expressions of the two Supreme Ocean Palace disciples drastically changed as a great fear arose amidst their panic. The two of them looked at each other, then hurriedly walked forward towards Yun Che and saluted him while saying in a respectful tone, "So... so esteemed guest is actually the Asgard Master of Blue Wind Nation's Frozen Cloud Asgard. Although we have eyes, just now we were unable to recognize Mount Tai and acted poorly. We hope Asgard Master Yun will be magnanimous enough to tolerate our errors."

This huge change in attitude slightly surprised Yun Che as he waved his hand and said, "I am only but a junior. Moreover, this is Supreme Ocean Palace, so you two don't have to be so polite with me."

"No no," an Ocean Palace disciple quickly shook his head, "The great Sovereign of the Seas personally stated that Asgard Master Yun was a distinguished guest of our palace, and that we should treat you with extreme respect. Just now, I..."

"Ah, understood, understood." Yun Che flourished his hand again, "Forget about all of these useless matters, just directly take us to the teleportation formation."

"Alright... guests, please follow us."

At the center of the little island was a profound spatial formation which released a greenish-blue glow. Of all the various types of profound formations, profound spatial formations had the greatest rate of consumption. However, they were nonetheless extremely precious because this spatial profound formation allowed one to directly travel across a distance of fifteen hundred kilometers. In the entirety of Profound Sky Continent, there were very few of these profound spatial formations.

“Four esteemed guests, after entering this profound formation, you will be directly transported to an island called ‘Ocean Eye Isle.’ If you travel another fifty kilometers south from Ocean Eye Isle, you will arrive at the ocean palace. Great Elder is already there personally waiting to welcome you all.”

As they activated the array, the two ocean palace disciples respectfully explained everything. As for their eyes, they focused less on the figure of Spiritual Master Ancient Blue, and instead constantly stole glances at Yun Che and Xia Yuanba.

The blue light within the profound formation flickered, and suddenly, the scene before Yun Che momentarily turned into a plane of whiteness before changing into a different view of a blue ocean.

“We’ve arrived. This place must be the Ocean Eye Isle that those two disciples talked about. The ocean palace should be fifty kilometers south of here.”

Spiritual Master Ancient Blue was the first to exit the profound formation as he spoke with a chuckle. Yun Che and the other two all suddenly subconsciously looked south, their mouths simultaneously opening as similar exclamations of shock came out.

“Waah... wow!”

“Is that... Supreme Ocean Palace?” Xia Yuanba’s eyes had grown huge as he stared. This was also his first time coming to Supreme Ocean Palace.

Their eyes were all stuck on a circular island veiled by a cover of light blue light which filled the entire airspace south of them. Unlike other ordinary islands which floated atop the ocean, this island... floated in the sky, high above the ocean!

From their point of view, the giant palace was around three to four thousand meters above the ocean!

“My royal father once said that Supreme Ocean Palace is eternally floating in the sky... to think that it was so mystical,” Feng Xue’er mumbled softly.

“...To continuously keep such a large island afloat in the sky, must be very expensive,” Yun Che said as he looked south.

“Hehe, naturally.” Spiritual Master Ancient Blue nodded and then said with a chuckle, “From north to south, this floating island is forty five kilometers long. From east to west, it is thirty five kilometers long. Although this floating island is the smallest amongst the Four Great Sacred Grounds and is even smaller than Divine Phoenix Sect’s Divine Phoenix City, its magnificence and aura are unparalleled under the heavens. Moreover, the number of profound crystals spent every year to keep it afloat is astronomical.”

“Big Brother Yun, let’s hurry and go. I really want to see what Supreme Ocean Palace looks like. Even just looking at it from afar has already caused me to feel that it is much more magnificent than what my

royal father said about it.” Feng Xue’er very naturally grabbed Yun Che’s arm as her cheeks became flushed pink from the excitement.

“I am also interested now. Let’s go!” Extending his arms, Yun Che wrapped them around Feng Xue’er’s thin waist as the two simultaneously flew into the sky and directly towards the mystical floating island.

“Hey, hey, wait for me brother-in-law!” Xia Yuanba jumped, suddenly traversing hundreds of meters as he quickly caught up with Yun Che.

“Hoho,” Spiritual Master Ancient Blue warmly laughed as he followed closely behind the three. As he watched their backs, the smile on his face slowly disappeared and became replaced by an increasingly complicated expression.

This was because the three youths in front of him were impressively the three most talented youths of the young generation within the Profound Sky Continent!

Furthermore, each one had abilities which were truly able to shock the world, surpassing the ancients and amazing the current generations.

Xia Yuanba’s body contained the Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins. These veins that he had been naturally born with had contained a great power which even he himself couldn’t control. However, now that he had awoken them, the degree of growth of his profound strength had shocked even the Saint Emperor of Absolute Monarch Sanctuary... his Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins were even many times more powerful than any of the previous instances of Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins recorded in the history of the Profound Sky Continent!

If Xia Yuanba could enter the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm before he turned twenty two, he would be making history within the Profound Sky Continent.

Others thought that becoming the disciple of Ancient Blue would be the fortune of a lifetime. However, Spiritual Master Ancient Blue had always deeply felt that having obtained such a talented Xia Yuanba as his disciple was his life’s greatest fortune.

However, today, Feng Xue’er had appeared. She had yet to reach the age of twenty, yet she had already reached the eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm! Xia Yuanba had actually been thoroughly defeated by her.

At least, it was like that for now.

However, the most shocking figure amongst the young generation was neither of those two, but instead... Yun Che!

Xia Yuanba and Feng Xue’er both had the terrifying talent and profound energy to break history. As for Yun Che... with profound strength at the Emperor Profound Realm, he was yet able to display power comparable to a Sovereign Profound Realm practitioner. This was something which none of the peak practitioners were able to understand.

If one’s talent or profound art was high enough, it was normal for one to crush those of the same level and challenge those levels above them.

However, throughout the entire history of the Profound Sky Continent, forget about an Emperor Profound being equal to a Sovereign Profound, even a Tyrant Profound being equal to a Sovereign Profound was unheard of.

What Spiritual Master Ancient Blue took to heart the most though was that whether it be Xia Yuanba or Feng Xue'er, these two future ruling figures of the Profound Sky Continent all had deep relations with and feelings for Yun Che. Needless to say, Ancient Blue knew Xia Yuanba's reasons very clearly. Even if Xia Yuanba were to use his life to save Yun Che, Ancient Blue wouldn't furrow his brow.

As for Feng Xue'er, this young girl who caused his heart and mind to be shocked to the point of turmoil, had an extremely intimate relation with Yun Che. Within her eyes, one could see a feeling of attachment which had already become a kind of habit.

The history in which the Four Great Sacred Lands had ruled over the continent... was it about to finally come to an end?

"Haah..." Spiritual Master Ancient Blue let out a long sigh, then opened his mouth and said, "Little friend Yun, I wonder if your respected master is interested in watching this Devil Sword Conference?"

Towards the Four Great Sacred Grounds, the name of Yun Che's master, "Old Man Duotian", was undoubtedly the name which astonished them the most.

Without an ounce of hesitation, Yun Che directly replied, "Master has long since been a person who doesn't care about the mortal world. He already almost never sets foot into the mortal world as he doesn't want to be bound by any responsibilities. Thus, although this junior is his disciple, I don't know where my master is currently nor where he will go next. Only when this junior cannot help but beg will his master reveal himself."

Yun Che's response was quite clever and was something that he had thought of long before he had arrived. This was because upon arriving at Supreme Ocean Palace, he knew that there would definitely be people asking this question.

"I see." Spiritual Master Ancient Blue nodded.

"Senior Ancient Blue, when the people of Supreme Ocean Palace want to travel to the mainland, wouldn't they all have to go through this teleportation profound formation we just went through?" In order to prevent Ancient Blue from asking too much and possibly finding a flaw in his response, Yun Che took the opportunity to ask a useless question he didn't care about first.

"That's not the case." Spiritual Master Ancient Blue then replied, "Very few of Supreme Ocean Palace's people leave the ocean. However, when they do leave, it is through flying. In fact, it's very possible that this teleportation profound formation was just temporarily built for for this Devil Sword Conference. After all, since the consumption of a spatial profound formation is so great, I'm afraid even the Supreme Ocean Palace is not able to maintain one."

Seemingly seeing through Yun Che's intentions, Spiritual Master Ancient Blue faintly chuckled. Still, he no longer asked Yun Che any questions about his master.

"Earlier, the two ocean palace disciples stated that the person welcoming guests was their Great Elder. The importance of this Devil Sword Conference for Supreme Ocean Palace must be extremely great if

they are actually having their Great Elder personally welcome guests. To be a Great Elder of a sacred ground, his power and status must be only second to the Sovereign of the Seas within Supreme Ocean Palace,” Yun Che said after pondering.

“Supreme Ocean Palace’s Great Elder is called Mo Chenfeng.” Xia Yuanba continued, “However, within Supreme Ocean Palace, he isn’t necessarily second to only the Sovereign of the Seas as in Supreme Ocean palace, there are also the Seven Venerable Ones above him. They are the true seven strongest people of the Supreme Ocean Palace other than the Sovereign of the Seas.”

“Seven... Venerable Ones?” Yun Che turned around in astonishment.

“Within the Four Great Sacred Grounds, Elders aren’t necessarily the highest level of power. In Supreme Ocean Palace, there are still the Seven Venerable Ones above the Elders. Meanwhile, there are the Five Divine Envoys in Sun Moon Divine Hall and the Three Sword Attendants in Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. Our Absolute Monarch Sanctuary is the same. Above the Elders are the Twelve Spiritual Masters,” Xia Yuanba explained with great detail.

Chapter 768 - Summoned by the Sovereign of the Seas

Supreme Ocean Palace’s Seven Venerable Ones, Sun Moon Divine Hall’s Five Divine Envoys, Mighty Heavenly Sword Region’s Three Sword Attendants, and Absolute Monarch Sanctuary’s Twelve Spiritual Masters... these were existences within the Four Great Sacred Grounds who were even higher than elders!

“...That year in Divine Phoenix City, I heard many people call Senior Ancient Blue ‘Spiritual Master’ so I believed that it was a special title for anyone who came from Absolute Monarch Sanctuary. But if it’s like you said, then that means Senior Ancient Blue is one of those Twelve Spiritual Masters?” Yun Che asked. His heart began to beat harder and harder... that year in Divine Phoenix City, he had already guessed that Ancient Blue’s status in Absolute Monarch Sanctuary was not low because of the way Feng Hengkong and the others treated him. Even the proud and arrogant Ye Xinghan and eccentric Ji Qianrou acted respectfully in his presence and didn’t dare act rashly. Moreover, Absolute Monarch Sanctuary had shown that they held Xia Yuanba in high regard because of the Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins in his body. In fact, there were even signs that he could possibly become the next Saint Master as his cultivation had always been guided by Ancient Blue and his strength and status were enough.

But now, he knew that the two words “Spiritual Master” in Ancient Blue’s title were actually amazing!

“That’s right, that’s right!” Xia Yuanba quickly nodded, “My master is one of the Twelve Spiritual Masters. He is ranked fifth amongst the twelve.”

“So it was like this.” Yun Che slowly nodded. Not only was Ancient Blue a Spiritual Master of Absolute Monarch Sanctuary, he was ranked fifth...

This was to say, Spiritual Master Ancient Blue was ranked sixth within the entire Absolute Monarch Sanctuary! He was even more frightening than Yun Che had expected.

An odd glow silently appeared in Yun Che’s eyes as he looked back at Spiritual Master Ancient Blue in the distance. He whispered, “Yuanba, I have never asked you before, but just what is your master’s profound cultivation level?”

“Ninth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm,” Xia Yuanba replied without hesitation. Then, he patted his chest as he continued, “In the past, I felt master was extremely powerful, but if I’m given another ten years, I will definitely surpass him, hehehe.”

Spiritual Master Ancient Blue slightly shook his head behind them as he lightly smiled, his face showing a mixed expression of exasperation and pride.

For a master, having a disciple surpass them was a matter of great comfort and even pride. However, after living a thousand years and having reached a profound energy level which was enough to stand at the pinnacle of the world, it had become increasingly difficult for him to accomplish this matter... However, Xia Yuanba, the freak that he was, had only needed a short few years of time to rise from a weakling in the Elementary Profound Realm to where he was today in the Sovereign Profound Realm. Moreover, even now, he still had a rate of growth which shocked even the Saint Emperor.

For Yuanba to surpass Ancient Blue, it might not even take ten years. At that time, he might not have even reached thirty years old.

To be surpassed by a twenty some year old disciple as a thousand year old master, how could he not feel exasperated?

“Your master is actually so powerful. Are the rest of the twelve as strong as your master?” Yun Che asked.

To ask about the inner workings of a force, especially anything relating to how power was structured at the top of a force, was extremely avoided... this was also true for Absolute Monarch Sanctuary and the Four Great Sacred Grounds. However, Xia Yuanba didn’t have any qualms at all about Yun Che so he directly answered without thinking, “The Twelve Spiritual Masters are strictly ordered in terms of strength. The most powerful, Spiritual Master Bitter Pain, Spiritual Master Nine Lamentations, and Spiritual Master Detached Heart, are all mighty and powerful level ten Monarchs!”

“Level ten Monarchs?” A thought congealed in Yun Che’s mind... a level ten Monarch, the peak of the Sovereign Profound Realm and the pinnacle of strength which can be reached by a human atop the Profound Sky Continent!

In the current Illusory Demon Realm, the only person to have reached this level other than Little Demon Empress was Duke Ming!

Yet Absolute Monarch Sanctuary actually had three!

No, adding in the Saint Emperor, they had four!!

“Of the remaining nine Spiritual Masters, there are five ninth level Sovereign Profound Realm practitioners and four late stage eighth level Sovereign Profound Realm practitioners. As for the elders, the strongest is also at the eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm.” Xia Yuanba continued.

“...” Frankly speaking, Absolute Monarch Sanctuary’s strength had far surpassed Yun Che’s expectations and caused great waves in his heart. The terror of a force was absolutely not something which normal people could guess at. If not for Xia Yuanba, even Yun Che wouldn’t have been able to figure out that Absolute Monarch Sanctuary’s strength had reached this point so easily. After thinking a while, Yun Che said, “So you’re saying that in order to be higher than an elder, one has to at least have the strength of

late stage eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm. Also, of this kind of peerlessly powerful practitioner, your Absolute Monarch Sanctuary has twelve, Supreme Ocean Palace has seven, Sun Moon Divine Hall has five, and Mighty Heavenly Sword Region has three... Although Absolute Monarch Sanctuary is far far ahead of the other three sacred grounds in terms of strength, all four grounds are indeed worthy of their title as the Four Great Sacred Grounds.”

“It’s not quite as you think,” Spiritual Master Ancient Blue’s voice emanated over from behind them as he said in a gentle voice, “Spiritual Masters, Venerable Ones, Divine Envoys, and Sword Attendants are respectively the strongest twelve, seven, five, and three people of their sacred ground. However, these four entities are all independent of each other, thus the standard of strength of each entity is different.”

“Among Supreme Ocean Palace’s Seven Venerable Ones, two of them are at the tenth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, and the other five are all at the ninth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm. Great Elder Mo Chenfeng who was brought up earlier is at the late stage eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, and is the strongest practitioner among Supreme Ocean Palace’s forty eight elders.”

“Among Sun Moon Divine Hall’s Divine Envoys, the strongest two are also at the tenth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm. The latter three are all level nine Monarchs. The strength of its most powerful great elder is similar to that of Mo Chenfeng. Just according to the number of top level powerhouses, Sun Moon Divine Hall is weaker than Supreme Ocean Palace.”

“As for the Mighty Heavenly Sword Region... although they have the fewest number of high level Sovereigns, as well as Sovereigns in general, among the Four Great Sacred Grounds, their “Three Sword Attendants” are all at the tenth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm. In terms of strength, they are stronger than Supreme Ocean Palace and Sun Moon Divine Hall, and are equal to my Absolute Monarch Sanctuary.”

“...So it’s like this. I thank Senior Ancient Blue for openly enlightening me,” Yun Che said, turning around.

“Haha,” Spiritual Master Ancient Blue slowly shook his head and then quietly sighed, saying, “It’s rumored that your respected master has already obtained world-defying power. I’m afraid that we are nothing but insignificant clouds floating in the sky.”

“Where are Senior Ancient Blue’s words coming from?” Yun Che casually threw out a random thought as his heart sank a bit.

Within the Four Great Sacred Grounds, there was actually as many as fourteen people who had reached the peak of the Sovereign Profound Realm, and the tenth level at that! Moreover, it was likely that the leaders of the four sacred grounds had also reached the late stage of the tenth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm! They were definitely all no weaker than Duke Ming... if they weren’t already much much stronger in the first place.

As for those at the ninth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, there were more than twenty of them!

Meanwhile, the Twelve Guardian Families in the Illusory Demon Realm, which were comparable to the top forces of the Profound Sky Continent, didn’t have single level ten Monarch! They only had three level nine Monarchs! Within the Yun and Mu families, which he was most familiar with... the Mu Family’s most powerful practitioner was his uncle, Mu Feiyan, who was a level eight Monarch. As for the

Yun Family, which had withered for a century, their strongest practitioner was only at the seventh level of the Sovereign Profound Realm.

Yun Che had long since realized that the Profound Sky Continent's level of profound strength was greater than the Illusory Demon Realm's. This was why the Four Sacred Grounds had been able to pressure the Twelve Guardian Families even within the Illusory Demon Realm and the Twelve Guardian Families didn't dare take a step into the Profound Sky Continent.

These four forces which had legacies of tens of thousands of years and were titled "Sacred Grounds" were truly terrifying existences.

As they came increasingly close to the floating Ocean Palace, Yun Che asked Ancient Blue, "Senior Ancient Blue, I wonder if you have any understandings about the 'Moon Slaughter Devil Nest'?"

"Moon Slaughter Devil Nest? What kind of place is that?" Xia Yuanba leaned over, his face full of curiosity.

"..." A trace of shock flickered across Spiritual Master Ancient Blue's face. It was clear that he was surprised that Yun Che, who had never before come to Supreme Ocean Palace, actually knew this name. He prudently stared at Yun Che for a moment before slowly saying, "You actually know of the 'Moon Slaughter Devil Nest'. In that case, you should also know why Supreme Ocean Palace perennially resides atop this blue ocean. However, outside of that, even I do not know much about the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. To us mortals, that place is an extremely taboo existence. You absolutely must not develop any curiosity towards it."

"Why is that?" Yun Che furrowed his brows.

"Because it has existed for tens of thousands of years, but the enigma behind it still has yet to be unlocked." Spiritual Master Ancient Blue's voice contained traces of seriousness as he continued, "Things which are unknown are often filled with unknown dangers. The longer an enigma remains unsolved, the more likely the dangers within are greater. This name 'Moon Slaughter Devil Nest', you should treat it as a false legend. Don't try to get to the bottom of it... don't even go close to it so as to avoid going beyond redemption."

By the time Spiritual Master Ancient Blue finished speaking, Supreme Ocean Palace was already right in front of their eyes. He suddenly flailed his whisk, and immediately, a gentle wind surged from below, causing the four of them to quickly float forward, "We've arrived... let's go in."

As their bodies passed through a layer of light blue colored profound light, Yun Che brought along Feng Xue'er and gently descended atop the floating isle atop the blue ocean.

The very moment they entered Supreme Ocean Palace, the atmosphere surrounding them completely changed. Not the slightest trace of the ocean's scent could be smelled, and the ocean breeze had completely disappeared... It was as if they had suddenly left an ocean world and entered into an independent, completely different world.

Below their feet were great numbers of profound jade, each of which released a faint, cold light. They were all priceless. Looking out into the distance, towers, halls, and courtyards of varying sizes mixed

with a widespread amount of flourishing flora. Moreover, an unbelievably dense profound energy, which was filled with several times more vitality than usual, enshrouded the entire ocean palace.

This place was completely unlike an island, and even less like a “palace”. Instead, it was a magnificently luxurious city in the air!

“Such dense profound energy.” Jasmine’s voice transmitted into Yun Che’s mind, “Almost all of the Profound Sky Continent’s Monarchs have gathered here. It is really interesting.”

Yun Che, “...”

As the group of four expressed their astonishment towards the floating city, another figure appeared in the sky. In the blink of an eye, the figure arrived in front of them.

The figure was a pale white, short and fat old practitioner with a respectful expression. His speed was shockingly fast that not even Yun Che knew when he appeared in front of them.

The white old practitioner cupped his hands towards Spiritual Master Ancient Blue, a faint smile appearing on his face as he said, “So it was Spiritual Master Ancient Blue. Shu Chenfeng is busy with various tasks, so he is unable to welcome you.”

“Old Mo, it’s been a long time.” Spiritual Master Ancient Blue lightly chuckled and nodded his head.

“This person should be Supreme Ocean Palace’s Great Elder Mo Chenfeng,” Xia Yuanba whispered by Yun Che’s ear.

Mo Chenfeng then turned to looked at Xia Yuanba. His face suddenly showed shock, “Now that I think of it, this fellow should be the famous one who has shocked the world with his Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins, Xia Yuanba, right? To have such a level of cultivation at such a young age, you are truly an unmatched divine figure who causes people to lament. The Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins have been recorded to have appeared several times on the Profound Sky Continent, but none of them have ever been taken as disciples. For Absolute Monarch Sanctuary to have been able to accept you, it is truly enviable.”

“Hoho,” Spiritual Master Ancient Blue lightly chuckled, but didn’t express an opinion.

Mo Chenfeng’s eyes then landed on Feng Xue’er’s figure. Right when he was about to open his mouth, his entire body suddenly quivered and his pupils fiercely contracted.

As even Spiritual Master Ancient Blue, with his thousand years of experiences, had been astonished upon seeing Feng Xue’er earlier, how could Mo Chenfeng fare any better?

Just now, Mo Chenfeng had showered Xia Yuanba in praise, calling him an “unmatched divine figure who caused people to lament.” However, the moment his spirit touched Feng Xue’er, he realized that she was even younger than Xia Yuanba, yet her profound strength had actually reached the eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm.

She was at the same level of strength as himself, the Great Elder of Supreme Ocean Palace!

“Young lady... could you perhaps be Divine Phoenix Sect’s Princess Snow?” Mo Chenfeng asked, his voice cracking in a very obvious manner. As he questioned Feng Xue’er, his pair of hands subconsciously

cupped together... as Supreme Ocean Palace's Great Elder, he had a large amount of presence even in the Four Great Sacred Grounds. Thus, those who were qualified to be saluted by him within the Profound Sky Continent were quite rare, yet facing Feng Xue'er, he subconsciously entered a respectful state.

This was the respect shown to powerful practitioners by other profound practitioners. Although the two were both at the eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, his age was a full fifty times Feng Xue'er's age! Just because of this fact, he simply didn't consider his cultivation to be on the same level as Feng Xue'er's. There was a world of difference between them.

"Junior Feng Xue'er greets Great Elder Mo." Feng Xue'er politely saluted.

Mo Chenfeng opened his mouth, but was unable to reply for the moment. Then, he suddenly realized that if this abnormally powerful girl was Feng Xue'er, the person beside her should be...

"Then... this young friend, are you Blue Wind Empire's Frozen Cloud Asgard Master Yun Che?" Mo Chenfeng asked Yun Che, turning to face him. When the four of them had first arrived, he had only paid attention to Spiritual Master Ancient Blue's aura. He had never thought that Yun Che, the person he had waited for so long for would arrive together with Spiritual Master Ancient Blue.

"This junior is indeed Yun Che, I greet Great Elder Mo." Yun Che slightly nodded his head.

"..." Mo Chenfeng quietly took a big breath, then sighed and said, "Blue Wind Empire's Frozen Cloud Asgard Master Yun, Divine Phoenix Sect's Princess Snow, Absolute Monarch Sanctuary's Xia Yuanba, you three are the three most stunning figures in the young generation. For you all to have arrived at the same time, it has really surprised me."

"Just now, I was quite rude, please enter!"

Under Mo Chenfeng's personal guidance, the four walked into the ocean palace. Mo Chenfeng's gaze constantly swept across the three youths as he incessantly sighed in his heart, "Of these three, one belongs to the Blue Wind Empire, one belongs to Divine Phoenix Sect. As for the latter, Xia Yuanba, it's uncertain if his birthplace is Absolute Monarch Sanctuary."

"Could the era of the Four Great Sacred Grounds... actually be about to meet its end?"

As thoughts flashed through his mind, he ended up with the same thought Ancient Blue had when he saw the three together.

Mo Chenfeng took out a light blue jade stone and his lips slightly moved. Clearly, he was sending a message to someone far away.

"Old Mo, the profound energy within the ocean palace is so thick, it's something I've never experienced before. Although there are still several days till the Sword Conference begins, many of the invited have already arrived, right?" asked Spiritual Master Ancient Blue.

Mo Chenfeng slowly nodded his head, "You're right. It seems many profound practitioners are fascinated by the secrets of the 'Devil Sword'."

Yun Che silently sneered... Your Four Great Sacred Grounds are most fascinating! As for the other forces... Heh, who would have the courage to dare to refuse the "invitation" of the Four Sacred Grounds.

Mo Chenfeng turned and said to Feng Xue'er, "Princess Snow, Divine Phoenix Sect sent your respected father over this time, and he has been here for several days already. He is currently residing in the Flame Heart Palace in front of us. I wonder... ha ha, I wonder if Princess Snow wants to also reside in Flame Heart Palace, or if she wants to reside with little friend Yun?"

"I definitely want to live together with Big Brother Yun." Feng Xue'er replied without hesitation... moreover, she clearly didn't realize any of the implications. This was because she wasn't the slightest bit interested in the Devil Sword Conference. Her reason for coming here with Yun Che this time was to protect him, and naturally to live together with him.

"Then, it shall be as Princess Snow wishes." Mo Chenfeng nodded. At this time, the blue jadestone in his hand shimmered, causing him to stop in his steps and turn towards Yun Che, "Little friend Yun, the Sovereign of the Seas told me a few days ago to notify her of your arrival right away. Just now, upon learning of your arrival ocean palace, the sovereign immediately dropped all the matters currently at hand and requested that I bring you over, no matter how."

"The Sovereign of the Seas is already waiting for us at the Ocean Imperial Palace in front of us. Before going to your residence, please come meet the Sovereign of the Seas with me."

"My pleasure." Yun Che naturally had no reason to decline.

For him to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, he first had to gain the agreement of Supreme Ocean Palace's Sovereign of the Seas.

Chapter 769 - Ocean Palace's Sacred Master

"Lan Zi, Lan Shen, bring these two esteemed guests from Absolute Monarch Sanctuary to Divine Ocean Palace. Also, make sure you personally accommodate them, they must not be neglected."

Heeding Mo Chenfeng's summons, two female ocean palace disciples approached and deeply bowed, "As you wish, Great Elder... two esteemed guests, this way please."

"Why does the Sovereign of the Seas want to meet my brother-in-law?" Amidst Xia Yuanba's curiosity, there was also a trace of apprehension... after all the Sovereign of the Seas was the leader of one of the Four Great Sacred Grounds of Profound Sky Continent. She was someone who was on the same level as the Saint Emperor!

"Since the Sovereign of the Seas personally summoned him, you shouldn't ask too much." Spiritual Master Ancient Blue grabbed Xia Yuanba's shoulders, continuing, "Relax, nothing bad will happen to him. It's even less likely he will encounter any danger." He then turned his eyes away to gaze profoundly at Yun Che, "To get the Sovereign of the Seas to want to meet him so badly... and he's a junior at that. This must be a first in the history of the Ocean Palace."

"Brother-in-law, then... then I will leave first to go to the Saint Emperor's side. You must make sure to stay safe. If anything happens, you must notify me as soon as possible."

As he said those words, Xia Yuanba was half dragged away by Spiritual Master Ancient Blue.

"Hoho, I heard long ago that Asgard Master Yun's relationship with Xia Yuanba was very good, even better than blood relatives though you are not. It seems it is indeed true." Mo Chenfeng said with a light

chuckle. However, his mind had been suddenly thrown into disarray... in the future, these two would both become figures who would shake the world, yet their relationship was like that of true blood brothers. For the sacred grounds, which had ruled the world for ten thousand years, this was definitely not a good thing.

“Princess Snow, Ocean Imperial Palace is the most sacred ground of my ocean palace. Without being invited by the Sovereign of the Seas, no one can enter. Just now, the Sovereign of the Seas only allowed this old one to bring Asgard Master Yun in. Currently, this old one is arranging for several disciples to bring Princess Snow to her residence, is that alright? Princess Snow, if you want, you may go meet your family in Flame Heart Palace first.”

Mo Chenfeng’s mind was set, but facing Feng Xue’er, he couldn’t help but subconsciously show a respectful attitude. Feng Xue’er’s profound strength was just too shocking.

“I don’t want to.” Feng Xue’er shook her head as both hands grabbed onto Yun Che’s arm with no intention of letting go, “If I cannot go in, then I will just wait outside for Big Brother Yun.”

“That is also fine,” Mo Chenfeng nodded, but his heart had tightened fiercely just now.

This Yun Che, just what kind of monster was he... his own talent was already terrifying, and he had a heaven defying master behind him as well. Moreover, of the two most talented and shocking figures among the young generation, one held him as a relative while the other had deep feelings for him...

Currently, the three of them were all around twenty years of age, which made it all the more shocking. If they were given another hundred years... no, with their rate of growth, they wouldn’t even need a hundred years. By that time, even the Four Great Sacred Grounds would all need to bow before them.

Mo Chenfeng secretly took a deep breath, then out walked in front, “Please follow me.”

As they walked further into the depths of Supreme Ocean Palace, the profound energy became increasingly thicker. Currently almost all of the high level experts of Profound Sky Continent had congregated within Supreme Ocean Palace, yet the entire ocean palace was extremely quiet. There was no clamor. In fact, during their whole journey, they hadn’t met any practitioners outside of the stationed ocean palace disciples.

This wasn’t a surprise at all to Yun Che. In the past, the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament and Seven Nation Ranking Tournament had all been extremely boisterous due to the crowding together of so many practitioners but there was one difference between those tournaments and this conference... this one was in Supreme Ocean Palace! It was held in one of the places considered sacred in the hearts of profound practitioners! Other than the other three sacred grounds, the forces which had come after receiving invitations were too overwhelmed with with honor and fear to act otherwise. To set foot in a legendary sacred ground, each step was startling and uneasy. Even if one had great courage, they would still only quietly live in the residence arranged for them. One would absolutely never dare to raucously run around.

The profound practitioners who were able to be invited were all renowned powerful experts and hegemony. However, upon arriving at Supreme Ocean Palace, they were all like civilians who had entered a royal palace. The atmosphere made them too timid to even breathe heavily.

As they walked, Mo Chenfeng no longer spoke with Yun Che. Instead, his footsteps became faster and faster. However, Yun Che and Feng Xue'er effortlessly kept up. At this time, a vague figure appeared in Yun Che's vision.

This person was roughly three feet tall and was completely clad in pitch-black clothes. Furthermore, they also wore a dilapidated cloak which was too large for them, the upper part covering their entire face while the lower part dragged along the ground beside their feet.

This was the very first profound practitioner Yun Che had seen after entering Supreme Ocean Palace who wasn't associated with the ocean palace. He was certain because the aura emanating off this person's body was completely different from the ones emanating off the bodies of the ocean palace disciples he had met earlier. Moreover, the person's profound energy aura was only at the third level of the Emperor Profound Realm.

This person walked across the faintly flashing blue ground at a pace that wasn't fast or slow, making it hard to immediately discern if it was truly a person walking regardless of the angle. Within the quiet, open ocean palace that contained profound energy so thick it had become heavy, this figure's existence was particularly eye-catching... even though the figure was so far away, one could still feel an extremely strange aura emanating off of them.

Seeing this person, Yun Che's footsteps momentarily paused as his brows furrowed.

Such a heavy poisonous aura! Under the person's black clothes, there had to be at least two hundred or more powerful toxins hidden!

Moreover, that aura... could it be the Poison Emperor?!

Having seen Yun Che's reaction, Mo Chenfeng turned his head and asked, "Has Asgard Master Yun perhaps met that person before?"

"I have not." Yun Che shook his head, retracting his gaze from atop the figure of the short person covered in black clothes, "I was only curious. I heard that this Devil Sword Conference only invited Overlord and Sovereign level practitioners, yet that person's profound strength is only at the third level of the Emperor Profound Realm and they were still invited. Furthermore, based on their appearance and indiscreet behavior in Supreme Ocean Palace... I believe that they should be quite an unusual figure."

"That person is indeed unusual." Mo Chenfeng whispered, "He comes from Black Fiend Nation. Although his profound strength is only at the Emperor Profound Realm, he is as strong as an Overlord if not as strong as a Sovereign. Facing him, many would quickly retreat to avoid conflict as this person is quite infamous in Black Fiend Nation, where he is fearfully compared to a viper. Perhaps Asgard Master Yun too will have heard of his name."

"Toxin Immortal!"

"Oh..." Yun Che let out an exclamation. This was the first time he had heard this name.

"I've heard this name before from my royal father." Feng Xue'er opened her mouth and said, "In the past, royal father once told me about the most terrifying figures within the Profound Sky Continent, he mentioned the 'Toxin Immortal' and said that this person was the most powerful poison user within the

Profound Sky Continent... especially his personally crafted poisons. Upon being poisoned, there is no one who can save you from them.”

“Right.” Mo Chenfeng nodded. Although he was the Great Elder of Supreme Ocean Palace, even he still knew of this person, showing just how terrifying this person was, “He has countless enemies including several Overlords and Sovereigns yet he has still survived to this day with his level of profound strength. Clearly the strength of his poisons is no small matter. However, this fellow wasn’t invited by my ocean palace.”

“Oh?” Yun Che perplexedly asked.

“He was invited by Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. They intend to borrow his ability for some matter or another. Perhaps we will find out when the Devil Sword Conference begins.”

“We have reached Ocean Imperial Palace.” Mo Chenfeng stopped and turned around, “Princess Snow, I will trouble you to wait here. Asgard Master Yun, please follow me.”

“Big Brother Yun, I will wait for you here... you must be careful,” Feng Xue’er gently said, stopping.

“Relax, I’ll be back before you know it.”

Ocean Imperial Palace was situated in the exact center of Supreme Ocean Palace. In a sense, it was the core of the entire ocean palace and was a symbol of the palace’s ten thousand years of prestige and glory.

The appearance of the Ocean Imperial Palace was not much different from all of the other palace halls Yun Che had passed during his walk here. However, the moment he entered the vicinity of Ocean Imperial Palace, his mind and senses simultaneously became unsettled... in that instant, he felt as if he had left the mortal world and stepped into a heavenly palace. A deep feeling of reverence spontaneously emerged within the depths of his heart, causing him to suddenly feel the desire to kneel in worship. His originally extremely perceptive spiritual sense became hazy as even his vision began to blur.

Yun Che’s dazed state was only for a very brief moment while he was in shock. Afterwards, he quickly concentrated his mind. Because of his body’s Dragon God Soul, his soul power had reached an extremely high level. Thus, his five senses were quickly restored to their normal states.

“Below this Ocean Imperial Palace, there is indeed a strange profound formation. If one’s profound strength or soul power isn’t enough, I’m afraid one would fall to their knees upon entering,” Jasmine suddenly said in a cold tone.

Arriving at the door to the Ocean Imperial Palace, Mo Chenfeng turned around and looked at Yun Che, only to discover that Yun Che’s eyes were both clear. Moreover, his demeanor was still composed, and his footsteps were still smooth. Not the slightest trace of fear or anxiety was apparent on his face. He was instead leisurely appreciating the surrounding scenery.

An expression of deep shock flashed through Mo Chenfeng’s pupils. The entire Ocean Imperial Palace was enveloped within a giant profound formation. Furthermore, this giant profound formation, called the “Oceanus Shroud Formation,” was the most powerful profound formation within Supreme Ocean Palace. Upon entering the formation, one would become subject to extreme pressure as if one was

facing a true god. Those under the level of Sovereign would feel their bodies become weak upon entering the formation and begin to shiver. Those under the level of Overlord would immediately collapse to the ground and kneel, becoming completely incapable of walking.

Even Mo Chenfeng himself, eighth level Sovereign that he was, would feel his heart continuously palpitate in fear every time he entered Ocean Imperial Palace.

He had originally believed that Yun Che, even with his own abnormal talent, would at least experience unsteady steps, a pale face, and cold sweats upon entering the "Oceanus Shroud Formation" for the first time without preparation... he had never thought that Yun Che's face would be so leisurely and composed, as if he weren't affected at all by the "Oceanus Shroud Formation."

Just... just how could this be? Could Yun Che's mental strength actually be higher than his own?

Mo Chenfeng thought in shock.

The great doors were pushed open, and the two entered with Mo Chenfeng lowering his head as he entered. After taking three steps, Mo Chenfeng had already stooped down in a bow, "Reporting to the Sovereign of the Seas, Blue Wind Empire's Asgard Master Yun Che has been brought over."

After Mo Chenfeng entered the Ocean Imperial Palace, he had constantly kept his head down. Yun Che then immediately moved towards the figure in the middle of the giant palace.

The Sovereign of the Seas stood there with their back facing them. Their figure was exquisitely slender, and they wore a long palace robe which was sparkling with a blue glow. The highest collar of their robe directly reached their hair which was in the shape of a top knot.

This back figure caused Yun Che to momentarily stop in astonishment.

A... female?

The Sovereign of the Seas was a... woman?

"You may withdraw."

The Sovereign of the Seas spoke. Their voice was like that of a middle aged woman's, very gentle, but each word was like a heaven shaking bell, majestic and full of power.

"Yes." Mo Chenfeng withdrew and closed the great doors of the Ocean Imperial Palace.

"Junior Yun Che greets Senior Sovereign." Yun Che took a step forward and respectfully saluted as he acted in a dignified manner. After all, the person in front of him was the leader of one sacred grounds which had lorded over the Profound Sky Continent for ten thousand years! She was one of the peerlessly strong practitioners who stood at the peak of the Profound Sky Continent, and was the first leader of a sacred ground that Yun Che had met!

Only, Yun Che had never imagined that the Sovereign of the Seas, one of the four sacred masters, would actually be a female!

The Sovereign of the Seas slowly turned around, exposing her true appearance to Yun Che. She had the appearance of a middle aged woman, but without the slightest trace of femininity. Instead, each contour contained an extremely solemn dignity and sharpness.

Her eyes were extremely clear, and her pupils were as profound as the ocean. Within her eyes, there was a trace of emotion trickling around. The awkward oppressive silence lasted for a full ten breaths before she finally spoke. She slowly nodded, "Seeing is indeed better than hearing from others. Even while standing in front of this sovereign within the 'Oceanus Shroud Formation,' your eyes are still as clear as a mirror, your heart still as sturdy as a rock. This sovereign had always believed that the rumors surrounding you were over exaggerated, but meeting you now, you are even better than the rumors! No wonder 'that person' has such a high opinion of you."

Yun Che didn't bother asking who the 'person' she spoke about was, and instead faintly smiled as he replied, "This junior doesn't dare receive the Sovereign of the Seas' praise. This junior only came to Supreme Ocean Palace to participate in the Devil Sword Conference and enter Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. I wish for Senior Sovereign's consent."

"Asgard Master Yun is truly straightforward." The Sovereign of the Seas' eyes furrowed as she slowly walked forward. Every step closer she got, the stronger the pressure enveloping Yun Che's body became. "This sovereign had wished to converse with you for quite a while, but it seems like Asgard Master Yun has no interest in this."

"To be able to meet Senior Sovereign is already this junior's greatest fortune. Senior is the leader of Supreme Ocean Palace, and is a powerful overlord under the heavens. Each breath of your time is as valuable as ten thousand jin of gold. How could this junior dare delay you?" Yun Che replied in a manner which was neither humble nor arrogant.

"Is that so?" The Sovereign of the Seas reached a point three steps in front of Yun Che and stopped. She was impressively half a head taller than Yun Che. "The reason for why you want to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is already known by this sovereign. However, this sovereign is very curious about why you are willing to pay such a cost to pick a Netherworld Udumbara Flower. From what this sovereign knows, the Netherworld Udumbara Flower is an extremely evil and vile thing. Even if a Sovereign nears it, just a simple mental attack will result in death. Outside of using it for murder in a traceless manner, I've never heard of any other uses for it."

Without the slightest bit of hesitation, Yun Che sincerely said, "The Netherworld Udumbara Flower is needed by my master. Truthfully, this matter should not have been told to others, but since it's requested by Senior Sovereign, this junior will naturally tell."

The Netherworld Udumbara Flower was something Jasmine needed, and Jasmine was indeed his master. Thus his words were justified and true. There was no way for the Sovereign of the Seas to find any trace of lies.

"Your master?" The Sovereign of the Seas' eyes narrowed, "This sovereign heard that your respected master has heaven defying abilities, an ability to turn a Sovereign to ashes just by flicking his fingers. Since it's something your master needs, why doesn't he come pick it himself? I trust with your respected master's ability, there is no where in this world he cannot go."

“It’s because the task of picking this Netherworld Udumbara Flower was given to this junior by my master as a test.” Yun Che chuckled and said, “Since master has ordered it, this junior must try to complete it at all costs. These last few years, this junior has constantly been inquiring about this matter concerning the Netherworld Udumbara Flower and has finally been fortunate enough to learn that they have appeared before within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. Thus, this junior has to go in and search no matter what... this junior beseeches senior to agree.”

“So it’s like this.” The Sovereign of the Seas slowly nodded. However, the fluctuations in her eyes were still there, as if she still wasn’t sure whether to believe him or not. “While we are on this topic, where is your respected master currently? This sovereign wonders if she could have the opportunity to meet him?”

“Master has long since been a person who doesn’t care about the mortal world. He already almost never sets foot into the mortal world as he doesn’t want to be bound by any responsibilities. Thus, although this junior is his disciple, I don’t know where my master is currently nor where he will go next. Only when this junior cannot help but beg will his master reveal himself.” Yun Che repeated again the same words he had previously said to Spiritual Master Ancient Blue.

His fictional master “Old Man Duotian” had been completely accepted by the Four Great Sacred Grounds, acting as a great deterrent against them for him. Since this “master” was of great use, he would naturally do his best to maintain it.

“That is indeed unfortunate,” the Sovereign of the Seas casually replied. Suddenly she changed the topic, “Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is the most taboo place of my Supreme Ocean Palace. We don’t allow any outsiders to enter. However, Moon Slaughter Devil Nest hasn’t been opened for the last thousand and three hundred years, and it is about time for this sovereign to arrange for people to enter and check for any abnormal changes. Moreover, considering how my ocean palace has already received ten of your ‘Six Flavor Emperor Pellets’, wouldn’t it make my ocean palace’s words worthless if I rejected you?”

Yun Che’s eyes stared blankly... what? Six Flavor Emperor Pellet? What the hell was that?!

Could it refer to... the Overlord Pellet?

Holy shit! Just what kind of crappy name did Zi Ji come up with?!

Moreover... from the Sovereign of the Seas’ words just now, she had just taken initiative to completely expose the ocean palace’s relationship with Black Moon Merchant Guild!

“Thank you for your consent!” Yun Che joyously said.

“Don’t get happy too early,” the Sovereign of the Seas coldly said, “Moon Slaughter Devil Nest’s seal can only be opened once every five hundred years. Moreover, each time it is open, it is only for the extremely short period of a hundred breaths! After a hundred breaths, the passage will forcefully close and become sealed for another five hundred years. Even my Supreme Ocean Palace has no way of forcing it to open before then. This is to prevent any yin energy from leaking out into the Profound Sky Continent. As for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower, it only blooms once every twenty four years and wilts three days after blooming. For you to find a blooming Netherworld Udumbara Flower in the time of a hundred breaths is pretty much impossible. That’s not to mention the fact that we are unsure

whether or not there are still Netherworld Udumbara Flowers existing in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest.”

“Thus, just forget about entering the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. Even if you enter, it will just be a wasted trip.”

“This junior already knows this. However, junior still hopes that senior will allow him to try,” Yun Che said without hesitation.

“Since you are so persistent... this sovereign will allow you to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. When do you want to enter?” the Sovereign of the Seas asked.

“The earlier the better!” Yun Che said after thinking for a while, “If possible, I would like to enter today.”

“Alright!” Sovereign of the Seas slowly nodded her head, “Since it’s like this, this sovereign will help you! I will arrange for someone to bring you to the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest right now!”

Chapter 770 - A Bad Bargain

“Right now?” Yun Che asked in daze. He had never thought that the Sovereign of the Seas would be a woman, and he had not expected that she would be so honest and frank regarding the huge matter of Supreme Ocean Palace’s forbidden grounds.

“The Devil Sword Conference will commence in three days. In order to prepare the profound formation that will be used during this conference, this sovereign will be even busier than usual for the next few days, and I won’t have time to worry about anything else. So if we can resolve this matter at an earlier date, this sovereign will be able to avoid a potential headache. What do you think about this arrangement?” The Sovereign of the Seas said, her face a rigid mask.

Yun Che thought about it briefly before giving an assertive nod of his head, “Great! Then let’s begin now!”

“Very good!” The Sovereign of the Seas said, after which she glanced to the side before continuing, “Zi Ji, I will task with you personally escorting Yun Che to the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest! You can embark immediately!”

“Hohoho.” A mild laugh rang out as a door on the left side of the Ocean Imperial Palace gently opened and a elegant, middle-aged man who was wearing a purple robe emerged from within. The man’s face bore a faint smile as he spoke, “Yun Che, it has only been a few short months since we last met, yet your profound strength has grown by leaps and bounds once again. This rate of growth is truly breathtaking.”

“As expected, Senior Zi is a member of Supreme Ocean Palace.” Yun Che replied, a faint smile plastered on his face, he was not the least bit surprised at Zi Ji’s sudden appearance.

Zi Ji gently nodded his head, “Given your intelligence and powers of observation, it was expected that you would have long ago come to this conclusion. It is fortunate that the Sovereign of the Seas was agreeable when it came to the matter of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, because I, Zi Ji, also owe you a personal favor over the matter of the ten medicine pellets. With this, we can consider our debt settled. Also, the request that you made the last time we met has already been completed, and I trust that you will not be disappointed with the results.”

After Zi Ji had finished speaking, he gave a flourish of his hand. Profound light flashed as two ebony wooden boxes appeared in his hands. Even though he did not know what was within the wooden boxes, but the thick and heavy aura that it released was evidence enough that these two boxes were definitely extraordinary items.

“Could this be two profound cores?” Yun Che immediately asked as his gaze grew more intense, “But I am unclear as to whether it is the profound core of a Tyrant Profound beast or a Sovereign Profound beast.”

“You will know once you’ve taken a look.” Zi Ji said with a placid smile.

Yun Che strode forward and took both the wooden boxes from Zi Ji’s hands. Instead of opening the boxes, he sent two streams of profound energy into them. Immediately, his profound energy came into contact with two incomparably strong profound energy auras that were at the level of the Sovereign Profound Realm.

Much to his astonishment, the two wooden boxes contained the profound cores of two Sovereign Profound beasts.

This is great... Yun Che thought before he kept both of the wooden boxes, “Senior Zi is indeed a man of remarkable abilities. Just as we had agreed upon that day, you have delivered two precious cores to me.”

Yun Che’s flicked a finger towards Zi Ji as he tossed two Overlord Pellets to him. Zi Ji extended a hand to catch them and he handled the two pellets with great care as he withdrew them. His face glowed with satisfaction as he replied, “Sovereign Profound beasts are extremely hard to find, and they are even harder to hunt. In order to obtain the profound cores of these two profound beasts, my Ocean Palace had to exert themselves greatly. But since the payoff was two of these matchless and wondrous pellets, it was more than worth it.”

The Sovereign of the Seas shot Zi Ji a glance before speaking, “Yun Che, I heard the rumors about your master ‘Old Man Duotian’ from Sun Moon Divine Hall. Even though the actions of Sun Moon Divine Hall clearly demonstrated their great fear of your teacher, this sovereign still remained mostly skeptical about the entire affair. But now that I have seen this peerless, precious medicine that your master can produce easily with a flick of finger, this sovereign cannot help but bow to the truth that was demonstrated by such skill. Even if we poured all of our resources and effort into such an endeavor, my Ocean Palace would not be able to refine this medicine.”

“You do not need to worry. Zi Ji has only advised me on the truth behind this precious medicine. In this world, only the three of us know about it, there definitely won’t be a fourth person.” The Sovereign of the Seas said, her face expressionless and her eyes cold and tranquil as a lake.

“This junior naturally will not dare to doubt the words of the Sovereign of the Seas.” Yun Che replied.

“Zi Ji has also mentioned this to me. Several months ago, you requested that the Black Moon Merchant Guild help you auction off twenty of these precious pellets, and after that, you swore that you would not sell any more of these pellets to the Four Great Sacred Grounds. Is that truly the case?”

“Of course it is.” Yun Che replied as he nodded his head unhesitantly, “No matter how precious something is, if it is easily available, it won’t be worth much. If not for the fact that this junior required a large amount of Purple Veined Divine Crystal within a short amount of time, I would definitely not choose to sell this medicine at all.”

“That would be most ideal.” The Sovereign of the Seas said as she nodded her head solemnly. Once the twenty Overlord Pellets that came from Yun Che were revealed to the whole world, it would definitely cause a great stir. The other three Sacred Grounds would spare no expense in obtaining as many of them as they possibly could. But in the end, the most likely outcome was that all four Sacred Grounds would split the twenty pellets evenly. Anyone who was not a Sacred Ground could forget about obtaining even one pellet.

So, in the end, Supreme Ocean Palace would appear to have five of the pellets, but the fact of the matter was that they would have seventeen of them! And the price they had to pay merely amounted to a measly ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal and granting Yun Che permission to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest once. These extra twelve Overlord Pellets could not be used publicly in the short term, but once a generation had passed, the peak of the Supreme Ocean Palace’s power would definitely far exceed its current lofty heights, and they might even be able to surpass Absolute Monarch Sanctuary!

“This Devil Sword Conference will cause all the heroes of the realm to gather together, so it will be an excellent time to hold an auction. After the Devil Sword Conference ends, this sovereign will naturally get Zi Ji to make the necessary arrangements.” The Sovereign of the Seas raised a long sleeve as she flipped her hand, and a piece of precious jade that emitted an ethereal blue light floated on top of her palm. She gently pushed the precious jade towards Zi Ji, “This is our Supreme Ocean Palace’s Ocean Emperor Seal, the emblem of the Sovereign of the Seas. It is also the only object that can release the restriction placed on the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. Zi Ji, take it and bring Yun Che to the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest right away. And once the matter has been resolved, come back as fast as you can!”

Zi Ji did not say a word. He merely gave a faint nod of his head as he gripped the Ocean Emperor Seal tightly in his hand.

Yun Che’s expression had not changed this entire time, but he had been secretly observing the expressions and body language of both the Sovereign of the Seas and Zi Ji.... As the ruler of the Ocean Palace, even the extremely exalted great elder Mo Chenfeng still held her in great reverence. But when Zi Ji interacted with the Sovereign of the Seas, his attitude was nearly the same as it had been when he was talking terms with Yun Che, there was hardly any fear or reverence when he spoke to her. When the Sovereign of the Seas had given Zi Ji an order, her tone was far less intimidating and imposing than when she was ordering Mo Chenfeng around... Furthermore, it seemed that this softened attitude was something that she was completely unaware of.

The relationship between Zi Ji and the Sovereign of the Seas... definitely seemed to be rather special.

A thought flashed through Yun Che’s mind, causing his eyebrows to twitch. He swiftly seized the opportunity to speak, “Sovereign of the Seas, Senior Zi, regarding the auctioning of these precious pellets, this junior has thought of a new trade and perhaps, it might be of great interest to the both of you.”

“Oh?” The Sovereign of the Seas said, her eyes slanting. But Zi Ji’s expression lit up with expectation and he replied merrily, “What kind of trade do you have in mind?”

Yun Che proceeded to explain in an unhurried manner, “The last time we spoke of this at the Black Moon Merchant Guild, Senior Zi said that one of these precious pellets could be sold for at least one kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal. After that, Senior Zi did not even hesitate to produce ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal and even tell me about the secret of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, all so he could purchase ten pellets from me immediately. So it is very clear that Senior Zi regards the price of one kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal as a very conservative estimate, and the actual price of one pellet when the time comes for it be auctioned will definitely be far higher than this.”

“Hohoho.” Zi Ji gave a tepid laugh and allowed Yun Che to continue. Even though he held an extremely exalted position within one of the Sacred Grounds of the profound world, when he dealt with profound practitioners, he would always rather identify himself as a merchant. And a merchant would definitely never easily reveal his “true valuation” of an item. Once he had found out about the effects of the Overlord Pellet, he was entirely sure that the price of one pellet would definitely not only be one kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal... especially if they were talking about the Sacred Grounds, it was definitely not going to be as low as that.

The Sacred Grounds would never have enough of resources that could directly increase their power, so a medicinal pellet like the Overlord Pellet that could forcibly break through high-level bottlenecks was an item that the Sacred Grounds yearned for even in their dreams.

Yun Che reached into the Sky Poison Pearl and took out twenty Overlord Pellets. The rich, thick and intense aura of medicine instantly pervaded the entire Ocean Imperial Palace, causing the atmosphere within the Ocean Imperial Palace to change precipitously, despite being enveloped by an extremely strong profound formation.

The gazes of Zi Ji and the Sovereign of the Seas fell on the twenty Overlord Pellets simultaneously... and even though she was the Sovereign of the Seas, she could not help but be shaken when confronted with a medicinal aura that she acknowledged as being able to shake the heavens and the earth.

“Originally, my desire was to hand over twenty of these precious pellets to Senior Zi so he could auction them off. But now, I have changed my mind.”

“Oh? Could it be that you decided not to sell them?” Zi Ji asked.

“No! I have only decided to change the way they are going to be sold.” Yun Che made a gesture with his arm, but he did not withdraw these twenty Overlord Pellets. Instead he continued speaking with an extremely sincere expression, “I decided that I would rather sell these twenty Overlord Pellets for twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals directly to the Supreme Ocean Palace before I venture into the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. After that, whatever you get from auctioning off these twenty precious pellets will all belong to you, it will have nothing to do with me!”

“...” The Sovereign of the Seas’ and Zi Ji’s eyebrows very clearly twitched at those words.

“Why have you come to this decision?” Zi Ji asked in a composed manner, “If you auctioned these pellets to the Four Sacred Grounds, their price will definitely not only be twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal. I can frankly and honestly tell you that the price of one kilogram for one pellet is

indeed the most conservative estimate. And for medicine that would allow a person to break through the bottleneck of the Tyrant Profound Realm, even if it was one and a half kilograms for one pellet, the Four Sacred Grounds would still fight tooth and nail with each other to obtain these pellets.”

“I know.” Yun Che said with a bland smile, “If not, given Senior Zi’s mental state which is akin to a thousand year old dead tree, he would not have been so anxious to buy ten of these pellets.”

Zi Ji, “...”

“I am not a greedy person.” Yun Che continued, “And the price of one kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal for one pellet had already exceeded my initial expectations. Even though the price I could fetch for twenty of these precious pellets through an auction is far higher than twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal, this amount already satisfies my requirements, and I have no real need for any more than that. For me, if I can obtain this amount early on, it would give me greater peace of mind.”

Zi Ji fell silent for a brief period of time before replying, “In another three days, the Devil Sword Conference will commence. Once the Devil Sword Conference ends, I will personally arrange for an auction to be held before all the heroes of the realm depart. Added altogether, this should take place in a mere four to five days. At that time, the price you can get from the auction will at least surpass twenty five kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal! But for the sake of getting these Divine Crystals a few days earlier, you are willing to forego at least five to ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals!?”

“Yes!” Yun Che said as he nodded his head, “Of course, this is just my own personal desire. If the Sovereign of the Seas and Senior Zi are not amenable to this suggestion, then I won’t try to force the issue.”

Zi Ji and the Sovereign of the Seas exchanged a glance before he replied with a wide smile, “How could our Ocean Palace miss out on this great opportunity? If you are truly willing to do as you said... Sovereign of the Seas, we will need to use a part of those Divine Crystals.”

“Indeed, we must.” The Sovereign of the Seas said with a faint nod as she gazed into Yun Che’s eyes before replying, “Purple Veined Divine Crystals are the most valuable and rare resources in the entire Profound Sky Continent! And it is extremely hard for anyone to be able to use twenty kilograms of it in a single transaction.”

“Oh?” Yun Che said as he raised his eyebrows, “The Four Great Sacred Grounds definitely have resources that are far more vast than the common man can imagine. Moreover, the Supreme Ocean Palace also has the support of the Black Moon Merchant Guild. While twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal is an astronomical sum to the other powers, for your Supreme Ocean Palace, it shouldn’t be too big of a request, correct?”

“It seems that you do not have a clear understanding of just how precious and rare Purple Veined Divine Crystals are.” The Sovereign of the Seas said as she shot Yun Che a glance, “When it comes to the abundance of resources, our Supreme Ocean Palace is the first amongst the Four Great Sacred Grounds. But do you know how many Divine Crystals our Ocean Palace distributes to our most talented disciples every five years?”

Yun Che, “...”

The Sovereign of the Seas slowly extended one finger, "It is fifty grams! Moreover, only the most talented, high-status disciples in our Sacred Ground will receive this amount, and that includes this sovereign as well!"

"That is also to say that even if it was this sovereign's son, he would only be able to obtain half a kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal after fifty years! As for Absolute Monarch Sanctuary, Sun Moon Divine Hall and Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, they will definitely distribute a lesser amount than we do! Even for the other powers within the Profound Sky Continent, obtaining a Divine Crystal that is as small as a grain of sand could be said to be the highlight of a lifetime! Yet you are willing to forego such a huge amount of Divine Crystals just for those few days of 'peace of mind'. This 'magnanimity and open-mindedness' has truly expanded my horizons!"

Yun Che's expression did not change. "This junior definitely understands the value of the Purple Veined Divine Crystals. But since your Ocean Palace is unable to retrieve twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal, then you can treat it as if this junior had never mentioned this matter in the first place. Senior Zi, I will have to trouble you to escort this junior to the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest."

Yun Che was calm and collected and there was an air about him that showed that he did not really care whether it was a few days early or a few days late or how much more or less Purple Veined Divine Crystals he could obtain from this deal.

"Twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal is indeed an astronomical sum, but that does not mean that our Ocean Palace is unable to foot the bill."

Zi Ji continued speaking as a merry smile spread across his face, "The last time we expended ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal in order to buy those ten pellets from you, using up nearly half of the Divine Crystals that our Ocean Palace had allotted for use. That is to say that the amount of Divine Crystals that our Ocean Palace is currently free to use only amounts to about ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal. But other than this amount, we still have a stash of Divine Crystals that we are not allowed to touch."

"Not allowed to touch? Could it be that it is being held in reserve in case disaster strikes?" Yun Che asked after he thought about it briefly.

"Hoho, you are indeed intelligent." Zi Ji said as he nodded his head, "Our Supreme Ocean Palace has stashed away twenty five kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal for the longest time. And this stash of Divine Crystals are only to be used to activate a sect-wide protective profound formation when the Ocean Palace encounters a great crisis. So we were given a strict order that has been passed down for generations, that we were not to use these Divine Crystals unless we encountered such a crisis. The truth of the matter is that these twenty five kilograms of Divine Crystals have been stored in reserve for the past eight thousand years or so, but we have yet to find the occasion to use it."

Because within the Profound Sky Continent, there was nothing that could threaten the extermination of Supreme Ocean Palace.