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# The Journey of Flower - Volume 02

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## 014

Originally, Bai Zi Hua wanted to directly fly back to Mt Chang Liu, until he suddenly realised that there was another person with him.

He heard Hua Qian Gu muttering to herself and turned around to look at her. He was shocked to see the little worm that had dropped into his wine cup sitting on her shoulder.

” Bai, Bai..... this is Tang Bao.” Hua Qian Gu introduced.

“I am not called Bai Bai.” Bai Zi Hua said as he gave a sigh.

Hua Qian Gu flushed embarrassedly. Why couldn't she kick the bad habit of stuttering whenever she was nervous! She did not know what call him. She couldn't call him Shi Fu now. Calling him uncle or sir didn't seem appropriate either.

“You can just call me Zun Shang. ” Bai Zi Hua was amused by Tang Bao who was making faces and bowing to greet him.

He waved his hand and a cloud floated down from the sky.

As Hua Qian Gu was talking, Bai Zi Hua was already standing on the cloud, looking back at her.

She immediately started climbing up, tugging and pulling on the soft and fluffy cloud as she climbed on. Bai Zi Hua ignored her. After waiting for her to finally climb, the cloud immediately ascended into mid air before she could even sit tight.

Hua Qian Gu was so scared she hugged on tight to the cloud. She stuck out her head to look down. Nonetheless, they were really flying too high and too fast, she could not see anything clearly. Other than clouds, the only thing she could see were still clouds.

Nonetheless, this was much more comfortable and stable compared to the earlier tiny leaf boat that was tossed and shaken by the wind. The speed was astounding, like a sled was riding through the sea of clouds. The ascension of the cloud was also very comfortable. Furthermore, with a stretch of her hand, she

could feel the floating clouds beside her. However, these clouds did not have a fixed shape like the cloud under her now.

It is probably formed using magic. I wonder if it can be eaten. Hua Qian Gu in moment of curiosity could not help but quietly take a bite. It was soft, cottony yet light, and melted into drops of sweet dew when it entered her mouth.

Hahaha, the taste is great!

She took one mouth, and another and yet another.....

“Do you intend to eat up this entire cloud?” Bai Zi Hua had kept silent for the entire journey. His sudden words gave Hua Qian Gu such a shock that she nearly choked on the cloud.

“Keke.” Hua Qian Gu laughed embarrassedly. She did not know why the usually talkative her with so many questions to ask couldn’t say anything as she sat on the cloud looking at Bai Zi Hua’s back among the clouds.

On the other hand, Tang Bao was the one who kept asking him questions or making up questions when she had none.

” Zun Shang, how far is Mt Chang Liu from here?”

” We are now at Mt Kun Lun which is at the extreme east. Mt Chang Liu is far away at the east of the eastern sea. Hence it is still a little far.” Furthermore, he was not riding the wind and there was an extra piece of “baggage” on the cloud.

“Can I continue staying with Gu Tou Mama?”

Gu Tou Mama? Bai Zi Hua looked at Hua Qian Gu. Hua Qian Gu awkwardly lowered her head

“Yes.”

“Oh yeah ! This is great!” Tang Bao continued sleeping in Hua Qian Gu’s ear. Hehe, now I can rest easy. After all its an immortal mountain. Even if anyone is unhappy with a small sprite like me, nobody will dare to raise any objections since Zun Shang has personally given his approval. Hmph!

It was sunset when they reached Mt Chang Liu. If they relied on Hua Qian Gu’s legs, they probably would have to walk for a few years.

On hearing Tang Bao’s excited shouts and screams, Hua Qian Gu drowsily

raised her head from the cloud.

She looked around her. They were surrounded all around by waters which were a deep cerulean blue. They had long reached the top of the Eastern seas. As the sea breeze blew past her, she felt much more refreshed. As she looked in front of her she was momentarily stunned, her mouth opened so wide that she could stuff her fist in. She could only stare wordlessly at the mirage-like Mt Chang Liu.

The golden rays of the setting sun looked as though they had spilled out from a golden hole in the skies. The reflection on the sea surface shimmered.

Once in a while, beautifully patterned birds flew beside and above them, their cries like the music of woodwind pipes. Hua Qian Gu rubbed her eyes and could hardly believe it as she looked at the paradise-like mountain before her. Originally she thought that the Immortal Pool of Kun Lun was already so grand and beautiful. To think that Mt Chang Liu would be even more stunning. The main island had a radius of a thousand li (one li is around half a kilometre) and was in an odd trigram shape, floating in mid air. Slightly above the main island, it was surrounded by three small islands which was revolving around the main island like sun, moon and stars. A giant waterfall flowed down the three small islands like a ribbon. The waterfall was as majestic as the the flow of the Milky Way across Nine Skies and flowed from the three small islands onto the main island. In turn, from the main island, the waters flowed into the sea in all directions, forming a majestic and massive curtain of water in the sky. Under the scattered rays of the setting sun, it's beauty was surreal.

A small handful of other islands and mountains of different sizes where scattered in the sky further away. Some were were exquisite and unique while others were rugged. Contrasted against the shimmering sea, the islands looked particularly alive.

In the future, I am going to live in such a beautiful immortal realm? Hua Qian Gu felt a little giddy at the thought.

“The main island in the middle is Chang Liu Mountain. There are over 8000 disciples on the mountain. After a year of preliminary training, a disciple will select and concentrate on one of the five elements, which are metal, wood,

water, fire and earth respectively, according to their own body's characteristics and abilities. Only after the Xian Jian Da Hui, can they formally acknowledge someone as their master and be imparted skills personally by their master. Those three small islands are respective Tan Lan Dian ( Tan Lan = Greed, Dian means Hall), Xiao Hun Dian (Xiao Hun = Lust), Jue Qing Dian (Jue Qing means Heartless or Devoid of Emotions). Disciples are normally not permitted go up to these three islands. There are many rules on the island. Someone will naturally teach you all these later on."

"Which element do you specialise in?" Hua Qian Gu raised her head and looked at him. For a long time she did not shift her gaze.

"Water." Bai Zi Hua blandly answered. His answer so cold it chilled her to the bone.

"Oh." She was resolute that she would learn water related magic well so that she could acknowledge him as her teacher at the Xian Jian Da Hui one year later.

She could vaguely see a light barrier that seemed to be formed by the three smaller islands, enveloping the main island. However she did not feel anything when she passed through it with Bai Zi Hua.

As she moved closer to the mountain on the island, the main square and main hall also came closer. Hua Qian Gu saw many people dressed in robes of various colours meditating or practising their martial arts on the main square.

Bai Zi Hua avoided the front hall and directly landed in the middle of the back hall.

" Welcome back to the mountain Zun Shang....." there was a rustling of robes as all the surrounding people knelt down.

Hua Qian Gu slightly flustered, leapt off the cloud and followed him into the main hall. She could not help but feel uneasy as she saw everyone quietly sizing her up.

She looked all around. The main hall was grand and majestic. Expensive agar wood incense was lit in all corners of the hall.

"Shi Yi (Shi Yi means eleven)" Bai Zi Hua called.

" Your disciple is here. What instructions does Zun Shang have?"

Hua Qian Gu looked up at the person who had just arrived. His hair was as black as ink and his eyes deep. His willowy figure accentuated the elegance of his green tunic.

“This is a new disciple. Please help her make some arrangements. If there is anything inappropriate about this, you can ask me again.” He turned to leave after saying this but felt something tugging onto him. As he turned back he saw Hua Qian Gu tugging at the corner of his sleeve. Her eyes seemed to reveal a slight unease.

“It will be alright. If you don’t know anything, you can just ask Shi Yi. He will bring you around and familiarise you with your surroundings. From now on, you are an official disciple of Chang Liu.”

As Hua Qian Gu looked at Bai Zi Hua slowly walk away without turning back, she felt that he was so far away that even if she used a lifetime she could not reach him, whatmore a mere year.

The man dressed in green before her had a calm expression. He placed both hands into his sleeves as he leisurely walked on.

“I am called Luo Shi Yi, I am Zun Shang’s Senior, Mo Yan’s eldest disciple.”

“I, I am called Hua Qian Gu.”

“I am Tang Bao.” Tang Bao quietly poked her head out from Hua Qian Gu’s ear. As she had expected, her powers were still too weak. While she was alright at the Immortal’s pool, once she came to Mt Chang Liu, she was giddy beyond relief.

Luo Shi Yi’s eyes lit up. However he quickly hid his excitement and fondness. However, his long, beautiful eyes ( the literal phrasing is feng yan, which means phoenix eyes) seemed to contain a small smile.

## 015

“There are a total of 8000 disciples in Mt Chang Liu. The leader is Zun Shang and he governs the Jue Qing Dian. His senior, Mo Yan, who is also my master presides over matters big and small on the mountain and governs Tan Lan Dian. Zun Shang and my master’s junior’s Shen Xiao Mo is lazier by nature and he governs Xiao Hun Dian. However he seldom concerns himself with the sect’s matters.”

“Oh.” Hua Qian Gu nodded her head while looking around. The main hall was grand and beautiful, tall but empty. Layers of deep purple curtains covered the hall. The floor was laid with the best white jade, so clear that you could see one’s reflection in it. It took a few people to surround each humongous pillar, which bright luminous pearls were affixed to.

As Luo Shi Yi walked in front with his two hands still placed in his two sleeves, he kept thinking to himself. This little girl was dressed so shabbily and she was completely without any foundation in the immortal arts or immortal powers. Furthermore, he could not see anything different about her. Could the Zun Shang have just picked her up from the mortal realm on whim? By right, out of the 10 immortal training classes, he should place her in the least advanced one. However, she was after personally brought back by Zun Shang and she even had a ling chong ( worm with magical power) with her. In addition he did not know her background. Hence, he could not just settle the matter simply like this. Haish, Zun Shang did not give any specific instructions either. This made things very difficult for him.

Aish, I shall be impartial about this, if not it will be very hard to account to Shi Fu (Master/Teacher).

“Qian Gu, new disciples who have yet to go under a particular teacher are split into ten different immortal training classes. Jia (First), Yi (Second), Bing(Third), Ding (Fourth), Mao (5th), Ji (6th), Geng (7th), Xin( 8th), Ren (9th), Gui (10th) (These are the 10 heavenly stems and are something like the chinese equivalent of roman numerals). The students in the first few classes are mostly recommended by the various sects or they already have very strong foundation

in the immortal training or have strong powers themselves. You will probably not be able to catch up. Hence, is it alright if I put you in Class Gui? The people in that class are mostly mortals or people who have just begun their cultivation, hence the progress will be slower and it will be easier for you to catch up.”

“Alright.” Hua Qian Gu nodded her head. She wondered whether Zun Shang would personally teach them.

As she walked along the long corridor, she would meet immortals wearing robes of various colours, some carrying bells, other carrying flowers who would calmly and politely nod and exchange greetings with Luo Shi Yi. Even though each of them were good looking and elegant, compared with Bai Zi Hua, Hua Qian Gu felt that they were very ordinary and her gaze did not linger on them for a second moment.

Suddenly, she recalled that the Gong Yu (Yu is feather, the Gong Yu is the token of the leader of a immortal sect) of the Mt Mao Sect leader was with her. Since the queen mother was assembling the Mt Mao disciples on her behalf, Yun Ying should know where to find her right? When the time comes, she will return the Gong Yu and the two ancient books to him, and that should settle things. As for other matters, she did not understand anything and had neither the authority nor ability, and hence could not help at all. Nonetheless, she was thankful that she had almost fulfilled most of the things that Priest Qing Xu and Lin Sui Yi had asked her to do.

However, now that she was on Chang Liu Mountain, would Lang Ge Ge be worried if he went to Mt Mao and could not find her? There was also Dong Fang Yu Qing. She wondered whether he had completed what he wanted to do. Furthermore, there was also the Doctor Zhang in the village. Should she find a way to send a letter back and let them know that she had already found a place to settle down? When she thought about it, she suddenly realised that in this world, she only knew and missed such a small number of people.

As she followed Luo Shi Yi out of the main hall, many people kept staring at her. She lowered her head and saw that her whole body was grubby and dirty and she had even a scythe hanging on her waist. She really looked too much like a country bumpkin and a beggar. She was totally out of place in Mt Chang Liu, where even the air was filled with divine aura and emanated a sense of serenity.

“Oh yes, Qian Gu.”

“Hmm?”

“You have just arrived and do not know a lot of things. You can take your time to learn, but you must remember that on Mt Chang Liu, there is a strict hierarchy and there are many rules. Since you entered the sect the latest, you must address everyone in the sect as Shi Xiong (The male form of senior) and Shi Jie (Female form of senior). You don't need to be so particular in front of Xiao Shi Shu ( This means teacher's junior *i.e.* Sheng Xiao Mo). However in front of my Shi Fu (Master), you must be extra careful on what you say or do. For people within the sec, you will address the Sect Leader as Zun Shang, my Shi Fu as Shi Zun, and Xiao Shi Shu as Ru Zun, and you must kneel and bow to them when you see them. You cannot leave the mountain or enter the sea as you please. You cannot go up to the three halls either. You are also not to enter the forbidden forest at the back of the mountain. Every night, you will rest at the Hai hour (equivalent to 9Pm -11Pm), and you must wake up at Qin hour( 5-7am ) for morning meditation. The disciples stay in twelve side quarters which are Zi, Yan, Luan, Yi, Wu, Wei, Shen, You, Xu, Hai (12 Earthly Stems something like roman numerals? they represent they are used somewhat like a numbering system with Zi representing the first place and Hai the 12th in the respective order) You will stay in the Hai quarters. The instructor for the Gui class will be Qiao Mu Qing Liu. I will bring you to see him in a while and he will help arrange classes, lodging, food and other matters for you. If you have any further doubts, you can ask him anytime.”

“Oh, this will continue to be the case after I learn officially under a master a year later?”

“Those who have attained immortality do not need sleep or food. However most of those on Mt Chang Liu are still mortals or immortals of lower rank. After you officially go under a master one year later, you will spend most of your time accompanying your teacher. Different teachers have different methods of teaching, discipling and different attitudes towards their disciples.” He silently muttered in his heart-as long as you are not as unlucky to meet someone as strict as his teacher, you will be alright.

“Senior, you must be very incredible to become a disciple of Shi Zun?”

“Actually, I really am not that great. It’s just that I am very reliable and trustworthy in my handling of matters and hence can gain his favour. As some other disciples say behind my back, I know how to suck up.”

Hua Qian Gu just stood dazed there and stopped walking.

Luo Shi Yi turned around and gave her a smile: “Seeing your young age and how innocent you are, since you are here, I need to warn you privately. You have no backing, no powers and no status, hence it is inevitable that you will be bullied. Furthermore, you were brought back personally by Zun Shang and this was witnessed by many disciples. Hence, people will purposely make things difficult for you. If they go overboard, you can seek help from Qing Liu or me. However, the matters of the sect are very busy and we can’t possibly take care of every single matter. Hence most of the time you will have to rely on yourself.”

“Is it so complex.....” Hua Qian Gu looked at him with a helpless face.

“Its ok. You will get used to it after awhile.”

As the two of them walked round and round, they reached another huge and luxuriously decorated hall. Suddenly a red cloud floated in front of them.

Hua Qian Gu only saw a blur before her eyes, and before she could even take a close look, she felt someone flick her forehead.

“Huo Xi, you are being mischeivous again.” Luo Shi Yi sighed.

“I am not. Shi Xiong (Senior), I came from very far because I smelt something good and I was afraid that Qing Luo might snatch it first. Hence I quickly made a mark on it!”

That red cloud shifted and took form, transforming into an elegant youth of 17 or 18. His robe was flame-red, with a jade belt at his waist. He had a Gong Hua (flower) at his waist. The flower was as red as blood, while luxuriant, it seemed to reveal a certain arrogance.

Hua Qian Gu felt a slight pain on her forehead and rubbed it. She raised her head to stare at the youth who was floating in mid air.

“You new here? Are you the one who just came back to the mountain with Zun Shang?”

“En. You shouldn’t bully the newcomer. She doesn’t know anything. I am about to bring her to the San Shen Chi. (Pool of Three Lives)”

“She’s so dirty. She should take a good wash.” Huo Xi flew down from mid air. Seeing the faint sparks dancing his feet, Hua Qian Gu could not help but cluck her tongue in surprise.

Huo Xi circled around Hua Qian, his eyes moving quickly, making him seem very flippant. He suddenly leaned towards Luo Shi Yi and whispered something to him.

Luo Shi Yi shook his head, expressing that he did not know. Huo Xi wanted to reach out to take a look at the Heaven’s Droplet hanging on Hua Qian Gu’s neck, however he saw a flash and his fingers were so painful that it was numb.

He pressed his lips together and dejectedly turned around, only to see a small clear worm lying on Hua Qian Gu’s shoulder. It had an angry little face and there were sparks and electricity emitting out of the two feelers on its forehead.

He couldn’t believe it. This small little worm actually dared to electrocute him! Huo Xi, wanted to grab it, but Hua Qian Gu quickly stepped back and hid behind Luo Shi Yi.

Luo Shi Yi could not hide his small smile as the corners of his mouth curled up slightly and said “Stop playing. She is called Hua Qian Gu. She will be a student of Gui class. Have you seen Qing Liu?”

“Nope. He comes and goes like a shadow. Hehe. Gu Tou, it will be fun next time. I shall leave first. If you see Qing Luo do not ever say you saw me.” As he said this he disappeared like a gust of wind.

Luo Shi Yi shook his head and continued walking ahead.

“Who was that?” Hua Qian Gu curiously asked.

“That was Huo Xi, Xiao Shi Shu’s disciple. He is very mischievous by nature and even his own teacher can’t take him in hand, or rather can’t be bothered to. The Wu Qing Luo he was talking about also Xiao Shi Shu’s disciple and his Shi Mei (female junior. They are the two biggest headaches in Mt Chang Liu, always causing trouble. However, Xiao Shi Shu is very partial and always shields them. Hence people cannot do anything about them.”

“Shi Zun and Ru Zun both have many disciples?”

“Nope. Shi Fu only took in three disciples including me. Actually I am not the eldest. I heard that my master also took another disciple previously, but he was later chased out of the sect by my master. Currently besides I have two juniors, the Fox of Qing Qiu and Shang Shang Piao. Xiao Shi Shu only has two disciples which are Huo Xi and Wu Qing Luo.”

“Zun Shang doesn’t have any disciples?”

“En.”

“Why?”

“Maybe because he has too many matters and responsibilities.” Luo Shi Yi thought deeply and answered.

Hua Qian Gu did not seem to understand and shook her head saying: “I want to acknowledge Zun Shang as my master!”

Luo Shi Yi got a shock and looked back at her.

He only saw her determinedly proclaim again: “I want to acknowledge Zun Shang as my master!”

He suddenly couldn't help but laugh and he leaned over and whispered to her: “Actually I used to think that way too.....”

He rapped Hua Qian Gu’s tilted head.

“Becoming Zun Shang’s disciple is harder than ascending the skies. But just try your best!”

“Zun Shang told me that if one year later, he is satisfied with my performance, he will consider taking me in as his disciple!”

“Really?” Luo Shi Yi suddenly looked like he had eaten a rotten persimmon. He stared wide eyed and open mouth and did not dare to believe what he heard.

“En! So this year I will definitely work hard!” Hua Qian Gu waved her small fist in the air.

Luo Shi Yi raised his eye brow high. Zun Shang actually said something like that? Hehe, there will be a good show coming up. Otherwise, Mt Chang Liu

which was secluded from all worldly affairs will be too boring.

“Right. Shi Xiong (male senior), the clothes worn by Huo Xi Shi Xiong all seem to be of different colours!”

“En, right, after one year, when you confirm the rough direction in your training of the element, you will wear more of the colour that the element you have chosen. For example, yellow for metal, green for wood, white for water, red for fire and black for earth. But there is no strict requirement and it depends on personal preference. However, the Gong Ling (Token of your rank, Ling is a bell. A bell is the token of an immortal of the lowest rank), Gong Hua (Hua = Flower, token of an immortal) and Gong Yu (Yu=Jade, token of an immortal) will change colour according to changes in your body and your powers.

Hua Qian Gu nodded as she suddenly came to an understanding. No wonder Zun Shang’s feather was white and Huo Xi’s Gong Hua was red. She looked again Luo Shi Yi’s Gong Yu and saw that it was a black kirin (a chinese mythical beast).

“I can get a bell once I get acknowledge a master right?” Hua Qian Gu saw how good looking the kirin was and couldn’t resist the urge to touch it.

“Even though this depends on your powers, if you become the disciple of the sect leader, getting a bell shouldn’t be a problem.”

“En En.” Hua Qian Gu happily nodded her head.

Luo Shi Yi stole a glance at Tang Bao through the corner of his eye. He couldn’t help but be amused when he saw it lethargically climb back into Hua Qian Gu’s ear for a nap.

“We have reached. This is the San Shen Chi (Pool of Three Lives).”

Luo Shi Yi pointed at three irregularly shaped pools and said “These are the holy waters from each of the three halls. You shall separately wash yourself in each of the pools and get rid of the grime and muck from the mortal realm. The water from Tan Lan Dian washes away greed, the water from Xiao Hun Dian washes away desires and the water from Jue Qing Dian washes away infatuation.

“Oh.....” Hua Qian Gu felt a little lost and confused in the fog.

Luo Shi Yi pointed at the clean clothes placed at the side and said “Your change

of clothes are here. I will wait for you outside. You come out by yourself in a while.”

“Alright.”

After walking half a step, he hesitated before turning back and saying “There may be varying levels of pain when washing with the water in the different pools. If you cannot tolerate the pain from the water of any pool, don’t force yourself. It is no big deal.”

Hua Qian Gu seemed to understand yet not understand as she nodded her head.

She looked down at the clear and sparkling water in the pool. A few powdery white petals bobbed on the surface as clear water slowly streamed out of the three dragon heads on the wall. This did not seem any different from an ordinary bathing pool.

Afraid that Tang Bao who was still sleeping in her ear would drown, Hua Qian Gu woke Tang Bao up.

“Tang Bao, are you a girl or a boy? Wrong, I mean are you a male or a female? If you are male, you cannot watch me bath! I have to find a piece of clothe to blindfold you.”

Tang Bao did not know what to say.

“I am a demon and I haven’t transformed yet. Hence, even I don’t know whether I am a male or female. Why are you scared? You don’t have anything for me to look at anyway! Hehe, I also want to bathe!” as she said that, Tang Bao jumped into the water and rolled on the water surface swimming in worm-style.

Hua Qian Gu smiled and took off her clothes as she slowly entered the Pool of Greed. She did not feel any discomfort.

Removing greed, desire and infatuation? How fun!

After washing a while, she jumped into the water from Xiao Hun Dian. Still, it felt like a normal hot spring, comfortable and refreshing. She felt her heart and mind becoming clearer than ever.

Finally it was the water from the Jue Qing Pool. As soon as she put her foot in,

she suddenly felt a strange numb sensation spread through every pore in her body. She quickly retracted her foot.

“What’s wrong? Gu Tou?” Tang Bao was swimming happily in the pool beside her. After washing in the pools, the demonic aura on her body and the aura in the immortal realm were finally blending and she no longer felt any discomfort.

“Nothing much.” Hua Qian Gu felt it was strange and put her foot back into the water. However, this time, she did not feel anything. Maybe she had a cramp?

As she looked at her reflection in the water, she suddenly noticed that there seemed a red “Huo” (Huo=Fire) word that in the middle of her forehead between her brows. What was going on? No matter how she washed it, she couldn’t get rid of it.

It must be the mark that Huo Xi left on her forehead. How irritating. Why can’t she remove it. She will ask Shi Yi Shi Xiong later.

Lying in the water, between thin, breezy curtains, inhaling the sandalwood incense that was burning in the corner, Hua Qian Gu couldn’t help but doze off drowsily.

Outside, Luo Shi Yi waited so long he was getting impatient. The water from the Pool of Three Lives had the ability to cleanse one’s heart. However, if someone whose desires were too deeply ingrained went into the pools, he would experience suffering beyond words and may even die. Hence many people try to use their powers or avoid the water from a certain pool to escape from this test. However, even immortals are unable to completely empty themselves of greed, anger or infatuation, what more mortals? Hence as long as they are not too persistent in these thoughts and the pain is not too intense and they scrape past this test, he will usually close one eye.

However, after going in, most people will still scream or shout in pain. However, Hua Qian Gu hasn’t made a single sound after so long. Since she is still so young, she shouldn’t have any desires that are too deeply rooted. Could she have fainted from the pain the moment she touched the water?

## 016

She was sleeping soundly when she felt something slapping her face.

“Tang Bao, stop playing.....” She randomly flung her arms, thinking that Tang Bao was crawling on her face.

However, the slapping did not stop.

“Qian Gu, Qian Gu. Are you alright?”

An anxious voice sounded from close by.

Recently, Hua Qian Gu had been tired out by all the travelling, and struggled to wake up.

She got a shock when she saw a paper crane on her face.

“Qian Gu? Is everything alright? Answer me!”

Hua Qian Gu focused and listened. This was clearly Luo Shi Yi’s voice. However, it was coming from this paper crane on her face. This paper crane looked alive. It had two red eyes drawn on with a red brush, its flapping wings incessantly hitting Hua Qian Gu’s face. Even though it did not hurt, this scene was somewhat strange.

“I, I am alright!” She flusteredly picked the paper crane from her face and placed it on the white jade step beside her. She calmed herself down. Seeing that she had not gone out after such a long time, Shi Xiong must have been worried. However, he could not barge in directly, hence he had no choice but to send in the small paper crane to look at her.

She looked around for Tang Bao and found it sleeping lazily and comfortably on on a floating leaf. She picked it up and quickly shook it awake. Tang Bao wiped itself with a flower petal and hugged on to another petal while chewing up it. She chewed it into a weird shape, then used a silk like substance to glue the flower petal up, and fashioned it into the likeness of a small top and skirt! Twirling around in her pink outfit that was fitted over her glisteningly clear body, Tang Bao was really too cute.

Hua Qian Gu could not help but wear the clothes that had been prepared and were lying at the side. The clothes were largely similar to what the majority of the disciples outside were wearing. It was simple yet elegant, but it was very light and soft with wonderful texture. It was made of an expensive and unique material that she had never worn before. While it was slight too large when she first wore it, it quickly shrunk to fit her body, and quickly became comfortable and fitting.

Hua Qian Gu could not help but exclaim in wonder.

Tang Qian Gu pouted indignantly, "How can it compare to my peach blossom robe!"

When they went out, the normally calm Luo Shi Yi, was already restless from all the waiting.

"This should be yours?" Hua Qian Gu returned the paper crane to him.

Luo Shi Yi took the crane from her. "It's already wet." As he said this, he took out a small white handkerchief from his bosom and carefully wrapped the paper crane before tucking it in his bosom. When he saw Tang Bao wearing her tiny robe, he looked shocked for a moment. Then he quickly turned around and took another white handkerchief to wipe his face before quickly stuffing it into his sleeve.

\*Coughs "Why were you so slow? I thought something happened to you."

"Sorry Shi Xiong. I accidentally fell asleep."

"You fell asleep? Are you serious! To most people, the Pool of Three Lives is a terrifying place. You actually fell asleep inside?"

"What's wrong? I felt very comfortable washing it in, and I don't find it scary at all." Hua Qian Gu sniffed her body. She smelled nice and clean all over.

"The pool's water is used to filter disciples who are entering the sect. It is considered to be a ritual as well as a test. Typically those with evil thoughts or those who bear desires and grudges that are too deep and hence are not suitable for cultivating into immortals are unable to touch the water of the Pool of Three Lives. Hence it is used to test whether one is a demon and whether one has what it takes to become an immortal. However as long as you are human,

you should more or less have some greed, lust and infatuation. As long as it is not very serious, you can pass the test if you can bear with a little pain.”

“Ah? The water is so powerful?”

“Those who are righteous naturally have nothing to fear. However a majority of disciples feel as if they lost half a layer of skin after washing.”

“But nothing happened to me!”

“Very few people can go into the pool’s water yet feel nothing at all. Even immortals always have some desires. This water can help to clear the thoughts of the righteous and is very effective for treating injuries. However for demons, monsters and evil people, it is no different from lethal poison or the strongest acid.”

“It’s so scary?”

“One of the most serious punishment in the sect is to have water from the Pool of Three Lives poured over you. For punishing people with very strong desires, the pain is a many times worse than hitting them. It is no different from skinning them alive. I personally saw how a disciple who had raped many women was thrown into the Xiao Hun Pool (Pool of Lust). He literally dissolved into the pool until not even a bone was left.”

Beads of perspiration were forming profusely on Hua Qian Gu’s forehead as she realised that she just had a close shave with death. As she followed behind Luo Shi Yi and continued walking forward, she felt her whole body feel much lighter as if she was floating amongst the clouds. However she famished.

When she arrived, they were in too much of a hurry for her to take a close look. As she walked outside the main hall now, she had time to look around and finally take in her surroundings.

They were now at main hall, Chang Liu Dian, which was situated at the heart of Mt Chang Liu. It was more than two times bigger than the The Jiu Xiao Wan Fu Palace on Mt Mao. The crimson, dark grey and gold juxtaposed against each other, making the Chang Liu Dian seems so imposing and grand that one had the urge to kneel over when they saw it. Chang Liu Mountain floated on the sea and produced jade stone. Almost all the flooring and even the steps on the main

square were laid using white jade of varying quality. The three halls/palaces that were floating above head glistened like crystal palaces, against the blood red sky, they seemed even more spectacular with a life of their own.

Luo Shi Yi pointed out to her, “Mt Chang Liu had one main hall and three sacred halls, with nine different courts and 12 side quarters. The main hall is mainly used for ceremonies or to handle big matters within the mountain. The three sacred halls above you are where Zun Shang, Shi Zun and Ru Zun live and each of them respectively governs the hall they live in. The nine courts are managed by the nine respected immortal elders. They are respectively the Court of Rules, Court of Hidden Books, Court of Demon Sealing, Court of Medicine, Court of Rituals and Music, Court of Books and so on. The Zun Shang does not have not have an absolute say in big matters on the mountain. They require discussion from the three halls and nine courts. I have already sent someone to find Qing Liu. he will come over in a while. He is the immortal instructor for the Gui class you are in and he will bring you the Court of Books to register and get your immortal number before bringing you back to the Hai Quarters to rest. Tomorrow you can start lessons with the Gui class. If there is anything else you don’t know, you can ask him.”

Hua Qian Gu indeed saw a man walk over from the far end of the corridor. He was long and willowy, however he was slouching and swaying from side to side and was lack lustre as though he was drunk. A dagger was tucked at his waist. There was a few strands of white in his messy hair as though he had dyed it. His clothes were also loose and messy and he even had one arm sticking out of his robe. There were weird tattoos all over his exposed arm. His stubbly face looked totally unkempt. As he walked before the two of them, his eye lids were dropping and he shrugged up his shoulders.

“Why did you call me here?” He scratched his head and listlessly yawned.

Luo Shi Yi shake his head helplessly. “If Zun Shang sees you like this its fine. But if my teacher sees you, he will definitely punish you heavily. This is the disciple who Zun Shang just brought up the mountain and she will be assigned to your class. She doesn’t know anything yet, so you must take better care of her.”

It was only then that Qiao Mu Qing Liu fully opened his eyes and sized Hua Qian Gu up before sighing, ” You came to give me trouble again. Throwing a child

of such physique to me.”

“I will try my best! I will not cause trouble for you!” Hua Qian Gu suddenly promised.

Qiao Mu Qing Liu, laughed and bent over to pinch the small face that was looking at him.

“Alright alright. You little bastard. You know that don’t have any resistance against cute little girls. Let’s go. I will take you to register yourself.”

Luo Shi Yi waved at her and let her follow. Hua Qian Gu looked back at him and nodded him before waving good bye to him and leaving with Qiao Mu Qing Liu.

The remaining matters very simple. Qiao Mu Qing Liu had basically helped her settle her registration. Hua Qian Gu collected most of the items and her Xian Hao-it was a black piece of wood that was used to ward off demons engraved with many words that Hua Qian Gu did not recognise, this was now the proof of her identity. She carefully hung it on her waist as she was afraid to lose it.

When she reached the Hai Quarters, Hua Qian Gu raised up her head and saw that it was nine levels high. Most of those staying here were disciples who had just entered Chang Liu like her. Those who had masters stayed in other places with their masters or were travelling outside.

She stayed on the top floor. Just climbing the stairs was going to kill her. When she opened the door, she was surprised to see a girl who was around her age reading a book at the desk. She was dressed in a jade green robe with a few small plaits on her hair. When the girl turned around, Hua Qian Gu saw that she had bright eyes and sparking white teeth with a snow white complexion. She was extremely beautiful.

Qiao Mu Qing Liu stepped in first and called out to the girl: “ Qing Shui (Qing = light, Shui = water), this is your Xiao Shi Mei (Little Junior) who has just entered the sect. She is also from the Gui class. She will stay with you all from now on.”

Qing Shui nodded her head and gave a small smile as she walked over to take the luggage that Hua Qian Gu was carrying. While she was placing the luggage on the bed, she said “I am called Qing Shui.”

“I am called Hua Qian Gu.”

Qiao Mu Qing Liu said, " Hua Qin Gu has a lot of things that she doesn't know yet. You help her slowly familiarise herself. Tomorrow bring her to class with you. I shall go first. My alcohol addiction is acting up again." As he said that, he yawned and dragged his body away.

Hua Qian Gu felt a little uneasy, as this was her first time staying with a girl of the same age and did not know what to say. Luckily Qing Shui was more lively and kept chattering non stop. Hence the two quickly got to know each other. Tang Bao having slept her fill lazily climbed out of Hua Qian Gu's ear and surveyed her surroundings. She looked very satisfied as she saw the clean little room. Even though Qing Shui was very of bugs and worms, seeing how cute Tang Bao was, she plucked up her courage to touch and tickle Tang Bao.

Hearing the rumbling of Hua Qian Gu's hungry tummy, Qing Shui brought her to the kitchen on every floor to find some food. Because she was simply too hungry, she could not help but stuff herself. She then drowsily fell asleep.

The next day, before the sun had barely risen, she was awoken by Qing Shui. Looking at how Tang Bao was sleeping soundly on the pillow, Hua Qian Gu did not wake it. She quickly grabbed a few books that she had collected yesterday and followed Qing Shui to class.

The classes were held at Wu Quarters. It was also nine levels high. However, the style and design was different from the Hai Quarters.

From Qing Shui, she roughly knew what homework they had to complete. The most basic was a physical education to build up their fitness and a theoretical lesson about the immortal arts and magic, as well as a history lesson about the history of the six realms. There was also a lesson on the five elements-metal, wood, water, fire and earth. There were also lessons on riding and shooting, Yu Jian (riding on swords and flying), defense, flying and various other hands on lessons.

The lessons at each stage were different and the teachers of the various classes were also different. They attended most of the other lessons with those from other classes. Hua Qian Gu had arrived late by one month, hence her progress was lagging far behind. Hence, she needed to work hard to catch up on her own. There was left than a year left before graduation, thus, every disciple

was working very hard so that they could perform well and get a good master at the Xian Jian Da Hui.

They were now going to attend the morning history lesson. As they were early, there were still very few people in the classroom. Hua Qian Gu sat on the seat and rested her head on the table. She was still as sleepy as ever. She had yet to adapt to waking so early

Qing Shui had clear potential to be Gossip Queen. She excitedly introduced to Hua Qian Gu every person who entered the classroom, whether they were from their own class or not. Hua Qian Gu weakly opened her eyes and saw that there were people of every age and gender. However the majority were around ten to twenty years old. The youngest was only six years old.

There were three classes seated in the classroom. Those from the Jia class were seated in the centre. Those from the Ding class on the right and those from the Gui class on the left. Those from the Jia class were very energetic and rowdy and it was clear that they had a sense of superiority, as though they were very unhappy to be attending lessons with the last class.

“It’s very hard to get into Jia class. All of them have some immortal foundation. They all have high levels of powers before entering Chang Liu. Furthermore, most of them are actually the children of various sect leaders or respected elders and hence they have immortal bodies. They were specially sent to Chang Liu to train. Hence all of them are arrogant and spoilt and shouldn’t be trifled with.”

“Why don’t they train in their own sect. Why must they be sent to Chang Liu? Also, immortals can give birth?” Hua Qian Gu’s mouth was hanging open in surprise. “

” Stupid. There is something called Shuang Xiu (means that they train and cultivate to be immortals as a couple) in certain sects! Furthermore, beside some special rules set by the Heavenly Court, most immortals are free to love and marry. Actually, besides their powers, immortals are not very different from humans. Those who are cultivating to be immortals now, only care about increasing their own powers. Their character and hearts are even more filthy than mortals.”

“That’s not true. Zun Shang is very good.” Hua Qian Gu thought of the

otherworldly figure and could not help but let her thoughts drift away.

“You can’t compare them with Zun Shang. The whole immortal realm respects him deeply. Oh yes, have you seen the girl who was dressed in red, who was surrounded by fans the moment she entered?”

“I saw her.” Hua Qian Gu was stunned in that moment. To think that there was someone so glamorous and strikingly beautiful in this world. At such a young age she was already an unparalleled beauty. Even though she was still slightly less elegant and beautiful than the seven immortal goddess and Chang E which Hua Qian Gu had seen at the feast, however as she grew up, she would be even more beautiful than them.

“That is Ni Man Tian. She is the daughter of the leader of the Peng Lai Immortal Island. She has one of the greatest potential amongst this intake of disciples. A lot of guys treat her like a goddess, like how the stars surround the moon. However, she is very condescending and likes to stir up trouble. The girls from the other classes hate her, but don’t dare to offend. She has been training from young, hence her powers are very powerful.”

As Qing Shui said this, she turned around and introduced Hua Qian Gu to their classmates around them. As most of them were mortals from a humble background, they were all very friendly and they quickly became familiar with each other.

In a while, the teacher, an ill-tempered old man with a white beard that almost touched the ground entered. He punished all the late comers by making them stand outside the door.

“I think I saw him yesterday.” Hua Qian Gu remembered seeing him coming out from the Court of Books. Luo Shi Yi even bowed other. He saw that there was a yellow object hanging on his was it. He probably was a metal user. However she could not tell what that object was and asked Qing Shui.

“That is a Gong Mu ( Mu= Wood). During the ritual and music class, we learnt about this. Typically, you can judge one’s immortal class according to the token they carry. The sect leader carries a Gong Yu (Yu = feather). The feather ranges from that of a phoenix to a sparrow, and they come in different colours. On Mt Chang Liu, only Zun Shang carried it. They next would be a Gong Shi (Shi =

Stone). However, that is no ordinary stone. It is usually something like a crystal or amethyst. Only Shi Zun, Run Zun and the Elders of the Nine Courts carry it. Next would be Gong Mu, which can be made of different wood like Willow, Sandalwood or Boxwood. The one that Teacher Tao Weng is carry is peach wood. His status is very high and he is one of the elders in the Nine Courts. Next, it will be the Gong Yu (Yu=Jade), Gong Hua (Hua=Flower), Gong Dai (Dai= Belt) and Gong Ling (Ling = Bell). Strictly speaking there are seven classes. However there are very few people in some sects and they may be missing a few ranks.”

“Gong Yu, Gong Shu, Gong Mu, Gong Yu, Gong Hua, Gong Dai, Gong Ling... So Lang Ge Ge missed out a few.” Hua Qian Gu muttered to herself and quietly memorised it.

She skimmed through the book in her head. It wrote about the rough history of the six realms. However, it was significantly more brief than the book that Elder Qing Xu had given her and there were many differences. There were a lot of mistakes and twisted facts, especially in the parts about the immortals realms. Furthermore, there was almost nothing about the Realm of the Gods. Even though it was the History of the Six Realms, it only talked about five. In addition, it was very critical of the Demon and Monster realms and made it out such that demons, monsters and ghosts were all evil creatures that needed to be subdued by immortals.

As Tao Weng happily babbled on, Hua Qian Gu was getting a headache listening to him. It was all useless. She might as well read the book that Priest Qing Xu had written. Combined with her lack of sleep, she fell asleep without realising.

She suddenly felt someone pinch her under the table and flusteredly look up only to see Tao Weng standing before her. Qing Shui tried to gesture to her with her eyes.

” You are new here? I have never seen you before. What is your name?”

“Hua, Hua Qian Gu.....” She was dead this time. She fell asleep on her first day of class. If this news reaches Zun Shang.....

“As the saying goes. Stupid birds are the first to go. Despite being in the last class, you still have no sense of self awareness. Even people from the first class

are listening attentively. Yet you are here dreaming away. It looks like you know everything that I was talking about. Then I shall test you. If you can't answer me, then you shall stay back and copy the book twenty times."

Tao Weng's white beard shook, but he was extremely red. He looked like a ripe peach with a white leaf growing out of it. Of course this peach's skin was a little wrinkled. He looked hilarious.

Normally, Hua Qian Gu would perhaps still be in the mood to think about this. However, at this moment, Hua Qian Gu was in no mood to laugh. So many pairs of eyes were staring excitedly at her. Most of them were expectantly waiting for her to embarrass herself. She felt like she was sitting on a pincushion.

Amitabha. Please bless me o heavens. I just don't want to get into any trouble and news of it to travel to Zun Shang's ears. Why didn't she bring Tang Bao today. With it in her ear, she would not be afraid of being questioned.

Tao Weng wasn't a bad person, he was just bit snobbish and liked to take small bribes from disciples who were better to do. The news of Zun Shang personally bringing back a disciple yesterday had quickly spread throughout Chang Liu Mountain. Furthermore, he had coincidentally met Hua Qian Gu at the Court of Books (Shu Xiang Ge). Looking at how small and skinny and poor she looked, Tao Weng did not really want to entertain her. She actually dared to sleep during her first lesson. She really wasn't giving him any respect. Nonetheless, she was after all a new comer and a mortal at that, if he purposely tried to make things difficult for her, tongues might wag. He will start by asking her something simple and basic, if she cannot answer, then he will have even more reason to discipline her.

Hence, he looked up and shook his head, saying " List down the various tokens that represent the immortal's statuses according to their ranks."

Hua Qian Gu and Qing Shui who was beside her heaved a sigh of relief. Wasn't this what they had just discussed? They hit the jackpot. Ahaha. No matter what he threw at her, she would find a way to overcome it.

Hua Qian Gu quickly recited the seven different objects.

Tao Weng seeing that this did not pose a problem for her, said again: " Looks like you know quite a lot. List down a few examples of the different ranks, sects,

immortals in the immortal realm.”

On hearing this, Qing Shui wanted to secretly use her hand to trace the answers on Hua Qian Gu’s leg. However Tao Weng gave her a glare. Did she think that he was senile or blind?

Hua Qian Gu recalled what Dong Fang Yu Qing and Xuan Yuan Lang had told her and calmly recited it. Then she recalled the immortals that she had seen at the Immortal’s Feast and eloquently said another long list.

She was causing a small stir in the class. Even Qing Shui’s eyes widened. A lot of the things that Hua Qian Gu said were stuff that she had never heard before. However, Hua Qian Gu said it as though she had seen it with her own eyes. Tao Weng was losing face and he coldly snorted. ” Then let me ask you again, what are the 16 Ancient Instruments of the Gods?”

The whole class suddenly became silent. This question had never been taught before. Furthermore, because the Instrument of the Gods were sealed objects and hence taboo. Hence, very few people knew of them. Tao Weng was clearly trying to make things difficult for her.

Hua Qian Gu was relieved. Luckily for her, when she was skimming through the Book of the Six Realms a few days ago, she had specially looked up the Shuan Tian Chain and looked at the other Instruments as well. Hehe.

“They are respectively the Xuan Yuan Sword, Dong Huang Clock, Pan Gu Axe, Lian Yao Jar, Wu Tian Pagoda, Fu Xi Zither, Shen Nong Cauldron, Kong Tong Seal, Kun Lun Mirror, Gou Lan Jade, Duo Hun Xiao ( Duo Hun literally means soul stealing, Xiao is a musical instrument that looks and sounds like a flute, but it is played vertically like a recorder, Fu Chen Pearl (Fu Chen means to float and sink), Cui Lei Bell (Cui Lei means tear inducing), Xuan Tian Umbrella and Shuan Tian (Shuan means to tie a knot, Tian is sky, so it means something like capturing the sky) Chain .....

But, what she did not know was that if she replied that she did not know, she would be giving Tao Weng a chance for a graceful exit in this situation. What petty people like Tao Weng hated the most was know it all students. All around them the students was discussing excitedly. If this went on Tao Weng was going to be utterly embarrassed.

“You only listed 15 items.”

“But the Nuwa stone has been shattered...”

She saw Tao Weng’s entire body shudder and his face change from red to white. She quickly shut her mouth.

“The Nuwa stone has been shattered” Tao Weng mumbled, his face one of disbelief.

Hua Qian Gu found this slightly strange. Tao Weng should know such things like the back of his hand. Could he not know?

“Yup. Wasn’t it shattered a long time ago? Of the 16 Instruments of the Gods, there are only 9 with the ability to seal. Hence we need to protect it well. Especially the zither.....”

Tao Weng body wavered before taking two steps back. His eyes widened and he shouted in shock “How could that be..... Is-Isnt there still 10? Also, how did you know.....!!”

Know what? Know that the Fu Xi Zither is the Instrument of the Gods that Chang Liu Mountain protects? Other than this instruments which are missing, the book records not very detailedly not only about the Fu Xi Zither but also where the other instruments were, when they switched hands, and who and which sect was protecting them. In addition, did Zun Shang not tell them about how she specially went to the Immortal’s Banquet to inform everybody about how the Shuan Tian Chain was snatched? Hua Qian Gu found this very strange and quietly mumbled :” Mt Mao’s Shuan Tian Chain has been snatched.....”

What she did not know was that in order not to incite panic, very few people other than the leaders and elders of the various sects knew of the the news of the Demon God’s birth . Hua Qian Gu thought that what was written on the book was something very simple. What she did not know was that every word written inside was a huge secret.

Tao Weng’s mouth hung open on his pale face and he did not utter a word. Finally he shouted “You come with me!” As he said that he walked out of the door with a sweep of his sleeve.

The classroom was in chaos. Hua Qian Gu looked at Qing Shui and found it

really weird. Why must she get punished for answering the question correctly!

\*Cries

Qing Shui quickly motioned for her to follow with her eyes. Hua Qian Gu made a small run and caught up. However she could feel a sharp knife like gaze behind her. She quickly turned around only to see Ni Man Tian's condescending gaze.

That's not right. She hurriedly swept the surroundings with her gaze. All she saw were giggling and gloating faces. She could only helplessly follow Tao Weng and walk out.

However, nobody noticed the elegant and composed masked youth dressed in green who was sitting behind Ni Man Tian. Originally, his attire should be considered weird, however, nobody seemed to think so. Nobody has ever seen his face, and nobody knew what he was thinking. He had always kept to himself. Despite being in the Jia Class, nobody knew his identity or his background. They only knew that he was called Shuo Feng. His powers were already very powerful, hence nobody dared to provoke him or talk to him. Other than Ni Man Tian who was sitting in front of him, there was nobody on his right or left.

At this moment, his usually icy and indifferent pupils suddenly sharpened. There was a sliver of interest and intrigue in his eyes. He lowered his head and silently said: Fu, Xi, Zither.....

Hua Qian Gu followed behind Tao Weng, running all the way. She did not expect this white bearded old man to walk so so fast.

In a short while, they entered Chang Liu Hall. Hua Qian Gu heard Tao Weng asking the disciple at one side something. The disciple replied: "The three sovereigns are discussing something within the hall."

She could not control her wildly beating heart. Did that mean she could see Zun Shang again so quickly?

However, would Tao Weng be so angry that he would draw her before Zun Shang to punish her? She was dead this time.

As she continued to follow Tao Weng in, she felt even more uneasy looking at how hurried he looked. As she reached the meeting room door, she could not help but swallow her saliva as she felt her heart fluttering and hammering wildly in

her chest

Finally, the high and heavy door that was adorned with fine gold and jewels of every colour was slowly pushed open by the disciples standing on each side of the door. Hua Qian Gu looked straight at Bai Zi Hua who was sitting calmly in the big hall and wished she could fly to his side.

Bai Zi Hua was still dressed in a spotless white robe, except there was an additional thick gold belt at his waist, making him seem even more noble and grand in his otherworldliness. His expression was slightly more cold and distant, yet commanding. He seemed to be sitting above all and looking at every creature in creation. Faced with his commanding aura, Hua Qian Gu could not help but want to kneel down in respect.

“I pay my respects to Zun Shang, Shi Zun, Ru Zun.” Tao Weng bowed and turned back to look at Hua Qian Gu. Only then did Hua Qian Gu react and quickly bow her head to pay her respects.

“What is it?”

Hua Qian Gu heard a commanding and low voice. She took a peek out of the corner of her eye. She saw a man dressed in black who was slightly older than Zun Shang. His pupils were so deep and incomprehensible that one could not see the bottom. His brows were knitted tightly together and there was a deep scar on his forehead. In his strictness there was a fierceness about him. His demeanour was very imposing and she could tell that his temper was not good. However he was extremely handsome too.

This should be Shi Zun, Mo Yan.

The one who is sitting on the left. No, the one lying there should be Ru Zun, Sheng Xiao Mo.

Hua Qian Gu was sweating wildly.

Unlike the other two, Sheng Xiao Mo was dressed in purple with a jade belt. He was lazy yet elegant, and half-sitting on a mattress made of ice silk and jade cotton and an elegant pillow that had been specially prepared for him. He was fiddling with the long Xiao (Flute-like instrument that is played vertically like a recorder), his Xiao dancing and twirling at the tips of his fair, long and elegant

fingers.

Mo Yan and Bai Zi Hua must be used to him and did not find this unusual. Hence, they automatically ignored him.

Hua Qian Gu felt a bit giddy staring at that silver Xiao. She thought in heart, they are indeed the three sovereigns. Whether it is looks or demeanour or powers they are so much better than other. She raised her head to look at Bai Zi Hua again, only to see Bai Zi Hua looking at her as well. However his gaze seem to pass right through her as though there was nothing worthy of his gaze.

Tao Weng opened his mouth to speak. However Hua Qian Gu couldn't hear what he was saying. She guessed that he must be using some secret code to report something to the three sovereigns.

\*Cries. Telling tales on her is bad enough. Why must he be so secretive about it? Even if she wanted to defend herself, she did not know how to do it.

Sheng Xiao Mo seemed get gradually more and more interested and stopped playing with the Xiao in his hand. His body also straightened. He looked at Hua Qian Gu and said " Second Shi Xiong, this is the little kid that you brought back to the mountain yesterday?"

Bai Zi Hua did not make a sound or nod. There was not a single expression on his face. It almost made Hua Qian Gu mistake him for a white jade statute that was sitting on a lotus.

Mo Yan coldly snorted" " How did she know that the Instrument of the Gods that is being protected by Mt Chang Liu is the Fu Xi Zither. You shouldn't pick a demon back. She is surrounded by an inauspicious aura. She is clearly a jinx!"

Hua Qian Gu's heart thumped wildly. She could faintly hear from Shi Zun's tone that he was not merely referring to her, but also blaming Bai Zi Hua. She wanted to say something, but did not dare to open her mouth. If Bai Zi Hua let people feel as though they could not breathe, Mo Zun's intimidating aura was simply oppressive. A casual glance from him would make one feel more miserable than dying. It was no wonder everyone on Mt Chang Liu was so afraid of him.

Shen Xiao Mo instead laughed, saying "Da Shi Xiong (Eldest Senior) , stop worrying for nothing. Er Shi Xiong (Second Senior) has his own reasons for doing things."

He then hinted at Tao Weng with his eyes and Tao Weng quickly bowed and left. Standing alone in the empty hall way facing the three sovereigns, Hua Qian Gu felt even more nervous. However, what she was most concerned about was whether there was there the slightest hint of displeasure on Bai Zi Hua's face.

"I heard you delivered the news of the theft of the Shuan Tian Chain and the massacre of Mount Mao? What is your name?" Xiao Shen Mo asked. His gentle voice was cloyingly sweet, making goosebumps rise all over Hua Qian Gu's body.

"Hua Qian Gu."

"En, what an obedient child. Come, tell Ru Zun, how did you know that the Instrument of the God that Mt Chang Liu is protecting is the Fu Xi Zither?" Hua Qian Gu felt cold sweat on her back. She rather he reprimand her sternly like Mo Yan Shi Zun. Instead, his coddling tone disarmed her.

"It is written in the book Elder Qing Xu gave to me." Hua Qian Gu honestly answered.

"What book?" Mo Yan's eyebrows knitted tightly. His gaze was so sharp it felt like it could pierce through everything.

"The Book of the Six Realms Elder Qing Xu wrote."

"He wrote this book? How did he even know this? Look like this stinking priest

is quite something.”

“Shi Xiong.” The moment Bai Zi Hua opened his mouth, his tone was so elegant it could split jade and gold. Even though his tone was casual, he was clearly reprimanding Mo Yan for being disrespectful to the dead.

Mo Yan gave a cold snort: “What is written in the book?”

Hua Qian Gu was secretly a little unhappy and said: “It records down the major happenings in the six realms.”

“Does it talk about the Instruments of the Gods in detail?”

“Other than the few instruments which are missing, it writes in detail about the rest.”

Mo Yan squinted his eyes: “It writes down where and who has the other instruments?”

“Yes.”

Xiao Sheng Mo and Bai Zi Hua looked at each other. If such an important item landed in evil hands...

“Present it up.”

Hua Qian Gu hesitated and did not move.

“I want you to present it up.” Mo Yan’s voice was slightly impatient and angered, as though he could not believe there was actually a disciple who dared to disobey him.

Hua Qian Gu looked at Bai Zi Hua. She considered that this book was after all an item of the Mt Mao Sect and it recorded many classified matters of the sect, hence it should be passed on to disciples of Mt Mao Sect. If other people read it, would she be guilty of not fulfilling Priest Qing Xu’s instructions. Moreover, only on hearing Mo Yan’s questions did she know that each of the sects were in the dark about who were protecting each of the instruments. However she did not know how Priest Qing Xu obtain all these information and recorded it on the Book of the Six Realms. Since each sect were afraid that mishap would ball each instrument or they would invite a massacre by the demands like Mt Mao, each sect would not be willing to let any outsiders know that they had an instrument

in possession. If Mo Yan and anyone else read the book, they would know everything about each instrument's location.

Even though she absolutely did not mean to suspect the three sovereigns, every extra person who knew, would mean greater danger. Furthermore, it would be disobeying Priest Qing Xu's last wishes.

In that moment she was put between a rock and a hard place, yet she could not give in: "I hope Shi Zun will forgive me. The Book of the Six Realms belongs to the Mt Mao Sect. It records a lot of classified information regarding the sect, hence we really cannot let outsiders read it."

On hearing this, Xiao Sheng Mo got even more excited. He was getting more interested in the book and Hua Qian Gu. This was the first time he saw someone actually defy Da Shi Xiong. There will be a good show to watch.

"What a joke. You speak as if I want to peep at their magic and secret manuals. Even if ten Mt Mao sects add up, Mt Chang Liu will not even regard them highly. If he dares to write down important information regarding his sect and other sects, why can't I read it! Hand it over immediately!"

Hua Qian Gu felt very helpless, but she still stood firm, and insisted "Please forgive me Shi Zun!" Goner, I am such a goner. It was only the first day of school and she not only offender Teacher Tao Weng. She even offended Shi Zun. She was in for it next time.

"Are you trying to rebel!" Mo Yan slapped down hard on the table, his intimidating aura so scary that Hua Qian Gu nearly keeled over on her knees. Yet she did not move and resisted the enormously heavy pressure that was pressing over her head like a dark cloud.

Xiao Sheng Mo was laughing widely at a side. She was a goner. She really ruffled Da Shi Xiong's feather.s

"Shi Xiong, Shi di, you guys temporarily take your leave. She has her own difficulties. Let me talk to her slowly." Bai Zi Hua looked at Hua Qian Gu's pitiful gaze as she stared at him for help and helplessly said.

"Hmph. You brought her home, so you better discipline her yourself!" Mo Yan left with a sweep of his sleeve.

Xiao Sheng Mo disappointed yawned, his silver Xiao danced a few rounds on his fingertips, forming a dazzling silver hoop. He then reluctantly went out. He originally wanted to watch a good show. It's always like this. Er Shi Xiong, you are so boring! However, only he as the Sect Leader could persuade Da Shi Xiong a little. If not this little flower standing here trying so hard not to shiver was in big trouble.

Suddenly, the chamber was empty, leaving only he two of them. Hua Qian Gu begged the heavens not to let Zun Shang hear the loud thumping of her heart.

“Shi Yi has already helped you arranged everything? How do you find it here? Can you adjust to it?”

Hua Qian Gu puzzledly raised her head to look at him. She could not understand why despite his clearly amiable tone and words, she did not feel a single trace of closeness or concern.

“En, everything is great.” If I could see you everyday, it would be even better. Hua Qian Gu added in her heart.

“You have a mortal body. Furthermore you are born with an unfortunate destiny. You cannot compare to the other disciples in the mountain who have some foundation in the immortal arts. Furthermore, you were constantly harassed by evil creatures in the past, hence your body is extremely weak. To cultivate in the immortal arts, it really is pushing it. Hence, you naturally need to put in more hard work than others.”

Hua Qian Gu felt her heart want. this was the first time he had spoken so much to her. If she did not have natural talent, she would make up for it with hard work. No matter what, she would fulfill the one year she had with him.

“Disciple understands.”

Saying this she went forward a few steps up the steps until she was before him. Her heart bounced up and down in line with her steps. She raised both hands and lowered her head, yet she presented the Book of Six Realms before him.

Bai Zi Hua was expressionless: “And what is this?”

“I just caused trouble during class. Please punish me Zun Shang.”

Bai Zi Hua looked as though he had not expected her to react so fast. He quickly realised what was happened and shook his head saying: " You have just entered Chang Liu and do not know many things. I can't blame you for this."

"But news that Chang Liu possesses the Fu Xi Zither could hence spread and may bring about a disaster like that on Mt Mao."

"With Chang Liu's abilities, we will definitely be part of the protection of the instruments of the gods. The demon and monster realms would have guessed it even without such news spreading. The only thing they did not know is which instrument we were protecting. Even if they know which instrument it doesn't matter. If even Chang Liu cannot protect the instrument and the demons and monsters dare to fight us head on, then nobody in the immortal realm can protect the instruments already. You need not worry too much."

"Your disciple understands. May Zun Shang accept the Book of the Six Realms."

Bai Zi Hua looked at her quizzically and did not understand why she was acting in such a contradictory manner.

"There are a lot of records on the book which may be help Zun Shang lead the immortal realm, destroy monsters, protect the instruments of the gods and prevent the birth of the Demon God."

Bai Zi Hua considered and said: "But what you say is correct. This is an item belonging to Mt Mao."

"I believe in Zun Shang. Furthermore, when Priest Qing Xu wrote this, he must have hoped that it would be of use. Even though he gave it to me, it isn't of much use to me and I cannot understand a lot of things inside. However, if its Zun Shang, it will be helpful to you. If we can protect the other instruments well and think of a way to recover the Shuan Tian Chain, I believe that Priest Qing Xu will be very happy."

Bai Zi Hua did not speak.

Hua Qian Gu continued: " Furthermore, after such a commotion, the book is not longer safe with me. There are so many important matters recorded inside. If other people snatch it by force, there will be disastrous consequences. Hua Qian

Gu does not have the ability to protect the book now. If the book is placed with Qian Gu, it will definitely be a curse not a blessing. If Zun Shang does not mind, then please help this disciple safe keep it temporary. When Hua Qian Gu needs it, you can then return it. Is that ok?"

Bai Zi Hua's ink black pupils darkened. He looked stared hard at Hua Qian Gu for two seconds. Hua Qian Gu quickly lowered her head.

He did not expect the young her who looked so weak and ordinary to be so thorough and careful when handling matters. Within her there was some impressive wisdom.

"Very well." Bai Zi Hua took the book. His finger accidentally touched Hua Qian Gu's fingertips. She was so alarmed she sucked in a deep breathe. His finger was as cold as an ice sculpture

She raised her head to look at Bai Zi Hua. She felt that beautiful as he was, there wasn't a sense of mortality on him. In her heart she felt distant and disappointed. This was to be expected. Zun Shang was after all a lofty immortal.

"If anybody tries to ask about the instruments whereabouts or other things in future, you must let Shi Yi report to me. Chang Liu has so many disciples, there will always be quite a number of people with impure intentions who managed to sneak in. You must be extra careful when you do things in future."

"Your disciple understands."

"Then take your leave."

"Yes."

Hua Qian Gu quickly walked to the door. Suddenly she turned around and smiled at Bai Zi Hua softly: " Zun Shang will it be very hard for me to see you next time?" Her tone was once again innocent and childish, unlike the adult-like tone she forced herself to take moments ago.

Bai Zi Hua returned to his senses.

"Even though you all rarely get to see me, you should know that I am always looking at you guys from Jue Qing Dian."

Hua Qian Gu forcefully nodded her head. She knew it now. Even though she

would rarely get to see him for the next year, he will always be looking at her from above like how he monitored the growth of other disciples. She will definitely not disappoint him.

As he watched her tiny figure leave the chamber and the large door close with a loud \*peng, he felt that the surroundings was quiet without compare.

Bai Zi Hua opened the Book of the Six Realms and slowly flipped through it. He then close the book and could not help but give a long sigh.

When she returned to the classroom, it was the middle of a lesson. Hua Qian Gu's legs still felt a little sore and she drifted back to her seat. Qing Shui hurriedly asked her what happened. She had been scared stiff when she heard that Qian Gu had been taken to see the Three Sovereigns..

"How did it end up like a hearing with the Three Sovereigns. Wasn't it just answering it a few questions? Why did he have to make such a big deal! This Tao Weng is too petty!" Qing Shui indignantly said and patted Hua Qian Gu back. "You were scared silly right? How do you feel about your first meeting with Shi Zun and Ru Zun?"

Hua Qian Gu's did not know how to answer her. \* Cries "I don't have any thoughts, only I seemed to have offended Shi Zun."

Qing Shui's eyes widened and said "You are a goner. Shi Zun is very vengeful. They didn't punish you right? Chang Liu 's punishments are very terrifying."

"They actually didnt. They let me come back after asking some questions"

"Phew. Then it shouldn't be too serious. That Tao Weng was making a mountain out of a mole hill. Hey hey, what do you think of Ru Zun?" Qing Shui asked cheekily.

"Ru Zun?" Hua Qian Gu rested her chin on the back of her hand, cocking her head to one side and considered her question. "Still alright. I don't have a deep impression of him. However he is completely doesn't seem like Ru Zun. He seems more like..."

"Like what?"

"Like a fox. He keeps snickering connivingly, making my hairs stand..."

"Haha, let me tell you, Shi Zun is too stern, Zun Shang is too cold. Only Ru Zun is the easiest to talk to. Moreover he is so good looking, refined and approachable and he is a gentle and elegant. He has all the young girls under his spell! He is the idol of the entire Chang Liu Mountain. If you don't believe me I can bring you to the rooms of other disciples. His drawings are pasted

everywhere. Even drafts that were written by him or his Xiao playing that have been recorded down in recording conches can be sold for a lot of money!

“Ah?” Hua Qian Gu was dumfounded.

“How about Zun Shang?”

Qing Shui stared at her: “ You think anyone dares to have any improper thoughts after they see Zun Shang? Everytime I see him, I don’t even dare lift my head. He is too high and lofty. It almost feels like a sin to just think about him. If not, with Zun Shang’s looks, everyone in Chang Liu Mountain and even the Immortal Realm would go crazy over him. Other than Shi Zun and Ru Zun respectively, Tan Lan Dian and Xiao Hun Dian each have their own respective disciples and a few disciples who are there specially to serve them. On the other hand, Zun Shang has always stayed alone in Jue Qing Dian alone all this years. Most of the matters in Chang Liu Mountain are handled by Shi Zun, hence Zun Shang rarely shows his face. Only during important matters or ceremonies does he leave the mountain or go down to Chang Liu Dian.”

“Alone?” Hua Qian Gu recalled how there seemed to be a layer frost on him that had not melted for over ten thousand years. She could not help but feel a bit sorry for him. She wanted to always accompany him in the future. What kind of feeling was this?

“It is time for lesson, quickly get into your seat. I promise you won’t be so bored that you will fall asleep this time.”

“Whose lesson is this?”

“Shi Yi Shi Xiong.”

“Arh?”

“He is Chang Liu’s eldest disciple of his generation. He is mature and steady in handling matters and is well liked by the Three Sovereigns. Moreover, he is very interesting when he teaches. His popularity is always in the top 5!”

“”Ah? There is even a ranking?”

“Of course. Currently, according to the votes collated by the unofficial <Immortal’s Magazine> which is secretly being circulated, the most popular is Ru

Zun, the second is Shi Yi Shi Xiong, the third is Zun Shang and the fourth is Ru Zun's disciple Huo Xi. In fifth place is Shi Zun."

"Are you serious? Even Shi Zun has fans? What's wrong with the taste of girls these day?" Hua Qian Gu looked up and gave a long sigh.

"Chh-, there are many masochistic people these days. Some love bad boys, while others love mature men! Moreover Shi Zun looks so commanding, like a god from the heavens. I guess a lot of people were won over by his stern commanding presence."

Hua Qian Gu knitted her eyebrows into a knot and was speechless.

She then saw the elegant and calm Luo Shi Yi walk empty handed into the class. He glanced at Hua Qian Gu before giving her a small nod and said " Today, we will be having a practical outdoor lesson. Everyone, please gather outside."

Around her, there was a loud cheer, and within moments everyone rushed out.

"What does Shi Yi Shi Xiong teach?"

"Sword-flying, the most basic among the flying techniques. You are too behind in your studies and you don't have any foundation at all. It will be very tiring for you to learn this on your first day."

Hua Qian Gu followed the rest to the open area and lined up. Luo Shi Yi pointed at wooden swords on the rack at a side, saying "Similar to the last class, everyone pick one sword."

Hua Qian Gu distractedly looked around. When she reached out to take the sword, she did not expect a wooden sword to be so heavy, and she immediately bent over and sank down in one swift motion.

There was a wave of sniggers around her.

Hua Qian Gu was stunned : "How can it be so heavy! This is clearly made of wood!"

"This is Hai Xuan Wood. It doesn't grow on land, but only on the surface of the sea. It is even heavier than Xuan Tie ( A fictional type of metal that was first introduced in Louis Cha's wuxia novels. It is extremely rare and strong, and is said to cut through metal as though it is dirt. Some believe that Louis Cha

invented it with reference to asteroid metal)” Qing Shui was also straining herself as she swung the sword in her hand.

” I want to faint. It will be strange if such a thing can even fly.”

As she said this, she suddenly heard something fly across the top of her head with a swoosh. The people around her started to cheer.

Hua Qian Gu raised her head and saw a glamorous Ni Man Tian soaring in the sky.

Ni Man Tian had clearly learned sword flying before she entered Chang Liu. She was clearly trying to show off as she flew up and down, twisting and turning in the sky. Her technique was really quite good. Hua Qian Gu and the others were awestruck by her display.

Luo Shi Yi once again revised the theory and the key points of sword flying with everyone. However, Hua Qian Gu could not understand anything at all. She squatted on the ground and stared at the stupid piece of wood that she could barely lift. She stared so long she felt as though she was growing mushrooms out of the top of her head.

Most of the people in Jia class could more or less stand on the sword and levitate in mid air. They just could not fly freely in the air like Ni Man Tian.

On the other hand, most of the people in her own class could not even move the sword no matter how they chanted their spells or kicked the sword.

Qing Shui was really considered quite good. The sword could already float over one metre in the air under her command.

Around them, there was a continuous streams of painful cries from disciples who had fallen off their sword. Hua Qian Gu and Qing Shui could not help but giggle quietly as they saw how most of them fell on their backs, like overturned turtles.

Hua Qian Gu jumped on the sword on the ground and kept stepping on it. Fly, quick fly. That sword was much wider than a normal sword, however, it was still not as wide as the length of a good, Hence, perhaps why they used such a heavy wooden sword to practise was so that they would not injure others and it would be more stable. However, it was very hard to balance on the sword on the

ground.

Luo Shi Yi came over to tell Hua Qian Gu the essential points about flying and let Hua Qian GU memorise it at a side first. After all, sword flying was a more advanced immortal technique and it could not be learned in a short period of time. Even though Hua Qian Gu had been exposed and immersed in a lot of immortal aura now, her current strength was still insufficient to manipulate the sword and she still needed more practice.

Hua Qian Gu nodded away. As, she looked at Ni Man Tian soaring and dancing freely in the sky, like a colourful and radiant seven coloured rainbow, mesmerising all the boys on the ground, she secretly resolved to quickly learn how to fly as well. Only then could she be closer to the sky, closer to Jue Qing Dian and closer to the lofty Zun Shang.

She raised her head to look at Jue Qing Dian which was floating in the sky at the east. Compared to the enormous main island, Chang Liu Mountain, it seemed quite small. A waterfall flowed straight down from above like a silver chain, linking Chang Liu Mountain and Jue Qing Dian. It did not seem to be blown off course by the wind. And Zun Shang lived each day all alone in such a high and cold place

The three Dians (Dian is something like a small manor or hall) formed a giant clear barrier which enveloped the entire Chang Liu like a cover. Hence, a rainbow would occasionally flash briefly across the blue horizon. During evenings as the sun sets, the barrier would cast a giant reflection of Chang Liu Mountain against the sky. It was almost like a mirage, grand and spectacular. As the reflection in the sky shined against the reflection in the sea, there seemed to be three Chang Liu Mountains.

Hua Qian Gu lazily lay on the grass and fell into a daze as she looked at the sky. Suddenly she heard a slight disturbance at a side. Qing Shui who had been tirelessly battling the wooden sword immediately pulled Hua Qian Gu up and rushed towards the noise.

They saw Ni Man Tian standing in front of Ni Feng, clearly challenging him to compete with her in Sword Flying.

Hua Qian Gu seeing his covered face and ice cold pupils and decided that he

wasn't someone to be trifled with. She looked at Qing Shui, who whispered in her ear saying :”That boy is called Ni Feng. He is also very powerful, but very mysterious. Nobody knows his background. He is good in every subject and hence he is always fighting for first place with Ni Man Tian in Jia class. Thus, Ni Man Tian doesn't like him and takes him as her biggest rival to winning the Xian Jia Da Hui (Immortal Sword's Meet). However she doesn't know his background and he is not to be messed with. Hence she can only think of other ways to compete with him.”

Around them there were loud cheers . Hua Qian Gu looked all around for Luo Shi Yi, only to find him standing far away. It was clear that he was not going to interfere.

Ni Feng did not fly on his sword even once before that. He looked at Ni Man Tian and gave a cold snort. He was too lazy to argue with her. However, he suddenly took to the skies with his sword. Before anybody realised what was happening, he had disappeared with a swoosh. Everyone looked at each other and searched high and low. There wasn't a single trace of him in the sky.

Waaa. What amazing speed. Is he really a disciple who had just entered the sect!

Hua Qian Gu gaped and looked at the roof of the Chang Liu main hall. She did not know why, perhaps it was because of the powers and cultivation that Priest Qing Xu gave her, or because her sense became clearer after coming to Chang Liu, she found that her vision was getting clearer and clearer.

Hence, while everyone was still searching, she could quickly register Ni Feng's flying figure speeding towards the roof. Even though there was quite a large distance between them, she could still clearly see him lying leisurely on the roof. He was even chewing a piece of dogtail grass in his mouth. He seems to realise that he had been spotted. His sharp gaze stared straight at Hua Qian Gu from far.

Their gazes crossed and duelled in mid air, and almost seemed to emit sparks. At last Hua Qian Gu lowered her head in defeat

*After class, Hua Qian Gu and Qing Shui returned to their room. Qing Shui showed off what she had made for Tang Bao: a jewelry box to sleep in, a small pillow, a small blanket and some small clothes.*

*At night, Qing Shui slept soundly while Hua Qian Gu stayed up to study like always. Time was not on her side as she tried her best to catch up to the other students.*

*When Tang Bao woke up from her slumber, Hua Qian Gu was still awake studying. She told Tang Bao that her eyesight and memory were better and wondered if this was because she had bathed in the Pool of Three Lives or Taoist priest Qing Xu had given her his internal energy. Tang Bao guessed probably both.*

*It took Hua Qian Gu practically ten days of no sleep before she memorized all the theories. Every night after that, she went into the woods behind the Hai quarters to practice.*

*Because she stayed up late and woke up early to study, Hua Qian Gu had trouble staying awake in class. Fortunately, Tang Bao was always in her ear and helped her deal with all types of situation, including whispering to her the answers. There were some teachers who disliked Hua Qian Gu and gave her a hard time by constantly picking on her to answer their questions. As a result, Hua Qian Gu unintentionally became infamous as a student with weak skills but had a deep knowledge.*

*The most important classes were based on the five elements of water, metal, fire, wood and earth. Xiu Mu Qing Liu was in charge of the water element. The punishment was to drink water so Hua Qian Gu usually left his class with a swollen stomach.*

*Qu Mu was in charge of the wood element and liked to torment Hua Qian Gu. He demanded her to cut down trees, split them into pieces and write on the wood pieces with her fingers. Her hands bled often from this and scars formed.*

*Gradually, her hands became flexible and strong.*

*Hu Qing Qiu was in charge of the earth element. She was a disciple of Shi Zun Mo Yan and had a similar personality because she behaved like a serious, old woman. She favored the accomplished students such as Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng. At the same time, she could not care less about the other students, especially the weak ones like Hua Qian Gu.*

*Wu Qing Luo was in charge of the metal element. Hua Qian Gu liked this class the most. Although Wu Qing Luo had a hot temper, she never acted like a teacher but more like a friend. Her lessons were straightforward and simple. Most of the students did well in the class, including Hua Qian Gu.*

*After five months, the students could use their swords to fly. Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng could even control the clouds and the wind. Unfortunately for Hua Qian Gu, the most she could do was make her sword lift up no more than two meters from the ground, but the sword could never stay straight for more than three seconds.*

*That night, Hua Qian Gu was in the woods again to practice flying, she had tried so hard for the past six months but felt she needed to push herself more. Just thinking about the Xian Jian Games drawing nearer, she became increasingly anxious and impatient, constantly forcing herself, her mental and physical endurance must surpass her classmates.*

*Shuo Feng sat in a tall tree from far away and watched in curiosity as she fell over and over from her sword. The higher the sword flew, the more painful the fall. There were scars all over her body, her bones probably broke a few times, but she stubbornly refused to give up.*

*Tang Bao laid next to the leaves and cried quietly. For the past few months, Hua Qian Gu desperately pushed herself. She was stubborn like an ox and did not listen. She had fallen so many times that it could not bear to look anymore, it did not know why Hua Qian Gu was like this.*

*Hua Qian Gu fell again, although she had used her internal energy and Tang Bao also used its power to cushion the fall, she still hit the ground hard and could not move. Wiping blood from the corner of her mouth, she laid on the grass and looked up at the sky full of stars, looking also at Jue Qing Hall under*

*the stars, she suddenly felt disheartened.*

*Abruptly, she heard Tang Bao's distressed voice: "Gu Tou, do you remember why you went to Mount Mao? What was your original wish, is it necessary that Bai Zi Hua is our teacher?"*

*Hua Qian Gu froze for a moment, smiling weakly. Yes, in the beginning, she only wanted a simple life without any struggles, not being bothered by evil spirits, not bringing misfortune to people around her, have food to fill her stomach and warm clothes to wear. She did not know when it began, this aggression in wanting Bai Zi Hua to become her teacher. When did this obsession develop?*

*If her wish was like before, every day would probably be easy. She can live at Chang Liu, in happiness and leisure. She asked herself, she no longer wanted to lose to anyone, she wanted to be the best, she wanted everyone to envy her, is all of this not because so she can become good enough, would he be happy?*

*If she wanted something or to do something, she could not let go.*

*She wanted to be close to him, a little closer, just a little more. As long as she can often see him, be around him, she would be satisfied, at least she would not disappoint him because he had kindly brought her to Mount Chang Liu.*

*With this thought, she forced herself to stand up and continue to practice.*

*The next day was Luo Shi Yi's class, Hua Qian Gu sat on the grass and looked upward at the other students flying across the sky, trying to see how they were balancing themselves.*

*Qing Shui was able to fly well now, standing on a sword, plunging towards Hua Qian Gu, then stopping lightly, holding out her hand.*

*"Qian Gu, I'll take you for a spin."*

*"It's all right." Hua Qian Gu waved quickly, "You just go on with your practice."*

*"You still can't control your sword? Aren't you supposed to be powerful? Ha ha ha!" A burst of laughter rang out, Ni Man Tian flew over on a cloud.*

*"If you're afraid a sword is too narrow, I'll take you with me!" After saying*

*this, she put out her hand and pulled Hua Qian Gu onto the cloud then zipped upward.*

*“Tang Bao!” Hua Qian Gu had not stabilized her body, Tang Bao was sleeping in her ear and slipped out, falling straight down, still asleep and unaware.*

*Luo Shi Yi was startled and flew up, catching it in his hands just in time. Tang Bao groggily woke up, as soon as it opened its eyes, it saw the cloud under Ni Man Tian’s feet dispersing. She was using the wind, she pretended to pull Hua Qian Gu along but this was not so, Hua Qian Gu also began to fall.*

*Luo Shi Yi had just caught Tang Bao so he could not save Hua Qian Gu, Qing Shui tried to fly over on her sword but was not fast enough.*

*Shuo Feng’s sword shook, he forced himself to stay still and not fly up to save Hua Qian Gu, he remained aloof on the sidelines.*

*Hua Qian Gu was so scared she forgot to use her internal energy, she fell from too high too fast, she hurriedly closed her eyes. She thought this was it, this was it, her arms and legs would surely be broken.*

*She suddenly felt herself stop falling, someone caught her in his arms.*

*The body was cold like ice, she did not feel anything in the embrace, but when she smelled a familiar fragrance, her brain stopped working.*

*After a long time, Hua Qian Gu dared to open her eyes, it was really Zun Shang, who had not been seen in six months.*

*Dressed in white, his face calm as he held her and slowly descended from the sky, thinking Hua Qian Gu must be so scared to tremble so much.*

*Bai Zi Hua gently put her down, Hua Qian Gu’s legs weakened, she sank down in front of him, afraid to look up.*

*Ni Man Tian quickly flew down, falling to her knees. Everyone else also began to act, clambering to kneel down, shouting in unison: “Paying respect to Zun Shang!”*

*Bai Zi Hua frowned lightly, a bit puzzled, he could have used his power to bring Hua Qian Gu down, he did not know why he felt afraid and forgot, he acted automatically by flying up to save her.*

*“I’m sorry, I wanted to teach Hua Qian Gu to fly on a sword, I was not paying attention, I made a mistake, please punish me!” Ni Man Tian did not expect Zun Shang to suddenly appear, her face was completely white.*

*Bai Zi Hua was displeased but did not say anything, he saw that Hua Qian Gu in front of him had grown taller, her messy hair was now in two cute buns, she looked more grown-up. Nevertheless, her face was pale and haggard, she was light like a feather in his arms, he discovered there were external and internal injuries all over her body. If he did not come here with someone else to look for her, would she not have another injury? Not to mention everything happened in front of this person, causing an embarrassment for Chang Liu.*

*“This disciple pays respect to Sect Leader!” Suddenly, someone knelt down but not in front of Bai Zi Hua. Everyone opened their eyes wide, surprised to see someone in a white robe, his demeanor handsome and intelligent, his face filled with excitement. However, he was kneeling in front of Hua Qian Gu, which was a bit funny.*

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“This disciple pays respect to Sect Leader!” A man knelt in front of her, Hua Qian Gu lifted her head, the man was smiling, he looked ethereal, his aura shone like clouds of multiple colors, making others feel warm.

Hua Qian Gu froze and turned to Bai Zi Hua, Bai Zi Hua nodded at her to stand up.

She struggled to her feet, her legs still trembling, the man in front of her still knelt. She quickly stepped aside, feeling the man was kneeling in the wrong direction, she felt overwhelmed by what was happening.

“Mount Mao’s disciple Yun Yin pays respect to Sect Leader!” The man turned in her direction, still kneeling and bowing low.

Hua Qian Gu’s face stiffened, she hastily extended her hand to help him stand up. As she walked closer to him, she smelled an elegant fragrance.

“Yun Yin, do not scare her, you can talk to her in the Main Hall.” Bai Zi Hua said.

Yun Yin held her hand and stood up, his clear eyes filled with delight fixated on her, it seemed as if he had a lot of things to say. Then he realized he was not being respectful so he lowered his head, making a “please” gesture.

“Gu Tou mama!!!” At this point, Tang Bao flew from Luo Shi Yi’s hands, it clung onto Hua Qian Gu’s shoulder and cried noisily, it was almost scared to death.

Hua Qian Gu smiled and poked it, quietly making a gesture to Qing Shui not to worry. Then she followed Bai Zi Hua and Yun Yin to the Main Hall.

Everyone began to discuss loudly among themselves. That girl seemed ordinary, without skills or background, who would think she turned out to be a sect leader.

Ni Man Tian squeezed her hands until the bones cracked, she had mistakenly looked down on this girl, it appeared the girl would be a big problem in the

future.

In the Main Hall, Hua Qian Gu saw that Shi Zun and Ru Zun were already present, Tang Bao immediately hid in her ear. Because there was an outsider, Sheng Xiao Mo sat up straight, but he still looked lazy. It appeared Mo Yan still held a grudge, he coldly stared at her.

“This disciple pays respect to Shi Zun and Ru Zun.” Hua Qian Gu knelt and reverently bowed her head.

Mo Yan snorted loudly: “We cannot accept such respect, Sect Leader of Mount Mao.” Each of his word meant to ridicule her.

Hua Qian Gu was stunned, her face turned a deep red.

Sheng Xiao Mo intervened reluctantly: “Senior brother, Hua Qian Gu was just helping a dying man.”

Mo Yan waved his hand and said: “She is a disciple of Chang Liu, yet she is the sect leader of another school, how ridiculous. Chang Liu cannot keep such a grand person. She should return to Mount Mao as soon as possible and be sect leader there!”

Hua Qian Gu’s heart sank after hearing that, she quickly lifted her head to look at Bai Zi Hua, he indifferently put down his tea cup and did not say anything.

Yun Yin frowned and explained: “After receiving news from Wang Mu Qing Niao (bluebird), I immediately returned to Mount Mao to take care of things. I knew Sect Leader had left with Zun Shang for Chang Liu so I was reassured, there were many things to take care of in the sect, I didn’t want to bring Sect Leader back amidst so many problems and troubles. Also, it’s said that Sect Leader had joined Mount Chang Liu, every day would be filled with arduous studies, I didn’t dare to interfere. For the past six months, I’ve been corresponding with Zun Shang to keep track of Sect Leader’s progress. Finally, our sect has successfully restructured, the only thing left is for Sect Leader to return to guide us. This is why I especially made the trip here to invite Sect Leader back.”

Hua Qian Gu looked at Yun Yin in bewilderment, how can he not know she was just an ordinary human? Before dying, Taoist priest Qing Xu needed her help out of necessity, she was not involved in any of this. Hua Qian Gu knew with her

limited ability, she could not help him, if she became the sect leader of Mount Mao, even if the governing power was in his hands, he would still need her authorization, which would be inconvenient. Also, Hua Qian Gu was not strong enough to protect herself, if something happened then Mount Mao would be at a big disadvantage, if something happened to the sect leader, she would not be able to cope, which would be disastrous. If she remained at Chang Liu, it would be easier for him to do things his way.

If Mount Mao had successfully restructured, she would need to give back the sect leader's symbol and palace feathers to him, she would not even need to go back to Mount Mao. Also, time was not on her side, with her weak skills, perhaps she could not even climb up to the dais of the Xian Jian Games. She only wanted to become Bai Zi Hua's disciple, she did not care about being the sect leader of Mount Mao.

"I'm deficient, I don't know how to be sect leader. You're here right on time, I'll pass the sect leader's position to you, this would fulfill Taoist priest Qing Xu's last wish."

Yun Yin shook his head: "I'm aware of my teacher's intention, I also realize it's difficult to be sect leader. However, Mount Mao currently has internal and external enemies, if I become sect leader, my ways dealing with things would not change, which would give cause for the other disciples who have never liked me to rebel, thus it is necessary for you to be our sect leader. You have been entrusted by my teacher, you also helped Mount Mao, the disciples will obey you. In the future when everything is in order, if you don't want to be sect leader anymore, we'll think of another solution, how about it?"

Hua Qian Gu's heart sank, she was still young, just a human, with limited ability. Yun Yin wanted her to be a puppet, he would pull the strings in the background, this would solve the crisis at Mount Mao. Hua Qian Gu could not help but admire him a bit.

Yun Yin spoke smoothly and elegantly, she could not disagree. She could only nod but added: "No matter what happens, I'm still a disciple of Chang Liu."

"I understand." Yun Yin bowed, "There will be a ceremony at Mount Mao, all the disciples who wandered off will return to the mountain, you must be there as

sect leader, if not, this will hurt morale, it is why I'm here. It's only for a few days, then I'll guide Sect Leader back to Chang Liu."

Hua Qian Gu looked up toward Bai Zi Hua, he nodded quietly to give his consent.

"All right, I'll go back to Mount Mao with you."

The bright moon rose high in the sky, in the woods, Hua Qian Gu lit incense sticks, burned burial paper, then sat under the shade of a tree and dazedly looked at the flame. Mount Chang Liu not only had plenty of jades but also plenty of burning fragrances. It was difficult to know what this fragrance was comprised of, but it smelled different from the other fragrances. It created feelings of anxiety and misery. The smoke was hazy, hypnotizing those who look at it.

She had sneaked out in the middle of the night, today was her birthday, it was also the anniversary of her mother's death.

Usually, everyone should be joyful on their birthday, she was the only one who thought of this day as the saddest.

Always bringing misfortune to anyone close to her, this meant she could only be by herself. So lonely, so cold.

Tomorrow, she would return to Mount Mao with Yun Yin, she had not seen the outside world for six months, would there be changes?

"What are you doing here by yourself?"

The voice suddenly rang out and scared her half to death, she did not need to look up but quickly knelt down.

"Paying respect to Zun Shang!"

Her head low, only seeing his white robe on the ground, a few yellow leaves clung to it, she suddenly wanted to reach out and brush them off.

"I went to the Hai quarters to look for you but did not find you, I smelled this fragrance and decided to see what was happening, you did burn this. Why are you burning burial paper today? Who passed away on this date?"

"My mother." Hua Qian Gu replied sadly.

“I see, try not to grieve too much.....” Bai Zi Hua had never talked much, he also did not know how to comfort others, he saw Hua Qian Gu’s thin body shaking in the howling wind.

This child, why was she so afraid of him?

“Stand up first and then talk.”

Hua Qian Gu stood up, still afraid to look at him.

“Are you here because I’m going back to Mount Mao tomorrow?”

Bai Zi Hua nodded: “When you go back, you will have to deal with a lot of difficulties, you should mentally prepare yourself.”

“Why? Don’t I just need to participate in a ceremony?” It was not like she was going to war.

“Yun Yi and Chun Qiu Bu Bai may try to harm you. Mount Mao’s strength is no longer what it once was. Also, there are disciples who want to be sect leader so they would not welcome your presence. Although Yun Yin will try his best to protect you, it is inevitable that he cannot always be with you. I thought of accompanying you, but I must settle many issues, and it is not convenient to show myself. You need to be alert, do not bring shame to Mount Chang Liu or Mount Mao.”

“I understand.”

Bai Zi Hua paused and then asked: “You still cannot use a sword to fly?”

Hua Qian Gu was surprised, feeling uneasy and embarrassed. She thought he must be disappointed in her. She could not help but feel distressed.

Bai Zi Hua waved his fingers, a silver light flashed from his waist and swept upward, it circled on top of their heads a few times then stopped in midair. The blade was thin like the wings of an insect, the light illuminated from it was green like emerald, the entire blade glimmered in the colors of a rainbow.

“I will teach you.”

Then he stretched out a hand toward Hua Qian Gu.

Hua Qian Gu looked up in shock, his appearance inspired reverence, it seemed

as if he eclipsed the moonlight behind him. She froze, her brain empty, she blankly extended her hand and allowed him to take it, his hand forever cold like ice. She felt as if she was submerged in water, not being able to breath, there was no way out. Suddenly, she had a feeling she could never escape this.

Bai Zi Hua looked at her: “Do not forget the theories, the most important thing is to apply what you have studied to the sword, think of it as a part of you, you can fly wherever you want, you will not fall down.”

After saying this, he was like a deity and flew up with Hua Qian Gu onto the sword. The sword was only three meters long, but Hua Qian Gu was small so it was not crowded.

Hua Qian Gu shook and was about to fall but felt Bai Zi Hua behind helping her, reassuring her.

“Control your breathing, do not be afraid, I will let you control the sword now.”

After he said this, the sword shook violently a few times up and down, then completely descended downward.

Ahhhh, Hua Qian Gu screamed silently, they would crash into a big tree! She quickly closed her eyes but remembering he was behind her, she immediately gathered her internal energy and used it to pull the sword in another direction, the leaves brushed past them, she was sweating profusely.

“Good, now try to stabilize the sword, slowly go up.”

Hua Qian Gu guided the sword to fly aimlessly in the sky, sometimes high sometimes low, never more than twelve meters from the ground, it was dangerous. However, this was beyond her expectation, first because the sword was obedient, secondly because his presence reassured her.

Flying amongst the trees was dangerous, Hua Qian Gu concentrated on looking at the moon, her heart kept shouting to keep moving forward, keep moving forward. Finally, they shot up, out of the woods, the sword carried them toward the moonlight clear like water.

It seemed as if the wind was lifting Hua Qian Gu up, the sword gradually stabilized.

Hua Qian Gu took a deep breath, the smell of burning fragrance mixed with the smell of grass created a calming effect. So this was what flying felt like, but her wings were not the sword but Zun Shang.

Hua Qian Gu slowly mastered the techniques, flying in a circle a few times in the air. She discovered she had flown very high, so high she could see all of Mount Chang Liu and the three halls.

She descended slowly. The sword automatically returned to Bai Zi Hua's waist, slipping into the scabbard.

"You did well." Bai Zi Hua nodded and praised her, Hua Qian Gu felt this was sweeter than eating honey. Suddenly remembering something, she asked:

"Zun Shang, is the demonic aura on me still heavy like before? You can smell it from anywhere? Is that how you found me?"

"It is not a demonic aura but more like a mystical fragrance, easily attracting evil spirits. Right now, you have the hook jade, which hides a lot of the fragrance, evil spirits and humans cannot smell it, but I can still sense it."

Then he handed the sword to her: "I think you and this sword are fated, I will give it to you."

Hua Qian Gu was shocked: "How can you? Thank you for your concern, I don't dare to accept it."

"Do not worry, this is not the Heng Shuang sword, it is only an ordinary sword called Duan Nian (Emotionless), it is delicate and quick, suitable for a girl. You still do not have a weapon, correct? Although the Emotionless sword is not famous, it is an excellent weapon, more importantly it is spiritual, it can protect you when you are in danger. Is today not your birthday? Think of it as a gift. You need to continue to be studious so you can be a good match for this sword."

"Thank you Zun Shang, I understand."

Hua Qian Gu trembled as she knelt down to accept the sword, her voice also trembled, this was the first time someone gave her a birthday gift. Because of her mother, her father avoided the topic, let alone celebrate this day.

Her heart was overwhelmed with warmth, her emotions a mixture of sorrow

and grief, she did not know what to say.

But how could Zun Shang know today was her birthday? Hua Qian Gu looked up at him, Bai Zi Hua saw her childish face like a dandelion swaying gently in the night wind, he seemed to understand what she wanted to ask, he replied: “Based on your appearance, I can guess.” He paused then continued, “Mount Mao is known for its sword flying techniques, now you also know, from now on try to deal with problems yourself, do not rely on Yun Yin for everything. All right, it is late, you need to hurry back to sleep, you have to get up early tomorrow.”

Hua Qian Gu was so moved she could not talk, it seemed Bai Zi Hua purposely sought her out to teach her how to fly, then to give her a sword. He probably worried if she was the sect leader of Mount Mao but still depended on Yun Yin to fly on a sword or a cloud, it would be difficult for the disciples to obey her. If they challenged her now, she can answer them. If demons wanted to harm her, she can escape. He thought of everything for her, to even the smallest details, how can she not want to do everything to repay him?

Looking at Bai Zi Hua walking further and further away, she felt so happy. Hugging the sword, she wanted to cry.

*Early next morning, Hua Qian Gu left with Yun Yin for Mount Mao. Naturally, she brought along Tang Bao. It was her first time flying on a sword high in the sky so she was nervous. Tang Bao clung onto her shoulder and was preoccupied with the candy Luo Shi Yi had given it.*

*Along the way, Yun Yin talked about Mount Mao. Hua Qian Gu listened carefully and tried her best to remember everything. Yun Yin was afraid Hua Qian Gu was tired so he wanted them to rest often, but she declined because she did not want them to be late.*

*When they arrived at Mount Mao, the big bells in the Main Hall rang 12 times while thousands of disciples knelt in front of Jiu Xiao Wan Fu Palace. The disciples surprised Hua Qian Gu by shouting in unison “Welcome Sect Leader back to the mountain!” and almost caused her to fall off her sword in an undignified heap. Fortunately, a disciple was there to steady her.*

*Hua Qian Gu walked into the Main Hall and sat down in the gold chair situated high above everything. Groups after groups appeared in front of her to pay respect, including the elders of Mount Mao and honored guests from the other sects. Next was the official ritual of Hua Qian Gu accepting the position of sect leader. Finally, everyone knelt down to commemorate all those who were killed by demons. Through each event, Tang Bao was in Hua Qian Gu’s ear and whispered what she needed to do.*

*The ceremony lasted the entire day. In the beginning, everyone at Mount Mao had worried that their sect leader was a 12 years old girl. Now, they were reassured because she acted impeccably. More importantly, everyone saw that Hua Qian Gu had the Emotionless sword, which was Bai Zi Hua’s renowned weapon. Everyone understood this represented Bai Zi Hua’s tacit approval of this matter. Bai Zi Hua was the leading authority in the immortal realm so if he supported her, that was good enough for everyone else.*

*The next morning, Yun Yin knocked on Hua Qian Gu’s door to wake her up. She*

*told him she had dreamed of the dead disciple from Mount Lao thanking her. Yun Yin said Mount Lao already claimed his body.*

*Yun Yin said he can make delicious lotus congee and left for the kitchen. However, he returned quickly and did not carry any food. He was pale and said Hua Qian Gu needed to go with him because there was an emergency.*

*Yun Yin flew down the mountain, and Hua Qian Gu quickly followed behind. She asked where they were going, but he did not answer. She became suspicious and told Yun Yin that they would need to send a message to Mount Lao so the sect can claim the bones of its disciple, who had died here. He agreed and continued on, but he felt Hua Qian Gu was not following him. He turned around and saw her cautiously looking at him. She said he was not Yun Yin and demanded to know his identity.*

*The man insisted he was Yun Yin, but Hua Qian Gu did not believe him. She tried to think who he could be and guessed he was Yun Yi. The man laughed coldly and ridiculed Hua Qian Gu for having a quick mind befitting of a sect leader.*

*Because of what Mount Mao had suffered, mystical traps were set up on the mountain so outsiders cannot easily go into the Main Hall, but the imposter moved around without any problems as if he had inside knowledge. Also, there were spells that prevented outsiders from using incantations so the imposter could not possibly morph to look like Yun Yin. Hence, Hua Qian Gu concluded he had to be Yun Yi, the disciple who betrayed Mount Mao.*

*Apparently, Yun Yin and Yun Yi were identical twins, with Yun Yin being older by two seconds. Their family tradition only valued the eldest son so Yun Yin received all the attention and love while Yun Yi was demoted to the status of a servant. From the time they were little, Yun Yi had to be his elder brother's shadow and the purpose of his existence was to protect Yun Yin, even at the risk of Yun Yi's own life. Yun Yi even had to become a disciple at Mount Mao because Yun Yin wanted to study here. For some reason, if Yun Yin felt pain, Yun Yi would also feel the same pain only twice as worse. Because of this, Yun Yi did not dare to harm his elder brother. Yun Yi always wore a mask so no one knew what he looked like, including Taoist priest Qing Xu and Yun Yin.*

*Hua Qian Gu had seen through his pretense so Yun Yi dropped the polite act. He bit a finger and slowly pulled out a thin stream of blood, which turned into a crimson rope. The Emotionless sword shook and flew out of its scabbard. Hua Qian Gu tried to fight back but quickly realized she was no match so she tried to run away. Yun Yin pulled out more crimson ropes from his other fingers. The crimson ropes followed Hua Qian Gu and wrapped around her until she could no longer move.*

Hua Qian Gu could not breath anymore, her mind spinning rapidly to think of

how to fight back, when she was anxious, the crimson ropes suddenly was cut by something into pieces, falling to the ground and turned into a pool of blood.

Yun Yi was alarmed, his first reaction was to put on his mask. He assumed Yun Yin and rescuers were coming, he looked around, someone in a purple robe stood on a tree branch in the distance. As the person flew nearer and the face came into focus, Yun Yi and Hua Qian Gu were stunned. It was a face from the heavens, a beauty that transcended the realms, an indescribable beauty.

The streaming purple hair floated in the wind, the purple robe drifted like in a dream. The white skin was translucent under the sunlight, the curves of the collarbones a bit exposed. Between the eyebrows was a crimson mark like a blooming flower, the red eyes were bright and innocent, a sky full of stars would even be eclipsed.

“Ah, so it’s Yun Yi, it seems I’m late again?” Hua Qian Gu looked at the newcomer, forgetting the danger she was in. She could not believe the person’s voice sounded so soothing, she thought Zun Shang had the best voice until now.

Yun Yi frowned, silently cursing this jerk Sha Qian Mo for purposely showing up to steal her, he snorted coldly, then retreated quietly.

Hua Qian Gu sat on the ground, watching as the person floated gently down from the trees, even the steps were light, the waist willowy, the purple robe danced in the wind, each movement was seductive, almost hypnotic.

“You’re the kiddo who’s the new sect leader of Mount Mao?”

Sha Qian Mo looked down at her, saw that the buns on her head were cute so reached out to poke at them.

“Don’t worry, get up, I already scared off the bad guy.” Sha Qian Mo was surrounded in a sandalwood fragrance, he smiled gently, his breath like orchids, his teeth like jades.

“Jiejie, you’re so pretty, but your chest is a bit small.” Hua Qian Gu innocently looked at “jiejie” as she spoke.

“Nonsense!” Sha Qian Mo rolled his red eyes, tapped at Hua Qian Gu, covered his smile as if pouting, his action irresistibly charming. Hua Qian Gu tried to prevent her nose from bleeding.

“Am I really pretty? How pretty?”

“Even more than deities.”

“Really?” Sha Qian Mo exclaimed happily, “What deities have you seen?”

“I’ve seen Chang’e, Qi Xian Nu, Bei Hai Long Wang, Jiu Tian Xuan Nu, but they’re not half as pretty as you!” Hua Qian Gu reluctantly turned her head to look at “jiejie,” vowing earnestly.

Sha Qian Mo was extremely proud, what he liked most was hearing others praising his looks, but no one ever made him so gleeful through flattery like Hua Qian Gu.

“I can’t believe you’ve such a sweet mouth.” Sha Qian Mo squeezed her small face, not bothering to correct her that he was a man. “Jiejie” can be “jiejie,” this sounded pleasing, no one had ever dared calling him this, haha.

“Thanks for saving me!” Hua Qian Gu bowed to Sha Qian Mo. She had only been sect leader for a day and was almost captured by someone else, Yun Yin was probably very worried by now! She must return quickly!

But what was the background of this jiejie? So powerful that being here was enough to scare away Yun Yi?

“Can I ask what’s your name?”

“I’m called Sha Qian Mo, you’re Hua Qian Gu, right? Last year, you forced your way into the Qun Xian feast, causing chaos so it had to stop halfway through, right? You’re the new sect leader of Mount Mao?”

The name Sha Qian Mo sounded familiar, Hua Qian Gu bit her hands and thought for a long time, suddenly remembering at the Qun Xian feast, the Jade Emperor had ordered to capture someone, it seemed the name was Liu Huo Fei Tong Sha Qian Mo.

Hua Qian Gu stared, the appearance and demeanor made her think of a deity, who could imagine the person was a demon? Was the demon here to capture her like Yun Yi? She had jumped from the frying pan into the fire!

Sha Qian Mo smiled at her, his eyes curved exquisitely like a crescent moon: “Oh, you know who I am, right? I’m from the demon realm, are you afraid of

me?”

Hua Qian Gu almost fainted from his alluring smile, feeling as if her body and soul were hypnotized by his red eyes. However, jiejie seemed pleasant and smelled nice, not demonic or murderous, if she had not heard the name before, it would be difficult to say this was an evil demon based on appearance, can evil demons look so ethereal? Well, if she had to die, she might as well die in the hands of a beautiful jiejie rather than from the gruesome crimson ropes of Yun Yi!

Hua Qian Gu scratched her head, answering honestly: “I’m not afraid of you, where do you want to take me?”

Sha Qian Mo’s eyes flashed: “Have you heard of my reputation? Are you really not scared?”

“You don’t look evil, you’re very gentle.”

Sha Qian Mo sighed: “No one in this world has ever said they’re not afraid of me, that I’m gentle.”

His white hand reached out to hold Hua Qian Gu’s hand, he whispered: “The Demon God will be resurrected, the demon realm will be divided, my strength is limited, it’s difficult for me to control everything. I was late before, which is why Chun Qiu Bu Bai was able to destroy Mount Mao. Taoist priest Qing Xu saved my life once, but I could not save him. He chose you as successor, I’ll protect you, I won’t let Yun Yi harm you, don’t worry.”

Hua Qian Gu allowed him to hold her hand, nodding in innocence.

“You believe me?”

“I believe you.”

Sha Qian Mo delightfully embraced her, this kid was so easy to trick, how can she believe a stranger? Haha, fortunately he had a good heart, he was the most beautiful out of the ones with good hearts, he had the best heart out of the ones who were beautiful.

“Are you hurt?” Sha Qian Mo looked at the wounds on Hua Qian Gu’s small face, silently cursing Yun Yi for being heavy-handed. If they meet again, he would pull out two of Yun Yi’s tendons and hit him with them.

“I’m fine.” Hua Qian Gu felt him near her, she was not used to the proximity, slightly stepping back a bit.

Sha Qian Mo’s right hand gathered internal energy to give off a pale purple glow, gently stroking Hua Qian Gu’s face, the wounds healed instantly. Then he rolled back Hua Qian Gu’s sleeves, gently stroking her arms, healing her.

“Anywhere else?”

“That’s all, that’s all.” Hua Qian Gu quickly rolled down her sleeves. Although her hips and thighs were bruised, she was still a girl and could not allow a stranger to touch her.

Sha Qian Mo laughed and crooked a finger, the Emotionless sword laying on the ground from afar flew back to them, automatically returning to its scabbard hanging from Hua Qian Gu’s waist. After seeing it more clearly, Sha Qian Mo was suddenly surprised.

“The Emotionless sword?”

Sha Qian Mo reached out to touch the sword, but as soon as he touched it, a force pushed him away. He staggered a few steps before stabilizing his body, chuckling loudly, he shouted: “Bai Zi Hua is a jerk!”

“Jiejie, are you all right?” Hua Qian Gu did not know what just happened.

“Why do you have this sword? It’s Bai Zi Hua’s specialized weapon, I fought with him before and was not careful so the sword cut me, the wound did not heal for a long time, almost ruining my perfect beauty, I had to go up to the Heavens and down to the Eastern Seas to steal ointments.”

“Zun Shang gave it to me!”

“What? Bai Zi Hua gave the sword to you? It’s a sword from ancient times, and he really gave it to you? I wanted to borrow the Fu Xi zither, wanting to uncover the mystery behind the 16 holy instruments, but he couldn’t be generous like this, almost poked a hole in my eyes. Who isn’t hypnotized by my beauty? He’s the exception! I don’t care, you throw the Emotionless sword on the ground, I want to stomp on it for revenge!”

Hua Qian Gu laughed out loud: “The Fu Xi zither is important, how can Zun Shang just let you borrow it?”

“Huh, I heard Bai Zi Hua was worldly and revered by all, I even admired him a little, who knew he was stubborn like other senile, dumb Taoist priests! I don’t care, I have to stomp on it!”

Hua Qian Gu could not let “jiejie” shame Bai Zi Hua’s weapon, quickly pretending to be angry and hit the sword two times: “Look here, although you’re a sword, you still have to open your eyes wide, jiejie is extremely beautiful, how can you wound her face? Quickly apologize to her, admit you were wrong, you’ll never do it again. What? I can’t hear you, say it louder. Fine, you must remember, but we can’t let this issue slide, you can’t go back to your scabbard for a while, you have to lay in the hot sun, you have to be burned by the sun until you’re black to sooth jiejie’s heart!”

Sha Qian Mo saw her talking seriously to the sword and laughed, helplessly waving a hand: “Forget it, I’m generous, I’ll take my revenge on Bai Zi Hua, not a blunt sword! Oh right, what’s your relationship with Bai Zi Hua, why did he give the Emotionless sword to a kiddo like you?”

“After the Qun Xian feast, I followed Zun Shang and joined Mount Chang Liu. Zun Shang thought this trip would be dangerous, he gave me the Emotionless sword so I can defend myself.”

“Huh, I can’t believe he can be kind, you’re carrying the Emotionless sword so even if you go to the ends of the world, he can still sense whether you’re safe or not. If Yun Yi captured you, no doubt he’d quickly send rescuers. That Yun Yin is a blockhead, underestimating the enemies and allowed Yun Yi to go up the mountain.”

“It’s not his fault, who knew Yun Yi looks like Yun Yin, he has never seen his

younger brother's face, everyone probably thought it was Yun Yin."

"They look like each other?" Sha Qian Mo stuttered, he had never seen Yun Yi's real face, no wonder they easily carried out their plan.

"I must work hard, I can't rely on everyone else to protect me!" Hua Qian Gu squeezed her sword.

"The Emotionless sword's spirit is too strong, only Bai Zi Hua can control it, how can it obey a kiddo like you? You have to slowly connect with it, only when you're strong enough, the Emotionless sword would consider you its owner. Right now, it's a blunt sword to you, I don't know what Bai Zi Hua was thinking."

As Sha Qian Mo talked, the Emotionless sword discontentedly shook in its scabbard. It was not a blunt sword!

Sha Qian Mo looked up at the mountain: "Yun Yin is coming, I have to go. Our first meeting, you're so cute, I like you, I'll give you something." He lifted his hand, cutting off the last finger on his left hand.

Hua Qian Gu was scared and covered her mouth, rushing up to help him stop the bleeding.

"Haha, kiddo, don't be afraid." Immediately, the pink flesh on the finger melted off. Finally, it was only a little, white bone. Sha Qian Mo pulled a purple hair, he did not feel pain when he cut off his finger, but pulling the hair really hurt.

The hair moved into an opening on Hua Qian Gu's shirt, then wrapped around her neck.

"This is a part of my body, if you have this, I'll always know where you are. If you're in danger, blow on it. I'll rush to save you as soon as I can, understand?"

Hua Qian Gu was already scared to death, looking at where the finger was cut off, there was no blood, another bone rapidly grew there, soon the hand was the same as before.

Sha Qian Mo patted Hua Qian Gu's head: "Don't be afraid, I'm a demon. All right, I'm going, I don't want to fight Yun Yin. Wait for me to find another holy instrument, then I'll go to Mount Chang Liu to play with you."

He hugged Hua Qian Gu, kissed her face, laughed devilishly, then disappeared in a flash. She was happy, it felt wonderful to have a sister! Haha!

*A while later, Yun Yin arrived with a group of disciples. Everyone returned to the Main Hall. While Hua Qian Gu ate breakfast, Yun Yin explained that when he walked to the kitchen, he saw someone acting suspicious and gave chase. When he realized it was a trap, he returned to find Hua Qian Gu gone. Tang Bao did not know anything because it was sleeping.*

*Hua Qian Gu told Yun Yin about Yun Yi and Sha Qian Mo. Yun Yin was alarmed to learn Yun Yi looked like him. Hua Qian Gu said Sha Qian Mo was nice to her, but Yun Yin cautioned her it was best to stay away from Sha Qian Mo. The immortal realm and the demon realm were at odds with each other. As sect leader of Mount Mao and also a disciple of Chang Liu, Hua Qian Gu cannot have anything to do with Sha Qian Mo. Yun Yin found it funny she called Sha Qian Mo "sister," but he did not bother to correct her misconception that Sha Qian Mo was actually a man.*

*Hua Qian Gu wondered when she can return to Chang Liu because of the Xian Jian Games. Yun Yin said Mount Mao would attend to support her. She realized in alarm that all the sects would be at the Xian Jian Games. She could not help but wondered how much embarrassment she would suffer with her weak fighting skills.*

*Hua Qian Gu stayed a few more days to wrap up matters at Mount Mao. In the meantime, Yun Yin taught her fighting techniques so Hua Qian Gu improved a bit. One night when Hua Qian Gu was in bed and ready to fall asleep, Tang Bao crawled onto her face and said Dong Fang Yu Qing wanted to see her.*

*Tang Bao hopped on top of Hua Qian Gu's head and guided her down the mountain then into a forest. Suddenly, someone embraced Hua Qian Gu. Without looking, she knew it was Dong Fang Yu Qing. He said he really missed her, and she realized she missed him too.*

“Papa!” Tang Bao shouted happily, extending its arms as if also wanting a hug from Dong Fang Yu Qing, he should not only pay attention to its mother and ignore it!

Dong Fang Yu Qing put out a hand to bring it to his face and gave it a kiss.

“Sweetie, have you been good and obeying your mom?”

“Of course!” Tang Bao clung onto his thumb and affectionately rubbed against it.

“Why are you here?” Hua Qian Gu looked up at him, still the same elegant face of a scholar, but a smile can turn the world upside down, causing other people to become lost in its gentleness. Huh, it was outrageous, she had grown much taller in six months, why was she still shorter than him?

Dong Fang Yu Qing looked down at her, she appeared better than when they met six months ago, the black aura around her had disappeared, her large round eyes glittered at him, her small lips pouting slightly. She dressed like a girl, her hair twisted into two cute buns on her head. He could not help but put out a hand, deliberately ruffling up her hair.

“Why aren't you saying anything? Why are you here late at night? What would a scholar like you do if there were trouble on the way here? Even if there aren't bandits, there are a lot of wild animals on the mountain, what would you do if you were injured?”

Dong Fang Yu Qing smiled, “Not just Mount Mao, to see you, I'm willing to cross dangerous mountains and fiery water.”

Hua Qian Gu quickly lowered her head, she was annoyed by his smiles the

most, his smiles hypnotized her, she could not help but believe his sweet ramblings.

“Don’t joke around, I’m serious! It’s dangerous for you to be here, demons have been active on Mount Mao, go back!”

Dong Fang Yu Qing appeared sad: “It’s been six months, you don’t miss me but keep telling me to go away.”

Hua Qian Gu bowed her head and replied: “No, I’m very happy to see you.”

Dong Fang Yu Qing smiled joyfully, his voice softened: “Tang Bao always stays in touch with me, it said the two of you have returned to Mount Mao, I finished everything as quickly as I could and came here. Fortunately, you’ve left Mount Chang Liu so I can see both of you, if not, visiting would be hard. Mount Mao is not as strict as Mount Chang Liu, and my identity is complicated. I wanted to see you sooner, the past six months studying at Mount Chang Liu must have been difficult for you. Tang Bao told me everything so I felt reassured letting you stay there. Whenever you want to leave, just tell Tang Bao, I’ll come and get you, got it?”

“Don’t worry, I’m very happy at Mount Chang Liu, it’s not difficult at all. I’ve learned a lot, I can control a sword, fly high in the sky, even if I see wild animals or bandits I wouldn’t be afraid. I can protect you!”

Dong Fang Yu Qing saw Hua Qian Gu unconsciously gripping the Emotionless sword, he was taken aback, his face froze, his eyes unreadable and fathomless, so deep Hua Qian Gu could not tell what he was thinking. Compare to Zun Shang, Yun Yin, jiejie, Ru Zun or Luo Shi Yi, he confused her the most.

How many faces did he have that she did not know? He can be gentle, he can be shameless, he can be old-fashioned, he can be clumsy, he can be wise, he can be sweet, he can be worldly..... in the end, which was the real him?

Although she did not know, she never felt uneasy. He can make others feel safe, his care and concern seemed genuine and warmed her, she could not help but simply trust him, no matter who he could be.

“Qian Gu, I know your heart is stubborn and determined, but I know which environment is the best for you. I hope I won’t regret my decision to let you stay

at Mount Chang Liu.”

Hua Qian Gu did not understand what he was saying, nodding in confusion.

Dong Fang Yu Qing sighed, suddenly reverting back to his old self, smiled and said: “When you’ve succeeded in your studies, we must marry immediately! Haha!”

“Do marry, do marry!” Tang Bao rolled happily in Dong Fang Yu Qing’s hand.

Hua Qian Gu was used to this, ignored his shamelessness, looked up at the sky and worried: “I don’t know if I’ll get my wish, that I can become Zun Shang’s disciple?” She knew this demand on herself was too much, but if she did not try she would never know.

“You must be tired from walking all night, right? Tang Bao didn’t tell you I’m staying at Mount Mao for two more weeks, you didn’t have to rush here.”

“I wanted to see you as soon as possible!” Dong Fang Yu Qing sat down against a tree, his arms wrapped around Hua Qian Gu.

Hua Qian Gu leaned against his chest, yawned, she was really tired.

“How can you and Tang Bao stay in touch with each other? I’ve never seen it write anything.”

“Haha, it’s a secret.” Dong Fang Yu Qing and Tang Bao looked at each other.

In the dark forest, Hua Qian Gu slowly fell asleep in Dong Fang Yu Qing’s embrace, Tang Bao also fell asleep in his hand.

Dong Fang Yu Qing raised his other hand, a thin white silk appeared in the empty hand, he used it to cover Hua Qian Gu. Looking at her and Tang Bao sleeping in innocence, he smiled slightly, can this feeling be happiness?

*The next morning, Hua Qian Gu and Tang Bao said good-bye to Dong Fang Yu Qing. Before leaving, he told Tang Bao to help him take care of its mother. He repeatedly told Hua Qian Gu to take care of herself, that she must eat well, sleep well, etc. A long time passed before he agreed to leave reluctantly. She was sad as she watched him walk away while Tang Bao crawled into her ear and cried.*

*Finally, it was time for Hua Qian Gu to return to Mount Chang Liu. Yun Yin and a group of disciples accompanied her to ensure her safety. As soon as Hua Qian Gu saw Chang Liu, an indescribable feeling swelled in her heart. Luo Shi Yi was waiting for them outside the protection barrier. Tang Bao hopped on his shoulder and happily told him what happened on the trip to Mount Mao.*

*Luo Shi Yi escorted everyone to the Main Hall. Bai Zi Hua was cold and indifferent like always, only asking a few simple questions about what happened at Mount Mao. Yun Yin carefully told him everything, including Yun Yi looking like him and the failed attempt to capture Hua Qian Gu.*

*Yun Yin needed to return as quickly as possible because someone in charge would need to be present at Mount Mao if there were trouble. Luo Shi Yi led them out.*

The Main Hall was suddenly empty, only her and Bai Zi Hua remained, Hua Qian Gu's heart pounded, she promptly bowed to take her leave.

Bai Zi Hua slowly walked down from his seating, looked at the two buns on Hua Qian Gu's head, his lips slightly curved up.

“It seems you have improved on this trip to Mount Mao, were you able to use the Emotionless sword? If it does not obey you, I will order another sword made for you.”

“Thank you Zun Shang, I like Emotionless, I'm slowly learning to handle it.”

“Like?..... Liking something is not a good thing, the sword is spiritual, it is not dead, but it is still a possession, if you have emotions for it, you cannot maximize its full potential, more importantly it can become an impediment when fighting against your enemies.”

“But without emotions, how can I connect with the sword? Would that not prevent me from maximizing its full potential?”

“Xiao Gu, you need to understand, the most dangerous obstacle to cultivation

is having emotions, many people have been trapped by emotions, they could not reach a higher level in cultivation. Although problems in the past led the Jade Emperor to pardon and allow immortals to marry, disciples who have not reached immortality should not have emotions. The reason Mount Chang Liu has three halls, this is to remind all the disciples to not feel greed, desire or love. If you cannot understand this, you can never cultivate successfully. Your life line is unique, continuously attracting bad luck, your love line is cut off, you will bring misfortune to everyone close to you. Having emotions will be a burden to you, or anyone in general. You have to reach a state where you cannot feel anything. With possessions or with other people, you cannot have obsessions. I gave you the Emotionless sword, first because it can help you, secondly is to remind you it is important to be emotionless. You must understand, it does not matter what weapon you use, whether it is the Emotionless sword or an ordinary sword, it can be a weapon or a blade of grass, the most important thing is you, the decisions you make and your ability. Xiao Gu, when you can look at everything in this world without emotions, without obsession, without attachment, without love or hate, that is when you have escaped from your destiny, you have cultivated successfully. Do you understand?”

Hua Qian Gu nodded in ignorance, Bai Zi Hua’s eyes were elusive as if the future can be seen, her heart wavered.

Bai Zi Hua sighed, turned his back to her and said: “Xiao Gu, gods cannot die, each god determines his or her own destiny, that is the world of the gods..... But the gods, they only did the things they needed to do, not the things they wanted to do.”

So what good can come from being a god? Hua Qian Gu wanted to ask, but she did not dare to speak. This was the first time she heard Zun Shang talk so much, but she could not understand a lot, she could only remember everything he said.

“All right, you can leave, go rest.”

“Yes, I’ll say good-bye.”

Hua Qian Gu only walked a few steps, Bai Zi Hua called her back: “Wait.”

She turned her head, Bai Zi Hua suddenly stood in front of her and raised his hand, his middle finger tapped her forehead. Hua Qian Gu was surprised, quickly

taking a few steps backward.

“You are a new student at Mount Chang Liu, it is best to hide the mark of sect leader. The Xian Jian Games are three months away, you need to prepare properly, if you do not know something, ask Shi Yi or Qing Liu.”

“I understand, thank you Zun Shang.”

*Hua Qian Gu walked back to the Hai quarters. Sitting in her room, she felt cold all over. She had been so happy when Bai Zi Hua gave her the Emotionless sword, but it appeared he did not feel anything for it even if it belonged to him for a long time. He never felt any emotions for anyone or anything. He easily gave the Emotionless sword away, did that mean she was not different from the other students? Hua Qian Gu made up her mind to try harder. She would be satisfied even if Bai Zi Hua saw her in a slightly different light than everyone else.*

*Hua Qian Gu began to train to the point of desperation. Slowly, she began to connect with the Emotionless sword. She could now use it to defend herself. The problem was using it to fight while flying because she was still not good at flying. Hua Qian Gu did not want to attract unnecessary attention so she never took the Emotionless sword anywhere, only using it at night when training in the forest.*

*One day in Luo Shi Yi's class, the students separated into groups and practiced fighting each other. They were gradually eliminated until only eight were left. Among the ones still standing, Hua Qian Gu and Ni Man Tian would fight each other. Hua Qian Gu knew Ni Man Tian was better in all aspects, from her background to her ability, and that Ni Man Tian would be the biggest threat at the Xian Jian Games.*

*Ni Man Tian was good at the water element so she froze water into darts and shot them toward Hua Qian Gu, who could only fly around to try and escape. It was only a practice, but Ni Man Tian used a lot of fatal moves. This lasted for a long time, Ni Man Tian continuously attacking while Hua Qian Gu continuously avoiding the sharp darts. Ni Man Tian was the better fighter, but her endurance was not as strong as Hua Qian Gu.*

*Gradually, Ni Man Tian became tired. Hua Qian Gu seized on this opportunity*

*to attack. She knocked Ni Man Tian off her sword and moved a big tree trunk to trap her. They were classmates so Hua Qian Gu did not want to cause conflicts and quickly released Ni Man Tian.*

*Ni Man Tian was furious. She wanted to win at the Xian Jian Games and become Bai Zi Hua's disciple. It appeared Hua Qian Gu was now her biggest threat.*

*The Xian Jian Games were two days away. At night, Hua Qian Gu could not sleep and asked Qing Shui about the Xian Jian Games, but Qing Shui had never participated so she did not know. It fell onto Tang Bao to explain to the two girls.*

*Tang Bao said all the sects would compete at the Xian Jian Games, although most of the participants had always been from Chang Liu. The participants would fight in the air, falling down first meant elimination. Hua Qian Gu listened carefully to who had won and worried. She was not sure she could win, what chance did she have to become Bai Zi Hua's disciple?*

*Hua Qian Gu, Qing Shui and Tang Bao wondered why Bai Zi Hua had not accepted a disciple of his own. Hua Qian Gu said it would be wonderful if she could defeat everyone so she could pick her teacher. Tang Bao said that would not be possible. The teacher would choose the disciple but never the other way around, which would be the disciple choosing the teacher.*

*Tang Bao said there were instances where teachers chose students who lost because they were impressed with the effort of the students. The importance of the teachers determined the standing of their disciples. For example, an eminent teacher meant the disciple would also be regarded highly. Thus, having a good teacher was a serious matter.*

*Hua Qian Gu slept a little before waking up and going into the forest to train like always. However, she was not alone tonight because Ni Man Tian was there waiting for her. Ni Man Tian said she had heard Hua Qian Gu often practiced here so she wanted to see if the rumor was true. Then she pulled out her sword and laughed cruelly.*

*Chang Liu began more than 1,300 years ago. The Xian Jian Games started soon after and occurred every 10 years, allowing different sects an opportunity to compare their skills in friendly combat. Gradually, the number of disciples grew until it was necessary to hold the Xian Jian Games every 5 years. With the resurrection of the Demon God, the selection of good disciples became urgent so the Xian Jian Games took place every year.*

*The participants were divided into two groups: those with a teacher and those without a teacher. The former group fought for glory and respect for their sect, their teacher and themselves. The latter group wanted to show off their ability so they can be picked by distinguished teachers.*

*Mount Chang Liu appeared united, but the three Heads, teachers and elders had their own factions. Sheng Xiao Mo had reluctantly accepted two disciples, but Huo Xi and Qing Luo were lazy and playful like him so they did not want their own disciples. Mo Yan was busy handling all the matters of Chang Liu so he did not want to be responsible for more disciples. Bai Zi Hua had not chosen a disciple, despite Mo Yan complaining often that Bai Zi Hua needed to do so. Thus, only a selected few were direct disciples of the three Heads. Most of the students at Chang Liu were disciples of either other disciples, the elders or the teachers.*

*There were a lot of participants in the Xian Jian Games this year. Hua Qian Gu estimated that she needed to go through 10 rounds to reach the final. Tang Bao prayed silently that Hua Qian Gu's hard work would pay off.*

*Thousands of disciples from Chang Liu and the other sects gathered in the main square. Qing Shui looked around and saw crowds everywhere. Hua Qian Gu saw Ni Man Tian running up to a group. The middle-aged man rode a golden lion while the elegant woman next to him flew on a colorful cloud. They were Ni Qian Zhang and Su Rui, the Heads of Peng Lai Island and Ni Man Tian's parents. Hua Qian Gu felt sad because she wished her parents could still be alive.*

*Peng Lai Island and Chang Liu were leading sects in the immortal realm. The Heads of Peng Lai sent their only daughter to Chang Liu to study, first to strengthen the relationship between the two sects, secondly Peng Lai was weaker so it can ask for Chang Liu's assistance if there were trouble. It was assumed that Ni Man Tian would become a disciple of one of Chang Liu's three Heads.*

*Bells rang, and the thunderous noise was heard thousands of miles away. Hua Qian Gu stood with the students in Class Gui and looked up to see Bai Zi Hua, Mo Yan and Sheng Xiao Mo fly down from the three halls. She felt so small. She was afraid it would be like this forever, she could only look at Bai Zi Hua from afar.*

*The Xian Jian Games opened with a feast. In the afternoon, the tournament list was posted. Hua Qian Gu's first opponent was a man more than 30 years old. She easily defeated him because he saw she was young and did not take her seriously. When Hua Qian Gu landed, Yun Yin and the disciples from Mount Mao ran up to applaud and congratulate her. Yun Yin said everything was fine at Mount Mao.*

*Hua Qian Gu steadily defeated her opponents and moved closer to the final round. She had spent a lot of effort to get to this point so her strength had decreased considerably. Finally, there were four participants left, divided into two fights. The first one was between Hua Qian Gu and Ni Man Tian, who was also exhausted and relied on her father Ni Qian Zhang to transfer his internal energy to her so she could continue.*

*Everyone waited for the fight to begin. Mo Yan turned to Bai Zi Hua and asked who was more likely to win. Bai Zi Hua was silent, but Sheng Xiao Mo teased that perhaps Mo Yan wanted Ni Man Tian to win so Bai Zi Hua would choose her as his disciple. However, Mo Yan shook his head and pointed to Shuo Feng, saying Shuo Feng was the most suitable choice.*

*It was time for the fight to begin. Hua Qian Gu stood on her sword and ascended into the air. The sea wind chilled her, and the waves rolled under her feet. Ni Man Tian flew up opposite of Hua Qian Gu. Everyone was shocked that Ni Man Tian was not standing on a sword but held the sword in her hand. She was a new student so it was extremely impressive that she knew to use the wind*

*to fly. The fight had not started, but Hua Qian Gu was already at a disadvantage.*

*Luo Shi Yi saw an ordinary sword underneath Hua Qian Gu's feet, not the Emotionless sword. He turned to look at Bai Zi Hua, who appeared indifferent to everything.*

All four directions were filled with spectators, the sky above and the sea below, the area was vast, but when they fought they could not step out of four borders that looked like red screens. If someone stepped over a border or fell into the water, she would lose.

The three Heads sat on high, Hua Qian Gu took a deep breath, she could almost see Zun Shang's eyes out of the thousands of spectators. However today, she feared she would disappoint him.

Hua Qian Gu did not use the Emotionless sword, even from the beginning, she did not intend to use it. Zun Shang had given it to her, wanting her to use it to defend herself, not brag about it or use it in the Xian Jian Games to show off the sword's power or Zun Shang's concern for her.

She was an ordinary student, not worthy of such a sword, if she used it she might cause trouble for Zun Shang. Zun Shang was right, if her ability were good enough, would it matter which sword she used?

Ni Man Tian was not certain she could win so that night she purposely injured her. Fortunately, she was afraid of being discovered so she did not dare to cause a serious injury or leave evidence behind.

The Bi Luo sword was one of the most powerful swords of Peng Lai Island. It held endless spiritual power, its aura oppressive, it can cause invisible injuries within ten meters. The wounds would not appear on the outside, but the heart and lungs would be shredded. The sword's aura protected whoever held the sword, opponents would not be able to go near. The sword was lethal, causing serious injuries, the blade had killed many whose spirits still remained, it was the weapon used to defend Peng Lai Island and kept in the weapons room.

But Ni Man Tian was a participant in the Xian Jian Games, Ni Qian Zhang wanted his only daughter to win so he especially sent someone to bring along the sword.

In the previous tournaments, she was afraid she could not control it and unintentionally hurt her opponents, she only used an ordinary sword, she won and no one suspected anything. Now, she intended to fight to the death with Hua Qian Gu.

In the prior day, Hua Qian Gu had been injured by the Bi Luo sword's aura, her heart and lungs were torn, she could not use her internal energy. She pretended to be fine, valiantly fought on, most of her physical strength was now gone, her injury also worsened. She knew she could die if she continued, and it was impossible for her to beat Ni Man Tian, but she did not want to lose without fighting.

She knew if she used the Emotionless sword she would have a chance, but she did not want to bring trouble to Zun Shang, thus she stubbornly used an ordinary sword from Xiu Mu Qing Liu.

Luo Shi Yi thought for a long time before understanding her decision, he could not help but sighed, she was a young child so how could she be so considerate?

The fight began, only the sounds of rolling waves and swords piercing through the air were heard. Ni Man Tian was bursting with intensity, her sleeves whipping wildly, the Bi Luo sword shot forward, dazzling flowers filled the blue sky, completely surrounding Hua Qian Gu.

Everyone recognized the power of the Bi Luo sword, they worried that Ni Man Tian could not control it, the fight would end in serious injuries. When cultivating to become immortal, weapons were important, some people may spend a lifetime yet could not find a good weapon, thus finding a good weapon and using it well were not easy.

Hua Qian Gu stepped backward, her flying technique was good, but the situation was extremely dangerous, the slightest mistake can lead to an injury.

Ni Man Tian did not want the spectators to say she won because of a powerful sword so she reduced the force of the sword, instead she used the first move in "Jiu Qu Hui Shan" taught by a teacher. This move was complicated like a dance, the male disciples could not help but admire her, Ni Man Tian seemed like a deity.

Ni Man Tian wanted to show off, Hua Qian Gu struggled to hang on. She did

not have a sword so she froze water into two sharp blades, holding them like twin swords, she was exhausted, but the fight had started, she calmed down and began to focus, not threatened by Ni Man Tian's flowery moves. She saw a weakness, her left hand used "Xian Ren Zhi Lu" to distract, her right hand used "Feng Chui Ye Luo," this looked simple but locked up the right side of Ni Man Tian. The frozen blade in her left hand shot forward, aiming for Ni Man Tian, her following moves were perfect, without any weaknesses.

Ni Man Tian was a formidable opponent, immediately using "Luo Ye Gui Gen" to defend herself, then her body turned in the air. The frozen blade was melted into water by the fire from her left hand.

Hua Qian Gu took advantage of this opportunity, not waiting for Ni Man Tian to regroup, she raised her hand, countless water droplets from the sea turned into ice beads, shooting upward toward Ni Man Tian, the blade in her right hand continuously surging forward.

Ni Man Tian eliminated each move against her, she was completely surprised that Hua Qian Gu was able to use her strength with her serious internal injury. After hundreds of attack attempts in the air, Hua Qian Gu was at a disadvantage, but she was alert and reckless, Ni Man Tian was somewhat reserved.

Hua Qian Gu was stubborn, if she wanted revenge for what happened previously, Ni Man Tian would be in trouble. Even if Hua Qian Gu wanted a draw, Ni Man Tian felt she was better, she could not accept being on the same level as Hua Qian Gu. Besides, there would be a fight against Shuo Feng later, she did not know what her father had done, he only said if she can beat Hua Qian Gu she would surely beat Shuo Feng. Although she knew that, she still conserved her strength, she could not afford to waste her strength in this fight.

Also, using the wind to fly while fighting with a sword required a lot of effort, if this continued, she would eventually be exhausted. She did not believe Hua Qian Gu was made of steel, she was seriously injured so why was she still so formidable?

Not bothering to think anymore, Ni Man Tian wanted to finish quickly, she gathered internal energy and mumbled a spell. Suddenly a green light lit up the sky, it enveloped her, the aura of the Bi Luo sword glinted through the blade, like

a green ribbon fluttering in the air, destroying everything in its path.

Hua Qian Gu sighed quietly, looked up to where the three Heads sat, then said a spell. Using the power of Tian Shui Di, a Bagua screen covered her, hopefully this can protect her against Ni Man Tian's sword.

Ni Man Tian snorted, the sword in her hand glowed intently. The sword was far from Hua Qian Gu, Hua Qian Gu relentlessly moved from side to side to avoid attacks in the midst of a green rain, it did not matter if she shot out fire or ice because the sword destroyed everything, Ni Man Tian was untouchable.

She was pushed to the limit, she could not use her internal energy so she could not avoid it, the force of the sword wounded her left arm. If not for the protection of the screen, her entire arm would probably be gone, but now it was paralyzed.

Yun Yin felt his heart leaping into his throat, his hands clenched. If something happened to Hua Qian Gu, he did not care about the rules at Mount Chang Liu, he had to rescue his sect leader.

Everywhere, disciples applauded Ni Man Tian. Tang Bao hid in Qing Shui's arms, covering its eyes and afraid to watch.

Hua Qian Gu knew she could not attack from afar, she needed to go closer, she gathered her strength, pooled internal energy down to her stomach, flexed her legs, jumped up from her sword, turned in the air several times to bypass the aura of the Bi Luo sword, summoned her sword to fly faster, in a moment she appeared in front of Ni Man Tian.

Ni Man Tian was alarmed, she raised the Bi Luo sword, Hua Qian Gu quietly recited a spell, the air pressure dropped, compressing the green light protecting Ni Man Tian, she did not care about the sword aimed her way.

Qing Shui and Tang Bao screamed, they saw the Bi Luo sword slicing into Hua Qian Gu's left stomach, as soon as the sword touched her blood, the green light weakened considerably. Hua Qian Gu gritted her teeth and moved forward as if not feeling any pain, the Bi Luo sword had gone into her body, almost to the blade handle.

Ni Man Tian was stunned, suddenly seeing Hua Qian Gu in front of her. She did

not have a chance to react before feeling her body going cold, Hua Qian Gu had frozen her own blood into ice and stabbed Ni Man Tian's stomach with it.

Ni Man Tian staggered a few steps back in the air, she never felt so tired, she had never suffered such a serious injury. She raised her left hand to strike Hua Qian Gu's shoulder, the Bi Luo sword was not pulled out but fell down along with Hua Qian Gu.

Everyone was stunned, the judge elder saw they were fighting to the death so he wanted to ring the bell to stop the tournament, but Mo Yan raised a hand to deter him, coldly watching what was happening.

Yun Yin was frightened out of his mind, he was about to fly up to catch Hua Qian Gu, but Xiu Mu Qing Liu stopped him.

Hua Qian Gu continued to fall, struggling to stay alert, whispered a spell, she almost touched the sea, thankfully her sword arrived just in time to support her.

Hua Qian Gu half leaned on her sword, trying to stand up, afraid Ni Man Tian would use this opportunity to attack. The Bi Luo sword was still embedded in her stomach, the sword's aura disappearing because of Hua Qian Gu's flowing blood, the green glow flickering out.

Ni Man Tian was in the air, she looked in pain and murderous, as if she could not believe she had done so much but was still injured by Hua Qian Gu. She surged toward Hua Qian Gu in desperation, using techniques from Peng Lai Island.

Hua Qian Gu did not dare to pull the Bi Luo sword out at first, afraid her energy and blood would flow out, but she could not attack back, thus she gritted her teeth and pulled the sword from her stomach, her body shook from the pain.

Using her hand to press a few acupuncture points on her body to stop the bleeding, she held the Bi Luo sword preparing to fight against Ni Man Tian, in her haste she used techniques from Mount Mao.

Mo Yan snorted coldly, they were students of Chang Liu, but they did not use the techniques of their own sect, how shameful.

The Bi Luo sword had lost its aura, Hua Qian Gu can kill flowers through touch, let alone with her blood. Ni Man Tian could not believe the aura of the Bi Luo

sword could not compare to Hua Qian Gu's inauspicious aura, it was stained with her blood and turned into a blunt sword.

At this point, Ni Man Tian used fatal moves, Hua Qian Gu had serious internal injury, she felt dizzy, close to blacking out, but she still fought on in desperation, enduring ice pellets from Ni Man Tian that cut into her body, her blood continued to flow.

Yun Yin was furious. How can this be called the Xian Jian Games? Would one person need to admit defeat or die before the fight could end?

Luo Shi Yi worriedly glanced at Mo Yan, then glanced at Bai Zi Hua, they appeared indifferent, Sheng Xiao Mo became more excited as he watched.

"Gu Tou mama, admit defeat, I beg you!" Hua Qian Gu heard Tang Bao silently sending her a message, crying loudly. Impossible, impossible, she already made a promise to Zun Shang, how could she admit defeat?

But her body was becoming heavier, she was losing control, Ni Man Tian was in front of her, aiming an ice pellet straight at her right eye.

She sighed quietly, she could not escape anymore.

Many spectators closed their eyes, afraid to see this bloodbath. The judge elder, Qing Liu, Yun Yin, Luo Shi Yi and even Shuo Feng gathered their internal energy, intending to interrupt at the last minute. In other words, Hua Qian Gu was losing.

The sound of a sword piercing the air unexpectedly rang out, the purple light from afar shot forward like a dragon vaulting amidst colorful clouds. The blade glowed the colors of a rainbow, slicing through the wind, the sword's aura sharp and pressing.

The sky darkened, the wind howled, the waves rolled higher a few meters. Disciples sitting crossed-leg in the air in the path of the sword's aura were hit directly and knocked down, it took awhile for them to steady themselves.

Luo Shi Yi looked carefully, it seemed the Emotionless sword sensed its owner was in danger, it flew out of its scabbard and shot forward. Without waiting for an order from Hua Qian Gu, it attacked Ni Man Tian.

Everyone was shocked. Luo Shi Yi was happy but also worried, he could not believe Hua Qian Gu and the Emotionless sword had already achieved the level in which they became one.

Hua Qian Gu smiled wryly, spitting out blood. Her body and blood vessels were heavily injured, her strength was depleted, without medicine she feared she could not live.

Hua Qian Gu threw away the Bi Luo sword, the sword fell from the sky, its aura gone, no one controlled it, it sank straight into the deep sea. The Emotionless sword returned to her hand, as if worried for its owner's injury.

Hua Qian Gu stroked the blade, her eyes reflected immense gratitude and helplessness.

Ni Man Tian was a new student, only seeing Bai Zi Hua at important ceremonies, he had the sect leader's sword during those times, thus she did not

recognize the Emotionless sword. However, the immortals and her parents immediately knew, discussion noises began to spread.

Ni Man Tian continued to use 24 Palm Methods from Peng Lai Island to attack Hua Qian Gu, the Emotionless sword glowed, protecting Hua Qian Gu in a barrier. Ni Man Tian could not get close, she became frustrated and shouted: "Hiding in the aura of the sword, afraid to fight back, you should just admit defeat!" It seemed she forgot she did the same thing with the Bi Luo sword to gain the upper hand.

Hua Qian Gu stood in the barrier created by the sword trying desperately to control her breathing, then used her last ounce of strength to launch an attack.

Her hand holding the Emotionless sword, she suddenly remembered the moonlit night she had flown with Zun Shang on the sword. In her head, she could not stop seeing the image of Zun Shang with his white robe fluttering in the wind, ethereal like a crane, she sighed deeply, everything suddenly became clear, something inside her body yearned to break free.

Her mind had not decided, the sword already moved. It was as if she was playing in the sky, oblivious to everything. Her sword technique was quick like floating clouds and falling water, flowing naturally from her hands. However, the sword technique was not from Mount Mao or Mount Chang Liu, it was invented by her.

Her body seemed like dancing, the sword was like a colorful ribbon, she vaguely sensed a tremor through the Emotionless sword as if it was connecting with her.

It felt as if pure water filled her body, slowly spreading to the blood vessels. From icy cold to fiery hot, her internal energy burned, after spreading everywhere in her body it pooled in her stomach. A cool energy rang in her ears like thunder. Suddenly, her five sense sharpened. Within a hundred miles, each bubble in the deep sea, each cry of the seagulls, each whisper, each gasp, she heard clearly.

Luo Shi Yi, Yun Yin and their groups laughed gleefully, it was unexpected that Hua Qian Gu reached a higher level in cultivation during such a dangerous moment. Surviving a calamity, she transcended into Po Wang within the

different levels of cultivation: Chu Shi, Ling Yin, Po Wang, Zhi Wei, Kan Xin, Deng Tang, She Gui, Zao Hua and Fei Sheng.

Ni Qian Zhang and Su Rui looked sad, they did not expect Hua Qian Gu to become the biggest obstacle in their plan.

Wu Qing Luo gasped in relief, smiled and told Huo Xi: “You’re losing for sure!”

Huo Xi wiped his sweats, he did not think the fight would be so tense. However, Hua Qian Gu was truly his pet, hahaha, she did not disappoint him. Losing, losing, he was happy even if he lost their bet.

But he still argued: “Huh, they’re both exhausted, the winner isn’t clear, let’s wait and see!”

Ni Man Tian obviously realized Hua Qian Gu’s sword technique and cultivation had reached a higher level, she became more anxious. Muttering a spell, she summoned the swords of Ni Qian Zhang and Su Rui. Swords in hand, but she was not strong anymore, she could not attack smoothly, thus they were like ordinary weapons. She attacked Hua Qian Gu with everything she knew.

Ni Man Tian had studied sword fighting since childhood, practicing the forte of different sects, but the sword technique Hua Qian Gu invented was too powerful, elegant yet elusive, she had never seen such moves. Fortunately, Hua Qian Gu was exhausted, she executed the moves without strength. Nevertheless, even if it was just the Emotionless sword, it was already difficult for her to fight back.

In front of everyone, Ni Man Tian could not cheat, she could only prolong the fight with Hua Qian Gu. Her injury was severe, if she continued, it was likely she would die.

Hua Qian Gu wanted to push Ni Man Tian outside the Emotionless sword’s barrier, she used the five elements to attack from a distance. However, Ni Man Tian flew high and low, speeding to the left and to the right, Hua Qian Gu could not touch her.

Her strength slowly draining from her body, she was moving too much so blood would not stop oozing out. Hua Qian Gu saw everything in a white blur, she vaguely saw Ni Man Tian’s shadowy figure.

She really, really, really could not hold on anymore. If this continued, she would lose for sure.

She suddenly saw Bai Zi Hua's calm eyes, she mumbled sadly, Zun Shang, you and I might not be fated in this lifetime, Xiao Gu cannot be your disciple.

She recited a spell, the Emotionless sword launched forward like an avalanche, afraid she would seriously hurt Ni Man Tian so the sword grazed her body and knocked the twin swords from her hands.

Ni Man Tian did not have a chance to react. Someone already pounced on her. Her strength also depleted, she had trouble flying on the wind, suddenly having someone pouncing on her, she lost her balance, Hua Qian Gu dragged her along as they fell into the sea.

At this moment, Hua Qian Gu already fainted. Suddenly falling into the sea, water filled her ears and mouth. Her body slowly sank down, but her hands gripped tightly onto Ni Man Tian and refused to let go, finally falling into endless blackness as deep as night.

Xiu Mu Qing Liu and Yun Yin waited with disciples from Peng Lai Island, they immediately jumped into the water to save the two girls.

The spectators were astonished, who would think the semi-final would be so fierce and gruesome.

Personnel from the medical division quickly moved forward to treat them. Qing Shui and the others did not know how to help, Xiu Mu Qing Liu and Yun Yin took turns to transfer their internal energy to Hua Qian Gu. Fortunately, Yun Yin had brought Fan Si medicine from Mount Mao to help heal Hua Qian Gu's organs. However, Hua Qian Gu was heavily injured, it took two hours before she regained consciousness.

She tried to sit up in Qing Shui's arms, seeing everyone's eyes looking at her with concern, she tried to smile.

Her first sentence was: "Who won?"

Everyone bowed their heads, she immediately knew the first person touching the water was her.

Unable to control her emotions, she abruptly spat blood that she could have swallowed.

Hua Qian Gu smiled weakly. It was the will of Heaven, how could the result be different?

Her father often said “success will come if you work hard,” but sometimes working hard was not enough. Feeling extremely bitter, she had let down Yun Yin, Qing Liu, Wu Qing Luo and most importantly, she had let down Zun Shang.

“Gu Tou mama, you’ve tried your best, don’t be sad.” Tang Bao kissed her earlobe, softly comforting her. It was frightened to death, it did not care about this teacher matter, the most important thing was the safety of its mother.

Her mouth no longer oozed blood, Mount Chang Liu’s medicine was very effective, she would be fine if she could have some time off to recuperate. However, she was exhausted from the fight, her internal energy depleted, she feared she could not use her internal energy for at least a year.

Hua Qian Gu looked up, seeing Ni Man Tian across from her appearing alert after being treated by her parents, smiling at her in triumphant. Her injury was not serious, she just exhausted herself. For fairness, her fight against Shuo Feng was moved to the last slot. Right now, the tournaments were for disciples who already had a teacher.

Hua Qian Gu did not dare to look up at the three Heads and the immortals, not even bothering to watch the fight that was currently taking place. She recovered quickly because Yun Yin wholeheartedly treated her, losing was losing, the least she could do was stand up and get back on the ground without anyone helping her.

For the other group, Luo Shi Yi easily won first place. Then it was the fight between an injured Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng, Shuo Feng was unexpectedly forced out of the border by Ni Man Tian’s twin swords. Although it was obvious Shuo Feng yielded, no one said anything.

At this point, Hua Qian Gu did not care if Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng had a deal. She wanted to go back as soon as possible, she did not want to see Zun Shang or anyone.

But this was impossible, she had to be at the disciple selection even though this was the last thing she wanted to do.

Everyone moved to the square in front of the Main Hall, the students knelt based on their ranking in the Xian Jian Games. Hua Qian Gu kept her head down and did not say anything, she did not dare to look at Bai Zi Hua. She was the one who did not keep the promise between them, was he very disappointed?

“Sect Leader, come here, I need to talk to you.” Mo Yan frowned as he walked into the Main Hall, Bai Zi Hua hesitated then followed him.

“What is the situation with the Emotionless sword?” Mo Yan asked sternly. Bai Zi Hua knew he wanted to talk about this, he replied lightly: “Of course I gave it to her.”

“You.....” Mo Yan was angry, “Is that not the sword our teacher gave you when he accepted you as his disciple? You’ve had that sword for more than 100 years so how can you easily give it away? And to a new student with dubious background!”

Bai Zi Hua turned and said: “You’ve reached enlightenment, why be bothered by possessions?”

“You.....” Mo Yan’s face paled, he was furious and said: “Fine, fine, you are Sect Leader, I cannot say anything, you do whatever you want, but who you pick as disciple matters to the longevity of Mount Chang Liu, you cannot act rashly. I think Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng are extraordinary talents, you can pick either one.”

Bai Zi Hua did not answer.

Mo Yan tried to suppress his anger, he said knowingly: “I know you do not like pretentiousness, Mount Chang Liu does not need to think about Peng Lai Island, if you value talent and do not like Ni Man Tian, Shuo Feng is a good choice, you can also avoid rumors that can come from having a female disciple. Mount Chang Liu’s reputation is the most important thing. Nevertheless, you must remember to save a bit of face for Ni Qian Zhang.”

The sound of bells rang outside, the disciple selection was about to begin.

“Let us go outside, you do not have to always look sullen, let me speak first.

You have been Sect Leader for many years, given your position do not force me to always nag you, I do not have time to take care of everything.”

Bai Zi Hua looked at Mo Yan whose face could not hide his fatigue and frustration, how could he not know Mo Yan was strict, governed harshly, their opinions always clashed, yet everything was done in the best interest of Chang Liu.

They walked out of the Main Hall, toward the high altar, the disciple selection began.

Hua Qian Gu knelt with Shuo Feng and Ni Man Tian, her heart heavy. The Emotionless sword felt her sadness so it quivered. She had been preoccupied with fighting, she did not have time to think carefully, now she was confused, how could the Emotionless sword fly up without her summon?

Everyone else like Luo Shi Yi assumed she and the Emotionless sword had achieved the level in which the fighter and sword were one entity, she was the only one who knew the truth, she only had the Emotionless sword for a short time, she had not reached that level yet. Furthermore, the previous owner of the Emotionless sword was Zun Shang, even if it switched allegiance, it would not obey a girl who had not even reached the low level in cultivation.

Could it be.....

Hua Qian Gu suddenly lifted her head, looking at Bai Zi Hua. It was really Zun Shang.....

After realizing this, Hua Qian Gu felt more uncomfortable and lowered her head, she wanted to kneel before him forever. She did not have any talents, she did not deserve such consideration, then disappointed him in the end.

Shuo Feng and Yun Duan knelt on either side of her, seeing her body shaking so much, they thought she was hurting from her injury.

Yun Duan said: “If you can’t take it anymore, go outside and rest for a while.”

“It’s all right, I’m fine.” Hua Qian Gu looked up, Mo Yan and Zun Shang, Ni Qian Zhang and the immortals, she clearly heard everything.

“Sect Leader, you choose first.”

Bai Zi Hua seemed lost in thought, he used his fingers to calculate the will of Heaven, he tried many times, the result was still the same, he could not decide: "Everyone can choose before me."

Mo Yan nodded and signaled with his hand, the disciple selection began. The ritual was simple, taking fragrant grass on the altar, the teachers would give the grass to students they wanted as their disciples. The elders no longer accepted disciples, most of the teachers were in the younger generations.

Quickly, Yun Duan, Zhui Yuan and the other students received fragrant grass from their teachers. Although some students were unhappy, they did not dare to reject the grass.

Luo Shi Yi was anxious and waited for Bai Zi Hua to speak, to choose Ni Man Tian or Shuo Feng, then he can give the fragrant grass to Hua Qian Gu. That kid tried her best but lost against the will of Heaven, was she heartbroken right now from losing?

Xiu Mu Qing Liu suddenly walked in front of Hua Qian Gu, his hand held fragrant grass. Luo Shi Yi panicked, quickly brushed by Mo Yan, his hand grabbed some fragrant grass on the altar then ran down.

"Qian Gu, will you be my disciple?" Hua Qian Gu's head was down so she was surprised to see the fragrant grass appearing before her. Looking up at Xiu Mu Qing Liu, then glancing at Bai Zi Hua who stood on the altar and looking down at them, she hastily lowered her head.

Qing Shui knelt behind and saw everything, she also lowered her head in discouragement. She had tried hard, but she barely made it into the top 30, of course their teacher would not want her for a disciple. Although she had hinted that she wanted to be his disciple, she did not know if a drunkard like him understood.

Hua Qian Gu knelt without moving, her heart beating rapidly, she did not know what to do.

She did not want Xiu Mu Qing Liu as her teacher, but if she rejected him, Qing Liu would be embarrassed. This was his first time choosing a disciple, she could not turn her back on how he cared for her and taught her. Also, she could not become Zun Shang's disciple, but would she never study with another teacher?

What should she do..... But in her heart, she only wanted Zun Shang as her teacher!

Tang Bao knew what she was thinking, it was afraid her stubbornness would lead her to a dead-end, it immediately whispered: “Gu Tou mama, remember why we went to Mount Mao and Mount Chang Liu? The important thing is to rely on ourselves, what does it matter who is the teacher?”

Hua Qian Gu felt torn, why did she go to Chang Liu? For herself or because of something else, which is why she had worked so hard?

She could not decide, her anxiety worsened her injury, she almost fainted from the pain. Shuo Feng knelt next to her and quickly grabbed her hand under her loose robe, his internal energy endlessly flowed into her body and helped Hua Qian Gu stay alert. She looked at him in amazement, he acted as if nothing happened.

At that moment, another batch of fragrant grass appeared before her, Hua Qian Gu looked up, it was Luo Shi Yi, she felt a headache coming on.

Luo Shi Yi said casually: “Qing Liu, you shouldn’t compete with me, I already chose Hua Qian Gu when she first arrived here.”

Xiu Mu Qing Liu was frustrated: “Shi Yi, why are you competing with me? If you want to drink, can I drink with you later? It’s been many years, it’s hard for me to be satisfied with someone, I want her as my disciple, can you not help me this time?”

Luo Shi Yi appeared aggrieved and replied: “It’s also my first time choosing a disciple, you’re much older than me, you should yield to me.”

Xiu Mu Qing Liu was annoyed: “The students fight so they can have a teacher, do we have to fight so we can have a disciple?”

Tang Bao laid in Hua Qian Gu’s ear and rolled in excitement: “Go with Luo Shi Yi, go with Luo Shi Yi, Gu Tou mama, can you go with Luo Shi Yi?”

Xiu Mu Qing Liu said immediately: “Tang Bao, I heard you! You can’t interfere, let Hua Qian Gu choose! If you help Luo Shi Yi, from now on if I have delicious food, I won’t share any with you!”

Tang Bao reluctantly stayed quiet.

Although this was not the first time teachers fought over disciples, it involved Luo Shi Yi, Xiu Mu Qing Liu and Hua Qian Gu just used the Emotionless sword so the situation attracted a lot of attention, everyone looked at them to see what would happen next.

Ni Man Tian was furious, although her parents wanted Zun Shang to be her teacher, she wanted to be Shi Yi's disciple. She could not believe Luo Shi Yi wanted that girl, she was boiling!

It was an impasse, Hua Qian Gu realized the dilemma, she was about to pretend to faint, her body suddenly floated up.

What was happening? Everyone around her stepped back, watching as she floated closer to the altar. Xiu Mu Qing Liu quickly grabbed her hand, Hua Qian Gu was confused, she looked around, then she looked down at him.

Luo Shi Yi frowned and grabbed his right hand, then gently shook his head.

Xiu Mu Qing Liu was unwilling, but he let go in the end. Hua Qian Gu's little body floated over everyone's heads, heading straight for the altar. A silver shimmer surrounded her body.

"Sect Leader!" She heard Shi Zun yell in rage, Ni Man Tian snorted coldly, there were also growing whispers.

She was stunned, seeing Bai Zi Hua standing tall on the altar. And she was slowly floating toward him, closer and closer.

His face still cold as ice, the tassels of the sect leader's sword swept the ground, the black hair usually left down was swept up, the fathomless eyes made him appear ethereal and majestic, the white sleeves hovered like flowery clouds in the sky.

Hua Qian Gu was stunned, her body slowly floated before him, she paled, her face translucent as if it could be broken if touched.

Then she saw Bai Zi Hua extend his hand toward her, his fingers were like jade, white and slender, angular, strangely beautiful.

And she, like a moth to a flame, forgetting everything of this world, lightly put

her hand in his hand, then she slowly landed.

“Kneel.” Bai Zi Hua spoke in a clear voice.

No one could believe what was happening, Hua Qian Gu knelt without thinking, gently bowing before him, as if he was a god whose hands held the destiny of the world, and his hands also held her destiny.

Two little bells were given to her.

“Sect Leader!” Mo Yan yelled, his face drained of blood, he could not believe Bai Zi Hua chose her. Although he had seen Hua Qian Gu’s strength and effort, he also recognized her unfortunate fate, how could Bai Zi Hua not know, why did he insist on doing this?

“This girl, from now on, will be the disciple of Chang Liu’s High Immortal Bai Zi Hua.” Bai Zi Hua said lightly, his voice was not loud, yet this was heard clearly by thousands of spectators.

Bai Zi Hua did not give Hua Qian Gu a chance to decline, even skipping the ritual of giving her the fragrant glass, he offered the bells. Everyone was in shock. Only Sheng Xiao Mo waved his fan and chuckled mischievously, from the moment the Emotionless sword appeared, he knew his sect brother would choose Hua Qian Gu.

Mo Yan angrily glared at Bai Zi Hua, seeing the determination in his eyes, knowing he did not like to explain himself, if he decided on something, nothing can be said to change his mind, he had to bitterly accept this matter.

Bai Zi Hua looked in the direction of Ni Qian Zhang and the immortals: “Everyone, is there an objection?”

Ni Qian Zhang’s hands clenched, he replied coldly: “Even the Emotionless sword had been given, it appears you already decided who would be your disciple, no need to hold the Xian Jian Games. Nevertheless, this is a matter of Mount Chang Liu, Zun Shang can pick whoever choose whoever, would it make a difference if we object?”

Bai Zi Hua nodded: “Of course not.”

Sheng Xiao Mo burst out laughing, his sect brother was always stern, but he

can have an ironic sense of humor at critical moments.

It took a while for Hua Qian Gu to understand what just happened, she knelt in shock, feeling as if she was in a dream.

Tang Bao laid in her ear and almost fell out of her ear because it was too happy, it quickly remind her: “Gu Tou dummie, why haven’t you moved? Quickly accept the silver bells!”

Hua Qian Gu hurriedly raised her hands above her head, accepting the two bells. She was so excited she wanted to cry. It was not a dream, Zun Shang really accepted her as his disciple! But she lost to Ni Man Tian! Questions flooded her mind, but she knew now was not the time to ask anything.

The disciple selection continued, Luo Shi Yi and Xiu Mu Qing Liu lost interest, they did not want to choose anyone else. Qing Shui saw this was a good time, quickly stepping forward to kneel in front of Xiu Mu Qing Liu. Xiu Mu Qing Liu knew she was thoughtful and well-behaved, after some thinking accepted her.

Mo Yan saw the worst already happened, it could not be undone, he tried to compromise by saying: “Sect Leader, Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng are highly qualified, why not accept all three as your disciples?”

Ni Man Tian heard and was delighted, looking hopefully at Bai Zi Hua.

But Bai Zi Hua was indifferent, he replied: “I, Bai Zi Hua, will only accept one disciple in this lifetime.”

Hua Qian Gu was startled, her brain empty. How many times would she need sacrifice herself to repay the kindness Zun Shang bestowed on her?

Ni Qian Zhang was furious that he paled, he had a fiery personality, seeing that Bai Zi Hua did not give him any face, he wanted to get up and storm out.

Mo Yan quickly stopped him and said: “Sect Leader is very busy, he does not have time to teach a lot of disciples. Your daughter’s ability is outstanding, why not become my disciple?”

Ni Qian Zhang’s face improved a bit. His daughter was the treasure of Peng Lai Island, she was not unwanted, why should she stay at Mount Chang Liu and be treated with disrespect?

Suddenly, Ni Man Tian interrupted: “Shi Zun, I’m honored if I can be your disciple, but you’re busy working days and nights, why not allow me to be Luo Shi Yi’s disciple, Luo Shi Yi can teach me instead, would that be possible?”

As soon as this was said, Luo Shi Yi and Ni Qian Zhang were stunned, this meant Shi Zun would be the grandmaster, she would be at a level lower than Hua Qian Gu.

Mo Yan nodded, then looked at Ni Qian Zhang for his opinion. Ni Qian Zhang did not know what his daughter was thinking, but if his beloved daughter wanted this, she was still a direct disciple of the three Heads, he nodded slightly.

But Luo Shi Yi was not happy, he had to accept a disciple he did not choose, and no one asked for his opinion?! Although Ni Man Tian was arrogant and had a temper, she was an exceptional talent, he could only agree. Unknowingly, his decision caused Tang Bao to be angry at him, it ignored him for a long time.

So the important matters were decided, Ni Man Tian and Shuo Feng became Luo Shi Yi’s disciples. Next was the ritual to formalize the disciple selection.

In previous years, there were conflicts between the sects so formalizing the relationship between teacher and disciple was not a priority. However, the Sect Leader had chosen a disciple, this was a serious occasion.

Hua Qian Gu did not know she was already infamous for invading the Qun Xian feast, becoming the sect leader of Mount Mao at such a young age, this time she won several rounds in the Xian Jian Games, her blood destroyed the Bi Luo sword, she reached a higher level in cultivation, invented a new sword technique, flew on the Emotionless sword that belonged to Bai Zi Hua, then becoming the only disciple of the High Immortal of Mount Chang Liu, she was now a legend.

Kneeling before the altar, the ringing of the bells cleared her mind.

Bai Zi Hua held a silver cup, sprinkled a few drops onto Hua Qian Gu. He switched to a gold cup from a student, sprinkled a few more drops. Then he changed to a jade cup, sprinkled a few drops, but unlike the previous two times, Hua Qian Gu’s body shook a little.

Hua Qian Gu immediately knew it was water from the Pool of Three Lives, it

hurt now compared to last time.

Bai Zi Hua frowned slightly, but he did not say anything, he lit a few incense sticks, gave 3 sticks to Hua Qian Gu, he also held 3 sticks.

He whisked his robe aside, knelt and looked up at the sky. The disciples in the main square, Shi Zun and Ru Zun all knelt, the guests did not have to kneel.

Hua Qian Gu had never seen Bai Zi Hua so solemn.

“Ancestors of Chang Liu, I am disciple Bai Zi Hua, I have led Mount Chang Liu for 83 years, I have not contributed to the world, I have not contributed to the sect, today I will accept Hua Qian Gu as my disciple in the 127th generation. She does not need to kill demons and evil spirits, achieve immortality, have everlasting fame, defend the sect. She only needs to love the world, be compassionate to others, live righteously, never feel ashamed of her actions. If she chooses the wrong path, it is because I have not taught her well. Ancestors of Chang Liu, witness my promise!”

After saying this, he bowed three times then offered his incense sticks.

Hua Qian Gu understood what he meant, her heart filled with elation, she bowed a few times and said: “Ancestors of Chang Liu, I’m disciple Hua Qian Gu, I have a mysterious fate, I bring misfortune to everyone around me ever since I was born. I promise to live virtuously, never bring shame to this world, never bring shame to Chang Liu, never bring shame to Zun Shang. From now on, I live for my teacher, die for my teacher. I will never disobey my teacher. Heaven and earth, witness my promise!”

Bai Zi Hua looked down at her, her head with two cute buns on top, her body was small, her eyelashes were thick and long, like a thin layer of silk, the water droplets stuck on her lashes moved slightly, her words were firm, like a sworn promise.

Bai Zi Hua sighed, no matter how much he calculated, he could not foresee what can happen. Although he knew accepting her as disciple was not good for him or Chang Liu, he still decided to accept her in the end. It was the will of Heaven, could he avoid it? He did not believe he could not change her fate.

*Hua Qian Gu saw tongues everywhere. They were in many colors and hissed at her like snakes' tongues. Green blood spurted from her stomach and dripped into the ocean, turning the blue water to green and killing all the fish. Demons surrounded her and ripped her body into pieces. While they fought over the body parts, her head rolled into a pit. She saw immortals flying on their swords in the sky. She wanted to yell for help, but she could not because she did not have a neck or a throat. A demon appeared and opened its bloody mouth to bite into her head.*

*Hua Qian Gu screamed and woke up from the nightmare. She did not recognize the room she was in. It was elegant yet sparsely furnished. The last thing she remembered was struggling to stay alert until the disciple selection ended. Then she went off to eat with Qing Shui and Yun Yin. Before she could eat anything, she fainted from her injury.*

*Hua Qian Gu jumped out of bed and went outside. She walked for a long time but could not find anyone. When she saw Mount Chang Liu below, she felt overwhelmed with happiness! Finally, she had achieved her heart's desire, she was at Jue Qing Hall!!!*

“You have awoken.”

Suddenly hearing the voice that was familiar yet also unfamiliar, Hua Qian Gu was startled. Looking up, she saw Bai Zi Hua standing on a protruding boulder, overlooking Mount Chang Liu and everyone in the world, his white sleeves whipping, as if he would be swept away by the wind any moment.

Hua Qian Gu's heart almost jumped out of her chest, although she knew it was impossible, she still worried his ethereal body could accidentally fall down.

“Paying respect to Zun Shang!” Hua Qian Gu knelt and bowed her head.

“You should call me Teacher.”

Bai Zi Hua looked down at her, his voice serene and distant, just a few simple

words, Hua Qian Gu wondered if she heard correctly.

Her face reddened: “Teacher.”

Bai Zi Hua nodded: “I know you have a lot of questions, I have been meditating for centuries, used to being alone, not speaking much. If you do not understand something, just ask.”

Hua Qian Gu said hesitatingly: “Why did Zun Shang choose me as your disciple? I lost, I did not fulfill our one year promise.”

Bai Zi Hua replied: “At that time, I said as long as I could be satisfied with your effort, I did not say you must be the best, your progress up to now is enough.”

Hua Qian Gu wanted to ask why the Emotionless sword flew up when she was fighting, but she did not know how to go about asking this, she changed to another topic: “Teac..... Teacher, where’s Tang Bao? Can’t it stay with me at Jue Qing Hall?”

“Your injury was too severe so you fell into a coma, I took you to Jue Qing Hall for treatment. Tang Bao saw that you did not wake up after three days so it returned to the Hai quarters to pack up your things for you. From now on, you will stay at Jue Qing Hall.”

“What about Yun Yin and the others? They’ve left already?”

“They did not know when you would wake up, they left after they were sure you were out of danger.”

Hua Qian Gu did not know why she was nervous before Bai Zi Hua, she could not think of anything else to say, she pointed to the stream of water that seemed to come from Heaven and fell down through the clouds, pouring onto Mount Chang Liu to become an enormous waterfall: “Teacher, the three halls are suspended in the air, how can there be a waterfall that never stops flowing?” She felt this was strange ever since she first came here.

“Each of the three halls has a statue formed by a holy creature from ancient times, a different type of water gushes from each creature, there are also mystical rocks in the mountains around the three halls, the rocks retain clouds and rain, everything combines into a stream that flows into Mount Chang Liu, turning into the Pool of Three Lives. The vapors from the sea rise up to turn into

clouds, this is the cycle. As for why the water has continuously come from the three holy creatures, we do not know.”

“Yes.” Hua Qian Gu nodded.

“Tang Bao knows most of the surrounding, when it returns it can show you around. Jue Qing Hall does not have a forbidden area, no one is here except you and me, you do not have to be so solemn, you can go anywhere you want without asking for my permission.”

“I understand.”

Bai Zi Hua looked at Mount Chang Liu below, asking unexpectedly: “Looking down, what do you see?”

Hua Qian Gu stepped closer, the strong wind almost blew her away. “Teacher, I’m not smart, I can only see Mount Chang Liu.”

“Mount Chang Liu now and Mount Chang Liu before, is there a difference?”

“Yes, it seems more magnificent.”

“That is correct, a scenery from afar will seem more magnificent, it will leave a deep impression even if it is a common scenery. However, a perspective that is too broad will make the difference between ourselves and the world more obvious. Thus, we will doubt our existence. The perspective of ordinary people focuses on what the eyes can see, but the perspective of Taoism cultivation focuses on what the mind remembers, the memories and feelings of the heart. With your limited life experience, Jue Qing Hall and Mount Chang Liu probably encompass everything and represent your entire world, thus you have to see this world as your world, feel it, understand it, protect it.”

Hua Qian Gu understood what Bai Zi Hua wanted to say, she suddenly saw the world spreading before her eyes, every corner could be seen, every sound could be heard. She was like a god watching over everyone, watching the cycle of life and death, like flowers that bloom and then die.

But this feeling was so lonely, so cold. Was this how Teacher saw Mount Chang Liu, how Teacher saw the world? Every day, he stood here overlooking everything, it was hard not to feel a certain way, which could be described in one word: distant.

Looking at Bai Zi Hua's clear yet cold eyes, Hua Qian Gu felt she understood him more.

She smiled quietly, Teacher, from now on, Xiao Gu would always be with you, stay with you, you would never be alone again.

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It was evening, but Tang Bao had not come back, Hua Qian Gu ran back and forth, walked this way and that way, she was annoyed, it probably was having too much fun playing with Luo Shi Yi and forgot to return.

Not there, not here, why could she not find it anywhere?

Except for the meditation room and Teacher's room, she already searched all the other rooms several times.

Bang bang, bang bang, Bai Zi Hua was disturbed, he walked out of his room.

"What are you searching for?"

"Teacher..... Teacher, I'm hungry, I'm searching for food." Hua Qian Gu lowered her head.

Bai Zi Hua looked at her with a little surprise, he did not know what to say for a long time, as if he did not know how to react.

Hua Qian Gu was distressed, she was starving, if she did not eat she would die.

Bai Zi Hua thought for a moment, he could not believe he did not think of this.

"Jue Qing Hall does not have any food."

"What?" Hua Qian Gu stared with her eyes wide open, no food?!

"I have been by myself, I never thought about things like eating."

Hua Qian Gu suddenly understood, Teacher was immortal, he did not need to eat, but she was made of flesh and blood, she must eat. More importantly, she was healing from a serious injury, she must replenish her strength!

"From now on, you can go to the Hai quarters to eat."

What? She ate so much, would it not be tiring flying back and forth several times each day?

“Teacher, can I bring ingredients up here so I can cook the meals myself?”

Bai Zi Hua froze for a moment, nodded and said: “You can.”

“Great, I’ll go down to find some delicious things, I’ll bring Tang Bao back too.”  
Hua Qian Gu excitedly ran outside.

“Wait.”

Hua Qian Gu stopped and turned around to look at Bai Zi Hua, he walked in front of her and bent down, his slender white fingers reached out and took down the two bells Hua Qian Gu had carefully put around her neck, then he gently tied them to the Emotionless sword.

“Why wear them on your neck like you are a puppy?” Although Bai Zi Hua’s face was expressionless, his tone conveyed a hint of laughter and indulgence.

Hua Qian Gu’s heart warmed, she lowered her head and said: “I was afraid I might lose them.” Teacher had given them to her, this represented their teacher and disciple relationship.

“Go on, walk slowly, do not run, the ground is slippery, be careful not to fall down.”

“Yes, I’ll leave now.” Hua Qian Gu turned and ran out, she never felt so happy.

Walking to the edge of the waterfall, she suddenly felt playful, throwing out the Emotionless sword, jumping on it, using it like a board, skidding on the water toward Chang Liu, this was fun and did not require any energy. Water sprayed up in the air everywhere, like rainbows across the sky. Looking at the red sun sinking slowly into the sea, her heart was filled with joy.

The happy life of Xiao Gu and Teacher had begun!

Hua Qian Gu turned restlessly all through the night, not used to her new bed. On the other hand, Tang Bao loved it, already moving its little house to a corner of the bed. Pulling up the cover, underneath was an ice sheet, exuding a quiet coldness, strangely beautiful and giving off a foggy chill. Tang Bao excitedly rolled from side to side, it told Hua Qian Gu this was a unique treasure, beneficial in helping her absorb the essences of heaven and earth, also beneficial in healing injuries.

Hua Qian Gu endured it until midnight, her lips turned purple from the cold, she was able to sleep here before because she was in a coma, but she could not sleep now.

Finally, she spread her bedding on the floor and slept there until morning.

Tang Bao used her face as a spring, hopping up and down: “Gu Tou piggie, get up! The sun is up already!”

Hua Qian Gu drowsily woke up, wailing in her heart: “Why didn’t you wake me up earlier, this is the first day of greeting Teacher, I’m dead meat, I’m dead meat!”

“Haha, the bed is too comfortable, good for cultivation, I also overslept!”

Hua Qian Gu quickly ran to wash her face, remembering the complicated requirements during and after the disciple selection her teachers had taught her. However, Bai Zi Hua was not in his room, Jue Qing Hall was too big, she looked for a long time but could not find him. She ended up screaming at the top of her lungs.

“Teacher! Teacher!”

Suddenly, a voice rang out near her ear.

“I’m in the writing room.”

Writing room, writing room, where was the writing room? Wandering around

for a long time, she finally found it.

Bai Zi Hua was at his desk looking over the reports about Mount Chang Liu, Shi Zun usually handled these matters, not a lot of reports were sent directly to him, but the reports sent were critical.

“This disciple greets Teacher.” Hua Qian Gu bowed her head like she was taught, Bai Zi Hua did not look at her.

“You do not need to do these things from now on. You also do not need to wake up early like you did when you went to classes, relax.”

“Yes.”

“Have you gotten used to your new bed?”

“Um.....”

“Jue Qing Hall does not have anything, the only thing it has a lot of are rooms, you can sleep wherever you like, if you do not like that bed then switch to another bed. However, your internal injury will heal faster if you sleep on that bed.”

“I understand.”

“You can take these books on the desk with you to study, you have to memorize them, recite them to me next year. However, you have to rely on yourself to study, you cannot show them to Tang Bao or let it explain them to you.”

Hua Qian Gu picked up the books, the books were about music, poetry, chess, arts, sword fighting, medicine and cooking.

The pages already turned yellow, the books probably were very old, tied together in a stack, on top was labeled ““Qi Jue Pu,” a glance could tell these were valuable ancient books.

Hua Qian Gu was puzzled, she thought a teacher would teach the disciple, push the disciple to train hard, why make her read these books? Also, with her memory, she only needed a few months to memorize the seven books, why give her a year?

*But Hua Qian Gu did not ask any questions. It was not until she took the stack*

*of books back to her room and opened them that she felt overwhelmed. Each book was thin and old, filled with only chapter headings. She only needed to touch or think of a chapter heading. The book immediately changed to provide information about that topic.*

*Each book was very detailed. For example, the music book covered instruments, note arrangements, famous pieces. The sword book covered different weapons, the origin and techniques of different sects, tricks. The medicine book covered extinct herbs, strange insects, poisons, cures. Moreover, the books were animated. For example, if she was reading a sword technique, a small figure appeared and showed her the technique so she could practice along.*

*Hua Qian Gu realized in alarm it would be difficult to memorize one book in seven years, let alone seven books in one year. Thankfully, Teacher said she only needed to remember, not understand everything. If she tried hard, she could probably do it.*

*Studying was fun because the books made Hua Qian Gu realize there were so many interesting things in the world. Also, Bai Zi Hua allowed her to set her own schedule. No one visited Jue Qing Hall so Hua Qian Gu was free to do anything she wanted.*

*From that moment on, Hua Qian Gu was mesmerized with reading the seven books. Except for meal times, she always had a book in her hands. She often grew tired from reading and fell asleep on the spot. Poor Tang Bao, it had to move Hua Qian Gu's heavy body back to bed.*

*Tang Bao was curious about the seven books, but it never sneaked a glance because it was not a disciple of Chang Liu. It also knew that its knowledge would automatically be sent back to the information center of Yi Xiu Ge. It did not want to do anything that could hurt Hua Qian Gu.*

*The days at Jue Qing Hall flew by. Hua Qian Gu immersed herself in reading the books. Tang Bao played with Luo Shi Yi and Qing Shui. Bai Zi Hua stayed in his room to meditate. Hua Qian Gu and Bai Zi Hua did not meet often, usually not even for ten to fifteen days. Hua Qian Gu often felt lonely and scared, but she knew Bai Zi Hua's cold personality so she did not dare to disturb him.*

*Although no one bothered him, Jue Qing Hall did not seem empty anymore for Bai Zi Hua. Sometimes when Bai Zi Hua looked for Hua Qian Gu, he found her reading and giggling to herself, flying on a sword to chase after butterflies, practicing sword fighting beside the peach trees, breaking dishes in the kitchen while trying out new recipes, looking at the moon and mumbling to herself or playing with Tang Bao. He never kept track of her, but it seemed he could always hear her running back and forth with the silver bells clanging in happiness.*

*After several days of not seeing each other, not knowing where he was, if he already went out or not, she yelled out in alarm: "Teacher! Teacher!"*

*He never had a disciple before, he also did not know how to teach someone, let alone a little girl. Although their relationship improved, her eyes showed she was still a little afraid of him, after living with him for some time, knowing he was strict but kind, the way she talked and her eyes had calmed down considerably.*

*"Teacher! Teacher!"*

*Hearing the familiar cry, Bai Zi Hua reluctantly shook his head. "I am in the sword room."*

*A while later, Hua Qian Gu panted, stumbling in, her hands held a small bowl.*

*"Do not run so fast, the Cang Lan jade tiles are slippery, you have fallen many times but are still not careful. Your injury has not healed fully, you should not use your internal energy, you only need to know the techniques, not practice completely."*

*"Haha, how did you know?" Hua Qian Gu giggled, she thought of a new technique just now while in her room, using her internal energy, she slipped and fell, her bottom really hurt.*

*"What is this?" Bai Zi Hua looked at the small bowl in her hands, he could smell it from afar, he did not know why recently she became interested in trying new recipes. Whenever she cooked a new dish, she always brought it to him for a taste.*

*"It's called Shui Jing Zui Lian Hua!" Hua Qian Gu opened the lid, a bit of cool*

air escaped, there was a stunning lotus in the small bowl, pink and blooming, dew still remained on the petals, a trace of wine was also detected, like a beauty weeping.

Although Bai Zi Hua's face was expressionless like always, his eyes showed his appreciation. Accepting the chopsticks from Hua Qian Gu, taking a bite, the coolness of the lotus and the heaviness of the wine filled his mouth, it was truly delicious.

"Teacher, how is it?"

Bai Zi Hua looked at her excited face, nodding gently: "It is good."

Then he accepted the white cloth Hua Qian Gu held out, elegantly wiped his mouth.

"Uhhh! Teacher, can I ask you for a small favor?"

"What is it?" Bai Zi Hua looked down at her, although he had told her to tell him anything, ask him anything, but she had lived in Jue Qing Hall for six months, she never said anything.

"Teacher, can you reserve a bit of time each day, only a bit of time to eat dinner with me and Tang Bao?"

Bai Zi Hua looked at her pitiful eyes, suddenly realizing that she always ate with her father, then later on the mountain she ate with Qing Shui and friends, now she ate by herself but she probably was not used to eating alone.

So he gently nodded his head.

"Awesome!!!" Hua Qian Gu screamed out in excitement. Teacher actually agreed!! Hahahahahaha, she planned this for a long time so from now on, she could see Teacher a little each day, but only until her cooking skill was good enough that she dared to make the request.

Haha, Luo Shi Yi was right, Teacher might appear cold, but he was the easiest to talk to out of the three Heads. Who knew Teacher could be bullied so easily, haha, it seemed she could make more requests from now on, she should work on her pleading ability.

She held the small bowl and happily ran out, her mind pondering what should

*she make for dinner? Teacher did not eat meat, she needed to make a lot of vegetarian dishes that taste delicious and look good.*

*Hua Qian Gu was at the doorway, Bai Zi Hua suddenly remembered something.*

*“Wait.”*

*Hua Qian Gu stopped, turning her head around. “Teacher, do you have something for me to do?”*

*“Where did you get the crystal lotus?”*

*“Oh that, I saw the lotus plant blooming nicely in the back pond, I thought of this dish, that’s why I cut the flower.”*

*What, what? His crystal lotus plant that was a thousand years old! He brought it from the cold barren north, carefully planted it for a hundred years, it finally bloomed two flowers this year. She, she, she.....*

*Bai Zi Hua looked up and sighed, then lamented: “Hua Qian Gu, your punishment is no dinner tonight!”*

*Hua Qian Gu wearily slipped down the stairs. Who can tell her what happened? Did he not agree to eat dinner with her.....? Having an immortal teacher was so unpredictable.....*

*Thus that evening, the first dinner of Xiao Gu and Teacher.*

*Teacher and Tang Bao sat at the table, Xiao Gu looked on and drooled.*

*Wah! Who can feel her pain.....*

Hua Qian Gu made a swing under a peach tree. Reading books, eating grapes with the skin on, leisurely swinging back and forth. The peach blossoms at Mount Chang Liu bloomed all year long, giving off a light fragrance. She used to wait in vain, until realizing there would not be any peaches to eat.

The past six months were wonderful, she did not have to train hard anymore. Besides reading each day, she slept a lot, thus her internal energy had not increased, only her cooking skill improved, causing her small frame to become whiter and chubbier, also softer.

Hua Qian Gu studied a zither and flute arrangement in the music book, moaning in her heart, who knew music could be used to fight enemies, and the force could be quite destructive.

Only the person holding the book could hear and see the animation, Tang Bao continued to sleep on a peach blossom petal next to her, its small mouth mumbling once in a while. There were about ten peach fairies with dazzling pink wings, flapping their transparent wings up and down around Tang Bao, laughing softly. Seeing it sleeping soundly, they touched it from time to time. If 1,000 peach fairies talked at the same time, they could create hallucination. Tang Bao probably was having a sweet dream right now.

Suddenly, a faint tune came from a distance, shattering the fighting animation in the book into pieces.

Ah, were the peach fairies causing her to hallucinate?

She closed the book, the tune was real, not from the book, it came from outside the hall. Hua Qian Gu jumped off the swing in delight and ran outside, haha, it was Teacher.

“Gu Tou mama, where are you going?” Tang Bao was startled, it yawned and woke up, raised its head and yelled, looking silly.

Hua Qian Gu stopped to poke at its head, smiled and said: “Why yell, you’re a

worm, not a wolf.”

Tang Bao puffed out its little chest: “I was absorbing the essences of the sun and moon, of heaven and earth, hahaha.....”

Hua Qian Gu did not care about essences or not, she put it in her pocket, picked up her skirt and ran, the bells kept jingling.

Running out of the hall, it really was Teacher sitting on the protruding Lou Feng boulder, playing the zither under the moonlight for all of Mount Chang Liu below. The satin hair spread out on the ground like a lotus in bloom. A plain white robe, no waistband, whipping in the strong wind.

“Teacher! Teacher!”

Hua Qian Gu happily ran up behind him. Bai Zi Hua did not react, still calmly playing the zither, the tune was better than what she heard in the book, soothing and firm, wild and ever changing.

The zither sounded amazing, but she could not feel any emotions from Bai Zi Hua. Emotions were always critical in music, with zither being the most important of the four arts, its octaves could profoundly affect the soul, but Teacher’s tune was without emotions, causing the listener to feel desolate.

Hua Qian Gu stood quietly behind Bai Zi Hua, listening to him impassively playing the zither, suddenly feeling forlorn. Teacher would always stand by himself above the clouds, protecting this mountain, this land, this world for thousands of years.....

The tune ended, Bai Zi Hua said coolly: “It is fine to just have a basic knowledge of musical instruments, but you need to know how to play the zither. Have you read the music book?”

“Teacher, I’ve read and memorized it, but I don’t know how to play the zither.”

“Come here.”

Hua Qian Gu sat down next to him in alarm, the wind seemed weaker than before, if the wind vigorously blew down the mountain’s ledge, she could not sit down.

“Play for me.”

Hua Qian Gu nervously put out her hands, recalling what was in the book: the right hand plucking the strings, the left hand on the surface board, doing so would create clear notes; the left hand plucking the strings would create a crisp overtone; the left hand not pressing down the strings would create scattered notes. Scattered notes were low in pitch, strong yet simple, giving a solemn feel. Overtone was high in pitch, sounding sharp, like wind chimes; the middle range would be alto, like striking chimes. The notes would differ depending on the strings and the top, middle or bottom part of the surface board; the top part would create light and sharp notes, the middle part would create fatter and wider notes, the bottom part would create strong and heavy notes.

The forefingers pressing down, the middle fingers plucking the strings outward, a tune came from the zither, Hua Qian Gu thought this sounded interesting, remembering folk ballads, she continued to pluck at the strings.

Bai Zi Hua nodded gently: “Your fingers should move even when pressed down, straighten your thumbs, then slowly lower them.”

Tang Bao poked its head out of her pocket, crawling onto the zither, the vibration of the zither rattled its body, it quickly jumped onto Hua Qian Gu’s shoulder. Wah, Gu Tou mama was so talented, she knew how to play the zither!

“Do not press down the strings too tightly, use your fingertips, the sound will be clearer.”

“Yes.” Hua Qian Gu began to sweat, her fingers becoming stiff the more she plucked the strings, rhythm not really rhythm, melody not really melody.

Bai Zi Hua suddenly reached around her from behind, his two hands laid on top of her small hands, lightly plucking the strings. Hua Qian Gu froze immediately, feeling as if her body was submerged under water.

“Do not be anxious, force your internal energy to your fingertips, carefully play each note, the notes can be powerful enough to break rocks and cut through gold.”

Hua Qian Gu sensed his body behind her, she thought she would go crazy. Despite the slender, white fingers holding onto her hands to teach her how to play the zither, her fingers felt crippled, unable to move.

A silver light moved from Bai Zi Hua's hands, transferring into her hands, their fingers sped up.

“Although Gun and Fu [techniques] require many strings, the notes are clear, consistent like beads strung together. Gun and Fu must go together continuously, Gun moves from left to right, Fu moves from right to left, creating a large circle. This is like being ‘an oak amidst strong wind, flowing water under the sea.’”

While this was said, a white light sharp like a blade shot out from the zither.

Hua Qian Gu was distressed, she did not understand what Bai Zi Hua was saying, but her mind wandered, the hands on top of her hands were obviously cold like ice, the chill seeping into her bones, yet why was she feeling so hot that she was sweating profusely, her heart pounding chaotically?

“Do you understand?” Bai Zi Hua let go of her hands, looking down at his disciple leaning against his chest like a flower bud, rolled into a lump.

“Yes, I understand.”

“Practice when you have time. There are ancient zithers such as Ling Ji, Shen Nong, Xiang Quan, Feng Shi, Lian Zhu, Zhong Ni, Lie Zi, Ling Guan, Shi Kuang, Ya E, Luo Xia in the music room. You can choose one tomorrow. Fighting with music is common, all the disciples at Chang Liu should know a musical instrument. I chose the zither for you, you can switch to something else if you do not like it.

“No, no, Teacher, I like it. Thank you, Teacher!” Hua Qian Gu looked up and smiled at Bai Zi Hua, thinking Teacher probably wanted her to protect the Fu Xi zither in the future.

Bai Zi Hua nodded: “Tomorrow is the Nüwa Festival, there is a ceremony in the mountain, you should go rest early.”

“Yes, Teacher.” Hua Qian Gu slowly walked out of his sight, turned and happily ran away. Haha, Teacher taught her to play the zither. She had been here for six months, this was the first time Teacher taught her something. She was so excited, she must practice diligently from now on.

The next morning, she woke up at dawn.

“Teacher! Teacher!”

Did he leave already?

“I am in my room.”

Hua Qian Gu quickly ran over, she pushed open the door then realized this was rude, she retreated in embarrassment but stretched her head to peek inside. Bai Zi Hua had just put on the sect leader’s sword, jade belt, white feathers, ornate tassels, but his hair was still down.

“Teacher, why don’t you tie up your hair?”

“A student will come later to help me with my hair.” He lived by himself in the hall, not needing servants, but his long hair was the only thing he could not do himself.

“Can I help you tie it?” Hua Qian Gu excitedly jumped in front of him.

Bai Zi Hua stopped what he was doing to look at her.

Hua Qian Gu pointed to the buns on her head, bragging proudly: “I did this.”

She thought she saw him smile, but it was gone in a flash. Bai Zi Hua sat down, handing her a comb.

Hua Qian Gu eagerly stood behind him, finally she could touch Teacher’s hair, it was dark like the night, who knows how he took care of it. More than 100 years old, but no grey hair! Her hands were a bit unsteady, combing it once, her hands still shaking, the comb glided smoothly down the hair. Hua Qian Gu clucked her tongue, oh heaven, the hair was so smooth, no wonder it was difficult to tie up.

Half an hour later.....

“Xiao Gu, you are not done? The ceremony will begin soon.”

“Yes, yes, almost done.” Hua Qian Gu was too happy playing with his hair, snapping awake, she quickly divided the hair into two parts and tied it up.

Bai Zi Hua looked in the mirror, sighing helplessly, her skill was about the same as his skill. Oh well, so be it, they were late.

Teacher and disciple flew down from Jue Qing Hall to the Main Hall.

“Sect Leader, why are you late?” Mo Yan looked at him with displeasure.

Sheng Xiao Mo looked at Bai Zi Hua, then looked at Hua Qian Gu hiding behind Bai Zi Hua, he held his stomach and laughed loudly.

“Sect Leader, your hair.....” Why was it in complete disarray? This was the first time his extraordinary, ethereal sect brother could look so cute.

“It is nothing.” Bai Zi Hua mumbled a spell, his long hair returned to order. He rarely relied on spells, it seemed excessive if he used mystic arts to fix his hair, but this serious occasion required hair to be tied neatly, otherwise he always tried to avoid these occasions as much as possible.

Hua Qian Gu pouted guiltily, oh well, her skill should not be blamed, it was really difficult.

During the ceremony, she stood beside Huo Xi, Wu Qing Luo and Luo Shi Yi, not daring to speak and only looked around. Hua Qian Gu suddenly felt eyes searing into her from behind, turning around, it was Ni Man Tian. Six months had gone by, she had grown to be more beautiful. Ni Man Tian was two years older than Hua Qian Gu, she was now a captivating young lady, and Hua Qian Gu still appeared like a child.

She quietly looked down at her chest, still flat, not even the slightest bump. Oh well, if it wanted to stay flat it could stay flat, as long as one day she could become as pretty as Qian Mo jiejie, that would be wonderful.

Remembering Sha Qian Mo, she wondered where jiejie could be? Also Xuan Yuan Lang, how did he handle the emergency? Dong Fang Yu Qing was so smart, had he gotten first place at the national examination? As for Yun Yin, he sent a letter a month ago, how was Mount Mao now?

Suddenly thinking of Shuo Feng, she looked around to find him, he stood far away from Ni Man Tian, their relationship was probably not good. It must be difficult for Luo Shi Yi to teach these two disciples.

She continued to watch Bai Zi Hua again, not realizing that Shuo Feng looked at her.

After the ceremony ended, Hua Qian Gu did not return to the hall with Bai Zi Hua but met with Qing Shui and the others, she was careful not to drink wine,

not to eat too much, fearing she might fall asleep.

The next morning, Bai Zi Hua opened his door and immediately saw Hua Qian Gu with her head down standing outside.

“What is it?”

“Teacher, can I fix your hair every morning? Practice makes perfect. Didn’t you always say ‘diligence is more important than intelligence?’” Hua Qian Gu smiled and held a comb.

Bai Zi Hua’s face darkened.....

## 034

Hua Qian Gu was busy in the kitchen, Tang Bao held a small spoon to help her, sometimes putting in a bit of salt, sometimes putting in a bit of sugar.

“Teacher! Teacher! Time to eat!”

Bai Zi Hua stopped meditating, his spirit was thousands of miles away playing chess with High Immortal Dong Hua. As soon as he heard her, he quickly said goodbye, his spirit traveled thousands of miles, returning to his body.

Walking into the room, he looked at the food on the table, each dish was exquisitely arranged, beautifully decorated, like works of art.

“What did you make today?”

“Haha, Teacher, the dishes in order are Tian Ji Mi Lu soup, Fei Cui Dou Fu, Fu Rong Yu Dai, Mi Hun Bai Guo Rou, assorted Gan Cao and fried yellow chrysanthemums’ pistils.”

“You do not have to make so much food each day, it is wasteful if we cannot eat everything, you only need to make one or two dishes.”

“Yes, Teacher.” Hua Qian Gu offered up a pair of jade chopsticks with both hands, “Great Teacher, please eat.”

Bai Zi Hua accepted the chopsticks, held them in his hands, his fingers were paler and more beautiful than the jade chopsticks.

Tang Bao sat in a specially designed Qing Hua bowl and swallowed its saliva while staring at the food, Teacher had not eaten, it did not dare to act rudely.

“Your skill has improved.” Bai Zi Hua looked at the Mi Hun Bai Guo Rou dish made up of many different carved fruits arranged into shapes of birds and phoenixes, nodding slightly, he put a slice of white pear in his mouth.

Hua Qian Gu happily held her bowl, furtively watching Teacher eat. This was the happiest time of the day, although Teacher said little during dinner, just sitting with him warmed her. How could someone eat so elegantly?

“Gu Tou, I want that, that.....”

Hua Qian Gu put the cherries used to make the phoenixes’ eyes into Tang Bao’s bowl, Tang Bao clutched them with its arms, devouring them.

Bai Zi Hua ate a few bites from each of the dishes, he laid down his chopsticks after a while, but he still sat at the table watching her and Tang Bao. He never felt hungry or full, but reserved about 10 minutes to talk with her every day.

“Eat slowly, you do not have to rush.”

“Yes.....” Hua Qian Gu devoured one-fourth of the food on the table, feeling nearly full, she quickly laid down her chopsticks.

“I’m full, you can have the rest Tang Bao, Teacher said we mustn’t waste any food. Oh right, you’re the last one to finish, you need to wash the bowls and chopsticks, haha.”

“Huh? All right.....but why are there so many, I’ve become fatter lately, my waist is gone.”

“Waist?” Hua Qian Gu used chopsticks to pinch its body, looking at it from head to tail. “Here? Here? Or here? Isn’t it all the same?”

Tang Bao tried to escape from the chopsticks while shrieking with laughter, she was pretending it was a side dish and wanting to eat it.

Bai Zi Hua looked at the two of them playing around, a hint of smile appeared in his eyes, he raised a spotless white sleeve to help wipe Hua Qian Gu’s mouth.

Hua Qian Gu looked up, seeing his cold face, that gentle gesture almost made her cry.

Seeing the stain on Bai Zi Hua’s sleeve, she lowered her head in embarrassment.

Teacher’s white robe always seemed clean for thousands of years, surrounded by an aura of immortality, dirt could not contaminate it, his clothes did not need to be washed like hers..... Would he need to bathe? Hua Qian Gu imagined Teacher taking off his clothes.....

Oh dizziness, dizziness..... Amitabha, Amitabha, have mercy, have mercy.....

Her thinking had changed from when she originally became his disciple, which was to be filial to her Teacher, to cook and wash his clothes, to make tea, et cetera.

Teacher believed in the natural state of Taoism, in purity, mystical arts should not be used to make life easier, such thinking would make people dependent and lazy. Thus chores such as combing hair or washing clothes, he only needed to lift his hand and say a spell, but he did everything himself instead of relying on mystic arts.

“Teacher, give me your clothes later, can I help you wash them?”

A stunned Bai Zi Hua looked at Hua Qian Gu who returned his gaze with trepidation, he gently nodded his head.

*That night, Hua Qian Gu took the clothes to a creak behind the mountain. While she washed the clothes under a beautiful full moon, Tang Bao floated nearby on a peach petal. She looked at Bai Zi Hua’s room. She never thought such peaceful happiness was possible. She wished this could last forever.*

*The next day, Hua Qian Gu caught a flying paper crane. Everyone in the six realms used flying paper cranes to send messages to each other. The letter was from Dong Fang Yu Qing. His chicken scratches were worse than hers. He said he missed her a lot, missed her so much even his bones hurt. At the end of the letter was an awful “family picture” he drew consisting of Hua Qian Gu, a worm and a scholar. Hua Qian Gu wrote a reply, folded the note into a crane and sent it to Dong Fang Yu Qing.*

*Hua Qian Gu climbed on a tree. She barely sat down before seeing a golden light landing in Jue Qing Hall. It was Mo Yan, who needed to see Bai Zi Hua on an urgent matter. Another holy instrument had been stolen.*

*Hua Qian Gu rolled around on her bed. She was completely bored. Bai Zi Hua had been gone for three days. Tang Bao was busy playing with Luo Shi Yi. Hua Qian Gu jumped out of bed and decided to go to the kitchen to experiment with new recipes. When she opened the door, she was surprised to see someone standing before her. It was Chang Sheng, a servant from one of Chang Liu’s halls. She was about to tell him that he was not allowed in Jue Qing Hall, but he grinned mysteriously and said: “Kiddo, I’ve arrived!”*

## 035

Hua Qian Gu was stunned for a moment.

But that voice, calling her “kiddo.” Surprise and happiness immediately appeared on her face.

“Jiejie!”

Sha Qian Mo picked up Hua Qian Gu and spun her in a circle a few times in the air. Then he held her like a baby in his arms, refusing to let go, his arms rocking gently back and forth.

“It’s been a year, why are you still light like a feather, why don’t you have any meat?”

“No, I’ve grown chubby, I’ve grown chubby!” Hua Qian Gu argued excitedly.

Sha Qian Mo lovingly pinched her face, she really looked better, her eyes were bright and clear, filled with water, causing people to sympathize with her. Most of the inauspicious aura from her body and the black aura between her eyebrows were gone. Bai Zi Hua purified her internal energy daily, directing the five elements inside her. However, he was arrogant enough to try to change her fate, would he not need to sacrifice a lot of internal energy and years of cultivation?

At first, he worried Bai Zi Hua was too cold, causing the kiddo to suffer if having to live with him. Surprisingly, he was a competent teacher. The kiddo looked great, the days at Jue Qing Hall seemed happy, he felt reassured.

Bai Zi Hua finally lived up to his handsome face! Not many existed in this world that he admired, even lesser were those with beautiful features that caused him to open his eyes wide to take a look. Beautiful people, they need to do things befitting of their beauty, such as laugh more, talk more, no need to look serious all the time! As if everyone owed him money.

“Jiejie, why are you here?”

“I wanted to come earlier, but the monster and demon realms were in chaos trying to steal the holy instruments, I’ve been very busy. Since Bai Zi Hua has been gone for a few days, I sneaked up here to visit you.”

*Sha Qian Mo complained that he had to wear an ugly mask over his beautiful face. Hua Qian Gu praised his ability to disguise himself to look like someone else. Sha Qian Mo did not bother to correct her, that he killed the servant and peeled off the skin on the face.*

*Sha Qian Mo and Hua Qian Gu flew out of Jue Qing Hall and down the mountain until they arrived at a cave. A flame appeared in Sha Qian Mo’s left hand, and they walked into the dark cave. It took a long time, but Hua Qian Gu finally saw light at the exit. Suddenly, she saw endless blue water. It seemed they were at the blue sea under Mount Chang Liu.*

“Wah, so pretty, I see so many colorful fish.”

“Like them? Want to catch and grill two fish so we can eat?”

Then he pulled Hua Qian Gu into the sea, Hua Qian Gu was preparing to stop breathing, she unexpectedly found herself standing on the water surface.

If it were her, the most she could do was stand on the water surface for a bit, but Sha Qian Mo controlled all the water near them, he was really powerful. She happily ran everywhere, splashing water, then crouched down to catch the small fish. However, the small fish were smart, always slipping playfully out of her fingers, not allowing her to catch them.

She turned around to look at Sha Qian Mo, he already took off his mask, staring blankly at the sea.

“Jiejie, what are you doing? The fish are pretty, right?”

Sha Qian Mo reluctantly turned his head to look at Hua Qian Gu and sighed loudly.

“Kiddo, why do you think I’m so beautiful?”

Hua Qian Gu saw him feeling sorry for himself, nodding innocently: “Yes, why are you so beautiful?”

“My beauty is unrivaled in the world, but too bad I’m only the leader of the

monster and demon realms. I don't like to do everything, most of the time I don't want to use my name, but it's still impressive, right? But why can't I be the most powerful, would that not match perfectly with my beauty?"

"Who's the most powerful?"

"Who knows! Probably the Demon God, but no one has seen it. At least in the six realms, I've only lost to two people." Sha Qian Mo proudly crossed his arms in front of his chest.

"Who? Are they so powerful? Is it my teacher?"

"Your teacher is one of them, I lost and willingly admit it, but actually we did not fight that long, his sword scratched my face, I immediately backed out to find a way to heal it. If we continued fighting, it's hard to say who'd win, huh!"

"Oh, who's the other person?"

"The other one, his name is Dou Lan Gan."

"I think I've heard this name."

"He's very famous, he used to be the best warrior in Heaven. He's also one of the five Leaders, elder brother of Du Bu Qian Jun Nan Ling Han. Eighty years ago, he fell in love with an evil woman and made a lot of enemies. Finally, the Jade Emperor banished him to the savage wilderness and changed many rules because of him. A hundred years ago, the monster and demon realms revolted, wanting to attack the human realm, I fought against him when he led Heaven's army, but....."

"But what?"

Sha Qian Mo replied with resentment: "But he was too ugly! His face round and shiny like a mirror, I saw my reflection in it and was distracted, the result was I lost in disgrace! I had to run away....."

Hua Qian Gu held her stomach and laughed loudly. That sounded like something jiejie would do.

"That battle was very violent, Dou Lan Gan was experienced, ruthless like the demon realm. He quickly stopped the revolt. He even killed the leader of the demon realm, but he was a useless old man, always tempted by women. Who

knows why he loved that evil woman, the fate of the best warrior in Heaven ended horribly. The word 'love' is very dangerous."

"Jiejie, what do you think, between my teacher and him, who's more powerful?"

"Based on cultivation, probably your teacher is better, but based on fighting ability, he's probably more dangerous. Your teacher is too kind, seldom using his sword. Don't even talk about killing, he rarely even causes injuries. If he fights with Dou Lan Gan, that would be amazing to watch!"

Sha Qian Mo imagined a darkened sky, without any light, he was beyond himself with excitement.

"Jiejie, where's the savage wilderness?"

"That's where the six realms send prisoners condemned to death, it's full of demons and monsters, the prisoners can't use their power, they have to fend for themselves, living is like dying, never being able to escape."

"How horrible! Oh jiejie, how did you know about this path under Mount Chang Liu?"

"There are a lot of obstacles on Mount Chang Liu, the top is protected by a barrier, the ground is filled with traps. The path and cave were formed mainly from erosion, the rest was made by Shi Zun's disciple who was expelled from the sect. As to how I know about that senior senior senior disciple, I'll tell you later when there's time, haha, let's go play on the sea floor!"

*Hua Qian Gu realized they were at a small island near Mount Chang Liu. Sha Qian Mo created a big air bubble around them so they could do down into the water without needing to hold their breath. When they played enough, they resurfaced. Hua Qian Gu took off her shoes and ran freely on the sand. She also made a seashell necklace for Sha Qian Mo. In the meantime, Sha Qian Mo looked curiously at Hua Qian Gu, wondering why she was the key to resurrecting the Demon God? In what way could she be connected to the holy instruments? Unfortunately, that was her fate, the Demon God would surely be reborn.*

*Sha Qian Mo and Hua Qian Gu played until midnight. She wanted to return but accidentally fell asleep. The next morning, Sha Qian Mo brought her back to Chang Liu and left. While Hua Qian Gu flew on the Emotionless sword back to Jue Qing Hall, she was knocked off her sword by a drop of water. Laying on the ground, she looked up to see Ni Man Tian laughing at her. Shuo Feng was also there. They were practicing near a stream. It appeared Ni Man Tian saw her fly by so decided to knock her off her sword.*

“Weren’t you very impressive in the Xian Jian Games? Why are you useless now? Can’t even avoid a drop of water, don’t tell me your injury hasn’t healed?”

Hua Qian Gu ignored her, stood up and brushed off the dirt. Raising her hand, the Emotionless sword automatically returned to her.

Ni Man Tian looked at the Emotionless sword with bitterness, she did not know at that time Zun Shang gave Hua Qian Gu the sword, too bad for her Bi Luo sword. Although Ni Man Tian always wanted to be Luo Shi Yi’s disciple, she was upset that Hua Qian Gu was the Sect Leader’s disciple, new grudge added to old animosity, the hatred deepened.

“Oh, your status is higher now, I should call you Sect Senior, I can’t be disrespectful! You’ve been the Sect Leader’s disciple for a year, you’ve probably learned a lot from Zun Shang, why not teach your sect junior a few moves?”

After saying this, she swung her sword to attack. Hua Qian Gu quickly stepped away. Shuo Feng crossed his arms and lazily watched them.

Hua Qian Gu tried to fight back, her sword technique was smooth but lacked cohesion, there was power but without the internal energy, obviously she was not a match for Ni Man Tian.

Ni Man Tian’s beautiful eyes were frosty, she was not in a hurry to win, deliberately using hundreds of moves as if to tease. She wanted to show off everything Luo Shi Yi had taught her to Hua Qian Gu. She was already talented,

and the embarrassment from the Xian Jian Games motivated her to train harder. During the year, while Hua Qian Gu comfortably lived in leisure, she never relaxed for a moment at Tan Lan Hall. Both her strength and cultivation increased greatly, many times compared to last year. As for Hua Qian Gu, beside reading, sleeping, cooking, reciting poetry, painting, she fermented wine, planted flowers.....

Her cultivation barely improved. Naturally, she was not a match for Ni Man Tian, and her internal energy had not healed fully, thus Ni Man Tian led her by the nose.

Ni Man Tian purposely wanted to humiliate her, shearing her clothes but never touching the flesh. Finally, she flew up high into the air and violently kicked Hua Qian Gu from behind, causing her to fall on the ground, her face full of mud.

“Sect Senior! Stand up!” Ni Man Tian arrogantly clapped her hands and turned to leave, her mouth mumbling, “Calling yourself the Sect Leader’s disciple, how useless! Haha, my teacher Luo Shi Yi is the best!”

*Hua Qian Gu was infuriated. It was her fault that she used the excuse of healing from injury and did not train diligently, not Bai Zi Hua’s fault. She was tired from the fight so she continued to lay on the ground, not bothering to get up. She had never been an ambitious person. Her original wish was to live an easy life. Then later, she had another wish, which was to be Bai Zi Hua’s disciple. Since Heaven kindly granted both wishes, she only wanted to live in peace now.*

*But Hua Qian Gu suddenly realized Bai Zi Hua’s reputation was at stake. Everyone might not know her name, but they surely knew her as the disciple of Chang Liu’s High Immortal. Hua Qian Gu made up her mind to train diligently from now on. She was Bai Zi Hua’s only disciple. She must not shame him. One day, she would defeat Ni Man Tian!*

*Shuo Feng put out his hand and helped Hua Qian Gu up. He knelt and brushed off the dirt on her clothes, surprising her because they were not friends. Then he patted her head and told her to go back to Jue Qing Hall. Hua Qian Gu did not know what else to say except muttering a quick thank you. On the outside, it might seem as if Shuo Feng and Ni Man Tian were on the same team since they were usually together, but he never bullied Hua Qian Gu. Shuo Feng might not*

*be a bad person after all.*

When she returned to Jue Qing Hall, Tang Bao was in the courtyard crying pitifully. As soon as it saw Hua Qian Gu, it immediately flew over to her, its tears spilling all over her, she saw with surprise that Luo Shi Yi was also present.

“Luo Shi Yi?! Why are you here?”

“Shhh, don’t let my teacher know. Tang Bao looked for you all through the night but couldn’t find you, it kept on crying, I came here to comfort it. See, didn’t I say Hua Qian Gu didn’t go far, she’ll return quickly, look at how scared you were!” Luo Shi Yi lovingly poked at its head.

Tang Bao wiped its tears and runny nose on Hua Qian Gu’s shirt: “I mentally searched for you everywhere on Chang Liu but couldn’t find you..... and I couldn’t sense your breathing, I thought you were captured by bad people. Where did you go? And also your clothes, why is everything torn, did bad people seize you?”

Hua Qian Gu knew Tang Bao already cultivated to the Zhi Wei level where it could use its mental power to search within 100 miles, of course it could not find her because she was outside this perimeter. However, Luo Shi Yi was here, she could not say she and jiejie sneaked out, otherwise there would be trouble. Also, Ni Man Tian was now Luo Shi Yi’s disciple, she should not make him feel awkward.

So she made up an excuse: “Yun Yin sent me a letter yesterday about an emergency, I went out to look for him, forgetting to tell you. Sorry, I caused you to worry for me. My clothes are torn because Yun Yin taught me a sword move called Wan Shu Li Hua, but I’m not hurt, don’t worry, haha.”

“That’s good, Gu Tou mama, but you can’t leave me and run off again!”

“I know, I know, I don’t know who’s the one running off to play with someone else though.” She scowled at Luo Shi Yi.

Luo Shi Yi smiled lazily, extended a finger to dry off Tang Bao’s tears.

“Are you relieved now? Be good, stop crying, I need to go back, I’ll bring you delicious food next time.”

As soon as Luo Shi Yi left, Tang Bao fell asleep in Hua Qian Gu's hand, it was tired from worrying through the night. Hua Qian Gu put it into the small house made from a jewelry box. She took out the seven books and carefully read them, specifically reviewing the section about cultivating internal energy in the medicine book many times. Then she began to practice.

The following days were filled with reading and training, she did not care about anything else. A month later, Bai Zi Hua returned, feeling something was strange as soon as he stepped into Jue Qing Hall.

He quickly went to the meditation room, surprised to see Tang Bao waiting anxiously outside, telling him that Hua Qian Gu had not come out for three days. It was afraid interrupting her could cause her to turn demonic, thus it could only stand outside and worry.

Bai Zi Hua immediately walked in, seeing Hua Qian Gu suspended in the air, around her was a light in the shape of a seven-petal lotus. Her eyes were closed, her mind still in meditation, but her practice was rushed so her face was pale, her mind uncontrollable.

Bai Zi Hua reassured Tang Bao that everything was all right, telling it to leave first. Then he flew up, silently stood behind Hua Qian Gu, slowly helped her to open her acupoints.

Hua Qian Gu's body was cold and stiff, she suddenly felt warm water filling her body, rushing forward.

Bai Zi Hua marked the important acupoints on her body, she already recovered from her injury, but at night when she slept deeply, he sealed her internal energy to help her become more alert. She probably thought something was wrong so she wanted to break the seal, but she was not strong enough, her attempt backfired, causing her spirit to leave her body.

Since that was the case, he might as well clear the immortality blood vessels, she could cultivate later.

Bai Zi Hua stayed with Hua Qian Gu in the meditation room for seven days and nights, her internal energy circulated 81 times. Bai Zi Hua used mystic arts to cleanse his body once. Then he gave her a Pan Xian pill from Yao Chi and a drop of Li Chen Lu from Mount Chang Liu.

When Hua Qian Gu woke up, she found her body weightless as if it were not her own. She felt like a transparent drop of water, like a pure snowflake, yet she felt like an ocean breeze, like a mountain and also like a star in the sky.

Everything in the universe was inclusive, everything could be understood.

Hua Qian Gu did not realize humans would beg immortals to help them, needing to cultivate for thousands of years. As for her, she was given 1,000 years of cultivation from Bai Zi Hua over a few days. Surviving a calamity, rising directly to the Zhi Wei level, her body became immortal.

“Teacher?” Hua Qian Gu saw him as soon as she opened her eyes, her heart filled with happiness. The two of them were still rotating slowly following the Bagua diagram on the ceiling.

Seeing Bai Zi Hua’s eyes still closed, a bit of sweat on his forehead, she extended a hand to gently wipe it off for him. Bai Zi Hua moved a little in surprise, his lips twitched, but he did not speak.

After a stick of incense burned fully, they slowly descended.

“Teacher! Are you all right?” Hua Qian Gu hurried over to help him, Bai Zi Hua waved her away, nodding: “I am fine, pool your internal energy to your stomach to see if you still feel pain.”

“Not anymore, Teacher.”

Bai Zi Hua nodded, then walked out, Tang Bao was falling asleep outside the room, seeing them walking out, it felt relieved. Hua Qian Gu grabbed it and put it in her ear.

“Teacher, did I turn demonic while cultivating, Teacher came back in time to save me?”

“No, but cultivation requires a calm heart, you cannot rush. I have helped your body become immortal, after you have memorized the seven books, I will teach you mystic arts.”

“Wah! Really? That’s awesome! Teacher!” Hua Qian Gu could not contain her excitement and hugged Bai Zi Hua from behind, pouting like a baby, Bai Zi Hua was shocked and stood still. At this point, she realized what she was doing,

quickly dropping her hands and smiling quietly. Finally, Teacher would teach her. Huh, let's see if Ni Man Tian could be so arrogant again, she would beat her into a pulp!

“Teacher, what's an immortal? Am I immortal now?”

“No, you have to cultivate yourself, reaching the highest level to become immortal. Your years of cultivation are not enough, you have only reached the Zhi Wei level.”

“Oh, what's the use of an immortal body?”

“The most simple, most practical reason.....” Bai Zi Hua turned to look at her who did not reach his chest, “To live forever.”

“You mean.....” Hua Qian Gu opened her eyes wide in surprise.

“Yes, if you continue to cultivate, you can look this way forever, never growing older.”

“Wah! That's awesome! I understand now! I've heard the story about Chang'E stealing Heaven's pills.”

“Yes, she had the body of an immortal first, without knowing any mystic arts, then she cultivated to become an immortal later. You can be like that, cultivating will be easier.”

“I got it! Thank you, Teacher!” Hua Qian Gu grinned from ear to ear.

Bai Zi Hua looked at her bright smile, his lips curved up, he said suddenly: “Today, I want to eat peach blossom soup.”

Hua Qian Gu was a little surprised, it was a while before she reacted, she replied happily: “Yes! I'll go make it now!” Then turned to run into the kitchen.

Tang Bao was in her ear and whined with dissatisfaction: “Zun Shang is finally back, we can eat delicious food again. You don't know, but when you weren't here, Gu Tou mama was too lazy to cook, abusing me every day, making me eat dried biscuits, huhuhu.....”

With an immortal's body, her memory improved significantly. Hua Qian Gu was in the writing room to recite so Bai Zi Hua could listen, there was a lot of content, he freely chose any subject, thankfully she already memorized everything.

Hua Qian Gu recited flawlessly, passing the test. She was busy gloating when Bai Zi Hua unexpectedly gave her more books, five in total, Hua Qian Gu flipped the pages, the books were about the five elements. The books did not have pictures or sounds, full of ancient theories and formulas that were difficult to understand, the dense writing made her dizzy.

“Teacher.....”

“You should read the books first, you have to understand the riddles and meanings in the books on your own, if you do not understand after reading once then read again, if you do not understand after reading ten times then read a hundred times, do not ask me, do not ask Tang Bao. Practice the metal element on day one, practice the wood element on day two, practice the water element on day three, and so on, five days each cycle, over and over, never taking a break.”

“Oh right! Teacher, the Xian Jian Games this year.....”

“You do not have to attend.”

“Yes, what about next year?”

“You also do not have to attend.” Bai Zi Hua put down the brush in his hand and gave her the paper he just wrote, “When cultivating, hang this in your room.”

Hua Qian Gu looked at the paper, the big word was “Oblivion.” The brush strokes were sturdy and compelling, completely untainted.

“Yes, Teacher.”

Hua Qian Gu respectfully took it to her room and hung it up, she was confused because the word hanging in the meditation room was “tranquility,” Teacher wanted her to be “oblivious,” be “oblivious” about what?

That night, Hua Qian Gu laid on her stomach on her bedding, her hands propping up her chin and dazedly looked at the word for a long time.

Tang Bao held up a paper crane, strenuously unfolding it, crawling onto her head: “Gu Tou! A letter from papa!”

Hua Qian Gu happily popped up to take the letter and read it with Tang Bao. Then she picked up a brush to reply, Tang Bao laid on the other end of the paper to write its reply, it drew a dividing line, not allowing Hua Qian Gu to cross over the line. The letter was sent out when done, Hua Qian Gu suddenly remembered something, had she not reached the Zhi Wei level, how could she use it?

Tang Bao explained: “You can use a mirror, water or any methods, think of who you want to find, an event that happened, and so on..... Of course, if your cultivation is immense, you can use your fingers or your mind, you can know what happens thousands of miles away.”

“Wah, does that mean outsiders will know everything we do at Mount Chang Liu?”

“Mount Chang Liu has a protection barrier, outsiders can’t spy on us. Also, using magic causes a loss in internal energy, which can’t be prolonged over a long period of time. Distance, the strength of the opponent, location, the environment, and so on..... can affect the Zhi Wei level, which is why an object is used in most cases.”

“Can I do it now? Let me find a mirror!” Hua Qian Gu was excited, she eagerly wanted to excel at this, would she not be able to see what Dong Fang Yu Qing and Yun Yin were doing from far away! Haha! How funny!

“My power only allows me to sense people’s existence. What can you do!” Tang Bao stuck out its chin and snorted.

“I’m your mom!” Hua Qian Gu could not find a mirror that was big enough, she ran to the lotus pond in the back courtyard, following Tang Bao’s instruction. However, she looked and looked for a long time, the water surface was smooth

like a mirror and did not reflect anything except the crescent moon.

“Who are you thinking of?”

“I want to see Dong Fang!”

“He’s too far away, of course you can’t see him. You have to start with something close. Begin at Jue Qing Hall first, then expand out to Mount Chang Liu, then the entire world.”

“Oh? Can I search for Teacher?”

“Yes, he’s in Jue Qing Hall like you, you can try to search for him, it’s good enough if you can guess where he’s at.”

Hua Qian Gu stopped breathing, her mind cleared, Jue Qing Hall suddenly shrunk into a miniature model. Her eyes were large and could look down to see everything.

Teacher, where could Teacher be?

In his bedroom? Teacher’s bedroom suddenly appeared in the pond, but the image was blurry and shaky. Tang Bao could not believe it, oh mama, could you actually be doing this!!!

Not in the bedroom, what about the writing room? The writing room appeared, the image was clearer than before.

Hua Qian Gu adjusted slowly, gradually understanding what she needed to do, rummaging through Jue Qing Hall over and over again, but still not a trace of Teacher could be found.

“How strange.....”

Tang Bao sighed sadly, huh, mama’s power already surpassed its power, mama would probably bully it from now on, huhuhu.....

“You shouldn’t search wildly like that, you’re just wasting your internal energy. Start by using your mind to sense Zun Shang’s existence, then where he could be at, that’s how you do it!”

“Oh, I see.”

Hua Qian Gu closed her eyes, used her mind to search carefully again, her body

seemingly turned into a breeze blowing from the southeast corner of Jue Qing Hall, passing over the grass, slowly drifting through every corner. Her mind suddenly readjusted, she opened her eyes wide, yelling out in surprise: “I found him!”

Looking down into the pond, Bai Zi Hua’s figure appeared in the rippling waves.

But, but.....

Hua Qian Gu was stunned, feeling blood rushing upward, straight to her head, then blood gushed out of her nose.

“Who is it?!” Bai Zi Hua immediately became alert, turned to look up, his piercing cold glare seemed to penetrate through the water, looking straight at Hua Qian Gu. She was so scared her legs shook, a cold sweat broke out and she staggered back a few steps, the image in the pool disappeared.

Tang Bao was also stunned, still looking at the water in a daze, still drooling, causing the fish in the pond to mistakenly think the silly worm was in love with them.

Hua Qian Gu’s nose continued to bleed, like an surging river.

Oh Heaven, what did she see? She could not be dreaming or sleepwalking, right?

Under the silver moon, Great Teacher was bathing alone at the stream that converged with the waterfall. Such a rare view! Oh Heaven, she actually saw Great Teacher’s naked back!

Although it was only for a moment, Teacher’s long hair was loose and blowing forward, exposing the sharp lines of his sculptured back. She did not know, a man’s back could be so beautifully proportioned.

Previously, she only saw his cold face keeping everyone at a distance, but under the moonlight, in the mist, his back was seduction seeping into the bones, his immortality seemed mixed with a little demonic savageness. White and translucent skin, shiny and smooth like jade, the moonlight reflecting off of it stung Hua Qian Gu’s eyes, as if cutting into her heart, which rhythmically beat according to his every move.

The ethereal image was like pure snow, like moonlight, captivating Hua Qian Gu. Even for her who respected Teacher like he was Buddha, she could not help but feel a little strange, the excitement caused her nose to continue bleeding. Just a naked back, but her world had crumbled to ashes.

Although she was still a child, she already read the seven books, almost all the knowledge in the world was in her head, her face blushed crimson as if it was about to explode.

The naked back lingered in her mind, her nosebleed flowed without stopping. While her nose bled she tried to get rid of all the evidence, then finally slipping back into her room, collapsed into bed and had a shameless dream with a lot of drools.

The next morning, she consciously knelt in the main hall, her hands holding a cane.

Bai Zi Hua walked out of the writing room, helplessly looked at her: "What are you doing here?"

"Teacher, I know I was wrong....."

"Wrong? Wrong about what? Tell me..... did you break something or cause a disaster?"

Hua Qian Gu grimaced, finally confessing loudly: "I know I was wrong, I should not spy on you when you're bathing!"

Bai Zi Hua suddenly choked, he coughed and could not stop. Although his face was without emotions, it switched between turning crimson and turning pale.

He wanted to know who was so powerful to penetrate the protection barriers and complicated traps at Mount Chang Liu and Jue Qing Hall, to spy on him, and he did not discover until it was too late. So it was this little girl, because of the short distance, most of her immortality power came from him so the scent was similar, he was not careful and did not recognize her. Huh.....

Hua Qian Gu saw Bai Zi Hua was silent, his face frowning, cold like dying wind or melting frost, he appeared untouchable, impassively glancing at her, completely different from the beautiful image that was like a lotus like a dream floating in the water last night. Her heart pounded with worry. Huhuhu, could

Teacher be really angry?

“Teacher, I know I was wrong, I didn’t mean it, I was practicing the Zhi Wei level to see where you were, unfortunately this was when you were bathing. Huhuhu, don’t be angry Teacher, I didn’t see anything, only your naked back.....”

Bai Zi Hua was more embarrassed and did not know what to do, Hua Qian Gu was surprised to discover Teacher who seemed like ice that had frozen for thousands of years could look so awkward.

“It is all right, stand up, all appearances are dusts of the world, are emptiness, are obsessions. You go back and study.....” Bai Zi Hua’s power was unfathomably deep, if he wanted to search for her, he always knew when he should and should not look for her. Hua Qian Gu was inexperienced so she could not control herself.

“Thank you, Teacher!” Hua Qian Gu happily jumped up, Teacher was very forgiving! Hahaha, if she knew she would have looked longer yesterday.

“The Xian Jian Games will occur in two days, Luo Shi Yi is in charge of everything so that will probably be too much for him, you should go see if he needs help.” Bai Zi Hua said.

“Yes, Teacher! I’m going.” Hua Qian Gu knew the disciples of Shi Zun and Ru Zun were busy with playing or cultivating, everything that needed to be done was pushed onto Luo Shi Yi. Lately, he did not even have time to play with Tang Bao anymore. Tang Bao woke up late every day, saying it slept a lot to cultivate so it was proud of itself for being diligent, promising to quickly be more powerful than its mother.

Bai Zi Hua nodded and walked away.

Hua Qian Gu looked at his sleeves fluttering and untouched by the dusts of the world, her body suddenly froze. The seductive image under the moonlight from last night appeared again, his figure floated before her eyes, warmth surged up to her nose, she quickly pinched it, Amitabha, Amitabha.....

*In the morning, Tang Bao kept bouncing on Hua Qian Gu's face to wake her up. When she refused to get up, it playfully dipped its tail into an inkwell and crawled onto her face, dragging its tail all over her face to draw a big turtle. Then it shouted there was snow outside. Upon hearing that, Hua Qian Gu jumped up and ran out. Wow!! This was her first time seeing snow!!! Hua Qian Gu and Tang Bao had a lot of fun playing outside, including having a snowball fight with each other. After some time, Hua Qian Gu decided to look for Bai Zi Hua to tell him it was snowing.*

Hua Qian Gu happily ran to Bai Zi Hua's room, he was not there.

"Teacher! Teacher!" She knew no matter where he was, he always heard her.

Sure enough.....

"I am on the Lou Feng boulder." Bai Zi Hua's voice rang out. Hua Qian Gu quickly ran out of the hall.

Bai Zi Hua crossed his arms and stood at the mountain's ledge, looking out at the endless sea and majestic mountain. His white robe was difficult to see in the falling snow, his black hair whipping wildly in the wind.

Hua Qian Gu laboriously climbed up, seeing Chang Liu towering and imposing amidst the white snow, feeling intimidated. The wind was stronger along the mountain's ledge, and the snow completely covered the ground making it slippery, it seemed as if it would be easy to fall down. Nevertheless, she was not afraid, Teacher was standing next to her.

Hua Qian Gu happily held onto his sleeve to prevent the wind from blowing away her small body.

"Teacher, what a heavy snowfall, hahaha, this is my first time seeing snow! It didn't snow last year at Mount Chang Liu."

"Um, the time for the Demon God to be reborn is drawing closer, unstable conditions are affecting the world. Lately, there are frequent earthquakes in the

southwest, war in the north, continuous droughts in the east, floods, pests, crop failures, famines are occurring everywhere. Also, demons and monsters are out of control, even disrupting Heaven. It is becoming colder every year, the snow next year will probably be much worse..... Xiao Gu, how long have you been at Chang Liu?”

“Teacher, I’ve been here for two years. I’ve followed you for a year, I’m almost 14.”

Bai Zi Hua nodded slightly: “Your cultivation is somewhat successful, are you still afraid of evil spirits?”

Hua Qian Gu shivered, lowering her head: “I’m still afraid.....”

“Evil spirits are things in this world, the main difference is they do not look like humans, you need to stay calm, view them with objectivity. If you are scared without even seeing them, how can you destroy them?”

“Teacher, how to tell between good and evil, demons and immortals will always oppose each other?” She was not clear about Sha Qian Mo, but did not know how to ask about him.

Bai Zi Hua thought for a moment: “You need to be firm, to have virtuous beliefs, but sometimes it is hard to differentiate black from white. It is fine as long as you defend what you believe in. The resurrection of the Demon God cannot be avoided, but this should not be thought of with pessimism. Everyone is in charge of their own fate, which is why you only need to try your best. As long as you are not ashamed of yourself, not ashamed with the world, that is what matters.”

“I understand, but Teacher, forgive me for asking this, you don’t like anything, your life isn’t too happy, why are you still here?” Hua Qian Gu looked up at him in puzzlement.

Bai Zi Hua was a little startled, shook his head and said: “Xiao Gu, you must remember, with great power comes great responsibility. If you only do things you like and avoid responsibilities, that is disgraceful. If you want to forget everything, to live a simple life, that is not easy. I do not like this life, but I also do not like anything at all. However I live, it does not matter.”

Hua Qian Gu's heart was crushed.

"Sometimes not having emotions is a misfortune, never feeling sad, but also never feeling happy, the price to pay is perhaps too great, which is why reaching enlightenment and becoming immortal is not necessarily a good thing. Xiao Gu, your fate is destined to be difficult, experiencing many hardships, the outside world is much larger and perhaps more suitable for you, Mount Chang Liu for you, it is too small."

As soon as Hua Qian Gu heard this, she was very scared, kneeling immediately: "I don't want to, I don't want to go anywhere, I only want to stay here with you."

Bai Zi Hua turned to help her stand up, now seeing she wore a thin shirt. He carefully brushed off the snow on her knees, taking off his white outer cloak to cover her.

"Why wear thin clothes, you will catch a cold. I wanted to talk with you, not get rid of you, you should see how scared you are."

Hua Qian Gu breathed deeply, clenched her teeth, anxiously looked at him.

Bai Zi Hua saw the painted turtle on her face, almost laughed out loud. Tang Bao sat on her shoulder, winked at him with a smirk on its face.

Bai Zi Hua tried to hide his smile, helping her to wipe off each line of ink, the two of them seemed like two statues on the Lou Feng boulder. Hua Qian Gu did not dare to move, afraid she would disturb this gentle moment with him.

She continued to live a simple life at Jue Qing Hall, Teacher seldom taught her himself, the most he did was pointing out her mistakes, guiding her back to the right direction. He never restricted her from doing anything, most of the time he assigned bundles of books for her to read.

Hua Qian Gu did not understand at first, then she slowly realized, the immense information she read gradually seeped into her mind, her knowledge increased significantly. The valuable ancient books were dry and difficult to understand, no one explained them to her, she had to try very hard, but during the process, her ability to analyze and learn surpassed other people. Gradually, without anyone reminding her, a lot of ancient incomprehensible theories easily made sense to

her.

She finally understood Teacher's kindness, give a person a fish and the person would eat for a day but teach a person to fish and the person could live forever, if he taught her she would always be in his shadow, never achieving breakthroughs on her own. Also, regarding the theories in cultivation, everyone had a different learning style, Teacher did not want to force his thinking onto her, he wanted her to rely on her awareness of herself to improve. He never imposed strict requirements on her, only watched over her. He hoped she would not need encouragement or help, she studied out of her own willingness, on her own schedule, cultivation was hard but gradually became easy for her.

In conclusion, Teacher did not teach her mystic arts, he taught her the most important thing, how to study on her own.

At first, her cultivation was behind Ni Man Tian and Qing Shui.

But lately, her cultivation improved tremendously, breaking through the Kan Xin level. At Chang Liu, achieving such success in such a short time, this was rarely done in centuries.

What was more amazing, palace flowers, palace jades..... of other people only reflected the color of their cultivation element, but her palace bells slowly had all colors of the five elements. The bells hung from her sword, shining brightly.

Looking at the bells shimmering like a rainbow, she was overflowed with joy. She knew Teacher wanted to weaken the aura around her body, wanting her to study all five elements, without skipping any element. Hence she did not specialize in one particular element, and her attack strength was not strong. However, she slowly improved in all five elements, her progress sped up, she became more powerful. Regardless of who her opponents were, she had a chance against them.

Now Hua Qian Gu was certain, she had the kindest and most powerful Teacher in the world.

In a flash, she lived in peace for three years at Mount Chang Liu.

Hua Qian Gu was now 17 years old, but still looked like how she was at 14, a child who had not developed fully, without any changes. Her personality also did

not change, still the same two buns on her head running back and forth through Jue Qing Hall. Tang Bao did not grow longer, but its width was noticeably wider, becoming a lot chubbier.

“Gu Tou, what are you painting?” Tang Bao chewed a peach blossom biscuit into a small house, sticking its head through a hole to look around.

Hua Qian Gu bit her brush, laughed hehe, said mysteriously: “I’m painting Teacher.”

“Are you sure you’re painting Teacher? Not the Black Guard and White Guard of Hell?”

“Of course it’s Teacher, I’m painting his naked back.”

Tang Bao spat out pieces of the biscuit, causing Hua Qian Gu to knock on its head a few times.

“You dare to spit food at Great Teacher’s picture, aren’t you afraid I’ll twist you like a flour bun?”

“Huhuhu, I’ll tell papa, Gu Tou mama is becoming more violent!” Tang Bao covered its head and hid in the small house.

Hua Qian Gu bit her brush and looked up at the sky, remembering Teacher’s naked back that night, her face full of excitement, her drools continued to flow. Alas, the blame should be on the arts that required practice like playing the zither or painting, she knew the theories, she could look at any painting and knew everything about it. However, if she had to paint, she was useless.

She wanted to paint Teacher, then always carry the picture with her, but she could not make it look good no matter how much she tried. Bai Zi Hua, Bai Zi Hua, in this world, probably no painting could fully capture his grace, appearance, style, temperament.

“Xiao Gu.”

Suddenly, a voice rang out in her ears.

Hua Qian Gu quickly put away the painting, panicked and replied: “Yes, I’m here.”

“Go to the front hall, I need to talk to you.”

“Yes, I’m coming.”

Hua Qian Gu quickly hid the painting, then ran to the front hall.

“Teacher, I’m here!”

Bai Zi Hua put down his teacup, nodded and said: “The sects guarding the holy instruments have all been exposed. Chun Qiu Bu Bai said next month on the 15th, he will lead monsters and demons to steal the holy instruments, but he sent the fighting notice to all four major sects that are far away from each other, it is hard to know what is not true. Based on their strength, they cannot attack all four major sects at the same time, he probably wants to spread out the sects coming to the rescue, he will just attack one major sect. The four major sects are located in various directions far from each other, it is difficult to help them even if we travel thousands of miles each day. Your cultivation has not reached the upper level, but you can help one sect. This time, you can leave the mountain with the other disciples, think of it as a learning experience, all right?”

She would have to leave the mountain by herself, she did not want to, huhuhu, she did not want to be even a step away from Teacher.....

“I’ll follow your order.” Hua Qian Gu respectfully bowed her head.

“Pack your things, you will leave tomorrow.”

“Yes.” Hua Qian Gu slowly turned to leave.

“On the way, you must listen to Luo Shi Yi, you cannot run wild.”

“Yes.”

“Bring a lot of clothes, it will be cold at night.”

“Yes.”

“Bring Tang Bao along, if necessary, it can help you.”

“Yes.”

“Go to the medicine room to get some blood clotting herbs and Hui Qing pills, if injured, you will need them.”

“Yes.”

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“Xiao Gu.”

“Huh?”

“You must be careful, stay safe.”

“I know, Teacher, hahaha.....” Hua Qian Gu could not help but laugh, running out of the hall, her heart filled with happiness. Teacher also did not want to be separated from her, but that was normal, she had not gone anywhere in four years, and this was a dangerous mission to fight monsters and demons. No wonder Teacher worried!

Rest assured Teacher, Xiao Gu would not disgrace you on this trip! Hahaha!