

My Dreamy Old Husband

Chapter 654

After connecting to the Wi-Fi, Sophia found that the signal there was extremely strong. She hurriedly scanned all the QR codes to donate some money so that this trip wouldn't be a waste.

After everyone had donated money and burned incense, the old monk led them to drink the holy water under the cliff.

The so-called holy water was a stream of clear spring water that poured from the top of a cliff. It was crystal clear and wasn't frozen, and each of them scooped a little bit of the water to drink. Regardless of whether the water was holy or not, the mountain spring water tasted pretty sweet and they drank the water to quench their thirst.

Sophia took a big gulp and tasted the sweetness of the water. Just when she was about to take a second scoop with the gourd ladle, she saw Judge running over happily wagging its tail. With a howl, it dipped its muzzle into the holy water and started taking big gulps of the water while also blowing bubbles into it. Everyone instantly didn't want to drink the holy water anymore.

"The holy water is spiritual. Before you all drank the water, this dog had already dipped its muzzle in the water and drank a lot of it," the old monk informed them.

Everyone started retching.

After drinking the holy water, Sophia felt that her mouth tasted like feces. Although the holy water was a stream of flowing water, the water that Judge had drank had probably already flowed away.

Next, the old monk invited them into a room to have tea by the fire. The room had a coal stove lit up. Judge was rubbing itself on the side of the coal stove, covering its body with soot.

Just when Sophia and Michael sat down, the monk looked at Michael and said, "Sir, you look familiar."

"Maybe we were fated to meet," Michael said.

"Because I've seen your movie," the monk added.

Michael was speechless at that.

After the tea was brewed, the monk poured everyone some and chatted with them casually.

It got dark early in the mountains. After they sat around for a while, the sky outside grew dark and it started to snow lightly. The monk invited them to stay the night at the temple.

At night, after having a vegan meal, the sky wasn't completely dark yet. Sophia led the dog outside to play near the temple and Michael followed her, stomping heavily on Judge's pawprints in the snow.

The temple was very small and was built on the mountains. There were also a few dilapidated houses built along the mountain, and only two or three rooms for guests. The monks had to carry their provisions up the mountain using manual labor, so it was definitely hard to live on the mountain.

As the snow fluttered in the wind, Sophia held a small umbrella to keep them from falling onto her. The sky was gradually getting darker and it was becoming misty, and visibility was decreasing. Sophia seemed to spot something dark at the top of the opposite mountain. After taking a closer look, she discovered that it was a pagoda.

The pagoda had seven floors and seemed to be very run down. It had sunk into the mountain with no way up, and there were cliffs on top, below and around the pagoda. She couldn't figure out how it was built and why they would build that pagoda in the first place.

It was almost impossible to repair anything in the mountains as manpower was needed to carry all the materials. That pagoda looked valuable, but it had been built in such an awkward location. It looked like there was no one living there, and there was no way up to it either.

“Master, why is the pagoda built halfway up the mountain? And why isn't there any road leading up to it?” Sophia asked the monk.

Michael also took a look with his binoculars. There was indeed a black pagoda, which seemed like it had been pushed directly into the steep mountain by something divine. It would definitely be difficult to build a road to it as there were no flat surfaces around it.

The monk shook his head while smiling and began to talk about the origin of the pagoda. That mountain was called Dragon Mountain and Dragon Temple was built on top of it, in which a respected master who was famous lived. The temple used to be popular and had a lot of pilgrims, who had raised funds to build the road up the mountain and a seven-storey pagoda. That seven-storey pagoda wasn't there initially, but in the Dragon Temple.

One day, Buddha had wandered here and found the master meditating in the temple. To test the master to see whether he had compassion, Buddha hatched a plan.

A panicked little deer suddenly ran past the master. Not long after, a hunter came chasing after it but didn't see the deer, so he asked the master where the deer went.

The master pointed in the direction the deer had escaped to and the hunter chased after it, killing it with an arrow. Hence, the master failed Buddha's test because he had been involved in the killing.

When the deer died, the world shook and the road to the mountain collapsed. Since the road had crumbled, the way to the temple was blocked, making it difficult for pilgrims to hike up the mountain. So, the number of pilgrims slowly decreased.

Somehow, the seven-story pagoda moved from its original site to the opposite mountain and was embedded within that mountain with no way up or down. The master looked at the tower and sighed every day as he was no longer able to use the pagoda. He regretted his choice and passed away soon after.

Since then, the whole Dragon Temple withered. The monks left, there were no pilgrims who came to visit and it slowly became dilapidated like how it was now.

No wonder the road up the mountain is in such bad condition and was not repaired! Sophia murmured to herself. She asked another question, "This place has a great scenery and has a lot of potential. The road can be repaired, and you can build a suspension bridge or cable car connecting to the pagoda."

The monk shook his head. "Everything has a cause and an effect. You need to go with the flow and let everything follow its course. Since that's how the way things are, why should you force any demands on them?"

The monk soon left because of the cold, but Sophia looked at the shadowy pagoda opposite her, thinking about the words of the monk. *Go with... the flow? Let everything follow its course.* She repeated the words again and again, then suddenly laughed.

There was nothing on the mountain and it was very cold. There was no convenient transportation and the temple's roof leaked, but still, the monk had stayed here for more than twenty years. He really was enlightened. If only everyone had this mindset of going with the flow, how nice it would be. There was a reason for everything and it was best to let things run their course. There was no point in demanding it otherwise.

Suddenly, the suffocating feeling in her chest was lifted by a lot. *Just relax and let things run their course...*

Michael also looked at the snow and the pagoda. He unpursed his lips suddenly and he seemed to let out a smile. He would let things take their course... She had already borne his pain for him, and there was no way he would ever divorce her.

He wanted to be with her forever and ever, and he would go through the 99 sufferings in this world with her. If there was any suffering, he would endure the bulk of it for her! He would ensure that she would never need to suffer again and live a happy life.

Michael held Sophia's hand, and the two shared an umbrella, looking at the snow in silence. Neither of them said a word. The snow would occasionally fall on their heads, and, without them noticing, turned their hair white...

They stayed overnight in the mountains. The roof leaked, Judge's snores filled the room and the bed was freezing cold, but none of them could stop Sophia from falling asleep. She slept on the bed like a log.

That night, she slept peacefully. Even without Nicholas by her side, she didn't have a nightmare and no ghosts came to haunt her dreams. The sky finally had some color, and even Judge's snoring sounded like the rhythm of a song.

The next day, Sophia went to Free Life Pond to free captive animals again. The pond was connected to a stream which wasn't frozen.

They released the eels, mud fish and the salamander they kept at home for game. Although Michael didn't know what good releasing the animals would bring, he was fine with it as long as Sophia was happy.

The salamander was released too, and it fled along the stream. Judge suddenly started running along the stream and jumped into the water, then bit the salamander with a growl.

Sophia stopped it hurriedly. "You can't bite it! Let go of it!"

However, Judge didn't let go.

"Once the salamander we raised is released, it is a wild salamander!" Sophia said sternly.

"It's a wild salamander, do you understand? It's an animal under International Class 2 protection! If you eat an animal under that protection, your dad will be sentenced to jail!"