

Blood Warlock: Succubus Partner in the Apocalypse

Chapter 1241: Underwater warfare

It had been approximately three months since the East Sea Kingdom welcomed Queen Xian Mei'er, formerly the Seventh Princess of that sea kingdom, as its new ruler and leader following the abdication of the previous King from his seat.

The news that the now Queen Xian Mei'er immediately declared to unify all the waters of the world a few minutes after the purple stone that gave her practically absolute power over her subordinates did not take long to spread throughout the Earth.

After all, Xian Mei'er did not keep prisoner any of the princes, princesses, or nobles of the sea race who attended her coronation ceremony.

At first, the news was greeted with much derision for the most part. This was particularly true for those sea kingdoms whose territories were tens of thousands of kilometers away from the East Sea and who practically did not even know who Xian Mei'er was. Yet, the new Queen's words were not taken as a joke by the sea kingdoms whose borders were attached to the East Sea Kingdom.

On the same day that the coronation of Queen Xian Mei'er was held, the troops and soldiers of the East Sea Kingdom stationed in the several smaller cities or towns located in the depths began to move with unprecedented coordination.

Silver Claw Crabs, Golden Armor Lobsters, Hermit Swordfish, Apocalypse Blue Shark... All kinds of evolved sea creatures accompanied by at least one Elephant Whale over 3000 meters long covered each of the cardinal points in such a way that the neighboring kingdoms would have difficulty slipping through the water if they wanted to reach the East Sea Kingdom.

Moreover, as a side effect, the neighboring kingdoms had lost the possibility of communicating with each other physically since to reach the other side they would first have to cross through the East Sea Kingdom or make a complete detour, which could hardly be accomplished in a short time when numerous troops were involved.

Exactly thirty days after the East Sea Kingdom greeted its new ruler and first Queen since its founding, Xian Mei'er appeared in New Born City located at the northern end of her kingdom.

Unlike the normally occurring customs on the mainland, the sea race showed their ferocity and cruelty as Xian Mei'er did not even bother to send messengers to negotiate

with the neighboring kingdom but directly led her troops and launched a fierce assault against the Phoniston Kingdom.

Unwilling to surrender, let alone submit, considering that all his prestige and privileges would be swept away by the waves, King Galahak Phoniston whose level was 189 personally led his soldiers to confront the invading troops. Unfortunately, the power of the Phoniston Kingdom was miles away from the power of the East Sea Kingdom.

The East Sea Kingdom proved the reason why they were considered sovereign among all the kingdoms closest to the Pacific Ocean within the area. Precisely two days and one night after the bloody war broke out, the news that the magic sword in the hands of the new Queen of the East Sea had successfully claimed the life of King Galahak Phoniston spread to the nearest kingdoms; this sent chills directly to the souls of the three Kings whose territories bordered the now fallen Phoniston Kingdom.

On the other hand, the older Kings could not scoff thinking that this new Queen was simply too arrogant and did not know the immensity of the skies and the depth of the waters.

'What's the use of tearing down a kingdom if you leave the gates of yours wide open for others to pass through?' Such was what many were thinking in their hearts as they got ready to watch a good show.

Unfortunately for them, Xian Mei'er let them down and her next action made their old bones arrogance dim to a great extent.

Two days after taking down the Phoniston Kingdom, the Queen of the Eastern Sea appeared unannounced in Thousand Stone City; the border city between the latter kingdom and the Western Kingdom.

The sea troops previously stationed there for the purpose of defending the East Sea Kingdom had suddenly turned into the Queen's spear and after three days of uninterrupted warfare finally succeeded in destroying the heart of King Xiu Cheng. Four of the six princes and princesses of that kingdom were even beheaded directly when they tried to make trouble and put up resistance.

This time even the fools realized that the new Queen of the East Sea was not as foolish and short-sighted as all the members belonging to different royal families thought.

Indeed, to King Xia Wei's horror and despair, Queen Xian Mei'er did not continue advancing westward nor did she return northward but one day after overthrowing the royals appeared at the opposite end of the now overthrown Western Kingdom; precisely where his territory was situated.

Once again, the troops that were supposed to be there as a defensive wall became a fierce spear that stabbed fiercely into the bowels of a new kingdom.

Exactly five days later and after a war that took the lives of over 760.000 sea creatures from both sides, a piece of new news that left many royals breathless spread like wildfire among the surrounding kingdoms.

"King Xia Wei gave up? How is this possible!"

"Wasn't it said that King Xia Wei is a level 200 powerhouse that in the past competed with the old East Sea King? How can it be possible that he lost to a little mermaid who was promoted to Queen less than two months ago!"

"Looks like the old East Sea King wasn't blind after all. For him to decide to crown the Seventh Princess as the new ruler..."

"I think there's a great untold story here..."

"That's right. I feel that there is something we are overlooking in this situation or else the East Sea Kingdom is unlikely to openly and prematurely declare war."

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From fish soldiers to shark colonels, all those with intelligence not necessarily below that of a human realized that underestimating this new rising Queen would end up doing them more harm than good.

There were even some princesses and princes more fearful and unwilling to experience the edge of Xian Mei'er's magic sword and tried to convince their parents to surrender. Unfortunately for them, their words did not get very far as they soon found themselves being beheaded by the royal guard under orders of the different Kings.

Exactly one month after the outbreak of the war, and although her grip on the three defeated kingdoms was not 100% stable, Xian Mei'er personally led an army of over 5.000.000 sea creatures northward to make it clear that her purpose was to expand to the Pacific Ocean as quickly as possible.

This time the advance was more difficult for the troops of the Eastern Sea Kingdom. While 5.000.000 sea soldiers was an intimidating number, particularly the colossal blue whales whose strength was enough to bring down an entire seamount with their tails, the target Xian Mei'er was aiming for turned out to have a strong alliance with three other kingdoms; an alliance that united three royal families by marriages that had been going on for a long time until now.

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Chapter 1242: Xian Mei'er critically injured

The war against the alliance of three sea kingdoms was probably the toughest war Xian Mei'er and her East Sea Kingdom had faced to date. The total number of evolved soldiers that the new Queen led northward amounted to approximately 5.000.000 but by the time the war ended, that number had been reduced to a pitiful 740.000 sea creatures.

The war had raged for over a month, finally ending with the victory of the East Sea Kingdom; an extremely harsh and bloody victory that left the East Sea troops almost completely annihilated and with 2/3 of their commanders seriously wounded, mutilated, or killed on the battlefield.

The seabed, more precisely its depths, was littered with huge boulders and volcano-like mountains that spread everywhere. In addition, being closer and closer to the Pacific Ocean, the waters were cold enough for those sea beasts below level 20 to feel their blood freeze and their movements become restricted.

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Deep in a dark cave more than 40 kilometers long.

The dim light from the azure-colored stones faintly illuminated the surroundings. While the amount of light provided by these mineral stones was not particularly high, it was still high enough so that the soul evolvers of the marine race could easily see each other even from several hundred meters away.

Resting on a temporary stretcher made of seaweed, Xian Mei'er tried unsuccessfully to sit up. Her careless movement brought her a wince of pain as the deep wound extending from her midsection to her beautiful fish tail worsened, sending a light but dark mist of blue blood mingling with the waters inside the cave.

"Big Sister don't move carelessly!" Xiao Xiao in her human form quickly but gently pushed her shoulders down. The beautiful spirit dolphin's eyes flashed with hatred and pain but she still scolded, "Right now you are seriously injured. You can only lie still and rest until you heal!"

Xian Mei'er shook her head but said nothing. Her blue eyes flashed with anger and frustration as she stared at the ceiling more than 4 meters high, "Xiao Xiao, did you succeed in communicating with him?"

Xiao Xiao didn't need to ask about who Xian Mei'er was referring to, "I did. Big brother said that his army finally managed to conquer the last human camp in the world so now he can only wait until the Soul Record deems him ruler of the humans."

"What a shame... He already managed to conquer all the humans but I still couldn't break through to the Pacific." Xian Mei'er raised her slim arm and covered her face in embarrassment as she muttered to herself.

In an alliance, all parties involved were supposed to cooperate at least in equal percentages. However, Xian Mei'er felt that she was not doing enough; the reason behind her embarrassment.

"Big sister, did you forget how much you helped big brother when the Transcendent faction was a little baby?" Xiao Xiao pointed out in a serious voice: "It was you who led the troops to the coasts to wipe out the zombies in the various villages closer to the water. It was also you who helped big brother save the human population near the East Sea and it was you who helped him indirectly fight that Fourth Order crocodile even going against the former King's orders."

Xiao Xiao might be relatively young when viewed from the point of view of the sea race, even so her words were quite effective as Xian Mei'er's mood lightened a bit.

'Considering that man's personality he would probably agree with Xiao Xiao's point of view.' She thought to herself, now genuinely relieved.

"Did he say anything about when he could send help?" Xian Mei'er asked softly as she looked at the bloody wound that ran from her upper body to her tail, "I'm afraid that with this poison running around it will be difficult for me to regenerate from my wounds. If it weren't for the Purifying Pearl needing to rest for 3 months to build up energy again after I activate it I could do something about it, but as things stand now I'm afraid we don't have much choice."

Unlike the human race, the sea race was not a race that cared too much about things like brewing poisons and antidotes. This in itself was a big problem as not only were there many beasts with extremely poisonous bacteria prowling their claws and teeth but many underwater plants could poison to death those who came across them accidentally.

In fact, Xian Mei'er had to face three Realm Kings at the same time on her own since in order to protect her people she ordered her father to stay behind with a good number of soldiers at his disposal. Although in the past few months Xian Mei'er's level had reached 200 and was currently advancing to the Fourth Order, she was, after all, a Third Order soul evolver.

Fighting against three other soul evolvers whose Soul Power was only slightly lower than hers in terms of quality but whose levels were equal was not at all easy for her. Xian Mei'er not only ended up being seriously injured but was poisoned twice, and if not for the fact that she managed to remove one of the poisons using the Legend grade treasure called 'Purifying Pearl' she would have definitely died under the fatal effect of two extremely cruel poisons.

"Big Sister, don't worry anymore first." Xiao Xiao said in a serious voice. Her pink eyes flashed underwater as she whispered, "Big brother said he will personally come this

time. Not only him but big sister Bing Xue is also coming. They are even bringing Hero City!"

Xian Mei'er's expression froze after hearing Xiao Xiao's words. A few seconds after her brain finally understood what those words meant, her eyes sparkled brightly at the same time as a small but beautiful smile peeked weakly from the corner of her lips.

"I see."

Xiao Xiao sighed in relief as she saw Xian Mei'er's mood improve noticeably.

The past few months had been far from easy for her. Not only had Xian Mei'er just become Queen, which was putting great weight on her shoulders, but she was also leading a bloody war against her own kind at the risk of annihilation of her nation.

Besides, Xian Mei'er was not Bai Zemin.

She was extremely talented in the path of magic, so much so that in the past centuries she could be considered the best among the royalty of the East Sea. However, the distance between being talented and skillful was still large when compared to a monster that should never have existed.

In each of the battles she fought against the various kings of different kingdoms, Xian Mei'er was always injured. Some were light wounds, some were deeper, and eventually severe wounds that left her on the edge of the precipice like she was at present. The fact that she advanced thousands of miles and almost reached the edge of the East Sea and the Pacific Ocean was an impressive feat that probably no other royalty in the surrounding kingdoms would have dared to dream of for thousands of years!

Perhaps it was the accumulated fatigue after not having slept a proper night's sleep for the past three months, perhaps it was the fact that her heavy mood had lightened considerably after learning that Bai Zemin along with several soul evolvers from his faction would be arriving in the next few days, or perhaps it was the pain and torment caused by the poison in her system... Xian Mei'er did not know when but her eyes simply closed completely and her consciousness faded into dreamland.

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Chapter 1243: Fourth Order Shui Meiyang

An unknown amount of time passed.

BOOM!!!

Xian Mei'er's eyes which had been closed for an undetermined amount of hours or even days opened abruptly as the thunderous sound of an explosion shook the walls of the cave she was resting in.

The first thing the new Queen of the Eastern Sea did was to look around her surroundings, but when she didn't find Xiao Xiao anywhere a bad premonition slowly flooded her heart.

Rumble...!

"Damn it!" She couldn't help but curse as she felt the walls, ceiling, and floor of the cave shake fiercely after being hit by something or someone.

'I'm still not even 70% recovered...' A flash of pain and hatred flashed in Xian Mei'er's eyes as she gritted her teeth and forced herself to get up. A grimace of pain immediately covered her beautiful face but this did not stop her, 'Have no choice.'

The battle against all the kingdoms that were part of the East Sea in the Chinese hinterland was over. Thanks to the efforts and sacrifices that the East Sea Kingdom made, all these kingdoms were now within Xian Mei'er's jurisdiction and the royalty of more than five kingdoms got decimated almost to the roots.

There were two reasons why Xian Mei'er did not dare to order her soldiers to advance and instead ordered everyone to hide and rest in this place.

The first reason was that she was seriously injured. Being the most powerful soul evolver in the allied army and the only one truly capable of facing other Kings, Xian Mei'er could only stop until her body allowed her to move without inconvenience; at the very least she needed to be able to cast magic without feeling difficulty.

As for the second reason...

'We are now at the edge of the Pacific Ocean; only a couple of kilometers away from getting there.' Xian Mei'er muttered as she hurriedly dashed towards the exit of the cave. A thin but long trail of dark blue blood with extremely few flashes of gold covered some of the water wherever she passed but she ignored it to continue her advance: 'If I'm not mistaken and according to the information from the last defeated kingdom, the kingdom that must be attacking this time is the Coral Kingdom... This is going to be a tough fight.'

Unlike the kingdoms that Xian Mei'er had defeated in the past three months, the Coral Kingdom was tens or even hundreds of times more powerful in comparison. According to what Xian Mei'er knew about it, the Coral Kingdom was not only not weaker than her East Sea Kingdom but might even be a little stronger than them.

Xian Mei'er gritted her teeth ignoring the pain as she sped towards the exit, 'I hope the Coral Kingdom doesn't have soul evolvers beyond level 200 and into the Fourth Order. Else I'm afraid it will be difficult to survive past today.'

...

The cave was simply too big. Despite being severely injured, the speed at which Xian Mei'er cut through the waters and advanced was still tremendously fast but she still needed several minutes to reach the exit.

Although the sound of explosions and roars of war became heavier and louder for every ten meters she advanced, Xian Mei'er felt as if she was walking into a different world as she exited the cave.

The color of the water had turned almost completely blue over an area of at least two or three kilometers. In addition, broken limbs and incomplete body parts floated everywhere along with metal fragments of what were once magical weapons.

At a distance of 600 to 700 meters from the cave, two armies were engaged in an extremely cruel war. Although they all belonged to the same species, they were clearly not part of the same team; swordfish killed each other in the same way that sharks used their mutant teeth and claws to tear apart those of the enemy army without any mercy whatsoever.

Moreover, it was evident that the army trying to defend what was behind them was at a total disadvantage as the attacking army did not stop pressing them back even for a second. It was no exaggeration to say that for every sea warrior of the attacking army that died four or five of the defending army met their creator after being overwhelmed by their numbers.

Xian Mei'er felt a stab of pain upon seeing this. This pain was not forged from seeing the East Sea army being pushed back and on the brink of destruction but was born due to the war between her own kind and blood. Nevertheless, Xian Mei'er's heart soon began to undergo a slight but noticeable change as she remembered something Bai Zemin said to her a long time ago.

'For something new to be born it is necessary for the old occupying that space to disappear.' It was only then that Xian Mei'er realized that while death and destruction were cruel, they were also medicine.

The royalty of all the kingdoms had different thoughts and only cared about themselves. None of them cared about the future of the sea race.

Just when Xian Mei'er felt much more at ease with her actions and her ideals were reaffirmed, a luminous explosion over 2000 meters away sent gusts of subway waves everywhere sending the sea warriors of both armies roaring in pain.

"That's...!" Xian Mei'er's pupils contracted as she saw Xiao Xiao's body in her spirit dolphin form being sent flying backward along with two triton warriors who kept coughing up blood before hitting the seabed hard.

Floating in the water thousands of meters deep, a beautiful silver-haired mermaid with a silver crown covered in multicolored jewels held a spear as white as milk as she gazed with indifferent eyes at the three enemies who had just been knocked down by her alone.

"Shui Meiyong!" Xian Mei'er gritted her teeth as she recognized the enemy mermaid.

She was precisely the First Princess of the Coral Kingdom; someone who had been present during Xian Mei'er's coronation when she officially became Queen of the Eastern Sea!

Xian Mei'er could not believe her eyes... This was because the aura exuding from the body of the Coral Kingdom's First Princess was precisely the aura she least wanted to feel; the aura of someone who had broken into the Fourth Order!

"Eh?" As if sensing a pair of eyes different from the others focusing on her from afar, Shui Meiyong looked slightly higher. Her eyes seemed to pierce through the blood-covered water and distance with ease to meet Xian Mei'er's deep blue eyes. A faint smile immediately peeked from the corner of her mouth, "Well, I thought you weren't coming out."

Xian Mei'er said nothing. She took a moment to look at Xiao Xiao and the rest of her army, but upon seeing the little pink dolphin's body covered in bloody wounds her expression turned slightly fierce.

Ignoring her wound, as well as the poison that became more ferocious each time she forced the mana in her body to flow, Xian Mei'er tightly gripped her magic sword and dashed forward at the speed of a rocket. She slashed forward at the same time as the blade of her sword flashed, and at the same time as a large stream of blood spurted out from the wound on her abdomen she cried, "Flood Dragon!"

Shui Meiyong calmly watched as the waters in front of her swirled fiercely, and in less than two seconds a huge flood dragon over 1000 meters long rushed towards her.

Just when Shui Meiyong thought that was all the new Eastern Sea Queen had to offer despite having uttered extremely arrogant words three months ago, Xian Mei'er's voice thundered underwater again.

"Ancient Lightning Armor!"

"Power Booster!"

Shui Meiyong's expression changed slightly as she felt the power of the water beast now wrapped in some sort of golden lightning armor. However, she remained calm as she advanced instead of backing away.

"Royal Sentence!" Shui Meiyong's voice was as beautiful as Xian Mei'er's but the power behind her stab as she thrust her spear forward was simply overwhelming even compared to the giant flood dragon.

BOOOOOM!!!!

The cave where Xian Mei'er had been hiding while recovering from her injuries finally could not take it anymore and collapsed completely after being hit by a tidal wave caused by the collision of two tremendous attacks. In addition, more than 40.000 sea creatures mainly from the Coral Kingdom were slaughtered without a cemetery.

The flood dragon could only withstand the pressure of Shui Meiyong and her attack for a few seconds before letting out a miserable roar just before exploding. Everything within 1500 meters turned into a sea of golden lightning as the armor covering the beast collapsed in the face of such attack power.

Xian Mei'er felt as if her body had been hit by a giant squid as she was sent flying backward with no control of herself. Her mouth involuntarily opened letting out a large gush of blood at the same time as the wound on her abdomen worsened again, thus discarding all the rest she had so far.

"Big sister!"

Xiao Xiao's anxious voice was transmitted directly into Xian Mei'er's mind, and amidst the anxious cries of her two triton bodyguards, as well as the furious roars of her troops, she finally felt as if the bones in her back were about to shatter into pieces after hitting a large rock of over 200 tons.

'Damn it...' Xian Mei'er could feel the world around her spinning. The exhaustion and pain as well as the torment of the poison in her body were dragging her deeper and deeper into the darkness but she knew she couldn't afford to faint at this moment.

"If you had been at your best maybe you could have fought me a little more. I concede that you are very powerful, and it's a pity that you and I have to be enemies but that's what you want after all." Shui Meiyong's voice spread far and wide, reaching Xian Mei'er easily, "Yet, enemies are enemies. The winner is the king and the loser is the villain. Regardless of whether you were injured beforehand, I will show no mercy."

Although her vision had blurred to the point where it was difficult to discern what was what, Xian Mei'er could still see a flash of silver light in the distance growing larger and larger. The feeling of danger hit her harder than ever as the waters seemed to turn against her and pressed her harder and harder against the giant rock.

Xiao Xiao's screams and cries were somehow silenced as her consciousness began to fade. Even so, Xian Mei'er couldn't help but sigh in her heart: 'What a shame... Sorry.'

She might not care too much about her life, but Xian Mei'er couldn't help but feel like she failed. Not only could her goal not be achieved, but many more of those who had already died would die because of her weakness; including someone who to her was like a little sister rather than a subordinate.

Just a split second before everything around her turned dark, Xian Mei'er would swear she saw a flash of white light cutting through the waters from a distance. Unfortunately she didn't have the energy to think let alone stay awake any longer.

BOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!!

"Eh?" Shui Meiyong's eyes widened as she saw her spear, which she had thrown a second before, suddenly blocked by what seemed to be a magic arrow.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The arrow was finally shattered into pieces, but the white spear could not advance any further and was instead sent flying backwards into the turbulent waters.

Shui Meiyong stretched out her right hand adorned with all kinds of jewels, taking back her spear without moving from her position. Her eyes, however, looked into the darkness in the distance as she could sense someone approaching.

"Human?" Shui Meiyong muttered to herself. Her beautiful eyes shone with surprise as she saw the handsome human male holding a bow, "What is a human doing here?"

Xiao Xiao who felt as if her heart was about to break couldn't help but relax a little at the sight of this person's arrival. Although this person was not her big brother whom she loved so much, Xiao Xiao had seen him several times in the past and knew that he was a great figure in the Transcendent faction.

Chen He looked at the bloody mess and couldn't help but wince when he saw Xian Mei'er and Xiao Xiao's condition, 'A hair later and it would have been over for me.'

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I'm sorry it took me half a month to get back, but it really was hard for me. Leaving aside the fact that I was sick for over a week I was also going through a lot of personal stuff that I'm still dealing with. I wish I could have given you advance notice but, unfortunately, like you, I can't see into the future and know when things will be difficult for me. Thank you for understanding, thank you for your support, thank you for your kind words, and expect daily chapters from now on.

Chapter 1244: Turn of events

Shui Meiyong did not attack the human male who made a sudden appearance seconds before. Instead, she watched him with curious eyes as he cautiously observed the battlefield.

Finally, she inquired aloud, "Human, what is your business here? Who are you?"

Chen He sighed in his heart after seeing the disastrous battlefield. For him it was naturally impossible to distinguish between which ones were the allied sea soldiers and which ones were the enemies. At the end of the day, the sea creatures in front of him were all identical and there was no way to differentiate them in the same way as was in the case of humans.

"Who I am isn't something you need to know or is it?" he shook his head and pointed out, "As for what my business is... Isn't that obvious now?"

Shui Meiyong secretly furrowed her brows but despite her mild displeasure, she didn't attack immediately. She could sense a faint threatening scent coming from the human in front of her, something that shocked her to her heart's content: 'How is this possible... This human is clearly just a Third Order soul evolver but he can actually make me feel this way.'

Despite her distinguished position and outstanding power, Shui Meiyong usually kept a relatively low profile and never underestimated others. She was not only very talented and powerful but her survival aptitude was possibly among the best on the planet as by not underestimating even the weakest enemy she was unlikely to meet high grade trouble.

Yet, she was now in a dilemma.

What was she supposed to do? It was obvious that the human who had just appeared had intentions of standing up for Xian Mei'er.

After a moment of hesitation, Shui Meiyong questioned again in a serious voice: "Human, why are you interfering in the affairs of our sea race? If you don't answer my question then I'm afraid I can only do my best to kill you at any expense."

Sensing the faint killing intent emanating from the body of the beautiful silver-haired mermaid hundreds of meters ahead, Chen He finally hesitated. He was not stupid, quite the contrary his brain functioned more than perfectly well.

Although Chen He was not afraid to face the female in front of him even after knowing that she was a Fourth Order powerhouse, he still could not guarantee his victory 100%

even though the other party was clearly a soul evolver who had only just broken through that barrier. Furthermore, regardless of whether or not he could defeat Shui Meiying, killing her and making her stay behind forever was questionable.

At the end of the day, this was not solid ground and Chen He's movements were restricted so at least in terms of speed he knew he would never be able to match Shui Meiying. That and there was also the fact that Chen He would not be able to identify his allies, which would eventually cause major problems for everyone but his enemies.

'That dude... It's really hard to tell what's in his head.' Chen He smiled bitterly secretly as he recalled how Bai Zemin practically kicked him out of Hero City and ordered him to take care of the present situation by himself.

After considering it for almost a full minute, he finally replied calmly, "My name is Chen He. I am one of the highest commanders of the Transdendent faction, the hegemon of the mainland... You can tell that we have deep ties with the new Queen of the Eastern Sea."

Shui Meiying stared. After a few seconds, her pupils contracted fiercely as she exclaimed in disbelief, "So you are a member of that faction led by the human named Bai Zemin?!"

This time it was Chen He's turn to be surprised. He blinked a couple of times and didn't know whether to laugh or cry: 'Even a Pacific mermaid knows his name. I wonder if he has become a celebrity on a global scale even under the waters.'

'Bai Zemin is our King... Or perhaps I should say Emperor.'" Chen He shook his head without explaining too much.

"Emperor?" Shui Meiying was very surprised and quickly asked, "Are you telling me that the Transcendent faction is the only human faction on the surface?"

Chen He nodded at the same time as he said deeply, "That's why I said we are mainland hegemons."

Shui Meiying's expression changed repeatedly, and although his eyesight was limited at this place it was not difficult for Chen He to notice multiple emotional changes flickering in her pretty eyes. Finally, the Coral Kingdom's First Princess smiled bitterly and shook her head.

"This is a difficult situation."

"What do you mean?" Chen He narrowed his eyes, finally realizing that there were probably things he and the others didn't know yet.

Shui Meiyong took a deep breath and as she waved her free hand the jewel on her forehead gleamed, "All of you, stand back now!"

The Coral Kingdom troops that had been oppressing the East Sea Kingdom troops hesitated for a moment but finally accepted their princess' order to retreat.

Xiao Xiao had suffered serious injuries but her life was not in danger. Because Xian Mei'er had fainted, she temporarily took the reins and with a spiritual wave that extended several kilometers, she forced all the troops of the kingdom to retreat instead of pursuing the enemy.

In about two minutes of time, the nearly two million troops were divided into two clear sides with more than 400 meters of distance separating them from each other.

Shui Meiyong stepped forward with her spear firmly in her grip. She looked first at the fainting Xian Mei'er before focusing on the human man again, "You said your name is Chen He, right? You also said that you are one of the Transcendent faction's Commanders so your status there is probably pretty high, am I right?"

"I'm definitely one of the top ten people with the highest status and word power. I'm part of the core group so you can say I'm one of the faction fathers." Chen He nodded confidently.

Shui Meiyong took a deep breath and nodded, "In that case, could you set up a meeting for me to see your Leader? I need to discuss something with him first before I make any decisions."

After a moment's hesitation, Chen He nodded and quietly took out a square device with a small Soul Stone embedded in the center. As the runes covering 80% of the device glowed, he spoke directly, "I have someone here who wants to see you. She says she needs to discuss something with you."

Shui Meiyong watched the small device with some apprehension for more than ten seconds before she heard a deep voice coming from it.

"Bring her to the palace."

Chen He nodded and put the device away directly.

He looked at Shui Meiyong and pointed in a serious voice, "Only you can come. You will have to leave your subordinates behind."

Shui Meiyong hesitated a little after hearing this. Although she was confident in her strength as a level 203 soul evolver, she was still clear that there were living beings stronger than her and technological weapons that represented a threat to her life.

However, her hesitation only lasted a few seconds after remembering those people and she nodded firmly, "In that case lead the way. I will follow you."

"Princess!" A burly triton holding two sabers looked at Shui Meiyong in shock, "Why do you need to risk yourself like that? We-"

"Enough." Shui Meiyong waved her hand and interrupted that triton who was her most powerful soldier, "Ah Man, you are staying in charge of the army while I am away. You are not allowed to announce this out, is that clear?"

The merman's expression changed several times before he nodded. His triangular eyes stared at Chen He coldly as he said, "My life is yours, Princess. Still, if you do not return within 24 hours I hope you will excuse me for acting of my own free will."

Shui Meiyong nodded in satisfaction, and while Chen He could sense that this merman was even stronger than Shui Meiyong herself he directly ignored his threatening words. He might have difficulty defeating that triton, but Chen He knew better that this Ah Man was no more than a shrimp in the eyes of some people waiting ahead.

If Ah Man dared to act unrestrained his only end would be death.

After a few minutes, Chen He injected an extremely potent antidote into Xian Mei'er's neck before carrying her in his arms. After a brief exchange with Xiao Xiao, he led Shui Meiyong directly north.

"Hey, where are we going?" Shui Meiyong was perplexed to see that this human was leading her deeper into the waters in the direction of the Pacific Ocean. There was where her place was after all!

Chen He gave her a sidelong glance and suddenly smiled, "Didn't you say you want to see Bai Zemin?"

"Yeah." Shui Meiyong nodded without hesitation, "But I-"

Her words suddenly cut off as a thought flashed in her heart. She looked at Chen He in shock, "Don't tell me..."

"Alright, they're up ahead." Chen He sighed and said with some hidden bitterness, "Actually, your entire army could have been wiped out by Hero City's cannons several minutes ago. It's just that person advanced straight towards your Coral Kingdom."

The corner of Shui Meiyong's mouth twitched a couple of times. At the same time, stormy waves rose in her heart and subconsciously she couldn't help but praise herself for being smart and having vision.

She had naturally heard a bit about Hero City, and although she did not know how powerful its cannons were, the truth was that it was this city that helped crown the East Sea Kingdom as the most powerful kingdom for tens of thousands of miles around. It was well known that the cannons of this city could evaporate Third Order soul evolvers easily and even those beyond level 200 would meet their doom after being hit.

Nonetheless, she was now much more curious about the human named Bai Zemin.

At the same time, Shui Meiyong felt that what she was doing was right.

'Besides, since he is willing to ally with that Xian family princess why wouldn't he be willing to ally with me?' Shui Meiyong's eyes flashed slightly as the movements of her tail became smoother and more graceful.

She believed that after the human Bai Zemin heard her words, as well as her proposal, he would definitely not refuse an alliance with her unless he was really sick in the head.

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Chapter 1245: First meeting: Shui Meiyong and Bai Zemin

Shui Meiyong was only slightly curious when she saw Hero City's large, spotless white walls. At the end of the day, she was still the First Princess of the Coral Kingdom; quite possibly one of the most densely populated and powerful of all the underwater kingdoms. This meant that Shui Meiyong had the opportunity to see the glorious exterior of the legendary protective city of the Eastern Sea Kingdom in the past.

However, things changed when Chen He led her inside, beyond the walls, through a pale blue vortex.

Shui Meiyong felt as if she was entering a new realm, a new world.

The blue-colored sky shone high above her head. White clouds that seemed to be made of cotton floated silently like small pale polka dots, and the air in the place was so pure that even she who usually did not feel comfortable breathing the same as humans could not help but take secretly several sniffs.

The view itself was paradisiacal with extremely luxurious buildings towering on both sides of a street over 100 meters wide and whose length could not be seen with the naked eye. On top of a large mountain surrounded by green trees swaying in tune with the wind, the most beautiful and elegant palace the First Princess of the Coral Kingdom had ever seen in her entire life gleamed under the artificial sun's glare.

"Impressive..." She couldn't help but whisper such words as her long fish tail sparkled.

Chen He watched curiously as the mermaid's long tail slowly turned into two long slender legs smooth and shiny like ivory. Even though he had seen many pretties, even he could not help but be moved by such treasures.

Shui Meiyong simply raised an eyebrow as she felt the human's gaze at her side. She was used to receiving the attention of men since among all the sea kingdoms within several hundred thousand kilometers around she was labeled as the Beauty Number 1 of the entire sea race.

"Should we go now?" She finally called out while looking at the white-colored skirt that covered from her hip to below her knees.

Chen He nodded calmly and with a kick his body became a blur in the direction of the mountain in the distance.

Shui Meiyong quickly followed him closely, but after a couple of minutes she could not help but be amazed as to her surprise she could not catch up to the human male in front of her and at most could only keep the same distance.

'Although I'm confident in outperforming his running speed if I use one or two movement skills, he probably has his own as well... Looks like this guy wasn't bluffing before.' Shui Meiyong realized that her chances of victory against the man in front of her would probably not exceed 60% on solid ground, and this was already being quite positive about herself.

A few minutes later, Shui Meiyong was led by Chen He inside the palace. She was so amazed by the extravagant and luxurious interior decoration that she didn't even hear when Chen He asked Qin Ming where Bai Zemin was currently nor did she see when he handed the fainting Xian Mei'er to Kang Lan.

Although the Coral Myriad Palace of her Coral Kingdom was extremely luxurious and elegant, Shui Meiyong couldn't help but feel that her home was like the cave where the puffer fish slept compared to this palace. She, unlike Bai Zemin and the others, knew much more about extreme luxuries so she was able to point out how immense the difference between both palaces was.

Chen He led Shui Meiyong to the back of the palace, to the inner courtyard. On the road they encountered some soul evolvers who only looked at Shui Meiyong with a bit of curiosity before looking away after seeing Chen He next to her.

"They seem to respect you quite a bit?" Shui Meiyong smiled slightly. She could sense that even the weakest soul evolver among those they encountered along the way had already surpassed level 140, which was quite stunning since the total number exceeded 60.

Chen He simply rolled his eyes at the mermaid's words but inwardly he couldn't help but secretly growl: 'Great Aunt, if they didn't respect me how is this elder supposed to be one of their commanders? Do yourself a favor and don't talk nonsense for god's sake!'

Clang! Clang! Clang! ...

As the duo approached the huge door at the end of the corridor, the sound of metal clanging against metal became clearer and nearer.

When they finally walked outside, what greeted them was a huge garden of several acres. The lawn was neatly trimmed making the scene look like a huge sea of light green and every time the wind gusted from a distance the different flowers in the yard gently swayed as if they were saying hello.

"Oh?" Shui Meiyong's eyes suddenly brightened when she noticed the handsome man and the belle engaged in a clearly friendly sword match.

Chen He watched with a slightly complicated expression as Bai Zemin and Shangguan Bing Xue danced with their swords clashing rapidly in the middle of the courtyard. Yet, that complicated expression disappeared as quickly as it appeared and the slight bitterness in his heart also vanished without a visible trace.

"Mm?" Bai Shilin was one of the people among those present watching the spar. She looked back as she sensed two new presences but then turned her attention back to her parents despite feeling a bit curious about the beautiful older sister whose hair color was almost the same as hers.

Bai Zemin's focus was entirely on Shangguan Bing Xue and the sword in her hands so he directly ignored Shui Meiyong's presence. Putting aside the use of skills, both he and Shangguan Bing Xue had sealed their stats at only 100 points each so they were currently facing each other solely using their swordsmanship techniques.

Approximately 20 minutes later, Bai Zemin finally shook his head and jumped back.

Shangguan Bing Xue did not chase but instead put down her sword and looked at him with a faint smile, "Well, do you concede now?"

Bai Zemin smiled bitterly and said helplessly, "Your swordplay is really something... Even with the Super Warrior passive skill that is coveted even by Higher Existences I still can't beat you in this area."

Shangguan Bing Xue chuckled and pointed out, "While the Super Warrior skill certainly gives you knowledge and sword arts, your body surely won't get used to all that just like brushing it off, right? You have the knowledge of the path and the obstacles were removed but, at the end of the day, it's you who has to walk it."

Bai Zemin blinked, surprised. After a moment's hesitation, he asked, "Bing Xue, did your personality change along with your racial change or is it due to Queen Lenna's records?"

"Mmmm..." Shangguan Bing Xue thought about it for a moment and subconsciously the figure of a woman's silhouette appeared in her mind, her greatest rival. Then, she smiled again and said, "It's probably due to Queen Lenna's records. At the end of the day she surrendered to her records to merge them all with me."

"I see..." Bai Zemin nodded slowly but still seemed immersed in his own thoughts even several seconds later. Finally, he shook his head and turned to look at the last two arrivals.

His eyes immediately focused on Shui Meiying's and he immediately recognized her.

"Well, we meet again." He blurted out unconsciously.

"Eh?" Shui Meiying looked at him in astonishment and asked, "Did we meet before?"

Bai Zemin blinked a couple of times before realizing his mistake, "Ah, I did see you once before but you didn't see me. That's why."

"Yes?" Shui Meiying tried to think deeply but nothing came to her mind even after a long time. Then, suddenly, her eyes brightened and she asked, "Are you talking about the coronation ceremony in the East Sea Kingdom three and a half months ago?"

"That's right." Bai Zemin did not hide it, "I saw you in the main box. You probably didn't see me since I was on the highest point of the palace at the time."

He walked toward the round-shaped white stone table situated not far away in the shade while gesturing Shui Meiying to sit with him.

After sitting down, she looked into his eyes and suddenly smiled, "I'm really curious though."

"You want to know how it is possible for me and her to have formed such a seemingly deep alliance, am I right?" Bai Zemin nodded to the maid who poured tea for everyone as he slowly said.

"That's right." Shui Meiying didn't think it was necessary to use cheap tricks like poisoning her so she didn't hesitate to take a sip of the tea that was served to her. Her movements paused for a moment and a flash of surprise shone in her eyes as she realized that this tea could easily make it into the top 5 she had ever tasted in her entire life. She couldn't help but heartily praise, "Good tea!"

"Tell that to Auntie Sun and she will surely smile proudly for half a day." Bai Zemin commented casually and in an indifferent voice.

"Anyway, would you mind explaining to me how it is possible that you, a human, are willing to go out of your way to support a mermaid whose living environment is the complete opposite of yours?" Shui Meiying asked and looked at him with a serious expression on her beautiful face, "As far as I know, your human race doesn't get along particularly well with my sea race. And besides, if I'm not mistaken it was you who pulled the strings behind the scenes to make the old East Sea King hand over his position to his seventh daughter wasn't you?"

"You haven't paid attention to Xian Mei'er's past, or have you?" Bai Zemin had yet to look at her as he seemed more absorbed in the cakes his fair daughter put on his plate not before taking several bites.

Shui Meiying stared for a moment before shaking her head, "Actually, I didn't."

Bai Zemin nodded calmly in response. He explained about the dispute Xian Mei'er had with her siblings, as well as her wish to stop the war and put some control over the mindless cannibalism occurring underwater before slowly saying, "When I first met Xian Mei'er she and I were just little wild grasses in the middle of a raging storm; insignificant; weak; not even knowing if we would live past now let alone past tomorrow. Her goals coincidentally matched mine and her methods would not only not obstruct my path but would make my life simpler. Did that answer please you?"

Shui Meiying nodded slowly as she thought silently. She stayed in silence for almost ten minutes before suddenly asking something that startled Bai Zemin.

"Then what will you do after she unifies all the oceans with your help?"

Bai Zemin, who was about to taste his fifth cream cake, slowed down and looked at her with narrowed eyes. The question the mermaid race beauty had just asked him may seem simple on the surface, but Bai Zemin was not naive enough to think that Shui Meiying whose level exceeded 200 requested to see him just to ask goofy questions.

"Tell me if I'm wrong but, you don't plan to use the power you have as a ruler over Xian Mei'er, do you? At the end of the day and in the event that Xian Mei'er becomes the Empress of all the seas the Soul Record will surely take away all the control over the rest of the sea beasts she hard won the moment she becomes subordinate to someone else." Shui Meiying finally smiled slightly as she realized that she finally had the attention of the man in front of her.

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Chapter 1246: Shui Meiying's points

In fact, the question Shui Meiying had just asked Bai Zemin was not particularly a surprise to him. This was because Bai Zemin himself had asked the same thing repeatedly since he realized that he actually had the qualifications to compete for the highest throne on Earth.

Bai Zemin had even sat down with Lilith for several hours to discuss this matter, and it was thanks to it that he was now aware of something very important that if he had found out later could have caused him a big headache or two in the long run.

For starters and the most important information, Lilith pointed out to him some time ago and with a serious expression on her face that the King subclass and the Emperor subclass were two completely worlds apart. To be King/Queen a soul evolver simply needed to become the Leader of their entire race within a vast expanse of land... But to be Emperor/Empress one needed to be the total Leader of their race in an entire world.

The key was precisely in the race.

Being human as he was, Bai Zemin could never be Emperor of the seas. Of course, this would change slightly once he broke the shackles that bound him to the Lower Existences and became a Higher Existence since at that time every pagoda was supposed to have the power to modify the records of any race... but in the meanwhile it was impossible for him to be the Leader of a race whose records simply had nothing to do with the records that made up his existence.

Moreover, as Shui Meiying had just pointed out, Bai Zemin could not simply use his power as a ruler to subjugate Xian Mei'er. Not only would she lose control over all the sea beasts immediately but the Soul Record would definitely take away her Empress subclass on the spot, something that would immediately become a big problem as with the fall of one ruler many more would rise up to take their place; which would also mean that all the efforts they made before would go down the drain.

Bai Zemin looked at Shui Meiying for several minutes as thousands of thoughts ran through his head. After an unknown amount of time, he thought he knew what the mermaid in front of him wanted but still asked calmly, "What do you have in mind?"

Shui Meiying smiled slightly and instead of answering immediately she asked, "According to what your subordinate told me, you have already managed to conquer all the surface territories and what you are waiting for in order to advance to Emperor is for the majority of humans in those territories to accept you, is that accurate?"

Bai Zemin nodded silently as there was no point in hiding it and the girl in front of him could do nothing with that information even if she knew.

Shui Meiyong nodded and continued smiling as she asked again, "In that case, let me give you an analogy here. Let's say you want to have the best house and the best woman, even if both are already possessed by someone else; would there be anyone able to stop you as Emperor?"

Bai Zemin narrowed his eyes but said nothing.

Unlike the subclasses before Emperor, including the King subclass, when one became the Emperor of his race in his world his word was absolute. While everyone would still be free to express their opinions and would not lose their freedom, an Emperor literally was the King of Kings able to have whatever he wanted whenever he wanted.

Therefore, the analogy raised by Shui Meiyong took Bai Zemin by surprise as he did not expect her to know so much about it despite being a Lower Existence. One should know that he only knew that information because Lilith was always there to support him at all times!

Of course, Bai Zemin had no way of knowing that the records left behind from ancient times were many more among the royal families of the seas in contrast to the mainland. As one of the most powerful kingdoms under the sea, the Coral Kingdom certainly had its own legacy.

"The answer is no." Shui Meiyong sipped tea calmly and closed her eyes for a moment before continuing, "Then what do you think would be the way to prevent someone from becoming a tyrant? No, let me rephrase that... What do you think would be the optimal way to restrain someone with absolute power from drowning in the power they hold and thus avoid infinite, ever-lurking problems?"

"Shilin knows the answer!" Bai Shilin suddenly jumped from her seat and while looking at Shui Meiyong with glittering eyes quickly answered, "It takes someone of equivalent position and power to stop the footsteps of someone with absolute power!"

Shui Meiyong blinked, surprised. She looked at the teenager in front of her and after several seconds slowly nodded: "You're right... That way the absolute power would be nullified immediately and both sides can be each other's boundary wall, thus preventing one or both sides from overstepping the boundaries."

"Ahem!" Bai Shilin puffed out her chest and looked at her father with shining eyes as if waiting for his compliment.

Bai Zemin gently stroked the little girl's head but his eyes remained fixed on Shui Meiyong. Suddenly, he chuckled and shook his head, "I have to say I'm astonished, honestly."

"Oh?" Shui Meiyong furrowed her eyebrows slightly but still smiled, "Would you mind telling me why that is?"

"I have to admit that if it comes to power and intelligence you surpass Xian Mei'er by a wide margin. Not so much in power but your vision is much broader than hers." Bai Zemin nodded calmly. Yet he then shook his head and said, "But if you think your words alone are enough to achieve anything then let me tell you that you are very wrong and you overestimate yourself. Xian Mei'er deserved my help because she helped me greatly all the way here, but what about you? You want me to help you get a position equivalent to hers and you think I will do it just because you say so? You are overly arrogant, princess."

Shui Meiying did not look angry or offended at all. Instead, she chuckled and asked, "Do you trust her completely? If your answer is yes then this conversation can stop here and now."

Completely trust Xian Mei'er? Bai Zemin shook his head secretly.

That was simply impossible for his current and perhaps would be forever.

Leaving aside his family, there were only five people that Bai Zemin could claim to trust completely and with closed eyes; Shangguan Bing Xue; Wu Yijun; Kali; Lilith; and last but not least, Seraphina Di Gales.

Bai Zemin didn't know whether to laugh or cry when he realized that all of them were females...

"I'll take your silence as the answer." Shui Meiying smiled slightly and continued calmly, "Before you reject me why don't you listen to what I have to say first? If you still think that what I will give you, including my future support, is insufficient compared to what Xian Mei'er gave you so far then I will leave quietly or you can kill me here if you like."

"You sound confident." Bai Zemin suddenly smiled as he looked at her with interest. He couldn't help but remark with a hint of mockery mixed with sincerity in his voice, "Even with the power I have now I don't think I'm as confident as you even though I could destroy the entire Earth if I so chose."

Bai Zemin was confident in himself and his strength, but he was not arrogant enough to think that he would always be the strongest. It was precisely for this reason that he was still sitting and talking to the First Princess of the Coral Kingdom as he hoped to find an absolute solution to Xian Mei'er's matter right here and now.

Bai Zemin trusted Xian Mei'er 80%, but that 20% made him secretly anxious.

She certainly hated war and wanted peace... But when she became Empress the number of soldiers under her command would easily be hundreds or even thousands of times more compared to Bai Zemin's troops. What he was doing was looking into the long run future as they could live for millennia or even eternally; who knew if Xian

Mei'er's mentality would not change in the future? At the end of the day, all beings with intelligence were prone to change eventually.

"You're wrong." Shui Meiyong looked Bai Zemin straight in the eyes. The smile on her face receded and with a serious expression, she slowly said, "It's not that I have that much confidence in myself. The one I have confidence in is you, or rather your intelligence."

Bai Zemin raised an eyebrow seemingly surprised but said nothing and gestured for her to continue.

"I don't know anything about you, to be honest. But I do know that to control the entire surface takes more than sheer strength; it takes a high level of IQ as well as EQ. So I think after you hear my offer you will definitely accept since you are smart." Shui Meiyong said softly as she looked into his eyes.

"This little fox is quite interesting." Lilith's voice sounded in Bai Zemin's mind, "She is not only very smart but she knows exactly what to say in order to keep moving forward even if it's just one more step since she clearly knows that this one extra step could be the difference between stopping in hell or ascending to heaven."

Indeed. Bai Zemin agreed with Lilith's words.

Even though he had just met Shui Meiyong and they had been talking for less than an hour, Bai Zemin realized that she might be one of the most intelligent existences he met so far if not the number 1.

"Go on." He nodded and then ate the remaining cake left on the plate in front of him.

"As you well know, I was not part of the soul evolvers that entered Hero City in search of ancient treasures." Shui Meiyong looked at Bai Zemin and asked, "Don't you feel that is very curious? At the end of the day, regardless of whether or not I could get something good, just seeing this city from the inside would have been of great help to my Coral Kingdom's records."

Bai Zemin stared for a moment before his eyes flashed with a mysterious light.

Indeed, he had overlooked this point before. But now that the female in front of him pointed it out Bai Zemin couldn't help but feel that it was very unusual.

"... If I recall correctly, among the soul evolvers that entered Hero City there were also representatives from other sea kingdoms. Although I dare not say that all of them took part, I'm pretty sure that your Coral Kingdom should have sent you unless they have a better option."

Shui Meiyong shook her head at his words, "The Coral Kingdom didn't send anyone, I can vouch for that."

Bai Zemin was about to say something but she raised a hand to ask him not to speak for now. Suddenly, Shui Meiyong's eyes which had been gentle until now flashed with an almost undetectable trace of hatred as she calmly said, "My Coral Kingdom stretches for a couple of hundred kilometers from the end of the East Sea towards the interior of the Pacific Ocean. Coincidentally, the Mariana Trench is located inside our territory."

Mariana Trench? Bai Zemin suddenly sat up straight and his eyes lit up, finally understanding a bit of where this was all headed.

"I see you figured it out now." Shui Meiyong nodded and said in a serious voice, "Apart from this Hero City, there is another place that has a treasure that is not necessarily inferior. That place is precisely the Mariana Trench."

"... In fact, at the meeting that happened in Europe before we headed to Hero City a Higher Existence did mention this." Bai Zemin narrowed his eyes and looked at her in silence for a long time before slowly asking, "Tell me if I'm wrong but... Could it be that you have some problem with these Higher Existences?"

"Problem? What problem could I have with them." Shui Meiyong sneered but the hatred in her eyes grew several folds as she slowly said, "I just don't like being anyone's chess piece. I definitely won't accept a few aliens coming to my house uninvited and doing whatever they feel like. This is so even if I have to do things I wouldn't normally do."

Bai Zemin stared into her eyes for almost a full minute before smiling suddenly.

If it were anything else, Bai Zemin could ignore it. However, Shui Meiyong, the Coral Kingdom's First Princess, mentioned two points that he definitely could not disregard.

"Well, it looks like we're talking now. Please continue."

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Chapter 1247: Old Book: Worlds Connector

There were two things that Bai Zemin simply could not ignore. Even if he wanted to ignore it, he simply could not afford to do so as this was not only about himself but involved all those he loved and even the universe as a whole. Interestingly, these two impossible-to-ignore points were so perfectly connected that it was impossible to separate one from the other.

First, Higher Existences.

Bai Zemin knew better than anyone that in the not-so-distant future he would clash as an enemy of most if not all factions of Higher Existences. Although he was arrogant, he was definitely not stupid; Bai Zemin was clear that the only reason he could be rampaging wild at present was because of the protection of the Soul Record as well as the fact that he had his own trump cards to ensure his survival for a short period of time even if some soul evolver above level 400 broke the rules and attacked him.

Therefore, the more information Bai Zemin could get from the factions of Higher Existences the better it would be for him and the future wars his faction would be forced to fight.

The second point was that they were on Earth; Bai Zemin needed to expel no matter what all the Higher Existence factions that watched the planet like a big pie waiting to be devoured... In order to evolve to the Third Order, to become stronger, to be able to survive, to guarantee the safety of those he loves, to have enough power to clash with the invaders... Bai Zemin MUST and needed to chase them out.

Therefore, Shui Meiyong not only had his complete attention after hearing her mention the Higher Existences plotting something but she was making him reconsider some things regarding the future of the Earth's oceans.

Shui Meiyong was inwardly delighted to see that the man in front of her was finally taking her seriously. She did not speak immediately after hearing Bai Zemin's words but took a very good amount of time to carefully plan her next words.

Bai Zemin also did not rush her and instead waited patiently. He could afford to wait even an hour without hearing her say anything because he knew that this conversation was simply too important and any decision made today would affect everyone's future for a possible eternity.

Finally, after nearly twenty minutes, Shui Meiyong's beautiful voice rang out again in tandem with the whistling winds.

"As I mentioned before, the Coral Kingdom is indisputably the most powerful kingdom within several hundred thousand kilometers around; even the East Sea Kingdom cannot compare. Be it number of soldiers, number of high-level soul evolvers, and even technological power; the Coral Kingdom is unrivaled." Despite her words, Shui Meiyong did not look arrogant or proud when she looked into Bai Zemin's eyes but rather, in his eyes. she was simply a grown woman stating facts that could not be denied.

Besides, why deny the truth?

She continued: "I am not stupid or arrogant enough to think that my Coral Kingdom is the mightiest sea kingdom in all the oceans. At the end of the day, the truth is that we only know the reality of the relatively closer kingdoms but have no idea of the situation

of the more distant ones. Forget about other oceans, even within the Pacific Ocean there are kingdoms that are unknown even today to the Coral Kingdom."

Bai Zemin nodded silently. After a pause, he calmly asked, "What you are trying to tell me is that while you are not so arrogant as to say that your Coral Kingdom is the strongest of all, at least so far you do not know of the existence of a more powerful kingdom so, in reality, your kingdom not necessarily is not the strongest. Am I right?"

"You understood right." Shui Meiyong nodded with a slight smile. She continued, "As you probably already know, the ancient Forgotten Empire fragmented into many pieces after the fall of the Forgotten Emperor in the final battle against the humans. These fragments are, naturally, the various kingdoms scattered throughout the world's oceans."

"I heard a thing or two about that." Bai Zemin shrugged.

"As fragments of the once glorious Forgotten Empire, every kingdom on the seabed has its own legacy. My Coral Kingdom naturally is no the exception to this rule." Shui Meiyong thanked with her eyes to the unfamiliar middle-aged woman who poured her another round of tea. After a sip, she continued, "You may not believe it but I am quite fascinated with reading; particularly if it is about ancient books. About four centuries ago while wandering through the library of my family's royal palace I accidentally came across an old, torn book that had only five pages; all the other pages seemed to have been torn out in haste by someone or something."

Saying that, Shui Meiyong turned her flawless hand upward. The jade pearl bracelet on her milk-white wrist glowed imperceptibly and in an instant, an ash-colored, tattered book came into view.

"This is the book." She said and immediately slid the book onto the table.

Bai Zemin stopped the sliding of the book with one hand but, instead of opening it immediately his eyes stared into those of the beautiful silver-haired mermaid seated in front of him.

"In China we have an old adage that fits this situation quite well; if a pie that big falls from the sky, you better be careful that it doesn't crush you to death while you're trying to catch it." He said calmly, "What exactly do you want? I'm a person who doesn't like to owe favors, particularly when it's such a big one."

Although he had not yet opened the book, Bai Zemin had a strong feeling in his heart. This was that the information in that book and what he would get next was definitely beyond his imagination; absolutely not inferior to Hero City.

Therefore, he had to know what Shui Meiyong's conditions were first.

As for stealing the book? Bai Zemin did consider it, of course. However, that thought was discarded as soon as it popped up.

The female mermaid in front of him was extremely smart and cunning. Besides, there were all sorts of strange and peculiar skills so Bai Zemin couldn't be sure that the book wouldn't be destroyed the moment Shui Meiyong snapped her fingers.

"You know what I want." She looked into his eyes with a surprisingly pure and honest expression as she said, "I want to form an alliance with you and your faction. Treatment in no way inferior to what Xian Mei'er and the East Sea Kingdom are receiving. I want you to give me your word that you will allow me to rule 50% of the world's waters and in return, I will not only serve as a dissuasive force for Xian Mei'er's forces sparing you endless headaches but also give you a gift so great that you definitely can't imagine."

Bai Zemin lowered his head and looked at the flat grayish-colored book for a long time before raising his face, "Aren't you afraid of me breaking my word later? You should know that words are carried away by the wind and are no different from drops of water slipping through our fingers."

"You won't." Shui Meiyong had a faint smile on her face as she shook her head.

Bai Zemin raised an eyebrow genuinely amazed at her confidence. He finally couldn't help but ask, "I'm very curious you know. Would you mind telling me what makes you think so?"

"For starters, I like to think I'm pretty good at judging other people's character. I think you're a real man and not a boy, and a man's words are worth more than gold." Shui Meiyong closed her eyes and still smiled slightly as she pointed to the surroundings, "Besides, there are several of your subordinates here watching and listening. You can break your promise and probably none of them will say much, but as the Emperor of a race you should know that the heart is liable to change abruptly depending on the circumstances. Could you guarantee that they will look at you with respect and not with wariness after stabbing an ally in the back?"

As everyone fell silent, Bai Zemin couldn't help but glance at the surroundings. Indeed, there were numerous Third Order soul evolvers of his faction protecting the palace nearby. Moreover, Bai Zemin was sure that the soul evolvers who had recently sworn loyalty to him after becoming the Sky Emperor's successor were also paying attention to what was taking place here.

Bai Zemin blinked in surprise when he suddenly felt a very faint killing intent near him. This killing intent was very well hidden, but he who had the Lonely Wolf Aura skill was extremely sensitive when it came to malicious intent so he noticed the change immediately.

When Bai Zemin turned to his left and saw the culprit he couldn't help but forced a wry smile in his heart.

Currently, Shangguan Bing Xue looked indifferent as before as she watched Shui Meiying calmly. Yet, Bai Zemin certainly knew what she was thinking.

Shui Meiying was indeed an extremely dangerous woman. Her intelligence and ability to analyze things were even more terrifying than her power by several folds... If not for the fact that she and the Transcendent faction had not yet lost all decorum and there was still room for them to be allies, Bai Zemin would definitely do his best to eliminate her no matter what price he had to pay in the process.

He gently patted Shangguan Bing Xue's shoulder, seemingly casually, as he looked at Shui Meiying and said, "If what is in this book is really interesting and this gift of yours that you mentioned earlier is really as great as you say then I wouldn't mind helping you with all my power to become the only Queen of the seas apart from Xian Mei'er."

In truth, this was a decision he had come to after analyzing many things and weighing the pros and cons. Although this could certainly cause some dissatisfaction in Xian Mei'er's heart, Bai Zemin could only do his best to avoid possible unpleasant predicaments in the distant future.

Yes, the universe might end in about 5 years... But what if not? Therefore, as a Leader, there were things that Bai Zemin could not ignore.

He trusted Xian Mei'er, but it was not blind trust. At the end of the day, their relationship although it was no longer simply one of pure alliance and it could be said that they were friends who had gone through seas of fire and sharp blades together, the fact that people died for wealth as birds for food was irrefutable.

Bai Zemin still could clearly remember that Xian Mei'er's personality when they first met was extremely pure and naive. Yet, it only took her a short two years to mature and change her mentality to a great extent so it was impossible to know whether her mind and heart would undergo further changes in 50, 100, or 1000 years.

'I will pay you double in the future.' Bai Zemin promised in his heart.

Shui Meiying had no idea that in a brief moment there were thousands of thoughts in Bai Zemin's head. She simply frowned a beautiful smile and her eyes sparkled after hearing his promise: "I can guarantee that you will be 300% satisfied."

Bai Zemin looked deeply at her before looking at the book in front of him.

Oh?

When he opened the page, to his surprise, the language written there was Mandarin Chinese.

"Worlds Connector..." Bai Zemin muttered as his eyes fell on the black and somewhat blurry letters at the top of the first page.

* * * * *

Chapter 1248: Peace or War?

Approximately two hours later, Bai Zemin sent Shui Meiyong with his eyes until she disappeared beyond the back door of the Sky Emperor Palace. This time it was not Chen He who escorted her back to the exit but another soul evolver.

"What do you think?"

Bai Zemin calmly asked no one in particular but his words made everyone present subconsciously look at Shangguan Bing Xue. After all, she was the second in command in the entire faction; to say that she was the second most powerful figure with the most power over the future and the lives of the others on the entire Earth was by no means an exaggeration.

"She is excessively cunning and scheming." Shangguan Bing Xue was straightforward as always with her words. She frowned her eyebrows slightly and continued, "Even though she is clearly a Fourth Order soul evolver that just broke through the barrier somehow I feel that she is just as dangerous as that old monster Thao Zhi or even worse."

Bai Zemin nodded and stayed silent as he thought to himself.

The old and torn book was shocking, to say the least.

"She is dangerous because of her intelligence but that same intelligence is a safety insurance for us if you think about it carefully." Bai Zemin finally withdrew his gaze from the place where Shui Meiyong had disappeared and looked at Shangguan Bing Xue calmly, "She was forced to come looking for me after realizing that her brains and plans are useless against absolute power. Once that Shui Meiyong girl understands that the losses will definitely outweigh the gains if she dares to act against us she will become our most loyal sea soldier."

Shangguan Bing Xue thought about it for a few seconds before gently shaking her head, "I don't know... I still feel that woman is a double-edged sword."

"Precisely because she is a double-edged sword she can be used to great benefit. It's just that it takes a powerful user to control the sword, one who is confident in not being cut by their own weapon."

An enchanting voice approached accompanied by a highly seductive scent. Just hearing the voice and smelling that fragrance that covered the surroundings made even a powerful soul evolver such as Chen He shows reaction immediately.

Sun Ling, Wu Yijun's mother, walked over with a faint smile and directly occupied the seat that Shui Meiyang had just left. She looked at Bai Zemin with sparkling eyes before looking at Shangguan Bing Xue and saying, "Little Bing Xue, you know what I have learned throughout my life after more than a decade of being involved in government and occasionally military affairs?"

Other than her mother, only Sun Ling in the entire Transcendent faction dared to address Shangguan Bing Xue in such a tongue-in-cheek manner. Even Wu Keqian who was partially a kind of father figure did not dare to take such freedoms because of Shangguan Bing Xue's terrifying power and exalted position.

Shangguan Bing Xue sighed helplessly in her heart but outwardly maintained her composure as she asked, "What thing?"

"I learned that the more power and wealth people have, the more they fear death so they go to great lengths to ensure their survival even if they have to give up their lifelong dreams or 99% of their benefits." Sun Ling explained and turned to look at Bai Zemin, "Of course, not everyone follows this rule. Nevertheless, those who are willing to step forward in the face of difficulties that could end their lives or make their existence more complicated after gaining a lot of power are rare and distant among themselves."

Shangguan Bing Xue narrowed her eyes after hearing this and could not help but think of all the enemies they faced so far. Regardless of whether they were ordinary humans or powerful soul evolvers, most of those settlement or country Leaders eventually lowered their heads when given a choice between submitting or dying.

Even Angelo, a terrifying soul evolver capable of fighting on equal footing for an entire day against a gigantic Fourth Order dragon with over a dozen nuclear weapons and many subordinates at his disposal still chose to surrender in the face of hardship. Angelo submitted because he knew that his chances of survival after fighting Bai Zemin would not be very high even if he used the full power of the American faction.

It was not as if Angelo had absolutely no chance of winning, but the percentage was so low that he preferred to surrender. This way, he could still keep on living, enjoying countless privileges, and being praised and appreciated by countless living beings.

"... I guess you may be right." Shangguan Bing Xue slowly nodded and suddenly felt much better.

Feng Tian Wu who had been silent all this time suddenly looked at Bai Zemin and questioned, "So what shall we do now?"

Everyone's eyes locked onto him, and after some thought, Bai Zemin stood up as he calmly said, "Although Shui Meiyang managed to make things difficult for those Higher Existence factions I'm afraid they might figure it out soon. Plus we can't afford to be overconfident either as they might have another way to open that place."

Looking at Bai Zemin who was walking away with confident steps, Feng Tian Wu quickly asked, "Where are you going now?"

"I need to have a talk with Xian Mei'er." Bai Zemin waved his hand without looking back and soon disappeared inside the palace.

...

Thanks to the seal that blocked his memories of life inside that illusion was slowly being shattered under his continuous effort, Bai Zemin gradually began to become more capable and aware about the power that his different skills had. For example, he could now use Blood Manipulation and as long as he invested a little Mana he was able to sense the different vital auras of all living beings within 400-500 meters around him regardless of whether they were allies or enemies.

After some searching, he quickly found Xian Mei'er in a room on the second floor. When he got there, the first person he met was Kang Lan.

"Are you okay?" he asked as he saw her all covered in sweat.

Kang Lan forced a smile and pointed behind her as she said, "I don't know what she was poisoned with but... if we had arrived two days later she would be dead even if we gave her our best antitoxin."

"That serious?" Bai Zemin was surprised.

One had to know that the best antitoxin developed by the main lab was so strong that even the poison of a Vicious Infernal Venomous Snake beyond level 200 and capable of releasing toxic clouds of 2-3 kilometers could be cured in a matter of 5-10 hours.

"I had to use almost all of my Mana and was even forced to use Repeal, which has a cooldown of two months after failing with my other skills." Kang Lan smiled bitterly as she shook her head.

The corner of Bai Zemin's mouth twisted a couple of times as he muttered under his breath, "Damn... What poison did they spill on that girl..."

"God only knows..." Kang Lan sighed.

Repeal was the most powerful anti-poison skill Kang Lan had and, Bai Zemin was sure that in all of Earth, there was no skill more powerful than hers in dealing with poisons.

Why was he so certain? The answer was very simple.

Repeal was a Fifth Order skill and its records clearly stated that even poison released by Higher Existences below level 500 could be successfully expelled!

"Forget it," Bai Zemin shook his head and sighed, "She's our ally. We did what we are supposed to do."

Kang Lan could only nod silently.

Repeal was one of the skills she had "sealed" strictly under Bai Zemin's command. At the end of the day, this skill was one of the lifelines they had to protect themselves from the Higher Existences.

Bai Zemin exchanged a few more words with her before taking his leave and entering the room where Xian Mei'er was resting. After walking without making a sound, he sat on the armchair near the bed and watched her silently as he fell into deep thoughts.

In reality, Bai Zemin accepted Shui Meiyang's proposal not only because he simply had no other choice as he desperately needed all possible cards to become stronger and strengthen his faction in the shortest amount of time possible. Another reason why he did what he did was that he wanted to see Xian Mei'er's reaction.

Depending on her reaction, Bai Zemin might make different decisions ahead.

"You came..."

"Mm?" Bai Zemin jumped in surprise when a beautiful but somewhat tired voice brought him out of his inner world.

What surprised him most was that the magic lamps in the room had turned on automatically, a sign that the day/night magic array covering the entire city had been activated to replace light with darkness.

Just... How long had he been sitting there thinking without noticing the flow of time?

Pushing the other thoughts out of his head, Bai Zemin looked at the beautiful woman lying on the bed in front of him with a smile, "Well, you seem to be feeling better."

"Mhm." Xian Mei'er checked her condition, and sensing that she only had some minor injuries couldn't help but sigh, "I've never been this close to dying before... This time it was a really close call and made me realize how weak I am."

In contrast to the man in front of her who always found a way to overcome obstacles on his own, Xian Mei'er realized that not only did she have to pay half a life in exchange for killing three Kings collectively, but the other half life she had left was almost taken by the First Princess of the Coral Kingdom.

Comparisons often tended to be hateful, indeed.

"Don't worry about that. To begin with, the things we can do are limited. Even I can't do everything alone or else why would I bother setting up a faction and working like a mule all day?"

Bai Zemin tried to comfort her but who would have known that Xian Mei'er would look at him with a weird expression on her face?

"What?" he growled realizing that she probably wasn't thinking anything good.

The corner of Xian Mei'er's mouth curved slightly upwards as she said in an amused voice, "As far as I know, Wu Yijun is the one in charge of all the politics while Shangguan Bing Xue is the person in charge of the army. It's not for nothing that your subordinates secretly refer to you as 'King delegator of jobs' is it?"

"Hey!" Bai Zemin cursed those people a thousand times in his heart as he said with a black face, "I work hard okay? This daddy barely sleeps thinking of ways to improve his strength and so save the butts of little mermaids about to die!"

"Ugh..." Xian Mei'er immediately was at a loss for words.

"Hmph!" Bai Zemin snorted and immediately felt pleased with himself after silencing her.

The room was quiet for almost a minute before he spoke again.

"Can I ask you a question?"

Xian Mei'er looked at him with a somewhat puzzled expression but said nothing. She nodded.

After thinking about it for a moment, he finally brought up the issue, "At first I promised that in exchange for your help in conquering China I would help you become the Queen of the East Sea. It was difficult as many things happened along the journey that neither of us expected but, eventually, we were both able to reach our goals. I now have control over my home country and you have finally become the East Sea Queen."

Xian Mei'er looked at him silently as she didn't know where he was going with all this.

"Your longing to become Queen was born from the fact that you did not want to see the citizens of your kingdom devouring each other. Yet, what I did after helping you to reach

your wish was to ask you to mobilize the troops of your kingdom to attack other kingdoms... To say that many of your East Sea Kingdom died because of me is not particularly wrong since if it were not for me wanting you to become the next Forgotten Empress you would have no reason to attack other kingdoms."

Seeing that she still said nothing, Bai Zemin took a deep, silent breath before slowly saying, "How would you feel if instead of asking you to help me conquer all the seas on Earth you only had to conquer half of them? Of course, I will help you all the way. However, this would also mean that you could never become Empress."

According to Xian Mei'er, she wanted peace and hated war.

In fact, it was her desire for peace and hatred of wars that pushed Bai Zemin to want to form an alliance with her since only someone like that was less likely to be her enemy in the future and be a pain in the ass. At the end of the day, Bai Zemin did not want to raise a wolf cub that could later bite him in the ass in a moment of carelessness.

This was the time to see whether or not Xian Mei'er's mindset had changed.

Would she prefer to go to war and sacrifice many of her people for a title and power or would she choose peace?

Depending on her answer, Bai Zemin might have to make some adjustments in his path in the future.

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Chapter 1249: I will become stronger...

Usually, a person would fall into deep thought after someone asked them a question that literally could and probably would affect their entire future from that point until the rest of their life. At the end of the day, unlike casual questions that didn't have any overly deep meaning, these types of questions could determine how far they would go in their respective paths throughout life.

However, to Bai Zemin's surprise, Xian Mei'er didn't even take a moment to think.

The beautiful gem-like blue eyes of the alluring former First Princess and current Queen of the East Sea Kingdom glistened softly after hearing Bai Zemin's question. She looked into his eyes and, in a voice somewhat hoarse from exhaustion, replied, "As long as we can live in peace, why not? Everyone wants to be stronger, but aren't there myriads of races out there waiting for us? We might as well fight them to level up."

Bai Zemin's breathing stagnated after hearing this answer. After a moment's hesitation, he couldn't help but ask what was on his mind.

"You really don't want to rule all the oceans on Earth? Power, prestige, honor, status, wealth... Even though you're a proud Queen now there's no way to compare what you could have if you become Empress..."

"Still," Xian Mei'er shook her head softly and said, "What do I want to rule all the oceans for anyway? It's not like I could split myself into millions of pieces and be everywhere... Then again, I might as well take care of what I can really handle and let others take care of the rest. I know my limits. I am not you after all."

Bai Zemin watched her silently for almost a full minute before smiling bitterly. A hint of embarrassment shone in his eyes as he slowly said, "Now I regret a little bit asking you that."

"Uh? Why is that?" Xian Mei'er looked at him with obvious confusion in her eyes.

"Actually," Bai Zemin explained everything about what had happened without hiding anything from his conversation with the First Princess of the Coral Kingdom. Finally, he sighed, "I admit that I didn't completely trust you... Even now it's like this. This is also part of the reason why I accepted the proposal from that mermaid named Shui Meiying."

Bai Zemin somehow felt that he could trust Xian Mei'er completely, that she was not a ferocious shark waiting in the darkness of the waters for the right moment to deal him a big blow. Yet, he could not control his heart and decide who to trust and who not to trust.

Shangguan Bing Xue had saved his life on numerous occasions and the extent of help she had given him simply could not be put into words.

Wu Yijun may not have been particularly important to Bai Zemin in terms of strength as while she was very strong her growth speed was still far behind what was needed to be able to provide him with quality help on the battlefield. However, the girl not only spent sleepless nights repeatedly preparing dozens of political cabinets in different areas and conquering the hearts of the people, but she even opposed her family more than once, all for his benefit.

Seraphina Di Gales, that little tsundere princess of Gales Kingdom not only saved Bai Zemin when he fell unconscious after hurting his soul after the repeated activation of Overlap Regeneration but she even went against her family's rules to protect him and prevent them from taking away his treasures. She didn't even know him but still showed that her character was extremely pure and good-natured.

Kali? Kali only had Bai Zemin. In the eyes of this beautiful and talented but pitifully sickly little beauty, Bai Zemin was her present and also her future; he was the only family she

had and the only person she could really trust. Someone like that would never betray him even if the sky fell apart and the earth broke into infinite pieces.

As for Lilith... If Shangguan Bing Xue had given Bai Zemin help that could not be described in words, then Lilith was the reason why he was him today. To say that if it were not for Lilith he would not have the strength he had today was by no means an exaggeration, and considering that time was not necessarily his ally given the circumstances of the universe, Lilith was the one who saved not only Bai Zemin but his entire family and everything else.

In contrast to them, the experiences that Bai Zemin and Xian Mei'er lived together as well as the bonds that linked them were by no means that strong. Perhaps this could change in the future, no one knew what tomorrow had in store... But for now, that was the way things were.

...

Back in his room late at night, Bai Zemin sighed heavily.

Actually, he had already showered and was lying under the sheets of his comfy bed.

"That little mermaid princess isn't bad at all."

Beside him, Lilith gently moved and rested her head on his rock-solid chest while drawing endless circles on his abdomen using her slender index finger. Her voice was so bewitching that Bai Zemin's worries disappeared every time he listened to it.

Bai Zemin caressed her bare shoulder using his right hand with his eyes fixed on the ceiling. After a long time, his much softer-than-normal voice sounded inside the silent room.

"Lilith."

"Mm?"

"Will you be with me forever?"

Lilith's finger paused for a moment, and for a few seconds, she said nothing.

After what Bai Zemin felt like an eternity, her soft, delicate voice sounded across the four walls.

"I would like to. And I hope so."

Seeing that even after a long time he said nothing, Lilith continued,

"For that to happen, so that nothing and no one can ever pull us apart, we have to be stronger. Infinitely stronger."

Bai Zemin continued to caress her soft shoulder gently, and after a long time, he slowly nodded without saying anything.

Just as Lilith's eyes were closing and her consciousness becoming blurry in preparation for entering the dream world, Bai Zemin's voice played softly in her ears again.

"I will become that much stronger... So much so that even the laws of the multiverse and the laws of the Soul Record won't be able to keep you away from me ever."

Her beautiful ruby-colored pupils trembled softly as she heard this. She half rose and looked at his face dimly illuminated by the artificial moonlight in disbelief.

"Zemin, you..."

However, Bai Zemin shook his head and drew her back into his embrace as if she belonged there, "Let's sleep... Something tells me we won't have much time to rest soon."

With her heart filled with questions and concerns, Lilith found no strength so she obediently returned to her previous position. A few minutes later, Bai Zemin's soft snoring as well as his steady breathing told her that he had already fallen asleep.

She smiled bitterly and secretly shook her head as she mumbled to herself before finally falling asleep.

That night the couple did nothing erotic and simply hugged.

They were both respected and feared among the Higher/Lower division to which they respectively belonged, but only they knew that they were little wooden boats in the middle of the stormy sea. Perhaps precisely because of this, they both felt warmer and safer in each other's embrace; more in understanding.

* * *

The next day.

In front of the north wall of Hero City, a small number of people gathered early in the morning.

"Are you sure you don't want to bring more people?" Chen He frowned tightly as he looked at Bai Zemin's group of three standing in front of him.

Bai Zemin shook his head in response and remarked, "I don't think it's necessary. Besides, if what this Shui Meiyang girl said is true then we should be more cautious. We can't risk Hero City no matter what."

"That's..." Chen He hesitated as he realized that Bai Zemin was right.

Currently, Bai Zemin was preparing to leave. However, he was only taking Shangguan Bing Xue and Feng Tian Wu this time.

"The three of us are the three with the most overall destructive power in the entire faction if we leave aside Shangguan Xinyue who isn't present. Although Hero City has many protective shells, the power consumption is not small." Bai Zemin took a deep breath as he explained to the group in front of him, "We can't afford to take any risks... Besides, even if we are underwater we are still more than enough to clear an entire kingdom even if there are 5 or 6 Fourth Order soul evolvers on the enemy side."

Meng Qi approached at that moment. To everyone's surprise, she wrapped her arms around Bai Zemin's neck, and just as he was preparing to push her away for fear that she might do something she stood on her tiptoes and gently kissed his forehead. With a slight blush and taking a step back, she said genuinely worried, "Be careful brother... Remember many people are waiting for you."

Bai Zemin could feel his heart beating fiercely at this point. He almost fainted in fear thinking that his dear sister was going to do something else but seeing her worried eyes he couldn't help but blame himself a little.

Evidently, what happened in the battle against Thao Zhi under the sea was something that Meng Qi still remembered vividly. Therefore, battles under the sea for her were the equivalent of nightmares.

This time it was he the one who stepped forward, and after a gentle but long hug he stepped back again, "I promise you that everything will be fine. I'll be back. We'll be back."

Meng Qi smiled and nodded. Since he promised then he would definitely do it.

Bai Zemin made a few more orders and also pointed out that if they did not return within two days they should go back to the surface to support the faction. Approximately ten minutes later, the group of three went through the magic portal and appeared directly in deep, dark water.

...

After leaving Hero City, the group of three composed by Bai Zemin, Shangguan Bing Xue, and Feng Tian Wu swam in deep water for approximately 5 kilometers in an easterly direction until they reached a large underwater volcano.

Shui Meiying was supposed to be waiting for them there.

According to what they discussed yesterday, Shui Meiying would take Bai Zemin directly to the place where this "great gift" was.

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Chapter 1250: Into the Pacific Ocean & Uncovered

Indeed, when the group of three led by Bai Zemin arrived at the middle part of the underwater volcano they immediately saw the beautiful figure of the Coral Kingdom's First Princess.

Shui Meiying naturally did not have two legs as before but now there was a long fish tail below her waist. Even from the point of view of a human such as Bai Zemin, he was forced to admit that the shiny scales on Shui Meiying's tail were indeed beautiful; even prettier than Xian Mei'er's, in fact.

"You came." She advanced and nodded with a smile toward Bai Zemin. After bowing slightly in respect and greeting to the other two, she immediately advanced to business, "Can we go now? It will take us about four hours to reach the Coral Kingdom but we will still have to advance for another six hours if we want to reach the Mariana Trench."

Today's Earth was tens or even hundreds of times larger compared to the past. If the oceans of the old Earth were already large, one could only imagine how vast and wide they had become now. Furthermore, since Bai Zemin and the two beauties that came with him were land creatures their movement speed would certainly be somewhat affected by the environment they were in.

After a moment's thought, Bai Zemin nodded, "Alright. It's just you coming?"

"If I bring back the entire army that followed me with the goal of stopping and suppressing the threat of the East Sea Kingdom we will draw too much attention." Shui Meiying patiently explained, "The moment my father or someone in my family discovers me they will immediately realize that something is not right. That's why I think it's best for us to draw as little attention to ourselves as possible."

Bai Zemin immediately understood what she was thinking.

"You want to charge straight toward the target?"

"That's right." Shui Meiying nodded with a serious expression and said, "This time I was ordered to stop the advance of the East Sea Kingdom and its Queen before they entered the Pacific Ocean. If my family or anyone close to me knows that I retreated I

will immediately be called back to the palace to explain myself. For more than obvious reasons I think it will be best for everyone to avoid all contact as we probably won't have much time."

Bai Zemin said no more after hearing Shui Meiying's explanation. He nodded, and soon the group of four began swimming in deep water directly toward the Pacific.

On the way, Shui Meiying took the trouble to explain to the three of them the situation of the Coral Kingdom.

Actually, Bai Zemin and the two girls were not too surprised when they learned that the Coral Kingdom had basically become an empty shell, figuratively speaking.

Seeing that none of the three of them showed astonishment, Shui Meiying couldn't help but feel curious, "Could it be that you guys have encountered situations like this before?"

"Twice." Bai Zemin nodded, and after seeing that neither Shangguan Bing Xue nor Feng Tian Wu seemed interested in talking to Shui Meiying he took the trouble to briefly explain, "Two major factions on the surface practically became the backyard of those Higher Existences after their Leaders made bad decisions. Bad from my point of view, that is."

"Definitely bad." Shui Meiying sneered as she led the advance, "Those Higher Existences claim to be gods, heh. Gods? Gods who can't open some old gate, sure. If that's how trashy these so-called gods are then they might as well stop sticking their noses where they shouldn't."

Bai Zemin raised an eyebrow and was secretly inwardly surprised.

'This mermaid princess seems to hate Higher Existences?' Just as Bai Zemin wondered this, Lilith's voice sounded in his head.

"Hehe, I was a little worried before but now it seems to be fine. This little mermaid won't betray you... Well, at least it's safe to say she's an ally until the Higher Existences are expelled. No one knows beyond that."

Bai Zemin nodded silently. In fact, he was thinking the same thing as Lilith.

About three and a half hours later, Shui Meiying stopped and was about to say something when Feng Tian Wu whispered something to Bai Zemin.

His expression changed slightly, but just as he was about to say something Shui Meiying took out three small white pills as bright as pearls.

After handing one to each of them, she explained, "Later on it means we will be entering the Coral Realm. From there on, there will be watchful bacteria everywhere so we will have to use other methods to avoid headaches later."

[Minimalistic Pill (Rare Grade Treasure): Single-use consumable. When consumed, the body will shrink to the size of a miniature stardust speck for 10 hours or until you attack or get attacked. In addition, the life aura will be greatly reduced making it difficult to be detected by enemies with not fully developed intelligence within a certain range].

Bai Zemin was very surprised when he saw this consumable pill. In fact, he was not the only one surprised because Shangguan Bing Xue and Feng Tian Wu had a similar feeling.

Actually, the Transcendent faction had also managed to obtain consumable treasures after killing some enemies. Yet, this was the first time they had seen this particular type of consumable.

Under normal circumstances, the Minimalistic Pill would not be of much use. Particularly because the reduced life aura could only fool living beings with low intelligence. However, this type of consumable treasure was undoubtedly of the best quality when it came to infiltration into dangerous areas or saving one's life in special circumstances.

"Do you have many of these?" Shangguan Bing Xue was cold and indifferent by nature to strangers so she had only given Shui Meiyong a glance before this. However, the appearance of these Minimalistic Pills made her unable to help herself. After all, if they could get their hands on some of these pills the core soul evolvers of their faction might have an extra life card in their pocket.

Shui Meiyong was slightly surprised as she did not expect such a question; certainly not from Shangguan Bing Xue. Yet, she soon smiled bitterly and shook her head, "Only about 50 at most. Although these pills are only Rare grade treasures that disappear after one use you should also be able to see their utility. I had to pay a high price to get 5 even with my status as a princess. I used 1 in the past and these are the last 4 I had left."

Shangguan Bing Xue immediately became demotivated so she nodded and said nothing more.

However, she quickly pulled herself together.

If Shui Meiyong became the Queen of the Coral Kingdom with their help, wouldn't this mean that she would have freedom over the kingdom's treasures? Therefore, Shangguan Bing Xue thought that perhaps they could trade for items or treasures that were far from normal underwater but not particularly difficult to acquire on land.

Indeed, the Minimalistic Pill consumed proved its diabolical efficacy.

The group of four swam at high speeds through the waters of the Pacific Ocean and quickly went deep into the territory of the Coral Kingdom for five hours but did not run into any kind of trouble whatsoever. Even if some life forms other than single-celled life forms programmed to perform simple scouting and observation functions appeared along the way, the four simply circled the area and avoided them easily.

Even if someone sensed their powerful life auras, the speed at which they disappeared was so fast that the sea creatures whose intelligence could not yet compare to that of a fully developed adult human made them doubt their senses.

Best of all, even if their size had shrunk tremendously, their stats were still as high as before they consumed the pill. Therefore, Bai Zemin and the others did not have their movement speed affected at all.

"We will arrive in twenty minutes!"

Shui Meiyong's somewhat anxious voice sounded close to Bai Zemin and the two girls.

Her voice had only fallen when suddenly a powerful aura approached swiftly towards them from a distance. What's more, it was obvious that the other party had already sensed them because the owner of this aura was advancing in a straight line toward them as if they were already in its sights with no intentions of letting them go.

"Not good." Shui Meiyong's expression turned fiery and she quickly exclaimed in a low voice, "We have to kill him quickly or we'll be found out!"

"Who is him?" Bai Zemin asked calmly. Only he knew that if murderous intent began to grow deeper and wider in the depths of his eyes.

On the way here, Bai Zemin realized to his utter surprise that he had underestimated the sea numbers.

The Coral Kingdom alone had to have at least 100 million soldiers; and that was just the ones in plain sight in the territory they covered!

Therefore, he absolutely did not want to be caught when there was still a good 20 minutes to go. If they were found so soon, the King of this kingdom could summon the army with a single command and surround them.

Bai Zemin naturally did not fear. Even if the enemy was a few hundred million, most of them would only be below level 25 and nothing below the Third Order could break through the defense of his physical body; even a scratch would be impossible for them.

However, Bai Zemin did not want any trouble now. This was particularly so because he knew that there were Higher Existences involved, and the suicidal attack by that female

of the dragon race was still vividly present in his memory since had it not been for Khristina he would have died that day.

"He is my father's right hand man!" Shui Meiyong quickly explained with a slightly pale face, "His name is Xuan Yuan and his level is far above mine... Although I don't know how strong he is, the rumors say that even the king is not necessarily his opponent; my father is a soul evolver above level 260 now!"

Level 260? Bai Zemin couldn't help but sneer.

Forget about level 260, even if the enemy was level 300 he would still be slaughtered by him in a breath of time!

This was not him being overconfident and extremely arrogant. Bai Zemin did not underestimate his enemies because he was living proof that underestimating could end one's life. It was just that Bai Zemin was simply 3000% sure that there was no one in the universe whose Soul Power could surpass his in terms of purity!

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