

Chapter 371 - Kicking up a Wave

Ye Liusu, who was hurrying along silently, discovered that a mysterious smile had suddenly appeared on Li Qingshan's face. She immediately thought of a thousand possible reasons for his behaviour, but she could never guess why Li Qingshan was happy.

The hundred treasures pouch was so plentiful that it completely exceeded Li Qingshan's expectations. Let alone the various high level pills, just the sum of spiritual stones that numbered at over ten thousand made him overjoyed.

As the sect master of the Pheasant's Grace mountain, the Golden Pheasant Elder's hundred treasures pouch contained the resources of an entire sect. These resources were not just for him, but for developing the sect as a whole. It had been built up over countless generations, but it had all ended up in Li Qingshan's hands now.

Apart from the spiritual stones and pills, there were a large quantity of spiritual herbs such as Dragontongue grass over three centuries old, five-centuries-old Snowheart orchids, and so on. Every single one of them was worth several thousand spiritual stones at the very least.

If it were not for the sect and its deep heritage, regular Foundation Establishment cultivators would have never been in possession of such items. Even if they could afford them, they would be refined into pills immediately. They would not be stored in hundred treasures pouches.

Because the Pheasant's Grace mountain used Golden Pheasant's plumes as their weapons, there were not a lot of spiritual artifacts. Though, there were three supreme grade spiritual artifacts.

There was a sword with cloud patterns, a piece of bright yellow embroidery, and a small celadon bottle.

Li Qingshan had no idea what their names were, but when he saw the glow they gave off, he took a liking to them. In particular, he found the small bottle to be rather familiar. Suddenly, he remembered where he had seen it. Wasn't this the supreme grade spiritual artifact that had almost fetched ten thousand spiritual stones in the auction below the Green Vine mountain?

The usage of the bottle had once been explained in detail during the auction. It could be filled up with regular water, which would then be converted into spiritual water. It would bring great about benefits whether the spiritual water was used for alchemy, artifact forging, or for watering spiritual herbs.

Only this item out of the three spiritual artifacts had signs of being refined. The sword and embroidery were completely untouched.

When the Golden Pheasant Elder transformed into a golden pheasant in battle, he could not afford to split his focus and control a spiritual artifact at the same time, so he never bothered to refine these two spiritual artifacts. His Golden Pheasant's plume was already his strongest spiritual artifact. However, before Li Qingshan's absolute strength, even an additional supreme grade spiritual artifact would not have been able to change anything.

But aside from those, he failed to find any legendary arcane artifacts. That was not surprising. The world was not overflowing with arcane artifacts like spiritual artifacts. Every single arcane artifact possessed

startling power, which also meant it was extremely difficult to refine. Normally, only large clans or sects possessed them, and they were rarely ever sold. Most Foundation Establishment cultivators just used supreme grade spiritual artifacts.

Even if an arcane artifact appeared on the market, the Golden Pheasant Elder would have never spent an astronomical sum to buy it. The world was at peace, lacking much conflict at all. In particular, cultivators at Foundation Establishment and above often went decades without fighting, so what was the point of buying it? If the small bottle had not been a spiritual artifact that complimented cultivation, the three elders never would have contended for it.

Li Qingshan was already completely satisfied with these three supreme grade spiritual artifacts, particularly with the small, celadon bottle. He could build up a supply of spiritual water in his spare time, which would be quite nice for bathing.

There were also some shiny, metallic ores. Li Qingshan guessed that these were materials for forging artifacts. He had never learnt how to forge artifacts, so he could not recognise them either. Though, just from the glow that they gave off, he knew they were worth quite a lot. They must have been for forging Golden Pheasant's plumes.

Oh right. Speaking of which, he obtained quite a few handfuls of Golden Pheasant's plumes too. They should have been in the range of supreme grade spiritual artifacts, and they even came in a set, which made them the best of the best. Unfortunately, they could only be controlled with the cultivation method of the Pheasant's Grace mountain. He did find the complete Golden Pheasant's Method of the Rising Sun, but Li Qingshan would never practise it.

Afterwards, he opened the Lone Grave Elder's hundred treasures pouch. The contents left Li Qingshan surprised.

All he saw was a tremendous number of corpses. There were all kinds of corpses, male, female, old, and young. Some had been refined, while some remained in their original state. It was such a vicious, horrific sight that it seemed like a living hell.

The Burial Mound mountain was based on refining corpses, so corpses were their most important resource. It was both a consumable and a necessity. In order to find these corpses, who knew how many graves the disciples of the Burial Mound mountain had robbed.

Li Qingshan took out the spiritual stones and pills and moved them to the Golden Pheasant Elder's hundred treasures pouch before passing the Lone Grave Elder's hundred treasures pouch to Xiao An. "This is for you." Among the items he passed over were the two supreme grade spiritual artifacts in the Lone Grave Elder's possession, the bone sceptre and the bronze bangle. They both radiated with yin qi and were related to refining and controlling corpses, so he had no use for them.

After splitting the spoils, Li Qingshan stood up and stretched himself lazily. He grinned. "Let's enter secluded cultivation again!"

This time, his objective was reaching the third layer of the Spirit Turtle's Method of Sea Suppression. That way, he would be able to suppress the daemon qi from the ox demon and tiger demon perfectly, just in case he would give himself away after reaching the third layer of the tiger demon.

The flames in Xiao An's eyes flickered. She was actually thinking of something else. After undergoing the heavenly tribulation, her cultivation had increased drastically, but at the same time, she had reached a new bottleneck. Without sufficient comprehension, the essence of flesh and blood would not be enough to increase her cultivation of the Path of White Bone and Great Beauty.

However, it would be perfect for her to continue forging Skull Prayer Beads. If nothing went wrong, she would be able to assemble twelve beads into a string and forge her first white bone spiritual artifact, no, arcane artifact.

Just as the two of them became motivated by their lofty aspirations, Milliped, on the other hand, had already fallen asleep. He curled up on the stone platform as his segments all loosened. He seemed to be very pleased. He would never know what ambition was. All he knew was he could finally lay here and sleep again.

Li Qingshan sat down, took out a pill, and shoved it into his mouth. His mind gradually settled down, entering a state of thoughtlessness.

However, little did he know that his stunt on the Green Vine mountain had already led to a great uproar in the cultivation world.

At the centre of where all these waves came from, Yu Shukuang and the disciples of the Green Vine mountain fled in all directions.

Only when Yu Shukuang looked back at the mist-shrouded Green Vine mountain and saw no one in pursuit did he relax. He collapsed on his bottom and heaved for air. He had experienced a bloody career in the jianghu, where his life was constantly at risk. Originally, he thought there was nothing that could scare him anymore, but just a glance from the scarlet-red eyes had almost been enough for him to roll down the mountain in fright. He was absolutely certain that he would be a dead man already if a slash went his way.

Just like how monkeys would disperse when the tree collapsed, the disciples of the Green Vine mountain fled for their lives under Li Qingshan's pressure. They were afraid Li Qingshan would catch them and finish them off too.

Yu Shukuang looked around. All that was left beside him was Yu Lian.

"Foster father, where do we go now?" Yu Lian was still mellow like before, just much more mature. He was originally Yu Shukuang's trusted disciple. After gaining a stable footing in the Green Vine mountain, Yu Shukuang had brought him over. They were no longer master and disciple, so Yu Lian took Yu Shukuang as his foster father.

Yu Shukuang said, "We definitely can't go back to the Green Vine mountain. That's not a safe place. Who knows when the daemon might attack again. With our cultivation, we're like lambs to the slaughter. Why don't we just go back to the Proud Sword manor?"

After two years of arduous cultivation, coupled with the tremendous resources from the Green Vine mountain, he had reached the fourth layer, while Yu Lian had reached the second layer. Although they had both undergone important breakthroughs in their lives, they were still at the very bottom of the cultivation world. They could not even withstand a single slash from the daemon.

“If the daemons launch a large-scale attack, the Proud Sword manor probably won’t be safe either. There’s a tunnel leading underground just outside the city. Why don’t we go to Clear River city and seek shelter under junior sister?” Yu Lian came up with an idea and stated it.

“This...” Yu Shukuang found it rather embarrassing to seek shelter under his daughter as a father.

“Junior brother Yu is right. Brother Yu, you should stop hesitating. I plan to go to Clear River city too.” Diao Fei emerged from behind a large tree. His cultivation had already reached an impressive sixth layer, having split open his sea of qi. Once he reported this matter to commander Wang, it should be enough to earn him a position as a Scarlet Wolf guard.

“First senior brother, you’re here too!” Yu Shukuang beamed. Although an additional Diao Fei would still not be enough to withstand a single slash from the daemon, at least he felt slightly safer.

The two of them had become acquainted two years ago. They were not close friends, but they did know each other at the very least.

Yu Shukuang respected Diao Fei for his powerful cultivation, while Diao Fei knew Yu Shukuang had a daughter called Yu Zijian cultivating in the Academy of the Hundred Schools. With her Pure Yang constitution, she earned the favour of the leader of the school of Daoism, so he would never try to disrespect Yu Shukuang either.

“How terrifying!” Diao Fei sighed. After reaching the sixth layer, he had become the first senior brother of the Green Vine mountain. He felt rather proud and content with himself, holding his head high. However, only after witnessing that unstoppable power tonight did he understand that he was just a slightly larger shrimp in the cultivation world with his measly cultivation.

Yu Shukuang agreed with that statement from the bottom of his heart. He sighed along with him.

“So what do you think, brother Yu? If we travel together, we can look after one another once we reach Clear River city.” Diao Fei had heard that Yu Zijian was familiar with the Hua family. If anything happened, he could get her to mediate any potential problems.

Seeing Diao Fei, Yu Shukuang suddenly thought of a certain person. Back then, they had only managed to strike a conversation because of him.

I might not be able to seek shelter under Zijian, but I can seek shelter under him!

That’s right, the person Yu Shukuang was thinking about was Li Qingshan. It was all thanks to Li Qingshan’s assistance that he had managed to reach where he was today. He could be regarded as half a subordinate of Li Qingshan. If he sought shelter under Li Qingshan, it would not be embarrassing. Yu Shukuang had heard that he had made quite a name for himself in the academy.

If he knew that the exact person who had scared him away was Li Qingshan, who knew how he would react.

“Alright, let’s go then!”

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“Is that true?”

After hearing the report from Diao Fei, Wang Pushi's eyebrows scrunched up into a mess. A Daemon General had actually killed the elders of the three mountains. It sounded unbelievable no matter how he heard it. With how crafty those three old men were, couldn't they just escape if they could not win?

Then he checked Diao Fei and saw that he was unscathed. If the Daemon General was so arrogant and powerful, why did he let them go alive? That was why he asked for confirmation.

"Absolutely. If you don't believe me, commander, I've brought two of my junior brothers with me. The other senior and junior brothers have all seen it too. The news should spread before long. I hope this is sufficient time for the commander to make a decision."

"Come with me!" Wang Pushi leapt up from his seat. Recently, the conflict between humans and daemons had grown more and more violent. It was not restricted to the Clear River prefecture or the Ruyi commandery. Instead, the entire Green province was smoking with the signs of war.

However, something like a Daemon General killing a Foundation Establishment cultivator was still unheard of, let alone killing three at the same time. If it really were true, then it would be a colossal case. He would have to report this to commander Gu immediately so that she could make a decision on the matter.

Chapter 372 - Gu Yanying's Mission

Diao Fei arrived in a square room in the corner of the building, but the room was empty. The snow-white walls, floor, and ceiling were covered with inscriptions containing many grooves.

Wang Pushi filled the grooves with spiritual stones and activated the formation. With a flash of light, a figure appeared in the room, only stabilising after flickering a bit. It was an envoy in black, who bowed. "Sir, you've activated the Projection formation. What's the matter?"

"Commander Wang Pushi of the Clear River prefecture has urgent matters to report. Please let me see ma'am Gu!" Wang Pushi clasped his hands and stressed the word "see".

"Please wait, sir."

Gu Yanying could not help but become rather curious when she heard that Wang Pushi was looking for her urgently, even activating the Projection formation. She arrived in the room with the Projection formation and saw Wang Pushi's figure. She smiled. "Old Wang, what's made you so frantic?"

Wang Pushi bowed before pulling Diao Fei to his side. "Tell her what you just told me."

"Subordinate Diao Fei g- greets ma'am Gu!" Diao Fei lowered his head, afraid to look at the hovering figure in white. He went through everything again, from beginning to end.

Gu Yanying remained as relaxed as before, but her smile did become slightly less wide. She felt rather powerless in the end. Everywhere is smoking with signs of war, so just why must the flames have to end up being lit where I am?

"Do you know where the daemon came from?" He killed no bystanders, only targeting the elders of the three mountains. Not only did this confound Wang Pushi, but it made Gu Yanying sink into her thoughts as well. The pitch-black hand that extended out from the hall and the scarlet-red eyes did make her think of a few things.

However, she dismissed the thought immediately. How was that possible? Daemon and Daemon General were worlds apart. Even if it took him over a century, it would still be rather fast.

“I’m not sure?”

“Do you remember what the daemon looked like?”

“I don’t.” Diao Fei was afraid his gaze would attract the daemon’s attention, so he never dared to look at it properly. He clearly remembered many special characteristics back then, but now, all that was left in his mind were the scarlet eyes that shone like fire.

“Isn’t Chu Shidao in Clear River? Get him to paint him!”

Wang Pushi hurried off to the Academy of the Hundred Schools.

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“Father, what brings you here?” In the Academy of the Hundred Schools, Yu Zijian grabbed Yu Shukuang’s hands in surprise and joy.

Yu Shukuang knew that the matter held great importance, so he was afraid of blabbering about it. As a result, all he said was, “I miss you, so I wanted to see you. What’s wrong with that? Sigh, you really have grown up. You’re just like your mother back then, no, you’re even more beautiful than your mother.”

Yu Zijian wore a set of azure robes for daoist priests. Her black hair was tied up into a bun, and she carried the Nine Yang sword on her back. It was a simple appearance, but it only made her seem brighter and more beautiful, completely pure.

It had only been two years, and she had already reached the fifth layer. Moreover, this was because the slovenly daoist priest wanted her to build a proper foundation. Otherwise, if she just pursued cultivation speed, she would have been even faster. She was like a rough jade that was having its outer layer of rock being slowly chipped away. Just the slightest glimmer seemed to be magnificent. Her figure had become beautiful before she knew it.

“There’s nothing wrong with that. In the past, you wouldn’t even come when I wanted you to come. Did something happen at home?” Yu Zijian asked in doubt.

Yu Shukuang knew his daughter was not as easy to coax as before, so he whispered, “I can’t tell you right now. I’ll tell you later.”

“Acting all mysterious, huh? Oh, have you heard anything about Niu Juxia lately?” Yu Zijian’s bright face immediately became dyed with a hint of worry.

This question again!

Yu Shukuang and Yu Lian exchanged glances. Yu Shukuang smiled bitterly. “Don’t worry. He’s doing much better than you!”

“How do you know this? You have news about him, don’t you?” Yu Zijian grabbed Yu Shukuang’s arm firmly and asked urgently.

You're the one who told me! The only reason Yu Shukuang had received news about Li Qingshan was because Yu Zijian had mentioned the interesting matters happening in the academy at the time. However, he obviously could not just tell her something like, Your father has sworn an oath on his own moral character about this, alright? I do have news about him, but I can't tell you about it. This is what he wanted.

"Is he really fine?"

"He really is fine."

"Then why hasn't he come to find me? So much for worrying for him." Yu Zijian felt like a huge burden had been lifted from her shoulders. She began to smile, wandering off in her thoughts again.

Yu Shukuang, on the other hand, was worried. Don't tell me this girl has actually taken a liking to Li Qingshan? She's still so attached to him even after two years. She has already grown into a proper lady now. Sigh, when men grow up, they get married. When women grow up, they get married off.

Green Vine had rambled about something like severing his ties and devoting himself to cultivation, but he never believed that. He understood the pain of loneliness the best. How could you go without a companion in this world?

He had to properly keep an eye over this aspect for her. The kid is a little stubborn, but aside from that, he's not a bad choice. Should I tell her his identity? I'll need to bring it up with him the next time I see him.

Yu Zijian brought Yu Shukuang and Yu Lian around on Wuwei island happily, and as a result, Yu Shukuang began to ask about Li Qingshan like it was an accident.

"Oh, you're talking about senior brother Li, right? He's already reached the eighth layer, and he even clashed with the senior brother Chu I mentioned before a while ago. In the end, he defeated him instantly. He's so powerful!"

Yu Shukuang nodded in satisfaction. Now that's the cultivation suitable for my daughter. Once he becomes my son-in-law, he won't bear to scold me anymore, right?

"He spent so much time in the alchemy room with senior sister Ru Xin. When senior sister Han comes out, she'll probably never spare him. Hehe, that's what Chenglu said."

"What's senior sister Ru Xin and senior sister Han about?"

Yu Zijian told Yu Shukuang the gossip enthusiastically and noticed that Yu Shukuang's expression had changed. She asked in surprise, "Father, what's wrong?"

"Oh nothing. Ah, what's this mountain called?" Yu Shukuang laughed dryly. So Li Qingshan is actually the romantic type. Thank god I didn't tell her Niu Juxia's real identity on a whim. I can't let my daughter become involved with someone like him.

Gu Yanying waited for a while, and Wang Pushi returned with a young man. He reported, "Master Chu has already set aside his brush in retirement. He no longer paints. This is his final disciple, Chu Danqing. He can carry out this responsibility too."

Chu Danqing became stunned the moment he saw Gu Yanying. He had seen Chu Shidao paint hundreds of beauties, but none of them could even rival one ten thousandth of her. He sketched an outline of her instinctively inside, but he was immediately left at a loss as to where he should start. Even if he forced himself to paint her, it would completely lack her bearing and charm. It would just be a regular beauty.

“So you’re Chu Danqing. Your master has hidden you away quite well. If you want to stare, you can keep staring later. Get painting!”

Chu Danqing returned to his senses, and he reddened from embarrassment. He turned to Diao Fei and said, “Please close your eyes and try your best to recall the scene back then before relaxing your mind.”

Diao Fei closed his eyes, and Chu Danqing placed a finger on Diao Fei’s forehead. His other hand flew into a flurry, painting on the paper. He recovered his composure.

A weasel-hair brush produced a multitude of colours. Sometimes it furled together, painting with thin strokes; sometimes it unfurled, dabbing heavily with colour. Before long, a colourful painting emerged vividly on the paper.

Chu Danqing exhaled gently and showed Diao Fei the painting first. “Is this what you saw?”

Those nightmarish scarlet eyes filled his vision once more. Diao Fei leapt up in surprise, taking half a step back before finally seeing the entire painting. Above the ruins was a black silhouette, a dark-red, full moon, a raised blade of ice and flying, long hair. The various details lost in his memories had all been retrieved. It was even more detailed and vivid than when he saw it initially.

“Y- yes.”

Wang Pushi could not help but take a look at the painting too. He wanted to see just what figure could kill the elders of the three mountains and frighten Diao Fei so much.

All he saw was a vivid figure in the painting, as if he was about to leap out of the paper and cut him down. He was slightly astounded inside, What a good painting! What killing intent! Would I be this daemon’s opponent?

Then, Chu Danqing lowered his head and presented it before Gu Yanying. Gu Yanying only took a single glance at it before recognising the identity of the person in the painting with her half-demon bloodline. Just like how humans were unable to distinguish between two magpies, special characteristics were basically as obvious as direct markers in the eyes of the same kind.

Wasn’t that the kid?

For once, Wang Pushi found a sliver of surprise on Gu Yanying’s face.

Gu Yanying waved her jade folding fan gently. How strange. How strange!

Back then on the Ice Sword cliff, when she thought he had embarked on a path of demons, he ended up returning as a Hawkwolf guard. When she thought he had chosen a human path of cultivation, he transformed into a daemon again, risking his life to fight for a Daemon General.

In the blink of an eye, he had already become a Daemon General, crossing the barrier that would take many daemons centuries or even a millennia to cross and taking the lives of three Foundation Establishment cultivators the moment he struck.

She had never met such an unpredictable guy. Interesting, interesting!

If that were the case, everything made sense. The reason why he had gone to find the three elders was still for revenge! Because he had originally been a human, he still possessed some benevolence, so he did not cause a massacre.

The rooms several thousand kilometers apart fell silent at the same time as they awaited her orders.

Gu Yanying closed her fan and struck her palm gently. "Hold on. I might pay a visit to the Clear River prefecture. Just send someone over to investigate for now!"

Wang Pushi was rather troubled. "Little Hua and Qiongzhi are both in seclusion. Looks like I'll have to pay a visit myself!"

"You don't have to go. Isn't there a Li Qingshan? I heard he has risen into prominence lately, and he's very strong. Just get him to investigate. When he gets back, get him to write a report for me. I'd like to hear his opinion on this case." Gu Yanying's eyes flickered as she seemed to smile.

Little bro Qingshan, are you really that eager to throw those words back at me?

"Yes. I'll summon him back right now. Is there anything else I can do?" Wang Pushi asked. As it seemed, commander Gu really did pay special regard to Li Qingshan. She had actually handed such an important case to him, even praising his strength. It was unimaginable. However, he struggled to connect this flagrant, reckless daemon in the painting to the primary disciple of the school of Novels, Li Qingshan.

"Old Wang, the things that will happen will happen sooner or later!" Gu Yanying drew out her voice. Then her eyes swiveled. "You've painted very well. You'll definitely surpass your master in the future."

Chu Danqing was slightly taken aback before realising she was speaking to him. When he raised his head, her figure had already vanished. He felt lost inside, yet he also came to a certain understanding. If he looked at the Heavenly Maiden Scatters the Blossoms again, he would definitely see her!

Chapter 373 - The Aura of a King

Li Qingshan moved underground with the group. The twisting and turning path seemed endless. They sometimes moved east and sometimes west. The only constant direction was downwards as they entered even greater depths.

After dealing with the issue of cultivation, he no longer had to think too much about it anymore, so he moved all of his attention back to his mirror image.

Ye Liusu and Ye Liubo led the group at the very front. When they came across any forks in the road, they would make a choice without the slightest hesitation. The caves were quiet. No one in the group spoke. There was not even the sound of footsteps. They all seemed to have become illusionary shadows.

Night roamers are basically natural-born assassins. I wonder just what environment made them like this. Li Qingshan praised secretly. In particular, Ye Liusu was basically floating. Combined with her terrifying

other ability, it was very possible for him to die by her blade even though he was much stronger than her if he was caught off-guard.

They turned into a new cavern. Ye Liubo gazed at the emotionless Ye Liusu, who only cared about advancing forward, and frowned slightly. She lowered her head, and her expression became conflicted as if she was facing a dilemma. Suddenly, she slowed down and arrived at the back of the group. She grabbed Li Qingshan's hand.

"There's something I want to speak to you about."

Just as Li Qingshan became puzzled by her actions, Ye Liubo told him that through the pulses of her aura. She also knew a little about the method that demons used to communicate with one another.

"Ah!" Ye Liubo cried out. She was pulled into Li Qingshan's arms, and the two of them stopped.

Ye Liusu looked back with a frown. The group stopped. The expressions of the night roamers differed. The men were obviously furious, while the women were rather envious.

"You go first. We have some matters to attend to." Li Qingshan lowered his head and gently sniffed Ye Liubo's neck. Her face blushed slightly.

"Be sure to catch up." Ye Liusu's gaze swept past their faces before she continued forwards with the group.

"They're gone now. What do you want to tell me?"

Before he had even finished speaking, Ye Liubo wrapped herself around him like a snake. She kissed his lips and stuck out her tongue. Li Qingshan was slightly surprised, but he refused to back down, so they actually began kissing in a place like this.

A while later, Ye Liubo still showed no intentions of stopping. Li Qingshan's lust was roused, so he forcefully pushed her away and pursed his lips. "You can tell me now."

"Can I trust you?" Ye Liubo's face was filled with mixed emotion, but it was not the bashfulness of a girl in love.

"Looks like all you can trust is me now." Li Qingshan obviously did not believe that Ye Liubo had just become infatuated over him. From how she behaved, she clearly had something important to say.

"I can tell you something of great importance to you, so important that it can save your life. However, you need to promise me two things."

"That doesn't sound very fair."

"The first thing is please don't harm my elder sister!"

"Why do you think I'll harm her?"

"You'll harm her once I tell you this."

"And why are you telling me that?"

"If I don't tell you, she'll harm herself."

"I refuse," Li Qingshan laid out his hands and shrugged.

"Why?"

"What you're trying to say is that she has come up with a lousy idea in an attempt to harm me. But to be honest, I'm not afraid at all." To quite a large extent, Li Qingshan's mirror clone was for scouting ahead. It would be fine even if a clone or two was killed. Once he understood the situation underground, what would be stopping him from avenging his clones?

"There's something else. You have no right to make a deal with me." Li Qingshan's face coldened.

"Then I'll beg you, alright? I can become your servant. I'll serve you. I can even tell you about the situation underground." Ye Liubo felt very powerless. She knew he was right. Even Ye Liusu was completely helpless against him, so just what could she do with her strength?

If it were not for the fact that his personality was not as violent as regular daemons, probably even great king Ye Liusu would not be able to maintain her sense of pride right now. Many of the times, the feeling he gave her was more human than anything else. It was exactly because of this that she was bold enough to negotiate with him. And, from the probing earlier, she had confirmed he was interested in women. With that being the case, she felt like her chances at success had increased by quite a lot.

This was not a joke. Rarely did Daemon Generals underground suddenly change their sense of beauty after transforming, taking a liking to creatures that walked on two legs. They would still treat them as food that could walk around.

"You've finally said what I want to hear." Li Qingshan smiled. What he wanted to know about the most right now was the situation of the night roamers and the situation of Spider Queen Lolth. As long as he could gain a grasp over the bigger picture, just what significance would Ye Liusu's measly scheme towards his mirror image hold?

"Then you're agreeing?" Ye Liubo beamed.

"Can a servant place demands on her master?" Li Qingshan said sternly.

"You!"

"Though, the master can consider the servant's feelings." Li Qingshan rubbed her face with a smile. "Tell me, or I'll consider turning down your allegiance."

"My sister wants to kill you..."

Ye Liubo was helpless. In the end, she still chose to believe him. He could have used more violent methods to interrogate her, or he could have insulted Ye Liusu viciously, but he did not.

"That's not surprising. It's almost written across her face." Li Qingshan curled his lip.

"...by drawing you into the territory of the enemy." However, Ye Liubo's next words finally surprised Li Qingshan.

"Wait, you said the enemy? Who can still be her enemy in the underground world?" As someone who had been awarded her own territory by the Spider Queen, even other daemons could not just kill her.

“Night roamers from other clans, obviously.”

As it turned out, the night roamers underground were not united. Instead, they were split into a few major clans. Spider Queen Lolth forbade open conflict, but she did advocate for chaos and hidden conflict. Coupled with them contending for their interests and resources, the conflicts between the clans were extremely intense.

They could do anything to one another, including assassination, poisoning, or laying traps. As long as no direct evidence was left behind, they could do whatever they wanted. And, these useless failures who left behind evidence would all become sacrifices to the Spider Queen after being judged.

It was possible to imagine just what kind of “welcome” Ye Liusu would receive when she returned underground, entering the territory of other clans. And, in order to silence them, Li Qingshan would definitely be hunted down for being a witness.

“This idea is as stupid as it can get.” Li Qingshan shook his head. This Ye Liusu sure was vicious. She was actually willing to drag herself down with him. Did she really think this would be enough to deal with him?

“My sister has no other choice either. In order to obtain this piece of territory, our Spider Shadow clan has already become the target for attack for many large clans. We’ve sustained very large losses. If she then draws in an enemy like you, it’ll probably be enough to destroy the entire clan. With this idea, even if it’s useless against you, it can still heavily injure those clans.”

If Li Qingshan managed to escape, then the clans would definitely be guilty of killing a leader of a territory and attacking a Daemon General. If he did die, he would definitely drag a lot of people down with him, and the Spider Shadow clan could send someone else to manage this piece of territory.

After thinking through all of this, Li Qingshan really began to admire Ye Liusu. “What an impressive spirit of sacrifice. Liubo, you’re much worse compared to her.”

“I’m only too anxious to see the Spider Shadow clan destroyed and all the night roamers killed. What’s it got to do with us anyway?” Ye Liubo sneered. She was actually filled with hatred towards her own clan. Only then did she look at Li Qingshan eagerly, grabbing his hand and calling out, “Master!”

Li Qingshan’s heart numbed from that. It was impossible for regular people to replicate this seductive feeling. If it were not in consideration for Han Qiongzhi, he probably would have been tempted to do something.

“In consideration for your feelings and loyalty, I’m not going to kill your sister, given that she doesn’t end up killing herself. Actually, she has some use for me.”

Ye Liubo was delighted, but she felt rather strange inside. Originally, she wanted her sister to capture him so that she could toy around with him, but now, she had become his servant instead.

Though, he seemed even more charming now. What attracted her was no longer just that perfect face. With his strength, he would definitely become an important figure who could move around underground freely. Serving him would be much better than being ordered around by the clan. Thinking about it in such a manner, she found that she had made quite a good choice.

In the underground world, the strong preyed on the weak. A handsome or pretty appearance would only turn someone into a toy. Only with great strength could you win everyone over, ruling over all. Strength itself was a form of charm.

“Though, I am curious about the other thing.”

“I want you to protect me.”

“Who wants to harm you?”

“There will definitely be very severe punishments awaiting us after losing the territory. There are just too many people waiting to add insult to injury in the Spider Shadow clan,” Ye Liubo said in resentment but also rather proudly. Now that she was under the protection of a powerful Daemon General, there was nothing the matriarch could do to her!

“Don’t worry. Your master will protect his servant.”

“Thank you, master.” Ye Liubo’s heart warmed up, and she smiled sweetly.

Ye Liusu was currently leading the group of night roamers. They had stopped in the cavern to rest, but she felt slightly uneasy.

At this moment, the two of them returned. Ye Liubo clung onto Li Qingshan’s arm intimately as she smiled gently.

“That’ll do.” Li Qingshan shook off Ye Liubo.

Ye Liubo glanced at him in discontent and said to Ye Liusu, “Big sister, I’ve already told your plan to sir Northmoon.”

Ye Liusu’s heart shuddered. What she worried about the most had happened. She roared, “Liubo!” However, Li Qingshan grabbed her hand as she tried to draw her dagger.

Ye Liubo glanced back without backing down. “Big sister, even if you want to make a sacrifice, you need to ask us first.” As soon as she stated Ye Liusu’s plan, the guards were immediately thrown into an uproar.

“I was saying there was something wrong with the path.” “Ma’am Liusu, is that true?”

They were not ready to sacrifice themselves for the clan, unlike her. It was not like they would be punished for losing the territory anyway. At most, they would just be dragged into the matter slightly.

Ye Liusu said nothing, as if she was admitting to it with her silence.

“From today onwards, I will be leaving the Spider Shadow clan to be sir Northmoon’s servant!”

At this moment, Ye Liubo’s statement caused quite a ripple. This was equivalent to betraying the clan and completely placing her life in Li Qingshan’s hands. If Li Qingshan refused to protect her, there was no way for her to continue living underground.

Li Qingshan smiled. This was probably the legendary aura of a king. If he really did possess the power of a king, was he supposed to be worried about a lack of followers? As long as he possessed sufficient “power”, there was no need for him to worry about a lot of matters.

Chapter 374 - The City of Night Roamers

“Liubo, you’ve actually betrayed the Spider Shadow clan. Do you know the consequences? Do you really trust this daemon so much?” Ye Liusu pointed at Li Qingshan and questioned loudly.

“He’s more trustworthy than the group of old coots! I’d rather die than go back and suffer the insult from those bastards.” Ye Liubo raised her head stubbornly. “I won’t let you die for them either. Sister, why don’t you follow sir Northmoon with me? That way, we won’t have to put up with those old women anymore.”

“Shut up, you traitor! So much for all these years of care from me. You’re an ingrate!”

“I’ll be nice to whoever treats me nicely, which is why I can’t let you die. You’re thick in the skull!”

Both of their chests heaved with intense emotion. Li Qingshan, who had caused all of this, stood to one side with his arms across like he was an outsider. He spoke to break the stalemate,

“Ye Liusu, do you know what Liubo said before she told me the plan?”

When Ye Liusu heard how Ye Liubo had prioritised her safety even at the risk of her own life, her heart trembled, and her anger subsided. She became helpless.

“I only spared you in consideration for Liubo’s feelings. Stop being so stubborn. Actually, it’s perfectly fine even if I slaughter you all here!”

Murderousness surged, and the atmosphere in the cavern immediately froze. Only Ye Liubo smiled.

Through Ye Liubo’s introduction, Li Qingshan had already grasped some of the principles underground. Otherfolk were still not daemons after all. In Spider Queen Lolth’s eyes, a Ye Liusu was nowhere near as important as a strong Daemon General. Even if there was no direct evidence, she would never permit a night roamer to kill him.

In his eyes, the Spider Queen was clearly making use of her authority to scheme, to divide the night roamers so that they turned against one another, wasting away their own strength on one another and preventing them from developing or strengthening.

“I will never betray the clan. This will all be up to the matriarch to decide. I hope you can protect her well.” Before absolute strength, all Ye Liusu could do was bow her head. She was not afraid of sacrificing herself, but she was reluctant to make a pointless sacrifice.

After correcting their path, the group set off once more. Soon after they had left, two black shadows appeared where they had just stopped, whispering among themselves.

“They seem like Ye Liusu and her sister. The voices can’t be wrong.”

“Why would they appear here?”

“Don’t know. Let’s go back and report this to the matriarch. We must make them remain here forever.”

“Yes!”

The loud, emotional dispute between the sisters was like gongs in the quiet night. It had reached an extremely distant place through the web-like caves. The group had already approached the territory of other clans, so they immediately drew over patrolling guards.

A black figure returned in the direction it had come from, while the other merged into the darkness and pursued the group.

Li Qingshan was striding ahead when he suddenly felt that something was amiss. He stopped, and his eyes lit up.

Clang! He drew the ice blade and swung it towards a wall.

Before the blade had even struck anything, it lit up with blinding, golden light. The darkness receded like the tide, and the black figure by the wall stood out clearly.

With a howl, blood spurted across the wall, and a male night roamer fell to the ground. He cried out, “Who are you?” Subsequently, there was another howl.

“Oh no, it’s the Bat Shadow clan!” Ye Liubo lunged over and finished him off.

“Don’t tell me you can’t sense it?” Li Qingshan looked at Ye Liusu. The cultivation of this male night roamer had only reached Ye Liubo’s level.

“Liubo, lead the way and go. I don’t want to be used by someone else.” If his main body was present, he would not mind killing a few people and then comprehending the tiger demon, but this mirror clone only possessed thirty percent of Li Qingshan’s strength. If he fought, he would end up making a fool of himself.

“Alright!” Ye Liubo took off first, and the group immediately hurried off behind her, immediately displaying who was slower or faster with the tailing members in the group. Li Qingshan and Ye Liubo were obviously at the very front.

“My sister hasn’t come.” “Forget about her.”

As soon as Ye Liubo had stopped, Li Qingshan scooped her up and took off with even greater speed.

“But...”

“No buts. She’s asking for it.”

“Sister, come!” Under Li Qingshan’s solemn gaze, Ye Liubo did not dare to act up. All she could do was call out towards her.

Ye Liusu stared at the darkness ahead. She could sense a series of auras hidden extremely well, rapidly approaching her. Her eyes were already filled with determination, but she suddenly heard Ye Liubo’s calls at this moment. She let out a sigh before turning around and drifting off.

“Find a different path! Hide!” Ye Liusu brushed past the guards. The quick-witted ones searched for other caves immediately.

The guard who had fallen to the very back had slower reactions. Just as he was panicking, he suddenly stopped and was reduced to several pieces silently.

In the end, only the three of them kept pace with one another. The caves were deep and gloomy, twisting and turning like the guts of a monster as it rapidly receded around them.

Most of the time, Li Qingshan ran on the walls. He could constantly adjust his position to how the cave extended, but the tailing shadow still grew closer and closer.

Ye Liusu was puzzled. Why was he much slower compared to when she fought him earlier?

Suddenly, the familiar sound of water appeared. The rumbling indicated a waterfall!

The cave was cut off by a roaring, underground river. The river was wide and turbulent, rather similar to the Clear river. If he had not seen it in person, he would have never believed such a vast river could exist underground.

The river was cut off by a huge cavern, falling several hundred meters in a sheer drop. It rumbled deafeningly before continuing onwards. If he had not seen it in person, he would have never believed a waterfall with such a sheer drop could exist underground.

Ye Liubo beamed. "We're here! Once we cross the waterfall, we'll be in the territory of the Spider Shadow clan."

Clang!

When she finished talking, Li Qingshan swung his blade again, clashing with a dagger in the darkness. Sparks flew.

"What strength! What is this light? Why can it neutralise my Night Roaming?"

The black shadow drifted backwards as the crook of his right thumb shattered. He was stunned. The blinding sunlight filled him with suspicion too.

"Let's go!" Li Qingshan leapt into the lake. From the flash of sunlight earlier, he saw two other shadows approaching him. Going with the flow, he had been taken far away from the cave in the blink of an eye, tossed out by the river and falling into the endless darkness with the waterfall.

Li Qingshan extended his right hand. Daemon qi pulsed, and the great waterfall that had surged for thousands of years was immediately severed. Like a roaring dragon, it suddenly poured back into the cave.

The black shadows were just about to pursue when the flood arrived. They halted and used their Night Roaming, disappearing into the darkness. However, the light arrived before the water, causing their disappearing figures to twist. They were pushed back by the water.

This was not a regular flow. Instead, it had been imbued with Li Qingshan's daemon qi, so it possessed startling power.

Ye Liusu widened her eyes. In the underground world, a clash between night roamers was primarily about lurking danger. It was a battle between assassins. She had never seen such a grand attack.

Ye Liubo became even more shocked when she saw this in Li Qingshan's arms. It seemed like she was the one who had launched this attack. Looking at his perfect, handsome face again, she became completely engrossed.

"Here!"

They reached the bottom of the waterfall very soon. Ye Liusu turned into a cave on the side, while in the underground river, a flow lifted up Li Qingshan. He followed her from closely behind.

Boom! Thousands of litres of water slammed down viciously like a clap of thunder. The entire cavern shook slightly. The raging waterfall had never flowed so violently before, but before long, it all turned back to normal.

A few black figures appeared at the top of the waterfall, watching them vanish into the cave. They turned around and left.

"Was that a Daemon General?"

"That's strange. Why didn't he give off any aura?"

"Report this to the matriarch immediately. Ye Liusu has returned. We can't let her return to her territory!"

After moving through the darkness for a while, a few dim specks of light suddenly appeared in Li Qingshan's vision.

A few extremely well-hidden auras circled around, but when they sensed Ye Liubo, they receded silently.

"Welcome to Blacklustre city!" Ye Liubo kissed Li Qingshan's face and climbed out of his arms. As she extended her right arm, a black city appeared before Li Qingshan.

This was a huge cavern of quite a rare size. It was almost the size of Qingyang city, but it was probably a hundred times more prosperous.

Black stone buildings and towers reached towards the dark ceiling at various heights, filling the entire cavern in an unbroken chain, extending to and merging as one with the sloped walls. As a matter of fact, even the walls had been excavated and sculpted, forming structures similar to caves.

There were even signs of excavation on the huge stalactites on the ceiling. Every single structure had a smooth, distinct outline, covered in patterns and inscriptions like black pieces of art.

Specks of light rained down from the dark ceiling, forming a majestic map of stars. It could not rival the actual night sky, but it did give off the glory of the creations of civilisation.

After travelling for so long in the deserted, dark caves, Li Qingshan even felt a hint of intimacy after suddenly seeing so many structures that indicated civilisation. He was rather surprised by how cultured the night roamers were.

At the centre of the city was a black castle. It differed from the style of structures humans built. It was solemn and dignified, noble and refined. It displayed the ingenuity of Night Roaming folk craftsmen.

“Let’s go get some rest there and wait for the matriarch to summon us. Someone has already gone to report this to her.” Ye Liubo slowed down and made her way towards the castle.

“Why don’t we go straight to Cobweb city instead?” Ye Liubo’s suggestion earned another sharp glance from Ye Liusu.

“Isn’t your matriarch here?” Li Qingshan was puzzled.

“The matriarch is in Cobweb city,” Ye Liubo grabbed Li Qingshan’s arm and said gently.

Every clan had a main city, but all the matriarchs would stay in Cobweb city, which was also the Spider Queen’s headquarters.

Figures flickered on the streets, bustling around just like humans. However, it was strangely quiet. Even the steps of the children were silent, and their faces were filled with a certain coldness and calmness that contrasted against their age.

“Your highness.” Seeing the sisters, they all bowed in great respect.

Among the night roamers, a hierarchy was clearly defined. The siblings were the “daughters” of the matriarch, so if regular night roamers disrespected them, they would face extremely severe punishment.

Only when they walked past did the people whisper among themselves,

“Why have high princess Liusu and princess Liubo returned?” “Has something happened to their territory?” “That Daemon General is so handsome. If he could spend a night with me, I’d even be willing to cut my life by a decade short.”

Chapter 375 - Seduction and Trap

“I didn’t think you’d be a princess.” Li Qingshan smiled at Ye Liubo beside him.

“I’m no longer one. I’m your servant now, master.” Ye Liubo tightened her embrace around Li Qingshan’s arm with rippling eyes, causing it to sink into her extraordinarily full chest as she attempted to hide her fear.

“Is the matriarch really so scary?”

“She’s very scary!” Ye Liubo seemed to recall something and shuddered.

“Don’t be scared!” Li Qingshan wrapped his hand around her shoulder.

“Okay.” Ye Liubo gradually settled down, leaning against his chest. Even Ye Liusu would only give her assistance when she was in danger. Never did she completely depend on a person like this.

Along the way, Ye Liusu had constantly paid attention to Li Qingshan’s expressions, but she discovered he was like a sightseeing tourist, studying the structures in the surroundings in great interest.

As for Ye Liubo, she played the role of a tour guide, introducing the history of Blacklusture city to him. Under the influence of his easygoing attitude, she relaxed too, even teasing him from time to time. She did not seem like a defeated enemy who had just lost an important piece of territory at all.

Ye Liusu glanced back and let out an undiscoverable sigh. She was rather envious of her. This piece of territory held extremely great significance to the Spider Shadow clan, or even the entire race of Night Roaming folk.

Without him, it would be a territory where she could see the bright stars and the moon. She could still remember the shock she had experienced when she saw the night sky for the first time. She had personally destroyed the hope of the night roamers returning to the surface.

She clenched her fists such that her nails stabbed into her palms. She was unable to resent Li Qingshan, but she was unable to bring herself to serve a daemon either.

“Ye Liubo, why have you returned? You’ve even brought an outsider to Blacklustre city!”

A sharp, cold voice rang out. Li Qingshan followed the voice and saw a female night roamer standing on a spire of the castle, staring coldly at him.

The thin, upright bridge of her nose demonstrated her coldness and determination. Compared to such a prominent nose, her other features seemed a little obscure, like a sketch. However, once assembled, it completely matched her cold expression. She possessed her own kind of charm, enough for Li Qingshan’s eyes to light up despite having seen the various beauties the night roamers could offer already.

Her dark, blue hair was tied up in a thick, short braid. It was extremely efficient. She wore black leather clothes and pants, with black boots that reached her knees, which outlined her enchanting figure. She carried a dagger on her waist. She was actually no less beautiful than Ye Liusu, and her cultivation was actually greater.

“Big sister Liuxing. We have matters that we want to report to the matriarch. This Daemon General Northmoon is... is an esteemed guest of our clan, so please open the doors.” Ye Liusu bowed politely. She was reluctant to announce the loss of the territory in public.

Ye Liuxing studied Li Qingshan with a dagger-like gaze. Even his handsome appearance failed to faze her cold expression. He could clearly feel her indifference to others.

“Your sisters sure come in different shapes and sizes,” Li Qingshan smiled back at her as he whispered to Ye Liubo.

“It’s not like we’re sisters by blood.” Ye Liubo pouted.

As it turned out, they did not come from the same family. Instead, they became the daughters of the matriarch through their exceptional talent, crowned as regular princesses and high princesses and thus referring to each other as sisters. There was no connection by blood. As for who was older or younger, it was not based on age, but cultivation.

“Welcome back, your highness Liusu. Welcome back, your highness Liubo.”

The door opened loudly and guards stood to both sides, raising their spears and chanting together.

“Sir, please give your weapon to me.” A skinny caretaker in black robes arrived before Li Qingshan.

“Have I brought a weapon?” Li Qingshan waved his hand with a smile, and the ice blade vanished.

The caretaker was taken aback, and Li Qingshan had already walked in with his arm around Ye Liubo. The caretaker was too afraid to stop him. Daemon Generals held extraordinary status in the underground world. Daemons outclassing night roamers was an unspoken rule.

Entering the black hall, there was a water foundation in the centre, depicting a naked woman. The floor was covered in thick, patterned carpet, and the walls were draped with tapestry too, depicting the image of a brightly-coloured spider.

Two flights of stairs merged on the second floor like outspread arms. Ye Liuxing stood there, gazing over coldly.

“Liusu, come with me. Liubo, receive the esteemed guest.”

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“What’s happened?”

Cold wind whistled around the pointy spire. Looking out the window, Blacklustre city seemed to stand below their feet. Ye Liuxing’s icy voice was even colder than the wind.

Ye Liusu told her everything that had happened.

Smack! There was a resonant slap, and Ye Liusu gained a handprint on her face. Blood oozed from the corner of her lips, but she remained exactly where she was.

“Do you know just what this piece of territory means to us? Do you know the price, the number of lives, the clan has given up for it?”

“I do.”

“He must die! And before the matriarch returns.” Ye Liuxing raised her hand again, but she never ended up swinging down. She swung it away viciously.

“I disagree!” Ye Liusu raised her head. Determination flooded her eyes.

“Do you want to undergo the punishment of the snake cavern?”

“I’ll try to convince her otherwise when the matriarch returns.”

“Have you taken a liking to that guy? You want to protect him?” Ye Liuxing grabbed Ye Liusu’s neck. Her cold voice was like a knife placed against Ye Liusu’s throat.

“He’s too powerful, and he has the ability to suppress night roamers. Once you fight him, it’ll be a heavy loss for us regardless of the outcome.” Ye Liusu was unfazed. She remained determined.

“We’re assassins. We’re supposed to defeat the strong as the weak.” Ye Liuxing pushed her against the wall viciously before embracing her again. However, under her clear, cold and indifferent gaze, she let go and went downstairs.

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“Where’s this?”

Li Qingshan stood in a wonderful room with a fragrance permeating the air. The oval mirror reflected Ye Liubo's magnificent figure.

"It's my room, of course." Ye Liubo used the mirror to comb out a few messy strands of hair before throwing herself into Li Qingshan's arms. She raised her head and said, "How did you do it just then?"

"I used a hundred treasures pouch obviously," Li Qingshan said, acting like it was common sense. Before he had set off, he had filled the hundred treasures pouch he had brought with him with a few items that might be useful. That included over a dozen supreme grade talismans he had obtained as the spoils of his battles. If they actually began fighting, he could guarantee that he still possessed the power to kill.

After going through the heavenly tribulation, the nature of his daemon qi had changed. Not only could it refine spiritual artifacts, but it could activate talismans too. However, it was still unable to open the Soaring Dragon Elder's sumeru ring, leaving him still at a loss about what the black ox had left him.

"A hundred treasures pouch!" Ye Liubo was rather surprised.

"Are hundred treasures pouches very rare?" Only then did Li Qingshan notice that Liubo was not carrying any essential items like the cultivators above ground.

"Of course. You can only obtain one from the clan once you've undergone the heavenly tribulation."

Night roamers could forge artifacts, but they could not forge hundred treasures pouch. All the hundred treasures pouches underground had come from exploring cultivators who had gotten themselves killed. As a result, there were very few of them.

"I even guarded a few caves for a very long time, but there were no cultivators who came down to explore. How strange." Ye Liubo pouted, while Li Qingshan knew he had completely annihilated the cultivators last time, so why would any of them still venture underground to come die?

"I'll give you one once we return to my territory." What Li Qingshan lacked the least right now were hundred treasures pouches. He had piles of them and no way to dispose of them.

"Really? Thank you, master." Ye Liusu kissed Li Qingshan in surprise and joy before gently pushing him onto the bed at the centre of the room. Afterwards, she writhed around, taking off her black armour, only leaving her silken undergarments that covered her bare vitals on and throwing herself onto Li Qingshan.

"What are you trying to do?" Li Qingshan held Ye Liubo by the shoulder, but he saw a "ripple" on her chest that really did live up to her name.

TL: If you haven't realised, the three sisters introduced so far differ only by a single character in their names: Ye Liusu, Ye Liubo and Ye Liuxing. In this case, bo means ripple.

"It'll be a while before the matriarch returns, so allow me to properly service master." Ye Liubo undid Li Qingshan's waistband eagerly.

This lustfulness immediately reminded Li Qingshan of himself. The enchanting, almost naked body constantly rubbed against him. Li Qingshan also felt lust rise up in his crotch. He let out a sigh before pushing Ye Liubo away.

“What’s wrong?” Ye Liubo was stunned.

“I’ve made a promise with someone that I belong to her.” Li Qingshan laid out his hand helplessly.

“A woman?” Ye Liubo gasped.

“Of course,” Li Qingshan said in exasperation.

“Then I don’t have to worry. It’s not like she’s here anyway.” Ye Liubo smiled again, bending over and kissing Li Qingshan.

“Now’s that the exact reason why a promise was made.” Li Qingshan grabbed her forcefully by the shoulder, but the pair before her jiggled slightly. It was quite the eye candy.

“My great master, I beg you. Liubo wants it.” Ye Liubo’s eyes rippled as she bit her knuckle and moved her slender legs around, with a hand pressing down in between.

“If you want it, just go find another man.” Li Qingshan’s breathing sped up. If it were not for the Spirit Turtle’s Method of Sea Suppression, he really had no idea what he would end up doing.

“How can I lust for another man once I’ve seen you? You can just treat it as doing something good by accompanying me, alright? I’ll definitely be completely devoted to master in the future,” Ye Liubo “grumbled”.

“A master has no duty to fulfill his servant.” Li Qingshan patted her face with a smile and stood up.

“If you won’t do it with me, I’ll deal with it myself.”

“You’re more than welcome to.” Li Qingshan saw a bookshelf in a corner of the room. He went over and pulled out a book. The characters inside were exactly the same as what humans used, except the writing was very beautiful. He heard a clear moan from behind, which made him grin.

Seeing Li Qingshan look over, Ye Liubo became even more complacent and let out even louder sounds. Li Qingshan just moved a chair over and sat down before the bed, admiring what was going on. Watching it was not letting down Qiongzhi, right? Even though it was in person.

No matter how Ye Liubo tried, Li Qingshan had no intentions of climbing into bed, which left her defeated.

Thump! Thump! Thump! Ye Liuxing walked in after knocking the door and saw Ye Liubo on the bed. She actually let out a smile, like the ice had cracked open, allowing water to spill out.

“Sir Northmoon, would you like us to accompany you together?”

Chapter 376 - Who Dares to Kill Me?

Even an idiot can tell that you’re up to no good. If you’re thinking of seduction, you’d better learn from the one on the bed!

If Ye Liusu was slightly chilly, then Ye Liuxing was basically ice-cold. Regular men would all lose interest from just a single glance of her.

“Alright!”

Li Qingshan had to admit that he was very curious about how she would seduce him. Her icy-cold attitude roused the desire to conquer within men more easily. Was this all a part of her plan?

Ye Liuxing took a few steps forward and sat down on Li Qingshan's lap stiffly before wrapping her arms around his neck. Clear disgust filled her face.

"Master, don't!" Ye Liubo objected loudly, but she received a sharp glance from Ye Liuxing. With her lingering fear of her, Ye Liubo immediately shut her mouth.

Li Qingshan gave Ye Liubo a glance, telling her not to worry. He smiled as he wanted to see what else Ye Liuxing wanted to do. If he could get an erotic show for free, it would be worth it.

Her cold lips pressed against his own, while her tongue entered his mouth like a slippery snake.

"Be careful! There's poison!" Ye Liubo warned loudly despite the consequences, but it was already too late.

Ye Liuxing pulled back the tip of her tongue, and a poisonous pill shot into Li Qingshan's throat. A sickly sweetness immediately filled his mouth as his stomach began to burn.

"Hmph, you foolish man. Even if you're a Daemon General, it makes no difference at all!" Ye Liuxing sneered inside. She had refined this poisonous pill from the venom of Underground Mottled spiders. Just a single, tiny pill could easily poison a hundred people to death.

Just when Ye Liuxing wanted to break out of Li Qingshan's embrace, draw her dagger, and give Li Qingshan a fatal strike, his steel-like arms tightened around her. All the air was immediately squeezed out of Ye Liuxing as her body crackled.

Right now, the two of them were still stuck in an intense kiss. Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow and sprayed out all the digested poison.

Hmph, why don't you investigate what kind of daemon you're targeting before you use this move? Can't you see the huge pair of ox horns on my head? This isn't a supernatural ability, but a mere habit. Cows regurgitate and chew cud.

"Hmmp!" Ye Liuxin wanted to turn away, but a huge hand pressed against her from behind, forcing them to continue kissing. Although the mirror image only possessed thirty percent of his strength, this was still enough to overwhelm night roamers who did not pride themselves in physical strength.

In the blink of an eye, the poison entered Ye Liuxing's body, and only then did Li Qingshan stop. The residual poison did have some effect on him, but with how tough his body was, he would only experience a stomach ache at most even if he digested the entire poisonous pill.

Without any hesitation, Ye Liuxing used Night Roaming and broke away from him. She drew her dagger and stabbed it at Li Qingshan's heart. She moved with lightning speed, completing all of that in a single stroke.

"Master!" Ye Liubo cried out.

Li Qingshan sniggered. Sunlight destroyed her Night Roaming, and the tremors injured her body.

Clang! The dagger slid out of her hand, falling onto the ground, and her hand that wielded it drooped powerlessly. She could not even raise a finger now.

Honestly, Li Qingshan stood no chance at all against Ye Liuxing with thirty percent of his strength, but she tried scheming against him instead, engaging him in close combat. She really had been asking for this.

No longer suppressed by spiritual qi, the poison spread to her face immediately. The colour of her skin changed, and her entire body fell into numbness and pain. The shade of death immediately enveloped her. Her fate was completely within his hands now. She felt rather regretful for not listening to Ye Liusu.

Li Qingshan stood up, opened the door, and casually tossed her out into the corridor.

Returning to the room, he straightened his chair and said to the dumbfounded Ye Liubo, "Continue!"

If it were not for some other considerations, he would have killed Ye Liuxing then and there. Though, she was poisoned now and half her bones had been crushed by Li Qingshan, so she was unable to cause him any trouble in the near future.

"I refuse! Master refuses to satisfy his servant, so why must his servant satisfy him?" Ye Liubo pouted and put on her armour again, but the obscene atmosphere in the room did not disperse so quickly.

"Then show me around instead!" Li Qingshan smiled. It was rare for him to venture underground, so how could he go without properly sightseeing?

When he opened the door again, Ye Liuxing had already vanished.

Just when he reached the end of the corridor, the caretaker in black arrived and reported, "Sir Northmoon, the matriarch has returned. She's invited you to dine with her."

"How quick!" Li Qingshan saw Ye Liubo shiver, so he grabbed her hand. It was rather slippery from sweat.

Li Qingshan followed the caretaker and arrived in a hall within the depths of the castle. The seats were already arranged and filled.

A total of fourteen people sat there. The seat at the very centre was occupied by a woman in a wonderful, long dress. She wore a spider-shaped ornament in her hair, a spider-shaped necklace around her neck, and a spider-shaped ring on her finger.

She was the night roamer with the most accessories Li Qingshan had seen so far. She actually seemed rather similar to Ye Liusu. If it were not for the mature sense of charm she gave off, he almost would have mistaken her to be Ye Liusu's elder sister.

Her aura was completely hidden away, but Li Qingshan could estimate from his instincts that she was probably no weaker than the slovenly daoist priest from the academy. She was close to the second heavenly tribulation and could not be underestimated.

To the left of the matriarch sat Ye Liuxing. Her gaze towards Li Qingshan was bone-chillingly cold, but her complexion was quite bad. It must have taken her everything to prop herself up like that. The second person was a woman Li Qingshan had never seen before; her appearance was so ordinary that it

was almost unbecoming of a night roamer. The third was Ye Liusu, who stared straight ahead, without even glancing at Li Qingshan.

The fourth seat was empty. Ye Liubo let go of Li Qingshan's hand and made her way over, sitting down with extreme caution. The next three all possessed cultivations that paled slightly in comparison to Ye Liubo's, but they were all very young.

Li Qingshan understood now. These were all the so-called princesses and high princesses, the daughters of the matriarch.

The people who sat on the other side were much older. They consisted of both middle-aged women and old women; there were even two men among them. They had a total of six people, all at Foundation Establishment and all giving off a heavy, powerful aura. Ye Liubo had mentioned them to Li Qingshan before. They were the elders of the Spider Shadow clan.

In other words, a total of ten powerful night roamers who had all undergone the first heavenly tribulation sat there. Every single one of them were terrifying assassins who could defeat those much more powerful than themselves. Calling this place the belly of the beast would be no exaggeration at all.

If Li Qingshan were just a little less bold, he probably would have turned around and fled in fright already. However, he only smiled as he walked over.

"What a warm welcome."

This was how powerful a single clan of night roamers were. If all the clans banded together, it would be a dominating force. It was no wonder that the Spider Queen wanted to impinge upon their development.

The door closed loudly behind Li Qingshan, trapping him together with ten powerful night roamer assassins. The place felt like a jar of gu for them to fight each other to death.

"I've heard about your great name, sir Northmoon. I'm Ye Mingzhu. Please be seated."

Sitting in the main seat, the matriarch of the Spider Shadow clan, Ye Mingzhu, said with a smile, as if she had no idea Li Qingshan had taken her clan's territory at all. When she received the news, she had immediately rushed back with the force of the entire clan to "resolve" this issue.

She extended her arm elegantly to the side of the elders, pointing towards the empty seat at the end. She gave off an aura of dominance. When she spoke, she was polite, but it left no room for objection either.

Everyone sat there silently, watching Li Qingshan intently. They used their silence to strengthen Ye Mingzhu's authority. They were assassins. They lived in silence. In this silent moment of death, they would not erupt with curses or make a ruckus. All they would do was use the deadly points of their daggers to speak.

"I can't see my seat?" The atmosphere in the room immediately became much more tense with that. All the elders placed their hands on the weapons on their waist. In this underground world, this was an insult to the matriarch. There were very few people and daemons who were bold enough to do something like that, and the consequences were often bloodshed and death.

“So you’ve all brought weapons!” Li Qingshan swung his hand, and the ice blade appeared. The girls seated at the very end had almost drawn their daggers.

Ye Mingzhu remained in the same posture. Even her smile remained the same, which made her face seem like a strange yet beautiful mask. The surrounding darkness seemed to grow heavier.

“Oh, here it is!” Li Qingshan finally made his way towards the seat at the end of the table.

Ye Mingzhu pulled her hand back and smiled scornfully. That was all he was. A series of sneers rang out in the surroundings.

Ye Liubo’s tense heart eased up slightly, but when she heard the sneers, it tensed up again. She was filled with various emotions. She was reluctant for him to fall out with the matriarch, but she was reluctant for him to yield to her too.

Suddenly, the sneering stopped, like someone had grabbed them by their throats. Li Qingshan lifted up the heavy, obsidian table and placed it in the centre of the hall. It just happened to line up with Ye Mingzhu’s seat. He checked the orientation of the table once more before finally crossing his legs and sitting down.

“It’s better here. I’ve travelled quite the distance to be your guest. I hope the matriarch doesn’t mind.” He did not care whether she minded or not. He just urged loudly, “Bring the dishes. I just happen to be hungry!”

Ye Mingzhu glanced at the caretaker, and he immediately rang the bell in his hand.

Dishes were served up one by one. There were dishes with meats and without meats, both hot and cold; they were all perfect in scent, colour, and taste. It was no worse than the food above ground.

However, none of them had the appetite. None of them were in the mood to pay attention to these delicious dishes, as their most important territory had just been taken away from them.

That was apart from a daemon, the daemon who had taken their territory. He began feasting by himself, wolfing down the food.

Tasting all of the delicacies and drinking all of the finest alcohol the world had to offer was a part of his original oath, so why would he miss such a great opportunity? Regardless of what they wanted, whether it be battle or peace, they could discuss it after the meal. The food of the night roamers had quite the taste. In the blink of an eye, he had polished off the entire table of food. He licked his lips and said, “Not bad. You got any more?”

All the caretaker could do was ring the bell again.

As a result, a group of people simply watched as Li Qingshan feasted alone. The atmosphere became even stranger.

Ye Liubo smiled. Now that’s my master.

“Why aren’t you eating?” Li Qingshan polished off the entire table once more before raising his head.

“If you’re not going to eat, then I’ll take it instead!” With a wave of his hand, over a dozen ripples of water dispersed, moving right towards the food in front of them.

Swish! Swish! Swish! A series of weapons flashed as they were drawn, cutting through the ripples of water. For a moment, everyone brandished their weapons, radiating with murderousness.

“Keep eating. At least you can be a ghost with a full stomach on the road to the afterlife.” An old woman stood up with her hunched back and delivered her food to Li Qingshan while speaking sinisterly.

Li Qingshan laughed out loud, causing the entire room to shake. The plates and cups trembled constantly.

He stopped laughing, leaned forward, and scanned them with his eyes.

“Who dares to kill me!”

Chapter 377 - Arms Dealer

“Such arrogance!”

The old woman took off with speed that contrasted starkly with her age. She drew her dagger and swung out with it at his throat. She struck as quickly as lightning and as viciously as a venomous snake.

The elders all vanished from their seats at the same time, appearing around Li Qingshan silently. Six deadly weapons stabbed towards six vital points, weaving into a net of death.

Just who could survive an attack like that?

Li Qingshan lifted his cup and took a sip. His clear gaze passed over the thicket of weapons. Ye Mingzhu sat exactly where she was with a slight frown.

The weapons stopped. The tip of the old woman’s dagger was only an inch away from his neck. As he took a gulp of alcohol, his Adam’s apple surged, almost running into the dagger.

“Back down. Did I tell you to attack?” Ye Mingzhu waved her hand, and the elders immediately returned to their seats, as if nothing had happened at all.

After hearing Ye Liusu’s report, the first thing Ye Mingzhu thought of was, Kill!

But subsequently, various doubts arose. He clearly knew there was great danger, so why did he still come? If they cornered him, just what losses would the clan suffer?

That was why the banquet had occurred today. As long as he showed even just a single hint of weakness, they would tear him apart.

However, he showed none of it with his behaviour. If he was not a madman, then it meant he had something he could rely on. This nonchalant attitude definitely was not an act.

In the blink of an eye, Ye Mingzhu made a decision. She stood up and made her way to his side as she swung her hips around, personally filling his cup for him. “Sir Nothmoon, just what do you want?”

“Respect.” Li Qingshan shook the cup with a smile, causing the alcohol to ripple.

His answer left everyone stunned. He had taken such great risk to join the banquet of the night roamers. Whether he demanded for territory, treasure, or women, none of it would have been strange. However, he was demanding a concept that was very foreign to regular daemons.

“Just that?” Ye Mingzhu furrowed her brows.

“Respect comes before anything else. Let me just ask you a question. Do you want to become the strongest clan of night roamers?”

“What if I answer I do?”

“Then I can assist you.”

This time, it was Ye Mingzhu’s turn to laugh. The Spider Demon clan was currently in a precarious situation and losing the territory only made matters worse. He was their greatest enemy, yet he actually said he could assist her in making them the strongest clan of night roamers.

Everyone present found this unimaginable, and their gazes towards Li Qingshan became even more hostile.

However, this only continued until Li Qingshan pulled out a stack of talismans and spread them out on the table.

“You’re going to make our clan become the strongest just with these?” Ye Mingzhu sneered, but she was secretly surprised inside. Night roamers lacked the ability to create talismans, but she understood the power of talismans very well. In battles of great danger, a single talisman was enough to turn the tides.

Fortunately, they had not fallen out, or these dozen or so supreme grade talismans would have been enough to drag a few of them down with him.

“I have a few thousand talismans like these. Of course, there are fewer at the supreme and high grades and more at the mid and low grades.” Then, Li Qingshan planted his ice blade into the table. “I have over a thousand spiritual artifacts like this too. Of course, they’re like the talismans. Oh right, I didn’t bring any of them with me.”

This time, Ye Mingzhu was unable to laugh any further. Her perky chest heaved. The elders were all shocked. They knew exactly what this sum of resources meant to the clan.

Mid and low grade talismans could not be dismissed as useless. After all, night roamers with mediocre cultivation happened to be the majority. Among the many battles outside, these talismans and spiritual artifacts could give them the upper hand and strengthen the foundations of the Spider Shadow clan.

This would completely change the situation underground!

If it were not for what Li Qingshan had added at the end, they would even be tempted to just slaughter and rob him regardless of the consequences.

Through his observations and communication with Ye Liubo, he had discovered that the night roamers were extremely behind in aspects like forging artifacts and talismans. They were nowhere close to the humans above ground, but that made sense too. They had spent thousands of years underground

beneath the powerful reign of daemons. There was little to no exchange between the races. It would truly be unbelievable if their civilisation was more advanced than above ground.

Afterwards, he immediately remembered the huge piles of things he had accumulated in his hundred treasures pouch. It was pointless for him to keep them, but he was afraid of selling them too. Even if he sold them through some special avenues, the prices they would fetch for would be pitifully low. Peace had lasted for too long. These standard items for battle had fallen out of demand.

As a result, he realised that the night roamers before him just happened to be his best buyer.

“Oh right, I have over a thousand hundred treasures pouches too.”

An elder immediately crushed the cup in her hand.

“What do you want?” Ye Mingzhu truly lived up to her name as the influential matriarch. She calmed down very soon and asked the most important question.

“Spiritual herbs, as long as they’re old enough.” Li Qingshan had considered this beforehand. The underground world had plenty of spiritual herbs centuries or even millennia old. Daemons did not know alchemy, and while the night roamers did know a little, they mostly used the toxicity of certain spiritual herbs, extracting it to spike food and drinks or smearing it on their weapons. It was extremely wasteful.

But in the human world, any spiritual herb that was old enough could definitely be used in multiple pill formulas. Once they surpassed a millennium in age, their worth would skyrocket.

“If sir Northmoon had mentioned it earlier, would any of these misunderstandings have happened at all?” Ye Mingzhu smiled like a blossoming flower.

During times of war, people were willing to exchange their food for a gun so that they could kill their enemies. Moreover, these spiritual herbs were not even a crucial resource to the night roamers. Their cultivation methods were essentially all based on accumulation over time and comprehension. If they could exchange spiritual herbs for weapons, it would be for the best.

Li Qingshan thought, If I had tried to negotiate right from the start, demanding these conditions, this mirror clone probably would have been finished off already. Neither of us are honest, good people. The weak are not worthy of cooperating with the strong.

With that, the atmosphere in the room changed drastically. Ye Mingzhu saw how Li Qingshan had finished his food, so she said, “Get the kitchen to serve more. Sir Northmoon, if you’re hungry, then please make do with my serving for now! Where are the performances and shows?”

The caretaker went off in a hurry to arrange these matters. A while later, a group of male night roamers actually appeared to perform. Every single one of them was extremely handsome, and they were all bare-chested in shorts. They performed a fierce sword dance.

The elders proposed toasts to after another as they all smiled from ear to ear.

Li Qingshan felt like an international arms dealer doing business with a group of African warlords.

Ye Liuxing’s face was still frosty, but she had no choice but to toast him too. Ye Liusu seemed slightly lost. She had no idea whether meeting him was a good or a bad thing.

Master is so powerful! Ye Liubo calmed down. She was overjoyed, and her eyes became completely fixed on Li Qingshan.

After both the host and guest had all dined to their heart's content, Ye Mingzhu smiled charmingly with a slight blush. "You've finished eating, haven't you, sir Northmoon? We can talk about the details of the deal in my room later. I need to tend to some matters of the clan first."

Her face immediately coldened. "Ye Liusu, Ye Liubo, kneel!"

Chapter 378 - Cobweb City

Ye Liusu had been expecting this, but Ye Liubo's expression changed. She was afraid of defying the matriarch's orders, so she glanced at Li Qingshan before kneeling down in the hall.

"Do you understand your crimes?"

"I understand my crimes." Ye Liusu bent over. All Ye Liubo could do was lower her head too.

"Elder Mingjing, how should they be punished for their crimes?"

"They've lost the territory. They should be punished in the snake cavern," the old woman said coldly.

"Yes." Ye Liusu did not object at all.

Ye Liubo trembled as fear filled her face. She felt a hand land on her head, and Li Qingshan said, "Liubo has already accepted me as her master. She's no longer bound to your rules." Only then did she ease up.

"Traitors of the clan should be put to death by slow slicing!"

"Matriarch Ye."

Ye Liubo looked at Li Qingshan, like a person in despair desperately reaching for her last ray of hope. Li Qingshan looked at Ye Mingzhu. Do you really still want to put on your airs as a matriarch at a time like this?

"Sir Northmoon, you're making this difficult for me. The rules of the clan cannot be defied. There is no room for discussion here! However, in consideration of our friendship, I'm willing to compensate you. Liushui, Liuyun."

"What are your orders, matriarch?" Two girls who originally sat further down from Ye Liubo walked over. They were both rare beauties too.

"From today onwards, you are sir Northmoon's servants. You'll do whatever sir Northmoon wants you to do."

"Yes!" The two of them answered together.

"One for two. That's not a bad deal." Li Qingshan smiled.

"Master!" Ye Liubo turned ashen as she wailed out.

"However, that won't work."

“Are you dissatisfied with this compensation, sir Northmoon? If that’s the case, let me know what you want. The Night Roaming folk might be lacking in various aspects, but the number of beauties we have is not one of them. If there’s any of my daughters who’ve caught your eyes, just let me know.”

“Really?” Li Qingshan looked at Ye Liusu on the ground before glancing at Ye Liuxing, which made her heart tighten.

Throughout this process, Ye Liubo felt like her heart had sunken into a cavern of ice, filled with coldness. In the underground world, betrayal was commonplace. This was not the first place she had tasted betrayal. However, it was the first time she felt so despaired and furious. She could not help but mock herself. Did she really just believe him? Believe that he would protect her?

Li Qingshan scanned past Ye Mingzhu’s daughters before returning his gaze to Ye Mingzhu. He said slowly, “Respect, respect.”

“What do you mean?”

“As my servant, there’s nothing wrong even if she has to die for me. However, she’s a servant, not goods. Even if I’m the master, I must respect that. I can’t just betray her like this. So, even if you offer me a higher price, I still won’t accept.”

“Master.” Ye Liubo raised her head in disbelief, gazing at his face. She felt like her heart had risen from hell to heaven. She actually could not help but tear up slightly.

Ye Liusu was touched too. She stopped worrying. As it seems, Liubo hasn’t chosen the wrong person this time.

Ye Mingzhu frowned. “I find this to be quite a pity. For the sake of an insignificant bitch, you’re damaging the long-term relationship between us. Don’t you find it to be quite unworthwhile?”

“To be honest, none of your daughters are worth more than her. Liubo, I never told you to kneel.”

“Yes, master.” Ye Liubo glanced at Ye Mingzhu before standing up slowly, holding her chest high. She felt extremely proud to be able to look down on someone who had once made her bow and scrape.

“If you find this unacceptable, I can go make deals with the other matriarchs. I think they’ll be very willing too.” With that, the atmosphere in the room immediately became tense once more.

“Since you’re so persistent, fine!” Ye Mingzhu let out a sigh. All she could do was hold back her fury. Her face coldened. “Ye Liusu, since you know your crimes already, then you can be punished immediately. Take her away!”

“Sister!” Ye Liubo could not help but call out. The punishment of the snake cavern involved sealing all their strength and being bitten at by thousands of snakes. The venom of the snakes might not be fatal, but it was extremely painful.

“Hold on.”

“Sir Northmoon, what else do you have to say?” Ye Mingzhu squinted her eyes, searching for an opportunity she could make use of.

“I’m not your servant.” Ye Liusu’s eyes flickered, remaining cold.

“You will be very soon. Matriarch, I have another question. Do you still want to make use of this piece of territory?”

“Of course.” Ye Mingzhu’s eyes immediately lit up. The importance of the territory went without saying, but she had never been bold enough to mention something like sharing the territory to Li Qingshan. Daemons were extremely territorial, so something like that was no different from a naked insult. It was like asking a man to lend his wife. A request like that could make short-tempered Daemon Generals immediately turn hostile.

“I’ve always had a great dislike for trivial matters, so I want a servant to take care of them for me.” Li Qingshan actually had no interest in the territory. All he wanted were the underground resources. He had no plans to remain underground, guarding his territory. He still had someone waiting for him in the human world.

Under these circumstances, Milliped could not even make the daemons below submit out of fear with his current strength, and the territory could easily be annexed by other Daemon Generals. He required a suitable person to take charge. Unfortunately, Ye Liubo had yet to undergo the heavenly tribulation, so by taking a step back, Ye Liusu became the most optimal choice. Of course, he would never accept something like sharing the territory. He would only accept a master-servant relationship for this territory.

“Ye Liusu, from today onwards, you are sir Northmoon’s servant. You will obey all of his orders. You are no longer bound to the Spider Shadow clan,” Ye Mingzhu said immediately, as if she was afraid Li Qingshan would change his mind. She might become a servant, but this was just decided on a whim. There was no one more loyal to the Spider Shadow clan than Ye Liusu.

“Matriarch!” Ye Liusu, who had always accepted everything, finally could not help but object. Under Ye Mingzhu’s gaze, all she could do was grit her teeth and lower her head. “Yes, mother!”

Li Qingshan suddenly connected the dots. So they really were a mother and daughter pair, but he did not dwell on the matter for too long either. So what if the night roamers wanted to make use of this territory? He did not care at all. Moreover, loyalty could change with time.

“This servant, Ye Liusu, greets her master.” Ye Liusu arrived before Li Qingshan and bowed. She was hugged by Ye Liubo, who smiled. “Sister, we’re both master’s servants from now on.”

Ye Liusu smiled bitterly inside. Never had she seen someone accept her position as a servant so happily. However, a night roamer, her own mother for god’s sake, actually paled in comparison to a daemon in terms of the respect she could show?

In the end, Ye Mingzhu realised she had lost nothing at all and gained a powerful ally instead. If she returned this piece of territory to the daemons, the Spider Shadow clan could ease up. They would no longer be a target of the other clans, which would instead be good news. Once they had built up sufficient strength, it would be time for them to claim their debts of blood. She was extremely satisfied with this result, and she felt glad she had not chosen mutual annihilation.

“This Northmoon really is different, and he’s extremely handsome too. She actually doesn’t have anyone who can rival him within her harem.” Ye Mingzhu curled her lips and let out a charming smile.

Afterwards, the atmosphere became harmonious once more. Ye Liubo sat down beside Li Qingshan, pouring him alcohol and feeding him while making a lot of intimate contact. Ye Liusu was helpless, so she just stood beside him with her hand on her dagger like a guard.

Ye Mingzhu even invited him enthusiastically to a deeper conversation in her room. Li Qingshan glanced at the pale Ye Liusu before glancing at the mature, charming Ye Mingzhu. In the end, he turned her down reluctantly.

Being in arms reach but unable to eat them was tantalizing. However, he believed everything he went through for her would be worth it. He wondered if she had emerged from secluded cultivation yet.

After the banquet, Li Qingshan returned to the raging underground river under Ye Mingzhu’s personal lead. They travelled along the flow, heading to Cobweb city to see Spider Queen Lolth.

Li Qingshan demonstrated his ability to control water again, which left Ye Mingzhu secretly amazed. Even water element Daemon Generals could not achieve that unless they possessed the bloodline of a spiritual or exotic beast!

Everything made sense now. There was a reason why a Daemon General who had just emerged from a heavenly tribulation recently could defeat Ye Liusu so easily. She valued Li Qingshan even more now. Daemons with special bloodlines could all become impressive figures as long as they could keep cultivating.

One day, perhaps he would be able to keep pace with the three beside ma’am Lolth.

Li Qingshan controlled the flow and shot off like a flying horse. They reached Cobweb city within fifteen minutes.

The river turned and fell again, but the sound of the waterfall was extremely soft. It originated from very far below.

Li Qingshan was stunned. An unbelievably large space unfurled before him. The raging river twisted and flowed through the vast space, splitting into countless streams.

An imposing, majestic, black castle rose up from the ground, standing several hundred meters tall.

It had actually been sculpted from an entire mountain. The innumerable turrets and spires stood straight and sharp, like countless huge swords of different lengths. They gathered together, pointing towards the sky.

Li Qingshan had never imagined that there would be such a grand structure underground. For a moment, he was actually unable to think of a single structure from his past life that could compare to it.

This was Cobweb city. The Spider Queen reigned over the web-like underground world from here.

It was raining. Only now did Li Qingshan notice that the air was very moist, and it was filled with the smell of sulphur. To the other side of the city, a red-hot river of lava flowed vigorously, also splitting into multiple streams.

Water and fire wove a bizarre web, producing great clouds of steam that rose to the ceiling as dark clouds that never dispersed. They enveloped Cobweb city and constantly drizzled with rain. It made the city seem even more imposing. It actually gave Li Qingshan a false impression that he was unable to tell how tall it stood, even though he could clearly see that the city was connected to the ceiling, supporting this unbelievably large cavern.

“This is the perfect work of art we night roamers have created for the Spider Queen over several centuries!” Ye Mingzhu said proudly.

Chapter 379 - Meeting the Spider Queen

Li Qingshan sighed emotionally. Without the civil engineering of the school of Mohism, only otherfolk had the ability to build such structures, and only daemons had the patience for it.

On the outskirts of Cobweb city, the relatively flatter surface below the mountain formed an extremely complicated urban area. The structures of night roamers rose and fell endlessly.

There actually were no streets designed. Li Qingshan felt like he was crossing through a series of buildings. The space was completely sealed up there.

Black rain pitter-pattered against the roofs. That was the only sound here. There were not even whispering conversations like in Blacklustre city. The only thing they exchanged were gestures and aura or the points of their daggers.

The night roamers here were clearly much more powerful than those in Blacklustre city. Shadows flickered passed him silently, and they would even pass by a matriarch like Ye Mingzhu without any acknowledgement.

“Isn’t this the territory of the Shadow Spider clan?” Li Qingshan’s voice disturbed a huge region. Pairs of eyes gazed over in the darkness, as if he had done something unprecedented, but they were slightly hostile too. Only when they spotted the pair of horns on his head did they look away.

“This is a mixed region of the outskirts. You can find people of every single clan here.” Ye Mingzhu still chose to communicate through her aura.

Apart from their usual business, the main priority of the night roamers who resided here was to find opportunities to assassinate night roamers of other clans. This was a battlefield of assassins. Every night roamer only had the right to enter the inner city and become a middle level member of their clan once they had gone through the test of this place. “They sure don’t have a lot to do.” They clearly hated each other to the core, yet they just had to choose to reside together. He could imagine a scene that came right out of a book occur here—Among the stall owners, the craftsmen, the pedlars, and the children, they all suddenly draw their weapons and try to kill you.

They sure were pitiful to be born as night roamers, but it was rather funny too. Spider Queen Lolth’s scheming was probably not everything. The inherent, dark nature of night roamers was at work as well!

Only after entering the inner city did the situation take a turn for the better. The clans were divided into a few major regions. Of course, every corridor and hall was still filled with killing intent and unease.

Walking around inside Cobweb city, Li Qingshan marvelled at the grandeur and detail of the structures. Every rock seemed to have been carefully polished by a craftsman before undergoing long periods of wear and use, allowing them to become even smoother and more stately.

The markings of spiders were littered everywhere, like some primitive form of worship. He even saw the existence of sacrifices that were almost religious. The power of Daemon Commanders was close to gods in the eyes of regular people.

Li Qingshan was very curious about what the Spider Queen would be like as someone who reigned over this region. Could she see through his mirror clone? Should he tell her about what had happened to the three elders?

His various questions were all waiting to be answered.

The only thing that brought him relief was that daemons were unable to replicate the complicated administrative formalities of humans. Ye Mingzhu's request to see the Spider Queen was passed along very quickly.

Climbing up the spiral staircase, they arrived at a higher level in Cobweb city before passing through a long, twisted pathway. A stone door opened silently, and a huge, trapezoid terrace unfurled before Li Qingshan. It stood like a cliff, or more accurately, it had always been a cliff.

A woman with a long, red dress that dragged along the ground stood by the edge of the cliff with her back towards them. Only when Li Qingshan approached her did she turn around, revealing her magnificent appearance.

However, the first thing that Li Qingshan felt was not magnificence, but undisguised, venomous cruelty. Her lips were scarlet red, like she had just drunk human blood, and her eyes seemed to ripple with venom.

Humans, no matter how wicked they were, would still try desperately to mask this. They would find various excuses to complain about the degeneration of human nature in the darkness of society, or mention opinions that sounded very philosophical to justify their actions. The thought processes of both geniuses and madmen would always be bound to the stigmas of the society. There were no exceptions.

She was not. She had no sense of morality, no humanity. She did whatever she wanted. Apart from power, she was not shackled by anything, forming true, undisguisable wickedness.

Even in human form, living in human-sized structures, she was still a huge, brightly-coloured spider. She was just smarter, stronger, and even more vicious, dwelling at the centre of her web and quietly awaiting the arrival of prey.

However, none of this damaged her bearing that was as noble as a queen. Instead, it gave her a strange charm that humans did not possess.

Li Qingshan felt like he had experienced this before. The figure he thought of was actually Gu Yanying. Yes, that was acting without restraint, absolute freedom. Had he fallen in love at first sight back then exactly because of being drawn to this bearing, desiring to break free from all shackles?

"Are you the new Daemon General? What's your name?"

The person who asked this was not the Spider Queen. Only then did Li Qingshan notice the existence of three Daemon Generals by her side.

One of them was a pale, handsome man with a cloak. He had short, messy hair and sunken eyes, which immediately made Li Qingshan think about vampires that appeared in legends.

One of them was a bald man swollen with muscles. He stood as tall as two men and his body seemed to flow with endless strength. A mighty battle intent flowed from his eyes constantly.

The last one was an old man with a hunched back. He was extremely thin and small. As he sat there, he bent over like he was giving way to a huge burden. The hunch that bulged through his clothes became his most prominent feature. Every single movement from him was very slow, and even his voice was extremely slow. Li Qingshan had already taken three breaths in the time it took for him to finish asking the questions.

Every single one of them was a unique, distinct existence, but Li Qingshan had almost missed them as they stood behind the Spider Queen. From the moment he stepped onto the terrace and spotted her, before he had even seen her appearance, his heart had already become entranced by the bright-red smear in the darkness.

Of course, he was no longer the same kid from the mountains anymore. He immediately composed himself. He just wondered whether he would have fallen in love at first sight too if she was the one he saw instead.

“Sir Dragonsnail, I’m Northmoon. I’ve undergone the heavenly tribulation recently, and I’ve come to see the Spider Queen.” Li Qingshan bowed. “Greetings to sir Strongboulder and sir Bloodshadow too.”

Before they came here, Ye Mingzhu gave Li Qingshan an introduction to the basic situation underground. There were several dozen Daemon Generals under the Spider Queen’s command, and some were stronger than others. The stronger ones among them were known as mighty Daemon Generals, who were equivalent to mid and late Foundation Establishment cultivators.

As for the strongest among the strong, they were the three right before him. Not only had they reached the peak of Daemon General, but they also possessed powerful bloodlines that differed from regular beasts. They possessed the power to completely surpass regular Daemon Generals.

It was said that every single one of them possessed the terrifying strength to hold off multiple regular Daemon Generals. In other words, if they worked together, they could dominate all the Daemon Generals in this region. They were a force to be reckoned with.

Even if Li Qingshan’s original body was here in person, he would not be confident about taking on any one of them. Of course, it would not be so easy for them to defeat him either.

“Why did you mention my name last?”

Spider Queen Lolth still showed no intentions to speak, studying Li Qingshan quietly. Instead, the pale-faced Bloodshadow questioned him first, and his face became even more sunken.

“Sir Bloodshadow, who do you think your name should come before? I can change it.” Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow. I just said something off the top of my head and that’s already enough for you to start trouble. You’re a fucking lunatic.

This was called setting a precedence in human language, and among humans, this was a method to demonstrate his authority. The monkey king did not necessarily steal food from regular monkeys to eat, but to show them who was boss. However, Li Qingshan would never back down.

“I think the order is perfect!” Strongboulder droned.

“You have quite the nerve.” Bloodshadow stared at Li Qingshan. In this territory, there were very few daemons, or people rather, who dared to speak to him like that.

Li Qingshan thought to himself, It’s just like what Ye Mingzhu said. The three Daemon Generals aren’t on good terms. Of course, that goes without saying. It’ll be strange if Daemon Generals with the same strength got along with each other.

“Why have you sought an audience with us this time?” Dragonsnail did not seem to hear the bickering. Among the three of them, they had already gone through four exchanges in the conversation, but this was only his first one.

“I’m the leader of the daemon soldiers under Milliped. I’ve specially come to ask for this piece of territory back.” Li Qingshan only replied to Bloodshadow after answering Dragonsnail’s question, “I’ve always had the nerve.”

“How’s your strength?” Strongboulder grinned.

“I obviously have the strength too!” Li Qingshan did not back down at all. Only the weak would back down, yielding to the strong so that they could avoid trouble. The modesty among humans was not prevalent among daemons. Displaying their strength, even if it were just a bravado, was critical.

“Oh, then I would like to try it,” Bloodshadow said coldly.

“I really want to know where you have been during this period of time.” Dragonsnail finally asked another question.

“I was cultivating arduously in the Boundless mountains.”

“I’ve never heard your name. You’re not an underground daemon at all, so how can you claim territory underground? Milliped has lost his identity as a Daemon General, so he’s no longer worthy of ruling over a territory. The territory has already been bequeathed to the night roamers.”

“The night roamers have already agreed to transfer the territory to me. I don’t think you’re the one to decide whether I can possess territory underground, right Bloodshadow?” Li Qingshan directly referred to him by his name.

“Very impressive.” Bloodshadow vanished and appeared behind Li Qingshan. His pale-white fingertips turned into sharp claws, sweeping over with lightning speed. He actually struck the moment he wanted to, without any hesitation at all. He moved with startling speed.

In that instant, even Li Qingshan had failed to grasp his movements or react. He felt five points on his back throb.

All Strongboulder did was grin viciously. If he wanted to provoke the strong, he would have to bear the consequences that came with it. If he could endure the consequences, then he would earn respect. If he could not, then he was an idiot. He would deserve to be viciously punished.

Dragonsnail was still constructing his sentence slowly, completely ignoring everything unfolding before him.

The Spider Queen finally showed interest.

Clang! The Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell rose up. It was a deep blue and slightly transparent. Countless hexagons formed a perfect, rigid structure that blocked the claws.

Bloodshadow's face became even colder. His cloak ruffled as he turned into a black shadow and circled around Li Qingshan. In that moment, who knew how many attacks the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell had received.

A black tornado spun and howled, linking the ground to the ceiling and scattering the thick clouds. It was not some kind of ability or technique. It had just arisen from Bloodshadow's movements.

Li Qingshan stood in the eye of the storm with his arms crossed, completely unfazed. He stood at complete ease, standing firm even after hundreds of attacks, allowing Bloodshadow to do whatever he wanted to.

Chapter 380 - A Deal No Different from Daylight Robbery

He's actually able to remain at such ease under sir Bloodshadow's attacks. This Northmoon really isn't a regular Daemon General. His existence will change the situation underground.

Ye Mingzhu backed over to one side and watched from afar. Surprise filled her eyes; then she sank into her thoughts.

Within the darkness, countless pairs of eyes saw this startling sight too. They all thought of different things.

When Li Qingshan was still a daemon, even the combined efforts of the three elders could not get through his Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, let alone the fact that he was a Daemon General now. Feel free to try to get through my Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell at thirty percent strength.

"Bloodshadow, haven't you eaten today? Why else would you be so powerless? Do you want me to try instead?" Strongboulder's laughter drowned out the wind. He was raring to go. He wanted to see who was stronger and tougher.

Li Qingshan was at no ease. His daemon qi was being rapidly depleted. Once he had depleted it to a certain degree, he would not even be able to maintain his clone, let alone fight. And, he could tell that Bloodshadow had concentrated his attacks to a very small range. He had not unleashed his full strength, as this was inside Cobweb city.

“Oh right. There’s something I forgot to mention, but I’m afraid that if I do mention it, even ma’am Spider Queen won’t want to keep me around underground!”

“Oh? Bloodshadow, return.” Spider Queen Lolth finally spoke. “I’d like to hear just what will deter me from doing whatever I want.”

Bloodshadow immediately returned to his original position, as if nothing had happened at all. However, his face became even more sunken.

“It’s nothing. I just paid a convenient visit to Green Vine mountain after my heavenly tribulation and settled a small grievance.”

Li Qingshan’s deeds on Green Vine mountain definitely would not simply die down like this. It would probably reach the ears of the daemons very soon. Since he could not keep it a secret, then he might as well use it as a bargaining chip! He refused to believe that Spider Queen Lolth had not even experienced a hint of fury after losing Milliped, a Daemon General, and he did not believe the daemons would just offer him up to take the blame.

“You killed the Green Vine Elder!?” Spider Queen Lolth became stunned.

“I didn’t. He managed to escape.”

“Are you toying with us?” Bloodshadow said coldly, and the Spider Queen’s face coldened.

“I never thought that the Green Vine old man could still escape after being cut in half. Fortunately, the three of them happened to be gathered together, so I killed the other two.”

“The Lone Grave Elder and the Golden Pheasant Elder?” Dragonsnail said slowly, but there was surprise in his eyes.

“Correct.”

“What evidence do you have?” Bloodshadow asked.

“Evidence? The humans are going to come for me very soon. I better get going, just in case I get you into trouble too.” Li Qingshan turned around to leave.

“Stop!”

Li Qingshan stopped with that, but he saw Spider Queen Lolth’s pupils constrict. “If you dare to trick me…”

“Punish me as you wish, ma’am Spider Queen!”

“You’ve done very well.” Lolth stared at him for quite a long time before curling her lips into a bloody smile.

“Ma’am, this has to do with the Treaty of Kings. He’s a bringer of disaster. We can’t keep him around!” Bloodshadow tried to persuade her.

“Bloodshadow. Are you afraid?” The Spider Queen turned around. Her cool voice made Bloodshadow shudder. He knew he could not attempt to interfere with this matter anymore.

“Coward!” Strongboulder mocked loudly. The Spider Queen had always wanted to wage war. Northmoon’s actions suited her tastes perfectly, and it suited his tastes too. Bloodshadow was just asking to be rebuffed. Though, this kid had killed human Foundation Establishment cultivators, while he never had the opportunity to, so he probably would be looked down upon by the Spider Queen.

“It’s the humans who invaded the underground world first, killing daemons. The disciple of the Sword Collection palace, Fu Qingjin, even infiltrated below ground and used an incense to lure out Milliped. That was why this happened in the first place. The humans were the first ones to break the treaty.” Li Qingshan brought this matter up. With this as a basis, his chances of being sold out should become even smaller.

“From today onwards, that territory belongs to you.” The Spider Queen did not quibble. Since the humans were looking for trouble, that would be for the best. Even the dragon king could say nothing about this.

“Thank you for your great kindness, ma’am Spider Queen.”

“There’s just one thing that dissatisfies me.”

“What is it?”

“Why is the Green Vine Elder still alive?”

“I will definitely leave you satisfied, ma’am Spider Queen.”

Spider Queen Lolth began to laugh. She found Li Qingshan to be very pleasing to the eye. If she had such a capable subordinate, she would be more confident when she faced against the other Daemon Commanders.

“How did you do it?”

Just when Li Qingshan wanted to take his leave, Dragonsnail asked a question slowly. None of the three elders were people who could be trifled with. With Li Qingshan’s earlier performance, he might have been able to protect himself, but it would basically be impossible for him to achieve something like that.

“Did you just say you killed them together?” Strongboulder frowned.

“Yeah. I have my ways.” Li Qingshan smiled, turning around and leaving.

Dragonsnail sank into his thoughts. Was this all of his true strength? He already possessed such strength after emerging from the heavenly tribulation recently. If he had the time to develop, just what level could he reach? Dragonsnail could vaguely see the rise of a new star among the daemons.

The Spider Queen’s eyes flickered, as if she saw something. Her smile became even brighter and more venomous.

After settling the matter of the territory, Li Qingshan relaxed. On the way back, Ye Mingzhu even treated him with much more respect, and she silently dismissed her vicious thoughts.

Clearly, he had already earned the Spider Queen's favour. Anyone who killed him would definitely suffer the Spider Queen's wrath. There was not a single night roamer who could bear the consequences of that. As a result, the only choice left for her was to work with him.

Returning to Blacklustre city, Ye Mingzhu immediately went off to prepare the spiritual herbs for a first transaction to exchange for the spiritual talismans currently in Li Qingshan's possession.

Ye Liubo played a critical role at this moment. Li Qingshan had no idea about the exact value of these spiritual herbs and talismans underground, but Ye Liubo did.

That was not all. She completely understood the importance of these resources to the clan and what the clan could afford to pay. With no mercy, she would go for the Spider Shadow clan's top price every single time or even demand a little more than that.

The negotiating elders all glared at her furiously. They were almost tempted to draw their daggers and stab this traitor to death.

Ye Liubo was calm and fearless because Li Qingshan sat close behind her. She was filled with confidence as she demonstrated her worth as a servant desperately. Moreover, she treated this as a chance for revenge.

She would even whip out her lethal weapon of "If you don't like it, I'll go work with the other clans instead", which made all the elders turn purple. The huge sum of talismans and spiritual artifacts had already surpassed their original value. They now possessed tactical value as well.

If Ye Mingzhu had not told them that Li Qingshan had already gained the Spider Queen's favour after returning from Cobweb city, they definitely would have considered turning against him.

In the end, even Li Qingshan was unable to watch this any longer. They were just about to exchange a high grade talisman for a millennium-old Snake Gallbladder flower. Even daylight robbery was not so vicious. He coughed gently. "Liubo, respect, respect."

He did not care too much about whether it was a high grade talisman or two. He had other uses for the Spider Shadow clan in the future, so going too far with them was not necessarily good.

Ye Liubo glanced at Li Qingshan in an unhappy manner before finally loosening up on the price. Only then did the elders let out a sigh of relief. In the end, they reached an agreement. They would purchase everything with their top price.

Li Qingshan obtained a total of eleven spiritual herbs, and none of them were below five hundred years in age. Above ground, even a hundred talismans would not have been enough to exchange for any one of them!

Now this was profit!

After becoming a Daemon General, even his demand for the quality and quantity of pills had increased. He was still overflowing with pills like Qi Gathering pills and Qi Condensing pills, but they were not even as efficient as directly absorbing spiritual qi of the world to the current him.

To go from Daemon General to Daemon Commander, the amount of time it would usually take him would be a millennium. Just relying on the pills he had robbed from others would be utterly inadequate. Now, he had finally found a new path, so he was filled with indescribable joy.

I can live for a millennium?

Li Qingshan suddenly realised this. Before he knew it, he already possessed the lifespan of a thousand years; this was a very strange feeling.

The song went "Borrowing another five centuries from heaven", but he had already reached double that number, surpassing even the wildest wishes of regular people. What did he want to do with this millennium? As soon as he began to contemplate this question, he became rather lost, but his mind cleared up very soon. He would obviously do whatever he wanted.

He had read many books in his past life about how painful a long life was. He only had a single sentence in response to this, You're making a fuss about something that doesn't even exist. With the things I want to do, even a millennium won't be enough!

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"My dear daughter, there's no need to feel unhappy. This is just a temporary arrangement. You know I've always doted on you the most. Otherwise, I wouldn't have handed the territory to you in the first place. Do your best to please him. If he falls in love with you, it would be all the better. I can tell he's someone who likes women."

"This will bring great benefits to our entire Shadow Spider clan. Within this region, he'll definitely become a powerful figure on par with the three sirs." Taking advantage of the negotiations, Ye Mingzhu called Ye Liusu over and said a few words to her from the bottom of her heart.

"I've never been good at pleasing anyone. Is relying on daemons all that we can do? Can't we achieve anything with our own cultivations?"

"As long as we still live in this region, the status of otherfolk will never surpass daemons. You need to understand this. The only reason why the Bat Shadow clan is bold enough to act so arrogantly is because they managed to get sir Bloodshadow on their side. As long as you do this well, I'll give you the position of matriarch in the future."

"What right does a servant have to inherit the position of matriarch? None of my hard work in the past was to become the matriarch either. Instead, it was so that all the night roamers could see the moon and stars again." Ye Liusu's gaze was determined, filled with an unwavering will. It had not been affected just because she became a servant.

"You want to go above ground? You might get the chance very soon. The war between the humans and daemons is near, but don't you think of it as a good thing. When war truly arrives, we'll definitely be fighting on the front line."

"We can join the humans..." "Shut up!"

Before Ye Liusu had even finished talking, Ye Mingzhu had grabbed her by the throat.

“Why do you think we were forced underground in the first place? It’s all because of the humans. In the eyes of daemons, we’re just a special race that requires restraining and limiting, but in the eyes of humans, we’re something completely different, an existence that they must either kill down to the very last member or enslave, do you understand? If you mention that again, I’ll kill you personally!”