

Chapter 481 - The Spider Queen's Wrath

The underground dwelling, among the sea of Blue Butterfly flowers.

"All of you may leave!"

Under the revering gazes of the night roamers, Li Qingshan waved his hand without even looking back as he strode towards the stone bed.

Milliped raised his head as if he sensed something. His pink carapace clacked around. He had already become very large, taking up the entire stone bed even when he was curled up. However, he was still much weaker compared to before.

The stone door closed loudly. Li Qingshan patted Milliped's head and took out a daemon core, placing it before him. It was the daemon core from the lizard Daemon General.

Milliped had no concept of courtesy. He swallowed it in one gulp and curled up like a snake.

A while later, resplendent light seeped out from his carapace, becoming brighter and brighter and blurring Milliped's figure. The light swelled at a visible rate, exceeding the size of the entire stone platform before slowly shrinking again. Milliped's body shrunk with it.

The light dispersed, and the dazed Milliped in a pink cloak appeared before Li Qingshan again. He rubbed his bald head and stared around with his slightly bulging eyes, still rather uncertain about what exactly had happened.

Li Qingshan laughed aloud freely. He was filled with delight. Seeing Li Qingshan chuckle, Milliped also began to grin and laugh.

Their resonant laughter echoed through the cavern, continuing for quite a while.

Li Qingshan opened his hundred treasures pouch afterwards and took out jars of fine alcohol. He removed the clay seals, and the fragrance of alcohol filled the surroundings.

There were many cultivation sects that would plant a few crops with spiritual qi aside from spiritual herbs, which were for feeding their disciples and for making spiritual alcohol.

Among the many hundred treasures pouches Li Qingshan had obtained, many of them contained spiritual alcohol. After accumulating them over time, he actually ended up with several hundred jars. They all varied in class and age.

However, while he did have fine alcohol, he struggled to find a drinking buddy, nor was he in the mood to drink. Now that he had both a drinking buddy and a drinking mood, these jars of alcohol finally saw the light of day again.

Milliped sniffed the fine alcohol. His eyes widened as he began to thirst for it.

"Come drink!" Li Qingshan passed a jar to Milliped while holding one for himself. He touched the jars gently.

Milliped picked up the jar and glugged it all down. He wiped his mouth. "Tasty! Food!"

"This glutton!" Li Qingshan cursed in a joking manner before lowering his head again and flipping through his hundred treasures pouch. He failed to find any snacks to go with the dishes, but he did find many fruits and vegetables with spiritual qi. Thinking about it, they had all been given to him by his friend from the same hometown, Li Long, but they happened to suit Milliped's tastes.

The two of them simply sat down and ate as they drank. Aside from lifting their jars and touching them, there was not a lot of talking.

However, Li Qingshan felt extremely delighted. Pouring the spiritual alcohol into his mouth, it washed away the gloom in his heart. He had also resolved something on his mind, and he was able to drink till they were drunk with Milliped. Nothing was more delightful than this!

Milliped hugged a jar of spiritual alcohol. Half-way through it, he suddenly shut his eyes and collapsed on the stone bed. His snores rose up thunderously as he simply fell asleep like that.

The jar tipped over, alcohol flowed freely, and the fragrance of alcohol permeated the surroundings.

Li Qingshan stood up with a jar in hand, tottering about slightly. He had already become completely drunk. He raised his head and drank the last drop in the jar before tossing it far away. He heard a clatter, and it had been smashed to pieces.

Spider Queen, I'm coming!

Li Qingshan bellowed out at the top of his lungs and strode away.

"Master, it'll be dangerous!"

Ye Liusu and Ye Liubo stood outside the door, blocking Li Qingshan's path. They were both worried.

"How will it be dangerous?"

Li Qingshan pulled them in by their necks and asked with a drunken smile with the two beautiful faces right in front of him.

"You disobeyed ma'am Spider Queen's orders in public. She'll definitely punish you!" Ye Liubo was frantic, but as she gazed at his tipsy face, she could not help but be taken away by it.

"Daemons are forbidden from killing one another, but with how vicious and cruel and the Spider Queen is, she'll never let the matter drop."

Ye Liusu had never been in such an intimate situation with a man before. She did everything she could to keep herself calm, but she was just as concerned as Ye Liubo. Of course, she was also concerned about the future of the entire Night Roaming folk. Without him, the night roamers would probably descend into chaos again.

But if he continued to grow in strength, there might even be a day when he could directly order the clans to disband. He was her hope.

Li Qingshan nodded. Right when he was about to speak, Ye Liubo immediately offered up her lips, sucking the saliva from his mouth. His arms wrapped around her waist firmly.

Li Qingshan plunged his hands into her clothes, fiddling recklessly with her full figure. Ye Liubo let out a stifled moan from her throat as her kissing became even more intense.

Ye Liusu's heartbeat sped up slightly. She moved backwards, wanting to break free from this. Li Qingshan pulled her in forcefully, embracing her firmly with one hand. The two delicate figures pressed against his body firmly and intimately.

Ye Liusu watched their intimate interaction rather helplessly from such a close range. Her face heated up slightly as she felt a hint of jealousy that even she failed to notice.

A long while later, their lips parted.

"Master, I'm scared!" Ye Liubo embraced him even more firmly.

Li Qingshan smiled. "Don't be scared. I still haven't even gotten you to make a child for me!"

Ye Liubo agreed gently and leaned against Li Qingshan's chest meekly.

Li Qingshan drew out his hand rather reluctantly. He looked over and lifted up Ye Liusu's pointy chin.

Ye Liusu's eyes widened unexpectedly as Li Qingshan lowered his head and kissed her on the lips. He did not do anything more than that, but he did whisper into her ear.

"Once I come back, I'll give you a gift. You best think about what gift you'll give to me!"

Gazing at her pointy ears that differed from humans, he could not help but lick them gently. She shuddered all over.

His invasive gaze started on her delicate face, moving past her proud-standing chest, her thin, straight waist, and arriving on her slender, perfect legs. She was not as seductive as Ye Liubo, but she was enchanting in a different way. Her noble and proud bearing could incite a man's urge to conquer.

Ye Liusu lowered her head, her face crimson. For a moment, she actually did not know how to answer. She did not know what his gift was, but she knew exactly what he wanted. All she told herself was she could not turn him down, as this was a sacrifice she was making towards her dream. She refused to admit she had also become somewhat tempted.

Most female night roamers were indulgent. They did not suppress or hide their desires at all. They had no concept of so-called chaste or promiscuity. As a princess of the Spider Shadow clan, the matriarch's child, Ye Liusu possessed a noble bloodline that the other princesses struggled to match. However, her body also possessed the same scorching desires.

It was not like she had never felt any envy towards the promiscuous lifestyle of other night roamers. The reason why she avoided men was not only because she wanted to focus on cultivation for her dream. Rather, she was proud and found those grovelling, ignorant, and lowly male night roamers beneath contempt.

He was the first man who had ever interested her. Although he was a daemon, he possessed such great strength and intelligence, and he actually understood and supported her thoughts, which was the reason why she could stand here today.

If it were possible, she was willing to continue like this with him. Perhaps, they could even have a bit of fun. There was nothing she could do, right? This was her master's request.

Li Qingshan pushed them away gently and made his way into the depths while laughing aloud. Danger filled the path ahead of him, but it also brimmed with endless glory.

Living in the world, he was obviously supposed to take on challenges as he wished and enjoy himself to his heart's content. Only then would this great life of his not go to waste.

"Sister, you won't be able to escape this time. The kiss earlier was your..."

Only when Li Qingshan vanished in the darkness did Ye Liubo look away and smile at Ye Liusu.

"He's our master. I'm his servant. I've seen this happen plenty of times, so it's nothing," Ye Liusu interrupted in a composed manner. She could not help but purse her lips.

"Will master really be fine?" Ye Liubo began to worry again.

"The Spider Queen shouldn't defy the rule of the daemons and kill a clansman unless..." Ye Liusu's eyes that resembled the night sky flickered, and she became slightly worried.

"Unless what?"

"Nothing!"

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"Northmoon, how dare you betray me!"

In Cobweb city, Spider Queen's Lolth's shrill voice echoed through the cavern like it was ripping through the heavy darkness.

The water and magma interweaved as billows of white smoke rose up and turned into clouds, making it even darker.

The city was deathly silent. The quiet whispers that usually echoed through the streets and the quiet, lonesome figures outside had all vanished. They were like insects that had all stopped chirping before the dignity of a predator.

Li Qingshan folded up his wings and landed on the extended terrace. He stared straight into the Spider Queen's eyes. Her beautiful face had become twisted from anger. Her eyes seemed to be dripping with venom. It was chilling.

However, all he did was answer indifferently, "You have no idea what ties of comradeship are, so how can you even mention betrayal?"

"Shut up!" The Spider Queen raised her hand and lashed out at Li Qingshan's face viciously. If a regular Daemon General received this attack, their heads would probably explode as they died on the spot.

Bang!

Li Qingshan raised his arm and blocked the Spider Queen's hand. The two forces collided viciously, and Cobweb city shook. A fierce gale ravaged through the surroundings.

Li Qingshan shook slightly and felt a wave of pain from his arm. The power behind Spider Queen Lolth's slap was extremely insidious. It could actually penetrate the tough Ox Demon Forges its Hide.

With a crack, a tiny fracture appeared in the bones of his arm.

Li Qingshan rejoiced instead of becoming surprised. He had managed to receive the open attack of a Daemon Commander. That demonstrated the fourth layer of the ox demon was already on par with Daemon Commanders in terms of strength.

A vast chasm existed between each layer, and as his cultivation increased, this chasm would grow wider and deeper. It had ceased to be something that could be made up with quantity alone.

Hypothetically, how many regular Daemon Generals would be needed to kill the Spider Queen?

The answer: no amount was enough. Any number that came would end up dead. That would be the case unless they managed to trap her and basically pile their lives on her and wear her down like that. They also had to ensure they wore her down faster than she could recover daemon qi, and only then would it be possible for them to kill her. However, the chances of that were so small that it was virtually impossible.

Yet, Li Qingshan used the unmatched ability passed down to him by the black ox, the Nine Transformations of the Demonic and Divine, to forcefully cross this chasm. Although he had only crossed a small portion of it, it was still enough for him to stand proud.

The Spider Queen's eyes narrowed. Li Qingshan's strength surprised her, making her feel deeply threatened. Afterwards, she sank into hysterical fury. She would never allow any subordinates to challenge her dignity.

"You will regret this!"

Swish!

A black shadow stabbed horizontally into Li Qingshan's ribs. It moved so fast that Li Qingshan failed to even make out what it was. The spirit turtle's daemon core flashed as it warned him about the arrival of life-threatening danger.

Chapter 482 - Infidelity With His Life on the Line

My strength is enough, but are my reactions and speed still insufficient?

Li Qingshan thought. In the critical moment, hexagonal pieces of the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell flew together, assembling into over a dozen protective layers. However, the black shadow pierced eleven of them in a single breath before slowing down slightly.

Only then did Li Qingshan make out what it was. As it turned out, it was a spider's sharp, long leg. The tip of the leg shone coldly, clearly laced with life-threatening poison. A single move of hers was enough to set off heavy warnings in him.

It slowed down, but it had only slowed down to a speed where he could see it clearly. In reality, it still moved with startling speed. With the injection of the Spider Queen's insidious daemon qi, the indestructible Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell became as frail as paper.

Fu Qingjin's sharp swordsmanship and Zhou Tong's lightning bolts both paled in comparison to this, but this was merely an ordinary strike from the Spider Queen.

Only three layers of the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell remained when the leg finally ran out of power, coming to a halt.

A Daemon General had used his innate ability to block the attack of a Daemon Commander. That was truly a proud feat, but Li Qingshan did not ease up at all.

The Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell can stop her to a certain degree, but it depletes daemon qi far too rapidly. I won't be able to block many times before I run out of daemon qi. Then, I'll really become a lamb to the slaughter.

At this moment, seven other, similar legs extended from behind the Spider Queen. They turned into seven shadows and stabbed towards him.

Li Qingshan crossed his arms and protected his vital points. He was afraid of using the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell again. This was the helplessness that came with a difference in cultivation. Even though he possessed powerful innate abilities, he was afraid of using them.

Streaks of blood spattered and darkened in the air. Eight, deep wounds appeared on Li Qingshan's shoulders, arms, legs, and knees. The Ox Demon Forges its Hide had been forcefully ripped apart.

The Spider Queen was displeased with this result. Originally, she planned to lop off Li Qingshan's limbs before slowly torturing him, but the toughness of his skin was simply unexpected.

However, the end result would all be the same.

Toxins entered Li Qingshan's body through the wounds, spreading rapidly like something living. It dissolved his skin, flesh, and bones.

"Suppress!"

Li Qingshan bellowed out, and the spirit turtle's daemon core shone brightly. Waves of light suppressed the toxins like clear water, halting their spread before forcing them out of his body.

Eight streaks of poisoned blood flew out. One streak landed on the city below, and in the blink of an eye, it produced a great pit in the ground. The potency of the venom was as clear as day.

The Spider Queen frowned. She opened her red lips slightly and spat out an invisible strand of silk, but it was even more terrifying and elusive than the legs.

"Tremor!"

Li Qingshan raised his arms and bellowed out. He threw a punch at the Spider Queen's face, launching a desperate counterattack.

The Spider Queen took a step back. She was not afraid of his punch. She just did not want to be hit by him. However, she ended up retreating first in this battle, which made her utterly furious.

Li Qingshan had never planned on landing a punch like that on the Spider Queen in the first place. His fist struck the air, and the power of the Tremors of the Ox Demon whistled out.

The shockwave ripped open cracks in the air between them, tearing through the spider silk and spreading in the direction of the Spider Queen without harming the terrace beneath them.

After reaching the fourth layer of the ox demon, Li Qingshan had reached a new level with this ability of the ox demon. It had become his most powerful offensive ability.

“What is this power!?”

The Spider Queen felt her skin sting as if it were about to be ripped apart. Her snowy-white skin immediately became a silvery-grey, flashing with a metallic sheen.

Li Qingshan’s strongest attack had only managed to leave behind a series of hairline cracks on her body, like fractures on a vase.

A wound like that was absolutely nothing to her. She made a full recovery in the blink of an eye, but it completely aggravated her. A Daemon General under her command had forced her back and injured her. She had truly been humiliated. She opened her mouth and screamed.

Cobweb city trembled gently. Countless pieces of loose rock fell down as Li Qingshan felt an ear-piercing buzz fill his mind.

The night roamers that were still in the city all clutched their ears and began circulating their true qi and spiritual qi to block them. The weaker ones directly died as they bled from their orifices. The other night roamers dared not linger around for any longer, fleeing out of the city.

Spider Queen Lolth remained in human form with the upper half of her body, while the lower half had already become a spider. She was like a precise killing machine, radiating with a terrifying and strange sense of beauty. She spread her silver arms in a striking position.

The Spider Queen vanished. All Li Qingshan saw was her scarlet red dress that dragged along the ground dance like flowing fire.

So fast! She has become even faster! I almost forgot she’s also a carapaced daemon. The toughness of her body is her strong point.

Li Qingshan spread his wings and glided backwards, stopping in the middle of the air. He raised his right arm and called out, “Wait!”

The Spider Queen appeared, stopping on the edge of the terrace. Her blood-red eyes stared straight at Li Qingshan. There were no emotions that befitted her humanoid form. It was only a stare of death that a predator gave to its prey.

“You can’t kill me! You can’t break the rules of the daemons!”

Li Qingshan said that like he was regretting his actions, making one last struggle in the face of death. However, there was no fear on his face at all. There were even hints of excitement.

“I won’t kill you. I will torture you viciously. I will make you feel fear and despair such that you’ll wish you were dead!”

A malicious sneer appeared on the Spider Queen’s silvery-grey face, like a delicate mask.

“Is that all you want? You just want me to wish I was dead? Is that enough to satisfy you?” Li Qingshan smiled.

“What are you trying to say?” The Spider Queen became rather puzzled.

“Haven’t I mentioned it a long time ago already? Now, I accept your invitation.”

Li Qingshan walked over, reaching a distance of absolute danger. He extended his hand towards the Spider Queen who seemed like a seductress found in legends.

Curious, the Spider Queen did not attack him or immediately try to kill him. Suddenly, she understood what he was saying and turned back to human form. Her skin turned back to a snow-white. She extended her hand and lifted Li Qingshan’s chin as her scarlet lips curled into a mesmerising, bloodthirsty smile.

“You really are a brave child. Though, that suits my tastes perfectly!”

By “taste”, she definitely meant it literally.

“Perhaps. I just want to have some fun before dying.” Li Qingshan laughed aloud and wrapped his arm around her slender waist, pulling her in. They made their way up the terrace, heading towards her chamber.

Mortal enemies in battle had become close lovers in that instant, but this was not some sh*tty plotline of “love from hatred”. Instead, it pushed their antagonism towards one another to the limit. It hid the most terrifying killing intent.

The rule that daemons were forbidden from killing one another was not absolute. Habits and nature surpassed this rule. The Spider Queen had a natural tendency to kill and devour her mate. If Li Qingshan took the initiative to sleep with her, then he would become a target that she had to kill. Even the Dragon King of Ink Sea would not be able to blame her.

I’ll give you a reason to break the rule and kill me!

Li Qingshan thought. Wherever they walked past, the terrace collapsed loudly as if it were cutting off his path of escape. Up ahead was the Spider Queen’s dark, gloomy nest.

Normal battles were worth absolutely nothing to the tiger demon. Even with Strongboulder’s daemon core he had devoured, the effects of foreign substances would be extremely limited.

Only through battle, battle between life and death, frenzied, maddening battle, would the tiger demon be excited and unleash its true power.

If he were unable to break through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon, his chances of escaping from the Spider Queen’s hands would be pitifully small. It would be very likely for him to end up as the Spider Queen’s food, dooming him for good.

However, when he made up his mind and decided to carry that heavy promise of beyond the Nine Heavens on his back, it became fated that he would not be able to hide anymore and advance forwards carefully, cautiously, and safely. All he could do was stride ahead and throw himself into the face of danger.

The Spider Queen was obviously extremely terrifying, but compared to the enemies of brother ox, she was probably just a tiny spider!

Remember, don't lower your head to anyone, to anything. You have once ridden on my back.

Lofty sentiments rose up in Li Qingshan. His fear and his worries all vanished. In the moment he stepped through the door, a strange thought crossed his mind.

Qiongzhi, you can't blame me. This is infidelity with my life on the line!

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The Academy of the Hundred Schools, Benevolence island, within a white room enveloped by formations.

This was a room completely sealed off from the outside world. There were no windows. Apart from a bed, there was not a single piece of furniture. The six snow-white walls were layered with flickering inscriptions.

However, these formations and inscriptions were not for killing or trapping, but for healing.

"My sword, my sword!"

Fu Qingjin jerked awake. He extended his hand and reached about randomly as if he was trying to grab something.

He had a nightmare. In the nightmare, he lost something extremely important. If it were possible, he would rather use his life to trade for that item.

"It's broken." Ru Xin said straightforwardly as she stood to one side with her arms crossed, earning herself a glare from Hua Ci.

As the two most skilled in medicine within the Clear River prefecture, the two of them were responsible for healing Fu Qingjin. Fu Qingjin's wounds were not particularly heavy. His injured organs and shattered bones might have been fatal to regular people.

However, they could be easily healed for cultivators. And, most of these injuries did not come from the moon demon, but from using the heart of the sword. They had come from the Green Ruins sword overusing the body.

"It's broken?"

Fu Qingjin murmured to himself. Ru Xin's two, simple words were like lightning to Fu Qingjin.

The memories he refused to accept gradually filled his mind.

The nightmare had become real!

"Fellow Fu, your life bound weapon was destroyed, so your mind was injured. If you spend your time recuperating quietly, your cultivation won't regress too much. You'll still be able to maintain your Foundation Establishment cultivation."

Hua Xi was dark-skinned and skinny, not particularly attractive, and his voice was rather cold. However, it did have a power to comfort others.

“Though, you’ll only be a regular Foundation Establishment cultivator, and one at early Foundation Establishment. Regaining control over the Daemon Suppression alliance won’t be possible.” On the contrary, Ru Xin’s face was fair, gentle, and delicate; her voice was soft and amiable, yet her words could shatter hearts.

Hua Ci could no longer bother with glaring at her anymore. He continued to comfort patiently, “You’ve already been extremely fortunate that your life and cultivation are intact. As for anything else, it’s best if you stop obsessing over them. It’ll be detrimental to your recovery.”

Ru Xin continued, “It’s all thanks to the moon demon who showed some mercy and spared your puny life. You should treasure it.”

Chapter 483 - Chu Tian Emerges from Seclusion

Fu Qingjin seemed to revolve between heaven and hell. When he heard Hua Ci’s words, his expression eased up slightly, but when he heard what Ru Xin said, he became overcome with anger.

“If you want to talk more nonsense, get out of the room!” Hua Ci barked.

“I’m only letting him know about the current situation so that he can accept reality. It’s stimulation therapy. You dark-skinned old man, don’t be so fierce with me. We’re both Foundation Establishment cultivators now!”

Hua Ci’s face became even darker, but he felt rather helpless. He apologised to Fu Qingjin, “Fellow Fu, my disciple’s words have always been unpleasant, so please don’t take them to heart.”

Ru Xin sighed gently. “Anyway, just recuperate in peace! It’s not like you have anything you can count on anymore now that the Green Ruins sword is gone.”

Fu Qingjin stared at the snowy-white walls before him in a daze. His face changed constantly as he recalled everything that had happened in the past. The more he thought, the more furious he became, and the more pain he felt. In the end, a mouthful of blood spurted out, and he collapsed on the bed, fainting again.

“Are you satisfied now?” Hua Ci examined Fu Qingjin’s pulse in a hurry. Only when he confirmed the man had just fainted out of anger did he stop worrying.

“Humans sure are fragile!” Ru Xin lamented.

“Why did you set him off like that?”

Hua Ci was rather confused. He understood that Ru Xin was a person with a sharp mouth, but rarely did she go out of her way to target someone like this. Especially when it came to someone she was unfamiliar with, she knew self-restraint extremely well. At most, she would joke around a little.

“I just find him annoying.”

Ru Xin shrugged and turned around. With a wave of her hand, a door appeared on the snowy-white wall.

A group of cultivators from the Daemon Suppression alliance waited outside. They gathered over as soon as they saw Ru Xin and began blurting out.

“How is fellow Fu doing?” “How are his wounds? Has it affected his cultivation?”

“You have no reason to worry, everyone. Fellow Fu’s injuries are fine. His life bound weapon was damaged, which injured his mind. He needs to recuperate quietly, so it’s best if you don’t disturb him for now. I’m going back to my dwelling. I’ve specially prescribed him some medicine that can soothe his mind.”

Ru Xin bowed gently and calmly answered them. Her voice was soft, like the meekest and kindest girl in the world.

“Contact the Sword Collection palace!” “We’ve already contacted them, but they’ve given no reply.” “The daemons are completely out of their minds. They’ve actually destroyed one of the Ten Renowned Swords, the Green Ruins sword. The Sword Collection palace will never let this matter be.”

“With how great the Sword Collection palace is, there’s no need for us to worry about this. We better think about what we should do instead! Without the Green Ruins sword, he’s merely a young junior. How is he supposed to control the overall situation?”

“I think the moon demon has absolutely no interest in fighting with us. Otherwise, he could have easily killed us all. The war shouldn’t continue any longer. With all our disciples, surely we can’t remain in the Rose Cloud sect forever.”

“Yeah. We’re cultivators, so we should focus on cultivation and pursuing longevity and enlightenment. Why must we be constantly entangled in conflict like regular people? Why don’t we just engage in peace talks with the daemons?”

“Peace talks? You want to be a traitor?”

“Who’s the traitor? You better make this clear!”

They’ve always been in conflict, engaged in constant scuffles with one another. They had just forcefully mashed together. Now that Fu Qingjin’s control is gone, they’ve immediately fallen into disunity, each with their own thoughts. Let alone waging war against the daemons, but it would already be quite impressive if they managed to avoid going to battle with one another.

Ru Xin thought to herself. She passed through the corridor, and the sounds of discussion gradually vanished. She arrived outside. The sky was overcast with endless drizzle. Mist surged atop the Lake of Dragons and Snakes. The many islands of the academy were shrouded in the rain and mist.

Gazing into the distance, Cloudwisp island stood hazily within the mist. She murmured to herself extremely softly, “The moon demon, Northmoon... Li Qingshan?”

All these startlingly precious spiritual herbs, the close connection to the Soaring Dragon Elder’s death, the behaviour after drinking the Water of Oblivion, and, even until now, his absence.

These various clues merged together and called upon a certain answer, but she stopped thinking too deeply into it.

Who doesn't have secrets? Why should I probe into it?

It's not like I'm his woman.

"What's that?"

At this moment, Ru Xin gazed over and saw a streak of five-coloured light rush into the sky above Contention island. It flew over to Cloudwisp island, circled around a few times, before suddenly changing direction and flying towards her.

"Ru Xin!"

The five-coloured light landed on Benevolence island and dispersed. Chu Tian's figure appeared, radiating with arrogance. He smiled confidently and gazed at Ru Xin with deep love, calling her name.

"Chu Tian?" Ru Xin raised an eyebrow.

"I reached Foundation Establishment!" Chu Tian held his chest up in high spirits. Five-coloured light flowed around him as he seemed like a proud rooster.

"Oh. Congratulations."

"Actually, I've always known that you have a very favourable impression of me, senior sister. But, I'm aware that a mere Qi Practitioner, a puny man, is unworthy of you. Now, I, Chu Tian, am willing to accept your feelings. I will protect you forever!" Chu Tian said slowly.

"This-" Ru Xin, who had always been so clever with her mouth, was actually left speechless this time. There was nothing she could say in response to him. She felt like a bolt of heavenly lightning from Zhou Tong had struck her.

"I may have many women, but my feelings towards you all are sincere. I will treat you all as equals. You will all be my most beloved women!"

"This-" Ru Xin originally thought Chu Tian would slowly mature after going through many aspects of life and being set back a few times by Li Qingshan. Only now did she learn she had been far too naive.

There were many cultivators on Benevolence island, who all looked over now.

Ru Xin felt a sense of deep humiliation for Chu Tian. She felt uneasy, afraid to answer him. She felt like if she answered him, she would be pulled into a situation that was just as embarrassing and be completely humiliated.

If Li Qingshan's mouth was even half as sharp as this bastard's, I'd never bicker with him again!

"I know, it's all because of Li Qingshan. He pesters you shamelessly, getting in our way. I will prove to you that compared to a genius like me, Li Qingshan is an insignificant piece of trash!"

Seeing Ru Xin's "hesitance", Chu Tian immediately discovered exactly where the issue lay. The issue was his great enemy, Li Qingshan!

He had gone to Cloudwisp island to find Li Qingshan immediately after emerging. Although he had just reached Foundation Establishment, he was much more powerful than regular early Foundation Establishment cultivators, as he practised the Palm of the Five Elements. He was absolutely confident he could get his revenge.

With Ru Xin's behaviour, old and new hatred filled his mind. He bristled with danger.

"I know where he is!"

Riding on five-coloured light, Chu Tian took off into the air.

"Oi, wait!"

Ru Xin remembered that if her conclusion was correct, then it was very likely he was not in his dwelling. If an observant person discovered this, it would probably raise suspicion.

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"The moon demon is so powerful. The Green Ruins sword is now broken, while the Lightning Slaughter sword is lost. Just who else does our Clear River prefecture have that can contend with him?"

The Foundation Establishment cultivators of the academy gathered on Contention island for a meeting. They were all rather dejected. The advantage they had built up over the three years of war had been reduced to nothing. The scarlet-haired, scarlet-eyed figure weighed on their hearts like a mountain.

"Perhaps there's no need for us to contend with him. I don't think the moon demon has ever actively worked against us. He has only been targeting the Daemon Suppression alliance the entire time. He might be a daemon, but that doesn't mean he can't be reasoned with!"

Liu Zhangqing stroked his long beard. Right now, he had a particularly favourable impression of the moon demon. Originally, the moon demon could have slaughtered them all, but he even went as far as defying the Spider Queen's orders to spare them. His behaviour could be interpreted as an attempt to make peace.

And, the phrase, "From whichever direction the winds leap, I remain strong, though dealt many a blow" had been extremely lofty and fascinating. Let alone daemons, most of his Confucian disciples could not even create a poem like that. He was a daemon, but he was still worth admiring.

Of course, without a foundation of great strength, it would be impossible for Liu Zhangqing to think like this even if Northmoon recited the anthology of Three Hundred Tang Poems.

"I agree with sir prefect. Actually, even if humans and daemons can't get along peacefully, there's no need for us to take it as far as mutual destruction. For example, the Mist province right now. The Treaty of Kings ceased to exist a long time ago, and there are no limitations on conflict, yet a new order has arisen from the conflict. It hasn't descended into full-scale war like us."

"When the founding emperor united the world, did he not have the support of daemons? It was the founding emperor who granted the title of the Ten Daemon Kings, allowing them to stand on equal footing with the various lords and kings of the eight provinces. The Hawk God is even the highest commander of our Hawkwolf Guard. No matter how powerful the Sword Collection palace is, are they

bold enough to look for trouble with him in the Dragon province? Purging the world of daemons has always been absurd and unrealistic.”

“The Green province has gone for several millennia without war, leading to far too many cultivators and daemons. They have accumulated too much strength, which they needed to release. The Treaty of Kings is no longer suitable for the given circumstances. As a result, I don’t think the higher ups set up this game of chess for us to exterminate one another, but for us to find a balance.”

Hua Chengzan spoke eloquently, truly taking the future and the bigger picture into account. He earned a series of nods from the other cultivators.

Liu Zhangqing said, “Then where do you think this balance is?”

“I’m not sure about that. That’s not something we can decide alone. The moon demon is a good opportunity for us to sit down and talk about it. I’m just worried right now that the moon demon has openly disobeyed the Spider Queen, so she’ll never let him off so easily. If that’s the case, we might really have to keep fighting until one side perishes completely.”

“In other words, I should be praying for his well being!?” Zhou Tong, who had remained silent the entire time, suddenly kicked over the table and raged.

Hua Chengzan said, “Senior Zhou, if we really can talk with the moon demon, we might not necessarily be unable to retrieve the Lightning Slaughter sword.”

There was nothing Zhou Tong could say with that. He was not a sword cultivator, but to him, the Lightning Slaughter sword was worth no less than the Green Ruins sword to Fu Qingjin, as it was a crucial item for surviving his second heavenly tribulation. No matter how ill-tempered he was, he could not neglect his own life.

Hua Chengzan said, “Then let’s see how the daemons respond.”

At this moment, a powerful aura rushed into the air.

Wei Yangsheng opened the window and took a look. He smiled. “Junior brother Chu has reached Foundation Establishment!”

Liu Zhangqing beamed inside. Just like that, his school of Confucianism had gained another Foundation Establishment cultivator. Hearing Chu Tian shout Li Qingshan’s name, he sighed. “He still can’t let go of his grievance with Qingshan.”

Wang Pushi said, “Where has that kid run off to recently anyway? Even when we message him, he doesn’t respond.”

Hua Chengzan said, “He’s probably cultivating in the Chain mountains. He might have reached an important point, so he can’t reply... Hmm? Chu Tian seems to be flying off in the direction of the Chain mountains!”

“Let’s go take a look! We can’t let them fight to the death!” However, what Liu Zhangqing implied was giving them another opportunity to see who was stronger.

Chu Tian was a disciple of confucianism after all. Having been defeated so many times, even Liu Zhangqing became embarrassed. Now that he had attained an initial mastery over the Palm of the Five Elements, he should be able to win for once and redeem some of his lost pride.

All Ru Xin saw were streaks of light rising up from Contention island, with Liu Zhangqing in the lead.

“There’s going to be trouble now.”

Chapter 484 - The Guardian King Subdues Demons

Dark clouds wrapped round the Chain mountains, drenching the verdant shrubbery.

The lingering clouds and mist hovered between the mountains, moving with the wind and rain.

Rain water flowed down the stone plate with the three words “Qing Xiao’s Home” engraved.

Behind the heavy stone door was a large, empty cavern. White flames burned upwards, like an upside down waterfall of fire.

Unlike regular flames, they were peaceful and quiet, giving off no sensation of heat at all. Instead, they were indescribably, bone-chillingly cold.

Twenty skulls surged up and down in the flames, opening their mouths and closing their jaws, creating a chatter. It sounded like a soul-stealing song from hell, yet it also sounded like the chanting of countless monks.

It was evil and sacred, eerie and majestic.

The source of the flames was Xiao An. Her seaweed-like hair rippled like the fire. It was like the flames and skulls all came from her imagination.

Xiao An formed a seal with her hands as she chanted a sutra. She seemed like a meditating monk at first glance, but the seal was not a buddhist seal, and the sutra was not a buddhist sutra.

Suddenly, she pointed at the sky, and all the flames condensed with that. All the skulls gathered together, revolving above her head. She opened her mouth and spat out a white prayer bead. As it spun around, it turned into a huge skull, pure-white and shiny, glimmering with light.

The lustre of the other twenty prayer beads improved with that, becoming even more powerful.

Xiao An waved her hand conveniently and the twenty-one skulls turned into twenty-one prayer beads, returning to her wrist and forming a string.

She had finally taken another step forward with the demonic artifact of white bone, the Skull Prayer Beads. At the same time, she had completely consolidated the first layer of the Path of White Bone and Great Beauty, advancing with her cultivation.

The twenty-one prayer beads represented the ten bhūmi, the ten pāramitā and buddhahood of buddhism. In her hands, they obviously possessed a completely different implication. Those who were not well-versed in buddhism would not be able to understand.

On the surface, the string of prayer beads shone with pure, buddhist light. They were righteous, legitimate buddhist artifacts.

She casually picked up a prayer bead and that was enough to rival the strength of an arcane artifact. Any single Skeleton Demon was enough to kill regular Foundation Establishment cultivators. Under her mental control, the twenty-one Skeleton Demons could fight alongside her with their minds connected, which endowed them with even more startling power.

It was possible to say that she alone was equivalent to an army of cultivators. She could influence the division of power within the entire prefecture.

Xiao An thought of Li Qingshan and became slightly uneasy. She immediately took out the Bamboo-Jade Lot of the Cloud Bookcase and used the Cloud Bookcase of the Seven Lots to practise divination.

Before long, she received the results, which made her expression change slightly.

The divination revealed that Li Qingshan was in danger. He was basically surrounded with killing intent and an aura of death. He was in dire straits.

Xiao An immediately climbed to her feet, but she heard calls and curses from outside.

“Li Qingshan, get out here! I know you’re in there!”

Chu Tian used the Palm of the Five Elements and sent it towards the entrance of the dwelling. Five kinds of spiritual qi—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—rose and fell in an endless cycle.

In the beginning, the hand flickering with five-coloured light was only a few meters across. As it rapidly absorbed the spiritual qi of the world, it reached several dozen meters across in the blink of an eye, slamming against the Eight Gates Formation of Golden Locks and producing a great boom that echoed through the mountains.

The Eight Gates Formation of Golden Locks obviously could not be destroyed so easily, but the person inside was unable to sit still anymore with the disturbance.

Sure enough, the door to the dwelling opened loudly a while later.

A slender figure walked out. Xiao An scanned around, and her gaze skimmed past the mountains wrapped in mist, landing on Chu Tian. She hid a white bone sword in her sleeve, deciding to kill this person first.

Chu Tian felt his head buzz. He directly became dumbstruck. So beautiful. That was beauty he was unable to describe. He had spent his entire life as an unrestrained romantic, having lovers everywhere, but this was the first woman that had managed to make him fall in love at first sight. If he could obtain her, he was willing to pay any price.

Xiao An had never been one to blabber. Since she had made up her mind, she immediately went about it.

But at this moment, a few streaks of light shot over from the horizon.

“Chu Tian, don’t be impulsive!” Liu Zhangqing called out.

The bellow finally made Chu Tian return to his senses. He clasped his hands. "I'm Chu Tian. May I ask for your esteemed name, ma'am? If I have disturbed you, please forgive me!"

Xiao An said nothing. She considered whether she should kill all the people here and then rush off to help Li Qingshan. No matter where she wanted to go right now, she probably could not shake off these people, which would only increase their suspicion.

Perhaps there were a few acquaintances of Li Qingshan among them, but to her, Li Qingshan took priority over everything else. Even if he would scold her after this, she still would not bat an eye.

"Xiao An, where's Qingshan?" Seeing how it was her who had come out to receive them while Li Qingshan was nowhere to be seen, Liu Zhangqing could not help but become rather puzzled. With Li Qingshan's nature, he would definitely accept all forms of provocation or challenge.

"Cultivating." Forced to answer, Xiao An spat out a single word.

In the blink of an eye, over twenty Foundation Establishment cultivators had hurried over. This was a battle among the geniuses of the academy. Basically everyone wanted to catch a glance of it.

Of course, there were a few who were uninterested, but just a handful. The central force of the academy had basically all gathered here.

If she led them into the dwelling and activated the Eight Gates Formation of Golden Locks, she had a certain degree of confidence in being able to slaughter them all.

"What? You're Xiao An!?"

Chu Tian was taken aback. Obviously, he had a deep impression of this genius that even surpassed him. However, he never imagined the little girl of the past would actually turn out like this.

"Tell Li Qingshan to drag his ass out here!" Chu Tian almost went crazy from jealousy as his hatred for Li Qingshan intensified further. However, he had already made up his mind to viciously defeat and humiliate Li Qingshan so that he could save Xiao An from his demonic grasp and then take good care of her.

Unity between geniuses went without saying, right?

Xiao An remained silent.

"Chu Tian, don't forget about the courtesy of confucianism. Xiao An, so many of us have come, so why don't you invite us in?"

Under the gazes of numerous pairs of eyes, Xiao An lowered her head and rubbed the Skull Prayer Beads on her wrist. She was just about to invite them in like what Liu Zhangqing had said.

Suddenly, she thought of something and said, "I can't."

"Why?" Liu Zhangqing was stunned.

"He's cultivating. He can't be disturbed," Xiao An answered calmly. She scanned the horizon from the corner of her eye. Someone was watching from the sky, even higher than Foundation Establishment. She could not kill them.

“I think he’s just afraid! He knows he’s not granddaddy Chu Tian’s opponent, so he’s decided to hide and be a coward. He’s sent you out to deal with me. Can’t be disturbed? Hmph, I’ll do exactly that.”

Chu Tian used the Palm of the Five Elements and swung it towards the mountain again.

“Chu Tian, don’t act recklessly!” Liu Zhangqing said. If Li Qingshan really was at a crucial moment in cultivation and ended up suffering from qi deviation due to being disturbed, it would be bad. At this moment, a streak of golden light shot past him.

Xiao An raised her right hand, but what flew out was not the white bone sword, but a vajra sword. A curved streak of light forcefully severed Chu Tian’s Palm of the Five Elements.

Xiao An took a step forward, and golden light surged from her body, turning into a guardian king that stood several dozen meters tall in the blink of an eye. It wielded a huge vajra sword as it glared at Chu Tian furiously.

Xiao An had not spent any special effort on practising the Guardian King’s Scripture of Demon Subdual. Compared to the Path of White Bone and Great Beauty, it was like comparing the curriculum of a primary school to the curriculum of a university. It was far easier to cultivate than the Cloud Bookcase of the Seven Lots. It was just a matter of making use of what she already knew.

Mind Enlightenment was among the crowd too. When he saw Xiao An unleash the avatar of the guardian king, he was stunned. He practised this cultivation method too, and he had even used it to clash with Xiao An in the past. That was the reason why he ended up spending three years wall-facing, finally achieving enlightenment.

He was confident that his comprehension of this cultivation method had already surpassed Xiao An’s, as her time and energy was split between multiple cultivation methods. Only now did he realise the difference between them. When he unleashed the guardian king’s avatar, it seemed like a statue in a temple. Although it also flickered with light, it seemed to be coated in a shell of golden paint. It still seemed like an inanimate object.

Yet, Xiao An’s avatar had eyes flowing with light and a sash that drifted about slowly. Every single crease in its robes were distinct, constantly rippling about.

Its face was also filled with fury, but from the delicate details, its expression seemed alive. Its muscular body was filled with power, like a real guardian king had actually appeared before them.

“You- Alright, I’ll show you my power first then!” Chu Tian was alarmed, but it also roused his fighting will, which made him want to unleash the fruits of his cultivation and demonstrate to Xiao An. I’m a genius on par with you, not a piece of trash like Li Qingshan!

At this moment, Xiao An took a step forward and stepped into the air.

The avatar began to change as well. Its colossal body gradually shrunk as its muscly arms gradually became slender. The distinct lines melded together too.

The anger on its fierce expression was slowly pacified, turning into the gentle face of a woman. Her appearance was rather similar to Xiao An’s, also possessing a red mole between her eyebrows. She wore a golden crown on her head, which made her seem gentle and majestic, magnificent and solemn.

“This-” Mind Enlightenment was tongue-tied. He had never heard that the Guardian King’s Scripture of Demon Subdual could undergo such a transformation.

Guardian kings were protector gods who served as guards to the buddha. Most of them wielded vajras, which was why they were also called vajra. Legend had it that they were originally fiends, and the buddha subdued them. All of them resembled fierce-looking men. Never had there been a vajra that looked like this.

The guardian king leapt up, and its sash flew into the air.

Chu Tian dared not hold back. He struck out with full force.

The Palm of the Five Elements filled his vision. The guardian king extended her slender hand, matching Chu Tian’s palm strike.

You had just gotten lucky earlier. Now that you’re actually taking me on in an open confrontation, don’t blame me for injuring you.

Chu Tian thought. Just as he felt proud of himself, an unbelievably tremendous power emerged, forcefully collapsing the Palm of the Five Elements.

Spiritual qi scattered, and the guardian king leapt out from the five-coloured light, swinging down with the vajra sword in her right hand!

“Protection of the Five Elements!” Chu Tian bellowed out. He raised his hands towards the sky, and the five elements in him condensed together, rapidly circulating about.

The strike was not particularly sharp. It just fell ordinarily.

Blood spattered, and the vajra sword directly cut through the Protection of the Five Elements, landing on Chu Tian’s right arm.

Chu Tian was fear-stricken. He pulled himself back in a rapid retreat, wanting to say something, but a slender hand of golden light emerged with a flash and grabbed him by the throat. His skin split open, and his flesh was ripped apart, reaching all the way to his vertebrae. She wanted to forcefully snap his neck.

The reversion of victory happened far too quickly. No one had imagined Chu Tian could not even withstand a single attack from Xiao An, nor did they imagine her to strike so viciously. Xiao An was about to behead Chu Tian, but it was already too late for them to save him.

An old monk with a grey beard and hair in monk’s robes arrived before Xiao An in a single step. Emotion and praise filled his eyes.

“Truly an outstanding disciple of mine! One Will, master’s come to take you back to the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga!”

Chapter 485 - The Maze-like Cobweb City

Cobweb city was empty.

All the night roamers had fled far away, returning to their cities. They were afraid of becoming involved with the greatest social upheaval underground in the past millennium.

As for the large figure who carried the Spider Queen towards her chamber, everyone labelled him as dead inside before gloating over the fate that awaited him. They did so even though that was their newest ruler, even though he was much more benevolent than the Spider Queen.

But they could not help it. This was the nature of night roamers. They would cheer for the misfortune of others, particularly for those stronger than them.

However, Li Qingshan's steps were extremely firm, and the female daemon in his arms was extremely light. Her black hair that had been tied up draped down, swaying gently with his footsteps.

The hysterical, sharp, and venomous anger had already vanished from her face completely. Her graceful body rested in his arms meekly, and her slender arms wrapped around his neck. Her scarlet lips formed a mesmerising smile, kissing Li Qingshan's neck gently and leaving behind a soft, moist mark.

In truth, she did not really care about the end result of this game of chess. Bloodshadow and Strongboulder's mysterious deaths displeased her, just like two chess pieces she found extremely convenient to use had suddenly been snatched from her.

She only had one goal in mind with everything she did—to please herself.

Great power and a lengthy lifespan would always make people reveal their true selves. Human cultivators might have been bound to morals and ethics, but daemons had always done whatever they wanted.

Having reached this stage of the game, something darted out all of a sudden, making it unexpectedly interesting. This was all thanks to him. When she considered she would soon entangle with him before tasting his blood and flesh, all of her dissatisfaction, no matter how great, vanished without a trace.

She would restrain him firmly and nibble away at his limbs bit by bit while he remained conscious. Would he howl out and plead for mercy? Or would he resist in silence?

She was as excited as a little girl in love. Sweet anticipation filled the unknown future. It had already been many years since she last experienced this sensation.

The sound of footsteps echoed through the gloomy hall. Li Qingshan dared not relax his guard.

When her lips kissed his neck, who knew whether she would bite down deeply in the next moment and inject lethal poison into him. When she wrapped her arms around him, who knew whether she would snap his neck in the next moment.

According to past information, the Spider Queen would not usually take such action. She would only kill and eat after she had enjoyed herself.

However, it felt like constantly tampering with a bomb. Even though all your experience told you it would not explode as a result and blow you to pieces, no one could truly relax either.

At the same time, her body gave off a strong, primitive temptation, with her enchanting appearance, graceful figure, voluptuous chest, and slender legs.

Even the seductive Ye Liubo paled in comparison to her.

Li Qingshan slowly became excited. His blood flow increased as his heart beat sped up as well.

Conquering powerful members of the other gender seemed to be an instinct of males, like defeating a powerful opponent. The lethal, omnipresent danger instead became the most enchanting part of her many charms.

Passing through the long corridor, Li Qingshan finally arrived in the very centre of Cobweb city, the chamber of the Spider Queen, or in other words, the spider's nest.

It was an unbelievably vast hall. Even if a thousand people gathered here, it would not feel cramped at all. The beautiful sculptures and murals eulogised her strength and cruelty.

In the centre of the hall, sixteen pillars surrounded a circular stone platform that seemed to take up half the size of the moon.

If it were not for the draping layers of black veil and the thick, silken bedding, basically no one could imagine it was a bed. It seemed more like an altar.

In the rumors of the night roamers, it basically symbolised exactly that. No one could leave here alive.

Li Qingshan began to chuckle. His laughter echoed through the spacious hall, breaking the ancient silence.

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The Spider Queen leaned against her arm, laying on the soft bedding as she gazed at Li Qingshan in abundant interest.

At that moment, she did not seem proactive. She was like a noble queen, waiting for her servant to please her. Her figure protruded from under her scarlet dress.

Li Qingshan did not consider himself as a servant. With a rip, he directly tore off her long dress. Her snowy-white figure was completely presented before him.

Li Qingshan did not hold back, throwing himself on top and directly grabbing the plump, snowy peaks he had been longing for all this time. He actually struggled to gain a proper grasp with a single hand, moulding them to whatever shape he wanted. He did not show any tenderness at all. The strength he used was enough to twist steel.

The Spider Queen only began to giggle. She raised her hands and wrapped them around his neck, burying his head viciously into her chest.

Deep among the drapes, soft laughter, gasps, and moans rose and fell together, echoing through the empty hall.

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In the darkness, after who knew how long.

Li Qingshan's eyes shone in the darkness. The Spider Queen lay atop his body with her disheveled hair draping down. Her face was blushed in an enchanting manner, and their bodies remained closely connected, giving off a smooth, scorching sensation.

The frustration he had pent up across all the years had finally been released. He did not treasure her tenderly at all, completely going about it on her soft, charming body as an invader and conqueror. Combined with his great strength that was enough to split mountains, it was almost brutal.

From how she frowned from time to time, it seemed to cause her quite a lot of pain too. After all, there was not a particularly large difference between them in terms of strength alone.

However, this seemed to suit the Spider Queen's tastes, finding pleasure within. Although she would constantly fight back with her claws and teeth, leaving behind injuries on him, it was more like a response of ecstasy than revenge.

Li Qingshan's vigour seemed endless, pouring it all into a similarly bottomless gully.

The Spider Queen propped herself up and touched Li Qingshan's face. She smiled. "I'm really quite reluctant to kill you, but I still want to eat you more."

To her, this had also been an unprecedented experience of pleasure. She pursed her lips and licked Li Qingshan's face gently with her tongue, as if she was debating between her lust and her appetite. However, the end result had obviously been set in stone already.

Prey would only continue to exert itself if you gave it some hope. She had already decided on squeezing out the final bit of use from Li Qingshan.

Now!

Li Qingshan knew the time had come. If he continued, he would only be wasting away his physical strength. Using the Spirit Turtle's Method of Sea Suppression, he suppressed the lust within him, and his mind immediately cleared up.

He directly used the power of the Tremors of the Ox Demon, wanting to knock the Spider Queen away for a battle to the death.

"Ahh!"

An extremely loud moan interrupted Li Qingshan's thoughts. There was some pain, but most of it was pleasure.

The Spider Queen laid down on Li Qingshan again as she grumbled, "Why didn't you use this earlier?"

Li Qingshan had no idea on how to respond. I haven't practised this innate ability for you to use it like that.

He also felt secretly astounded. He had unleashed the power of the Tremors of the Ox Demon while maintaining direct bodily contact. Even if the Spider Queen was a Daemon Commander with an extraordinarily tough body, it was impossible for her to go unscathed. It only meant she was truly a deviant.

“Continue!” the Spider Queen grabbed Li Qingshan’s throat and ordered sternly. To her, as long as the injuries were not too severe, they would not pose much of a problem. She could recover in the blink of an eye. However, the waves of pain from the bottom of her heart had completely become a part of her pleasure.

Li Qingshan thought that if they began fighting right now, a large difference still existed in their strength. Before he could break through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon under the pressure, she would have instantly slain him already. This was a good opportunity to waste away her daemon qi. Even though it was merely small wounds, it would definitely still play an effect once it accumulated to a certain degree.

As a result, Li Qingshan rested his head on his arms and constantly launched “attacks” at the Spider Queen. He had the Strength of the Earth anyway, so he recovered rather quickly.

When he looked at the Spider Queen’s ecstatic expression, he thought of a saying for some reason, Even if I tremor another thousand times, I won’t even be a millimetre closer to your heart...

“If you’re willing to stay here forever as my servant and pay for your actions, I can consider temporarily sparing you.”

After who knew how long, the Spider Queen caressed Li Qingshan’s face. She seemed much more weary than before, and sweat covered her smooth, white skin. Her voice had become much softer too.

At least it proved that Li Qingshan’s efforts had not been useless. Her heart was a millimetre closer now, considering how it was possible for her to never find such a convenient, humanoid toy again. Her lust began to overwhelm her appetite.

“Don’t even think about it!”

Li Qingshan turned down this request mercilessly. Making him remain here forever as a prisoner was impossible. It was the exact opposite of his original intentions of coming here.

“That’s a pity. Though, that’s not for you to decide.” The Spider Queen opened her mouth and spat out a strand of spider silk, wrapping around Li Qingshan’s neck.

Li Qingshan had already been prepared. He threw a punch.

Of course, he focused all of his power of tremors in that punch this time.

Unexpectedly, the altar-like bed suddenly collapsed. They fell down together.

Just how much strength did the two of them possess? Although they also had great control over their strength, after spending so much time entangled, there would still be moments when they forgot to control their power.

To be able to last until now, the bed already proved how exquisite the craftsmanship of night roamers could be.

Li Qingshan’s sudden attack was the final straw.

Beneath the heavy, stone bed was a huge, cylindrical cave. It had a ceiling that was almost a thousand meters tall, passing through the entire city. Circular staircases were scattered in the surroundings.

This was the path Li Qingshan had taken the first time he had come to Cobweb city.

As they fell, the two of them finally separated. The Spider Queen opened her mouth, but she no longer spat out only a strand of silk.

Li Qingshan dodged the silk, but it expanded beneath him instead, turning into a spider's web. Catching him off-guard, it wrapped around him, trapping him firmly in the centre like an insect.

The Spider Queen landed on the edge of the web. Her slender arms overlapped as she stood gracefully on a strand of silk. Her face had a hint of lethargy as she rubbed her smooth abdomen.

"Northmoon, I originally wanted to spare your life, but upon further consideration, I might have your child in me already. It can't go without the nourishment of its father's flesh and blood, right? For the sake of our child, you can die in peace!"

As her lust dispersed, her instincts to devour her partner gained the upper hand. She was on the verge of killing.

Chapter 486 - The Spider's Venomous Kiss

The sword qi shredded the severed part of the arm in the air.

"Y- y- I will never spare..." Chu Tian clutched his wound and gazed at Xiao An, overcome by surprise and anger.

If his arm had only been cut off, then it should not have been too great of an issue as long as he reattached it in time and underwent treatment. However, since it was destroyed, then it would be troublesome.

Even for daemons with their vigorous life force, it would take quite the effort to regrow limbs. To humans with pitifully weak life force, it was extremely difficult, essentially impossible for it to self-heal.

However, before Chu Tian could say much at all, Liu Zhangqing covered up his mouth and bowed. "Greetings, Annihilum Light Chan Master."

Chu Tian was trying to declare revenge right in front of the head monk of the Bodhi courtyard against his beloved disciple. Even if buddhism was about benevolence, they were still fierce like guardian kings. Even if he killed Chu Tian on the spot with a palm strike, Liu Zhangqing would not be able to vent his grievances anywhere.

The Annihilum Light Chan Master nodded gently, and the shine in his eyes subsided. His expression immediately became blank, which happened to share some master-disciple resemblance with the always expressionless Xiao An.

Liu Zhangqing let out a sigh of relief inside. If he were an elder of the Sword Collection palace, Chu Tian would have been a dead man already. If he came from the Umbral Yin sect, it would be even worse. Even his soul probably would have been taken away by now.

The other cultivators around all went up and bowed too. This was the most basic courtesy they had to show towards cultivators of a higher realm. Surprised gazes all swept past Xiao An uncontrollably.

For the entire time, everyone had treated divination as her greatest power. They did not place much focus on her strength.

After all, a Heavenly Meridians prodigy was only worth something as a Qi Practitioner. Once they reached Foundation Establishment, they would be in an entirely different world. Only with today did they learn what the capable was almighty meant.

Among them, Liu Zhangqing had personally taught Chu Tian the Palm of the Five Elements, so he understood the power of this cultivation method the most. Even he could not penetrate Chu Tian's Protection of the Five Elements so easily.

The new was truly superseding and replacing the old. Geniuses would always emerge in swathes when the world was changing, becoming as numerous as schools of carp migrating. Ten years ago, Hua Chengzan had already been regarded as a startling genius. Talent like what Chu Tian possessed was already equivalent to one-in-a-century geniuses.

Yet, under Xiao An's radiance, even Chu Tian was overshadowed. He had come for revenge, only to dig his own grave.

After reaching Foundation Establishment, Chu Tian should have been in his prime in terms of vigour. However, not only did he lose an arm, humiliated tremendously, but he could not even spit out a vicious threat. As such, pent-up bitterness filled him. The spiritual qi of the five elements constantly surged in his sea of qi as his face varied between scarlet red and purple green.

"Chu Tian, Chu Tian!" Liu Zhangqing was the first to notice that something was amiss. He called out his name several times, but Chu Tian did not respond. "Oh no, he's suffering from qi deviation!"

If handled well, simultaneous cultivation of the five elements resulted in mutual promotion of the five elements, but if handled badly, it resulted in mutual regulation. It was much easier for something to go wrong compared to practising a single type of spiritual qi. In the past, it had been relatively easy for Chu Tian to control five types of true qi with his Five Elements constitution. However, spiritual qi was different from true qi. After establishing a foundation, the advantages that came with a constitution diminished drastically. A much larger focus was placed on the cultivation of mentality and temperament.

Chu Tian had always been a rash and short-tempered person. He had rushed over here for revenge the moment he succeeded with Foundation Establishment before becoming heavily injured and overwhelmed with anger. He had fluctuated between his positive and negative emotions far too quickly, which was beyond what his mind could withstand.

Chu Tian's eyes were wide open. Although he did not faint, the flow of qi and blood in his body completely reverted, leaving him immobilised.

Liu Zhangqing was afraid to recklessly suppress what was going on with his spiritual qi. He was afraid of setting off the five element spiritual qi in Chu Tian's body and making it become even more violent.

"Prefect Liu, hand him to me!" Ru Xin drifted over. With a wave of her hand, a large, green leaf lifted up Chu Tian. She prodded a few pressure points on his chest before returning to the academy.

Everyone had become rather worried with what they saw. Qi deviation was a great menace among cultivators. Only heavenly tribulations were more threatening than that.

Once they encountered that, their cultivation would regress drastically if they were lucky, or they would die on the spot if they were unlucky. Even if Chu Tian managed to keep his life intact, he was basically regarded as dead as a genius.

From the beginning to the end, Xiao An did not even glance at Chu Tian. She had basically been expecting all of this with that strike of hers. Even if the Annihilum Light Chan Master had not interfered, she would never kill Chu Tian in front of so many people. That would lead to a lot of trouble.

Chu Tian had not suffered from qi deviation just because of his rash and short-tempered mentality.

There was basically nobody who understood the value of the body to a cultivator better than her. Having condensed flesh and blood and refined her body countless times, she possessed an extremely deep understanding of every single blood vessel and meridian that ran through the body.

The human body was like a world, complete with yin, yang, and the five elements. Perhaps this object known as a vile skin-bag in buddhism was not as tough as the bodies of daemons, but it did hold a cultivator's soul. Once balance was lost in a certain part, resulting in damage, it would set off a chain of reactions.

If a regular person lost an arm, they would be disabled at most, but to cultivators, particularly someone like Chu Tian who cultivated the five elements, the effects would be much more than that. She understood this the most as someone who practised seven types of spiritual qi.

However, Chu Tian did lose his balance much faster than she had anticipated. But regardless, he would not be able to cause any more problems.

There were many insightful and knowledgeable cultivators present, but no one had thought of this. Even Liu Zhangqing believed that Xiao An had only cut off Chu Tian's arm after being angered.

This was because her behaviour the entire time seemed rather naive, or perhaps dim. She seemed like she had absolutely no concept of how to conduct herself. That was only because she basically never responded with emotions or feelings aside from when she was with Li Qingshan. Her ability to comprehend and her intelligence that even the black ox had praised had been completely unleashed.

Ru Xin drifted away on the green leaf and glanced at Xiao An from afar. This child is a little terrifying!

Xiao An dispersed her guardian king's avatar and brought her hands together, bowing towards the Annihilum Light Chan Master. "Disciples One Will greets master."

The Annihilum Light Chan Master had no other reason for coming this time. He had been paying attention to the situation of the Clear River prefecture the entire time, and he had told Mind Enlightenment to constantly send him information regarding Xiao An.

He had been prepared to take action the moment Xiao An reached Foundation Establishment.

Foundation Establishment was only the foundations of a formal disciple in the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga. Only with this foundation could they comprehend buddhist dharma of greater depth. However,

reaching Foundation Establishment at such a young age was very rare even with the past disciples of the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga in perspective.

However, that happened to be when the war in the Clear River prefecture was most intense, with various people observing. It was inconvenient for him to directly fetch her, as it would weaken the strength of the human cultivators.

He waited until the decisive battle between Li Qingshan and Fu Qingjin, when the chess game began showing signs of coming to an end. He rushed over immediately and ran into this out of pure coincidence, and he chose to watch on silently from the sky. He wanted to see what level the youngest disciple of his could reach after establishing a foundation.

In the end, even his heart that had become as still as an ancient well began to ripple. He was quite overjoyed by this. If she had not been born with the roots of wisdom and a natural aptitude for buddhism, how could the Guardian King's Scripture of Demon Subdual transform like that? If it were not for the fact that the Green province had no esoteric buddhist sects, he basically would have suspected her to be the reincarnation of a certain eminent monk.

Then, the Annihilum Light Chan Master said, "You still haven't answered me with whether you're willing to return to the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga with me."

"The chaos in the prefecture has yet come to an end. The daemons stand strong, and it is a deciding moment of the academy's fate. I am indebted to the school leaders' kindness, so I cannot leave right now. Please forgive me, master."

Xiao An said expressionlessly as she tried to think of a method to get away from everyone so that she could venture underground and lend Li Qingshan a hand.

The Annihilum Light Chan Master was present. No matter where she went, she would struggle to avoid his watch, and it would only lead to problems for Li Qingshan. If his identity were exposed, neither the Human nor Daemon race would accept him anymore. He would become a traitor spurned by both sides.

This time, Li Qingshan was helpless. He could only rely on himself. Perhaps this had been his plan all along.

.....

Deeply entangled in the spider's web, Li Qingshan struggled as hard as he could. He possessed almost-divine strength that could split open mountains, yet he was unable to break free from the spider's web composed of thin strands of silk.

A Daemon Commander's daemon qi flowed through them. Let alone the silk Lolth had spun with care, even a piece of rotten wood would become as tough as steel once imbued with a Daemon Commander's daemon qi.

The Spider Queen was completely bare. She moved her perfect, slender legs and walked towards the intersection of the silk with her especially petite feet. The part between her legs was vaguely visible. Her dark hair flowed from her snowy shoulders, covering her proud, erect chest. The lingering charm that followed intercourse remained on her face.

Her figure and posture was enough for most men in the world to throw themselves at her like moths to a flame. Even if they knew it would be certain death, they would still want to catch a whiff of her.

“Just stop struggling and save some strength. That way, I can still use you a few more times. Though, I’ll have to eat your arms and legs first.”

“It’s a pity that I’ve already gotten slightly sick of you.”

Li Qingshan laughed loudly. The power of the Tremors of the Ox Demon filled his body, unleashing from every inch of muscle on him. The spider web trembled violently.

The Spider Queen’s expression changed, becoming twisted with fury. Who knew whether it was because of what Li Qingshan said or what he did, or perhaps a combination of the two.

In that instant, she vanished from her location, lunging towards the centre of the web. It was better to describe her speed as instantaneous movement rather than lightning-fast.

Her claws reached towards Li Qingshan’s shoulders at top speed. If she managed to gain a grasp, Li Qingshan would have to leave behind his forelimbs even if he objected. Otherwise, he would become wrapped up in close combat that he had no chance of winning.

However, Li Qingshan seemed to be prepared. His right arm suddenly broke free from the web, directly hurling towards the Spider Queen’s beautiful face.

Li Qingshan had begun using the Spirit Turtle’s Method of Sea Suppression a long time ago to push his mental processes to a state of intricacy. In the moment the Spider Queen vanished, he experienced a strange sensation as if he could predict her next move. It did not come from close analysis. It was purely a feeling.

With his punch, the Spider Queen’s sudden lunge seemed more like delivering her face to his fist.

Bang!

However, Li Qingshan failed to achieve the intimate contact with her face as he wished.

In that critical moment, the Spider Queen used her superior reaction to catch Li Qingshan’s fist. A silvery-grey colour began to spread, dyeing her entire body rapidly, which made her seem like an exquisite metal sculpture.

The power of Tremors of the Ox Demon produced cracks in her silver palm, but that was it.

“These puny tricks of yours only have some use in bed!” the Spider Queen said coldly, biting towards Li Qingshan’s neck.

This time, it was no longer a passionate kiss, an intense act of love. Instead, she wanted to inject venom directly into his body. This was completely different from the weak poison on her legs.

She only needed a single kiss and that would be enough to destroy all of Li Qingshan’s abilities to resist.

Chapter 487 - Facing the Spider Queen

Her current form should be one of her innate abilities. Her defences are ridiculously tough, so I completely lack the means to deal a life-threatening wound to her right now. However, she only needs to bite me or trap me in her web and I'd probably be done for.

The constant warnings from the spirit turtle's daemon core had already become pointless. All it told Li Qingshan was, You can die at any time. Obviously, he knew that already. He needed no warning.

The Spider Queen's venomous teeth were inches away, but her left hand maintained a firm grip over Li Qingshan's right fist, while her right hand grabbed his left shoulder like a vice, pushing him firmly against the web. He could not move.

Li Qingshan could not dodge, nor could he escape. He could only take her on in a battle to the death.

"The Ox Demon Butts its Horns!"

Suddenly, Li Qingshan raised his head. He completely unleashed the pair of sharp ox horns engraved with "Northmoon", butting towards the Spider Queen's throat.

Even the Spider Queen was reluctant to clash with the toughest part of Li Qingshan's body. She tilted her head gently to avoid it. Although she had failed to deliver a venomous kiss as she wished, this was not enough for Li Qingshan to break out of the dire straits she had placed him in.

The slender fingers on her right hand had already stabbed into Li Qingshan's shoulder. Crippling his arm was merely an issue of time. Simultaneously, eight legs turned into eight blurry shadows as they darted out from behind her.

This time, they were not stabbing out, but "embracing". They were like eight extended arms, reaching around Li Qingshan and pulling him firmly into her arms.

A mesmerising smile that Li Qingshan found extremely familiar appeared on her silvery-grey face. It only appeared during the extreme pleasure of intercourse. If intercourse gave her physical pleasure, then she was experiencing mental pleasure currently. She was enjoying the primitive delight of hunting prey as a predator, but it made her seem especially cold and eerie.

Once she embraces me, I probably won't be able to break free ever again! I refuse to believe my innate ability only has a use in bed. Tremors of the Ox Demon, shatter!

Li Qingshan unleashed as much of the power of tremors as he could again. He felt like thousands of zither strings had snapped on him as the tough spider web finally ripped apart from the vibrations.

He used all of his strength to forcefully wrench his fist back from the Spider Queen's hand. A few streaks of blood spattered from his shoulder, now with five additional bloody holes. He had directly abandoned a portion of his flesh.

Finally, his body was free once more. He fell downwards, and the wings of wind unfurled to their full extent, sweeping downwards like wind blades.

The Spider Queen's smile became even more enchanting. Just like her tastes for other things, she liked an intense, stimulating performance. The more her prey struggled, the more excited she would become. She raised her hands and casually smashed apart the wings of wind.

However, Li Qingshan had already achieved his objective. He had widened the distance between them with a flap of his wings.

The wings of wind condensed once more and flapped desperately, rushing downwards as quickly as they could.

Fortunately, the Spider Queen was not particularly proficient at moving through the air. This was expected; after all, she was a daemon that lived underground.

The Spider Queen flipped in the air and landed on the vertical wall dexterously, running downwards along the wall.

Each step she took would blast open a gaping hole in the wall. Using this to advance, she accelerated instantaneously, turning into a silverish-grey shadow. She completely shook off the rising dust and falling rocks behind her.

As the king of the underground world, she had never required the ability of flight in the first place.

In the blink of an eye, she closed the distance between them once more. The Spider Queen smiled at Li Qingshan and opened her mouth, spitting out swathes of silk that rapidly fell towards Li Qingshan.

If Li Qingshan dodged, then the web would unfurl beneath him and trap him once again. However, he came up with a plan with only a single thought. Taking in a deep breath, he opened his mouth wide and whistling gales surged out violently like a passing typhoon.

The spider web was extremely tough, difficult to break with brute strength alone, but it was exceedingly light. It began to shift from the fierce gales or open up prematurely.

Li Qingshan used this breath of his to widen the distance between them once again.

With a great boom, he travelled through several thousand meters and struck the bottom in the blink of an eye.

Li Qingshan came to a halt.

How could the Spider Queen let such a good opportunity slip by? Suddenly, she stopped and bent her slender legs, like springs being pushed to the limit. She unleashed all of her power abruptly and shot downwards like a silver streak.

At this moment, she had completely lost interest in fooling around anymore. To be able to escape from her hands consecutively, he possessed strength that definitely did not belong to a mere Daemon General. He basically showed signs of crossing the chasm between Daemon General and Daemon Commander.

Not only did he have numerous innate abilities, but he also grew at a startling rate. If she allowed him to continue growing, eating him would become more and more difficult. She definitely could not allow him to escape again. She had to trap him in spider silk as soon as she caught him, and then she could deal with him slowly!

This thought flashed through her head. Suddenly, she saw a scarlet figure appear on a spiral staircase on the side. It leapt up and lunged over. Its scarlet hair and eyes were exactly the same as Li Qingshan's.

The Spider Queen was slightly taken aback before realising this was his mirror clone.

Li Qingshan had already begun mobilising his mirror clone to set up an ambush the moment he entered the Spider Queen's chambers. He had been waiting for this moment.

The mirror clone was much slower than his original body, so he had it lying in ambush here. Moreover, it had launched an attack when the Spider Queen had struck out with full strength, when she was unable to maneuver freely.

The Spider Queen did not dodge, but she did raise a hand and grab the mirror clone's head. Her fingers dug in viciously, and with a crack, blood began to flow.

Li Qingshan felt his head ache. His mirror clone and he had always been sharing the same mind. It was not a regular clone; instead, it was equivalent to another body of his.

There was absolutely no time to use daemon qi to repair the mirror clone. The crushed head of the mirror clone shattered like a watermelon as blood and brains scattered everywhere.

The sensation was absolutely horrible.

But at last, he had stalled the Spider Queen for a moment. By the time she looked over again, Li Qingshan had already vanished. A hole the size of a person appeared in his place.

"You think you can escape?" The Spider Queen sneered and rushed into the hole as well.

Soil squeezed inwards from all directions. The path ahead had also been sealed. She was unable to sense Li Qingshan's aura at all.

The Spider Queen's eyes lit up, and four halos appeared in her eyes. Her gaze immediately penetrated the rock and soil, seeing where Li Qingshan was.

Even if you flee to the ends of the earth, you won't be able to escape from me.

She began to circulate her daemon qi, smashing through the rock and soil in direct pursuit. At her level of cultivation, an obstruction of soil was almost no different from air or water. She could easily carve out a path.

The thick soil and rocks parted to the two sides in front of Li Qingshan before closing up again behind him. After reaching the fourth layer of the ox demon, his usage of the power of tremors had increased in intricacy, and he vaguely gained some ability to control earth.

Strongboulder's daemon core in his belly shrank before he knew it. The daemon core was of the earth element, so the spirit turtle's daemon core composed purely of the water element could not absorb it. Instead, it had merged with his body, making him even tougher.

After digging who knew how deep, he became surrounded in thick earth all around. The tremendous, venomous daemon qi behind him rapidly drew closer.

Finally, Li Qingshan stopped, turned around, and faced the incoming daemon qi.

His battle spirit began to rouse!

He did not want to flee either! Fleeing blindly would only prevent the tiger demon from freely unleashing its murderousness, making it even more impossible to break through to the fourth layer.

He was choosing an appropriate place to fight, as well as waiting for an appropriate moment for battle.

Now, it was here. It was time.

Come, ma'am Spider Queen!

I'll have you witness the power of your child's father!

Although the earth was not a particularly effective obstacle to the Spider Queen, it was like a human swimming through water; it would not be as easy as walking along the ground. Her speed would still be affected to a certain degree.

By now, the smile on her face had already vanished completely. It had been replaced with vicious, terrifying killing intent. Although she enjoyed the process of hunting prey, if the prey managed to escape too far away, the predator would only appear to be incompetent.

Suddenly, she saw Li Qingshan stop.

"Have you finally given up on the pointless struggle?" The Spider Queen's voice reached Li Qingshan's ears through the thick earth.

Li Qingshan instead made his way towards her. His expression was calm and composed as he said, "The Ox Demon, with its Great Strength, Sinks in the Mud. As long as I still have a shred of strength left, I will continue my struggle forever, even if I am in dire straits, even if I have no chance at victory!" He smiled and changed the topic. "Not to mention that I already have a thirty percent chance at victory now."

"What? Thirty percent? Are my ears deceiving me? Do you really think you have a geographical advantage by remaining in the soil?"

The Spider Queen sneered. Her hand shining with a silvery-grey lustre pierced the earth easily. With her five fingers together, she stabbed it towards Li Qingshan's heart like a sharp blade.

Li Qingshan's response, unsurprisingly and simply, was a punch. But this time, he did not use the Tremors of the Ox Daemon. He even purposefully minimised the consumption of daemon qi, using the strength of his body alone.

And, his fist did not pierce the rock and soil like the Spider Queen's attack. Instead, earth began to amass in layers on the fist, like a huge, heavy glove. However, the power and speed behind the punch did not decrease at all.

As a result, the Spider Queen only saw a huge boulder amassed from earth hurtling towards her, but she completely ignored it. Her hand cut through Li Qingshan's "glove" easily, and using her superior speed, she skimmed past the punch and stabbed towards Li Qingshan's heart with great precision.

As for the incoming rock, it crumbled as soon as it made contact with her silvery-grey skin, unable to pose a threat at all.

Since she knew Li Qingshan's strength was relatively greater, there was obviously no reason for her to take on his attacks openly. All she needed to do was use her superior speed and reactions to gain an absolute upper hand.

Even if Li Qingshan could predict her next move, she could react in time and block his attack or avoid his defences. Although they were deep underground, his disadvantageous circumstances did not seem to change at all.

The Spider Queen's sharp, red nails came in contact with the skin on Li Qingshan's chest. All she needed to do was push a little harder, and it would pierce him through the heart. A hand extended over from the side suddenly and gripped her wrist firmly.

Li Qingshan snickered. "In the earth, your movements have slowed down slightly, while my reactions have sped up slightly."

Chapter 488 - Back to the Wall

Li Qingshan could clearly sense the movements in the earth around him. Although he could not see it with his eyes or hear it with his ears, the Spider Queen's attacks were no longer so unfathomable anymore.

It was just fish swimming through water. No matter how fast or nimble they were, they would always cause disturbances in the water.

However, Li Qingshan did not use these "disturbances" to deduce her location. Instead, he directly fused with the earth. When she split open the earth, he could grasp the trajectory of her movements with how the earth shifted. Naturally, his reactions became slightly faster.

His strength seems to have increased. My strength is already regarded as rather powerful among Daemon Commanders. That means he has indeed reached the realm of Daemon Commanders in a certain aspect. Is this all really because of his bloodline as a descendant?

The Spider Queen pulled her hand back, but it failed to budge, which left her slightly surprised.

One of the two major innate abilities that came with the fourth layer of the ox demon, the Strength of the Earth, had changed before he knew it.

If the thick earth only served as a powerful backing to him in the past, then he now seemed to have merged with it, with strength flowing through him at all times. It was as if he could continue fighting for eternity.

"Hmph, you want to engage in close combat with me? You're digging your own grave!" The Spider Queen made use of the situation to advance boldly.

In that instant, Li Qingshan's pupils became clear. The boundless sea in his pupils clearly reflected the Spider Queen's figure. All he saw was an image of a slender, silvery-grey blur sweeping towards his waist like a battle-axe.

He could even estimate the power of this strike. His kidney would definitely become heavily injured.

Yet, the Spider Queen had only just begun lifting her leg.

Li Qingshan rejoiced slightly. The spirit turtle possessed the ability to divine the future and foresee danger.

However, after reaching the fourth layer of the spirit turtle, he had never come across any opponents that had forced him into such dire straits. As a result, this power had never been unleashed.

Only during this battle today did this feeling become clearer and clearer between the constant life-threatening danger.

Sure enough, people were made with pressure. Daemons were also made with pressure.

Speaking positively, the spirit turtle was obviously a divine beast that pursued good fortune and avoided disaster. Speaking negatively, it was just a coward, afraid of death and fleeing in the sight of danger, avoiding all threads of karma and taking on absolutely no risk at all.

I've become so conservative in the past few years probably because of its influence. Sure enough, the life right now is what I want! I want to fight the strongest enemies and sleep with the most beautiful women, uh, female daemons!

Boom!

The Spider Queen's foot landed on Li Qingshan's hand!

The Ox Demon Butts its Horns!

Li Qingshan produced a crazy howl that resembled both an ox and a tiger. Using both hands, he forcefully dragged the Spider Queen over and lowered his head to butt her.

Boom!

The Spider Queen twisted her body. The free foot stamped viciously on Li Qingshan's head, kicking off to free her arm and leg and using the force to fly off. The tremendous shockwave pushed aside all the soil beside them, creating a small cavern.

Li Qingshan's head spun. Although the skull was the toughest part of him, he still experienced splitting pain after taking on a kick from her. He shook his head hard and laughed wildly. "Once I defeat you, I'll fuck you again!"

"That's quite arrogant of you!" the Spider Queen barked furiously, but she felt surprised inside.

What was going on? She clearly still possessed the upper hand. She had even landed a kick on him earlier, so why was he becoming even more arrogant and fearless? He did not behave like he had a thirty percent chance at victory, but rather that victory was already within his grasp. Did he have some sort of powerful trump card?

"An old brother of mine once told me that if I don't even have the courage to say a few bold words, I might as well go back to farm work!"

Li Qingshan had no trump card at all. He only felt extremely delighted. He was fighting the terrifying Spider Queen underground, beyond the light of day. If he lost, then only death would await him. If he won, there would be quite an impressive reward.

Even if he could spend an entire life in the mountain village peacefully and happily, it would not be able to compare to the glory of this moment. He had cast the issue of death aside a long time ago. Right now, he was merely enjoying himself.

“You’re just bluffing!”

The Spider Queen sneered. Her silvery-grey body vanished and appeared before Li Qingshan. She raised her arms high into the air as eight shadows whistled over.

Every single part of her body—her hands, legs, knees, and elbows—could be unleashed as lethal weapons. Like a heavy storm, it landed on Li Qingshan. His head, chest, belly, and legs were basically attacked at the same time.

Li Qingshan lost his senses that came with the earth. Even if he could predict the Spider Queen’s movements, his reactions could not keep up with the Spider Queen’s responses.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Thunderous rumbles constantly erupted on Li Qingshan’s body. The force leaked into the surroundings. Just when the cavern began showing signs of collapse, it was immediately crushed and made even tougher.

The eight legs danced about as messy shadows, leaving behind wound after wound on Li Qingshan’s tough skin. In the blink of an eye, toxins ate away the wounds, turning them horrifically bone-deep.

A silvery-grey shadow circled around Li Qingshan, ripping off chunks of his flesh and devouring it. All Li Qingshan could do was barely guard his vital points.

However, his wild laughter had never stopped.

Ignoring his wound-ridden body, he refused to let a single opportunity to attack slip by with the spirit turtle’s predictions, barraging the Spider Queen’s body as if he wanted to trade injuries with her.

The Spider Queen endured a few punches too, but her response was nothing special, as not only were his punches without any innate abilities, he had not even used daemon qi. It was only brute force.

After another series of clashes, the Spider Queen pulled back.

“What, are you tired? Keep going!”

Li Qingshan asked. He no longer had a single piece of his body intact. Cracks riddled even his bones inside. It was impossible to connect his face to the concept of handsomeness anymore.

His left cheek had completely collapsed—the result of a side kick. As for his right face, it was even more terrifying. The venom had eaten away at it, leaving his gums and teeth completely exposed.

His throat gurgled as if he was laughing, but he could no longer use his facial muscles to express this feeling. Only his eyes continued to shine as he stared at the Spider Queen.

He was right. The Spider Queen did feel slightly exhausted. Even with her powerful body as a Daemon Commander, it was impossible for her to maintain such intense attacks. She gazed at Li Qingshan and thought to herself doubtfully, Isn’t he tired?

The part that astounded her the most was not even this. His reactions and speed seemed to be gradually increasing, and he was extremely sensitive to lethal attacks. He would often be able to dodge in the most effective way in the critical moment and avoid lethal wounds.

Of course, the price for that was often a horrific wound. If it were not for the fact that the spirit turtle's daemon core had replaced the function of most organs, he would have collapsed already.

"Why should I waste energy on a corpse?"

The Spider Queen sneered. Her venom had already invaded every part of his body. Although the venom in her legs was not as potent as what she could directly inject him with, it was still relatively terrifying when it built up bit by bit.

Now, she only needed to wait for the venom to kick in and completely destroy Li Qingshan's body.

"Then you might be disappointed."

"What?"

At this moment, Strongboulder's daemon core that Li Qingshan struggled to digest in his belly suddenly erupted with rings of greyish yellow light.

The Strength of the Earth was an ability that connected with the boundless will of the earth, and this earth element daemon core was condensed from the essence of the earth. Normally, it would not be easy for him to digest it.

But at this moment, when his body was on the verge of collapse, the earth all around him provided aid to him, the child of the earth on the brink of death.

Strongboulder's daemon core began to respond too, spinning around and releasing waves of daemon qi that merged with his body.

His wounds recovered at a visible rate. Black, poisoned blood flowed out from them. The residual poison no longer posed as too much of a problem, as after digesting Strongboulder's daemon core, his body had become stronger and stronger.

The Spider Queen could not help but be taken aback. She did not know about Strongboulder's daemon core. She thought Li Qingshan had been hiding an ability that could heal his wounds.

"What, are you done resting? Or have you used up all your strength in bed and no longer possess the energy to fight? If that's the case, you might as well just bend over!"

Li Qingshan twisted his head. With a crack, he moved a few dislocated vertebrae back into place. As he smiled viciously, his eyes gradually went from being scarlet to blood-red.

As he devoured Strongboulder's daemon core, the killing intent in the daemon core completely erupted all at once.

In his sea of consciousness, the tiger demon roared wildly and bounded about, becoming larger and larger and filling his entire sea of consciousness. It brandished its teeth and claws as it broke out, like it had broken out of a cage.

A tiger's markings appeared on Li Qingshan's face. His long canines protruded, and his hands turned into tiger claws. A tiger tail dragged behind him, waving around like a steel whip. He had turned into a humanoid tiger.

Wondrously, his mind became exceptionally clear in that moment, as if his soul had been projected from his body, gazing over himself from above.

Li Qingshan arched his back and bent over. His murderousness and killing intent was completely withdrawn, like a vicious tiger about to pounce onto its prey. There were no singing birds or chirping insects. The entire forest fell silent.

This is my best opportunity at breaking through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon. Once I fail, I don't have a second daemon core to heal myself-

His thoughts came to a halt. Violent killing intent dominated everything.

Roar!

With a tiger's roar, his murderousness skyrocketed!

The Spider Queen could not help but take a step back before feeling deeply humiliated. Had a mere Daemon General frightened her? Even if you recover a hundred times, I'll defeat you a hundred and one times. No, this time, I'll kill you here.

Her layered pupils locked onto the incoming Li Qingshan. She opened her mouth slightly, but silk did not spray out immediately. Instead, she paused for a moment to build up daemon qi. Just how powerful would an attack be when even she needed to build up to it?

In that instant, thousands of strands of silk emerged from her vermilion lips.

Her spider silk had previously managed to pierce the arcane artifact, the Bronze Cauldron of the Four Cardinal Directions, and kill the sect master of Bronze Cauldron mountain inside. Its penetrative power was so great that it was even sharper than the Green Ruins sword that Fu Qingjin wielded.

The Spider Queen had made up her mind. She gave up on her plan to capture Li Qingshan alive and torture him slowly. She wanted to kill him in a single stroke.

Chapter 489 - The Fourth Layer of the Tiger Demon

Since the very beginning, the Spider Queen's objective with Li Qingshan had been to capture him alive before tying him up and slowly enjoying him. The pain and despair of the prey had always been the most important component of this dish.

Once she lost that component, all that remained for her to do was "eat". However, before she ate, she still wanted to have some fun. She wanted to cut off his limbs and treat him as a toy in bed. After all, prey that could satisfy her desires were simply too rare.

As a result, she had never really planned on killing him, which was why Li Qingshan had managed to last until now. If she tried to kill him right from the beginning, perhaps it would have been completely impossible for Li Qingshan to burrow into the ground alive.

The close combat earlier seemed extremely intense, but she had plenty of opportunities and methods to kill Li Qingshan. But that way, it would be very difficult for her to control her power. It was possible for her to kill him directly, and if she forced him into dire straits, it was possible for him to directly blow up his daemon core.

It was exactly because of these various considerations that she had chosen the unwise plan of wasting away Li Qingshan's daemon qi and physical strength. By then, it would already be too late if he wanted to blow up his daemon core.

However, the situation did not unfold as she had expected. Not only did Li Qingshan avoid being worn out, but he even riled up in vigour instead and used his daemon qi extremely conservatively.

The situation was becoming complicated, which was rather disadvantageous to her.

Of course, that was all, just disadvantageous.

She recovered from her exhaustion in a single breath. Although she had depleted a lot of daemon qi, it recovered quickly too.

Most importantly, she had decided to "kill" at this moment.

The moment she made up her mind, the spirit turtle's daemon core in Li Qingshan's body gave off a stern warning. It was almost an omen of death.

The strands of spider silk all flew over. Li Qingshan could not make any response in time. No matter what action he took, he could not avoid the fate of becoming riddled with holes.

"Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell!"

Li Qingshan bellowed out and hexagonal pieces of the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell layered in front of him.

Time seemed to slow down. A ripple seemed to be produced as each strand of silk came in contact with the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, but it was impossible to discern because hundreds of strands struck the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell at the same time.

Instead of being penetrated, it was probably better to describe the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell as being annihilated.

Li Qingshan's daemon qi depleted rapidly. There were no longer any tricks he could use anymore. The air filled with spider silk was like the direct advance of a million-strong army. If he did not block it, only death would await him, but even if he blocked it, it would only delay his death.

The silk was not as light as the spider web, which could have been blown away with fierce gales.

The other side of the thousands of strands of silk were still attached to the Spider Queen's mouth as she constantly channeled in daemon qi. Let alone fierce gales, even axe-swings could not make a single strand budge.

The Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell was destroyed layer after layer. Li Qingshan's daemon qi plummeted as the strands arrived right in front of him.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

With a pair of blood-red eyes, Li Qingshan punched out again and again, using the Tremors of the Ox Demon to snap all the silk.

However, the silk strands were endless. At a time like this, even if he wanted to turn around and flee, it would be too late.

Innate abilities consumed daemon qi extremely rapidly. In the blink of an eye, the daemon qi that Li Qingshan had conserved arduously the entire time so that he could use it at a critical juncture had almost run out.

Yet, all the Spider Queen did was stand there, constantly spitting out silk. With this move alone, she had pushed Li Qingshan into unprecedented danger.

This move, the Myriad Threads, also took quite the toll on her. However, as a Daemon Commander, both the quality and quantity of her daemon qi and her recovery rate was well beyond what a Daemon General could match.

In a battle that purely depended on daemon qi consumption, the outcome went completely without saying.

Seeing how Li Qingshan's daemon qi had almost run out, but he continued to hold on without any intentions of blowing up his daemon core, the Spider Queen's bright, red lips curled into a victorious smile. His desire to survive was much greater than what she had imagined. If she had known this earlier, she would have never held back in the beginning.

If this continued, she would achieve her original objective. Subduing a Daemon General who had run out of daemon qi was extremely simple.

Li Qingshan threw another punch, but there were no shockwaves anymore. His daemon qi had finally run out.

In that instant, thousands of threads pierced and swallowed him, pushing him until he slammed into the wall behind. He could not move anymore.

The Spider Queen breathed in gently. Her skin went from silvery-grey back to the smooth, snowy-white. As her plump hips swayed from side to side, she arrived before the humanoid figure that had been completely covered in webs.

With a wave of her hand, Li Qingshan's face appeared without the slightest injury.

In the final moment, she had shifted the threads that shot towards his head, just in case she killed him. Of course, she avoided a certain part down below too.

Apart from those two parts, his body had been completely penetrated by threads, whether it was his limbs or organs. He was like an insect that had been nailed down by thousands of thin needles, completely immobilised. Even blowing up his daemon core had been reduced to a wild wish.

At this moment, even if he broke through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon, it would be too late.

The Spider Queen gently caressed Li Qingshan's handsome face before suddenly landing a slap on his cheek, leaving behind a clear palm print. Then she lifted him by the chin and said, "Now, who's fucking who?"

"Me fucking you obviously!" Before Li Qingshan could finish, there was a smack, and he was slapped across the face again. His face turned and his scarlet hair flew into the air.

Li Qingshan continued to smile viciously despite facing absolute despair.

He had already used all of his tricks. He had already tried everything he could and did everything he could. When he had completely refined Strongboulder's daemon core, when he had the greatest hope of breaking through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon, all of it had ended in failure before he could even launch a single attack back.

If he had succeeded, all of this would have been different!

However, there were no ifs in life.

The killing intent from Strongboulder's daemon core receded like the tide, only leaving behind the bitterness of failure. Sure enough, fate never went along with plans!

Hah, it's not like I'm the Hegemon King of Chu. If my strength is insufficient, then my strength is insufficient. Why should I blame fate?

Do I feel despair? Perhaps!

However, as long he was still alive, even for a second, he would continue struggling until the end. He gazed at the Spider Queen with shining eyes. He did not spit a mouthful of bloody saliva towards her like those revolutionaries. Instead, he calmly tried to put up a struggle, but it was still futile.

Although the Strength of the Earth continued to replenish his physical strength endlessly, every inch of his muscle had already been pierced by the threads. They no longer listened to him. He could not even move his little finger.

The Spider Queen admired this sight in satisfaction. She had finally subdued this stubborn beast. There had never been a prey that made her so excited before.

A hand landed on him below, fiddling around it gently. She licked his face with the tip of her bright-red tongue and whispered into his ear, "Serve me well and I'll let you live a little longer. If you can satisfy me, I might even spare your life, so you can continue leading the night roamers and serve me diligently."

To those in despair, nothing was more tempting than hope, just like how drowning people would even desperately clutch at a straw.

Giving him a shred of hope, taming him bit by bit before killing him in the most brutal fashion possible. This was the fate she had set up for him. Only like that could her anger be pacified.

"I still have something on me that your silk can't pierce." Li Qingshan smiled.

"What?"

"My bones."

The bones throughout Li Qingshan's body could truly be described as the toughest part of him. Even the unstoppable spider silk could only pierce his skin and flesh, forced to bypass the bones.

At this moment, inspiration suddenly flashed through his head.

Even in death, the tiger's bones stand!

"Then I'll break them personally," the Spider Queen said viciously. Abruptly, she saw Li Qingshan shudder and move, leaving her slightly surprised.

"Even if all my limbs and organs have been pierced, my bones can still move."

As a result, Li Qingshan's bones began to move. Indescribable agony filled every inch of him. All of his flesh that the spider silk had nailed down was being tugged at, but it did not budge. It was as if he was trying to forcefully separate his bones from his flesh.

Blood flowed along the strands, drenching the ground in the blink of an eye.

Even the torture of death through slow slicing felt enjoyable compared to this.

The Spider Queen smiled again. She enjoyed this kind of death struggle in the face of despair the most, but Li Qingshan's expression left her rather dissatisfied.

His face did not become twisted from the pain. Instead, it smiled. He thought of a person.

Probably only that mad woman Qian Rongzhi can endure something like this. I won't lose to her. No, I won't lose to myself!

Suddenly, Li Qingshan felt like he had been filled with wisdom. All became clear.

I understand!

The figure of the tiger demon appeared in his sea of consciousness again, continuing to howl at the sky. There were clearly no enemies around it, yet it waved its claws and brandished its teeth as if it was fighting something invisible, as if killing intent had filled its mind, sinking into a frenzy.

The Tiger Demon Forges its Bones, with a Frenzied Heart!

But this time, Li Qingshan saw something completely different. The tiger demon did not fight in a frenzy without knowing who its opponent was.

Even if the world was destroyed, even if it killed all life, it would only have one eternal enemy—itsself.

If it could not defeat itself, no matter how many opponents it defeated, it was still weak.

Those who dominate others are strong, but those who overcome themselves have strength.

TL: This is a phrase taken from Dao De Jing. It appeared earlier in the novel, in chapter 10.

In order to defeat this enemy forever, all it could do was fight constantly, again and again, to defeat fear, to defeat pain, to defeat setbacks, and to defeat challenges.

Even if it forgot about everything and sank into madness, it could not stop.

I thought the fourth layer of the tiger demon was the same as the three previous layers, only requiring the external pressure of survival and death to stimulate my killing intent and potential for a breakthrough. But that's not true. This is the tiger demon's true reason for fighting endlessly.

In the instant Li Qingshan came to this realisation, an intense aura of malice rushed out of his body. It was so wild and so violent that he seemed like he wanted to challenge the world.

The Spider Queen was slightly shocked, taking a step back, but she felt no humiliation. She could clearly feel that Li Qingshan had made another breakthrough, like a demonic blade released from its seal. She actually felt danger.

However, she soon relaxed again and smiled in a self-deprecating manner. He was heavily injured and without a shred of daemon qi. Even if he broke through, how was he supposed to escape from her hands?

As if Li Qingshan was responding to her thoughts, daemon qi flowed into him from nowhere.

The spirit turtle's daemon core suddenly lit up!

Chapter 490 - I'm Very Vengeful

Li Qingshan's daemon qi had indeed run out, but there was a power in his body that could be converted into daemon qi. It was much more effective than consuming any type of pill.

It was the power of belief in the Divine Talisman of Great Creation.

The reason why Li Qingshan had not used the Divine Talisman of Great Creation the entire time was not because he was saving it, having anticipated he would break through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon at this moment. Instead, given the situation earlier, even if he converted all of his power of belief into daemon qi, it would only help him last a little longer at most.

Compared to that, he was better off saving it and coming up with a way to transform this all-capable Divine Talisman of Great Creation into a final safeguard. Finally, it came into extraordinary use.

The Spider Queen sensed that something was amiss. She swung her hand towards Li Qingshan's neck, even turning silvery-grey in the process, wanting to directly behead him.

Li Qingshan twisted his head and caught her wrist in his mouth. A shining, scarlet pupil on his turned head stared at the Spider Queen.

The Spider Queen felt her wrist ache, slightly shaken up. She felt something had already changed.

This time, not only could Li Qingshan keep up with her speed, but his sharp teeth could even pierce her silvery-grey skin. The taste of blood flooded his mouth. It was particularly sweet.

"Die!"

The Spider Queen was furious. Her left hand grabbed his head and her fingers dug in. Li Qingshan's head was about to suffer the same fate as his mirror clone.

However, she failed to pierce anything this time.

The Tiger Demon Forges its Bones. When Li Qingshan broke through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon, his skeleton underwent another process of forging, becoming even tougher and harder than before. His bones were naturally strengthened too.

However, he was still immobilised. Even though he unleashed the power of tremors to shake off everything around him the instant his daemon qi recovered, he still could not shake apart several thousand threads in a short while.

She had failed to achieve anything with two consecutive strikes, and the opponent was immobilised the entire time. This left the Spider Queen alarmed and furious. She pulled back, and after a slight pause, thousands of silk strands sprayed out from her mouth, shooting towards Li Qingshan's head.

He was unable to move his arms, so he could not disperse the threads with his fists like earlier. If he forcefully tried to block with the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, it would fall and collapse in only a few seconds.

Li Qingshan seemed to be done for, unable to escape this time around. However, he grinned wildly as he performed the same action as the Spider Queen, opening his mouth and sucking in hard.

It sounded like a sharp whistle.

However, what he spat out was not silk, but a stream of air that went on to receive the silk.

The strands scattered everywhere as soon as they came into contact with this stream of air.

The fourth layer was an extremely important layer. Among the three cultivation methods that Li Qingshan possessed, the spirit turtle and ox demon had both undergone startling changes with the fourth layer.

Of course, this might have been a false impression of his. Perhaps his powers would undergo a natural evolution once they had accumulated to a certain degree. Regardless, with the breakthrough to the fourth layer of the tiger demon, the two innate abilities corresponding to the tiger demon both evolved.

The stream of air was none other than one of the first innate abilities he had comprehended, the Tiger Demon's Killing Roar.

With the Ox Demon Tramples successfully shedding its status of a "useless ability", it had never been able to change, and its power was barely satisfactory too, so it became the ability that Li Qingshan used the least.

But at this moment, there were not any wild, whistling winds anymore. All the power had been condensed, turning into a stream of air as thick as an arm. It no longer seemed as powerful as before.

However, the sharpness it contained even outmatched Fu Qingjin's sword qi, which was why it could scatter and rip the Spider Queen's silk.

Calling it the Tiger Demon's Killing Roar was no longer appropriate. Just like how the Ox Demon Tramples had become the Tremors of the Ox Demon, he could call this move the Tiger Demon's Breath from now on!

He's able to conceal his aura. He definitely must have hidden a portion of his daemon qi earlier, fooling me and preventing me from noticing. Northmoon, I refuse to believe your daemon qi is endless.

That was how the Spider Queen thought. She went with the same tactic as before and spat out spider silk endlessly, but she made up her mind to give him absolutely no more opportunities. She would not stop until he was completely dead.

The breath and the silk constantly collided, one wearing away the other and producing an ear-splitting noise, like a thousand zithers plucked at the same time, resulting in a chaotic symphony.

The drifting silk was tossed around, slicing past the walls and digging in deeply. The ceiling was sliced apart and boulders fell in thunderously. As they landed on the breath one by one, they were silently cut into two.

Compared to the Tremors of the Ox Demon, the Tiger Demon's Breath was without a doubt much more effective at obliterating the spider silk, but it also depleted daemon qi. Most of the daemon qi that Li Qingshan had completely replenished moments earlier had been depleted before long.

However, unbeknownst to the Spider Queen, Li Qingshan's trump card, the Divine Talisman of Great Creation, could endlessly replenish his daemon qi. He was not afraid of using it up at all.

Gradually, the Spider Queen began to grow frantic. Less than thirty percent of her daemon qi remained.

Right from the beginning of the battle, her daemon qi had not been at a hundred percent. In pursuit of extreme pleasure in bed, she had allowed Li Qingshan to use the Tremors of the Ox Demon to directly wreak havoc in her body.

Perhaps a single tremor was nothing to her, but after countless times, the accumulated damage was no longer a small deal. It depleted twenty percent of her daemon qi for recovery.

She thought that ten or twenty percent of daemon qi should have made no difference at all. She would not even have to use ten percent of her daemon qi to deal with Li Qingshan. However, during the battle that came after, Li Qingshan was an unexpectedly difficult opponent. Yet now, his daemon qi seemed endless.

Just what is going on? Is he really just a Daemon General?

Finally, all the spider silk in Li Qingshan's body snapped. He shuddered once more, and all of it flew out like needles as he broke free from the restraint.

The Strength of the Earth immediately came into effect. The wounds that riddled his bright-red heart gradually closed up, and it began to beat once more. Thousands of needles piercing him was brutal, but it was relatively easy to recover from.

Pulses of water spiritual qi surged out from his sea of qi, filling his body. The cool, comforting sensation immediately stopped the pain. Although he was afraid of using spiritual qi carelessly in front of the Spider Queen, it was fine if he only used it inside his body.

Depleting all of his spiritual qi, a high-spirited, unscathed Li Qingshan stood before the Spider Queen once more. He stopped the Tiger Demon's Breath and laughed wildly. "I'll fuck you right now!"

The Spider Queen felt like she was trapped in a ridiculous dream. No matter how many times she knocked him down, he would always be able to stand up again and challenge her.

In Li Qingshan's eyes, the incoming silk seemed to have slowed down all of a sudden. He bent over slightly, and the spider silk flew past his face.

The Spider Queen's eyes shone. The spider silk suddenly changed in direction, sweeping over like snakes.

Li Qingshan swung his hand conveniently and cut through the silk with his sharp tiger claws. Just when he wanted to lunge towards the Spider Queen, he suddenly came to a halt and leapt up gently. Countless strands of silk shot past beneath him.

It seemed like a white snake had abruptly raised its head and looped back around, lunging towards him with its huge mouth.

Li Qingshan came to a halt. His claws danced wildly in a flurry and ripped the silk apart. Then, he spat out another stream of air. The air swam around him like a snake, shaking off any incoming strands of silk that wanted to use the opportunity to launch a sneak attack.

Li Qingshan was like a vicious tiger running and turning within a thick forest knit from spider silk. None of the vegetation could touch him.

The Spider Queen was stunned. The speed and agility Li Qingshan currently displayed seemed to be completely on par with hers.

He was a Daemon General with... the strength of a Daemon Commander, the speed of a Daemon Commander, and the reactions of a Daemon Commander?

A while later, the Spider Queen's daemon qi dropped to twenty percent. She finally stopped spitting silk.

Li Qingshan used this opportunity to lunge at the Spider Queen, but he saw a sinister smile appear on her face.

Reel it in!

With a thought, a huge web spun from countless strands of silk emerged from the rock and soil, closing around Li Qingshan from all directions.

A while earlier, when her threads clashed with Li Qingshan's breath, countless strands of silk had been knocked away, deeply embedded into the surrounding walls.

She did not abandon these threads. Instead, she controlled the threads, weaving them together. She was like a spider patiently weaving a web and waiting for prey to fall into it.

Li Qingshan responded immediately. A stream of air struck the web, but it only caused a ripple. He punched out again and again, but the power of tremors struggled to tear through the web too.

Every single thread that went into the web was as thick as a finger, composed of immeasurable strands of silk. It was much tougher than any web she could casually spit out. Once caught, even if he possessed endless power, even with his Tremors of the Ox Demon, it would be impossible for him to break free.

“Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell!”

Li Qingshan bellowed out and countless hexagonal pieces formed a sphere, holding back the web.

“I’d like to see how long you can last!” The Spider Queen sneered. She drew in her hand, and the web tightened. Cracks immediately appeared on the Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell as the threads dug in. It was as if the shell could shatter in the next moment.

“Are you prepared?” Li Qingshan laughed wildly.

“What?” The Spider Queen furrowed her brows.

“What do you think?” Li Qingshan studied her snow-white body, and his eyes shone with an abusive light. He was about to return all the oppression and humiliation he had gone through.

“You’re dreaming!” the Spider Queen barked. The web tightened, and with a crack, the Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell became riddled with fractures.

“In truth, I discovered your scheme a long time ago. How could you fool me with everything that goes on in the earth?” Li Qingshan laughed.

“If you discovered it, why didn’t you flee?” The Spider Queen was unconvinced, but she could not help but become doubtful inside.

“I was afraid you might flee.” Li Qingshan laughed. “Actually, there’s a flaw with this web.”

“Where?”

The Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell shattered loudly.

Li Qingshan raised a finger. “It’s you!”

The Spider Queen only vaguely saw two violent blasts of air from Li Qingshan’s back. He vanished in that instant.

She was alarmed, but by the time she had responded, it was already too late. Li Qingshan crashed into her with the web.

“You’ll need daemon qi and physical strength to maintain the web! Now, both your daemon qi and your physical strength should be mostly consumed, right?” Li Qingshan lay on top of her and gripped her slender neck with a claw. He smiled viciously. “I’m very vengeful, mother of my child!”