

Immortal 1181

Chapter 1181: Misunderstanding

"What?!" Yu Yanluo exclaimed. Her complexion was completely pale. This mine was the Yu clan's foundation. If it really did collapse, that would be a fatal blow to the Yu clan.

Who knew how much manpower and resources would be needed to clean up such a mine? The worst part was that it would take a lot of time. They might not be able to resume operations within ten years. The Yu clan was already breaking apart. How much longer would they even be able to hold on?

Zu An quickly said, "Let's hurry and find a safe place so we don't end up getting buried alive here."

There was rubble falling all around them. The place wouldn't last for much longer.

"This way!" Yu Yanluo called out. She quickly calmed down, as she was the one who was the most familiar with the place.

Zu An began to follow her, but suddenly felt that something wasn't right. When he turned around, he saw that Yan Xuehen hadn't moved. Instead, she staggered a bit and fell to the ground. Zu An jumped in fright and used Grandgale to rush over and catch her, asking, "What's wrong?"

Yan Xuehen opened her eyes slightly. When she saw that it was him, she pushed him away in embarrassment, snapping, "I am fine! Let go of me already!"

"You can't even stand still! What do you mean you're fine?" Zu An shot back. He naturally didn't let go of her. He carried her and quickly returned to Yu Yanluo, avoiding several chunks of earth and rocks crashing down from above along the way. Several times, falling debris brushed against their clothes. They might already have been buried underground if they had moved any more slowly.

Yan Xuehen raised her head to look at the man who was carrying her. She was suddenly a bit absentminded as she watched him go through the ordeal in such a sorry state.

Her cultivation was extraordinary, so she had always been the one to protect others. When had anyone else ever come to protect her? This was the first time she had experienced being protected by someone else, and furthermore a man. It really was a strange feeling.

Her cheeks turned a bit red when she thought of that. She looked away awkwardly to avoid seeing him anymore.

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The group continued for several dozen li. Only then did the shaking gradually weaken.

The cave behind them had already been buried by rocks, but they still felt lingering fear. If they had been a bit slower, they might have been completely buried underneath. If they were at their strongest, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen might have been able to survive. But in their present condition, being buried like that would be nothing short of a death sentence.

“Stone cold woman, how did you end up becoming so weak and delicate?” Yun Jianyue remarked. She noticed that the way out had already been completely sealed. It was hard to say whether they would even be able to return to the surface, so her mood was obviously terrible.

Yan Xuehen was about to reply, but when she opened her small mouth, she suddenly coughed out blood.

Yun Jianyue had been feeling a hint of happiness from seeing her suffer, but when she saw that the blood was black, her expression changed. She asked, “You’ve been poisoned?”

“Just a bit of poison; it is not a big deal...” Yan Xuehen began. Before she could finish her sentence, however, Yun Jianyue had already grabbed her wrist. At any other time, Yan Xuehen definitely wouldn’t let her nemesis check her own pulse. But at that point, she was so weak that she was completely powerless to resist.

Yun Jianyue checked her pulse, and her expression instantly became grave. She cried, “Not a big deal? You’re already half a step away from the gates of hell!”

Zu An and Yu Yanluo jumped in fright, asking, “What’s going on here?!”

Zu An felt that his hands were a bit clammy. He quickly lifted Yan Xuehen up, then lifted his hands to check them. His hands were covered in strangely black-tinged blood. Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen’s once spotlessly white clothes were also covered in bloodstains.

Zu An suddenly recalled how she had saved him from that deathworm. He asked, “Were you hit by the dark light fired from the worm’s mouth?”

Yan Xuehen’s lips were already turning pale. She said indifferently, “Things ended up like this because I was injured. At any other time, that attack would not have hit me no matter how hard it tried.”

Yun Jianyue sneered. “You’re already on the verge of death, and yet you’re still putting on this act. Does everyone from your White Jade Sect care about appearances this much?”

Yan Xuehen wanted to retort, but she didn’t even have enough strength to do that anymore.

“Sigh, it’s all my fault in the end. You were acting weird, but I didn’t notice in time,” Yun Jianyue said, her voice suddenly softening. She didn’t continue arguing either.

Yan Xuehen was a bit surprised. She replied, “Shouldn’t you be happy if I die?”

“Hmph, of course I’d be happy if I killed you in a proper match. What’s there to be happy about seeing you die like this?” Yun Jianyue retorted. She fished out a pill and brought it up to Yan Xuehen’s mouth, saying, “This is an antidote. But that deathworm’s poison has already seeped into your meridians and inner organs. This pill can only buy you a bit more time.”

Yan Xuehen shook her head and said, “Why is there a need to feel happy about birth or fear death? I have already resigned myself and do not fear death, so why should I owe you a favor before I pass on?”

“Stone cold woman, why are you always so pig-headed?” Yan Xuehen gritted her teeth. She really had the urge to grab the woman’s head and slam it against the ground.

Zu An said weakly, "Actually... I can heal you."

Yan Xuehen didn't know where she got the strength to do so, but when she heard that, she cried, "No way!"

Yun Jianyue was stunned at first. Then, she rubbed her palms together and exclaimed, "Right! That's what we should do!"

Didn't this stone cold woman love to act as if she didn't feel a thing for the opposite sex? The worst part was that men all believed that! What if they found out that their ice queen goddess had already had her virginity taken by another man, and furthermore the same man who belonged to her disciple?! Her reputation would be done for if such news got out! White Jade Sect's great prestige would be completely destroyed in an instant.

Yun Jianyue almost laughed out loud when she thought of that scene. This ice-cold woman has fought against me for so many years. I've finally won in the end!

Huh? But why do I suddenly not feel that happy at all?

Yan Xuehen immediately knew what Yun Jianyue was thinking when she saw her rival's strange expression. She was so embarrassed she wanted to die. She really wouldn't know how to keep living if she were saved by Zu An through that kind of method.

"I do not want you to save me. Hurry and let go of me," Yan Xuehen said, panicking. She immediately began to struggle, but she was too weak. As a result, her struggles just looked like playful fighting between lovers.

Zu An quickly said, "Don't get too stirred up, or else the poison might reach your heart."

"I want the poison to reach my heart!" Yan Xuehen snapped. Her only intention was to die sooner. Otherwise, if Zu An saved her through that method, she would be way too ashamed to continue living!

Zu An was speechless.

Yu Yanluo's expression was strange. She asked, "Ah Zu, you... can still keep going?"

The two of them had been together for so long. She really was a bit worried about his body. She couldn't help but feel that the situation was a bit strange too; it seemed she would have to share her man with other women. But she discovered that she didn't have any reason to object. After all, he would be doing it to save someone. Furthermore, Yan Xuehen had been seriously injured for Zu An's sake.

"I'm okay," Zu An replied, feeling a bit confused as to why she would ask that.

Yan Xuehen was even more embarrassed when she heard what they were saying.

Yun Jianyue patted Zu An's shoulder and said, "You really are lucky. Take good care of our great beauty Yan." Normally, she would have been watching with amusement. But for some reason, she discovered that she wasn't as happy as she would have expected.

Yan Xuehen's face was entirely red, as if smoke might just come out of the top of her head. Unfortunately, as her insides stirred uncomfortably, her vision grew blurry. She couldn't even say anything in protest. Her insides felt ice-cold. Could it be that she really couldn't escape such a fate?

Yun Jianyue said unhappily, "Stone cold woman, do you really have to make that kind of an expression? Weren't you willing just earlier?" Weren't you the one who suggested that in the first place before? Why are you even complaining?

Yan Xuehen felt incredibly sullen. She had thought she was about to die anyway, so she would save Zu An before she did. That way, the one who had just saved the world wouldn't die just like that. But now, it turned out that Zu An knew some strange technique. After recovering, he could even heal her!

She had been willing to do that before because she thought she would die, which would just end all her worries. But now, she would still have to face the opinions, of the rest of the world afterward. The thought alone made her shiver.

Zu An said in a strange tone, "Did you all misunderstand something? I said I could save her, but I didn't say we needed to have a physical relationship."

Chapter 1182: The Frozen Mountain Melts

Yun Jianyue, Yu Yanluo, and Yan Xuehen were all stupefied.

When he saw their expressions, Zu An explained, "I'm actually at least half a doctor. I can use my ki to detoxify a patient. There's no need to do that..."

A fierce pain came from his waist before he even finished speaking. It turned out Yu Yanluo was pinching him really hard, blushing furiously in embarrassment.

You have successfully trolled Yu Yanluo for +111 +111 +111...

Only then did Zu An realize that he had ended up causing a huge disaster. He quickly explained, "That situation was different! Your life force was fading so we had to do that, but that's not true for Sect Master Yan. That's why we don't need to do that..."

Yu Yanluo felt a bit more at ease when she heard that. Why didn't this rascal say that sooner? I ended up making a fool of myself again...

Yan Xuehen visibly relaxed after hearing Zu An's explanation, saying, "Then... Then I will have to trouble you."

She still had an instinctive desire to survive, so of course she didn't want to die. At the same time, she gave Zu An a look. She didn't expect to have misunderstood him. So he was actually that kind of gentleman!

Yun Jianyue smacked Zu An on the head in annoyance, remarking, "Dumb kid, why didn't you seize such a good opportunity?" Despite that, for some reason, she felt a hint of happiness.

"Hurry and save her then. If you wait any longer, she might just kick the bucket," she added. Now that she felt more relaxed, her mischievous side resurfaced.

Yu Yanluo also got up and said, "The situation here has already improved a lot, and there shouldn't be any more danger. We'll look around and watch the surroundings in the meantime."

Yun Jianyue didn't refuse. After all, it wasn't good for a doctor to be disrupted during treatment. Even though she had fought against Yan Xuehen her entire life, she didn't want to take advantage of her in this kind of situation.

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When the other two left, Yan Xuehen asked weakly, "Can you move me a bit?"

Zu An had been carrying her the entire time, his body full of masculine strength. She had always avoided contact with anyone, so she really wasn't used to being so close to a man, let alone this man who was extremely special to her.

Zu An naturally didn't say anything and placed her in a seated position in front of him. Then, he pressed his palms against hers. But because Yan Xuehen was too weak, she couldn't even remain upright. She subconsciously began to fall.

Zu An quickly wrapped his fingers around hers. The action seemed a bit too intimate, almost as if he were violating her a bit.

Traces of an unnatural blush appeared on Yan Xuehen's face. A verse suddenly appeared in her mind: Hands clasped together are a life spent together. She jumped in fright as soon as that thought appeared, and subconsciously wanted to pull her palms back.

Zu An said with a serious expression, "Focus. I'm going to start treating your wounds."

When she saw the clear look in his eyes, Yan Xuehen realized he was only doing so to keep her still, and didn't have any disrespectful thoughts. She was one of the most powerful individuals in the world, so she quickly calmed herself down, letting go of her emotions.

After calming down, she felt that her previous state was somewhat laughable. Compared to the great dao of the universe, what did the feelings between a man and woman matter? Let alone the fact that the other person was already her disciple's man, which meant nothing would ever come of it.

A sword of wisdom appeared between her brows. It severed the thread of emotion that had been indistinct to begin with, and she quickly relaxed. A pure white, divine radiance began to shine around her, as if the great dao itself were praising her.

She felt elation as two waves of warmth entered her through her palms, and soon wanted to figure out what was going on with Zu An's skill. How could there be such an incredible technique in this world? Not only did it grant him incredible regenerative prowess, it even allowed him to treat others' critical conditions.

"This energy seems to be the purest intent from the very creation of the world..." Yan Xuehen murmured, incredibly shocked. Wasn't this man only at the ninth rank? And yet, he could produce such pure ki? Even she could only occasionally grasp a small wisp of this kind of energy! She could feel his ki moving within her. She was amazed at the profoundness of the technique, because not even she could see through it.

Why do I feel a bit hot? she thought.

As a cultivator of the Unshaken Daoist Manual, she was most familiar with its Ice Heart Sutra. Between that and the Snowflake Sword, she really did resemble the phrase 'ice flesh and jade bones'. Her body temperature was somewhat cooler than a normal person's, and even on a blistering summer day, she still wouldn't feel any heat. However, she just assumed her injuries were too severe and that she couldn't maintain her usual cultivation realm. As such, she didn't pay too much attention to it.

A while later, she discovered that her heart had begun beating very quickly. The two warm streams had spread out into several finer ones that filled her entire body, nourishing her meridians and helping her remove the poison. Wherever they went, the sensation that followed was numbing, and yet somehow silky. It was a strange but pleasant feeling. She had thought that because she was so heavily injured, the treatment would be extremely painful too. And yet, it actually felt quite nice and relaxing.

Because she was so relaxed, she suddenly opened her eyes and looked at the man whose fingers were wrapped around hers. Zu An's eyes were completely shut; he seemed to be focusing on controlling the endless stream of ki to nourish her meridians and internal organs. His face looked as if it were sculpted out of marble. His usual frivolousness was nowhere to be seen, instead completely replaced with a sense of steadiness.

Who would have thought that this brat would be pretty handsome when he's serious...

When she saw the fine sweat covering his forehead, Yan Xuehen thought to herself that it was all because of her that he had ended up that way. She suddenly felt an urge to help him wipe away his sweat. But then, she realized she couldn't move her hands.

She could only watch as the fine sweat gathered bit by bit, forming into bigger droplets that slid down his face. As they slid down his skin, they gave off a bizarrely charming luster.

Yan Xuehen's fair neck moved forward slightly. The reaction made her jump in fright. What is going on with me? She quickly closed her eyes, not daring to look at him again.

At the same time, she was incredibly confused. Hadn't she severed the strand of emotion with the sword of wisdom? Why was she still like this?

Countless streams of heat suddenly surged through her body, feeling like a stream of electric shocks. They weren't caused by the ki Zu An was transmitting through her body, but rather a natural reaction of her body.

Her face turned entirely red. What is happening?! She tried to calm herself down and suppress the strange feeling.

Zu An noticed the movements of the ki within Yan Xuehen and quickly said, "Don't reject it. Completely relax your body and mind, or else all of this will have been for nothing!"

Yan Xuehen bit her lip, but she still listened in the end. She felt as if even her ice-cold body seemed to be melting. The only thing she could do was to clench her teeth and endure.

At first, it was as if a snowy mountain had experienced the first ray of sunlight. The shallow layer of snow covering the mountain began to melt into water.

As the sun gradually rose higher and higher, the snow's surface melted bit by bit and gradually turned into countless streams.

Then, when the blazing sun was right overhead, the streams gathered together, creating a great river that led to the sea!

Yan Xuehen finally couldn't hold it in anymore, releasing a moan from her throat.

At that instant, it was as if a phoenix had cried out in her mind. The strand of emotion that had been severed produced countless fine threads that then tangled together, forming an inextricably linked web that flickered with countless great dao symbols.

She opened her eyes and saw that Zu An had also opened his eyes. They stared at each other for a moment. Her face was completely red as she yelled, "What exactly did you do to me!?"

Zu An said with a bitter smile, "I was treating you, of course. I didn't do anything else."

"Then why do I have this strange feeling if you didn't do anything?!" Yan Xuehen retorted. Naturally, she wasn't so easily fooled.

"I really didn't. I don't know why either, but whenever I treat others, it makes them a bit restless..." Zu An replied, sweating buckets. He had actually forgotten about that and only realized what had happened when Yan Xuehen released a sweet-sounding moan. Seeing that she still didn't believe him, he quickly said, "You can go and ask Yu Yanluo. I treated her injuries before too, and her reactions were even more extreme than yours..."

Of course, those words weren't entirely true. He had discovered that even though Yan Xuehen was usually cold as ice, once she erupted, her reactions even seemed to exceed Yu Yanluo's.

Yan Xuehen couldn't hold back her frustration and humiliation. She cried, "How am I supposed to ask such an embarrassing question?!"

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +134 +134 +134...

Chapter 1183: His Blood Inside Me

"Let go of me!" Yan Xuehen yelled, trying to struggle free, but Zu An's fingers were firmly intertwined around hers. She felt more and more embarrassed.

Zu An didn't compromise and said seriously, "We're at the most crucial part of the treatment. We absolutely can't let everything fail now."

How could Yan Xuehen not know that? She had already felt the poison was gradually leaving her body. Her internal injuries were also recovering at a steady rate. If they ended the treatment here, however, the poison and internal injuries would come rushing back. Her condition would become even worse than before, perhaps even ending her life right there and then.

Yan Xuehen still shouldered her entire sect's glory, so she couldn't just let things end here. Even so, when she thought of that embarrassing feeling, she couldn't help but ask bitterly, "Why didn't you tell me this treatment caused such a strange feeling earlier?"

Zu An explained, "The situation was too urgent just then, and I forgot about it. Besides, I didn't know whether that was an exception or if it really was a side effect of my treatment."

"You must know now then, right?!" Yan Xuehen grumbled resentfully.

Zu An chuckled in embarrassment. He also found it really strange, but he now had more proof that his ki had that strange side-effect. But it clearly hadn't happened when he was treating Chuyan before... Why was that?

Yan Xuehen bit down on her lips so hard that they turned a bit pale. She cried, "Are you messing with me on purpose?"

Zu An said seriously, "I can make a vow that I never had such intentions. Or..."

Yan Xuehen quickly cut him off, saying, "It's fine. Don't randomly make vows for no reason." For some reason, she really was worried that he might be struck down by heavenly judgment on the spot.

"Then you trust me?" Zu An replied happily.

"It doesn't matter if I trust you or not. You did save my life, so I wouldn't be so ungrateful," Yan Xuehen replied. After all, she wasn't an ordinary person. After taking a deep breath, she calmed down again and said, "Let's continue."

"Okay, hold on." Zu An replied. He calmed down, then continued to treat her poison and wounds.

The same strange feeling once again battered Yan Xuehen with wave after wave. She quickly closed her eyes, mouthing the mind-calming chants from the Unshaken Daoist Manual. These chants normally easily helped her calm down, preventing her from being affected by unnecessary thoughts.

But this time, those thoughts weren't coming from outside, but rather from inside! She felt her body become hotter and hotter, growing softer and softer. She felt the urge to scream, but she endured with tremendous willpower. She bit down on her lips so hard that wisps of blood were visible.

Zu An said, "Don't forcefully endure it; it's not good for your body. If your internal energies surge like this, it'll become much more difficult for me."

Yan Xuehen shot him a hateful look. How could she scream out loud? What if Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo heard her? She would never be able to raise her head again for the rest of her life! At that point, she might as well just die.

Only then did Zu An guess what she was thinking. He quickly said, "There's no need for you to worry. I'll make a soundproof barrier around us, so the sound won't get out."

Of course, normally, that wouldn't be able to stop a grandmaster like Yun Jianyue from hearing him, but she was seriously injured and weak, and wouldn't be able to hear anything then.

Yan Xuehen was tempted when she heard the suggestion. If Yun Jianyue can't hear anything, then it's not as if I can't...

But she quickly realized that even if Yun Jianyue couldn't hear anything, the man before her could. As such, her expression turned ice-cold. She continued to grit her teeth and endure.

Zu An said with a bitter smile, "There's really no need for you to be like this... I'm your doctor. Doctors don't distinguish between male or female; you don't have to have such misgivings."

Yan Xuehen was speechless. She felt that what he said made some sense, but she still stubbornly endured.

Zu An said again, "Actually it doesn't matter even if you make noise. I've already heard it before anyway, so it'll make no difference whether I hear it again."

"You... Shut your mouth!" Yan Xuehen shot him a look. She felt as if he were deliberately breaking down her defenses. But he was like a demon, whispering endless temptations. Her will, which had already been unsteady to begin with, began to waver.

Suddenly, countless waves of warm ki rushed through her at the same time. Her body was already extremely sensitive, so how could she still hold on? Caught off guard, she instinctively released an extremely sweet groan.

Her previously icy cheeks now gave off a red sunset glow. As she looked at the man across from her, she was both embarrassed and annoyed. She cried, "You did that on purpose!"

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +233 +233 +233...

Zu An said bluntly, "It's because you've been holding it in for so long that my treatment is taking way too long, so I can only take it a step further. Don't worry, the soundproof barrier is already in place."

Yan Xuehen hadn't expected him to actually be so direct, so she had to swallow the response she had intended to make. Only after a while did she exclaim, "How are you so shameless?!" However, her eyes were watery, and her voice was sweet and charming. There was nothing intimidating about her demeanor.

Zu An chuckled and replied, "You're right. It's all my fault; everything is my fault. I was the one who caused all of this, so don't feel bad about it and just let things take their course."

Yan Xuehen was stunned. She now felt a bit embarrassed that he was taking all of the blame on himself. She wasn't a completely unreasonable person and knew that he was doing this to save her. Even though his actions just then had been a bit provocative, it was only so she could relax for the treatment. How could she blame him to that extent?

She had so many things to say, but in the end, only two words came out. "Thank you."

Zu An was stunned. Then, a radiant smile appeared on his face. He suddenly said, "Open your mouth."

Yan Xuehen was puzzled. However, Zu An explained, "The deathworm's poison is too strange, and it's tangled around every portion of your body. To make sure there are no aftereffects, you also need to take some medicine."

Yan Xuehen was about to ask what kind of medicine Zu An was talking about when he suddenly cut open a gash on his arm. The wound quickly became drenched in blood.

Then, Zu An moved the wound close to her lips and said, "My blood has detoxifying properties. Drink up." He was already immune to poison, so his blood essence also had that property. But he couldn't have just started with that, right?

Yan Xuehen felt conflicted. She said, "You don't need to be like this..."

Zu An propped up her chin and made it easier for her to drink, saying, "If you really feel grateful, just drink more. This'll save me some effort."

Yan Xuehen's heart was pounding fiercely. How in the world am I going to repay this favor in the future?

But an incredibly pure and fragrant sensation spread through her mouth. Her starry eyes quickly widened. So he had transcendent aptitude!

No wonder he reached his cultivation realm at such a young age! So it was the legendary transcendent aptitude!

As a grandmaster, she obviously knew what that kind of constitution meant, and just how much danger it represented toward his growth. And yet, he had still used his blood to save her without a second thought. With her knowledge, she obviously knew that he might be exposed by doing so, but he had still done it...

Meanwhile, she was still conflicted by the fact that they were of opposite sexes. She really did view this nobleman with a narrow-minded gaze!

As the treatment continued, it seemed she was slowly beginning to accept it somewhat. Even though she still tried to control herself at first, eventually, she couldn't help but secretly loosen her throat. She tried her best to keep it down at first, but eventually, she didn't even have the strength to control herself anymore.

She was quickly drenched in sweat, and sweet and irresistible moans echoed through the space inside the barrier as she eventually decided to just give in. Still, she didn't dare to look at Zu An.

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After a long time passed, Yan Xuehen was left completely limp in Zu An's embrace.

A line of tears couldn't help but slide down from the corners of her eyes. Ever since she had become a grandmaster many years back, she hadn't cried no matter what kind of situation she ended up encountering; and yet now, she couldn't hold back at all. She didn't know why she was crying, but she just couldn't stop the tears from flowing.

Just then, Zu An spoke up. "Your poison has pretty much been removed now, and your damaged meridians and internal organs have been repaired. You should be able to use your own ki to recover. After resting for a bit, you should be as good as normal again."

Yan Xuehen instinctively checked her condition. She discovered that she couldn't feel any threat to her life anymore, and that only powerful vitality remained. The ki within her had returned to its normal flow. Even though she still felt extremely weak, she knew she would slowly recover after some rest. She said, "Thank you."

Yan Xuehen noticed that Zu An's expression was clear as he spoke, without any dirty thoughts. She realized that he had spoken up to make her feel a bit less embarrassed. She was lying completely powerless in his embrace, so his body's natural physiological reaction couldn't escape her perception. Even so, he was still doing his best to keep his expression clear. It had to be quite difficult for him, right...

But with how considerate Zu An was, Yan Xuehen was still grateful and didn't expose him.

Zu An noticed the tears on her cheeks. Her delicate and pitiful appearance made him instinctively reach out his hand to help her wipe them away. But he quickly cried out 'Oh no!' inwardly. He expected the woman to lash out at him, because such an action was a bit too intimate.

However, Yan Xuehen only looked at him in a daze. Surprisingly, she didn't criticize him at all and instead showed him a trace of bashfulness.

Chapter 1184: Hell Battlefield

Just then, Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo walked over. Yan Xuehen quickly looked away when she saw them. Zu An tacitly pulled his hand back while removing the soundproof barrier around them.

"So? What are the results?" Yun Jianyue asked.

"Not too bad," Yan Xuehen replied somewhat unnaturally. Pfft, not too bad? I never want to go through something like that ever again.

"What does 'not too bad' mean?" Yun Jianyue asked. She looked at the other woman's rosy complexion and thought, Even this stone cold woman has such a charming side to her? But she just assumed it was because of the heat that came from the treatment and didn't think too much about it. She continued, "Ah Zu, how are the effects?"

Zu An replied, "The poison should already have been removed from her meridians and inner organs, and her internal injuries have been treated. It should be completely fine with a few more treatments."

"There is still more?" Yan Xuehen cried, jumping in fright. Her face was beet red.

"What are you acting all crazy for?" Yun Jianyue asked, shooting her a look. "He's going so far to heal you, and yet you don't even want it."

"I was just..." Yan Xuehen trailed off, turning red again. But for various reasons, she couldn't explain it either.

Yu Yanluo had a pensive expression. After all, she had personally experienced what it was like to be treated by Zu An. Could it be... And yet, they hadn't heard anything despite not being too far away.

Zu An coughed lightly and said, "Actually, Sect Master Yan can just rest for a while on her own, then use her own ki to treat her injuries. She doesn't necessarily need my help."

Yan Xuehen sighed in relief when she heard him say that. She shot him an expression of extreme gratitude

Meanwhile, Yu Yanluo's attention was focused on her sweetheart. She suddenly cried out in alarm and asked, "Ah Zu, what happened to your arm?"

Yan Xuehen's expression became unnatural. She seemed to have left some lip marks on his arm.

Zu An pulled his arm back and said with a laugh, "It's nothing. Earlier, Sect Master Yan's poisoning was too severe, so I fed her a bit of my blood to aid in the detoxification."

Yu Yanluo couldn't blame Yan Xuehen, so she could only help Zu An wrap his injury in a distressed manner. When she saw the faint lip mark, she was stunned, but she didn't say anything about it.

Zu An replied, "It's really fine! My body can regenerate pretty quickly. The wound is already pretty much healed."

Yun Jianyue asked curiously, "Your blood even has detoxification properties? If others found out about this, who knows how many old monsters would want to use your blood to refine medicines!"

Zu An said, "Don't worry, we're all our own people. News won't get out."

"Our own people..." The three goddesses were all stunned when they heard that.

Yun Jianyue patted Yan Xuehen's shoulder and said, "You have his blood inside you now, so I guess you really are one of us."

"What kind of nonsense are you saying?!" Yan Xuehen cried, staring at her old rival with shame and anger. What do you mean I have his blood? You're making it sound as if I gave birth to his child or something!

"You drank his blood, so don't you have his blood inside you? Did I say something wrong?" Yun Jianyue snorted. Then, she looked at Zu An with a strange expression, saying, "Damn, kid, you really do go all out. You're not really trying to court this stone cold woman, are you?"

Yan Xuehen really wanted to dig a hole to hide herself in. This witch was always shooting her mouth off; there wasn't a trace of a dignified senior in her appearance!

Zu An laughed in embarrassment, saying, "Big sis sect master must be joking. She's Chuyan's master, so of course I should be doing what I can to help her. Even if it were you who was injured instead, there's no way I would just watch without doing anything."

Yun Jianyue's expression finally eased up a bit. She replied, "Hmph, at least you know how to speak well."

She had just been teasing Yan Xuehen randomly, after all. Because she had faced Yan Xuehen for so many years and knew her well, she knew her rival couldn't possibly be tangled up in feelings with a man. How could she have known that her teasing had actually come close to the truth?

Yan Xuehen's face was incredibly pale, and she looked dejected. Is it really only because I'm Chuyan's master?

Sigh, what kind of random nonsense am I even thinking? He's Chuyan's husband! Even though she continued to tell herself that, it was still hard for her to hide her disappointment. She was completely stunned when she realized that. Don't tell me I really do like my disciple's man?

She heard Yun Jianyue continuing to chatter next to her. She felt incredibly annoyed and snapped, "If you're so jealous, have Zu An treat you then!"

Yun Jianyue was startled, replying, "Why would I be jealous of you? Besides, what's there to be jealous about?"

Yan Xuehen said, "You are injured, so of course you should be treated."

She couldn't be the only one to go through that! She wanted Yun Jianyue to go through that embarrassing experience, so they would all be even. Hmph, let's see if she'll still make fun of me then!

"Forget it. Even though I'm injured, I can still use my ki and recover on my own. There's no need to trouble Ah Zu," Yun Jianyue said after seeing the fine sweat on Zu An's forehead.

Yan Xuehen felt a bit of regret as soon as she spoke up. She knew just how difficult the treatment process was. Zu An had used up so much ki and energy, and might not be able to last if he did it again. Besides, for some reason, she didn't really want Yun Jianyue to go through that experience either. That was a secret only she and Zu An shared.

Zu An knew that even though Yun Jianyue's injuries were serious, her foundation wasn't injured and there was no danger to her life. That was why he didn't push the issue either. If he made her undergo that embarrassing experience too, this place might turn into a hellish battlefield.

Just then, Yu Yanluo said, "I looked around just now and found a path that might lead to where the Snake race people are. The entrance has already been sealed, so why not all follow me to my people and return to the human world from there?"

Yan Xuehen frowned. In the past, she definitely wouldn't have agreed and might have just killed the Snake race people as soon as she discovered their existence. But due to her time with Yu Yanluo, and the fact that the other woman had even saved her, she was really far too embarrassed to act like that.

Yun Jianyue agreed straightforwardly. "I've always wanted to give the fiend race territories a look myself, so this is a good chance."

Zu An obviously didn't have any objections. Thus, the group's itinerary was set.

They then set out. However, they quickly noticed something troublesome. Even though Yan Xuehen's poison had been removed, she was extremely weak and couldn't walk.

Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo were both injured as well. It was hard for them to move on their own, so they naturally couldn't carry anyone. So in the end, that job fell to Zu An.

In the past, Yan Xuehen probably would have just refused. But now, she gave Zu An a look, then nodded ever so slightly, saying, "I'll have to trouble you."

"You're making me sound like too much of a stranger here," Zu An replied with a chuckle. He walked forward to carry her.

Yan Xuehen blushed and quickly asked, "Can you carry me on your back?" Being carried like a princess was a bit too intimate. The worst part was that Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo were still watching them. She really couldn't bring herself to do that.

Zu An was a bit stunned, but he didn't refuse. He squatted in front of her and patted her back, gesturing for her to get on.

After some hesitation, Yan Xuehen eventually crawled onto his back. When Zu An hoisted up her thighs, she felt the heat coming from his hands. Her entire body went rigid. Fortunately, he didn't move his hands wantonly, so he calmed down a bit.

Then, Yu Yanluo led the way. Zu An carried Yan Xuehen on his back, while Yun Jianyue walked next to him.

Yan Xuehen was so embarrassed that she didn't want to press her chest against Zu An's back. As such, she pushed against his back with her hands, doing her best to avoid contact. Zu An obviously noticed that, but he chuckled silently and didn't say anything.

But just then, a loud 'Pa!' rang out through the cave.

Yan Xuehen turned around to stare at Yun Jianyue in shame and embarrassment. She cried, "Witch, what are you doing?!"

"Nothing, I just wanted to smack you." Yun Jianyue admitted directly. "I've already waited for this day for too long." She slapped Yan Xuehen's bottom once again and said, "This feeling really isn't bad."

Yan Xuehen almost fainted from anger. But in her current state, she couldn't do anything to resist. She could only yell angrily, "Witch, I never took advantage of you before when I recovered faster than you did; how can you forget favors and violate justice like this?!" She had previously eaten the Ice Heart Pill, which was more effective than the Soul Return Pill her rival had consumed.

Yun Jianyue obviously remembered that. She laughed and said, "Even though you agreed not to bully me, I never promised to not bully you."

Yan Xuehen was so angry her entire body was shaking. She cried, "You're a Devil Sect demoness after all!"

Zu An couldn't help but advise Yun Jianyue, "Big sis sect master, she's a bit weak right now, so don't bully her anymore."

Yun Jianyue's face sank. "Wow, so you've forgotten about your old friends now that you've made a new one? Who was the first one to acknowledge you? Between us, who treated you better?"

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +654 +654 +654...

She had already fought against Yan Xuehen for many years. Their cultivation, ability, and even appearance were around the same level. However, Yan Xuehen had always been treated like an honored guest by the public. Even though Yun Jianyue wasn't cursed at and beaten by people, the fear and estrangement they showed her was still something she could feel.

It was one thing if others felt like that; she really didn't care. But Zu An had only known this stone cold woman for how long, and yet he was already acting like this? How could she not feel hurt?

Chapter 1185: Escaped

Zu An felt a thud go off in his head. Oh no, I've stepped on a landmine.

Why the hell am I getting involved with these two sworn enemies?!

Before he could even say anything, Yan Xuehen couldn't stand it anymore and cried, "He is only speaking out for public justice! What are you getting mad at him for?!"

Yun Jianyue completely ignored her and looked at Zu An with an unkind expression, as if she were waiting for his reply.

"I..." Zu An was about to speak, but he suddenly vomited a mouthful of blood and rocked back and forth.

Yun Jianyue jumped in fright and quickly supported him, asking, "What's wrong?"

Yu Yanluo noticed what was happening and rushed back, crying, "Ah Zu!"

Zu An chuckled and said, "It's nothing. I just used up a bit more strength than I expected just now. My body couldn't really handle it. I'll be fine if I take a small breather."

"Then hurry and adjust your breathing," Yan Xuehen said. She quickly got off his back and sat down.

"Okay," Zu An replied. He closed his eyes and began to circulate his ki.

Seeing that his aura was gradually becoming normal again, Yun Jianyue sighed in relief. Then, she gave Yan Xuehen a resentful look and said, "It's all for the sake of saving this stone cold woman here that he used up so much of his energy. He even had to carry you afterward. Look at you, a high and mighty grandmaster, now fallen to this state. You might as well let a piece of tofu smash you to death."

Yan Xuehen also felt conflicted inside, but she still couldn't take this from her arch-nemesis. She replied, "Wasn't it because you were mean to him just now, and you were even picking a fight with him, that his internal energies were stirred up from anger? You still have the nerve to talk about me?!"

...

Neither woman was willing to give an inch. They both argued noisily.

While trying to adjust his breathing, Zu An sighed. What injury? He hadn't known what to do just then, so he had just pretended to be injured. Now, it seemed to have worked quite well.

Suddenly, loud and clear smacks rang out. Zu An secretly opened his eyes to take a look, and saw that Yun Jianyue already had Yan Xuehen lying on her knees, spanking her full bottom again and again.

Yan Xuehen struggled frantically, but her injuries were worse and she was very weak. She couldn't struggle free at all. Yun Jianyue struck her until her bottom was jiggling around.

Is that area really that squishy... Zu An thought in absolute amazement. But he had learned his lesson and didn't get involved this time.

Fortunately, Yu Yanluo walked over and called out, "Stop fighting, both of you! You're disturbing Ah Zu's healing."

Only when she heard that did Yun Jianyue stop. She was quite proud of herself, her expression seeming to say 'If you have the skills, come at me!'

Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen clutched her bottom, her expression full of humiliation and anger. She was so angry that she gritted her teeth. However, there was nothing she could do.

A while later, Zu An felt that it was about time. He then stopped pretending to recover and opened his eyes, saying, "I'm alright now. Let's continue."

Yan Xuehen's cheeks were a bit red. She was clearly still embarrassed from being hit by Yun Jianyue, but still said, "I can walk on my own. You can get some rest."

Zu An chuckled and replied, "It's fine; my body is as tough as a bull's. That was just a bit of an unexpected hiccup, but I've already recovered." He didn't wait for her to agree and squatted down, picking her up.

"Ah..." Yan Xuehen couldn't help but cry out in alarm when his hands touched her thighs.

"What is it?" Zu An asked, stunned.

"Nothing," Yan Xuehen replied, her face turning a bit red. How could she tell him that her bottom still hurt from Yun Jianyue's spanking?

The group continued forward. At first, Yan Xuehen was still trying not to let her body press against his, but she eventually grew weaker and weaker. She couldn't help but gently loosen her hand and press against him. Zu An noticed what she was doing and laughed involuntarily. He didn't say anything and continued to carry her.

But soon afterward, Yan Xuehen became annoyed, because she discovered that their posture made them touch in various ambiguous places. After that happened a few times, she noticed her body reacting strangely. She couldn't help but feel more and more embarrassed. Helpless to do anything else, she could only put her arms tightly around Zu An's neck and press against his back. Only then could she prevent those areas from rubbing from time to time.

She was still a bit embarrassed at first when she felt the heat from his wide back. However, when she saw that he wasn't doing anything, she sighed in relief.

Zu An's expression was quite strange. Never had he expected Yan Xuehen to actually be so blessed in 'that' area, even though she normally seemed so light and dainty. The heavy pressure really did stir something in him.

She's Chuyan's master! he quickly warned himself. Only then did he calm down.

Yan Xuehen also slowly calmed down. Then, she began to feel that his back was wide and warm, giving her a mysterious sense of safety.

The feeling of fatigue gradually overcame her; between her serious injuries and the treatment exhausting a lot of her energy, she unknowingly slipped into the land of dreams. The faint smile hanging from the edge of her lips was no longer that ice-cold, and instead seemed gentle and sweet.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. This woman really did always put on an act. No wonder all the major powers treated her like some sort of immortal fairy.

...

After some time had passed, Yu Yanluo suddenly said happily, "I found a marking Maid Xing left behind."

"Looks like they're fine," Zu An remarked, sighing in relief. The two of them had come here to save Maid Xing and the Snake race people to begin with. They had been starting to lose hope when they saw so many deathworms. Now, when they saw traces left by Maid Xing again, they finally calmed down a bit.

"Yup!" Yu Yanluo exclaimed excitedly. Her entire body was filled with energy.

The group's pace quickened. As they moved through the complicated mines, the paths became wider and wider.

"We're almost at the exit," Yu Yanluo said excitedly as they arrived at a stone gate. She found a mechanism in the gate, then took out a jade pendant, inserting it into an indentation. Then, the assorted mechanisms spun at different angles.

Kacha!

Eventually, the stone door slowly opened.

Yu Yanluo turned around to call everyone. She was about to leave when several arrows suddenly flew at the group. Before she had time to react, however, Zu An quickly took a lightning step forward, striking down the arrows.

Soon after, several figures holding weapons attacked them. Zu An was about to counterattack when a pleasantly surprised voice called out from nearby, "All of you, stop! That is the madam and young master Zu!"

A fine-figured individual rushed over then. Who else could it be but Maid Xing?!

Meanwhile, the others were clearly the Snake race people who had been rescued from Cloudcenter Commandery. They were men and women who didn't look much different from humans. Of course, upon closer inspection, one would find that their pupils were all vertical slits.

"Maid Xing!" Yu Yanluo cried. After seeing that they were all safe, she felt completely relaxed.

"Madam!" Maid Xing exclaimed. She and the others were even more shocked and overjoyed upon seeing Yu Yanluo.

Amid the moving reunion, Yan Xuehen woke up and asked, "What happened?"

Yun Jianyue said mockingly, "Look how soundly you were sleeping. I didn't expect the White Jade Sect's immortal goddess would actually drool. How shameless."

Only then did Yan Xuehen notice that Zu An's back was wet. She quickly wiped her own lips and mumbled, "So... Sorry." She had blushed more times today than she ever had in her entire life.

Zu An chuckled and said, "It's fine. You're really weak right now, so this kind of thing is normal. It'll all go away once you recover."

Yan Xuehen felt warm inside when she heard his comforting words. Her awkwardness eased a bit.

“Damn brat, you really are good at making a girl happy,” Yun Jianyue remarked unhappily. But she didn’t say any more, worrying that she would make his injuries worsen.

Zu An chuckled awkwardly. He quickly introduced Maid Xing and the others to the two of them. As for Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen’s identity, he didn’t have to say anything. Instead, he just said that they were his good friends. After all, both of them had extraordinary statuses, and many people were related to them. It would be bad if news that the Snake race was allied with either of their factions got out.

The two women were both grateful. This fellow normally acted mischievously and frivolously, but he was actually quite the meticulous thinker. He knew when to make considerations for others.

After hearing that the two were Zu An’s friends, Maid Xing was extremely friendly. Seeing that they were injured, she even had the subordinates prepare a ‘carriage’ for them to rest in. However, the creatures that pulled the carriages weren’t horses, but rather lizard-like creatures.

Yu Yanluo explained, “There’s a Snake race supply point outside the cave on this side. It’s been waiting to receive us all this time.”

Maid Xing apologized and said, “Madam, young master Zu, I’m really sorry for attacking you all just now. Everyone was a bit on edge because strange, terrifying bugs were following us.”

Yu Yanluo quickly asked, “There were so many deathworms; how did you all escape?”

Chapter 1186: Private Worries

Maid Xing had her subordinates prepare some fresh water and towels for the group. Then, they draped a wool carpet across the carriages.

All sorts of fine desserts and fruits were arranged on a table, and the tableware seemed to be made of jade or ivory. All sorts of precious, fragrant incense filled the area with a simple and elegant aroma. Just one whiff could make one feel full of ki; they were clearly beneficial to cultivation.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue secretly exchanged a look. This Yu Yanluo’s usual lifestyle really was quite extravagant! Even though the two of them had high statuses, one came from a dao sect, and the other came from the Devil Sect. Neither one paid much attention to their normal day to day affairs. Compared to Yu Yanluo, the two women almost felt like country bumpkins.

But they also noticed that Yu Yanluo’s expression was the same as usual, and she wasn’t showing off in front of the two of them on purpose. They then felt a bit more relieved.

Just then, Yu Yanluo asked Maid Xing a question; the maid gave Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue a troubled look.

Yu Yanluo said, “They’re our own people; it’s okay to speak your mind.”

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue’s expressions were strange. If they had heard that the previous day, both women might have spoken up in protest. But after they had fought alongside each other, and considering their relationship with Zu An, that description didn’t seem wrong.

Maid Xing looked at Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue in surprise. As Yu Yanluo's personal maid, she obviously knew who Yu Yanluo usually spent her time around. These two were so beautiful and stunning. If Yu Yanluo had friends like these, how could she not know about them?

That meant they could only be Zu An's friends. She secretly asked, "Are these two young master Zu's lovers?"

At the same time, she really felt incredible admiration. Young master Zu really is formidable; he actually has so many beauties of this level at his side! The most important part was that the madam didn't even look unhappy about it. Who would believe it even if news of such a thing got out?

Yu Yanluo jumped in fright. Fortunately, Maid Xing was speaking through ki transmission. She quickly warned the maid, "You are not permitted to speak such nonsense. You are not to offend these two in the future, do you understand?"

These two definitely weren't easy to deal with. Meanwhile, even though one was the leader of the orthodox faction, the memory of being hunted down was still fresh in her mind. There was even less of a need to talk about the other one; she was a famous butcher from the evil dao. Not even Yu Yanluo would be able to do anything if her own clansmen ended up offending the two.

Maid Xing stuck out her tongue playfully, then began to discuss the matter at hand. "After we left the city, we went straight to the mines, but we did not expect so many things to have happened here. However, there was nothing we could do about it and could only brace ourselves. Along the way, we received Yu Bin and the others' help, but they went missing while protecting us..."

Zu An and Yu Yanluo exchanged a look. They couldn't help but sigh. Yu Yanluo then took out Yu Bin's blood-soaked notebook and said emotionally, "I fear that they might have already passed away." She gave them a rough summary of what had happened.

"What?!" Maid Xing exclaimed in horror. She couldn't help but start sobbing.

Yan Xuehen remained silent for a long time. She had stubbornly insisted on distinguishing between man and fiend, but Yu Bin and the other humans alongside him had risked their lives to protect the Snake race people. Now, when the Snake race survivors heard news of their passing, their grief was clearly real.

Could it be that the beliefs I obstinately clung to have been wrong all along?

Yun Jianyue was thinking about something else. The Yu clan's people all had strong morale and camaraderie. With such cohesiveness, even if the Yu clan temporarily collapsed, they would rise again soon afterward. The Holy Sect would benefit a lot if they were to help Yu Yanluo while she was down and out.

Yu Yanluo stroked Maid Xing's head and said, "Let us take good care of their families once we return. I will also build a monument of heroes for these brave warriors, so the Yu clan's people will remember their sacrifices."

"Thank you, madam," Maid Xing said while wiping away her tears.

Yu Yanluo sighed and said, "This is what I owe them; why do you need to thank me?"

...

After the two exchanged some more emotions, Maid Xing then continued, "Later on, we encountered the attacks of those strange worms, and suffered many casualties. We tried our best and managed to kill one, but that seemingly poked the hornet's nest. More and more of the strange worms rushed at us. But on the brink of despair, we heard an extremely frightening roar. The strange worms seemed to have been summoned by something, and all of them pulled back. That was how we managed to survive by the skin of our teeth."

The other three women all looked at Zu An with annoyed expressions when Maid Xing said that; their gazes were filled with a mix of reproach and embarrassment. They all knew that the reason why those worms had withdrawn was because the mother worm had been fed those disgusting drugs by Zu An. They had all rushed back to 'devote their bodies'.

Zu An laughed awkwardly and remarked, "Even though the process was a bit of a mess, the result was still good overall, right? Maid Xing, the mine has collapsed, so we plan to visit the Snake race, then take a detour back to the human world from that side. Is there anything we should pay attention to?"

Maid Xing was a bit surprised. She gave Yu Yanluo a look, but seeing that she had no signs of stopping Zu An, she said, "The fiend race territory and human territory are separated by the Great Snowy Mountain, which is a place full of endless dangers. If you enter, it will mean almost guaranteed death. That is why other methods must be relied on to travel between them.

"There are some secret passages between the territories: For example, the underground transportation between the Snake race and the Yu clan in the mines. However, such passages are all hidden with absolute secrecy."

Zu An was a bit shocked when he heard the explanation. No wonder that passage had felt a bit different from walking through a normal mine tunnel. So he had ended up walking through something like a wormhole!

He gave Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo a look. He saw that their expressions were unaffected, as if they already knew that. Zu An felt a bit ashamed; he had been focused on the heavy pressure behind him and hadn't carefully sensed his surroundings.

Maid Xing continued, "Apart from those secret passages, the fiend and human races' public intersection is Desolate City."

"Desolate City?" Zu An asked curiously. He had spent some time cramming knowledge about the Great Zhou Dynasty into his mind, but his knowledge regarding the fiend races was quite vague. He hadn't heard of the name before.

Yu Yanluo helped him by explaining, "Desolate City is to the southeast of the fiend races' territory, a buffer zone between them and humans. Of course, it is also a well-known unregulated area. If the fiend or the human races want to enter each other's respective areas, they all pass through Desolate City. It is a place where crooks are mixed in with honest folk, and extremely dangerous."

Yun Jianyue added, "That's not a big deal. What's more troublesome is how we're supposed to get to Desolate City from the Snake race territory. It seems we'll have to pass through the Fiend King Court."

With her and Yan Xuehen's cultivation, even if they were injured, they would recover a bit of strength by the time they reached Desolate City. They naturally weren't scared of the city's dangers.

But if they had to pass through Fiend King Court, that was a place that contained many powerful beings. For example, the Fiend Emperor was a cultivator on par with Zhao Han. They wouldn't be able to win against him even if they were at their strongest. Passing through that area was just way too dangerous.

Yan Xuehen's brows furrowed; she was clearly thinking the same thing.

Maid Xing didn't understand. She asked, "Why would it be troublesome to pass through the Fiend King Court? In my opinion, the most troublesome place would be the Snake race territory."

"Inside the Snake race territory?" Forget about Zu An, even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were now curious. Wasn't Yu Yanluo the clan leader? Why would there be any issues?

Maid Xing explained worriedly, "Even though madam has the Medusa bloodline within her and is the clan leader in name, she has always preferred to stay on the human side. Rarely does she come here. She only helps transport some lifestyle goods that are in short supply over to the Snake race. Meanwhile, the Snake race's important affairs are decided by some other elders with prestige. As time has passed, madam's title no longer carries any real weight, and all of the authority among the Snake race actually belongs to those elders.

"Among the elders, the ones with the greatest influence are Elder White and Elder Blue. They have always been quite ambitious. In the past, they might have acted somewhat subservient because they needed to rely on the madam for a supply of goods, but now that the madam has gone through all of that in Cloudcenter City, if she returns to the Snake race, they might start to harbor wicked thoughts."

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen were both individuals who controlled their own clans. They immediately understood how tricky dealing with such a situation was. Yu Yanluo had already had all of her authority snatched out from under her.

Zu An had been getting excited when he heard that there were two leaders, but he immediately lost interest when he heard that they were two old men.

"There is nothing else to be done; let us return to the clan first and cross that bridge once we get there," Yu Yanluo replied with extreme calm. After confirming her relationship with Zu An, she was in her honeymoon phase. As long as she was with him, all other annoyances didn't seem to be that big of a deal anymore.

Chapter 1187: White and Blue Ladies

After Maid Xing exchanged some more information with Yu Yanluo, she offered to provide her with a separate lizard carriage.

Yu Yanluo refused. Her clansmen had fought against the deathworms in the cave, and many of them were injured. The wounded needed the carriage more, so it was fine for them to just all stay in one carriage.

Seeing how firm her attitude was on the matter, Maid Xing didn't try to persuade her further. She bowed toward the group and excused herself.

The group quickly set out. Soon afterward, they saw bright light coming from outside the carriage window.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both raised the carriage curtains. When they saw the shining sunlight, they subconsciously covered their eyes for a moment. They had been in the dark cave for a long time, so their eyes took some time to adjust after seeing the light again.

Zu An also moved over to take a closer look. Yan Xuehen blushed and moved a little to the side to increase the distance between them. However, Yun Jianyue remarked mockingly, "The two of you were hugging and touching each other, so why do you have to put on this act now?"

She actually felt rather strange. Considering Yan Xuehen's nature, normally, she would already have gotten angry. And yet instead, she had only moved aside a bit and didn't show any other reactions.

"No one will take you for a mute if you don't speak," Yan Xuehen retorted, blushing slightly. She shot the other woman an angry glare.

"Stone cold woman, are you looking for another spanking?!" Yun Jianyue snapped, raising her hand.

"You!" Yan Xuehen recalled being laid across the other woman's knees and spanked. She was embarrassed and annoyed.

Zu An didn't dare to intrude. He knew he couldn't get involved in their argument and just continued to stare at the scenery around him.

...

They had left Cloudcenter Mines through a transport formation, but the surroundings on the other side had still looked like mine tunnels. As they continued to move, Zu An saw that they had been inside the belly of a mountain.

Outside, there were dried yellow trees all around, and not much snow. The temperature even seemed to be a bit warmer than in Cloudcenter Commandery. Zu An was surprised. In theory, the Snake race's territory was supposed to be to the north of Great Snowy Mountain. Even Cloudcenter Commandery was covered in snow, so shouldn't this place have been full of snow too?

There were just too many unknown mysteries in the world of cultivation.

"Hiss... Hiss..."

Strange hisses surrounded them. Only then did Zu An realize that there were many Snake race people moving around through the dried leaves below and the tree branches above. Even though they wouldn't pose much of a threat to him at his current cultivation level, he still felt a bit shaken up by memories from his previous world.

But he unexpectedly discovered that the densely-packed snakes didn't have any intention of rushing forward and attacking. Instead, as the carriage passed, they withdrew on their own.

Yu Yanluo explained in a gentle voice, "This is the Snake race's restricted area. They normally do not allow any outsiders in, so that is why there are so many snakes here. To some extent, they can be

considered guards. Our carriage has special tiles that these snakes can sense, so that is why they do not trouble us.”

Zu An nodded. This area was probably a forbidden zone because the transport formation leading to Cloudcenter Commandery was inside the mountain.

Suddenly, the carriage fleet stopped. Looking through the window, Zu An saw that there seemed to be a large group standing in their way. Were they enemies?

Maid Xing emerged from her carriage and said, “Madam, Elders White and Blue have sent people to come and welcome your respected self.”

Yu Yanluo’s pretty brows drew together in a frown. She asked, “They did not come themselves?”

For better or for worse, she was the publicly acknowledged clan leader. The two elders had only sent their subordinates, which meant they didn’t treat her with much respect at all.

Maid Xing sounded angry as she replied, “No. They only sent their own grandchildren.”

Even the elders’ own direct grandchildren were just juniors. They couldn’t compare to Yu Yanluo’s status.

Yu Yanluo began to think to herself. She hadn’t really paid much attention to the Snake race’s side of things and had allowed Elders White and Blue to do as they wished. But now, since she was coming back, she had to treat the situation seriously. After managing the Yu clan for so many years, she was obviously not as weak as she appeared on the surface.

“Let us go and see these elders’ emissaries, then,” Yu Yanluo said as she got up.

Maid Xing was shocked. She asked, “Madam, are you not going to give them the cold shoulder? Furthermore, even if they are going to meet your respected self, they should be the ones called over. How can you greet them personally?”

Yu Yanluo said with a light chuckle, “Apart from venting a bit of frustration, giving them the cold shoulder is completely useless. On the contrary, it will instead expose our hostility too early. Furthermore, it has been a long time since I last returned to the Snake race. Those from the tribe do not know much about me, so I should use this chance to get closer to the people. Otherwise, who knows what would happen if the elders found someone to impersonate me? The people of the Snake race might not even know what happened.”

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exchanged a look. There’s more to this woman than meets the eye. But they also felt a bit of disapproval toward her methods. The two women were both individuals who had established their sects through power. They didn’t have any interest in studying such methods.

Yu Yanluo arrived at the carriage entrance and waved toward Zu An, saying, “Ah Zu, please come with me.”

Zu An was stunned. He replied, “This isn’t too good... Is it? You’re a clan leader, so I might end up influencing your prestigious reputation.”

Even though he didn't know much about the Fiend races, judging from their previous attitude, it was apparent that they all worshiped her like a spiritual idol. If they knew that Yu Yanluo had a man, they would definitely feel disappointment. It would end up affecting the people's morale.

If her position had been stable, it would be fine. But according to what Maid Xing had said, her position as the clan leader was full of lurking dangers.

Yu Yanluo smiled sweetly and said, "It is fine. You are my man; there is nothing that I cannot admit."

Maid Xing's jaw almost dropped to the ground. Even though she knew that Yu Yanluo's relationship with him was good, and they had seemed to be much closer this time, she hadn't expected the two to have already reached this level!

Young master Zu is handsome, and he is also outstanding among his peers, but there are too many people who have pursued the madam over the years. There have been many who were even more outstanding than him, yet the madam has never felt anything. But this time, she actually fell in love!

If news of that got out, it might just cause a huge uproar throughout the world!

Yan Xuehen's brows subconsciously furrowed. For some reason, when she heard Yu Yanluo call Zu An that, she felt uncomfortable, as if something that was precious to her had been stolen.

After the others left, only Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were left in the carriage.

Yan Xuehen was sulking, but she suddenly sensed something. She raised her head and saw that Yun Jianyue was looking at her with a strange expression. She was alarmed and asked, "What are you doing?"

Yun Jianyue rubbed her palm and said indifferently, "My mood isn't too great right now. Why don't you help me vent out some frustration?"

Yan Xuehen's expression changed, and she tried to run. However, Yun Jianyue grabbed her and placed her on her knees, starting to smack her bottom again. Yan Xuehen felt as if she would go mad with shame, crying, "You demoness, I will definitely hack your corpse into ten thousand pieces once I recover!"

"Oh, thanks for reminding me. Then I guess I should make use of this opportunity to properly bully you while you're weak," Yun Jianyue remarked.

When he heard the loud and clear slaps and the sounds of resistance, Zu An silently sweated for Yan Xuehen's sake. Of course, he only felt some sympathy at most. He didn't want to get involved in their dispute.

Soon afterward, he followed Yu Yanluo to the carriage. A group of snakes kneeled down around her and called out, "We greet the clan leader!"

Zu An noticed that these snake people's appearances were very different from the ones Yu Yanluo had brought out from Cloudcenter City. Their eyes had vertically-slitted pupils, and their expressions were much fiercer. However, the most striking feature was that their mouths were all quite large. While they spoke, the corners of their mouths looked as if they might reach their ears.

He noticed that there were two women at the very front of the group, one in white and one in blue. Their figures were elegant and graceful. The white-clad woman was tall and slender, while the blue-clad one was lovable and petite. The white-clad woman's long hair fluttered behind her, making her look like a wise and virtuous woman. There was a hint of classical beauty to her appearance. Meanwhile, the blue-clad woman had her hair in cute braids.

Zu An was a bit stunned. When he saw the braids, he couldn't help but remember Snow. He wondered if he was going to be able to meet her now that he was in the fiend races' territory.

Chapter 1188: King Court Emissary

Because the white and blue-clad women's heads were lowered, Zu An couldn't see their appearances clearly. He sighed. Their figures were incredible, but no matter how incredible they were, all of the Snake race people present had giant mouths. No matter how great their bodies were, their faces were still too frightening.

Yu Yanluo said gently, "There is no need for excessive formalities, everyone. Please hurry and rise."

All of the Snake race people got up. The white and blue-clad women also raised their heads. Zu An was stunned. Not only did they not have the same giant mouths, they instead had delicate, ruby-lipped mouths. They were also pretty and full of life. Even though they couldn't compare to Yu Yanluo's devastating beauty, they were still beautiful in their own right. The feeling of youth and tenderness coming from them made it hard for anyone to feel ill will towards them.

The white and blue-clad women also looked at him curiously. They were normally confident in their beauty, and so they hadn't been convinced when they heard their clansmen talk about how stunning the clan leader was. They hadn't believed it at first, but now that they saw her themselves, they felt that she was even prettier than the rumors. They now accepted it wholeheartedly.

At the same time, they were wondering to themselves, Who is this person next to the clan leader? Judging from how closely he was standing to the clan leader, it seemed their relationship was quite close. But based on his clothing, he seemed to be a human. Still, he did look pretty handsome; not a single one of the young men from the Snake Race could compare to him...

The white-clad young lady snapped out of her daze first and said, "We greet the clan leader. We came to respectfully welcome the clan leader home."

Yu Yanluo nodded and replied, "I will have to trouble the two ladies."

Maid Xing said angrily, "Elder White and Elder Blue really are growing older and more inflexible. Meeting with them seems to be quite difficult!"

Yu Yanluo shot her a look and called out, "Maid Xing!" Even though she stopped her maid on the surface, she didn't actually have any intentions of actually blaming her. It was merely a good cop, bad cop act.

The young lady who was called Little White said, "Replying to the sect leader, our grandfathers were planning to attend themselves at first, but unfortunately, the Fiend King Court sent an emissary, so they had no choice but to remain in the clan to receive them. I hope that the clan leader does not take offense."

Zu An was a bit shocked. From the start, these people's attitudes had been extremely respectful without the slightest bit of domineering air. They didn't seem like ambitious subjects at all. They didn't seem to match up with what Maid Xing had said before.

Yu Yanluo asked curiously, "The Fiend King Court's emissary? What is this matter about?"

The Fiend races and the Zhou Dynasty didn't work quite the same way. The various races all claimed to bow down to the Fiend Emperor, but the Fiend King Court didn't have much control over the different areas. Such visits from an emissary might not even happen once every few decades.

"We don't know the exact details, but that emissary is quite arrogant." The other young lady, who was named Little Blue, wrinkled her fine nose; she was clearly quite dissatisfied.

Yu Yanluo also frowned. She had too little information and couldn't make an accurate assessment. She said, "Let us return to the clan first for now then."

Little Blue said with a big smile, "Alright! We'll show the clan leader the way... Clan leader, you're really pretty... Clan leader, your skin is so soft! How do you keep it that way?"

Yu Yanluo was between laughter and tears from all of the random questions along the way. However, she was also affected by the girl's lively nature, so it was hard for her to feel annoyed at her.

Zu An marveled at the way the girl really did seem to embody the opposite of social anxiety. Little White's quiet beauty was more reassuring as she stayed off to one side.

But who would have thought that Little White would turn around and look at him in confusion, asking, "Are you a human?"

"I am," Zu An replied with a smile.

"Our Snake race rarely meets humans. I've seen some human slaves in auction houses while shopping with my grandfather before. None of them look as handsome as you," Little White said with a sigh.

Zu An's face darkened. He replied, "Whatever, I'll just take that as you praising me."

Little White snuck a look at Yu Yanluo, then lowered her voice and moved closer to him. She asked, "What kind of a relationship do you and the clan leader have? The two of you seem to be really close."

Zu An thought back to how Yu Yanluo didn't care about their relationship being exposed. He thought to himself that having Little White spread the news wouldn't be bad either, or else there would be more unnecessary trouble later. He replied, "I'm her man, of course."

Little White appeared to have a sudden look of understanding, replying, "Oh, so you were the clan leader's male pet!"

Zu An was bewildered. Don't tell me that being someone's man means the same as being their male pet in snake language?

After confirming Zu An and Yu Yanluo's relationship, Little White lost all interest in Zu An. She quickly began to chat up Yu Yanluo with Little Blue.

Yu Yanluo had originally been a bit unhappy with Elders White and Blue, but she couldn't bring herself to hate the two lovable young beauties. Meanwhile, Zu An happily enjoyed the moment of peace. He watched as the scenery around them changed.

The fleet quickly left the forbidden mountain zone, and on the way, they passed a few villages. The homes in them were as different from human homes as could be. They looked more like caves made from dirt. Each household grew many flowers, plants, and trees. It was probably the Snake race's natural tendency; having that kind of cover undoubtedly made them feel more at peace.

When they heard that their clan leader had returned, countless Snake race villagers came out to greet her. They all tried to see the clan leader's face at least once.

Zu An noticed that many of those gathered were more similar to lizard people. They had large muscles and mighty appearances. Furthermore, there were a considerable number of them. From the looks of it, they were probably lower-level beings than the Snake race. They seemed to mostly be warriors or farmers.

There were some men and women with wide mouths present as well. Even though they had half-snake, half-human appearances, there were still some distinctive markings on their faces.

As for the clansmen Yu Yanluo had brought out from Cloudcenter Commandery, they were probably the highest-level beings from the Snake race. After all, apart from their vertical pupils, they weren't much different from humans at all.

Little White and Little Blue were probably a notch above even that. They could even hide their vertical pupils. Nothing else strange could be seen about them.

Several snake people cheered along the way. Their leader's return was clearly an exciting thing to them. Yu Yanluo also stood outside the entire time, waving toward the citizens along the way. Zu An was worried for her safety, so he didn't dare to leave and always stood guard next to her.

The fleet continued forward. The surrounding buildings gradually became more and more densely packed as the villages gave way to towns and cities. Many buildings stood within a large valley. A ring of city walls encircled them, stationed with many guards.

Maid Xing explained, "Young master, that is the Snake Race's King City."

Zu An nodded. This city did seem quite imposing. However, forget about big cities like Cloudcenter or Brightmoon, it couldn't even compare to the smaller cities in some commanderies. However, this city had been built in a mountain valley, so it was quite high up.

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The interior of the city was bustling with activity as they entered. All sorts of peddlers filled the markets with a constant hubbub. Even though their goods were rather lacking, they were still full of energy.

Soon afterward, they passed a giant sculpture. Yu Yanluo raised her hand and had the fleet stop. Then, she walked up to the sculpture with an extremely complicated expression. She muttered to herself, "Mother, I've returned..."

Zu An had seen the Medusa sculpture through Xiao Yao's recording in Cloudcenter City. Now that he had seen it himself, he sighed in admiration. Seeing it on a recording stone couldn't be compared to seeing it in person at all.

The woman really was extremely similar in appearance to Yu Yanluo, but there was a powerful look of dignity sculpted into her face. The surrounding guards and soldiers, as well as the routine sacrifices and prayers, made the sculpture seem even more divine and holy.

Zu An also bowed toward the sculpture and said, "Respected mother-in-law, I will definitely protect Yu Yanluo and prevent her from experiencing your tragedy."

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After paying their respects to the Medusa statue, the group headed toward the Snake race's official court.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue also got off the carriage. They wanted to take the chance to meet with the Snake Race's elders and the Fiend King Court's emissary, to learn a bit more about the fiend races.

But when Zu An saw Yan Xuehen unable to help but hold her bottom when she got off, he wanted to laugh, but couldn't. He quickly went over to help her. Yan Xuehen seemed to have found her savior; she quickly hid behind him, scared that Yun Jianyue would grab her again.

Little White's eyes widened. She had thought that the clan leader's beauty was already unparalleled in this world, so why were there two more ladies who were just as beautiful? The most important part was that both of these women seemed to be rather close to Zu An!

He can become this awesome even as a mere male pet? He actually dares to flirt with other girls in front of the clan leader?

An impatient voice called out from inside, "I don't care. You need to choose a new clan leader today. If anything, just pick between the two of you!"

Chapter 1189: Golden Crow Crown Prince

The expressions of those present changed. They thought to themselves, How daring! The Snake race's leader is right here, and yet this person is actually hollering for them to choose a new clan leader?

Yu Yanluo's expression was grim. She walked straight in. The two young ladies, Little White and Little Blue, followed her in too. Zu An knew Yu Yanluo was wounded, so he followed behind her while on guard.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen exchanged a look. Both of them would just be watching from the sidelines, so they didn't mind seeing some drama at all. They also followed her in.

These fiend race people can argue among themselves as much as they want; the more they fight the better!

The group entered the discussion hall and saw two elders standing in the center. One was dressed in white, while the other was dressed in blue. The clothes they wore were much fancier than those of the Snake race civilians they had seen along the way.

The elders' breathing was steady, and the light within their eyes was reserved. They were clearly both powerful cultivators. These two were probably the Elder White and Elder Blue Maid Xing had been talking about before.

But at the moment, they were nothing like the powerful officials Maid Xing had spoken of, and were instead extremely respectful to the young man in the highest seat, as if they were humbly awaiting his instructions.

The young man's clothes flickered with golden light; his entire figure was bright yellow, looking incredibly gaudy. He looked rather handsome and extraordinary. Unfortunately, his slightly protruding mouth ruined his entire appearance, making him look somewhat fierce and malicious.

There were several golden-armored warriors standing by his side. All of them had resolute expressions. Their gazes were a bit different from those of normal guards; they seemed to contain a hint of pride.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both frowned, a hint of worry appearing in their eyes. This young man was probably the Fiend King Court emissary Little White and Little Blue had spoken of.

Are the fiend races really that strong already? Even a mere emissary is at the master rank, and not someone who's just entered the master rank at that?

"Who was it who said that my clan should reselect our leader?" Yu Yanluo called out, looking coldly at the person. Hmph, you're far too inferior to my Ah Zu.

The white and blue-clad elders turned around, looking overjoyed when they saw her. They both greeted her respectfully. "We greet the clan leader!"

Zu An was very surprised. The two looked extremely respectful, completely different from how Maid Xing had described them. When he gave Maid Xing a look, he saw that she was completely stunned.

Yu Yanluo was also somewhat stunned. However, she quickly gestured for the two to stand back up, saying, "The two of you are elders; there is no need for such formality."

The young man's flickering golden eyes lit up. He said, "I have heard about the Snake race's Medusa Empress' beauty for a long time. Today, I see that your reputation is fully deserved."

Yu Yanluo frowned slightly. The man's undisguised expression made her feel extremely uncomfortable. She asked, "And your distinguished self is?"

Elder White and Elder Blue introduced him, saying, "This is the Golden Crow Crown Prince."

"What?!" Let alone Yu Yanluo, even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions changed. None of them had expected the emissary of the Fiend King Court to actually be the Golden Crow Crown Prince.

The current Fiend Emperor was also a Golden Crow, and the Golden Crow Crown Prince was the next successor to the throne. Why would such a person run all the way over to be an emissary? Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen couldn't figure it out no matter how they thought about it.

Could it be that there's some kind of dispute within the fiend races' royal family, and that the crown prince lost his status and was dispatched to the border?

But judging from how arrogant and despotic he seemed to be, that really didn't seem to be the case.

"I greet the Golden Crow Crown Prince," Yu Yanluo said, bowing slightly. His status was respected among the fiend races, so she had to at least show him that level of respect. Even though she didn't like him, as the clan leader, she couldn't bring her clan unnecessary trouble.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince gave her a look. His eyes wandered across her chest, waist, bottom, and other sensitive areas. He said, "You seem to be wounded. This crown prince has a spiritual pill here that can help your injuries."

Yu Yanluo said indifferently, "There is no need. I have already taken the world's best pill medicine. There is no need for the crown prince to use up anything for me."

"Oh? The world's best pill medicine? May I ask what kind of medicine it is to claim such a title?" the Golden Crow Crown Prince asked excitedly.

Yu Yanluo's face turned a bit red as she replied, "It is just the best medicine in my opinion. It might not be useful for others."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions became strange. They obviously knew how she had been treated. But did she really have to say she had taken medicine...

Don't tell me...

Yun Jianyue was from the Devil Sect, so she had been influenced by it. Even Yan Xuehen was someone who had dominated the world for many years, so she wasn't as naive as an innocent young lady. The same scenes appeared in the two women's minds at the same time.

Hmph, this woman really is shameless!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince just assumed it was an excuse for refusing his medicine. He couldn't help but feel a bit annoyed. This woman doesn't want a medicine I'm personally bestowing? She really doesn't know how to appreciate others' kindness.

But her exceptional beauty gave him much more patience than normal. Anyone so beautiful had the right to be somewhat headstrong. This young master likes girls that are a bit feisty.

His gaze made Yu Yanluo extremely uncomfortable. She changed the topic and asked, "What was going on, with the crown prince asking for the clan leader to be replaced?"

"Medusa Empress, please do not feel offended," the Golden Crow Crown Prince replied with a chuckle. "This crown prince came with a decree to summon the leaders of the different tribes. Father emperor has something to discuss with everyone. You have been absent from the Snake race all this time, so that was why I told them to just choose someone else to join. But since the empress has returned, there is naturally no reason to choose another leader."

"A Fiend King Court general assembly?" Yu Yanluo asked seriously. "I wonder what kind of matter it is about?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince said, "Father emperor said that it has been many years since he has seen all the tribe leaders. Now that he is getting older, he misses you all, and wants to summon you to have a lively get-together."

Yu Yanluo's expression changed. The crown prince put it nicely, but these clan leaders were all off enjoying their time in their respective domains; who would want to go to the Fiend King Court? Besides, who knew what would happen in the Fiend King Court? It was entirely possible that he would just take all of them hostage.

Zu An suddenly realized something. No wonder Elders White and Blue had acted differently from how Maid Xing described them, and had instead politely welcomed Yu Yanluo back. It turned out they had such a hot potato to hand off to her!

Yu Yanluo hadn't expected to have such an annoying thing to deal with as soon as she returned. She said, "The crown prince can see that I am currently injured. Furthermore, the Snake race has gone through some great changes, so I have a lot of things to deal with. I fear that I cannot join this great meeting. I hope that the crown prince can pass on some good words to the Fiend Emperor for me."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's expression immediately darkened. He said grimly, "Before I left the Fiend King Court, father emperor told me that the various tribes' kings must all be present. Otherwise, it would be viewed as a rebellion, and the clan would be punished as well. I hope that the Medusa Empress will not make that mistake."

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen exchanged a look. They could both see the shock in each other's eyes.

The Fiend Emperor is making such a huge fuss over this. Just what is he trying to do?

Don't tell me he plans to coerce all of the clans to attack the human world?

Yu Yanluo's expression changed. She said, "Since it is the Fiend Emperor who is summoning me, then our Snake race must naturally join."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince nodded in satisfaction and said, "Good. Now that official matters are completed, this crown prince has heard that the scenery around the Snake race territory is quite good. I wonder if the empress can show me around as a guide?"

Little White and Little Blue rolled their eyes. There's absolutely nothing around the Snake race territory; what do you mean nice scenery? It was blatantly obvious that he just wanted Yu Yanluo to accompany him.

Before Yu Yanluo could reply, Zu An couldn't hold back any longer and said, "The empress' body is unwell, so it is inconvenient for her to go out. Furthermore, she does not often spend time here, so she is unfamiliar with the local surroundings. If the crown prince wishes for someone to show you around, Elders White and Blue should be more suitable."

The expressions of Elders White and Blue changed. They began to curse at Zu An inwardly, yet they couldn't really say anything. They could only agree. After all, helping an outsider target their own empress really would be a bit unsightly.

But suddenly, the Golden Crow Crown Prince's expression sank. He remarked, "And where did you crawl out from? This crown prince is talking to the empress about proper matters; where is there any room for a guard like you to interrupt?"

He had had his subordinates gather information about the Snake race. He knew about all of the Snake race's important figures, and there was no information on this man. He just treated him as an ordinary guard.

Chapter 1190: A Charitable Lesson

Before Zu An even had a chance to reply, Yu Yanluo's expression darkened. She said coldly, "He is not a guard, but my man!"

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen nodded inwardly. This woman looked soft and delicate on the outside, but she was still pretty headstrong when it really mattered.

Elders White and Blue were shocked. The marriage of a race's leader was a huge matter, one related to the safety and prosperity of the entire clan! They had originally planned to arrange a marriage with a friendly clan to create a strong alliance, but she had already made a pledge to get married on her own!

Little White curled her lips. I already know he's the clan leader's gigolo; why are you all making such a big fuss over this?

But the Golden Crow Crown Prince's expression became ashen. He cried, "You actually took a human as your man?!"

He had still been admiring her beauty a second before, thinking about how wonderful it would be to have such a beautiful Medusa Empress in his own harem. But after he learned that she already had a man, that all went up into smoke. However great his joy and expectations had been before, that was how great his anger was now!

Even though Yu Yanluo was stunning, he had always had an obsession with cleanliness and preferred virgins. Forget about those who had already had physical relationships with others; even just having someone else they liked would make him feel they were impure. He was furious when he learned that this fellow had actually gotten to her before he did!

You have successfully trolled the Golden Crow Crown Prince for +444 +444 +444...

Yu Yanluo calmly said, "I believe I have the freedom to choose whom I wish. I do not need to trouble your respected self for your opinion." She was unhappy with his disrespect toward Zu An, so she didn't even feel like calling him the crown prince anymore.

Zu An walked over and gently held her waist. He gave the Golden Crow Crown Prince a cold look and said, "We're an ideal couple who share great affinity with each other. Why would we ever need an opinion of a birdman like you?"[1]

He had seen how arrogant this fellow was, as well as his clear lust and desire for Yu Yanluo, in the way his eyes had roamed across her body in a completely undisguised manner. He had already been unhappy for quite some time.

The expressions of the onlookers changed. To publicly call the Golden Crow Crown Prince a birdman... That would be an insanely huge crime if it reached the Fiend Emperor's ears!

Elders White and Blue in particular immediately cursed Zu An to death inwardly. They even began to feel resentment toward the clan leader. Not only had she ended up getting married on her own, she had even ended up finding such an arrogant and egotistical man! The entire Snake race could be implicated because of him. That would create a huge disaster!

"Birdman?" The Golden Crow Crown Prince's face immediately darkened. He yelled, "You're courting death!"

You have successfully trolled Golden Crow Crown Prince for +521 +521 +521...

Zu An snorted. "What, you want to fight? I'll keep you company anytime." His fists were already itching to give this fellow a good beating.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince gave him a look of contempt and spat, "Just a trifling ninth rank. You think you're worthy of me acting personally?"

It would be difficult for a normal person to accurately gauge another's cultivation. But the Golden Crow race had the True Sun Eyes, which could immediately identify what the target's real cultivation was.

He scanned his subordinates with his long and narrow eyes and said, "Out of consideration for the Medusa Empress' dignity, I'll spare his life. Just break his legs and pull out his tongue and that'll be enough."

The onlookers were horrified. He had actually said such cruel things so casually, as if he had bestowed incredible grace and favor upon Zu An.

Golden light flashed behind him as a golden-armored warrior drew his sword and thrust it toward Zu An, moving as fast as lightning.

Elders White and Blue were horrified. Just a guard by the Golden Crow Crown Prince's side was already at the ninth rank! The royal clan really was incredibly powerful. They didn't even think they could stop such a swift sword themselves.

If the clan leader weren't injured, and she could use the Medusa's innate ability, she might be able to. But she was injured at the moment. It seemed as if everything boded ill for this man.

But it's fine. We'll just use this chance to make the clan leader give up completely. We'll hold another marriage among the fiend races afterward.

Hmph, the last clan leader insisted on marrying a human man, but it almost caused the destruction of the entire Snake race!

They didn't want to go through something like that again.

But they didn't hear the miserable scream they had expected. Instead, there was a strange silence. The two of them quickly collected their thoughts and looked at the scene again. Their eyes almost popped out of their sockets when they saw what had happened.

The sword that was as fast as lightning was clamped between two fingers. The longsword didn't budge an inch no matter how the golden-armored warrior struggled.

Little Blue tugged on Little White's clothes and cried, "Big sis, big sis, this guy is so handsome!"

Little White nodded in deep sympathy. The golden-armored warrior was doing everything he could, his face bloated like a pig's. On the contrary, Zu An stood in place calmly and indifferently. The contrast made him look exceptionally dashing.

With a snap of Zu An's fingers, the longsword broke in half. His opponent was blown back by a powerful force, falling at the Golden Crow Crown Prince's feet, and was left in a sorry state.

Yun Jianyue nudged Yan Xuehen with her elbow and remarked, "Look, that guy's strength seems to have already exceeded what his cultivation rank should be capable of in theory."

Yan Xuehen hadn't wanted to pay her any attention because of the humiliation of being spanked previously. But when she heard that it was about Zu An, after some hesitation, she couldn't hold herself back and replied, "His strength cannot be evaluated through common knowledge about cultivation ranks. Forget about being unmatched on his level, he would still have some fighting strength against me and you."

Yun Jianyue gave her a strange look and asked, "What are you looking all proud for? It's almost as if you're talking about your own man."

Yan Xuehen was furious. She was about to argue back when a fierce scream erupted.

"Trash!" The Golden Crow Crown Prince berated his guard, feeling incredibly embarrassed after seeing how sorry a state his subordinate had been left in. Then, he looked up and gave Zu An a look. There was a dangerous look in his long and narrow eyes as he said, "You're a bit tougher than I expected. But that's it."

An invisible aura of killing intent filled the meeting hall, and the atmosphere became extremely tense. The Golden Crow Crown Prince's figure released a seemingly boundless vicious aura. The Snake race servants and guards all began to tremble.

But despite the impressive display, Zu An remained extremely calm, as if it were just a light mountain breeze.

Yu Yanluo said coldly, "Even though you are the crown prince, this is the Snake race's territory. Ah Zu is my man. You have acted against him repeatedly, so this is an act against our Snake race. Are you declaring war against us?"

When he heard her say that Zu An was her man again, the Golden Crow Crown Prince's eyes twitched. He replied, "Aren't the Medusa Empress' words going a bit too far? He's just a trifling human, so how can he represent the Snake race? Furthermore, he's offended this crown prince. It's only natural for me to teach him a lesson."

He didn't wait for her to reply and reached out his hand immediately after speaking. Even though he was clearly standing in place without moving, his hands turned into a massive golden claw. It seemingly

crossed through spacetime, directly trying to grab the top of Zu An's head, as if he intended to pulverize it.

"Please be lenient!" Elders White and Blue exclaimed in horror. They looked down on Zu An as well, but the clan leader was standing on Zu An's side, and the claw was actually so powerful.

Yu Yanluo might not be able to escape disaster either. At any other time, they would feel happy if something happened to her; but they had just received the Golden Crow's order, and the visit to the Fiend King Court could be full of dangers. If something happened to the clan leader, they would have to go instead. They obviously didn't want to see that happen.

The two both subconsciously wanted to help block the attack, to protect their clan leader. Of course, they didn't dare to offend the Golden Crow Crown Prince, and acted only defensively without any intention of attacking.

But the two of them were shocked as the defenses they set up were easily penetrated. The golden claw didn't stop in the slightest and rapidly appeared in front of Zu An. Their expressions turned pale. They had lived for much longer than the Golden Crow Crown Prince, and yet they couldn't stop a single attack even after working together!

As the successor in line to become the next Fiend Emperor, the Golden Crow Crown Prince was known to have already become unrivaled in the countless tribes' younger generation. Now, it seemed he was even more formidable than the rumors stated. And yet, the empress just had to bring her boy toy here! It seemed that he was going to die for certain this time.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions became serious.

"Is there anyone from the younger generation in the human world who could be his match?"

"Forget about the younger generation, there aren't many who could defeat him even if we consider the generation before that."