

Immortal 1261

Chapter 1261: Forbidden Devil's Seed Manual

Shi Ling was stunned. He murmured, "I don't know..."

Only then did he realize that even though the two of them had fought for so long, he actually didn't know who his opponent was. The other fiend race cultivators also suddenly realized that. Who in the world was this guy?

The women at his side were so formidable, too. They had thought that he was just a pretty face who kept strong and beautiful women at his side. Now, they had discovered that he was also truly strong. Judging from his tone, his background was likely extremely powerful, perhaps even greater than the Lion race.

A hint of excitement appeared on Princess Changning's face.

I have to seize this chance! With my appearance and background, I should be able to become good friends with him!

If I fail to become the crown princess, this man seems to be a pretty good choice too.

But it is a bit annoying that those women around him seem to be quite the strong opponents...

Princess Suolun stared blankly for a moment. All of the outstanding younger to middle generation individuals from the different clans quickly appeared in her mind, but none of them seemed to match this person.

"Who in the world are you?!" Shi Ling asked the question everyone else was thinking.

To their surprise, however, Zu An simply replied with a smile, "It's great that you don't know who I am. That way, even if I kill you, the Lion race still won't be able to find me anyway."

Shi Ling was dumbfounded.

The onlookers were speechless. They had all been hoping to hear what kind of awesome background he had, but how could they have expected such an answer?

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but laugh out loud, saying, "This kid! He really is good at messing with people."

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo both smiled. However, they realized it was quite strange. They clearly hadn't liked such behavior before. Why didn't they feel any disgust now, instead just finding it very interesting?

"You were messing with me?" Shi Ling exclaimed, startled and furious. When had he ever been played like this before?

You have successfully trolled Shi Ling for +555 +555 +555...

Zu An's expression turned cold as he shot back, "So what if I'm messing with you? Hurry up and open this up already. Who knows, it might be enough to ransom your life."

“Hmph, even if I don’t know who you are, my father and big brother will still be able to find out,” Shi Ling said with a sneer.

Zu An frowned. He was just about to use force when Yun Jianyue reminded him, “His glove still carries his aura. You should be able to open the storage pouch with it.”

Zu An’s eyes lit up. He put on the glove. A heaven-grade weapon wasn’t a deity-grade divine artifact, so it didn’t acknowledge an owner. When he reached toward the pouch with this glove, sure enough, he was able to successfully open it.

Inside it was a large pile of all kinds of spiritual medicines, each stalk not inferior to those that had previously been beneath the cliff at all. There were many bottles and containers with different pill medicines inside. Zu An didn’t have enough time to examine each one carefully, but anything that was worth storing inside clearly wasn’t ordinary.

There was a large pile of all kinds of sparkling ki stones, each of them heaven-grade. Zu An didn’t need them for his cultivation, but they were a hot commodity in the cultivator world, so it was still a stash of treasure. There was also a beast skin scroll that had all kinds of diagrams drawn on it. At the very top were the words ‘Lion’s Roar Technique’!

Zu An was startled. This seemed to be the cultivation manual for the Lion’s Roar Technique! It was a powerful area of effect skill, and yet he had actually ended up getting his hands on it so easily.

Shi Ling’s eyes seemed about to bulge out of their sockets when he saw what was happening. He cursed, “My dad and my big brother definitely won’t let you go! Even if you run to the ends of the earth, they’ll find you and skin you alive, and crush your bones into ashes!”

You have successfully trolled Shi Ling for +999 +999 +999...

Zu An’s expression turned cold. He said, “If that’s what’s going to happen anyway, I might as well just kill you first.”

Shi Ling’s entire body shivered when he sensed Zu An’s killing intent. Why did I have to say those things...

However, he had always behaved arrogantly. With how things were, he wasn’t willing to make himself any more of a laughingstock. He shouted, “If you’re going to kill me, then kill me! Either way, my dad and my big brother will get revenge for me. You’ll suffer ten times more than me!”

The other fiend race cultivators only watched with amusement. Only Qiao Heng and Princess Suolun spoke up to stop Zu An.

“Young master, you must be lenient!”

“You absolutely must not!”

Zu An didn’t seem to have heard their words at all, however. His palm smacked the top of Shi Ling’s head.

“Huh?” Yun Jianyue couldn’t help but wonder, “Was he ever this ruthless of a person?” She had always criticized that side of him, calling him too soft-hearted. Thus, she actually admired his actions.

Yan Xuehen frowned. As someone from the orthodox sects, she didn't like killing. Even though Shi Ling fully deserved it, she was more worried that after this event, Zu An would turn into a bloodthirsty person.

Meanwhile, Yu Yanluo was worried that if Zu An fully offended the Lion race, he might end up in great danger. Still, the Snake race wasn't so easily bullied either. The Lion race won't be able to interfere with my territory, hmph!

At that moment, however, a terrifying shockwave rippled out. Shi Ling, who had been lying on the ground unable to move, suddenly raised his hand and blocked the attack. Another wave of golden radiance rushed outward.

Zu An sensed a dangerous aura and immediately used Grandgale, withdrawing several dozen li away. He remarked, "You're finally willing to bring it out?"

Shi Ling's entire body was covered in golden light. He slowly rose into the air, his eyes incredibly cold and seemingly completely void of emotions. He replied, "Oh? You knew of my existence?"

All of the other fiend race cultivators were stunned when they witnessed the sudden developments. What was going on with Shi Ling right now? He clearly hadn't reached the master rank yet, so why was he able to fly in the sky so easily? Furthermore, what was with that terrifying pressure coming from his body? Even they were getting scared.

Yu Yanluo was confused. Shi Ling had been lying on the ground like a dying dog without any strength to retaliate. Why had he suddenly erupted with power like this? She instinctively looked toward the two grandmasters.

Yan Xuehen frowned and remarked, "One body, two souls?"

"That doesn't seem too likely," Yun Jianyue said, shaking her head. "If it were one body and two souls, how could the other soul possibly be this much stronger than the host? It seems more like a possession."

"But this does not seem like a possession either," Yan Xuehen said, observing Shi Ling carefully. She added, "Shi Ling's aura has not disappeared. A possession would not allow Shi Ling to keep existing. It looks more as if someone temporarily attached their soul to his body."

Princess Suolun seemed to have suddenly thought of something. Her expression changed greatly and she called out, "Shi Qian, is that you?"

"What?!"

When the others heard that it was the Lion race's great prince, they all looked at the youngster in the air with incredible shock. Wasn't this Shi Ling? When had he become the great prince?

The Lion King had a creed of modesty, uprightness, mercy, valor, justice, sacrifice, glory, and spirit, so his sons were named after those words.[1]

The 'Shi Ling' in the air didn't reply to Princess Suolun, instead staring straight at Zu An.

However, Zu An looked at the figure in the air and didn't reply. He had witnessed the emperor Zhao Han hiding in the crown prince's body before, in the secret dungeon. He had sensed that there was something off about Shi Ling, and that it had felt a bit familiar. Because he had the Rage point system, he was more sensitive than others when it came to matters of the soul.

Shi Qian hadn't been hidden nearly as well as Zhao Han, which was why Zu An had been able to pick up on something. That was why he had gone for a lethal blow to test the waters. Sure enough, Shi Qian had been forced out.

Yun Jianyue suddenly thought of something. She said, "There is a rumor about a cruel technique called the 'Forbidden Devil's Seed Manual'. Cultivators who practice it find a vessel with outstanding aptitude to apply a special imprint to. That way, a portion of the vessel's cultivation also benefits the user. Once they fully mature, the vessel's cultivation is completely absorbed by the user. Such vessels might just unknowingly end up donating their life's work for another's sake."

The other young fiend race cultivators were shocked when they heard that. They had clearly never heard of such a technique before, but it sounded incredibly sinister! No wonder Shi Qian's cultivation had advanced so rapidly, making him one of the five great experts at such a young age.

The expression of the 'Shi Ling' in the air changed briefly, but it quickly returned to normal. He replied, "What nonsense. The only reason I have done this is because I know that my younger brother is prideful and arrogant, and as he is still too young and unable to weigh situations properly, he might easily offend those he should not. That is why I left this behind to protect him. This lady over there, please do not speak such slander and try to destroy our brotherly bond!"

Yun Jianyue sneered. She didn't feel like wasting her breath on him.

The other fiend race cultivators were mostly convinced, however. Shi Qian's explanation made sense. They were brothers, after all. Even if he wanted to find a vessel, it wasn't too likely that he would choose Shi Ling.

Zu An frowned and remarked, "Why do I feel as if you're a pervert? You secretly went inside your brother. Then, when your little brother ends up having a great time with his wife, will it be him sleeping with his wife or you sleeping with your sister-in-law?"

1. Modesty = 'qian gong', Spirit = 'ling hun'. ㊦

Chapter 1262: He Has to Save Them

'Shi Ling' had been floating in the air and looking down on everyone as if they were ants. When he heard that, however, he staggered and almost dropped out of the sky.

The fiend race cultivators nearby were all stupefied. The men all had ambiguous and mysterious smiles, while the women's faces were entirely red as they snorted inwardly with disdain.

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue's jaw dropped. A moment later, she said, "As expected of him!"

Yan Xuehen blushed. This guy always pays attention to the weirdest things.

Yu Yanluo instead looked at the two of them with surprise. According to the rumors she had gathered about them, these two weren't the sort to be so agreeable, right? If anyone else dared to make such jokes around them, even if they didn't lose their life, they'd be half dead afterward, right? Even though they were closer now, why hadn't they gotten angry in the slightest?

'Shi Ling' snapped out of his daze just then. His expression was ice-cold as he said, "This game is over. You exaggerate your own abilities, actually daring to take the life of the Lion race's prince! If you slit your own throat and apologize, I can still consider leaving your corpse intact. Otherwise..." He didn't finish his sentence, but the threat was implied.

Zu An sighed and replied, "You brothers aren't all that skilled in fighting, but your skill with your mouths is in the same class."

Princess Suolun, Qiao Heng, and the others had strange expressions. This man actually dared to speak that way to the Western Lion? However, they realized that this was how he had treated Shi Ling too, so fighting right back was indeed his style. Still, even though this mysterious person was formidable, compared to the Western Lion who had already become famous a long time ago, he was still quite a bit off.

Even though Shi Ling was outstanding, he was still too young. He hadn't cultivated for long enough. His older brother didn't have that weakness, however. After all, Shi Ling might have fallen down a cliff and experienced a praiseworthy miracle, but his older brother had experienced similar miracles year after year. People among the fiend races all called him blessed by the world. For someone like that, grandmaster rank was merely a matter of time. Even the earth immortal rank was something he had a huge hope of breaking through into.

The others obviously didn't think that Zu An's chances were that good. However, the strength he had displayed previously wasn't weak either. All of them watched carefully, wishing to take the chance to see some of the Western Lion's methods, hoping for Zu An to force out as many of his trump cards as possible. That way, the different clans would have more preparations against the Western Lion.

The expression 'Shi Ling' had turned cold. He said, "You have successfully angered me. Fine, I will grant you death."

You have successfully trolled Shi Qian for +444 +444 +444...

Afterward, he raised his finger, and a streak of golden light emerged from it.

The others could sense the destructiveness of that light even from far away. All of them were horrified. It was merely a strand of the Western Lion's will, and yet such a simple attack already contained so much power!

Then, if we faced him in person, wouldn't that make us completely insignificant?

"This is the Heaven's Origin Finger!" Princess Suolun exclaimed. Her status was special, so she naturally knew more than the others. She quickly discerned that it was an extreme technique the Western Lion had discovered in his youth. His finger technique had killed untold numbers of powerful cultivators. Its power was extremely shocking.

The 'Shi Ling' in the air grasped Zu An's timing extremely well, attacking both him and the women behind him in a straight line with the attack. That way, if Zu An dodged, the women would have to face it instead. On the other hand, if he took it head-on, the Heaven's Origin Finger was something even the other four great experts wouldn't want to face, so what would this guy be able to do?

However, Zu An unexpectedly didn't evade, and only slowly raised his hand. The center of his palm became somewhat hazy, even distorting the air around it. Then, the golden light was sucked directly into his palm.

Princess Suolun and Qiao Heng almost screamed out in alarm. This guy had received a lethal blow bare-handedly! Forget about his hand, even his entire arm might disappear, right?

However, shockingly, the golden light vanished without a trace as if it had never appeared.

'Shi Ling' looked as if he were facing a great enemy. He quickly evaded to one side, but a streak of blood still appeared on his face. He suddenly turned around to look at Zu An and shouted, "What is the name of that move of yours?!"

Just then, the finger attack Zu An had retaliated with was something Shi Qian had seen before, as it was the same move that had defeated his younger brother's Mad Lion's Hegemon Fist, so he wasn't that surprised. However, the fact that Zu An bare-handedly received his Heaven's Origin Finger that left him indescribably shocked. At that instant, he had even begun to wonder if there was something wrong with the world. Thus, he had become somewhat absent-minded and had nearly been hit as a result.

In the distance, the corners of Yan Xuehen's lips curled upward. Back when she had been trying to kill Zu An, a powerful attractive force had appeared around him, absorbing a large portion of her attacks' strength. Otherwise, how could Zu An have possibly withstood the attacks of a grandmaster for so long? If he could even receive her attacks, what was the big deal with the attacks of a trifling fiend race junior?

Zu An obviously wouldn't expose the Heaven Devouring Sutra. He replied with a smirk, "Do you want to know? Why don't you try begging me?"

'Shi Ling' choked. How could this person be so shameless?!

You have successfully trolled Shi Qian for +499 +499 +499...

His expression turned cold. His entire body shone with dazzling golden light, so terrifyingly radiant that it couldn't be looked at directly. The aura felt as if it heralded world-ending judgment.

All of the fiend race experts' faces turned pale. They were all the very best among their clans. Many of them had even felt that they weren't too far beneath the five great experts and would have a decent chance against them. Now, however, they were fully convinced. They couldn't even compare to a fragment of the Western Lion's soul... The difference was just too great.

The fatty Wu Liang's hands quickly formed different seals, as if he were calculating something. A smile gradually appeared on his face as he remarked, "This guy is probably going to stumble really hard this time."

Just then, 'Shi Ling' moved. His Heaven's Origin Finger had been neutralized by the strange vortex in Zu An's hand. Using the same attack again would really be unwise. Instead, he charged straight at Zu An like

a meteor falling from the sky. When he raised his hand, seven sets of seven lion projections shot out, creating forty-nine in total.

Mad Lion's Hegemon Fist! It was the skill the Lion Race was known for, and it was incredibly fierce and unrivaled! The nine lions Shi Ling produced had already made the onlookers sigh in amazement, and yet now, forty-nine of them had appeared at once! They were already growing numb.

The ground itself sank under the pressure of the wind created by the fist projections. Trees snapped one after another, and even the largest boulders were crushed into powder.

Yun Jianyue frowned. She waved her hand, and a mysterious ki field appeared around the group, protecting the two women beside her. Even though Yu Yanluo's Medusa's Eye could make even grandmasters feel apprehension, she didn't excel in physical durability and might not be able to withstand the attack. Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen's injuries were too serious.

However, Yu Yanluo showed her a smile and said, "Big sister Yun is still injured, so please let me."

Afterward, a brilliant painting scroll wrapped around them. At that instant, the ladies seemed to exist in a special space that was isolated from the world they had just been in.

Yun Jianyue's eyes lit up. She remarked, "This World Painting seems to carry a bit of the academy libationer's style. So you were that mysterious artist disciple."

Yan Xuehen gave Yu Yanluo another look. She had already discovered that fact back then when they fought against each other.

Yu Yanluo was a bit surprised. She replied, "Big Sister Yun really is knowledgeable. You're right, but I hope big sis can help me keep this secret."

Yun Jianyue put her arm around Yu Yanluo's shoulder and replied, "Don't worry; you're already calling me big sister, so how can I not agree to something like that?"

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Meanwhile, outside, 'Shi Ling' was alarmed. He wondered, who were these two women? Why were their methods so mysterious and profound? However, he was too busy to think about those questions in detail. He had to subdue this man first.

The forty-nine lions roared deafeningly, and even the world itself seemed to change color. However, one after another, rings of blue ripples appeared behind Zu An. Then, streaks of sword ki condensed from the void flew out from within.

At first, the golden lions continued to roar as they withstood the blue sword ki, but they soon couldn't hold on anymore. They were completely crushed and penetrated by the sword ki, and were left nailed to death in midair. They weren't from the Western Lion himself, so how could they possibly be able to withstand Zu An's Blue Luan Sword Formation?

All of the fiend race experts were dazzled when they saw the splendid scene before them. This guy had actually been able to defeat even the Western Lion?! Even if it was just a strand of Shi Qian's will, they had already fully experienced how terrifying he was.

Princess Changning began breathing more quickly. This man is even stronger than I thought! I definitely can't miss this chance.

Princess Suolun's eyes were also sparkling as she thought, This attack really is handsome... At the same time, however, she was startled. Why did this style seem a bit familiar? She seemed to have heard of it before somewhere.

'Shi Ling' evaded in midair. He knew he was definitely not a match for this opponent in his current state. Even though he was unwilling, he decisively chose to run.

Zu An obviously wouldn't let him go just like that. He was just about to give chase, but then 'Shi Ling' used his ki to pick up the Lion race subordinates. He then threw some of them at Yu Yanluo and the other ladies, some at Princess Suolun, and some at Qiao Heng.

Previously, Shi Qian had been watching indifferently in his younger brother's body. Forget about Yu Yanluo and those other girls, Princess Suolun had given Zu An several reminders, and Qiao Heng had repeatedly tried to save Zu An, so they definitely had some kind of relationship. If he attacked them, Zu An would definitely save them.

The subordinates' bodies exploded viciously, turning into streaks of bloody mist that contained tremendous power.

"Blood Explosion Technique!" The expressions of all the fiend race cultivators changed. This was an extremely vicious technique. The power of the explosion was extremely terrifying on its own, but even if one could withstand the explosion, as long as even a bit of blood got on one's body, one would begin to rot and eventually turn into a pool of blood.

Chapter 1263: Bronze Gate

The other fiend race experts hadn't expected Shi Qian to be so vicious, actually coming up with such a method to escape. They all frantically withdrew into the distance. In the end, they were still alright, since they were farther away and could get away in time.

However, Qiao Heng and Princess Suolun had been paying close attention to Zu An, so they were standing a bit closer. They hadn't expected that Shi Qian would attack them, so they didn't have any chance to evade at all. They could only take out all of their protective artifacts and go for broke, risking it all while trying to hold on.

However, it was rumored that the Blood Explosion Technique could corrode even ki, so they weren't sure whether they could withstand it.

As long as even a little bit of the blood got on their bodies, it would quickly spread. If it touched their arms or legs, they would have to gouge out that part of their flesh at the very least, or else they might have to cut off the entire limb. What if it got on their face or near their brain, though? What would they do then?

Zu An reacted quickly as well. He quickly arrived beside Yu Yanluo and the other girls, but Yu Yanluo quickly dealt with the situation. With a wave of her sleeves, all of the blood instantly vanished. At the same time, she handed Zu An an empty scroll, saying, "Go and help them over there!"

Even though she didn't know what Zu An's relationship with the elf was, she had seen him save Qiao Heng before, so he definitely had a reason for doing so. There was no way she could just sit there without doing anything.

Yan Xuehen was a bit absentminded when she saw that. This woman was not only exceptionally beautiful, but also far more considerate than she herself could be. No wonder every man in this world was infatuated with her.

Wait, why am I worried about these things? It's not as if I'm competing with her or anything.

Yeah, of course not!

...

Zu An didn't have time to thank Yu Yanluo for her thoughtfulness. He used Grandgale to instantly arrive at Qiao Heng's side. He grabbed the clothes around the elf's shoulder, then threw him aside. His strength was so great that Qiao Heng quickly flew far away, immediately breaking free from the corrosion of the Blood Explosion Technique.

However, because Qiao Heng had been in front of Princess Suolun, and the Lion race experts had already exploded, Zu An didn't have time to throw her.

Princess Suolun hadn't expected Zu An to save her. Since he could defeat Shi Ling, he probably had a way of dealing with the Blood Explosion Technique. Within her surprised gaze was a shred of bashfulness. What should I do if he carries me or something?

That was how it always happened in romance novels. The male lead always carried the female lead and spin a few times while they stared deeply into each other's eyes.

If I cooperate too well, those around me might think I'm too easy. It might even damage my Demon Race's reputation...

But if I resist too much, won't I be offending the one who kindheartedly saved me...

While she was wondering what she should do, she suddenly saw Zu An lift a foot. Then, she felt pain in her bottom, and her body shot into the distance like an artillery shell.

Princess Suolun was dumbfounded. He kicked me?

Yu Yanluo and Yan Xuehen were stupefied. Isn't this guy being a bit too rough on the fairer sex?

Yun Jianyue instead nodded in satisfaction, saying, "Little An, not bad. You should maintain your virtue as a taken man and not be blinded by other vixens."

Yan Xuehen's ice-cold skin turned red. She thought about how Zu An had been much gentler when he saved her. It looks as if I'm different in his heart.

Meanwhile, Yu Yanluo thought, Zu An has indeed acted like a respectable man this entire time. Even in a place like Bluefield Country filled with vixens, although Bluefield Country's leader was so pretty, he had never even taken the initiative to say a word to her. He had acted the same way while saving Princess Suolun. He had likely done so to avoid any suspicion, for her sake.

She gave Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen a guilty look. She thought to herself, Later, should I find a chance to tell Zu An that he doesn't have to be that careful, lest others think I'm a jealous lover?

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Meanwhile, after Zu An sent Princess Suolun flying with a kick, he opened up the single-use blank scroll Yu Yanluo had given him. After being around her for so long, he obviously knew how to use it.

The bloody mist in the air, still carrying the power of the explosions, was all sucked into the blank scroll. The snow-white paper was covered in blood, and the entire scroll trembled fiercely, as if blood might seep out at any time. Zu An quickly flung the scroll into the distance. Then, the scroll could no longer hold on and exploded.

However, the power of the Blood Explosion Technique had been greatly weakened. There was a blast of bloody mist, and the surrounding plants and trees all withered. After that, the color of blood gradually dissipated.

Qiao Heng quickly recovered from his daze. He walked over and cupped his hands toward Zu An. He said, "Thank you, brother, for saving me. Have we perhaps met somewhere before?" Zu An had now saved him two times. There had to be some reason behind it.

"There's nothing like that. I just found you quite pleasing to the eye and saved you on a whim," Zu An said. He didn't want to expose his relationship with Qiao Xueying. The main reason for that was because he still didn't really know what her relationship with the Elf Race was, and he didn't want to bring her any trouble. He planned to ask Qiao Heng a bit more about that when he had a chance.

Qiao Heng's smile froze when he heard that. The other fiend race experts had strange expressions. Elf race men were handsome and delicate; many powerful noble races liked to raise male elves.

Don't tell me that the reason this guy used his hands to save Qiao Heng, but kicked Princess Suolun, was because...

Qiao Heng reacted quickly, realizing that Zu An's gaze was clear, so he didn't have such filthy thoughts. Furthermore, the women at his side were all so stunning, so he wasn't someone with that kind of appetite.

The dark elf Duan Tiande also noticed the same thing, and felt a bit of fear. This guy is so mysterious, and his cultivation is unfathomable. What if he helps Qiao Heng to attack me? Won't I be in trouble then?

Still, the Dark Elf Race excelled in stealth. As long as there was even a bit of shadow in the vicinity, then he could escape far away. That was why, after some hesitation, he still couldn't give up on the temptation of the treasure and chose to stay for the time being.

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Just then, Princess Suolun climbed back to her feet and secretly rubbed her aching bottom. Then, she said to Zu An with a stiff expression, "Thank you, young master, for saving me. May I ask for the young master's esteemed name? In the future, the young master will be the Demon Race's friend."

Even though that was what she said, she still felt annoyed inside. Ever since she was little, when had she ever been in such a sorry state? She had been kicked in the butt in front of so many people, and had even fallen in such an awkward manner.

You have successfully trolled Suolun Shi for +233 +233 +233...

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. He replied, "It wasn't much work, so there's no need to feel troubled."

The others were all stunned. They hadn't expected Zu An to still keep his identity a secret! After all, Princess Suolun was a well-known beauty throughout the fiend races, and her status was also greatly respected. There were usually all sorts of people who followed at her beck and call, just like Prince Yin Sha. And yet now, when she finally took the initiative to make friends with a man, she was actually tactfully refused?

Is this guy still a man?

However, when they looked at Yu Yanluo and the other two women in Zu An's party, they all fell silent.

This guy is a model for our generation! He doesn't need to do any bootlicking at all, and yet these stunning beauties all go to him on their own!

Prince Yin Sha felt extremely unhappy when he saw the goddess he worshiped being treated coldly, but he didn't speak out. He had just seen Zu An fight and knew his own limits. If he ended up being humiliated afterward, that would be even more unsightly.

Only Princess Changning felt happy. This Princess Suolun normally looked arrogant, and clearly looked down on her a bit, but hadn't she been shown the cold shoulder by this man today?

In the future, I'm going to secretly spread news of this matter. Let's see how much longer you can act all complacent.

Princess Suolun was clearly also surprised by Zu An's reply, but she recovered after being briefly startled. She replied, "Young master is a refined individual after all. It was I who clung to conventional patterns too much."

Zu An was a bit surprised. This woman is quite interesting.

Suddenly, someone cried out in alarm. "What... What is that?!"

The others turned around. They saw that the mountain, which had had a large portion blasted apart after Zu An's battle with the Western Lion, had collapsed to reveal a bronze gate. The two doors were extremely tall, reaching at least several dozen meters. Their height made them look narrower than they were.

"This is the entrance to an old tomb!" The cultivators' eyes began to burn with desire. All their hard work had finally yielded results!

Chapter 1264: Great Treasures

None of the cultivators were concerned with what had happened previously anymore. They all rushed toward the bronze gate to try and open it. Unfortunately, no matter what they did, the bronze gate didn't budge an inch.

Thus, they all turned to look toward Zu An. After seeing him fight, they had all subconsciously begun to think of him as the leader.

Zu An walked forward and reached out a hand, pressing it against the bronze gate. Ki began to flow through him as he pushed. However, his ki seemed to be transferred somewhere else by the bronze gate and couldn't affect them at all. He quietly said, "This entrance doesn't seem as if it can be opened with brute strength."

The others looked disappointed when they heard that. Could it be that after all that had happened, they would only remain locked out of this treasure mountain without any gains?

Yan Xuehen walked up to the bronze gate as well. She gently caressed the designs on the door with her slender, jade-like fingers. Then, her gaze moved toward the various auspicious beasts and divine birds carved on its surface. She said, "There should be some mechanism up there."

The others had all witnessed her abilities in the fog forest; after hearing that, someone shouted excitedly, "These sculptures seem as if they can be turned!"

Yan Xuehen muttered to herself, "They probably need to be turned to form a specific pattern. However, without any other clues, there is little we can do right now."

There were several dozen sculptures present, which meant there was a vast number of possible combinations. Figuring out the exact answer by testing them out one by one seemed almost impossible.

"Let's all search for some clues around here," Jin Shi said loudly.

They were all elites from different clans, so they knew that the mechanisms in such places shouldn't be randomly messed with. If they made some kind of mistake, something terrifying might happen. After all, judging from everything they had just experienced, the one who had set all of this up was definitely not a kind person. They all quickly began to search around, not even letting a single bush go unexamined.

After some time, the fatty Wu Liang walked over and offered while rubbing his hands, "Should I give it a try?"

Princess Changning said with a frown, "You had better not mess things up. If this thing has a limited amount of tries and blows up after an incorrect combination is given, all of our previous efforts will have been for nothing."

Even though his performance earlier in the mist wasn't too bad, this fellow was shifty-eyed and crafty-looking. It was hard for her to associate him with someone capable and respectful.

Zu An gave the fatty a meaningful look and said, "Let's just let him have a go." His words now carried much greater weight. Since he had spoken, the others obviously wouldn't stop him.

Fatty Wu Liang's body was surprisingly nimble. With a kick off the ground, he began to crawl up and down the tall bronze gate. Whenever he went, he turned the sculptures to specific positions. He didn't show the slightest hesitation at all from start to finish.

Soon afterward, all of the sculptures were adjusted. When Wu Liang jumped down and landed on the ground again, the sculptures suddenly released waves of deep blue radiance. Then, all the lines on the gate began to glow blue. Letting out a mysterious noise, the gate slowly opened, revealing a serene and deep cave entrance.

The others' gazes moved toward Wu Liang. Even the slowest person present realized that something was strange about this fatty.

Zu An remarked indifferently, "Daoist priest, are you not going to say anything?"

"Daoist priest?" The fiend race cultivators were stunned. This guy was in a mediocre getup. He didn't look like a daoist priest at all! However, the skills he had shown in the fog forest did indeed seem to carry a daoist sect's style.

Wu Liang chuckled and said, "Everyone, please do not misunderstand. I just happened to inadvertently obtain an ancient sketchbook that mentioned this bronze gate. I just tried it out according to what was recorded, and lo and behold, it actually opened!"

The others wanted to know what else was in that sketchbook, and what was inside the place, but Wu Liang smoothly and evasively said that there was nothing else. The others clearly knew that he was probably lying, but there was no way to prove it.

Some people couldn't hold themselves back anymore and rushed through the gate. After all, they were all apprehensive toward Zu An's strength. If they could move earlier, they would get a bit of a head start. Who knew, they might even be able to find a treasure and slip away.

When the others saw them move, they couldn't be bothered to question Wu Liang anymore. They all rushed forth, striving to be the first.

Zu An reminded the three women around him, "We don't know what might pop out inside, so stay near me. You absolutely can't wander off."

Yun Jianyue said unhappily, "Even though I'm wounded, it's not to the point that I need your protection."

Yan Xuehen instead felt her heart skip a beat, because even though he had said it to all three of them, it was actually directed more at her. She knew her current condition well, so she didn't refuse out of pride and instead nodded ever so slightly.

Yu Yanluo then said, "We need to be careful of this fat daoist. I just feel as if he's a bit strange."

Zu An nodded. He made sure to keep an eye on the fatty.

...

The group quickly entered. At first, they had thought that it would be a pitch-black cave, and none of them had expected it to be a world of its own. Even though it wasn't that bright, they could see without any problems. They had no idea where the source of the light was either.

“Huh? There’s something drawn on this wall!” someone shouted, but immediately regretted it. Am I stupid? I should’ve taken a look at it first before saying anything! What if it’s a diagram of a secret method left behind by a profound senior?

There were clearly quite a few who shared those thoughts. They all rushed over as well. However, Zu An’s group had high cultivation, so they didn’t need to run up close to see the mural’s contents clearly.

The diagrams at the very beginning of the mural seemed to have been destroyed. The first of the remaining diagrams depicted a group of warriors crowded around a carriage, surrounded by many people in eunuch and maid outfits. From the looks of it, it seemed to depict the ruler of a country setting out on a trip.

The next one depicted the foot of a strange mountain. The mountain itself undulated up and down like a great snake, but there was an opening in the very center. At the foot of the mountain, there was also a large snake that had been chopped in half.

The third diagram depicted the ruler’s subordinates intending to kill the dying great snake. However, the ruler on the carriage stopped, and had his men save this snake.

The fourth diagram described something that happened many years later. The ruler’s party was on a ship in the middle of a stormy sea. Just as they were about to capsize, a great snake rushed out from the waters. In its mouth was a sparkling pearl that it gifted to the ruler.

The next few diagrams were mostly destroyed. The only remaining one depicted the ruler’s wedding. The pearl was embedded in the empress’ phoenix crown. The scenes after that were also missing.

The others saw that it wasn’t some kind of technique diagram and left one after another in disappointment. However, they all kept the sparkling, perfectly snow-white pearl in mind. The thing looked extraordinary even in the mural, so it was definitely a great treasure.

Zu An’s group was much more shocked. They all looked toward Yu Yanluo, asking, “Don’t tell me that thing the snake told you about that could help you make a breakthrough is this pearl?”

Yu Yanluo was a bit stunned. She replied, “I don’t know either. I felt a mysterious quiver when I first saw the pearl, and I can sense that something up ahead in the depths is calling out to me.”

“Do you think that big snake by the swamp is the snake in this mural?” Yan Xuehen voiced a possibility.

Zu An shook his head and said, “It shouldn’t be. Judging from how old this tomb is, those murals should be talking about the distant past. It’s not too likely for that snake to have lived for this long.”

Yun Jianyue chuckled and said, “It’s pointless to think about all of these things; we’ll find out once we take a look inside. If that big snake outside is the one in this painting, that’s for the best. Little Sister Yu can communicate with it amiably then.”

Just then, someone let out a cry of alarm and cried “This is the Pill Cauldron Ginseng, Silverthread Flower, Soul Splitting Herb... I was the one who found these, so don’t fight with me over them!” Right as the voice spoke, sounds of fighting broke out.

Mockery appeared on the corners of Yun Jianyue’s lips. She remarked, “Wealth moves the heart after all. Who would’ve thought that they would already start fighting among themselves this quickly?”

“What are those things?” Zu An asked. It was his first time hearing those names.

Yan Xuehen explained, “The Silverthread Flower and Soul Splitting Herb are top-quality ingredients for refining pills. They are extremely rare. That is especially so for the Soul Splitting Herb. Many master rank cultivators encounter danger while condensing their souls, leading to failure, or even damage to their soul. However, the Soul Splitting Herb can rejoin a damaged soul. It is a rare ingredient that many masters seek, but cannot find.

“The Pill Cauldron Ginseng can prolong one’s life, and depending on the grade, it can increase one’s lifespan anywhere between ten to a hundred years. Of course, such a thing is useless for immortals or higher-ranked individuals.”

Zu An was confused. “Why?”

Chapter 1265: Pendant

Emperor Zhao Han’s main problem at the moment was his lacking lifespan. If he had such life-prolonging medicines, wouldn’t he be invincible?

Yun Jianyue explained, “In order to reach the earth immortal rank, you must have your own unique dao and principles. The principles of his own body are already largely different from this world’s. These medicines that prolong life are formed from amassing the ki of this world; that means they inevitably carry the principles of this world, which are different from his earth immortal principles. That’s what makes them ineffective.”

Yan Xuehen said, “Currently, the emperor is without equal. Compared to his peers, he is not particularly old either. Unfortunately, he has already experienced heaven and man deterioration, so his death is already inevitable.”

“What does ‘heaven and man deterioration’ mean?” Zu An asked. He had never heard those terms before.

“An earth immortal, unfortunately, still has the word ‘earth’ in their rank,” Yan Xuehen said. “Unless they break through and become a true immortal, they will eventually be rejected by the will of the world. If this rejection becomes severe, it causes the phenomenon of heaven and man deterioration. The earth immortal gradually approaches death, then ultimately turns to dust, once again becoming one with the world.

“Zhao Han’s deterioration seems to have arrived a bit earlier than normal, but no one knows what the main cause of the issue is. We can only speculate that it might be related to the permanent dao injuries he suffered in his battle against the Fiend Emperor.”

Zu An was alarmed. He asked, “Then doesn’t that mean that the current Fiend Emperor is also about to kick the bucket?”

“His life is pretty much at its limit too. That’s why he’s summoning the various fiend races to the Fiend King Court for a meeting. I believe he wants to start planning for what happens next,” Yun Jianyue said. “The Fiend Emperor is a previous generation expert who has lived for even longer. Meanwhile, it hasn’t been too long since Zhao Han entered the earth immortal rank. Back then, in that battle, the Fiend

Emperor's own cultivation was a good chunk higher, and yet he ended up being half a move inferior, thus granting Zhao Han his undefeated reputation."

Zu An had a strange expression as he asked, "Then isn't Zhao Han losing out big here?"

Being undefeated was being defeated, but he had just risen up to the earth immortal rank, which was the best time he could have to enjoy himself for a long time, and yet he had immediately ended up facing heaven and man deterioration.

"This is not a matter of losing out or not. At their level, their considerations are entirely different from those of an ordinary person," Yan Xuehen said, shaking her head.

When he heard the sounds of battle getting more and more intense, Zu An asked, "Are these medicines helpful for your injuries at all? I'll help you two seize them."

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both shook their heads and replied, "The higher the cultivation, the more difficult it is to become injured. However, if we do get injured, it becomes more difficult to heal from. These medicines are miraculous, but they aren't too useful for us.

"Only some great treasures can be of use. Otherwise, we can only leave it up to time and slowly recover."

Yu Yanluo asked about which treasures could help them recover quickly. The two women smiled, but didn't say anything. Such things were all way too precious, no less rare than divine weapons. How could they make others worry over such things?

"Right, where is that fat daoist?" Yan Xuehen wondered, suddenly remembering him. She looked around, but didn't see Wu Liang anywhere.

Zu An was also alarmed. He had been paying so much attention to their injuries that he actually forgot about that damned fatty! Fortunately, he had previously attached a strand of his divine will onto Wu Liang. He looked up and into the distance, saying, "He's already gone deeper inside and hasn't stopped the entire time. Not even those medicines were of any interest to him."

Yun Jianyue said with a cold expression, "Hurry and follow him. Even I'm starting to become curious as to just what he's here to do."

Since the spiritual medicines weren't too useful for his companions, Zu An gave up on the thought of fighting over them too. The group headed deeper in. When they passed by where the medicines were, they saw a group that had been talking cheerfully mere moments before, now at each other's throats.

Xiong Great and Xiong Second had a close relationship, so they had an advantage. The others weren't stupid and quickly worked together, but their relationship wasn't as good. After all, Duan Tiande would never join forces with Qiao Heng and would rather join the bear brothers.

Even though there was a difference in cultivation between them, it wasn't a decisive difference. The medicines changed hands several times.

Suddenly, the medicines were knocked into the air, landing in front of Zu An's group. Zu An reflexively caught one. He felt a cold sensation running along his hand and was startled. This must be the Soul Splitting Herb.

Two figures rushed over. They instinctively rushed forward to seize it. One of the men shouted anxiously, "That's ours!"

However, a woman off to the side had already seen that it was Zu An's group and quickly stopped him. Then, she smiled at Zu An and said, "Treasures choose their owners. Since the medicine has already selected an owner, that is heaven's will. We will just give it to the young master."

The woman was naturally Princess Suolun, while the man next to her was Prince Yin Sha, who followed her everywhere. Just then, he had naturally joined hands with her in the fight. Princess Suolun knew fully well that considering the strength Zu An had previously displayed, as well as the profound cultivation of the women at his side, there was no way she and Prince Yin Sha could seize the Soul Splitting Herb back. Furthermore, Zu An had saved her, so she might as well give it to him as a gift to gain a bit more favor.

She turned around and took a look. A hint of regret appeared on her face. If she went back now, there would clearly be no chance to seize the other medicines either.

Prince Yin Sha was a bit unhappy when he saw the woman of his dreams concede in such a gentle manner. However, when he thought about how Zu An had even defeated the Western Lion previously, he didn't act up in the end.

Zu An gave the Soul Splitting Herb in his hands a look and asked, "Is this medicine perhaps quite important for the princess?"

Princess Suolun pursed her lips and said, "It is indeed extremely important. I have a senior who suffered a setback when he was cultivating his soul in his earlier years. He needs this medicine to recover. If the young master is willing to part with it, this lady will definitely pay a satisfactory price."

"Satisfying me... That's a bit difficult," Zu An said with a chuckle.

"Young master, if there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to speak. The Suolun Clan still carries some weight in the Demon Race," Princess Suolun replied, her eyes shining. Based on what Zu An was implying, it seemed to be negotiable.

"Anything?" Zu An asked, subconsciously sizing her up and asking with a thoughtful expression.

Princess Suolun's heart skipped a beat. She looked a bit embarrassed. She didn't know how to reply at that moment.

Prince Yin Sha was furious. Is this guy pretending that I don't exist?!

You have successfully trolled Prince Yin Sha for +499 +499 +499...

When he sensed Yu Yanluo and the other women's dangerous gazes, Zu An chuckled and tossed the Soul Splitting Herb into Princess Suolun's hands. He said, "I was joking. Consider it a present." Afterward, he immediately continued to chase after the fat daoist Wu Liang.

Princess Suolun hadn't expected Zu An to give something so precious to her! She stood in place with a stunned expression for a moment, somewhat absentminded as she watched him gradually fade into the distance.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but mutter, "This guy is deceiving another family's young lady. I'm even starting to wonder whether Honglei was tricked precisely like this back then."

Yan Xuehen nodded in deep sympathy. This was probably how Chuyan had been done in too. For some reason, she felt a wave of annoyance. She shot back, "Did you not say that your disciple's charm technique has already fully matured? She should have completely duped this guy, so why was she so easily tricked instead?!"

Yun Jianyue remained silent for a long time. After a long time passed, she released a long sigh and said, "How could I have known that there were actually male vixens in this world?"

...

The group had unwittingly arrived in a great hall. The floor was a white expanse, seemingly covered in a layer of pale dirt. When they stepped on it, their feet sank several inches into the ground.

"Is this snow?" Yu Yanluo wondered, somewhat surprised. The color was a bit too strange for dirt.

"No!" Yan Xuehen replied firmly. She cultivated the Snowflake Sword, so she was extremely familiar with snow. She warned the others, "This place is filled with an aura of death. Everyone, be careful!"

"This was all created from the decay of skeletal remains," Yun Jianyue said. She had reached her current level by climbing through mountains of corpses and seas of blood, so she was the most familiar with such things. She quickly discerned what the layer of white dirt was.

Behind them, the fiend race experts had more or less wrapped up their battle over the medicines. Thinking about the treasures to come, they went over one after another. However, when they heard Yun Jianyue's explanation, they were overwhelmed with shock and horror.

Bones were the sturdiest parts of the body to begin with, and they would often continue to exist even after thousands of years. And yet, there was only decayed bone dust here. Just how much time had passed, then?

Just then, they noticed Wu Liang squatting on the ground several dozen zhang away. In front of him was a perfect set of skeletal remains. Not only had the remains not decayed, they were still completely flawless. They sparkled like jade, and they even gave off a bit of pressure. It was easy to see just how powerful their owner had been in life.

Wu Liang carefully removed a sort of necklace from the remains. The rope was clearly made of something extraordinary, but after so much time had passed, it turned to dust with just a touch. However, Wu Liang didn't mind too much. What was in his hands was a light golden pendant. He looked incredibly moved.

Chapter 1266: One Drop of Heaven's Essence

The normal bones had already decayed into dust, while this corpse was still perfectly intact. Furthermore, judging from the shape of the bones, it was obvious that they had belonged to an extremely powerful being in life. Anything such an individual carried would definitely be an extraordinary treasure.

Duan Tiande was the first one who was unable to hold himself back anymore. His figure flickered, and he instantly arrived near the corpse through the shadows. His long and slender sword flicked toward Wu Liang's wrist to make him let go.

Ma Huang moved at the same time. With a wave of his cloak, he turned into blood and quickly shot toward the two of them. He reached out toward the pendant in Wu Liang's hand.

Right at that moment, Wu Liang threw out two yellow talismans from his hands. Even as Duan Tiande and Ma Huang's attacks landed, the talismans instantly neutralized them. Then, Wu Liang took the chance to curl up and roll along the ground. He was like a meatball, bouncing far into the distance. His speed left the observers speechless.

The other fiend race experts reacted one after another. They all used their movement techniques to chase after him.

Even Princess Suolun was no exception. She thought about how she owed Zu An a huge favor. Even though he hadn't made her return anything, such unclear conditions were the toughest to settle. If Zu An really did propose something... excessive, what could she do? As such, she wanted to get the pendant, then give it to Zu An. That way, the two of them could be considered even. Meanwhile, Prince Yin Sha was her personal bootlicker, so he naturally followed along without any hesitation.

Only Zu An's party was left. His companions were stupefied. Yun Jianyue asked, "Aren't you going to chase after them?"

Zu An shook his head and said, "Forget it. That fat daoist probably brought all this about through such hard work just for that pendant. I don't know whether he still has something up his sleeve. Let's not stick our heads out amid this liveliness."

He wanted to find the item that would help Yu Yanluo break through, then leave the place as quickly as possible. After all, the powerful presence that had been watching in the foggy forest was still present. He felt as if he were in a 'sword of Damocles' situation, so he wanted to avoid clashing with that fellow as much as possible.

Yan Xuehen asked curiously "Were any of you able to see clearly what kind of item that pendant was?" She was seriously injured, so her skills were far from their peak. It was difficult for her to see much at such a distance.

Yun Jianyue replied, "It was a dark golden item, and it was shaped pretty strangely. It didn't seem like a jade pendant or a treasure, but rather... Rather..."

"More like a claw," Zu An concluded.

"Right, just like a claw!" Yun Jianyue exclaimed, her eyes lighting up. She immediately felt a sense of relief to have found the most fitting description.

"Claw?" Yu Yanluo asked, stunned. "How could something that was treated so seriously be a mere claw?"

The group had been going all out against each other. If they found out that all they were fighting over was a claw, what kind of expressions would they have then?

"It isn't a normal claw. It's a bit like... ahem, a Gold Snatching Charm from my hometown. It's rumored that some tomb raider clans use pangolin claws to make such charms, and they're used to ward off evil..." Zu An told them a bit about the folklore of the gold snatchers.[1]

"Pangolin?" Yu Yanluo thought of something and explained, "The Pangolin race does indeed excel at robbing tombs. Because they often excavate ancient tombs, they often find treasures and secret methods, which is why their cultivations are quite high. However, because they cultivate methods they found from several different tombs, what they learn is quite mixed. If they aren't careful, they might end up messing up their own cultivation by mixing incompatible things."

"Apart from that, tomb raiding is considered rather disgraceful among both the human and fiend races, and many such tombs still have their descendants alive in this world. Having their ancestors' tombs excavated naturally results in a huge grudge. That's why the pangolins are enemies with almost everyone else. Many years ago, something caused them to incur the wrath of the other fiend races, resulting in them becoming a common enemy to the others. After that matter, they were heard of less and less, to the point that even if there are any survivors now, they wouldn't dare to reveal their identities."

Yan Xuehen was moved by Yu Yanluo's information. She said, "I have heard the legend of the pangolins too. Just now, the fat daoist's entire body curled up into a ball and he moved by rolling, which resembles one of the pangolins' rumored secret escape arts."

The group had already arrived next to the remains. Yun Jianyue pointed at the corpse's hand and tailbone and said, "That is indeed the case. Look..."

They hadn't been able to see it clearly when they were still far away, but now that they examined it up close, they all saw that the remains were male. However, he was quite a bit shorter than an ordinary person, and his fingers were especially slender and long. The tips of those fingers were also somewhat sharp. Apart from that, the tailbone area stuck out a bit, as if the individual's tail hadn't completely disappeared due to evolution, so it clearly wasn't a human skeleton.

Even though there were many kinds among the fiend races, most of them still more or less resembled humans. Of course, they all still had some of their races' unique traits too. Even for those born as different monsters, they normally took human form after just a few years. After all, this was a world of cultivation, and human bodies were the closest to the dao. Those who wanted to cultivate practically all had to retain a human form.

Meanwhile, for many beasts, no matter how strong they were, they could still only be called beasts. Apart from their lack of intelligence, their inability to turn into a human form like normal fiend race cultivators was another important reason.

...

"This seems to be a legacy of the Pangolin race," Yu Yanluo said. She was the one who understood the fiend races the most out of the group. After examining the remains for a bit, she voiced her conclusion. "I remember that the last time the Pangolin race became prominent was a hundred years ago. Back then, there was an exceptional old ancestor named Chuan Shan. His cultivation was even greater than that of any of the ancestors before him, and whenever he set his hand to the task, he would always find

a top-level tomb. The various races had already had him on their wanted list for a long time, but not only were they unable to find him, he instead managed to successfully excavate quite a few of their ancestral tombs as revenge.

“That caused quite the uproar, and his bounty rose by another order of magnitude. However, for some reason, he suddenly vanished. People all said that he must have failed because of some kind of miscalculation or inattentiveness and died within some formidable tomb. Don’t tell me this is him?”

The others were all shocked when they heard the story. Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen carefully examined the remains before speaking. “Based on the remains’ condition, this person might have been a pseudo-grandmaster, or perhaps someone who had just broken through into the grandmaster rank. These are just bones, though, so it’s hard to say for sure.”

“Around the grandmaster level, huh...” Zu An muttered, and his expression grew serious. He continued, “Even someone with such high cultivation died here, and he was someone who frequently entered all kinds of tombs. He definitely didn’t lack experience or ways to protect himself, so just what kind of being was able to kill him?”

Afterward, he went to turn over the corpse. He wanted to see what the cause of death had been. Suddenly, however, his eyes narrowed. He moved the corpse aside and dug into the dirt underneath, taking out a book. It seemed to have been woven out of golden silk.

The women were shocked. Even the bones nearby had decayed, and yet this book was still fine. It was definitely extraordinary!

“Huh? What’s written in this book?” The women had quite extensive knowledge, but the characters were too strange, and were entirely different from any characters they knew.

However, Zu An was startled. He couldn’t be more familiar with such characters. He had already seen them several times in secret dungeons, because they were the characters used in ancient China. As he had Mi Li for a teacher, he was already well-versed in reading such lesser seals. He exclaimed, “One drop of heaven’s essence!”

The women were bewildered when they heard him read the words. What in the world was he saying?

Zu An turned the title page and saw that apart from the main text, there were some smaller annotations. They were clearly notes the corpse had made when he was still alive.

The notes roughly indicated that he had obtained the book after risking his life, but unfortunately, he couldn’t recognize the characters. He felt deep regret over that fact. Still, he was a genius, and by combining all the things he had learned in his lifetime, he was able to gather some superficial knowledge from some of the diagrams and the way the characters were written. That had allowed him to far surpass his race’s seniors, enabling him to become successful in every endeavor.

He had even been able to find numerous ki stone mines and various wondrous places containing great beauty and resources. He had obtained far more resources than anyone else, so his cultivation had shot up tremendously, allowing him to even surpass his race’s ancestors. The more he realized how formidable the book was, the more vexed he had become that he couldn’t read all of its contents...

"It was Ancestor Chuan Shan after all," Yu Yanluo said when she saw the inscription toward the end. Ancestor Chuan Shan had placed a claw stamp over his signature. It was clearly shaped like the pendant the others had fought over earlier.

"It's a pity that we don't know what this book is about. Judging from how Ancestor Chuan Shan described this book, even I'm getting a bit tempted," Yun Jianyue said regretfully.

Zu An gave the title page a look. He slowly read out, "To those who desire the knowledge of the three fundamentals and countless schools of thought, one must first observe the emperor's record and divine arts..."

1. These are references to the novel series 'Ghost Blows Out the Light'. ❹

Chapter 1267: Is Anyone Against This?

Yan Xuehen and the others were shocked. "You know this ancient language?"

With their knowledge and experience, they had seen similar characters before. They had even encountered isolated phrases in some ancient texts. There were even some in this world who specialized in deciphering such ancient characters, but unfortunately, even after so many years, they had only managed to decode a few dozen.

And yet, Zu An was reading them so smoothly, and he wasn't babbling either. That line alone made all three women tremble, sensing a profound dao rhythm. Merely reciting it a few times made them feel as if they had received many benefits.

Zu An chuckled and said in an 'embarrassed' manner, "I just happened to know a bit by chance."

"Kid, your luck is pretty good. Your opportunities really are a bit ridiculous. I'm even starting to get a bit jealous," Yun Jianyue said, feeling deeply moved. In order to reach the level of grandmaster, apart from her amazing aptitude, she had had no shortage of miraculous opportunities. And yet, compared to Zu An, she instead felt like an ordinary person...

Thank goodness Honglei had incredible foresight and picked out someone with such incredible potential early on, and that I didn't really try to break them up too hard.

She even gave Yan Xuehen a smug look when she thought of that. This woman always clung to her ways, so she was probably feeling a lot of regret, right?

Yan Xuehen's expression was conflicted. How could it only be regret? Not only had she failed to successfully break Zu An and her disciple up, she had almost thrown herself in too...

Yu Yanluo's eyes were full of adoration as she looked at her lover. She was eager to hear the two grandmasters praise him a bit more.

"These things aren't a big deal. Meeting all of you is my greatest blessing." Zu An said with a gentle smile. The women all felt their hearts skip a beat when they heard those words and saw Zu An's smile.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but say snarkily, "It's a pity that we don't have male versions of charm techniques. Otherwise, if you cultivated one, you really might become a devastating male vixen yourself."

Yan Xuehen nodded in deep sympathy. Is this guy a male fox-spirit or something?

Yu Yanluo grabbed Zu An's arm and said sweetly, "My Ah Zu treats others with sincerity, so of course he'll attract people who treat him with sincerity too."

"Can you guys not?" When Yun Jianyue saw how Yu Yanluo had grabbed Zu An's arm, her substantial chest squishing a bit under the pressure, she thought to herself, There are still more female vixens in this world. She asked, "Since you understand the characters in this book, what is it actually talking about?"

Zu An skimmed through the contents and said, "The contents are extremely abstruse and hard to understand, so it's hard for me to get to the heart of them. But so far, it should be a book that talks about natural order and feng shui, geomancy, and so on. Based on what it's saying, beginners can locate tombs through 'gold and cave insight', intermediate learners can use 'source-seeking mine knowledge', while advanced learners can change heaven and earth, or even major astrological trends, for one's own purposes."

Yan Xuehen's expression grew serious. She replied, "This really is a miraculous book. There are all kinds of talents in this world, so I have heard of gold and cave insight, as well as source-seeking mine knowledge, but they all act in accordance with the flow of natural dao. Something like this that can actively alter the flow of the world only exists in legends. No one has ever been able to attain such a level."

Zu An chuckled and said, "Do you all want to learn it? I can translate a copy for you two."

"Forget it. I do not want to learn it," Yan Xuehen replied. However, she really was tempted. As someone from the White Jade Sect, she was actually extremely interested in this field of knowledge. However, if Zu An taught it to her, wouldn't they be alone in a room together often? If they got that close, who knew what kinds of things might happen!

Half a month before, she wouldn't have hesitated at all if she were given such an opportunity, as she would have a completely clear and pure conscience. But there were simply too many things that had happened between the two of them as of late. They had had all sorts of intimate interactions, and Zu An had even seen her entire body twice. That 'Love Is More Solid than Gold' contract was still in effect too. She didn't dare to spend time together with him in private.

"Don't you usually love this stuff?" Yun Jianyue asked, giving her a strange look. She said to Zu An, "But that's fine too. The two of us are clearly the masters, so why would the disciple end up teaching the master? Just learn it on your own first; there's no big difference between you learning it and us learning it. We'll just call you up whenever we need you in the future."

"Do you have to say 'call him up whenever'..." Yu Yanluo murmured, her expression strange. Why do these words sound so strange... Sigh, after being around Ah Zu for so long, I've started to become dirty-minded too.

"That's fine too," Zu An said, putting the manual away. He thought to himself that it was probably just too embarrassing for them to ask about it, so he'd just teach them in private later.

Yun Jianyue picked up the remains again. She pointed at a clear scar on the back, saying, "Even the spinal column was injured like this. If we consider the deformation of the ribs, he clearly died after having his heart ripped out from behind."

Yu Yanluo's expression changed. She asked, "Didn't this guy have roughly grandmaster rank cultivation? How could someone rip out his heart from behind? Could he have been ambushed?"

"I think not, Yan Xuehen said as she checked the corpse. She continued, "He was caught from behind while running for his life. If he chose to run away, he definitely fought, but realized he could not win."

"We've seen how fast the Pangolin race can run for ourselves," Yu Yanluo said, pursing her lips. "Even with Ancestor Chuan Shan's grandmaster-level strength, he was actually caught and killed! The one who killed him just sounds too frightening... This time, we're all injured, so don't take the risk for me. Let's just return first."

Yun Jianyue said with a carefree expression, "Cultivation is defying the heavens anyway. You can only distinguish yourself by striving to be the best. There's no such thing as shrinking back."

Yan Xuehen approved as well, adding, "Right. Even those fiend race juniors dared to advance courageously, so how can we back out now? That would simply damage our conviction in our own dao. Little sister Yu, there is no need to worry; we actually want to investigate this place too, and see just what this place has in it."

Yu Yanluo was moved. Even though what the two ladies said was the truth, they clearly also intended to help her.

Zu An chuckled and said, "Don't worry, with a meat shield like me in the front, two grandmasters overseeing things, and a Medusa Queen, we should still be able to protect ourselves even if we run into something terrifying."

Inwardly, however, he continuously prayed, I'm not setting flags here! This is just to console them!

...

Just then, curses and exclamations of shock filled the air. Zu An's party was startled and quickly rushed forward.

Soon afterward, they saw that the fiend race experts were cursing fiercely. There were even some who were pounding walls out of anger, as if they had missed an opportunity of a lifetime.

Zu An walked over to where Princess Suolun was and asked curiously, "Did something happen?"

Princess Suolun replied with a frown, "We followed that fat daoist priest over here, but then, he suddenly entered the wall and vanished. We thought that there was some mechanism at first, but we realized that he had left through an earth escape skill. We also realized that he might be a descendant of the legendary Pangolin race."

Another woman interjected, adding, "Hmph, that damn fatty clearly could have fled using that earth escape skill earlier, and yet he had to make us chase him for so long! He must have been messing with us!"

Princess Changning felt a sense of danger when she saw Princess Suolun and Zu An walking so close to each other. Thus, she took the chance to chat with Zu An.

Zu An had already received Yu Yanluo's explanation previously. Paired with their explanation, he offered his evaluation. "That fat daoist priest probably wanted to take the chance to throw you all off, but didn't expect you to be so fast. It was only because he was left with no choice that he exposed his earth escape skill."

Princess Suolun nodded and said, "Indeed. The Pangolin Race is hated by many. Unless he had no choice, he would not have exposed that fact."

Princess Changning was really starting to panic. This woman is reacting way too quickly, stealing everything I want to say!

Suddenly, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue called out through ki. "Ah Zu, hurry and come over here."

Zu An realized something was up and quickly went over to them. He saw that the two of them were staring absentmindedly at a puddle. Similar puddles were everywhere, resembling the aftermath of rain; perhaps they came from some underground water source.

He was about to ask about them when his expression changed, because he sensed that the water was special. It looked like ordinary water, but when he examined it with his divine will, he sensed rich spiritual ki within. The water's surface moved without any wind, and its movements seemed to resemble a certain sort of dao pattern.

"This is Prime Souldew. It can create immortal ki stones, or even divine ki stones. Things sealed within will never decay," Yan Xuehen said. Her normally cold and indifferent gaze now contained a hint of covetousness.

Yun Jianyue began breathing more quickly as she said, "Among ki stones, heaven-grade ki stones are already top-quality goods. The reason why immortal and deity-grade ki stones are so rare is because they're formed from this Prime Souldew, and any things sealed inside are usually all sorts of miraculous things. Whether it's spiritual medicines, weapons, divine beasts, or even humanoid creatures, anything is possible."

Zu An's thoughts moved quickly. The substance was just like amber, but immortal and divine ki stones were clearly far more formidable.

Yu Yanluo came from a ki stone mining clan, so she knew such things like the back of her hand. She said, "Indeed, with enough Prime Souldew, the emperor could even seal his current body up and wait until one of his descendants could cure his heaven and man deterioration."

The fiend race experts also moved over when they saw Zu An's group surrounding the spot. Most of them hadn't treated the puddles as a big deal at first, but there were plenty of talents among them. Someone quickly recognized them to be the legendary Prime Souldew, and they all enthusiastically tried to fight over it.

However, Zu An waved his hand, and a powerful aura appeared to block the others. He said, "I want this. Is anyone against that?"

Chapter 1268: Three Three Flower

The fiend race experts choked. Only then did they remember that there was a final boss present.

A strange wave of silence fell over the crowd. They all felt unhappy, but judging from the strength Zu An had displayed, he was indeed stronger than them. All of them felt awful when they realized that. However, they were all proud individuals from distinguished clans. How could they just accept their fate like that?

Duan Tiande was the first to speak. "Your cultivation is higher than ours, but there are so many of us here. You won't be a match if we join forces. Aren't you being a bit too greedy, trying to monopolize this Prime Souldew all for yourself?" Zu An had saved his enemy Qiao Heng earlier, so he knew that the two of them had no chance of being on the same side. As such, he wasn't scared of offending him.

With Duan Tiande taking the lead, the others all voiced their agreement. They clearly wanted a cut of the profits.

Zu An replied calmly, "Is that so? Then you can all give it a try."

The fiend race experts were speechless. Even though they believed they could win if they joined together, there was nothing good at all awaiting those who moved first. In that case, even if they did successfully make Zu An back off, they would lose the strength needed to get a portion of the reward themselves. None of them were that stupid. Still, remaining silent forever wasn't a solution either. They looked at each other, schemes brewing during the calm.

Qiao Heng spoke up. "This brother didn't compete with us over those medicines earlier, so it's natural that we return the favor and choose not to fight with him over the Prime Souldew."

Duan Tiande raised a brow and replied, "Is it really because he didn't fight over the medicine? Isn't it obviously because he saved you before?"

Qiao Heng's expression changed. Before he could retort, however, Ma Huang stared at him and said ambiguously, "That's right. How can the price of those medicines compare to this Prime Souldew? If this brother is willing, I can use the medicine from earlier to exchange for this Prime Souldew."

He had successfully seized a stalk of the Silverthread Flower, which was why he had the right to say that. The others all voiced their support too.

Zu An frowned and was about to act when Princess Suolun said, "It is not just the medicine. Earlier, when we were in the fog forest, it was all because of them that we were able to leave safely. Without them, we might have already perished there."

Princess Changning cried out inwardly in regret. Why was she always just a step too late? She quickly voiced her agreement. "Right! They saved our lives, so it is reasonable and fair to let him have this Prime Souldew."

The others became angry when they heard the two women speak. They still would have had the advantage in numbers before, but if these three stood on the other side, what the heck was the point of fighting?

Yan Xuehen took out a beautiful white jade bottle and gently lowered herself next to the Prime Souldew. She made a hand seal, and the Prime Souldew seemingly flowed into the jade bottle on its own by some mysterious force. She said, "The most worrisome trait of Prime Souldew is that it can solidify. At that point, it loses its usefulness." She applied a dao rune on the jade bottle as she spoke, clearly to prevent such an outcome.

The others were all amazed when they saw such astonishing methods, thinking to themselves that even the weakest-looking woman in Zu An's party had such extraordinary knowledge. Just what kind of background did this group have?

Yan Xuehen handed the filled jade bottle to Zu An, but Zu An didn't take it. Instead, he said, "You should split this with Big Sister Yun. Neither Yanluo nor I have a use for it right now."

Yu Yanluo nodded. She came from a ki stone mining family, so she had seen the substance before. In her present state, such a thing was indeed not very useful for her. Forget about the fact that the grandmasters had taught Zu An their extreme arts, it was worth it just as a gift of friendship for two grandmasters.

Yan Xuehen was stunned. She replied, "You are giving it to us?"

This was something so precious that even the emperor Zhao Han had searched the entire world for it, and yet wasn't able to find enough of it. And yet, Zu An had ended up giving it to the two of them so readily.

Yun Jianyue's expression also became a bit strange; it was unclear what she was thinking.

The fiend race experts almost vomited blood. They had been about to fight with their lives over the treasure, and yet this guy was just using it to chase after women?!

This guy really does go all out in picking up women!

If the Prime Souldew were auctioned off, all of the world's courtesan queens would be lining up to play with the seller, and even some princesses from smaller countries would be at the selection! And yet now, it was gifted to two women just like that?

You have successfully trolled Duan Tiande for +666 +666 +666...

You have successfully trolled Ma Huang for +666 +666 +666...

You have successfully trolled Kong Nanjing for +666 +666 +666...

...

Princess Changning was extremely angry. She had just spoken up for him, and yet he didn't plan to share a portion with her at all![1]

Princess Suolun was instead rather calm. Her relationship with him wasn't close to the point that she could expect anything. The fact that she had been able to obtain the Soul Splitting Herb was already an unexpected surprise; how could she unreasonably hope for anything else?

The others began to disperse while muttering about how all the good stuff was going to be taken by Zu An if they stuck with him, so they might as well rely on their own luck.

Princess Suolun gave Zu An a nod and a smile, then chose a direction to search in. He's traveling with his sweethearts right now, so there's no reason at all for me to stick around.

When they left, Yan Xuehen finally realized what had happened. She blushed slightly and said, "Then, thank you." As a grandmaster, she really did need such a treasure. However, it was so precious that she didn't even know how to reply. She could only say to Yun Jianyue, "The Prime Souldew has already been sealed. If I undo the seal now, it might solidify and lose its effectiveness..."

Yun Jianyue knew at least that much. She said, "Stone cold woman, just keep it with you. I'll come find you when I need it. You'd better not secretly use it all on your own."

Even she felt something was strange as she spoke. In the past, she would rather have destroyed something as precious as the Prime Souldew on the spot than let Yan Xuehen hold onto it. And yet, now, she actually really did trust Yan Xuehen.

Yan Xuehen merely harrumphed in response.

...

The group continued to explore the inner area. Eventually, they arrived in a spacious and empty main hall. There, they saw the fiend race experts walk in from different caves.

It really was quite strange. They had all chosen to go in different directions in search of treasure, trying to see if they could find any opportunities of their own. However, after walking and walking, they had all ended up gathering together again!

Yun Jianyue's expression grew serious. She said, "It seems this place is arranged precisely to lead people here. Be careful."

Suddenly, an exuberant wave of life force ki surged from the center of the hall. The density of the ki far surpassed even that of the Prime Souldew from before.

"This is..."

No one could stand still any longer. All of them rushed toward the center.

In the middle of a pond stood a lone, budding flower. It was quite strange; it had no leaves and only three petals. It hadn't even blossomed, and yet it gave off the impression of a brocade in full bloom. The rich life force ki had come from that very flower.

"Don't tell me this is the legendary..." Yan Xuehen began. She was usually calm and aloof, and yet she completely lost her composure at that moment.

Yun Jianyue's body shook as she finished, "It is! This should be the Three Three Flower of legend!"

Zu An and Yu Yanluo were surprised. They had never seen the two grandmasters lose their composure before. They quickly asked what the Three Three Flower was.

Yan Xuehen took a deep breath and calmed herself down a bit, explaining, “The Three Three Flower is also known as the Three Lives Three Worlds Flower. It is said to be able to keep a couple together throughout three lives and three worlds. However, even though it sounds like a flower of romance, it is actually a stalk of eternal medicine. It is rumored that this flower blossoms three times, and each time it does, it can allow its owner to live another life. I have always thought that its existence was only a rumor, but it actually really does exist!”

Zu An was momentarily stunned. Even Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China, had looked for eternal medicines and yet failed. Did such a thing really exist?

The fiend race experts all screamed while throwing themselves at the flower. Even without the explanations, they could tell that the medicine was extraordinary. All of them wanted to obtain it first. This time, none of them would back down anymore!

1. Princess Changning is Kong Nanjing. Kong is the surname used by the Peacock Race; Changning is likely a title of hers. ㄟ

Chapter 1269: Display of Unique Skills

Zu An’s group didn’t move at all. True treasures usually had protections around them. The medicines outside perhaps hadn’t been high enough in value, but this Three Three Flower was too precious. Without anything protecting it, there was no way it could have grown to its current state.

Sure enough, when the fiend race experts rushed up to the pond, they ran into a transparent barrier. Golden light surged, and a screen of golden light appeared all around the pond. Runes flickered across its surface, covering the flower like a large bell and completely protecting it.

The fiend race experts weren’t too surprised. It would only be more suspicious if nothing were protecting something as precious as this.

They all began to think quickly when they saw the golden barrier, each looking for their own strategy.

“Let me!” Prince Yin Sha shouted. He had just seen the girl of his dreams act friendly toward another man, but he couldn’t defeat that guy. This was a good chance to properly show his skills in front of the others.

He arrived in front of the barrier, then opened his mouth. Suddenly, his teeth morphed into a large, ferocious shark maw. It was filled with rows of jagged teeth that were sharp and frightening.

Princess Changning couldn’t help but release a sigh of admiration, saying, “Just as the Golden Crow race tempers their own feathers throughout their lives, the Silver Shark race focuses on their own teeth. Every single tooth is as solid as gold and iron. It is rumored that the power of the Silver Shark King’s teeth is not inferior to heaven-grade weaponry. He would be able to bite through even a mountain, let alone a trifling protective barrier.”

She had spent these years perfecting the art of flattery. She was always able to find some way to praise someone, so she had always had better relations with people than the cold and aloof Kong Nanwu.

Sure enough, Prince Yin Sha felt more motivated. He couldn’t help but stick out his chest and sneak Princess Suolun a look, thinking to himself that it would be great if she were so nice and gentle to him.

Princess Suolun forced a smile. To be honest, the appearance of the ferocious mouth scared her a bit. She felt her entire body tremble whenever she thought about those rows of teeth. However, out of consideration for his feelings, she did her best to not show it.

Prince Yin Sha thought that she was encouraging him when he saw her smile. With the one he liked watching him, he didn't hold back anymore. He chomped down on the golden barrier.

Crack~

The loud noise that followed made the onlookers' teeth feel sore. Prince Yi Sha cried out bitterly, clutching his mouth as he screamed. Several fractured teeth had fallen to the ground, and blood continued to pour out from between his fingers. Quite a few teeth had clearly been broken just then.

Meanwhile, Zu An's group was speechless. Yun Jianyue said with a sigh, "Do men always become this stupid when they chase after women? Did he really think that the formation protecting a divine object like this would be something he could bite through with his teeth?"

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo both gave Zu An a look. They thought to themselves, That's nonsense; this guy clearly becomes even sharper in those situations.

The other fiend races all realized what had happened. Princess Changning's expression became a bit awkward. After all, she had showered Yin Sha in praise, and yet he had ended up being so worthless.

Princess Suolun sighed in relief, however. She walked over and handed Prince Yin Sha a stalk of healing medicine, which made him feel extremely moved.

Duan Tiande picked up his slender sword and thrust it forward. As a dark elf, he specialized in assassination. Apart from being able to borrow the shadows to jump around, he also knew a set of sword skills that specialized in penetrating the protective ki barriers used by cultivators. In his opinion, this barrier was likely something similar, so he didn't hesitate to attack.

If he could be the first to break through and seize the Three Three Flower, he would be able to borrow the shadows to leave. Even if the others' cultivation ranks were higher than his, they wouldn't be able to catch him. That was a dark elf's source of confidence, after all.

That idiot Prince Yin Sha's teeth looked fierce, but their power was too spread out, so of course he couldn't break through the barrier. Duan Tiande thought, You need to gather all of your strength into a single point, like me...

However, his smile quickly froze, because he saw that his sword couldn't pierce through the seemingly thin barrier at all.

"I refuse to give up here!" he yelled. With a flick of his wrist, his sword spun like lightning, and he thrust it forward with several times more power.

Crack!

A brittle noise rang out. Duan Tiande first felt joy, thinking that the golden barrier had begun to crack, but he was soon stunned. He saw that what had cracked wasn't the golden barrier, but rather his sword.

He was completely stunned. Even though his sword wasn't a heaven-grade weapon, it was close to the peak of earth-grade weaponry, and it had drunk the blood of countless enemies. He hadn't expected it to break just like that.

Xiong Great and Xiong Second roared with laughter just then, saying, "Step aside. How can the sword of a skinny little chick like you do anything? You should watch us instead."

Then, with one wielding a spiked club and the other a great hammer, they stood on opposite sides. They took a deep breath, causing their muscles to ripple and surge with power. Their bodies then became much larger.

The others knew that the bear brothers had extraordinary strength. Between that and their heavy blunt weapons, even a small mountain wouldn't be able to handle their power. No matter how powerful the protective barrier was, it probably still wouldn't be able to withstand such force.

They all secretly made their preparations. The instant the barrier broke, the Xiong brothers would definitely experience a moment of recoil. That would be the perfect chance for them to seize the immortal medicine inside.

Xiong Great and Xiong Second both took a step forward, their feet leaving behind heavy footprints. The entire building even began to shake. Both of them roared as they smashed into the golden barrier, the spiked bone club and great hammer carrying incredible power.

The others sighed inwardly in admiration. These two brothers looked like crude blockheads, but they were actually able to coordinate at such a level. Their attacks landed on the target without even the slightest delay in between, multiplying the force significantly. No wonder over the years, even though their enemies might have been as strong as them and had often had the numerical advantage, they still lost to the two brothers in the end...

Boooooom!

Just as they were starting to feel admiration, a tremendous noise blasted outward, accompanying a massive shockwave. The others immediately protected themselves, their faces all becoming a bit pale.

As the power of the shockwave was already so great, it was easy to imagine what kind of condition Xiong Great and Xiong Second were in. The two of them immediately vomited blood as they flew backward, slamming into the ground. They couldn't even climb back onto their feet for a long time.

Yan Xuehen had been paying attention to the situation the entire time. She quietly commented, "This protective barrier uses a portion of the attacker's power for itself. These two bear brothers used great strength, but in the end, most of it was redirected by the formation, and sent right back. I wonder what kind of brilliant individual made such a formation... It truly leaves one in admiration."

"Stop fawning over it and start thinking about how to deal with it already, please," Yun Jianyue said, rolling her eyes. She really couldn't stand how this stone cold woman was still acting all scholarly even in such a situation.

Yan Xuehen blushed and said, "I am still observing."

Just then, the habitually silent Ma Huang made his move. He didn't use force like the others and instead planned to conquer it through gentler methods instead. His entire body turned into a lump of blood, and he wrapped himself around the golden barrier. The blood continued to move across its surface, seemingly searching for any cracks to enter through.

Yan Xuehen couldn't help but voice her amazement. "These fiend race experts from the younger generation may have ordinary cultivation, but their unique skills are all extraordinary. There really are many aspects worth learning from."

These individuals were all around the eighth or ninth rank, so they were already among the best within the fiend races' younger generation. However, in the eyes of grandmasters, they were just ordinary.

Suddenly, the golden light shone, blasting the blood away. Ma Huang reformed, kneeling down and coughing out blood. He had clearly suffered considerable injuries.

Seeing that even he had failed, the others were shocked. However, they still weren't willing to give up and used all kinds of exceptional skills. There were even some who tried to dig around the barrier. However, they all failed. In the end, they turned to look at Zu An. He was the only one who hadn't tried anything so far.

Zu An slowly walked up to the barrier. He sensed the flow of the golden light in front of him, then gently pressed his hand to its surface. He discovered that the greater the force he used, the greater the rebound would be. He thought about Yan Xuehen's explanation; it seemed breaking through with brute force wasn't an option.

Still, all formations had their cores. As long as he could find that, it would be easy enough to deal with.

He looked around in search of clues. Suddenly, his eyes narrowed, because when he raised his head, he saw that there was a jade coffin floating dozens of zhang above him!

Chapter 1270: The One Inside the Coffin

The space around them was extremely strange. Normally, there was no way a tomb could be so large, and yet once they entered, it felt as if they were in a completely different world.

The others also saw the jade coffin above them. Judging from how brilliantly it sparkled, it was clearly precious. Just the coffin's material alone was probably incredibly valuable!

The breaths of those present all quickened. They all realized how extraordinary the owner of the tomb must be; it only made sense that that person's funerary objects were also great treasures. The reason why they had been looking around was precisely to find the owner's coffin.

If the burial followed normal conventions, the most precious funerary objects would all be stored inside of the coffin. Seeing as even something as precious as the Three Three Flower was outside, could it be that the owner's funerary objects were even more precious than an eternal medicine?

Someone suggested weakly, "This eternal medicine below probably belongs to the owner, right? Don't tell me they... haven't died yet?"

The others were stunned to hear those words. Then, a chill ran down their backs. The group couldn't even deal with a formation protecting the eternal medicine, so it was easy to imagine just how

ridiculously powerful the actual maker of the formation was. If that person hadn't died yet, wouldn't they just completely be throwing their lives away?

Yan Xuehen shook her head slightly and said, "There is no need to worry. Legend has it that the Three Three Flower only blooms once every three thousand years, and it is only effective then. Perhaps when its owner obtained it before, it was at a poor time, and so they could not make use of the eternal medicine."

The others felt a bit relieved, thinking that her analysis made a lot of sense. Many people secretly gave Yan Xuehen a look. Even though the woman's aura was weak, there was an air of mystery surrounding her. Between that and her wealth of knowledge, they had already been completely won over. No wonder Shi Ling had wanted to obtain her previously.

Princess Suolun gave Zu An a look, thinking to herself, Just what kind of charm does this man have, for so many beautiful women to be so dead set on staying at his side, and for them to all be so capable nonetheless?

Competent women all had their pride, and yet these three seemed to get along with him so well, none of them seeming jealous of the others. Princess Suolun really couldn't understand it, and it only served to make her even more curious.

The others found that they couldn't break through the Three Three Flower's defensive formation for the time being, so their attention all shifted toward the jade coffin. They clicked their tongues in wonder, wondering just how it could remain afloat. After all, they were currently restricted by the laws of the place. They might be barely able to jump a few zhang into the air, but they couldn't fly at all. Even so, the heavy jade coffin was able to float in midair.

How do we get up there? they all wondered. Their gazes all shifted to Zu An's party again. The strength and knowledge that group displayed so far had already left a deep impression on them.

Yan Xuehen slowly paced around with a thoughtful expression. As she was injured, Zu An was worried that something might happen to her. Thus, he stuck close to her to protect her.

Yu Yanluo stayed where she was, however. Her expression became a bit strange as she watched the two of them walk side by side. Why do I feel as if they're a pair of dao companions, and that I'm the third wheel...

Yun Jianyue also had a similar feeling, but what she was thinking about was something else entirely. Should I find a chance to play the matchmaker? Then, if the master and disciple end up sharing a husband and the entire world finds out, I'll be smiling even in my dreams!

Yan Xuehen had unknowingly already made a whole trip around the main hall. She closed her eyes and began to think about everything around her. The others held their breaths for fear of interrupting her thoughts.

A while later, she opened her eyes and explained, "This palace's layout seems to be in accordance with the divinatory trigrams of the five elements. In that case, the gate of life should be in this direction..."

She walked in a certain direction while speaking. After a dozen steps or so, she stopped in front of a wall, and her beautiful eyes swept over it. Suddenly, she pressed down on the fifth block of the ninth row of stone.

The giant brick actually sank inward. Then, with a rumble, faint blue lines began flickering all around the palace.

Princess Suolun cried out in alarm, "Over here!"

The others looked at the source of the sound. A translucent, blue-green platform appeared underneath the jade coffin. Then, flights of translucent blue steps extended from the four cardinal directions around the platform, all the way to the ground.

"This is..." The changes happening before them left the group stunned. None of them had ever seen such an intricate mechanism before!

However those flights of steps were hard to see, seemingly no more substantial than a thin layer of air. They were confused. Could such a thing really support the weight of a person? This place was just way too strange, so no one dared to move first for fear that there was some trap that might just take their lives if they weren't careful.

Zu An trusted Yan Xuehen, though. Since she hadn't offered a warning, that meant it was fine. As such, he led the three women up the stairs. The stairs looked as thin as air, but they were actually extremely sturdy. Even Yun Jianyue clicked her tongue in wonder.

Seeing as Zu An's group was fine, how could the others still hold themselves back? They all ran toward the stairs, fearing that the others would seize the good stuff first.

The entire group quickly arrived in front of the jade coffin. Someone impatiently rushed forward to push aside the coffin's lid. Zu An wanted to stop them, but it was too late. Surprisingly, however, the lid actually moved quite easily, without setting off any mechanisms. Zu An exchanged a look with the women, seeing shock in all of their eyes.

This didn't make sense! The covers of coffins were usually sealed shut, and the way here had been so dangerous. Why was it that once they arrived at the final coffin, there weren't any restrictions at all?

When those present saw what was inside of the coffin, they were all shocked. Rather than the bones and funerary objects they expected, there was a large ki stone inside.

"Deity-grade ki stone!" they cried out in alarm.

They had been able to sense the stone's powerful natural ki even through the coffin. Even though they all came from influential clans and had seen quite a few heaven-grade ki stones, occasionally encountering immortal-grade ki stones too, they had never seen the legendary deity-grade ki stones before.

Forget about them, even Yan Xuehen, Yu Yanluo, and Yun Jianyue were a bit absentminded. Even though they were experienced and knowledgeable, they had only seen deity-grade ki stones once or twice.

An ordinary deity-grade ki stone was already enough to become a thousand-year-old sect's greatest treasure. And yet, this piece of deity-grade ki stone was so large that it almost filled up the entire coffin! No wonder they had found the Prime Souldew before. That was probably what remained after creating such a deity-grade ki stone.

Huh? Wait, why would it be placed inside the coffin? Don't tell me...

Just then, someone said in a trembling voice, "There seems to be someone sealed inside here..."

The surface of the deity-grade ki stone resembled amber and was vaguely translucent. Only when they focused on it did they discover that there was actually someone sealed up inside. Moreover, she was an extremely beautiful woman.

Her hair was tied up into a cloud-shaped hair bun, decorated with beautiful pearl flowers woven from golden silk and silver threads. It made her neck seem exceptionally slender, and her presence equally gentle and refined. Her brows were curved like a spring mountain, and her features were stunning. A long and voluminous garment with wide sleeves covered her stunning figure, giving her an astonishingly mature and enchanting charm.

For some reason, however, even though she gave off an incredibly charming and lovely sensation, when they looked closely, the observers saw that there wasn't a shred of emotion on her calm and gentle oval face. Her lips were red and moist, and yet there was no smile on them. She had a dignified bearing, giving her an air of unapproachable nobility.

"There was actually someone so beautiful in this world?" The fiend race experts were all stunned. They subconsciously compared the woman with Yu Yanluo and the other women, and concluded that each of them was stunning in their own way, but it was a pity that they all wore veils, so their faces couldn't be seen.

Zu An was also a bit stunned. Why was it that whenever he went into such old tombs, there would always be some beauty in a coffin? He had met Mi Li in Brightmoon Academy's secret dungeon, and then he had met the mermaid queen in Westhound Tomb. Now, he had run into yet another one? Was it his fate to disturb female corpses or something?!

But how can this woman have two entirely different temperaments at the same time?

He had only ever sensed something similar from Daji before. Could it be that this woman had also been a fiend when she was alive?