

## Immortal 1271

### Chapter 1271: Relations Broken

The others were surprised and quickly took another look. They didn't see her breathing at all, but they could tell that her skin was still soft, supple, and fair, with a hint of a rosy blush. She looked just like a living person.

"Judging from everything we've seen so far, we can conclude that this tomb is from a distant age. Even that powerful cultivator was nothing more than a set of bones, and yet this woman still looks fine and well. This is way too strange," the Peng race's Jin Shi remarked, gulping involuntarily.

Princess Changning felt a bit jealous as she looked at the woman in the coffin. How did this woman become this beautiful? Even after passing away, she's still so lovely. She added, "I believe her beauty was preserved with the help of this deity-grade ki stone."

Princess Suolun sighed and remarked, "She died while at her most beautiful age. That really is a regretful matter."

Yu Yanluo looked at the woman encased in the deity-grade ki stone in a daze. For some reason, she felt a sort of indescribable closeness to the woman. At first, she thought that the woman was also a Medusa, but when she carefully examined the feeling, she realized that they weren't truly of the same species.

Ma Huang remarked with a chuckle, "We can't obtain the Three Three Flower below, so how about we just divide this deity-grade ki stone among us? With such a large piece, it'll be enough even if we take just a piece ourselves."

The others' eyes lit up. If there had only been a single ki stone, they might all fight to the death. However, there was clearly such a large amount in the coffin, so they could all get a sizable chunk. There was no need to risk their lives fighting over it.

Of course, the best result would be if they could seize the entire ki stone for themselves, as they would even be able to obtain the beautiful corpse inside. However, they all knew that they had no way of defeating the others by themselves, so splitting it evenly was the best method.

Yu Yanluo's expression changed. She said, "The woman inside is relying on the deity-grade ki stone to ensure that her body doesn't decay. If all of you destroy the deity-grade ki stone, won't she quickly turn into a corpse?" She didn't want this woman to suffer a miserable end, due to the mysterious feeling of closeness she had experienced.

Yan Xuehen and Yu Jianyue gave her a look of surprise, but they didn't protest. As grandmasters, they had their own domineering nature. The deity-grade ki stone should have been theirs to begin with; why did they have to share any with the fiend race experts?

Zu An obviously stood by Yu Yanluo's side, remaining her staunchest supporter.

The others' expressions changed. Prince Yin Sha protested angrily, "Don't tell me you want all this for yourselves?" Because many of his teeth were broken, however, his speech was affected a bit. He became even more angry when he realized that.

You have successfully trolled Prince Yin Sha for +555 +555 +555...

Jin Shi looked unhappy too. He added, "Aren't you guys being too greedy? Just now, we already stepped aside regarding the Prime Souldew and the eternal medicine. You still want to seize this deity-grade ki stone all for yourself?"

Qiao Heng said without much confidence, "We didn't really back down on the eternal medicine, though..."

They were clearly the ones who had tried to go first, and yet failed to break through that defensive formation, so why had Jin Shi made it sound as if they had backed off on purpose or something?

Jin Shi choked, not knowing how to reply. However, Duan Tiande remarked with a sneer, "Bastard Qiao, whose side are you on really? Even though he saved you, you've already repaid that kindness. Why are you still making an enemy out of us for an outsider?"

The bear brothers brandished their weapons and said in low, muffled voices, "Indeed, this person's background is suspicious. We of the fiend races should be uniting together against outsiders."

"Uniting together against outsiders?" Qiao Heng sneered. "These dark elves are mortal enemies of our Elf race, and he even tried to kill me earlier. Are you really going to talk to me about unity?"

The others were left at a loss for words. The grudge between the Dark Elf and the Elf was indeed serious..

Ma Huang said with a sinister chuckle, "No matter how great your grudge is, it's still an internal conflict. However, this fellow is from the human race, the common enemy of the fiend races. Are you sure you're going to stand at his side?" He didn't only say that for Qiao Heng; he also shot Princess Suolun a look.

It was clear that Zu An's group was too mysterious. They definitely didn't want Qiao Heng and Princess Suolun to stand on his side. Furthermore, they had to all work together to have a better chance at defeating Zu An.

"What? He's a human?" Princess Suolun cried out in shock before Qiao Heng could say anything.

"Correct. There's no mistake from his blood," Ma Huang replied with a chuckle. He even licked his lips, as if he really wanted to suck down a few mouthfuls of it.

The others no longer felt any suspicion when they heard that. After all, the Blood race was the most sensitive toward such things.

Qiao Heng was dumbstruck. However, Princess Suolun then asked, "Young master, are you really a human?"

Zu An didn't hide it and replied, "I am indeed a human."

Many of the fiend race experts began to curse, "The damned human race!"

A large amount of Rage points appeared in the backend. The war between the two races had clearly left both sides with too much hatred.

Zu An sighed. Such hatred couldn't be erased despite the fact that in the human world, he had always said that there were good and bad people among the fiend races. In the current situation, however, there was no use in wasting any more words.

The fiend race experts looked toward Qiao Heng and asked, "What do you say now?"

Qiao Heng panicked under the others' threatening expressions. Doing something that would anger an entire crowd was something difficult to do for anyone. The Elf race still needed to have good relations with the other races. If he created many enemies for them due to personal reasons, that would really be a great crime against the Elf race! He could only sigh and say to Zu An, "This brother, I'm sorry to let you down. Many of our Elf race brothers and sisters have perished under the hands of humans."

Princess Suolun didn't say anything, but she tacitly stood by the fiend races' side.

Princess Changning had already been upset that even though she had spoken up so much for Zu An, she hadn't gotten any benefits from it, and he seemed to be closer to Princess Suolun. After the revelation, she quickly emphasized that they had nothing to do with each other, saying, "So you were a treacherous human! I should not have spoken up for you earlier. Your kind has harmed so many of our clansmen; this time, you will definitely pay a debt of blood!"

The others all voiced their praise for Princess Changning's righteousness.

Yun Jianyue sneered. "This girl looks smart on the surface, but she's actually pitifully stupid."

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo nodded in deep sympathy. With their status and knowledge, they obviously knew why Princess Changning continued to flip-flop like that. They thought to themselves that if Zu An ended up liking a woman like this, then the three of them really would be blind for choosing him.

However, when they saw Zu An's clear and sober expression, they felt fully at ease. Even though this guy is perverted, there's no way his insight would be that poor.

When had Princess Changning ever been humiliated that way before? She exclaimed, "Vixen, you're courting death!"

She sent her palm flying at Yun Jianyue as soon as she spoke. Her strike was fast and sharp. At the same time, a hand seal projection took form dozens of zhang above her. She had clearly used one of the Peacock Race's extreme arts.

Yun Jianyue's expression was cold. She raised her hand, and the imprint flying toward her face vanished without a trace.

Pa!

A loud and crisp noise rang out at the same time. Princess Changning clutched her face in disbelief. She just couldn't understand how the other woman had done such a thing.

Everyone else was stupefied too. At first, they had thought that it was just Zu An alone who was deep and immeasurable; now, however, it seemed as if the women at his side were also formidable!

Zu An chuckled. Even though Yun Jianyue was injured and the amount of cultivation she could use was only equivalent to the eighth or ninth rank, she still had her grandmaster-level fighting experience and insight. How could her skills be something these youngsters could understand at all?

Princess Changning cried angrily, "You're dead meat!" She called out to the other fiend race experts, "Why aren't you attacking them yet?!"

The others seemed to have woken up from a daze. Going one by one really would be a foolish choice. At the moment, their advantage lay in numbers. No matter how fierce that woman was, her ki seemed to only be at the ninth rank at most, so she wouldn't be able to cause too much trouble. As such, they rushed forward together.

Princess Changning wanted to get revenge on Yun Jianyue and rushed at her. After some hesitation, Princess Suolun targeted Yu Yanluo. The others all surrounded Zu An, because they knew that he was the most important target. As long as they dealt with him, his female companions wouldn't be able to stir up much trouble.

### **Chapter 1272: An Ominous Change in the Situation**

Princess Suolun faced Yu Yanluo and said apologetically, "The situation comes before personal feelings. I must ask for your understanding."

Yu Yanluo had fiend race blood within her, so she felt deep sympathy for Princess Suolun's concerns. She didn't get angry and said, "When one's position is different, there's no need to talk about forgiveness. Watch out." She took out the World Painting as she spoke, sucking Princess Suolun directly into her art.

However, she didn't feel the slightest bit of happiness, but instead looked in another direction vigilantly. With a purple flash, Princess Suolun instantly reappeared.

Yu Yanluo gave the painting a look and remarked, "Puppet arts?"

Princess Suolun broke out into a cold sweat. If she hadn't seen the painting sucking in the Blood Explosion Technique previously, she would already have been done in just then. She felt even more ashamed, as it was clearly the skill that had saved her earlier. As such, she held back even more when she attacked.

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Meanwhile, Qiao Heng was pulling his punches even more. He fought against the weak-looking Yan Xuehen, and yet there was no progress even after a long time. The other fiend race experts were all annoyed. Still, they didn't dare to anger Princess Suolun and Qiao Heng at the moment. Stalling their opponents was already good enough for the time being, as it was still better than having them as enemies.

Just then, Jin Shi, the bear brothers, Prince Yi Shan, Duan Tiande, and Ma Huang took the initiative to surround and attack Zu An with their subordinates.

Zu An's expression was cold as he used the Feathersilk Entangling Art to make the bear brothers' weapons smash into each other. While their internal energies stirred uncomfortably, he sent them flying

with kicks. He then froze Jin Shi's legs with the Snowflake Sword, preventing him from abusing the Golden Peng race's ridiculous movement skill. Then, he knocked Jin Shi down with a fist.

Right at that moment, a long and slender sword suddenly appeared from the shadow behind Jin Shi; it was a dark elf's assassination weapon. In response, Zu An used Shining Finger to deflect the sword, then reached out to grab the other party's head.

However, Duan Tiande reacted quickly. He shrank into the shadows and disappeared. After a moment, he instantly appeared behind Zu An. Such an opponent really was tricky to deal with.

Zu An released a cold snort. His entire body suddenly surged with flames, the fiery light making it so that there were no shadows around them at all. Duan Tiande had no choice but to withdraw in alarm.

Just then, Ma Huang unleashed an attack. He turned into a lump of blood and wrapped himself around Zu An's arm. It quickly spread, trying to cover Zu An's entire body.

Judging from the suction force around his arm, Zu An knew Ma Huang was trying to suck out his blood essence. He felt a wave of disgust when he remembered Mosquito Daoist. He immediately used the Heaven Devouring Sutra, turning his entire arm into a black hole.

Ma Huang was horrified. Not only was he unable to suck out Zu An's blood essence, quite a bit of his own cultivation had even been taken. If he hadn't been sure that Zu An was human, he would even have suspected him of being from the Blood race too!

He tried to leave in alarm, but unfortunately, no matter how he struggled, he couldn't free himself from the suction force. He felt despair, thinking, I'm finished! I chose to fight with an eagle and got my eyes pecked out instead...

Fortunately, the others' attacks arrived at that time. Zu An was distracted from dealing with them, giving Ma Huang a chance to recover. The lump of blood split in two. One remained on Zu An's arm, while the other eventually managed to successfully break free.

The part that had escaped turned back into Ma Huang, but his complexion was extremely pale. He was no longer as high-spirited as before, and he looked at Zu An in horror. During that interaction just then, twenty percent of his cultivation seemed to have been absorbed. It would be strange for him not to feel extremely weak.

When the others saw that they had saved Ma Huang, they all backed off. After that, they didn't dare to act rashly anymore. There were so many of them fighting together, and yet they had ended up being easily beaten up by Zu An. Their side had suffered considerably from just the first exchange.

Even while they were all hesitating, Zu An frowned. With his current cultivation, he could win easily against any one of them one on one, but there were too many of them at the moment. When he took down one, others would immediately rush in, leaving him with no room to quickly decide the battle.

These were all the best of the various fiend races' younger generation, and they were different from ordinary ninth rank experts. Their trump cards and methods were a cut above the rest. When such opponents worked together, they would naturally be a bit tricky to deal with.

Jin Shi said seriously, "We'll attack together and retreat together. Don't give him the chance to take us down one by one!"

"Fine!" the other fiend race experts replied. They were all valiant individuals. Their fighting spirit had been roused. With the way things were, there was already no room for reconciliation, but if they risked it all, things might take a turn for the better. They might even be able to obtain the deity-grade ki stone, or even the eternal medicine below. If they backed down and this human took down one by one, they would all die tragically here.

After realizing that, they all charged forth with a roar.

Zu An was starting to get annoyed, and no longer held back. Soon, bitter screams rang out one after another as several of the bodyguards were killed. Even so, the bodyguards were still rather tough; they acted like deathsworn soldiers, using their own bodies to prevent Zu An from having a chance to attack their masters.

The fiend race cultivators were growing more and more horrified. At the same time, they were starting to regret their decision. At this point, however, they could only brace themselves.

Blood and flesh soon flew in all directions, dyeing the place red. Then, as if guided by something, it flowed down the translucent stairs along inconspicuous grooves, toward the pond where the Three Three Flower was. The previously impenetrable barrier acted as if it didn't even exist, allowing the blood to flow in. Then, the once bright and clear pond gradually turned red.

However, the people above were still fighting and didn't notice that small change.

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As they continued fighting, the fiend race cultivators only began to experience even greater terror. Their opponent was just way too powerful, as if he were a war god! Even if they really did win, most of them would probably lose their lives here. No one wanted to become one of those sacrifices.

Duan Tiande was still the sharpest of them in the end. He knew that defeating Zu An in direct combat would be a bit difficult, so he shifted his attention to the women.

The woman who fought using the dao of art was extremely profound. Even if Princess Suolun hadn't been holding back, she wouldn't be easy to defeat.

As for the fierce woman, she was holding Princess Changning down while smacking her face ferociously. Although Princess Changning's cultivation was nothing to scoff at, she was like a small child without any power to resist, and was being beaten miserably. Duan Tiande shivered when he saw that. This tigress is best left unprovoked.

As such, his attention quickly landed on Yan Xuehen. Her aura was the weakest, as she had seemingly been injured quite badly. Judging from her previous performance, she only had knowledge and didn't seem to be good at fighting. As for Qiao Heng, who was fighting her, he was really pulling his punches quite heavily.

Duan Tiande jumped into the shadows, then reappeared next to Yan Xuehen through her shadow. He thrust his sword at her neck, intending to use her to threaten Zu An.

However, the weak-looking woman seemed to have anticipated Duan Tiande's move ahead of time. She turned around and deftly evaded his attack. At the same time, her snow-white sleeves swept out.

Duan Tiande felt a gentle force spread across his longsword, and he almost lost his grip on it. He was horrified. What is up with this woman? Why are her skills so profound?

Just then, an arrow flew toward him. He was on his guard and quickly evaded it. He stared at Qiao Heng, exclaiming furiously, "What are you doing?!"

Qiao Heng said with a grim expression, "This is my opponent; I won't allow anyone else to interfere."

Duan Tiande was so angry he laughed. He retorted, "Anyone can see that you're not even trying. Taking her as a hostage is what's most important right now. Otherwise, all of us will die!"

The other fiend race experts were also unsatisfied with what was happening on that end. They all began to curse, telling Qiao Heng to remember who he was, and to quickly deal with his opponent before helping them out.

Qiao Heng's expression changed several times. His slacking off had been exposed, and yet he couldn't really take a side.

Suddenly, a terrifying aura surged from below. The pond around the Three Three Flower had turned red, becoming a bloody pool. The blood inside seemed to be boiling, spilling out and spreading in all directions. Soon afterward, it covered the entire floor of the palace, and it seemed as if it would continue to climb higher.

Then, the entire platform they were fighting on, as well as the translucent stairs, suddenly disappeared. The ones who had been fighting on it immediately lost their center of gravity and fell toward the blood pond.

### **Chapter 1273: A Large Hand From the Darkness**

No one had expected the platform beneath them to suddenly disappear. This place had robbed them of their ability to fly, and since they had been caught off guard, they fell straight down. When they all noticed the surging pond of blood beneath them, their expressions changed. Wasn't the pond previously clear and gentle? Why did it become like this?

Even though they didn't understand what exactly the blood pond was, it emitted a terrifying killing intent that made their souls tremble. They knew falling into the pool of blood was definitely not a sensible option.

Zu An couldn't be bothered to worry about other, less pressing matters anymore. He summoned the Wind Fire Wheels and barely steadied himself. However, the flames on the wheels flickered, as if they might be extinguished at any time. Furthermore, their flight speed and mobility were far weaker than usual; they had clearly been greatly suppressed by the laws of this place. The fact that they could still allow for flight was already amazing.

He grabbed Yu Yanluo, who was the closest to him, and yelled, "Hold onto me tight!"

Yu Yanluo knew that the situation was dire, so she leaped directly toward Zu An's waist and began clinging onto him like a koala, so his hands would be freed up to save others. Thus, Zu An quickly used the Wind Fire Wheel to rush at the other two women.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen were falling too. Yun Jianyue was still able to use some methods to slow her descent, but Yan Xuehen's injuries were too serious and she couldn't stop herself from plummeting. Yun Jianyue tried to save her, but as soon as she grabbed Yan Xuehen, the difference in acceleration made both of them fall.

Yan Xuehen's head went blank. She would never have expected her arch-nemesis to save her! When she snapped out of her initial shock, she tried to shake Yun Jianyue off and throw her to one side, yet Yun Jianyue grabbed onto her hand firmly, not giving her a chance. She panicked and protested, "Do you want to die too?"

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "You'll be the one who dies if you let go. You're only allowed to die because of me, and not in such an easy way as this." Yan Xuehen wanted to say something else, but Yun Jianyue cut her off and said, "Stop struggling already. That fella will save us." She struggled to control the air streams around them to slow their descent, buying as much time as possible.

Yan Xuehen was stunned. She reflexively raised her head and saw Zu An rushing over while riding the Wind Fire Wheels. At that instant, she was left in a daze. It was as if Zu An's entire body were shining.

A second later, Zu An arrived next to the two of them, wrapping an arm around each of their waists. Then, he flew over to the side of the room. When they sensed the firm and steady strength coming from those arms, even though the two women knew that he was saving them, they still couldn't help but feel alarmed.

Yan Xuehen raised her head to look at Zu An from the side. When she remembered their relationship, her expression became more and more conflicted.

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue was sizing up Zu An from a different angle. She thought to herself that back in the sect, female disciples always secretly discussed which guys were handsome, and yet she had found them all nothing special. But this kid Zu An was a bit handsome, hm? While she was feeling a bit worked up, however, she suddenly noticed Yan Xuehen's star-struck expression. She quickly snapped out of her daze. What kind of nonsense am I thinking?

"Save me!" someone cried in alarm, not far away. When Zu An's group turned to look, they saw that Kong Nanjing was clutching Princess Suolun's thigh. Princess Suolun couldn't shake her off at all, and both of them fell toward the pool of blood.

Kong Nanjing saw that Zu An could still fly and immediately begged for mercy. Her face was covered in handprints, red and swollen; they were clearly a product of Yun Jianyue's artistry. Meanwhile, Princess Suolun's usual calm had been replaced with anxiety. She looked at Zu An with hopeful eyes.

After some hesitation, Zu An summoned the Primal Skysilk and wrapped it around Princess Suolun's hand. Then, with a tug, he pulled her over to his side. Naturally, Kong Nanjing escaped danger too.

Yun Jianyue remarked in annoyance, "You're even going to save that kind of woman?" The one she was talking about was, of course, Kong Nanjing. She still remembered how the woman had behaved.



Zu An said, "I've had some interactions with her clansmen. I can't just watch her die without doing anything."

Seeing that Zu An hadn't done so out of lust, the other women all smiled inside.

The group landed on a stone protrusion to one side, temporarily freed from the danger of drowning in the blood pool. Princess Suolun trembled as she exclaimed, "Thank you, young master!" Meanwhile, Kong Nanjing was still scared witless, unable to even speak a single word.

Zu An merely nodded before his attention returned to the blood pool.

Jin Shi and Qiao Heng both had wings. Even though they couldn't fly the way they usually could, borrowing the air streams to glide was still manageable. They both landed atop a statue on the wall and steadied themselves. They gave Kong Nanjing a look of disdain. They were all from winged races, and yet these two had found a way. However, that woman had completely lost her mind from fear, only trying to cling onto someone else and dragging them down too.

The bear brothers were rather crude, but they weren't stupid. They knew they couldn't fly after losing their balance, so they struck at each other's weapons with a tacit understanding, borrowing the recoil force to propel themselves toward the walls on either side. They grabbed some of the wall decorations to stop their fall.

Duan Tiande jumped across the shadows and hid by a beam. Meanwhile, Ma Huang appeared nearby.

The others weren't so lucky. Starting with Prince Yin Sha, they all dropped into the blood pond. Then, Prince Yin Sha's true form appeared. He tried to swim ashore, but a tremendous pain ravaged his body. When he looked down, he saw that all of his flesh seemed to be melting like a candle!

Bitter screams filled the place as the other fiend race experts quickly turned into white bones. Prince Yin Sha's cultivation was a bit higher than theirs, so he managed to last for a bit, but it only meant more suffering.

Miserable cries rose and fell. Soon afterward, he didn't even have the strength to scream anymore. He looked at Princess Suolun in despair, his eyes filled with pleading.

Princess Suolun bit down on her lip, almost hard enough to draw blood. She knew what he was trying to say. Thus, she eventually raised her finger. A streak of purple light shot out, piercing directly through Prince Yin Sha's head. Prince Yin Sha died on the spot, but in the end, a smile of relief appeared on his face.

Princess Suolun's entire body trembled slightly, and her expression was pale. Even though she had never liked him, Yin Sha had still looked after her the entire time. Who would feel nothing when they saw such a person die so miserably?

The entire palace fell silent again. Prince Yin Sha's flesh was completely eroded, his corpse turning into a giant set of bones.

The survivors were alarmed. They had seen so many bones along the way; had they been created here, then swept out? They looked toward the center of the blood pond. The Three Three Flower was still floating on the water, but some faint blood-red veins had visibly appeared on the petals.

“What eternal flower? This is a freaking life-stealing trap!” Princess Changning exclaimed in horror.

The others all had similar thoughts. They had been drawn in by this eternal flower, yet in the end, it had swallowed all of them up. They all wanted to leave as soon as possible, but a vicious sea of blood was surging beneath them. If they made contact with the blood, even if they didn’t die immediately, they would be seriously injured. They couldn’t fly either, so none of them could leave.

Their gazes turned to Zu An. All of them remembered the Wind Fire Wheels he had been riding. He was the only one present who could fly.

Duan Tiande chuckled and said, “Forget it; this humble one’s life is still the most important. You guys can have all of the treasures here. This one won’t keep you company anymore.”

He could move through the shadows, so the situation wasn’t too difficult for him to deal with. Thus, he leaped through them several times after speaking. Just when he was about to leave the hall, however, a large, shaggy hand suddenly reached out in front of him.

Duan Tiande was horrified. He quickly tried to hide in the shadows again, but the shaggy hand seemed to be able to ignore all tricks. It entered the shadows and pulled him back out.

“Ugh... Ah...” Duan Tiande choked, his neck in the grip of that hand. He was floating in midair, and his face was swollen purple. He tried to pull the hand off of him while kicking frantically. Unfortunately, the hand didn’t budge, showing no signs of loosening up at all.

Crack!

Suddenly, with a crack, the hand twisted. Duan Tiande’s head drooped, and his entire body turned limp like a wet noodle. He didn’t move again.

The survivors all felt a chill. Duan Tiande’s cultivation was one of the best among their group, and his shadow-leaping skill was incredible. He had been in a practically unstoppable position; how had his life been taken so easily, like crushing a baby chick?

## **Chapter 1274: To Each Their Own Designs**

The large hand twisted Duan Tiande’s neck, then flung him into the pool of blood. Soon afterward, his flesh completely dissolved, revealing a set of bones that were much more slender than most others. That was how elves were; their bodies were more delicate than those of other races.

Qiao Heng’s face twitched a bit when he saw that. Even though the two of them had been mortal enemies, he still felt a bit unwell to have seen Duan Tiande die so miserably.

Meanwhile, the other fiend race experts felt more fear than anything else. If even someone like Duan Tiande had been killed, wouldn’t the rest of them meet similar fates?

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both looked at Zu An and cried, “It’s him!”

Zu An nodded. The terrifying aura he sensed was extremely familiar. Previously, he had detected a powerful being watching them when they were in the fog forest. Now, it had finally shown itself.

A dark figure slowly walked over, revealing its appearance to the gathered experts. It would be hard to call it a person; even though it was mostly humanoid in appearance, there was long, black hair covering its entire body. Its face was hard to see clearly. The shaggy monster had black energy swirling around its body, as if it were a reaper from hell. It walked casually across the pool of blood, moving on it as if it were just ordinary, flat land. The powerful corrosive blood didn't do a thing to it.

A powerful pressure immediately filled the entire place. The fiend race experts felt despair. Was this a grandmaster? It definitely carried the pressure of a grandmaster!

Zu An looked back at Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue, replying with a grave expression, "Its aura seems to be a bit stronger than even yours at your peak."

The two women didn't dispute what he said. However, they quickly reminded him, "This monster is indeed extremely strong, but it doesn't seem to be that intelligent. It's unable to use many of a grandmaster's special abilities, so we might still have a chance."

Yu Yanluo couldn't help but feel admiration. As expected of these two grandmasters! While everyone else felt despair, they had instead immediately found the entity's weakness.

Princess Suolun secretly gave Zu An a look. Usually, the other fiend race experts were extremely arrogant, shooting their mouths off and boasting about themselves. And yet, right now, they were all scared out of their minds. Only this man alone remained calm, even before such a powerful enemy. So the human race had such an outstanding individual...

Just then, the black-haired monster quickly arrived between the two bear brothers. It raised its hand, and in an instant, the two brothers could no longer cling onto the statues on the walls. They flew straight toward the monster.

"Ahhh!"

The two were utterly terrified. They had clearly seen what happened to Duan Tiande mere moments before. Out of despair, they both brandished their respective weapons. They swung the club and hammer toward the monster with all their strength, trying to fight for a sliver of a chance at survival. In such a moment of crisis, both of them unleashed twice their usual strength, causing their weapons to erupt with sonic booms.

The black-haired monster didn't dodge. It reached upward with its large hands, then grabbed the club and hammer with its bare hands. The impact made its body shake a bit, but that was all. The bear brothers tried to push down with everything they had, their chubby faces completely red, but their weapons didn't move at all.

Then, the black-haired monster moved. It closed its hands gently, and the two weapons that had previously seemed awe-inspiring and overwhelming actually began to bend. It crushed them into scrap!

The other experts' eyes widened. They had fought against the bear brothers before. The brothers' attacks were incredibly fierce and difficult to take head-on, and their heavy blunt weapons were even more famous, having crushed countless cultivators into a bloody paste. Yet now, they had actually been crushed with bare hands? Were grandmasters actually this terrifying?

The black-haired monster reached out with both arms, and even the tall and sturdy bear brothers couldn't escape being grabbed. They couldn't break free no matter what they did. The monster brought its hands together, smashing the two brothers with a loud crunch.

Unlike the force of the barrier below that had stopped the brothers' attacks, which had only made their internal energies stir, the collision instantly scattered all of their ki. Their bones shattered, and their inner organs were crushed to bits. Blood spurted endlessly from their facial orifices. There was no surviving such a blow.

The black-haired monster casually flung the brothers' corpses downward, and two more lives were sacrificed to the blood pool. Meanwhile, the Three Three Flower at the center seemed to become even more beautiful, vaguely showing hints of blossoming.

Jin Shi and Ma Huang both cried out, "This brother over there, how about we put our enmities aside to face this powerful enemy together?" They knew they had absolutely no chance against the black haired monster alone. If Zu An, someone similarly powerful, helped them, they might still have a chance at survival.

Zu An thought for a moment before replying, "Alright."

Kong Nanjing reacted and quickly grabbed him in alarm, protesting, "Don't go!" At the same time, she said quietly, "They're closer to that monster right now. If we're going to die anyway, they'll die first. Who knows, that monster might be satisfied if it kills them!"

Zu An was already the only one she could rely on. If he left, there would be no one else. According to what the other two had said, they clearly had to face the black-haired monster together; in that situation, she couldn't do anything. What difference was there between that and throwing their lives away?

Princess Suolun felt dissatisfied and remarked critically, "As things stand, there is only going to be a chance if we fight together. If you use the lives of others to satisfy that monster, what if it fails? At that point, we will not even have that sliver of a chance to resist."

Kong Nanjing felt unhappy to receive such criticism, and retorted, "Fine, you're so amazing and high-sounding. But just now, you even ruthlessly killed your own follower. Just who is more heartless here?"

Princess Suolun was left at a loss for words. Frustrated, she turned around and said, "Those with narrow and shallow knowledge should not try to talk about deeper topics."

Afterward, she seemed to be intent on joining Zu An, but Yan Xuehen stopped her and said, "That monster is too strong; it will not be of much help even if you head over. He will instead have to worry about taking care of you."

Princess Suolun panicked and replied, "But I cannot just watch here without doing anything, can I?"

"Let's watch the situation for now," Yun Jianyue added, her tone suggesting she would accept no disagreement. Princess Suolun opened her mouth, but she didn't say anything else in the end.

Kong Nanjing was happy to see Princess Suolun be denied, and remarked, "Weren't you boasting not too long ago? And yet look at you now, only interested in saving your own neck."

“You!” Princess Suolun exclaimed angrily. She looked away and ignored Kong Nanjing.

Kong Nanjing secretly moved backward, staying all the way at the back so that even if they were going to die, she would be the last. No, that monster might just stop once it killed enough... She gave the Three Three Flower in the blood pool a look. The monster seemed to be feeding the experts’ blood essence to the eternal flower, so she actually had a hope of keeping her life if she hid all the way in the back.

...

Zu An quickly stepped onto the Wind Fire Wheels and flew over. Jin Shi flapped his wings, flying along the wall, while Ma Huang turned into a bloody mist to move around. The three of them surrounded the monster.

The monster seemed to have sensed that Zu An was extraordinary. It raised its hand directly toward him. In an instant, an aura locked down the space around Zu An. The palm seemed to be able to control the entire world, containing a terrifying power that was impossible to escape from. Zu An finally understood why, whether it was Duan Tiande or the bear brothers, they couldn't resist at all.

Jin Shi didn't attack to help Zu An alleviate a bit of pressure, but instead seized the chance to turn into a streak of golden light, rushing out of the hall! It was the unparalleled movement skill of the Golden Peng King race, Invincible Heavenly Peng! Even though he was only starting to delve into the complexities of the skill, its speed was already terrifying.

Meanwhile, Ma Huang didn't attack either and instead rushed in the opposite direction. He intended to take the chance to seize the Three Three Flower at the center of the blood pool as Zu An stalled the monster.

Princess Suolun panicked, exclaiming angrily. “How can you all be this despicable?!”

Even Kong Nanjing cursed, “Do you all have no sense of shame?!” Zu An was already the last person she could rely on. What was she going to do if he died?

However, no matter how they cursed, there was no changing what had already happened.

### **Chapter 1275: A Resolute Decision**

Zu An chuckled, even though he was in danger. He summoned Grandgale and instantly moved several dozen feet away.

He had already been wary when he heard the other two's suggestions. After all, they had just fought with the intent to kill moments before. One would have to be an utter fool to completely trust their words. Sure enough, the two failed to live up to his 'trust'.

The black-haired monster had lost its objective, so it instinctively shifted its attention to the fleeing Jin Shi. It took a step forward, catching up to him with just a single step.

The others felt chills watching the scene. Even though the skill Jin Shi had displayed was just the beginning level of the Invincible Heavenly Peng, he was already extremely fast. And yet, despite his head start, the black-haired monster had caught up so easily.

The monster extended its fingers like lightning, its hand piercing straight through Jin Shi's back and ripping out his heart. Jin Shi screamed, his heart still throbbing as it left his body. It was easy to imagine just what kind of suffering he had just experienced.

Yan Xuehen and the other women exchanged a look. They both thought back to the corpse of Ancestor Chuan Shan, which they had seen on the way. At that time, judging from the scars, they deduced that someone had most likely scooped out his heart from behind. They had felt that the thought was a bit outrageous at first, but now, they personally witnessed it happening.

The black-haired monster tossed the dripping heart straight into its mouth. It chomped down and blood spurted out of its mouth.

"No!" Jin Shi exclaimed. He still had some of his consciousness left, but after seeing that scene, he perished instantly. His golden body dimmed, and he fell into the blood pool below, his flesh quickly being eaten away.

Ma Huang's fine hairs stood on end when he heard the bitter screams behind him. He hadn't expected the monster to deal with Zu An and Jin Shi that quickly. The way things were, however, he had no other option. He rushed directly toward the blood pool.

When they saw that, the survivors were all stunned. Kong Nanjing cried out in shock, "Is he trying to kill himself?"

Yan Xuehen shook her head and said, "Do not forget that he is from the Blood race. This blood pond might be deadly for others, but it might not be to him."

That was precisely what Ma Huang had been thinking. He had been a bit alarmed when the platform collapsed and the others fell into the blood pool, but after some time passed, he remembered that he was from the Blood race!

Even though the blood pool below had a powerful corrosive nature, there was a great deal of blood essence stored inside. For him, it would be an incredible source of nutrients. As such, he had secretly come up with a plan. While Zu An and Jin Shi stalled the monster, he would enter the blood pool first. He would then absorb the blood essence inside to strengthen himself while seizing the eternal flower.

He had clearly seen that ever since the pool of blood surged, the mysterious formation around the flower had already disappeared. Once he obtained the Three Three Flower, he would use the Blood race's secret arts to escape, using the pool as cover.

As soon as he entered the blood pool, he felt a stinging pain. As someone from the Blood race, he immediately realized that it was sucking out his blood essence, and it wasn't some kind of corrosive poison.

However, his race specialized in absorbing blood essence. Not only could he use a special technique to protect his own blood essence from leaving, he could even absorb the blood essence in the pond instead.

At that instant, he felt as if he were in paradise. The aura around him was just too fragrant. This was pure blood essence, its quality far greater than anything he had ever absorbed before! In just a few breaths of time, he quickly recovered the twenty percent of his blood essence he had lost while facing

Zu An, and it was still increasing. Soon, he quickly surpassed his normal peak! If he could cultivate in the blood pool for two hours, he was confident he could even break through directly into the master rank.

For cultivators, cultivation became more and more difficult as one's rank increased. There were countless experts at the peak of the ninth rank who were forever stuck at that rank, unable to break through into the master rank. If just two hours in this place was enough to overcome such a thing, just what did that represent?

However, Ma Huang knew he didn't have that much time. As such, he quickly swam toward the Three Three Flower at the center of the blood pool. Perhaps because a portion of the blood essence had been sucked away, the petals that had seemed about to blossom appeared a bit limp.

The black-haired monster noticed what had happened and let out a sky-shaking roar.

A terrifying pressure swept over Ma Huang, leaving him absolutely horrified. He gave the Three Three Flower that was almost within reach a reluctant look, but decided that his own life was still the most important thing.

Meanwhile, the black-haired monster stood in the blood pool, looking down to examine it. The experts on the ledge couldn't see the abnormalities in the blood pool at all, but the monster seemed as if it had X-ray vision. It suddenly let out an inhuman roar, then thrust its palm toward the blood pool, sending a large hand projection in. When the monster pulled its hand back out, it was gripping the fiercely struggling Ma Huang.

Ma Huang was terrified. He didn't know why his Blood race's secret arts had been so easily seen through by the enemy. He struggled frantically, releasing a strange, viscous liquid from his entire body. Not only was it poisonous, it was also extremely slippery. Together with his struggles, he actually managed to free more than half of his body!

The black-haired monster harrumphed, tightening its grip. The tremendous pressure made Ma Huang's eyes roll back, and he almost fainted on the spot. It felt as if many needles had stabbed into his body, preventing him from moving. Out of desperation, he bit down on the monster's hand in an attempt to use the Blood race's sinister techniques with everything he had, trying to suck away the monster's cultivation.

Ever since ancient times, many of the Blood race's seniors had been able to kill powerful beings with higher cultivation ranks precisely because of those special methods. If their opponents were careless, they would have their blood essence sucked out.

However, this time, Ma Huang felt despair. No matter how hard he sucked, the other party's source didn't budge at all!

The black-haired monster was clearly getting annoyed. It raised Ma Huang up, then squeezed his body from the bottom up like a roll of toothpaste. Ma Huang didn't even have time to scream miserably before his entire body... exploded on the spot! His internal organs and intestines flew out of his mouth.

Ma Huang had been unstoppable for decades, having sucked countless experts dry. Never could he have expected that he would die so miserably.

When the women on the stone platform saw what had happened, they clutched their mouths and began to retch. Such a scene really was way too shocking. Even the eyelids of a thick-skinned man like Zu An twitched.

The monster seemed to find the pile of remains too filthy for the blood pool. With a wave of its hand, a stream of black energy wrapped around the inner organs and fluids, instantly refining and cleaning them. Only a few drops of blood essence entered the pool below. The Three Three Flower that had previously looked somewhat wilted immediately recovered its budding vitality.

Yan Xuehen looked at Princess Suolun and asked, "Is this monster from the Demon race?"

Princess Suolun shook her head and replied, "That black energy indeed seems a bit similar to the Demon race's black flames, but I do not sense the aura of the same species from his body. On the contrary, that black energy is full of the aura of death, as if... As if..."

Yun Jianyue finished, "As if it already died a long time ago."

Yan Xuehen frowned. There were indeed some cultivation methods that specialized in refining the souls of the dead, but practically all of them involved turning bones and rotten corpses into weapons or puppets. When had there ever been an instance of a corpse gaining its own consciousness?

Kong Nanjing cried out in alarm. "That flower still hasn't bloomed. Does it need more blood essence..."

The survivors were disheartened when they heard that. They were the only ones left. If more blood essence was needed, it would obviously have to come from them.

The black-haired monster seemed to have realized that as well. It looked toward the stone platform.

Qiao Heng picked up his bow and took a step forward, saying to Zu An, "Brother, I don't know why you saved me, but it is a fact that you saved me several times. A real man separates gratitude and grudges clearly. You've saved my life, so I'll return you a life. As for the two princesses, if you're able to leave this place alive, please help me watch over my clansmen in my place."

Afterward, he nocked an arrow and drew his bow. The arrowhead flickered with jade green radiance. He said with a firm expression, "I'll stall this monster. All of you, hurry and escape."

As soon as he finished speaking, a green streak flew toward the black-haired monster like a shooting star. Wherever it passed, the powerful aura even cleaved the blood pool apart.

"Emerald Immortal Tear!" Princesses Suolun and Changning both cried out in alarm. They were from the fiend races as well, so how could they not know about the Elf race's lethal move?

The elves were all excellent archers, who would each fire countless arrows in their lifetime. However, there was a kind of arrow they could only fire three times at most, and it was a skill that only the most outstanding talents could learn. That was the Emerald Immortal Tear.

The move ignited one's potential and definitely couldn't be used rashly. After using it, they would become seriously injured at best, and in the worst case, they might even die. The move's use often preceded the fall of a genius. Its price was so great that the Elf race believed even the emerald deity they worshiped would shed tears. That was how it had obtained its name.



Zu An didn't run, and instead said with a sigh, "You won't be able to stop it."

Sure enough, the black-haired monster seized Qiao Heng's most powerful arrow. The green radiance repeatedly spun in its palm, even producing smoke as it ground against the monster black hair. However, in time the light grew dimmer and dimmer, eventually disappearing completely.

### **Chapter 1276: Unexpected**

After using all of his strength, Qiao Heng could no longer hold on. His legs buckled, and he collapsed onto his knees.

Princess Suolun and Changning felt despair when they saw that. They were from the fiend races, so they knew about the Elf race's ultimate move. That was why their expectations had been proportionally great. Still, they had known that considering the power the black-haired monster had shown, it would probably be hard for them to kill it. Even so, it should have been injured at least a little bit, right?

In the end, however, the monster had stopped the arrow single-handedly, and only a bit of its fur had burned... Could that even count as an injury?

Qiao Heng's eyes were full of despair. He looked at Zu An with a bitter smile and said, "Brother, I wanted that to be a heroic final act, but who would've thought that I wouldn't even be capable of that..."

Zu An patted his shoulder and replied, "You've worked hard. Just leave the rest to me."

Qiao Heng's gaze was listless. It was clear that the fact that the Elf race's ultimate Emerald Immortal Tear couldn't even penetrate the enemy's skin had dealt too great of a psychological blow for him to handle. Faced with such a gap of absolute strength, he didn't think that Zu An could change anything.

Princess Suolun's expression was extremely conflicted when she looked at Zu An. The others were all in despair, and yet, why was this man still able to remain so calm and composed? She thought, Some people were born for greatness after all. The fact that I was able to see this kind of hero before I died is already a blessing from the heavens.

Meanwhile, Princess Changning instead shrank backwards. She secretly glanced at the Three Three Flower at the center of the pool. From the looks of it, it was going to blossom soon and probably didn't need many more people's blood essence. She thought, As long as I die after them, I'll be able to escape this disaster!

Zu An stepped on the Wind Fire Wheels and rushed forth. At that moment, the survivors on the stone platform were wounded and weak. If the battle's fluctuations reached them, he wasn't confident in his ability to protect all of them.

The black-haired monster was clearly a bit surprised that there was someone who would take the initiative to face it. However, it gave the Wind Fire Wheels underneath Zu An a look. Compared to the person, it seemed a bit more interested in them. As such, it reached out and tried to grab the Wind Fire Wheels.

As soon as the monster raised its hand, Zu An felt as if the Wind Fire Wheels were about to break free from his control and fly toward it. He quickly flew toward the Three Three Flower to divert its attention.

In such a situation where flight was restricted, if he didn't have the Wind Fire Wheels, he would have no footing left. How was he supposed to even fight then?

Sure enough, the monster panicked when it saw Zu An move closer to the Three Three Flower. It didn't bother with the Wind Fire Wheels and instead grabbed toward Zu An's shoulder.

The survivors were incredibly nervous. They could feel the power of the monster's world-shrouding claw even from far away. Previously, all of the other younger generation fiend race cultivators had all lost their lives precisely due to that claw.

Zu An didn't panic like Duan Tiande or Ma Huang, instead remaining extremely calm. He didn't seem as if he were facing a life or death crisis at all. He also raised his palm.

When she saw that, Princess Suolun almost cried out in alarm. This monster has grandmaster rank cultivation; isn't facing it head-on simply courting death?

In her opinion, the smartest choice would have been to use that strange movement skill of his to evade, as his instantaneous movement was comparable to the dark elves' shadow jumping technique.

However, she quickly understood what was going on. If he backs off, then that monster's attention might shift to us... Her beautiful eyes became moist when she thought of that.

Bang!

There was no great explosion the way the survivors had imagined, nor was Zu An blown back while vomiting blood. He only staggered a bit, and that seemingly unrivaled claw had actually been stopped head-on!

Yu Yanluo's clenched fists finally relaxed a bit. Off to the side, Yun Jianyue chuckled and said, "I already told you that you didn't have to worry. Your man is fine."

Yu Yanluo chuckled in embarrassment. Then, she secretly gave Yan Xuehen a look. She still remembered that time she and Zu An had been chased relentlessly by the other woman.

Yan Xuehen explained, "He has a miraculous skill that can neutralize and absorb an opponent's attacks. That is why he is not instantly crushed when facing extremely powerful opponents."

She recalled how when she had fought against Zu An, it was as if an invisible black hole had covered his entire body. A large portion of her strength had been sucked away by that strange force, making it hard for her to defeat him the way she usually crushed ordinary cultivators.

However, that skill could only give Zu An a fighting chance, because he hadn't even reached the master rank yet. Winning was almost impossible. His only hope was that the black-haired monster's intelligence was lacking, so it couldn't use the unique abilities of a grandmaster and it only fought based on combat instincts.

The black-haired monster clearly hadn't expected the 'ant' before it to be able to stop this attack either. It roared, then rushed at Zu An again. Its frightening aura even made the entire blood pool start to boil.

Those on the stone platform were struggling even more, finding it difficult to even breathe. Princess Changning, who was a bit weaker than the rest, was pressed directly against the ground.

Suddenly, Zu An roared, "Now!"

Yun Jianyue had long since been prepared. Her sleeves moved, and the Empress Lantern appeared overhead. She guided its faint yellow radiance, aiming it at the monster. If she had been at her peak, she would have been confident that she could completely stop the monster's movements for a while. In her current state, however, she could only slow it down a bit.

Yu Yanluo also made her move. Her black hair fluttered around, turning into countless small snakes. Then, her eyes released a yellow radiance.

Yan Xuehen blushed. When she had been chasing down Zu An and Yu Yanluo, it was precisely that move that had almost left her petrified. Her dress had also shattered at that time, and Zu An had seen everything...

Princess Suolun's mouth hung wide open in shock. This woman was actually the Medusa Queen! She thought, Then doesn't this mean this man is precisely that mysterious person who defeated the Golden Crow Crown Prince not too long ago?

Princess Changning's expression was conflicted. Never could she have expected this man to actually be her personal enemy, the one who had defeated her 'fiance'. After learning of the Golden Crow Crown Prince's defeat, she had been cursing that mysterious person everyday. Yet today, she had actually been saved by that very same person!

The Empress Lantern and Medusa's Eye surrounded the black-haired monster, and under their control, even the body of such a powerful monster stiffened. The black energy around it couldn't resist the Empress Lantern's light and the power of petrification at once.

Zu An didn't dare to let up. He activated the Tai'e Sword's Domain of Power, and even summoned Hundredwarble to launch a mental attack. The Poisonous Prick appeared in his hand, and he used the Star Shattering Imprint, erupting with ten times his strength. His entire body turned into a shooting star, his expression resolute as he charged at the monster.

He clearly knew that with their difference in strength, his other methods wouldn't do a thing to the monster. That was why he had decided to just go all out from the start, to catch it off guard. Sure enough, the monster had been trapped by the combined skills. No matter how strong it was, it was still frozen for a bit.

Meanwhile, Zu An even used the Unshakable Daoist Manual Yan Xuehen had taught him to conceal his killing intent. By the time the monster reacted, it was already too late.

Pfft!

Not even a grandmaster's defenses could stop the Star Shattering Imprint's tenfold increase in power. With a spurt, the Poisonous Prick stabbed directly into the monster's body.

Zu An sighed in relief. Even the giant dragon had lost its life after having a bit of skin cut by the Poisonous Prick, let alone right now where the blade had dug all the way in.

However, his expression suddenly changed and he quickly backed up. Still, he was too late. The monster smashed its fist toward him. Zu An hurriedly brought his arms up, but his entire body was still blown back.

Because he had just used the Star Shattering Imprint, all of the energies within him were running amok. It was difficult for him to keep his balance on the Wind Fire Wheels. He staggered and almost fell into the blood pool.

The expressions of those on the stone platform changed. Yun Jianyue reacted the most quickly. She removed Yan Xuehen's waistband, flinging it outward and hooking it around Zu An's arm, then pulled him back.

When she saw that Zu An had successfully been saved, Yan Xuehen recovered from her shock. However, she quickly realized something and clutched her dress in embarrassment and annoyance, protesting, "You witch, why are you grabbing my waistband?"

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "You've just been watching without doing anything; you're really ruining your reputation. I'm trying to give you some contribution too, and yet you're not thanking me but instead criticizing me?"

Yan Xuehen was speechless. This witch was speaking nonsense with a completely straight face, but she really didn't know how to retort.

A sky-shaking roar of anger echoed through the hall. The monster roared again and again, clearly angered by what had happened.

Zu An's expression was grave when he saw that the monster was still vigorous and animated. Why didn't the Poisonous Prick work?

This doesn't make any sense!

### **Chapter 1277: Living Dead**

Zu An had never encountered such a thing before. However, he immediately noticed something even stranger... The black-haired monster was clearly quite angry, so why had he not received any Rage points through the Keyboard System? Not only was his Poisonous Prick ineffective, even Rage points were ineffective. Could it be that the monster was above the Keyboard System?

At that instant, countless possibilities flew through his mind, but he still dismissed those suspicions in the end. Previously, whether it was Emperor Zhao Han or the other powerful beings he had met through the dungeons such as Qin Shihuang and Mi Li, the Keyboard System had always worked. Even though this monster was strong, it wasn't at their level yet.

He suddenly realized something. He remembered Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen mentioning the strong death energy around the monster.

"Be careful!" the beauties on the stone platform cried out in alarm, all simultaneously warning him.

The monster rushed toward Zu An with greater speed than ever before. Its hand expanded, seemingly vast enough to block out the sky. If it landed, forget about Zu An, even the survivors off to the side would be crushed into a bloody paste.

Zu An didn't evade. He took out something that resembled a torch, but there was no flame at the end. Instead, a beam of light emerged from it.

The gentle light instantly penetrated the terrifying black palm, deflating it like a popped balloon until it disappeared.

The monster screamed and quickly retracted its hand. Smoke came from the black hairs on its hand, and it caught fire. It patted its hand to put out the flames, but the burning continued. It even seemed that the fire would continue burning until it devoured the monster's entire body!

The survivors were stunned. Even something with the monster's level of cultivation could actually be set aflame? And yet, there had been fire element cultivators among them, so why had their attacks been ineffective?

"What is that?" the survivors on the stone platform asked.

They had special statuses and extensive knowledge, but they had never seen the thing in Zu An's hand before. They reflexively looked at Yu Yanluo. After all, she was the closest to Zu An. However, Yu Yanluo blushed. She had never seen that thing either.

Zu An stepped on the Wind Fire Wheels again, brandishing the 'torch' and continuously shining it in the other party's direction. He called out, "Come on! Weren't you strutting around as if this entire world was yours just a moment ago?"

"Don't tell me that's a deity-grade weapon?" Yun Jianyue exclaimed, completely stupefied. Wherever that thing Zu An was holding went, the previously insufferably arrogant monster fled in terror.

When she heard the words 'deity-grade weapon', Princess Changning's breath caught for a moment. Even Princess Suolun's expression became a bit unusual. They had heard of deity-grade weapons before, but they had never seen them before. Just what kind of status did this man have, for him to so easily possess such a thing?

Princess Changning thought to herself, No wonder this man was able to defeat the Golden Crow Crown Prince despite his having the Sun Slaying Bow. So he had a divine weapon of his own!

Yan Xuehen shook her head and said, "That is probably not the case. I cannot sense the power of a deity-grade weapon at all. I do not even sense the pressure of a heaven-grade weapon."

"Then why is he able to completely overwhelm a grandmaster?" Yun Jianyue asked, baffled. However, even after discussing the subject for a long time, they were still completely lost.

...

In the air, Zu An could vaguely hear their suspicions. He couldn't help but chuckle inwardly.

This thing wasn't as amazing as they thought. It was just the magical flashlight he had gotten from the lottery a while back. It would shine when there was light, but not if there was no light at all. Even though its restriction sounded like a scam, its sole ability was extremely useful, which was that it was the bane of all kinds of dark creatures, deceased spirits, and the like.

If the Poisonous Prick didn't work even after stabbing into the monster's body, the only explanation was that the target had been dead to begin with. Once he factored in Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's keen perception of the monster's death energy, the kind of being it was had become extremely clear.

The flashlight could be used three times. The first time, it had been used to defeat the terracotta army in Brightmoon Academy's secret dungeon, and the second time, it had been used in the Yinxu secret dungeon. This was its final use.

The monster screamed and screamed, left in a sorry state as it tried to evade the beam. However, the light had an almost magical quality, making the once lightning-fast monster seem like a tottering elder. The monster struggled to evade at first, but eventually, it was as if all of its strength had been sucked out of it. It couldn't even keep flying anymore and plummeted to the ground. Then, it continued to roll on the ground and howl beneath the light.

...

Only then did the others notice that the blood pool that previously filled the hall was gone, revealing the original ground underneath. They were all shocked. They looked toward the Three Three Flower that had been in the center, but it was already nowhere to be seen. They looked around, but they still didn't find it.

The black-haired monster was still the biggest threat, so they needed to get rid of it first. They could search carefully afterward. However, the creature itself could no longer move beneath the light, and was only able to curl up in pain on the ground.

"Look, why does its hair seem as if it's falling off?" Yu Yanluo suddenly cried.

The others looked over and noticed that the black mist that had previously surrounded the monster was gradually receding. The black hair on its body also seemed to be burning away, eventually revealing its true facial features.

"This was a person?" Yan Xuehen exclaimed in shock.

Even though the monster was humanoid, it had been covered in black hair and black mist, making it look more like an ape. The cultivators hadn't expected him to actually be a person, and one who seemed to have had a refined bearing in the past, no less.

"Why does he look a bit familiar?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen wondered, exchanging a look. This didn't make any sense. After all, with their grandmaster skills, they shouldn't have forgotten anyone they met before.

Zu An hadn't expected the monster to be a person either. However, the Poisonous Prick had already proven that he was already long dead. As so many people had died miserably at the monster's hand, Zu An obviously needed to rid the world of him.

"Who am I? Why am I in such pain, ah..." A hoarse and barely-intelligible voice emerged from the monster's mouth.

Zu An was a bit stunned. Isn't this fella a deceased spirit? Why can he speak?

Suddenly, a voice let out a beautiful and sweet-sounding sigh and asked, "This young master, can you be lenient and let him off?"

The voice was as gentle as jade, and had a tender and enchanting air to it. However, no one was in the mood to admire the beauty of the voice. All of them were horrified upon seeing who had just spoken.

Her brows were like a spring mountain, and her features were stunning. She wore her hair high, and her dress fluttered around her. Whether by the beauty standards of the humans or the fiend races, she would be praised as an absolutely stunning woman.

More importantly, she looked exactly like the one who had been inside the coffin. The survivors finally understood where the missing Three Three Flower had gone.

"There really was an eternal medicine that could revive a dead person..." Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both murmured absent-mindedly.

Zu An felt his scalp turn a bit numb. He asked, "Are you a person or a ghost?" He wanted to shine the flashlight on the woman, but he was worried that the black-haired monster would use that chance to escape.

The beautiful woman sighed and said, "I was once truly dead, but my esteemed husband revived me. Unfortunately, he ended up in this state, neither alive nor dead."

#### **Chapter 1278: Unchanging and Faithful Oath**

When the survivors heard what she said, they weren't really all that surprised that she was married. After all, based on her hairstyle and other details they had seen while she was in the coffin, they had all indicated that she was a married woman.

As for the husband she spoke of, they all turned to look at the black-haired monster. Of course, there was a lot less black hair on his body, and they could vaguely make out a rather handsome man. However, perhaps because he hadn't seen the sun for too long, his face was extremely pale, like a zombie's.

Zu An didn't respond immediately. The beautiful woman quickly landed next to the monster, using her body to help him block the flashlight's light. The monster's pain finally eased a bit. The woman took him into her embrace, her eyes filled with grief. Seeing that she didn't react at all when the flashlight landed on her, Zu An realized the woman wasn't an undead creature. After some hesitation, he moved the flashlight away, no longer aiming it at the black-haired monster.

Of course, he wasn't stupid enough to turn it off. After all, this was his last use already. It was going to turn off on its own after two hours, so he obviously had to make full use of its remaining time, in case the monster might suddenly attack again.

"Thank you, young master!" the woman exclaimed, then bowed toward Zu An with an expression full of gratitude.

The monster was still groaning, clutching his head as if in endless pain. However, the woman gently patted his body and sang a tune. The monster gradually calmed down. Seemingly enjoying her embrace,

he even adjusted his posture a bit. The viciousness on his face faded, replaced with a sense of peace and affection.

“What is your esteemed husband called?” Zu An asked seriously. “What exactly happened between you two?”

“People call me Madam Yu,” the woman replied. As soon as she spoke, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue turned to look at Yu Yanluo with strange expressions. Why did their names sound so similar?

Yu Yanluo was also stunned. She had felt a mysterious sense of familiarity while the woman was still in the coffin. Now that the woman had come to life, that feeling had grown even stronger. It was almost as if they were relatives, and yet the woman clearly wasn’t of the Medusa race!

The woman slowly said, “This is my husband, the past Sui State’s monarch. The people called him Lord Sui.”

“Sui State?” The others looked at each other in dismay. Neither the humans nor the fiends had heard of any Sui State.

Meanwhile, Zu An was moved. Sui State? Lord Sui? That country did indeed exist in the ancient history of his previous world.

The woman wasn’t surprised to see the survivors’ confused expressions. She replied, “You have not heard of it? It seems to have been so long that the Sui State has already faded from the great river of history.”

Then, she ran her slender and gentle, jade-like fingers through the hair of the monster in her arms. She seemed to be reminiscing about the past as she said, “The first time I met my husband was in a valley. Back then, I was seriously injured after fighting an old enemy in a battle to the death. My body was almost cut in half, and I could no longer remain in human form. However, he just happened to be passing by. Not only did he not turn his back on me because of my appearance, he instead had his subordinates treat me, even personally wrapping my wounds. He always took care of me...”

The woman had a mysterious, gentle expression as she lowered her head toward the monster in her arms, saying, “He really was a kind person.”

The survivors were shocked. They thought back to the mural they had seen when they first entered the tomb. The story seemed to match what was depicted in it. However, the one that had been cut in half was clearly a large snake!

The longer she looked at the woman, the more fervent Yu Yanluo’s expression became. This woman was of the same species after all! But why couldn’t she sense the aura of that species from her at all?

The bit of pressure coming from the woman didn’t come from her strength, but rather from a bloodline restriction. Was there actually a bloodline even nobler than the Medusa bloodline?!

“Lord Sui’s Pearl!” Zu An exclaimed, finally remembering where he had heard of the familiar story.

Sir He’s Jade[1] and Lord Sui’s Pearl[2] were the two most famous treasures of the Spring and Autumn Period. However, the whereabouts of Lord Sui’s Pearl were unknown, so compared to Sir He’s Jade, its fame was a bit lower.



The woman exclaimed in surprise. “Hm? So you actually know about that event in history? Indeed, after I recovered, in order to show my gratitude, I sought him out and gave my life pearl to him. The people of this world called it Lord Sui’s Pearl.”

Zu An was in a bit of a daze. After coming to this world, he had discovered that it contained many traces and legends related to his previous world, and yet they were all events shrouded in mystery and mythology. Was this world’s history really the history of his own world?

“But according to the recordings, it was a great snake that offered up the pearl. Don’t tell me you’re...”  
Zu An asked hesitantly.

The woman nodded slightly and replied, “That is right. I am a descendant of Nuwa, so I do have a portion of snake bloodline within me.”[3]

The others on the stone platform were baffled. They had never heard of the name Nuwa, but the woman was from the Snake race after all! They all looked at Yu Yanluo.

Yu Yanluo began breathing rapidly. They were of the same race after all! But why had she never heard of a Nuwa clan before?

“Nuwa?” Zu An exclaimed in surprise. In Chinese mythology, there was once a huge hole that opened up in the heavens. Nuwa was the goddess who had filled in that hole, then used the leftover five-colored divine soil to create the human race.

The woman explained, “My ancestor is merely a legend. We descendants have never had such powerful abilities.” She lowered her head to look at the man in her arms again. A sweet and gentle smile appeared on her face as she continued, “After being saved by him and being around him for so long, I inadvertently ended up loving this kind and warm man. That is why I not only offered up the pearl, but also took on human form to become his partner. As if it were destined by the heavens, he also quickly fell in love with me.”

The others’ expressions became strange. They thought to themselves, If you were this beautiful and approached a man of your own accord, what man would ever refuse you? It would be strange if they didn’t like you.

“Sadly, however, good things do not last forever. Eventually, a disaster arrived. Lord Sui fought bravely for his people, but he was afflicted by evil. He gradually began to sink into demonic madness.”

The others recalled the black hair and mist covering the monster. Was that the demonic madness the woman was speaking of?

Princess Suolun really wanted to find out if it had anything to do with the Demon race. Why were so many things referred to using the ‘demon’ character? That was the case with the human race’s Devil Sect, and the demonic madness this woman had spoken of was the same.

Zu An asked in alarm, “Just was kind of a disaster was it?” Why didn’t he remember that part of history? Furthermore, if it had turned Lord Sui into this half-human, half-demon thing, wasn’t that calamity way too terrifying?

To his surprise, however, the woman shook her head and said, “There are some situations in which knowing more will only harm you.”

Zu An was speechless. He hated being kept in the dark, but since she didn’t want to talk about it, he couldn’t force her mouth open either.

The woman continued, “After Lord Sui fell into demonic madness, he feared that he would hurt his people and me. As such, he left without saying goodbye, disappearing without a trace.

“In order to find him, I searched the thousand mountains and ten thousand waters. In the end, I finally found him, but he no longer resembled his past self in the slightest. He was just as you all saw just now. However, I still recognized him. He was bloodthirsty and delirious when he went mad, but he never harmed me in the slightest.

“I tried to think of all kinds of methods to save him, but they all failed. Later on, I heard that there was a method that could be tried, but it was extremely dangerous. For him, however, I was willing to try it. Unfortunately, not only did I fail, I also lost my own life...”

The others all felt strange. She had clearly said that she died, and yet she was standing in front of them in perfect health. What was going on, exactly?

The woman looked down at the monster in her arms and said, “It was he who saved my dying self again. I have no idea where he found the legendary Three Three Flower, but back then, it was still far from blooming and could not save me. Furthermore, the amount of time it would take for it to bloom was too long, so he searched the world and gathered Prime Souldew to seal me inside, waiting for the Three Three Flower to bloom again all this time.

“Even after falling into madness and only retaining his instincts, he still continued to protect me. In order to save me, he did so much...” She could no longer hold back her grief as she spoke. Teardrops like pearls fell onto the face of the man in her arms.

1. A man from Ch'u named Pien Ho found a piece of unpolished jade at the foot of the Ching Mountains. He offered it as tribute to King Wu of the Chou dynasty. King Wu had it inspected by a jade expert, who declared it to be ordinary stone. Pien Ho had his left leg cut off (as punishment). When King Wen came to the throne, Pien Ho once more presented the jade. King Wen took it to be ordinary stone, and Pien Ho had his right leg cut off. Pien Ho wrapped the jade carefully and wept tears of blood. When King Ch'eng ascended the throne, Pien Ho once again presented the jade. King Ch'eng said: 'Dear sir, you disregard having your legs cut off, as long as you can have your jade piece cut up for examination.' As soon as the stone was cut, it appeared that it was truly fine jade, and it was made into a jade disk. ❶

2. The Marquis of Sui's pearl was a famous gemstone in the Warring States folktale about a ruler of the state of Sui, who was given an amazing luminous pearl by a grateful snake whose life he had saved. ❷

3. Nuwa is the creator of humans in Chinese mythology ❸

### **Chapter 1279: Lord Sui's Pearl**

When they heard the story, even though Zu An and Qiao Heng were rather moved, they still held it in. However, the women were incredibly moved by the story. They all thought to themselves, Even after

losing his mind, his instincts still made him protect her and love her. How great would it be if there were a man who loved us that much...

Yan Xuehen cultivated the Unshakable Daoist Manual, so she normally wouldn't be affected by emotional matters. After meeting Zu An, however, her unshakable dao had been left in tatters. That was why, at the moment, she felt things even more strongly than a normal person. When she heard the story, she could even feel her eyes moisten slightly.

Even a tough woman like Yun Jianyue had her most vulnerable parts touched. It was just that she wasn't willing to show it. Instead, she harrumphed and said, "All this love and emotion stuff only makes a person weaker. It'll only make my blade dull."

After traveling with her for so long, Yu Yanluo and Yan Xuehen were already used to her 'tsundere' attitude. They just ignored her.

Zu An was more interested in a different matter. He asked, "Just where did Lord Sui get that Three Three Flower from?"

After all, Qin Shihuang's reign wasn't too far from Lord Sui's era; and yet, despite having the resources of an entire country at his disposal, he hadn't been able to find even a trace of an eternal medicine. And yet, a few centuries before him, this Lord Sui had found one even after losing his mind?

The woman shook her head and said, "I do not know how he found it either. Back then, I was already seriously ill, and he lost his ability to speak. He looked extremely excited with that flower in his hands, but I noticed that the black mist around his body had become even stronger... Then, I was sealed in the Prime Souldew shortly after."

Zu An felt a bit more at ease to know there was no real answer. If the answer was too detailed, he might have suspected that it was something the woman had made up. He wondered, But when she said that the black mist became even denser, does that mean Lord Sui fell further into demonic madness?

Unfortunately, the woman wasn't willing to speak about what Lord Sui had experienced that made him fall into depravity.

"How many years have you spent here already?" Yu Yanluo asked gently. Because of their related bloodlines, she naturally felt a sense of intimacy and empathy for the woman. She had been sealed in that jade coffin for so long. Just how had she managed to make it through all those years of loneliness?

The woman looked toward Yu Yanluo, her gaze containing a trace of surprise. She could clearly sense the bloodline within Yu Yanluo as well. She replied, "I do not know, but it has been far, far too long. Even so, Lord Sui often came to the jade coffin's side to keep me company even though he could not speak. However, that was already enough."

"You could sense your surroundings through the divine ki stone?" Yan Xuehen asked curiously. Even though she was a grandmaster, she had only heard legends regarding deity-grade ki stones. She had never seen something sealed inside one emerge alive.

The woman shook her head slightly and replied, "I could not sense things precisely; it felt a bit like a dream. Mostly, I did not even know whether what I perceived was real or fake. In recent years, however,

because the Three Three Flower gradually matured and I received the nourishment of its life essence, my consciousness became somewhat clearer.”

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue nodded. That knowledge was actually quite helpful for them.

Meanwhile, off to the side, Princess Changning was quite unhappy. If this woman had come back to life, didn't that mean the Three Three Flower had already been used up? All of them had fought to get so far, and so many of their companions had died. In the end, was all of it for nothing?

Yu Yanluo and Princess Suolun felt that it was fine, however. After all, the eternal flower had been prepared by Lord Sui for this woman to begin with. Rather, they were more moved by such love that had lasted thousands of years.

Zu An asked seriously, “You had the divine ki stone to seal your body, and you were revived by the Three Three Flower, but what about him? How was he able to survive for such a long time?”

“He obviously has not lived for all this time,” the woman answered, a hint of grief on her face. “He already died a long time ago.”

“He died?” Zu An repeated.

Even though they already had their suspicions, the experts' expressions changed greatly when they heard that. What was with that ridiculous strength, then?

Tears began to glisten in the woman's eyes as she explained, “After he fell into demonic madness, his life force had already become weak. Later, he used up even more of his limited life force to find the Three Three Flower and Prime Souldew. The only reason why he still looks ‘alive’ is the demonic energy around him, and perhaps his desire to last until the Three Three Flower saved me.”

That black demonic energy could actually sustain someone for this long?

The others all got worked up. There were too many strong individuals who sought out any method to achieve immortality. If those old monsters with one foot already in the grave learned of such a thing, wouldn't they all go mad?

Shortly after, however, they all calmed down. Even though the demonic energy could prolong one's life, the user would lose their mind and only retain their instincts and remaining attachments to the world. Could something like that even be called immortality?

Zu An said somewhat apologetically, “Then that means I actually killed him just now...”

The black mist around the monster was already so thin that it was hard to make out. Without the protection of the demonic energy, he had clearly become much weaker.

Before the woman could reply, a dry and rough voice said, “No, you have set me free.” It sounded rough, as if it had been too long since it was last used.

All of the survivors were shocked. The monster spoke?

The woman was shocked and overjoyed. She cried, “Sui Lang, you... Have you recovered your mind?” Her voice was shaking, as if everything that was happening were just a dream.

The man smiled gently at her. In the end, with her help, he struggled into a sitting position. He explained, "After I fell into demonic madness, I was forced into an existence worse than death. I could not even end my own life. There was only endless suffering in my mind. It is only due to that miraculous light that I have successfully eliminated the evil spirit." As he spoke, his body began to wither up at a visible rate. It almost looked as if he were being eroded away.

"Sui Lang!" The exceptional beauty clearly knew that these were merely her lover's final moments. She was immediately overwhelmed with grief.

Zu An looked at the flashlight in his hands. He hadn't expected the thing to be of such great use.

Sui Lang tossed an ancient beastskin scroll to Zu An, saying, "I do not have anything else to my name, as the Three Three Flower has been used to save Yu'er. So I will use this treasure map I found back then to repay you for saving me."

Zu An caught it. He immediately sensed that the scroll's material was exceptional, but his head hurt when he heard that it was a treasure map. The 'daoist' Wu Liang had been peddling a so-called treasure map, but it had only dragged all of the survivors here and put them through so much danger.

Lord Sui then looked at the woman, saying, "It has already been several millennia since I last saw the night. Could you accompany me on one final trip?"

The woman was already weeping bitter tears, unable to even speak. She could only nod silently.

No one present was weak. However, they could sense that Lord Sui really was about to die, so they obviously didn't stop him.

Before leaving, the woman thought of something and came back. She pulled Yu Yanluo over and said, "I can sense that your bloodline is similar to mine, but it seems to lack the same hint of divinity. This pearl is now useless to me, so I will just give it to you. I hope you can pass it down generation after generation."

She took out a smooth, round pearl. It was much larger than an ordinary pearl, and there was a wisp of energy surrounding it. The others could all sense its surging power even from far away.

"This is..." Yu Yanluo murmured, a bit stunned. She could never have expected to be given such a tremendous gift.

The other women also saw what was happening. They all began to wonder, Is that pearl...

The woman explained, "We descendants of Nuwa's clan were always doomed to be weak in number, almost always leaving just a single descendant. Thus, successive descendants would seal their souls and cultivations into the pearl for their successor to inherit. Our clan called it the Holy Pearl, while the outside world called it the Soul Snake Pearl or Bright Moon Pearl. Later, it was more often referred to by the people of the world as Lord Sui's Pearl."

"Lord Sui's Pearl!" Princess Changning exclaimed. She was about to go crazy from jealousy when she remembered the murals outside. She had worked so hard the entire time, and yet she hadn't gotten the eternal medicines, nor was there a portion of Lord Sui's Pearl to split with her. Why had all of the benefits been taken by everyone else?

Yu Yanluo quickly refused, protesting, "This item is too precious; I can't accept it!"

The beauty sighed and said, "I cannot let the end of my clan fall on my shoulders, and I have no descendants. Your bloodline is the most suitable one."

Because she was worried about her husband's condition, she wasn't in the mood to say anything more. She pushed the pearl into Yu Yanluo's hands. Then, she picked up Lord Sui, who was already fading away. With a light kick, she disappeared into the distance.

### **Chapter 1280: Tears Falling Like Rain**

The survivors silently watched the two disappear into the distance. They felt as if a huge pressure weighed down on them.

Zu An released a long sigh, remarking, "To have a true love, yet be unable to spend any more time together... Is this the will of heaven?"

Lord Sui had guarded Madam Yu for thousands of years. He had finally managed to wait until she revived, and yet the two were going to be separated by life and death again.

Perhaps because she was in love, or because her bloodline was close to that woman's, Yu Yanluo felt the most touched. Tears inadvertently slid down her perfect cheeks. She subconsciously put herself in Madam Yu's shoes, and felt as if her heart were being cut by blades. She walked over to Zu An's side and pulled on his arm, saying quietly, "Ah Zu, if something happens to me, don't be like Lord Sui. I don't want you to waste your life in such pain. I want you to continue living happily in this world."

Zu An said seriously, "Don't worry. If something happens to you, I'll just take a few more in so I can get over it..."

Yu Yanluo was flabbergasted. Wasn't this difference from Lord Sui a bit too much?

"That's why you'd better not let something happen to you. It would be best if you stay by my side to carefully watch over me," Zu An continued with a long sigh. This woman is really silly. How can you randomly set a flag like that? Most people who said such things in movies had terrible endings.

Only then did Yu Yanluo's tears give way to laughter, and she hit him lightly while saying, "You're so annoying..."

After being around each other for so long, she obviously knew that he was only saying that to help her with her sorrow. She couldn't help but feel warm inside. Ah Zu was Ah Zu; she didn't have to compare him with someone else. He was unique and special.

But this guy's luck with the ladies is too much! How could I possibly stop him even if I stay at his side?

Because of everything that had happened between her and Zu An as of late, Yan Xuehen's emotional side had become even stronger. She felt awful as she watched Madam Yu and Lord Sui leave. Even after thousands of years, those two still couldn't remain together.

Isn't that the case between me and Zu An too... she thought. She surreptitiously gave Zu An a look, but she instead saw Yu Yanluo flirting with him. She knew she shouldn't, but she still felt more and more sour over time.

"Hm? Why are your eyes red? I didn't expect the glorious stone cold woman to actually end up in this state because of a pair of lovers' emotions," Yun Jianyue remarked. In truth, she actually felt really awful as well. However, because she didn't want to let others see her weak side, she deliberately shifted the attention toward someone else.

Yan Xuehen couldn't really explain that it was for Zu An's sake. She looked away and ignored Yun Jianyue.

Just then, a dissonant voice rang out. Princess Changning said, "That was just her one-sided story anyway. What if she just wanted to keep the Three Three Flower, or save that monster's life, so she made up that emotional story to make you all show mercy?"

The others frowned. Yu Yanluo couldn't hold herself back and said, "No, I believe that what she said was true." However, she couldn't speak about the matter of her bloodline.

Princess Changning harrumphed. "You obtained her precious pearl, so of course you'd speak up for her. But she might not have given you that thing out of good intentions, so you'd better be careful. Maybe she did something to that pearl." She was clearly brooding over the fact that Yu Yanluo had gotten the pearl instead, and thus wished for something to be wrong with it.

Zu An's expression turned cold. How could he not know what she was thinking? They're sisters, so why is there such a huge difference between her and Kong Nanwu?

Before he had time to say anything, Yu Yanluo subtly drew a talisman from her sleeves. Then, when Princess Changning moved her mouth again, she discovered that she actually couldn't speak. She panicked, wondering if she had been poisoned somehow. She quickly pointed at her own mouth in fear, indicating that there was something wrong with her mouth and that she wanted someone to save her.

The others pretended to be confused, treating it as a good lesson for her.

Princess Changning was panicking so much she could only shoot a teary-eyed look at Princess Suolun, hoping for the other woman to save her out of compassion as a fellow fiend. Princess Suolun cursed the girl for being an idiot inwardly, but on the surface, she responded courteously.

Yun Jianyue nudged Yan Xuehen and remarked, "This woman isn't empty-headed. I like her." With her eyesight, she had naturally seen what Yu Yanluo had done.

Yan Xuehen harrumphed. "She managed a great clan for so many years. How could she be so easily bullied? I am quite amazed at the libationer's methods though; they are quite formidable."

That skill was clearly not the Snake race's, but rather resembled the academy libationer's style.

Yun Jianyue's expression became a bit serious. She said, "There are some who say that the libationer is number one under the emperor, while others say that in recent years, his strength has already grown to a level comparable to the emperor's. I wonder who would win if the two of us fought against him."

Yan Xuehen shook her head slightly. "We probably could not win."

Even though grandmasters all had confidence that they were undefeatable, that didn't mean they were blind.

...

Just then, Zu An kicked off the ground and leaped into the air on the Wind Fire Wheels. The beauty had already left the jade coffin, leaving only some divine ki stone fragments. He gathered the fragments and split them up among the others so they wouldn't go back empty-handed.

Princess Suolun and Qiao Heng were surprised. They hadn't expected that they would have a cut as well. They both voiced their thanks.

Meanwhile, Princess Changning was a bit unsatisfied. The ki stored within the divine ki stone fragments had long since been absorbed by that woman's body. They were only a bit better than heaven-grade ki stones now and weren't anything that special. She gave the jade coffin a look, thinking would be great if she could take that thing with her.

However, Zu An didn't give her a chance. He took the jade coffin straight into the Brilliant Glass Bead. The path of cultivation required endless resources, and one normally didn't share; besides, he had recently experienced how utterly painful cultivation was for himself. Even though this jade coffin didn't look to be anything too special, it would still be worth a good sum if sold.

Then, the group left the tomb. Zu An's group was rather calm, but the fiend race youngsters all felt as if they had been given a new lease on life.

Perhaps because the demonic energy had vanished, the traps and mechanisms along the way had all returned to normal. The forest's fog disappeared, and the strange stone statues just sat quietly on either side of the path.

Even the giant beasts by the entrance of the swamp seemed to know that because they could leave safely, the survivors weren't people they should pick a fight with. They all remained in hiding and didn't show themselves.

Along the way, while checking Qiao Heng's condition, Zu An took the chance to ask if he knew Qiao Xueying.

Qiao Heng's eyes lit up and he replied, "Princess Snow has done so much for the Elf race; which of us doesn't know about her? Furthermore, now that I think about it, she's actually a distant relative of mine." He finally realized why Zu An had saved him. He was probably one of Princess Snow's good friends in the human world back then.

Zu An took the chance to ask a bit about how Snow was doing. Qiao Heng replied to the questions one after another, then said, "Princess Snow is fine, but there's something else to be happy about. There's a good chance that she'll be chosen as the crown princess."

"Crown princess?" Zu An's brows rose. Does that birdman's existence really clash with mine that much? He asked, "Weren't people saying it might be the Peacock Race's princess?"

Qiao Heng nodded and said, "The Peacock King race's Princess Nanwu and Princess Snow have the highest chances. Of course, Princess Changning over there isn't entirely without a chance either. She is quite a bit inferior to the two of them in various aspects, though."



He had felt a bit worried. Judging from the human's tone, his relationship with Princess Snow seemed to be special. However, how could he win against the Golden Crow Crown Prince in romance?

Furthermore, he was even a human, so he was destined to have no chance with Princess Snow. It would be best for him to give Zu An a bit of a heads up so he wouldn't feel too disappointed later. At the same time, he gave Yu Yanluo and the other two women a look. Zu An already had three ridiculously beautiful women at his side, so he wouldn't feel too bad, right?

Zu An obviously didn't feel hurt in the slightest. He had already beaten that guy once, so he'd just steal Snow from the birdman if he had to.

Instead, what surprised him the most was Kong Nanwu being the hottest candidate. She was already pretty much guaranteed to get the role and didn't have to run around gathering favor like her clan sister Kong Nanjing, so why had she run all the way to the human world?

Just then, the horizon began to brighten. The group couldn't help but look up, wondering how Lord Sui and Madam Yu were doing.

...

Atop a distant cliff, a beautiful woman carried an emaciated man in her arms as she stared into the sunrise's multicolored brilliance. Her beautiful eyes were filled with tears. She knew that her husband's final breath had been maintained by the demonic energy, and that sunlight was the biggest bane of demonic energy. Even at his strongest, he wouldn't have dared to remain directly under its presence like this. When the sun rose, in his current state, it might be his...

The shriveled man was, of course, Lord Sui. The demonic energy had scattered, so he could no longer maintain his body. That was why his flesh was so shriveled. He released a long sigh and remarked, "I must look really ugly right now, no?"

"No," the woman shook her head and said firmly. "You will always be that indomitable Lord Sui in my heart."

Lord Sui reached out his hand to wipe away the tears on her cheeks. He said, "You should feel happy for me. It has been thousands of years, and I have finally been freed. Meanwhile, you have also been successfully revived. I have no remaining regrets."

"But without you, what meaning is there left in my survival?!" The woman sobbed.

"You absolutely must not do anything stupid," Lord Sui said, suddenly realizing something. "I have used up thousands of years of effort, and you have finally been revived..."

Halfway through his sentence, he felt he couldn't convince her that way, so he tried a different method. He said, "Please help me by finding the source of that demonic energy That can serve as a kind of revenge for me."

Sure enough, the beautiful woman's eyes shone with a hint of brilliance, as if they contained a newfound hope and will to live.

Lord Sui thus finally relaxed a bit. He said, "It has been so long since I've heard you play the zither..."

"No, I only want to hold you close, even if it is just for a bit longer," the woman replied.

...

The two of them leaned against each other, recounting their love that spanned thousands of years. Lord Sui's voice gradually grew softer and softer, eventually leaving the beautiful woman speaking alone.

The first strand of sunlight scattered down. Lord Sui's entire body turned into specks of light, scattering on the mountaintop breeze. His entire being completely disappeared into the wind. Tears fell from the beautiful woman's eyes like rain.