

Immortal 1331

Chapter 1331: Returning in Anger

A group of warriors dressed in thin silver armor, each with a green bow slung over their back, walked over in single file; each individual was tall and slender. They all looked incredibly handsome, and their ears were slightly pointed; they were clearly from the Elf race.

The one in the lead had silver hair, but his complexion was smooth like a young man's. His eyes were hale and hearty, without any sign of aging. Elder Wu recognized the man as one of the Elf King Manor's eight great elders, Qiao Wei. His brow furrowed slightly. Why would the Elf King Manor's people appear in this place?

The previous night, the crown prince had fed 'that' kind of drug to the Elf race's Princess Snow, but then she had been taken away by that assassin to who knew where. However, her purity was most likely forfeit. Could it be that the Elf race received news of this and came to castigate us?

But that shouldn't be! Even if that were the case, they should be going to the crown prince, right?

Qiao Wei saw that Elder Wu and the Golden Crow Guards were stunned. He couldn't help but say, "So it was Elder Wu. Why are you all here?"

"That is precisely what I wanted to ask you," Elder Qu replied. When he heard that Qiao Wei's tone was still rather proper, he sighed inwardly in relief. Even though his cultivation was higher than the other person's, the consequences of pushing the Elf King Manor too far would be a huge headache to sort out.

Qiao Wei replied, "Oh, the Elf King Manor learned that the Medusa Queen arrived at the Fiend King Court, so they sent me to give our greetings."

Elder Wu's expression changed. He hadn't expected the Medusa Queen's relationship with even the Elf King Manor to be so good. That made things a bit difficult...

Yu Yanluo was a bit confused. She didn't recall ever having had any dealings with Elf King Manor, so why would they come to express their goodwill now?

Inside the side room, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue discussed the matter too. In the end, Yan Xuehen said, "I can sense a familiar aura from this elf elder's body. It is a bit similar to that Qiao Heng we met at Lord Sui's Tomb. Even if they are not father and son, they should be relatives."

"So that was it," Yun Jianyue replied. She knew that Yan Xuehen's techniques were special and didn't doubt her perception regarding aura at all. "I didn't expect that Ah Zu saving that person back then would lead to this kind of repayment."

Qiao Wei asked in confusion, "Could it be that Elder Wu has come on the Fiend Emperor's request, to also pay the Medusa Queen a visit?"

Elder Wu was at a loss for words. He couldn't just say that he was there to bring her back to stand trial, right?

Suddenly, there was even more activity by the entrance. A high-pitched voice said, "Oh my, I didn't expect this place to be so lively."

Those present turned around and saw a small, short person walk over. He wore a comical official hat on his head, and around his mouth was a curved mustache. He was somewhat hunchbacked and stooped. Only then did the others realize that he seemed to have a big pot on his back.

Behind him was a group of guards. Those guards were clearly stronger and taller than him, and their armor emitted a light blue radiance. Many of them also had what seemed to be detailed and delicate armor plates around their eyes, necks, and wrists. Upon closer inspection, they weren't armor at all; clearly, they appeared to be fish scales!

"The Ocean races!"

The others immediately realized what was going on. The identity of the one in the lead was also obvious. It was the representative of the Ocean races this time, Gui Chengxiang!

Elder Wu's expression changed a bit, because he noticed that there were many embroidered cases in the guards' hands. They were clearly presents. Since when had the Snake race and the Ocean races gotten along?

Gui Chengxiang had always been a rather slick and sly person. When he arrived, he greeted everyone one after another, not giving anyone the cold shoulder.

Elder Wu coughed lightly and asked, "Gui Chengxiang, what brings you here this time?"

Gui Chengxiang had paid his respects to the Fiend Emperor and the crown prince when he arrived previously, so the two of them had met previously as well.

"I came on my master's orders to bring the Medusa Queen some daily living goods to prevent her life in the Fiend King Court from being uncomfortable," Gui Chengxiang said with a big smile.

The clans all looked at each other in dismay. The Ocean races had extraordinary status among the fiend races because they had a huge population, and their strength was great. Even the Fiend Emperor had to treat the Dragon King politely.

They hadn't expected even the Ocean races to think so highly of the Snake race. Looks like we were right to choose to get close to the Snake race this time.

Inside the side room, the two grandmasters exchanged a look. How are Yu Yanluo's relationships with other people this great? Even the Ocean races seem to owe her somehow...?

The two women were both worried. One of them was worried for her disciple, while the other... was also worried for her disciple.

Yu Yanluo was really confused. The Snake race and the Ocean races might have had some kind of friendship before, but that relationship had clearly ended over the past few decades. Why would they suddenly become so friendly again?

She suddenly thought of something. The previous time in Bluefield Country, the Dragon King's ninth son Chi Wen seemed to have been beaten by Ah Zu, but then with his little aunt's support, he had used a ton of treasures to buy his life. At the time, she had been amazed that his little aunt was so close to Zu An. Now, it seemed that Gui Chengxiang's visit was likely also because of her.

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Sigh, these girls are all so great. At this rate, there won't even be any fights between them.

Zu An was a bit absentminded as he watched everything through his jade badge. Was it because Shang Liuyu had found out about what happened over the past few days, and worrying that something might happen, she had specially sent some people over?

She really is a considerate person...

"Why is Elder Wu here? Did you come here in place of the Fiend Emperor and crown prince to welcome the Medusa Queen?" Gui Chengxiang asked. He continued, "I suppose it makes sense. The previous Medusa Queen was even friends with the Fiend Emperor."

The others were shocked. Anything related to the last Medusa Queen already felt like something from the distant past. Many people present didn't even know that such a relationship had existed. Only someone as old as Gui Chengxiang would know something like that.

Elder Wu was a bit embarrassed. Just how many times had he been asked that question already? If it were just a small race, he would just detain all of them. But now, the Peacock King race, Elf race, and the Ocean races were showing goodwill, so how could he still take action before their very eyes?

"Big sis Yu!" a voice exclaimed in pleasant surprise. When those present turned around, they saw a gorgeously dressed young lady. She had a big smile on her face as she ran toward Yu Yanluo.

Behind her was a group of guards who all had a strange gentle and reserved beauty to them, and their skin was rather pale. Many of them had a faint purple glimmer in their eyes.

The Demon Race!

There were many people who recognized the pretty young lady. She was the Demon Race's Princess Suolun!

"Princess, so you've arrived at the Fiend King Court too?" Yu Yanluo asked, a bit surprised to see her. She hadn't expected them to meet here after separating at the tomb.

"Big sis, don't call me princess like a stranger. You can just call me Shi'er," Princess Suolun said, hooking her arm around Yu Yanluo's enthusiastically.

Yu Yanluo was stunned. They had become friends in the tomb that time, but it wasn't to this degree, right?

Her mind worked quickly, and she quickly realized that Princess Suolun was doing this for the others to see, especially those Golden Crow Guards. She was trying to express that the Demon Race supported her. While she did feel moved, she also felt a bit strange. Why would they risk offending the Golden Crow Crown Prince to help her?

Don't tell me she's here because of Ah Zu...

Suolun Shi suddenly cried out in surprise, "Huh? Why are there so many people in this place? Sir Kong, Elder Qiao, Gui Chengxiang... Hm? Isn't this Elder Wu? Did you all come to visit big sis Yu?"

Elder Wu's eyelids twitched. Did these people plan this or something just to make me look bad?

Even though all of those present added together likely still wouldn't be his match, the clans behind them were too powerful. A single mistake could lead to a ripple of consequences that not even the crown prince could afford to take. As such, he coughed and said, "What the Medusa Queen says is reasonable. That person most likely did not have the courage to come to the Fiend King Court. It seems we have investigated in the wrong area. We will return and look at other clues. We hope for the Medusa Queen's cooperation if there are any problems in the future."

Yu Yanluo smiled and replied, "That is not a problem."

Even though Elder Wu wasn't happy, he could only leave with the Golden Crow Guards.

When he left, the courtyard immediately rose up in a commotion. People began to discuss what had just happened, then began to talk about that assassin in the imperial palace. However, they weren't that close to each other, so they didn't dare to speak too much in public for fear that others might gain some information that could be used against them.

After chatting for a bit, they all said their goodbyes. Yu Yanluo received all of them well, making all of them feel that they were treated with importance. Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both sighed in amazement. That level of ability in interpersonal communication was just too far beyond them.

Only when the guests had almost all left did Zu An secretly return to the courtyard. The three women finally released a sigh of relief when they saw him. However, they quickly frowned, pulling him into the room to ask him what had happened the previous night.

Zu An could only tell them the truth. When they learned that he had gone to save the Elf race's Princess Snow, the three beautiful women's expressions became strange. Only after a long time had passed did they sigh in relief.

They asked all at once, "Why do you have girls wherever we go?"

Chapter 1332: Crown Princess

"What can I say? They're no match for my charm," Zu An replied nonchalantly. When he sensed the three women's anger, he immediately changed his tone. "She saved my life before, so of course I need to save her!"

"She saved your life?" Yun Jianyue asked, puzzled. She really couldn't imagine how the Elf race's princess was related to Zu An.

"Actually, big sis Yan should know about Princess Snow," Zu An said.

"I know her?" Yan Xuehen asked, stunned. She was completely puzzled.

"She used to be a servant in Brightmoon City's Chu clan. She was the spy sent by the capital's Shi clan..." Zu An gave a rough account of what had happened back then.

"So it was her," Yan Xuehen said with a nod. She had heard her disciple mention that before.

Yun Jianyue exclaimed in admiration when she heard the story. "This little girl really is smart and brave! She went to the human side and suffered alone in silence, then saved her clansmen in the end. If I had met her earlier, I might have just taken her as my own disciple."

"Were you two hiding in the palace the entire night? How did you avoid being discovered despite the Fiend Emperor overseeing the palace?" Yu Yanluo asked. That was what she was more concerned with.

"It was honestly all thanks to the Second Empress. My deduction about her wasn't wrong. She wasn't in agreement with the crown prince after all..." Zu An told them a bit about how the Second Empress had saved them.

"You two stayed the night in the Second Empress' chambers?" The three women's expressions were strange. This guy really was constantly surrounded by love affairs from start to finish!

"Ahem, it was only because she's going against the crown prince," Zu An said, trying to explain the situation.

When the three women thought of the Second Empress' identity, they didn't think too much about it. They quickly began to discuss what had just happened.

Yu Yanluo said, "It was thanks to your friends' help that we managed to get through that situation. Otherwise, I would have been captured for interrogation."

"I told you my affinity with people was good, but you just don't believe me," Zu An said with a laugh. He continued, "Now that the different clans have all gathered at the Fiend King Court, and after something happened to the Golden Peng King, Elf King, and Peacock Wise King, the clans are all worried about their own situation. The mood is pretty tense, so the crown prince wouldn't dare to act without thinking."

"This Fiend King Court seems peaceful from the outside, but that actually isn't the case at all," Yu Yanluo said with a grave expression. She added, "By the way, before you returned, the clans were talking about the All Races General Assembly."

"All Races General Assembly?" Zu An was surprised.

Yu Yanluo explained, "The fiend races consist of many races, and this is the first time all of the races have been invited over, so there has to be a meeting held with everyone present. Apart from dealing with certain superficial affairs, the most important part pertains to the representative seats of the different clans."

"Representative seats?" Yan Xuehen asked.

Yun Jianyue was more familiar with the process and said, "Even though the Fiend Emperor has unrivaled authority in the fiend races, he won't bother with everything regardless of importance. Ordinary political, economic, and other such affairs and policies are often decided through representative proposals and cast ballots. The powerful races have more seats, while the weaker races often only have a single seat. That's why roping in representatives from the different clans is extremely important. Just now, when Yu Yanluo invited the mid and small-sized races over for a discussion, that was part of such a process."

Yu Yanluo nodded and said, "Indeed. Each race's leader represents one seat. Others need to fight for seats themselves. At most, one race can obtain three more seats. The Snake race had three seats at its peak, but after what happened to my mother, our people have continued to deteriorate. Now, we only have a single seat to our name. That's why we have practically no say in matters related to the fiend races' internal affairs."

"Fight for the seats themselves? How do you fight for them?" Zu An asked curiously.

Yu Yanluo explained, "Among the fiend races, the strong reign. Whenever the Fiend Emperor is replaced, there's a new contest over representative seats. Those who are confident they can seize a seat can sign up. Many smaller races know they have no chance, so they don't participate, although sometimes they might have one or two geniuses. In most situations, though, the tussle over these quotas is just a game for the powerful races."

Zu An had a strange expression as he said, "In that case, sign me up too. I'll help you get a seat."

Yu Yanluo replied somewhat hesitantly, "The situation is too dangerous right now, and the Golden Crow Guards are looking all over for you. I think it's best if you don't participate."

"It's precisely because the entire world is trying to arrest me that I should do the exact opposite of what they expect. No one thinks I would be brazen enough to show myself again. Then, this Yan Zu identity will become much more convincing too," Zu An replied.

"An excellent idea," Yun Jianyue said. She rubbed her palms together and smiled. "Then sign me up too, I'll help you seize a seat. Right, sign up this stone cold woman too."

Yan Xuehen was a bit stunned. She asked, "Are you not scared that you will be lowering your own status by joining this kind of competition?"

"Our Holy Sect only cares about benefits; we don't have so many unnecessary trivialities." Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "I've been indebted to little sis Yu's care all this time, and I've always been someone who properly repays both gratitudes and grudges. I've never owed people anything. I'll just pay her back in this way."

Off to the side, Zu An mumbled, "Big sis seems to owe me quite a bit though..."

"Go away..." Yun Jianyue muttered, pushing him away. Although such contact was completely ordinary, she suddenly remembered that her most private parts had been seen. Her cheeks began to burn up.

Yan Xuehen was the only other one who knew about that. She thought to herself, Hah! So even this witch ended up experiencing something like that, huh? Previously, when she had been harmed by Yun Jianyue and had shown everything to Zu An, she had gone several days without proper sleep.

She said, "Witch, what you said is quite interesting. Then, count me in too. I can take the chance to see what these fiend race experts are like for myself."

Yu Yanluo naturally turned them down at first, but she couldn't stop their enthusiasm and could only agree in the end. She suddenly felt a bit dizzy. Two grandmasters and a master who was bursting with fighting potential were going to help her fight over representative seats! Just the thought alone made her feel sorry for their opponents.

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Meanwhile, the Elf King Manor was in an uproar. Princess Snow had returned!

The elders immediately held a secret meeting in the official hall. Other than the Elf King Qiao Wei, who had been imprisoned, all of the other elders were present. They strictly prohibited anyone else from joining the meeting.

"Princess Snow, where did you go last night? What exactly happened?" An elder quickly asked.

"I was in the imperial palace and was about to leave, but the crown prince said he wanted to talk about father's situation. As such, I followed him. And yet, who would have expected that he would be worse than a beast..." Qiao Xueying sobbed while explaining what had happened the previous night.

They could tell everyone else a different version of the story, but she had to tell the core authorities of the Elf race the truth. Otherwise, some errors in intelligence could mislead them into making the wrong decision.

Snow was delicate and lovely, so when she began to cry, it really was heartbreaking. Many elders cursed. loudly "Absolutely preposterous! I never expected the grand fiend races' crown prince to be so shameful!"

"Imprisoning the Elf King has already crossed the line. I didn't expect them to have such little respect for us!"

"The royal family is getting worse with each generation. If someone like this rose to the throne, wouldn't our fiend races be ruined because of him?!"

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After they voiced their anger for a while, a female elder hugged Qiao Xueying while continuing to console her. She pulled her over and asked, "Snow, how did you leave the palace? How did you get rid of the drug?"

Those present looked at Qiao Xueying when they heard that.

Snow wiped her tears and replied, "In the greatest moment of crisis, a mysterious person tried to assassinate the crown prince. When he was stopped by the crown prince's powerful guards, he brought me away with him. Later on, I lost consciousness. By the time I woke up, it was already morning, and I was near the Elf King Manor."

The elders were shocked, asking, "Then doesn't that mean the assassin took advantage of you?"

Snow blushed and replied, "What are the elders saying? No one took advantage of me. I don't know how he got rid of the poison in my body."

They all saw that there wasn't even the slightest bit of grief on her face. Snow didn't act like a young lady who had just been ruined, so they didn't doubt her words. Thus, the elders began to discuss among themselves.

"Just where did that assassin come from? Why would he save Princess Snow?"

“Don’t tell me he’s an old friend of the Elf King?”

“But no friend of the Elf King would have any reason to assassinate the crown prince!”

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Just then, another elder spoke up with a worried frown. “Rather than that, I’m more worried that once the imperial palace learns that Princess Snow has returned, they’ll associate our Elf Race with the assassin.”

The elders fell silent, quickly becoming worried.

The female elder cursed, “What are all of you so scared for? The one who suffered this time is clearly Snow. Even if there’s anything to settle, we should be the ones asking for compensation from the crown prince’s side. How can you question our own? Just release exactly what Snow said to the palace, and ask the crown prince to give us an explanation. We’re the glorious Elf race; we aren’t a race that others can just walk over!”

Even though there were still people with other opinions, that opinion was still held by the majority. As such, the Elf King Manor quickly acted on the plan.

Snow was a bit surprised. She thought to herself that everything was going as the Second Empress had expected. That woman’s understanding of people’s nature really was frightening.

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Meanwhile, Elder Wu quickly returned to the imperial palace. As soon as he walked in, he saw the crown prince smash his medicine bowl into the ground. Elder Wu frowned and asked, “Crown prince, what has caused you such anger?”

The Golden Crow Crown Prince’s face was ashen. He replied, “I just received a report that Princess Snow has already returned to the Elf King Manor. Furthermore, the Elf King Manor’s people even sent someone over to castigate us!”

“What?” Elder Wu exclaimed in shock. “Why would they dare? Where is that assassin?”

“Princess Snow said that she was unconscious and did not know anything. When she woke up, it was already daytime...” The Golden Crow Crown Prince repeated what the other side had told him. He spat, “That slut definitely isn’t telling the truth! She definitely slept with him last night, and yet I can’t disclose that. Ahhh! I’m fucking pissed!”

Elder Wu sighed in relief. It seemed the crown prince hadn’t lost his head completely out of anger. Otherwise, if news of what had happened the previous night went out, that would definitely be a huge scandal for the royal family. It could even cause relations between the Golden Crow race and Elf race to fall apart.

“This woman is already impure, so she isn’t worthy to become the crown princess,” the Golden Crow Crown Prince said through gritted teeth. “Find a way to contact the Peacock King Race’s side and bring back Kong Nanwu for me. She will be the crown prince. Also, send some powerful individuals to bring her back from the human race. No man is allowed near her.”

He really had been scared quite badly. He had to make sure that Kong Nanwu was watched carefully, to make sure she remained a virgin.

Elder Wu nodded and replied, "Understood!"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince stood up and asked, "You brought back the Medusa Queen, right? I'm furious right now, so I'm going to properly vent out my anger on her!"

Chapter 1333: Imperial Tomb

The Golden Crow Crown Prince had watched as his own lower body was crushed into a bloody paste. A psychological scar had already formed. Many times, he jolted awake as soon as he closed his eyes. He had even begun to wonder if he had lost 'that' ability, so he needed to quickly prove himself. Normal palace maids couldn't get him excited, but the incredibly beautiful Medusa Queen was a different story. She would undoubtedly be able to restore his powerful masculinity.

When he saw the Golden Crow Crown Prince's excited expression, Elder Wu felt a bit troubled. He said, "Crown prince, I was unable to bring the Medusa Queen back."

"What?" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed, his expression turning sinister. He was just about to act out when he remembered Elder Wu's grandmaster status, so he could only swallow the curses back down. Instead, he asked, "What happened?"

Elder Wu thus told him about what had happened just then in the Snake race's residence. The Golden Crow Crown Prince was shocked, asking, "The Peacock King race, Elf race, and even the ocean races, as well as the Demon Race all spoke up for her?"

"That is right," Elder Wu said with a grim smile. That was something he couldn't figure out at all either.

"That slut actually has relations with so many people? Was it purely because of her beauty?" the Golden Crow Crown Prince wondered. Because of what had happened in the Snake race territory, he hated the Medusa Queen.

"These great clans have already expressed that they are going to protect her, and there are many smaller clans that have good relationships with her. Doing something to her has really become quite difficult," Elder Wu said with a frown. "I fear we will be unable to force out that assassin under her."

"That might not be so," the Golden Crow Crown Prince said with a sneer. "The All Races General Assembly will be held in three days. At that time, every single race will send their people to fill those representative seats. The Snake race used to be a great clan, and with her return, the Medusa Queen will not be content with just a single seat. She will definitely send powerful cultivators to participate. We can just use the stage to find a way to cripple her powerful cultivators. The more miserable, the better. This crown prince refuses to believe that the person under her will not act."

"That is a feasible plan, but would it not be a bit too overt? It might affect your distinguished self's reputation," Elder Wu reminded him out of concern. If forcing out the assassin led to the various races' dissatisfaction, the losses wouldn't make up for the gains.

"Who said this crown prince would do it myself? According to the intelligence, the Lion race has a grudge with the Snake race too, right? We can just rig the system a bit and have them fight over the

same seat. That should do the trick, right?” the Golden Crow Crown Prince said with a sneer. He had heard that the Lion race’s little prince Shi Ling had been seriously injured from a conflict with the Snake race, and still hadn’t woken up. Shi Ling was a rising star publicly acknowledged by the Lion race, and he was doted on greatly by his brothers and parents. Now that something had happened to him, the Lion race was furious. Given the opportunity, why would they show the Snake race any mercy?

“What a wonderful plan!” Elder Wu’s eyes lit up. He had been worried that the crown prince would be embroiled in rage after his defeat in the Snake race, and perhaps even infatuated with lust, thus completely losing the wise and heroic nature needed to become the future emperor. Now, he completely felt at ease. This young man was still the same crown prince he remembered deep down.

Afterward, the Golden Crow Crown Prince gathered some people and arranged various things. That naturally wasn’t something he had to trouble Elder Wu with. He could stay in the palace to help him recover faster.

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Meanwhile, in the Snake race’s residence, Yun Jianyue sought out Zu An and said, “Get up. Let’s take a look around the Fiend King Court. After being cooped up inside these past few days, I’ve been feeling really stuffy.”

She had wanted to go for a stroll the previous day, but Zu An had disappeared, and then the Fiend Emperor had released his powerful presence. Worried that Zu An was the assassin in the palace, she hadn’t gotten any rest the entire night. She hadn’t been in the mood to look around the city at all. Of course, there was no way she would talk about any of that out loud.

Yan Xuehen couldn’t help but frown slightly, saying, “He has gone through quite a lot all night. Let him rest for a bit.”

“Tsk tsk tsk, you’re sounding like a young maiden who’s just joined the Zu household or something. Stone cold woman, are you feeling alright?” Yun Jianyue replied, reaching out toward Yan Xuehen’s forehead while speaking, as if she didn’t recognize her.

Yan Xuehen’s face heated up. She was worried that Yun Jianyue might notice something and quickly explained, “Do you think I am like you who makes decisions without thinking about others? Firstly, he is too tired, and secondly, his arrest has already been ordered. It is really not too good for him to be moving around right now.”

Yun Jianyue replied disapprovingly, “Did you forget what Ah Zu just said? The more dangerous the place, the safer it will be. Who would expect a wanted criminal to just be strolling through the streets like this? He should just take the chance to spread the name Yan Zu, or else people will start associating that person with Ah Zu after just a few days.”

Yan Xuehen frowned slightly. She felt that Yun Jianyue was twisting logic somehow. She was about to retort when Zu An said, “There’s no harm in familiarizing ourselves with the Fiend King Court. Know yourself and know your enemy, and you will be victorious in every battle. Furthermore, we can take the chance to look for that place recorded on the map.”

The women were stunned. Only then did they realize that he was talking about the map of the Unknown Region they had gotten from Lord Sui's Tomb. With that, none of them voiced any more objections.

When they left, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue remembered their experience by the city gates. The masks could hide their appearance, but they would easily make others curious. That was especially true with their incredible physiques and presence; they were clearly incredible beauties. They were in the Fiend King Court, where there were many powerful cultivators. Even though they weren't scared, they didn't want to make things complicated for no reason and provoke unnecessary trouble.

Furthermore, they were going to help Yu Yanluo fight for the three seats in three days. They were going to show themselves in front of everyone then. They couldn't just keep masks and cloaks on forever, right?

Using their original appearance obviously wouldn't be a good idea. In the human world, the two women were famous grandmasters. Some people from the fiend races would undoubtedly recognize them too. If they were recognized, in their current state, they could end up dying without even knowing how.

As such, they each asked for a face mask from Zu An, turning themselves into ordinary-looking women to get used to the sensation. When they looked into the mirror, they could only describe their new look as extremely plain, but they didn't mind it at all. With their temperament, they had long since stopped caring about how they looked.

Zu An sighed in amazement, thinking that if these two were to enter his previous world as they were right now, they would definitely be mocked as women who looked stunning from behind but had unattractive faces. They were goddesses from the back, but their faces...

That guy Chen Xuan actually had a few female masks on him... Who would've thought that he would actually have a cross-dressing fetish.

As for Yu Yanluo, she was a well-known person. Furthermore, with her identity as the Snake race's clan leader, she naturally didn't need a mask. Just a face veil was enough.

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Then, the group walked through the city. Despite the assassin attack the previous night in the imperial palace, the various races' representatives were all gathered at the Fiend King Court. There was no way the royal family would hold a lockdown with so many influential figures present. That was why, after the entire city had been searched, it had been opened up again.

Even though the Fiend King Court wasn't as bustling as the human's capital city, it was still up there. It was a place where all kinds of different races' talents gathered, each with their own specialties. When all those specialties came together, it made for quite the exciting place.

Along the way, many fiend disciples blew catcalls when they saw the women's figures. The fiend races were much more direct than others. When they saw what they liked, they were always very proactive. However, when they saw Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's faces, they immediately felt their appetites being ruined, quickly running away. As for Yu Yanluo, because she was Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's companion, they all figured that she probably wasn't much better. They weren't even interested in undoing her veil.

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle, remarking, "I didn't expect even you two to be avoided for being ugly."

"It is actually quite interesting," Yan Xuehen said. She was used to being flattered wherever she went. She found the experience quite new and novel.

"I didn't expect being ugly to have its uses," Yun Jianyue said. Despite that, she was still upset. "Hmph, if this were the human world, I would have already gouged out their eyes, chopped off their limbs, then had them used as fertilizer."

Yu Yanluo clicked her tongue. The Devil Sect Master really was fierce, as expected. However, their group had gotten along quite well as of late.

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The women weren't preoccupied with that for long. Their attention was soon drawn by their strange and bizarre surroundings.

Yun Jianyue was excited. Even though there were quite a few imported goods from the fiend races in the human world, to the point that there were all kinds of specialty shops opened by the fiend races, compared to the real deal, they weren't nearly as authentic.

In contrast to Yun Jianyue's excitement, Yan Xuehen's interest was quite lacking. She usually liked peace and quiet, so not only did she not find the bustling surroundings that interesting, she even felt that the place really wasn't for her.

Instead, she unwittingly glanced more at Zu An. She was a bit confused. Why was it that she had felt so happy and carefree when she was strolling through Cloudcenter City with him, and yet today, she felt really annoyed? Was it because there were others there too?

She was alarmed when she realized that. I have to hurry and push him to raise that Mo Xi girl's skill, I need to get rid of that 'Love Is More Solid than Gold' skill.

But the two of them had already shared that kind of relationship, so was there even any meaning left in getting rid of the skill or not...

"Is there something on my face?" a playful voice called out. Yan Xuehen jumped in fright. Only then did she notice that Zu An was looking at her with a smile, walking right next to her.

Yun Jianyue was distracted by all of the new sights, and Yu Yanluo didn't want to show that she was too close to him to hide his identity, so she was walking together with Maid Xing. That was why Zu An had been able to walk over to her side.

"Who is looking at you?" Yan Xuehen replied, looking away quickly.

Zu An had a strange expression as he asked, "Big sis Yan, didn't you never tell lies before? Nuns aren't supposed to lie, you know?" Yan Xuehen practiced daoism, so to a certain degree, it wasn't wrong to call her a nun.

Yan Xuehen was speechless. This guy really was annoying! So you knew I was a nun, and yet you still did that kind of thing to me?

Yu Yanluo seemed to have sensed something. She turned around and asked, “Ah Zu, what are you two talking about?”

Yan Xuehen was alarmed, but while she didn’t know what to say, Zu An replied completely naturally, “We’re studying the map.”

Yan Xuehen felt a bit of admiration inwardly. This guy didn’t even bat an eyelid when he lied. I have to warn Chuyan to not be fooled by this guy later.

When she thought of her disciple, however, she suddenly started feeling bad.

...

The group wandered around the Fiend King Court while secretly studying the place’s topography, comparing it to the Unknown Region map. Eventually, they moved farther and farther away, arriving at a forest to the north. It wasn’t a wild, desolate area; rather, it was still inside the Fiend King Court’s city borders. They could vaguely make out buildings and lights scattered around.

“It seems to be around here,” Zu An said, comparing the surroundings to the map. They followed a limestone path up a nearby mountain.

Suddenly, a fierce shout came from up ahead. “Halt! Up ahead is the imperial tomb! All those who trespass are to be executed without exception!”

Chapter 1334: Battle of the Arts

“Imperial Tomb?” Zu An and the others exclaimed, stupefied. They hadn’t expected the map to actually take them to such a place.

The surrounding guards moved closer. The one in the lead waved his hand, gesturing to capture the group. Soon afterward, several people appeared from within the forest, surrounding them.

Zu An’s group was quite troubled. They obviously didn’t fear such soldiers, but they were in the Fiend King Court at the moment. If they started a conflict with the soldiers at the Imperial Tomb, it would be hard to clean up the situation later.

Yu Yanluo walked over and said with a smile, “I apologize. We are from the Snake race and came with the Fiend Emperor’s invitation to participate in the general assembly. We were unfamiliar with the Fiend King Court, and while following this flourishing city’s beauty, we accidentally stumbled into this place.”

The general was left in a daze from her smile. Even though there was a veil over her face, he could vaguely make out her exceptional appearance. After being stunned for a moment, he asked, “Are you the Medusa Queen?”

“Indeed. I hope that this general can be lenient on us,” Yu Yanluo said with a smile, making the general feel as if he were being caressed by soft autumn winds. Her gentle voice seemed almost as if it could melt bones.

“So it was the Medusa Queen! If one does not know any better, one cannot be held responsible. You should go back, or else it will be bad if the powerful cultivators inside are disturbed,” the general warned her.

“Thank you, general!” Yu Yanluo replied, then gave the others a look. Then, she turned around to leave the place.

When she saw the general standing in place like a statue, and yet craning his neck in their direction with hand moving from time to time, Yun Jianyue remarked with a deeply moved sigh, “Little sis Yu, your charm is just too great! You were able to leave that fella completely enchanted with just a few words!”

Yu Yanluo smiled and replied, “If big sis Yun weren’t wearing a mask, the general would definitely be bewitched by you too.”

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. “I still know my own limits. With how fiercely I usually act, I’m not your match in that aspect.” If she used her own charm techniques, she would naturally be able to dominate the general, but who was he? What right did he have to make her use her charm techniques?

Zu An coughed and said, “Please stop flattering each other about your own specialties. What I’m curious about is why the Unknown Region marked here is the Fiend Race’s Imperial Tomb.”

The three women fell silent, unable to figure out why that was the case either.

“Do you guys think that this Unknown Region has already been explored by the fiend races’ royal family?” Yu Yanluo asked worriedly. If that were the case, even if there had been anything inside, it would have been emptied out a long time ago.

Yan Xuehen shook her head, saying, “I do not think so. Unknown Regions are on an entirely different level from ordinary secret dungeons. If anyone really did explore these areas, there would be no way to hide it. For example, when the human emperor Zhao Han sent people to the Unknown Regions in search of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, no matter how he tried to hide it, news still ended up leaking out no matter what they did.

“Meanwhile, in the Snake race’s territory, we never heard anything about an Unknown Region. If my suspicions are correct, not even the Fiend Emperor knows that there is an Unknown Region hidden within their Imperial Tomb.”

Yun Jianyue nodded and said, “The stone cold woman’s analysis is reasonable. The Unknown Regions are extremely mysterious. Legend has it that they only open when the timing is right, when all kinds of factors line up. They’re not places where someone can take advantage of being the first.”

Yu Yanluo said, “Then we need to find a chance to sneak inside to take a look.”

The others nodded, but Yan Xuehen said, “I fear we might not be able to. Earlier, I sensed that this Imperial Tomb’s security was incredibly strict. Furthermore, there are all kinds of hidden killing formations around the trees and buildings. If we made even the slightest mistake, we would be trapped inside with no way out.”

Zu An added, “I was looking at the mountains’ shapes and layout earlier, and I could sense killing intent waiting to move. If it did, I fear that not even a grandmaster would be able to protect themselves.”

In his spare time, he had studied ‘One Drop of Heaven’s Essence’ carefully, allowing him to pick up some information from the mountains and valleys.

"It's that dangerous?" Yun Jianyue replied with a slight frown. "Why is an Imperial Tomb guarded this well? Could it be that the Fiend Emperor already knows there's an Unknown Region here?"

If that were the case, they would have come all the way for nothing!

Yu Yanluo's eyes lit up and she exclaimed, "I remember! The Fiend Emperor's succession ritual is held in the Imperial Tomb's ancestral shrine. That's why they set up such strict defenses."

"So that was it." The others sighed in relief. As long as it wasn't an Unknown Region being exposed, that was good.

However, they became worried once again. If the succession ritual were to be held there, they wouldn't be able to explore the place for quite some time. The group clearly couldn't stay in the Fiend King Court for that long either. Still, they didn't know what else they could do, and could only go back for the time being.

Along the way, Zu An asked, "Weren't the fiend races forced into this bitterly cold north because of the great war with the humans many years ago? Why is the Imperial Tomb here?"

"I know the answer to this question," Yun Jianyue explained. "That's because many, many years ago, this was where the fiend races flourished. Later on, they ventured south and occupied a large amount of fertile land, then had to give that up to the humans."

"No wonder this place feels mysteriously ancient for some reason," Zu An said, turning around to look at the mountain forest. For some reason, he felt that it was hiding something, but he couldn't imagine what that was.

...

The group once again returned to the bustling city, chatting about what had happened just then. Suddenly, an ear-piercing voice suddenly called out, "Oh? Isn't this the Snake race's Medusa Queen? We really are enemies who inevitably run into each other. We bumped into each other so quickly."

A group of lions was lined up not far away, and ones in the lead had golden manes. They were none other than Shi Min, Shi Gong, and Shi Rong, the three Lion race princes they had run into outside the city gate. The one who spoke was Shi Rong, who had the most arrogant demeanor.

Yu Yanluo and the others frowned slightly. She sighed in regret. They had run into an unlucky bunch again!

The lion princes examined Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue. They couldn't help but snort, saying, "Last time, we had a glance and thought that you were some exceptional beauties. Who would have thought that it was just two ugly hags. That figure is wasted on you two."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were speechless. With their identities, when had they ever been addressed that way? Yun Jianyue was so angry she was about to charge directly at them.

Zu An was worried that she would expose herself and quickly stopped her. He endured his urge to smile and asked, "Big sis, didn't you say you didn't care about how you looked?"

Yun Jianyue replied, "This guy's tone is annoying. I won't be satisfied until I beat the shit out of him."

When he saw her anger, Shi Gong roared with laughter. He replied, "What, you want to hit me? Fighting with an ugly hag would really be beneath my status. However, even though your luck was good last time and we ran into the Second Empress, allowing you to escape that disaster, I wouldn't mind properly teaching you all a lesson here."

Yun Jianyue was speechless. She looked at him the way one might look at a dead person. A fight seemed to be on the verge of breaking out on either side.

Suddenly, a group of Golden Crow Guards rushed over from a distance, watching them carefully.

Shi Min immediately held Shi Gong back and quietly said, "The Fiend Emperor has forbidden private battles, and there was that assassination attempt on the crown prince yesterday, so the security is very strict. I heard that many people have been captured because of private battles. I do not think you should be causing any trouble now."

Shi Gong harrumphed. "I don't know what kind of damn luck you all have, always having some damn noble bailing you out."

Zu An shook his head. He said with a sigh, "Actually, it's all of you who are damn lucky. Otherwise, you would've died without even knowing how it happened."

You have successfully trolled Shi Min for +222 +222 +222...

You have successfully trolled Shi Gong for +222 +222 +222...

You have successfully trolled Shi Rong for +222 +222 +222...

The lion princes all glared at him angrily.

"Are you all from the Snake race or the Duck race? Your mouth seems to be quite tough!" Shi Min shot back, glowering. "Since you are not convinced, why not have a little bet? The Fiend Emperor has stated that we cannot fight with martial strength, so how about a battle of the arts? Do you dare?"

"Battle of the arts?" Zu An gave the boorish, bearded Lion race princes a look, and he was on the verge of breaking out into laughter. Such a proposal sounded like Zhang Fei suggesting to compete in embroidery!^[1] He replied, "Why not? How do you want to compete?"

They had two well-studied grandmasters, a knowledgeable number one beauty, and his handsome and confident self. Why would they lose to these three fools?

"We just happened to receive an invitation to the Jade Garden up ahead to participate in a rock betting meeting. We can compete in rock betting. Do you all dare?" Shi Min replied proudly.

"Rock betting?" They exchanged a look, their expressions turning strange. After all, in the past, Yu Yanluo had been the number one gem merchant.

1. Zhang Fei is famous as a fearsome fighter and lover of wine. 🍷

Chapter 1335: A Place That Fits Their Status

Yu Yanluo naturally wasn't lacking in that field, so she was about to calmly agree. However, Zu An instead rushed forward and called out, "Wait, wait, wait! We don't have that many ki stones on us."

After staying in the fiend race territory for so long, he had learned that rock betting was a game that was quite popular among nobles there. With their status, normal gambling naturally wouldn't be that interesting. Only gambling with both rocks and style would make it interesting enough, drawing the interest of all the noble young masters and ladies.

Shi Rong said with a sneer, "She is a glorious clan leader. Don't tell me you left without any ki stones?"

Zu An sighed and said, "The Snake race has been in a bit of a slump recently, so we can't help but be a bit strapped for cash. Of course, it's not to a point where we have none at all. We still have a hundred or so ki stones on us."

The ki stones that were circulated as currency were cut into a standard shape and size like the gold and silver coins of his previous world, so they could be counted. Of course, counting by weight was also fine, but that was a bit more inconvenient. They'd only use that method for large-scale transactions.

"A hundred or so?" The Lion race's young masters were stunned at first, but then they roared with laughter. A hundred ki stones was already a ridiculous amount of resources. For a clan leader, however, it really was too shameful.

"Our Lion race cares about knightly chivalry. We do not want to be known for bullying women," Shi Min said. He fell silent for a moment before saying, "How about this? You should all take the hundred ki stones to the Jade Garden and choose some rocks. As long as you can find something, this young prince will compensate you for the same amount on top of what you would originally get."

Shi Rong and Shi Gong panicked. They both grabbed him as a warning. They really couldn't understand why their usually sharp third brother would suddenly do something like that, which wouldn't earn them any money, but would instead lose them money.

Shi Min said through ki, "Don't worry. How can we make them really start spending if we don't draw them in first?"

Shi Rong was still unconvinced, saying, "They only have a hundred ki stones on them. Even if they start spending, how much could they even lose?"

Shi Min sneered. "They're only bringing out a hundred ki stones right now because they still have some misgivings. Once they've tasted the sweet taste of success, they won't be able to stop even if they want to. At that point, it won't be up to them anymore. Even if they don't have enough ki stones on them, don't forget that they still have the Snake race behind them. The Snake Race's mines and their poison are both profitable resources. We'll try to find a way to win those two businesses."

Shi Rong and Shi Gong's eyes lit up when they heard his explanation. Third brother is third brother after all. He is the smartest, as always.

Zu An also pretended to be moved. He began to talk to Yu Yanluo, seemingly urging her to participate.

Yu Yanluo then 'reluctantly' agreed. "Alright, then let's go and give it a try."

Yan Xuehen silently observed everything. She knew Zu An had done all that on purpose as an act. This guy really is a scoundrel through and through... His enemies are being screwed over, and yet they're still eager to participate.

Even Yu Yanluo is copying his bad behavior...

She couldn't help but be stunned. Hadn't she also learned from him? She had never used to lie, but now, she deceived others without even batting an eyelid.

Seeing that they had agreed, Shi Min was worried that they would go back on their word and quickly said, "Then, we should go. Jade Garden is just up ahead; we will be there soon!"

The way they normally acted, they would have already rushed there first. However, now, they instead seemed to be accompanying Zu An's group loosely and walking at a neutral pace, as if they were scared that the other group would get cold feet.

Yun Jianyue asked the others through ki, "Do you two really have confidence you can win?"

Even though she was a grandmaster, her Devil Sect's hard-pressed economic situation prevented her from messing around extravagantly in gambling establishments. Furthermore, in rock betting, one's cultivation wasn't even useful since such unpolished gems seemed to be able to absorb a cultivator's divine will. One couldn't see inside at all. However, that was precisely why it brought gamblers incomparable stimulation.

Zu An smiled, but didn't say anything. Yu Yanluo nodded without giving too much away. After all, she had managed the Yu clan's ki stone business in the past. At the very least, she had absolute confidence in her insight in this field.

When she heard that, Yun Jianyue began to get excited, saying, "Alright then, make sure to properly screw them up for me. Preferably until they lose everything but their underpants!"

What happened previously had really pissed her off, but for various reasons, she couldn't do a thing about it. That meant she could only leave it to Yu Yanluo.

Yu Yanluo's face turned a bit red, but she still replied, "I'll do my best."

...

Thus, the group arrived in front of the Jade Garden. They could feel thriving life force even from the main entrance, and they could vaguely make out a verdant expanse inside. Not only did they smell the fragrance of flowers, they could even hear the melodious chirping of birds. The north was bitterly cold and rarely had places with lush vegetation. Who knew just how much manpower and resources were used to maintain such scenery?

However, the most eye-catching sight was the tallest building in the garden. It was a bejeweled palace that swirled with vibrant colors.

"Are all the tiles and bricks made of jade?" Zu An cried in shock.

"What's so special about that? Look at this country bumpkin!" Shi Rong said mockingly. He immediately felt an indescribable sense of superiority when he saw his reaction.

Shi Min was worried that his younger brother would offend them so badly that they would turn tail. He thus stepped out to smooth things over, saying, "This Jade Garden is a garden of leisure created by the fiend races' wealthiest and most famous Fox Merchant Group. Normally, they only receive the most

honored guests from the Fiend King Court's different races. Every single reservation is booked for half a year later. Even if ordinary people have money, they still lack the qualifications to enter."

His voice carried a great sense of pride, as if he were stating that Zu An's group had only been blessed with the chance to visit such a place because they were sharing in the lion princes' spotlight.

Zu An didn't get annoyed at all. What he was more concerned about was something else. So this Jade Garden belongs to the Fox Merchant Group! He had already seen that merchant group in Bluefield Country. He wondered if the place had anything to do with Tushan Yu's people.

If he got a chance, he would go over and ask her about it. However, according to what he had heard, she didn't seem to have arrived at the Fiend King Court yet... She had said that she had something to take care of. He didn't know if she was being held up by something.

...

Soon after, the group entered the Jade Garden. It was clear that the guards at the entrance recognized Shi Min's group. An individual dressed like a butler enthusiastically invited their group in. As for Zu An's group, he assumed they were friends, so he naturally didn't make things difficult for them in any way.

He was amazed at Yu Yanluo's beauty, but he didn't dare to stare for too long. He said, "Princes, please come inside. The second imperial prince and the others have already arrived. This humble one will guide you to them right now."

Zu An and the others were shocked when they heard that. That tough-looking black-armored rider from the city outskirts appeared in their minds. Looks like that person was the one who arranged for all of this!

This second imperial prince has been setting up these meetings with all of the various races' heirs... It seems he's definitely cooking up something big.

Shi Min raised his hand and stopped the butler, saying, "There is no rush. These friends of mine wish to play a few rounds of rock betting first."

"Oh?" The butler didn't sound too surprised. After all, those who frequented the Jade Garden were all fond of that hobby. He asked, "Then may I ask what categories these guests would like to play in?"

"What categories are there?" Zu An asked.

The butler was momentarily stunned. How could someone who frequents these kinds of establishments not know this?

However, his professionalism didn't reveal any slip-ups. Instead, he pointed to a distant pavilion that shone with brilliant lights and colors, saying, "It is mainly separated into the four levels of heaven, earth, black, and yellow. As the name implies, the higher the level, the more precious the unpolished gems. Of course, the chances of obtaining something good will also be greater. For example, on the heaven floor, there is someone who has opened up heaven-grade ki stones before."

Zu An frowned. He remarked with a bit of dissatisfaction, "The highest level is only heaven-grade?"

Shi Min and the others almost spat out their drinks. Does this guy not know what the concept of heaven-grade is? Your hundred ki stones probably can't even buy any random unpolished rock in the heaven level, and yet you dare show disdain?

They wanted to see Zu An make a fool of himself, so they didn't say anything. They just watched with strange smiles.

The butler seemed to have sensed Zu An's expensive preferences. He was also a bit shocked, saying, "As expected of the Lion race princes' friends, your experience must be extraordinary. Actually, apart from the heaven floor, there is an immortal floor. Someone opened up an immortal-grade treasure inside before. Not only are there ki stones inside, there might be all kinds of precious medicines, weapons, and other things. Of course, every single unpolished gem is extremely expensive. Do our esteemed guests have an interest in participating?"

Zu An was still a bit unsatisfied. He replied, "There's only an immortal level? Why isn't there a divine level?"

The butler wiped a trace of cold sweat off his forehead, saying, "This esteemed guest must be joking. Being able to discern an immortal-grade treasure is already something extremely rare. There aren't many deity grade articles in this entire world, and every single item has one of the world's most powerful cultivators as their owner. How could they possibly be produced from these unpolished rocks?"

If a deity-grade divine weapon could be cut out from such rocks, not only would it not be something great for their merchant group, it could even bring them a huge disaster. Their entire establishment could be destroyed.

"Oh..." Zu An felt a bit disappointed.

The butler could only asked apologetically, "Then which floor do our guests wish to go to?"

"Isn't that obvious? I'm a friend of the Lion race princes, so of course I have to go to the floor that fits their status. I have a hundred ki stones on me, so of course, I'm going to the immortal floor," Zu An said in a rich and overbearing manner while smacking his own chest.

The butler was completely stunned. Then, he looked toward the Lion Race princes.

Shi Min and the others almost vomited blood on the spot.

Chapter 1336: Trap

Shi Min and the others had initially just planned to watch something amusing. How could they have expected this guy to tear them down with every word he spoke? Not only had they not gotten to see something funny, they had become a laughingstock instead!

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

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

The butler was also somewhat stunned. His first instinct was to think that maybe he somehow hadn't heard the word 'thousand', but having sharp ears and keen eyes were the most basic requirements for his job. He quickly realized that he definitely hadn't heard incorrectly. This person had definitely said he had a hundred ki stones.

With that amount of ki stones, forget about the immortal floor, one couldn't even purchase a single rock from the heaven or black floor! Only on the yellow floor would there be a chance of purchasing a few, and they would definitely be the ones that were of the worst quality.

Normally, if he encountered such a person, he would have already had the guards kick him out! But since this person was someone brought in by the Lion race's princes, he instinctively glanced toward them. However, all he saw were their twisted expressions.

Just then, Zu An strutted forward and said, "Hurry and bring us to the immortal floor already. What, are you looking down on the Lion race's princes?"

The butler said with an awkward smile, "This guest must be joking. Of course that is not it..."

At that instant, he didn't even know what to do. He thought to himself, Why would these Lion race princes bring such friends? Are they trying to start something here?

Fortunately, Shi Rong said with a snort, "Stop making a fool of yourself. Your hundred ki stones are only enough to play around in the lowest-level yellow floor a bit."

"Aren't you all here, though? Could it be that you don't have the money for the immortal floor?" Zu An asked, giving them a look of confusion.

Meanwhile, the disturbance gradually drew the attention of the surrounding guests. They all began to glance over and size up Zu An's group. There were some who recognized Shi Min and the others, secretly pointing at them and whispering to each other.

The lion princes' faces turned purple. They really wanted to crush Zu An to death right there and be done with it. They were even starting to regret bringing him to the Jade Garden.

As he saw the endless Rage points coming in, Zu An had a huge smile. It was far too early for these lions to mess with him.

"Let's practice a bit on the yellow floor first." Shi Min didn't have the luxury of worrying about shame and took the initiative to suggest that. If they really went to the immortal floor, they likely wouldn't even have enough to cover the expenses.

The onlookers' expressions became strange. These were the glorious Lion race princes, and yet they were going to the yellow floor? Could it be that the Lion race had already fallen to such a state?

When he heard the surrounding chatter, Shi Min's face twitched. He thought to himself, It's all this bastard's fault!

I won't be able to let go of this hatred unless we make the Snake race lose their entire fortune!

The butler had gone through strict training, so he didn't reveal anything strange on the surface. He said with a smile, "This way, please."

They quickly arrived at the lowest floor of the building made of jade. It was called the yellow floor, but its decorations were elegant. It didn't feel like a cheap establishment at all.

They had thought that the floor would be somewhat empty. After all, those who could enter the Jade Garden were all powerful and wealthy. Which person could bear the shame of going there? However, they found that it was still quite lively. There were quite a few groups of three or four staring at the unpolished stones on the table. All of them were red-faced and nervous, clearly concentrating fully.

When Zu An looked around the place, he more or less understood why there were quite a few people present.

Important figures often took some attendants with them, and also brought along their juniors. Such individuals would find waiting outside rather boring, and they didn't have enough money to play around in the higher floors. As such, the Jade Garden had considerably created the yellow floor for them to pass their time.

Zu An's group quickly drew the attention of the people inside. Quite a few of them also recognized Shi Min's group. After all, the Lion race was a powerful great clan, and the princes were also individually famous.

Many people dropped what they were doing and moved closer with smiles, calling out, "So the young masters were here to play too!"

How could people like them ever have a chance of talking to such important individuals? They naturally had to take the chance to build some connections.

"We came with these people," the lion princes replied. They acted haughty and proud, only acting somewhat better in front of two individuals.

One of them had a long, deer-like face with mousy eyes; his arms, neck, and other parts of his skin bore an assortment of black and brown spots that resembled some skin disease. It was really uncomfortable to look at.

Maid Xing said to Zu An's group through ki. "That's one of the Hyena Race's young masters, Ban Ka." As a competent secretary, she had been gathering intelligence on all the different forces in the Fiend King Court, and had done quite a good job so far. Yu Yanluo and the others all gave her a look of praise.

"Ban Ka?" Zu An retched inwardly. What kind of name is this? It's disgusting.[1]

Is he a spotted hyena? Is that why his surname is Ban?

Does this Hyena Race have anything to do with those Assrip Wolves I ran into outside Brightmoon City? This race's combat specialty isn't eating ass, is it...

The other individual didn't need Maid Xing's introduction, because he had a mouthful of black teeth when he smiled. He was clearly from the Black Teeth race. Judging from how they addressed each other, he seemed to be named Heichi Gu, a prince of one of the Black Teeth race's branch families.

Zu An's expression was strange. He noticed that Heichi Gu's teeth weren't as black as Heichi Ran's. It was probably that the purer the bloodline, the blacker their teeth were.

The others present eventually realized that Shi Min and the others were only on the yellow floor because of Zu An's group. They were smart enough to realize that the lion princes weren't actually friends with them, and that they were likely to actually be enemies. As such, they all began to voice their support.

Ban Ka and Heichi Gu spoke up.

"Oh my, the Snake race used to be a big clan too, but how did they fall so low? They can actually only play around on the yellow floor?"

"Exactly! You actually came with only a hundred ki stones? How many can you even buy? How about we lend you a bit?"

...

Some people wanted to curry favor with the Lion race, while some didn't get along with the Snake race, such as Heichi Gu. It wasn't only because of what had happened between the crown prince and the Snake race; rather, it was also because of the assassination that had taken place the previous day. Heichi Ran had been caught and beaten up miserably, throwing the entire Black Teeth race into disorder. Only recently had the misunderstanding been fixed, granting him his freedom. All of that seemed to have something to do with the Snake race, so how could Heichi Gu not feel hatred for them?

"Sure, we just happened to be a bit strapped for cash," Zu An said with a smile. "I'll have to trouble everyone to lend us a bit. Who knows, we might even be able to find some treasures with the ki stones you lend us. Sigh... Come on, don't be hiding toward the back now! didn't you say you were going to lend us some just now?"

Ban Ka and Heichi Gu immediately looked as if they had eaten shit. They had just said that as a joke; who would have thought that this guy would really ask them for money?

After all, lending money at a gambling establishment was a taboo anywhere. In that situation, even if one helped someone win, one would only be getting back one's own money. On the other hand, if they ended up squandering it, one would just be out of luck. As such, lending money in these kinds of places was considered nothing but bad luck.

Still, there were so many people present, and they had already said those words. The two couldn't really go back on their word and instead asked while scowling, "How much do you need?"

You have successfully trolled Ban Ka for +155 +155 +155...

You have successfully trolled Heichi Gu for +155 +155 +155...

"I guess a hundred thousand will be fine," Zu An said nonchalantly. "Judging from how you two look, it doesn't seem as if you're all that rich."

The two of them almost vomited blood on the spot. You only have a hundred freaking ki stones, and yet you're looking down on our hundred thousand?!

"Hmph, seeing how pitiful you look, I'll lend you five hundred. Actually, let's not even talk about lending, you can just have it," Ban Ka said smugly, tossing over a sack.

However, he was actually crying inwardly. Five hundred ki stones wasn't enough to deal a serious blow, but it was no small expense. The Hyena race had never excelled in wealth, and he wasn't some pampered prince. The amount of funds he had access to was limited.

You have successfully trolled Ban Ka for +555 +555 +555...

Heichi Gu's face was even darker than his teeth as he said, "In that case, I'll give you five hundred too. You don't have to return it."

Comparatively, he was in a better situation, but money didn't grow on trees! The worst part was that he was giving the money to the Snake race he hated, making him feel as if he were supporting his enemies.

You have successfully trolled Heichi Gu for +444 +444 +444...

Yun Jianyue broke out into laughter, exclaiming, "This kid is a freaking genius! If he had joined our Devil Sect early on, he might have had several times the fame and power he has now."

Yan Xuehen's expression changed a bit and she replied, "He still has great prospects awaiting him. Do not drag him into your sect."

"Alright, fine!" Yun Jianyue replied, feeling extremely unhappy. "Judging from how nervous you look, it's almost as if he's your man or something."

She said it nonchalantly, but Yan Xuehen's heart skipped a beat. She looked away to hide her guilt. Fortunately, Yun Jianyue didn't think too much of it.

Shi Min suggested with a smile, "Since you now have a thousand ki stones, how about we choose the four unpolished rocks here? In my opinion, they look to be worth around a thousand."

Yun Jianyue quickly warned Zu An, "Don't choose those. This guy is definitely up to no good."

Yu Yanluo had a strange expression as she said, "It's actually the opposite. These four really do have a chance of containing something."

Zu An frowned as he looked at Shi Min. When he saw the prince's ambiguous expression, Zu An thought to himself, Did this guy hit the bullseye by accident... or was it on purpose?

1. Ban = spotted. Ka = sound of coughing or vomiting. ㄟ

Chapter 1337: The Gamble

The butler gave the rocks on the table a look and said, "These four cost 1080 ki stones. However, since you are the princes' friends, we can round it down to a thousand. You can purchase them for a thousand ki stones."

There was such a great opportunity before him so how could he give up the chance to get along with the Lion Race's princes?

Zu An wasn't in a rush to reply and instead pretended to look at the other rocks on the table. He asked Ban Ka and Heichi Gu, "Do you all have any interest in gambling with us? If we miss on all four of these unpolished rocks, we'll compensate both of you for the thousand ki stones. If there really is something

in these rocks, then you'll compensate us at a one to one ratio. Whatever the contents are worth, that's how much you'll compensate us for. What do you think?"

Ban Ka harrumphed. "Just give up on that thousand when you lose. Didn't we give them to you in the first place?"

"What, are you scared?" Zu An retorted mockingly.

The risk of the bet was a bit too out of control. Ban Ka was about to refuse when Heichi Gu said, "Fine, I'll take the bet with you."

Unlike an out-of-towner like Ban Ka, he usually resided in the Fiend King Court. He obviously knew about the nature of a place like the Jade Garden. The prices of the unpolished gems in the yellow floor weren't too high, so compared to the higher floors, the chance of getting something was quite low. Occasionally, something would appear, but even then, it wouldn't be all that. The risk was within an acceptable degree.

That was why the chances of the two winning were much higher. Meanwhile, these people only had a thousand ki stones on them to begin with. How would they even be able to fork over another thousand ki stones? Either way, with the Snake race as the guarantors, he wasn't all that scared of them going back on their debt. This was a good chance to embarrass them a bit.

Heichi Gu had played with Ban Ka previously and knew that he was quite the stingy player, the type who didn't act without some incentive. Since even Heichi Gu had agreed, however, there was naturally no need for Ban Ka to be scared either.

If Zu An's group lost and didn't have money to pay them back, with how beautiful the Medusa Queen was, they'd just have her pay with her body. He began breathing heavily when he thought of that, quickly adding, "Count me in too!"

Many people got worked up. They had spent quite a bit of time on the yellow floor, and so they obviously knew the probability of success. They'd be fools to not take the opportunity for such easy money. Either way, this was the Snake race clan leader they were talking about. There was no way she would renege on her debt, right? As such, they all shouted that they wanted to join in.

"Isn't that a bit too much? What if we lose..." Zu An said with a troubled expression.

Yun Jianyue grinned. This guy was definitely planning to scam people again. Sigh, it really is a pity that he didn't join our Holy Sect.

However, she suddenly remembered how he had seen everything before. Her smile instantly froze. Hmph, if this guy had really joined the Holy Sect, I would've already thrown him out to be used as fertilizer.

On the other hand, Yan Xuehen felt a bit strange. She had previously thought that she really disliked Zu An's slick-tongued behavior and found it really annoying, but now, she discovered that it was nothing more than a mask he used to hide his real intentions. In reality, he was actually rather cool-headed, and would lead his opponents into his own control bit by bit. They wouldn't even know that they had already fallen into his trap. That level of intellect really was admirable.

All of a sudden, her expression stiffened. because she suddenly realized something. Did he also trick me?

...

Someone got scared that Zu An would go back on the deal and said, "It's fine. We're not even making you pay up right now. The Snake race is so big, we aren't scared that you won't be able to pay us back or anything like that."

"Exactly. If you won, just how much would that be worth? Just thinking about it already brings me a wonderful feeling."

"Right? I once heard from a merchant who came back from Brightmoon City that there was a young man who made several million from just a few dozen silver. Who knows, you might be next!"

...

Yan Xuehen and the other women had strange expressions. Why did that last story sound so familiar?

Zu An's eyes lit up. He quickly ran over to Yu Yanluo's side and began to try to convince her. The others could even hear what he was saying to try and convince Yu Yanluo.

The onlookers all sneered. Look at how blinded he is by greed. He can only think of how much he can make, and yet he has no idea just how badly he'll lose.

Yu Yanluo appeared to be quite troubled on the surface too. In the end, she nodded slightly and said, "Alright, then let's just do it once."

The others sighed in relief when they heard her agree. After all, in their eyes, the Medusa Queen was the one who had the final say.

Zu An looked toward Shi Min and said, "The three princes over here, are you all going to join in on this?"

Shi Ming chuckled and replied, "Since everyone is getting so excited, then count me in too."

Shi Rong and Shi Gong both said in agreement, "We'll do it too."

Zu An was stunned. He had thought that they would refuse at first. After all, these four rocks were the ones they had chosen. If they knew there was something inside, weren't they just screwing themselves over? However, he quickly stopped thinking about that. That was none of his business anyway. He'd just worry about anything else when it happened.

Thus, he said to the butler next to him, "I'll have to trouble your distinguished self to serve as a witness." With so many people present, there was no way he could make them all write a pledge, right?

The butler nodded and said, "Do not worry. No one dares to go back on any fair bets in the Jade Garden."

He carried a bit of pride in his voice when he said that. Perhaps there would be some people he couldn't offend on the heaven or immortal floors, but he was confident he could deal with these yellow floor people.

The Lion race's princes were a bit troubled when they heard this, but these were people they had brought over, and the bet was something they had already agreed to, so there was no going back on it.

"Alright, have you all decided?" Ban Ka asked. He was getting a bit impatient.

Yu Yanluo didn't pay him any attention and slowly walked around the hall. She was worried that Shi Min would do something underhanded, so she still checked the area herself to make sure.

As her dress moved gently with her graceful figure, paired with her beautiful, focused countenance, the hall couldn't help but fall silent. It was as if all of them were scared of disturbing her. Even though many of them had stakes against her, they didn't say anything either. They just greedily took in her beauty.

Many people began breathing hurriedly. Later, when the Snake race took on a huge debt, would they be able to enjoy a bit of the Medusa Queen's wonderful aroma for themselves?

However, when they saw that she seemed to know what she was doing while she was studying the rocks, some people began to panic. Ban Ka snapped in annoyance, "Are you done picking yet? Hurry up! You don't need to look at the others! Every single one of them is more expensive than a thousand ki stones. You can't buy them even if you look at them!"

As if she had heard what he said, Yu Yanluo returned to Shi Min and the others. She looked at the four unpolished rocks, seemingly lost in thought.

"What's wrong? Is there a problem?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen secretly asked.

Yu Yanluo replied, "I've looked them over for a bit, but these are indeed the ones that have the highest chance of having something. Why is Shi Min being so nice to us, though?"

Even though she had managed the Yu clan's gemstone business for many years and had abundant experience, it was only a bit better than an ordinary person's. Not even the greatest master with the sharpest insight could have a hundred percent accuracy. Otherwise, it wouldn't be called rock betting, but rather just throwing money away. That was why she had been worried that there might be something wrong with the rocks.

On the contrary, Zu An was much more relaxed. He said, "Don't think too much about it. Who knows, he might have just suggested these to scam us, but had no idea that there was actually something inside."

Yu Yanluo felt that Shi Min's group wouldn't be so simpleminded, but she still chose to trust Zu An in the end, saying, "Alright, I'll choose these four then." After she spoke, she handed over the two bags from before to the butler.

Ban Ka and Heichi Gu's eyelids twitched. That was their money, after all.

One of the butler's workers stepped forward to receive the money. The butler then walked up to the table and said, "Since a bet has already been made, I will personally open the stone."

With his qualifications, normally, he wouldn't personally do the deed in the black and yellow floors. The reason why he had made an exception this time was because of the Lion race's princes and the Medusa Queen.

He took out one of the unpolished rocks. He didn't use any tools, and instead used his hand as the blade, slicing down through the side of the stone. Just like that, the sturdy stone was sliced as easily as tofu. Quite a few people in the surroundings narrowed their eyes. This Jade Garden was different after all! Even a butler was that skilled.

Then, the butler ran his hand gently over the stone. It was shaved off layer by layer, becoming smaller and smaller. In the end, there were only ash-colored remains. The butler shook his head and said, "There was nothing inside."

Cheers resounded from all around. Those who were betting all sighed in relief. What were they so worried about? This yellow floor's stones definitely wouldn't produce treasure that easily. Furthermore, the four stones were considered poor-quality ones even on the yellow floor.

Yu Yanluo's expression remained calm. This was something that happened all too regularly. No one could guess every single one correctly.

Next, however, the butler took out another stone. It was still empty.

Ban Ka and Heichi Ran both smiled. They were already excited thinking about the Medusa Queen begging them for mercy with a tear-stained face.

Chapter 1338: Excellent Teeth

Heichi Gu laughed loudly and said, "The Snake race really is getting worse with each generation. You want to have a lucky strike with just a thousand ki stones? There's no harm in telling you this, but in all these years, no one has ever been able to find anything out of these lowest level, cheap rocks on the yellow floor. Only the dumbest newbies would be this naive."

Since the bet was already set, they weren't scared of the other party backing out anymore. If they didn't mock them a bit in such a situation, they wouldn't feel too good.

Yu Yanluo frowned slightly, but Zu An quickly countered, "Aren't there still two rocks left? Why are you in such a hurry?"

Heichi Gu sneered. "Hah, look at how he's still clinging to hope!"

Zu An said indifferently, "Since you all feel that there definitely won't be anything, why don't we hold another bet?"

"Do you still have ki stones? Who would bet with you?" Ban Ka noticed how Shi Min and the others appeared to just be watching with amusement, and was now certain that it was all to teach the Snake race a lesson. As such, he didn't feel any more misgivings and was the first to mock Zu An. He thought to himself that it would be a good way of currying favor with the lion princes.

Zu An frowned and replied, "How about this? Let's not bet with ki stones. Instead, we can bet with something else. If nothing comes out of these ki stones, I'll eat all of these leftover rock dregs. Otherwise, you'll have to eat them. What do you think?"

Yu Yanluo jumped in fright and quickly tugged on his sleeves. She reminded him quietly, "Ah Zu, I'm not sure if any of these will have anything inside either!"

Even though she had confidence that something could come out of the two stones, there was no guarantee. Both of them could have nothing, and at that point, wouldn't she have harmed her lover badly?

Ban Ka was a bit hesitant at first, but when he saw how nervous Yu Yanluo was, he immediately made up his mind and replied, "Haha, then that's settled! I'll make this bet with you."

Heichi Gu sneered. "Count me in too."

"Wow, two pleasant surprises." Zu An chuckled. He then said to Yu Yanluo in consolation, "Don't worry, my luck has always been quite good."

When she heard him say that, Yu Yanluo finally calmed down a bit.

Yan Xuehen was a bit puzzled. She asked, "Not even Yu Yanluo is confident, so where does he get his confidence from? He might be the one eating that stuff later, no?"

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Rather than him winning, I kind of want to see him lose and eat those rocks."

He had seen all of her earlier, and yet she hadn't been able to fight or kill him to vent her frustration. Watching him eat such trash would be good too. She thought, Hmph, it'll just be heaven's way of disciplining him. Is my body something just anyone can see?

Yan Xuehen was speechless.

"Hurry up and open them already!" Heichi Gu and Ban Ka urged Zu An.

Shi Rong and Shi Gong were also excited to see Zu An make a fool of himself.

Only Shi Min's expression was a bit strange. He raised a brow, as if he were about to say something, but he swallowed all his words back down.

The Jade Garden butler wiped some fine sweat off his forehead. He usually didn't feel a thing even when he opened stones in the heaven or earth rooms, and yet today, he was actually feeling a bit of pressure. He carefully opened up the third stone, but nothing happened.

Heichi Gu and Ban Ka roared with laughter, saying, "I think you should just start eating these rocks already."

Yu Yanluo was still a clan leader, and she was so beautiful. Even if they were enemies, they couldn't bring themselves to let a beauty like that eat rocks. That meant such a duty would have to be fulfilled by Zu An.

Zu An calmly replied, "We aren't done yet, so what's the rush?"

"Are you still not convinced? We've already reached this point, so what could still be left..." Ban Ka's voice came to a screeching halt. He stared at the table in disbelief.

A trace of sparkling radiance appeared, followed by a rich burst of ki.

"This is..." Even the stone-opening butler was stunned.

The people in the surroundings all quickly rushed over. They saw that there was a grape-sized ki stone in the center of the stone. It was sparkling and translucent.

“Earth-grade ki stone!” Someone with sharp eyes immediately recognized what it was and called out. “This piece is quite good. It should be worth at least ten pieces of standard earth-grade ki stones.”

The butler shook his head and said, “It is worth more than that. Regardless of whether it is the color, the purity, or the ki inside, it is top-quality. The only pity is that it is too small. Even so, it is worth twenty standard earth grade ki stones.”

Zu An had already spent enough time in this world to pick up on most basic knowledge. Each earth-grade ki stone was equivalent to a hundred ordinary ki stones. Ki stones were the currency cultivators usually used, while ordinary people usually used gold and silver.

Back in Brightmoon Academy, Zu An had heard Wei Suo tell him that an ordinary ki stone could sell for ten taels of gold, but that wasn’t actually accurate. Normally, one ki stone was worth a tael of gold, but of course, one likely wouldn’t be able to find a ki stone even if one had two gold taels. After all, no cultivators would be willing to sell cultivation resources unless they were really strapped for cash.

Meanwhile, each heaven-grade ki stone was worth a thousand earth-grade ki stones. The higher the grade, the more precious it was, and the more beneficial it would be for one’s cultivation.

As for immortal-grade ki stones, there was no standard price of exchange. They were often only used for direct trades for other items or auctioned off for a good price.

That meant after all the calculations, the grape-sized stone was worth around two thousand ki stones.

As he shrugged and spread out his palms in front of everyone, Zu An had a mocking expression. He said, “I’m truly sorry, everyone, but my luck today seems to be just a bit good. Then, as we agreed, everyone has to pay two thousand ki stones.”

The others all looked as if they were breaking down. How could they have expected that something really would be opened up? How had they really ended up experiencing a low probability like that?!

Seeing that no one moved, Zu An asked with a smile, “What’s wrong? Are you all going to go back on your debt?”

Shi Rong harrumphed. “Look at this bumpkin acting all smug. It’s just two thousand ki stones. Why would this prince have to renege on something so insignificant?”

He took out a pouch and tossed it over. Shi Gong also tossed over a bag unhappily. Only Shi Min’s expression remained normal when he handed over the ki stones.

Zu An caught them, but didn’t immediately put them away. Instead, he opened up the pouch and began to count them.

Shi Rong and Shi Gong were so furious they screamed, “What is the meaning of this? Do you think we would lie to you about something like this?”

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

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

"That's hard to say," Zu An said nonchalantly. He didn't even raise his head as he counted the ki stones.

The onlookers were speechless. Why is this guy so freaking annoying?

Zu An's smile only got bigger as the Rage points climbed higher.

When they saw his cocky smile, the others all felt more and more depressed from making the bet with him.

After counting the ki stones, Zu An handed them over to Maid Xing. Then, he urged everyone else to pay up. The others were incredibly dejected, but with the Lion race taking the lead, they could only admit their defeat.

Two thousand ki stones was no small amount for the people who frequented the yellow floor. There were even some who had to fish out more than half of their family property. They felt endless regret. Why the heck did they have to get involved in this mess?

By the time the others all paid up, Zu An had collected several tens of thousands of ki stones. He handed them all to Maid Xing.

Yu Yanluo had needed to flee to the Snake race territory in too much of a hurry, and had maintained practically no resources at her disposal. Such an amount was perfect for her to use to get on her feet again.

After doing all of that, Zu An then walked up to Ban Ka and Heichi Gu. "Thank you for the ki stones you two gifted me with. Otherwise, how else would we have been able to purchase these stones and find a treasure inside?"

The two were so angry that they were about to vomit blood. It was as if they had fanned themselves in the face, but then still had to pay up a huge amount of money! If they had known it would be like this, they wouldn't have taken such a huge risk.

Ban Ka shot Heichi Gu a hateful look. If it weren't for him, he wouldn't have agreed to the bet. He had lost two thousand ki stones! Just the thought of it alone left him feeling heartbroken. Still, there were so many people watching, so he couldn't just go back on his word. He could only pay up angrily.

Zu An didn't take the money himself, and instead had Maid Xing count everything. There was something more important to take care of at the moment, though. He remarked, "Perhaps... The two of you have forgotten about something?" He pointed at the rocks on the table after speaking.

Those in the surroundings were shaken. Even though it hurt to spend two thousand ki stones, being able to see two important figures eat the remaining rocks did redeem the situation a bit.

Even though Shi Gong and Shi Rong hated Zu An, they still looked at the two with interest. After all, this was something they had never seen before.

Ban Ka and Heichi Gu's faces turned entirely red. They had wanted to see Zu An make a fool of himself. How had they ended up becoming a laughingstock instead?

Both of them wanted to walk away from the problem, but the Jade Garden's butler seemed to have walked over between them and the exit before they realized it. It was hard to say what the Lion race's princes were thinking. In the end, Ban Ka hardened his resolve and spat, "I'll just eat it, you think I'm scared of you?"

He picked up the rock remains and tossed them into his mouth. Then, with several cracks, the rocks were quickly ground into powder.

Zu An clicked his tongue in wonder. In the animal kingdom of his previous world, other predators would normally eat meat, but hyenas could even crunch through and eat bones. He hadn't expected the teeth of the Hyena race of this world to be so formidable too.

Soon afterward, Ban Ka swallowed all of the rock powder. Then, he pointed at the remaining half and asked Heichi Gu, "What are you staring at me for? That's your half."

Heichi Gu was speechless. With a harrumph, he took the remaining half and crunched through it. The rubble shattered easily like a frozen popsicle.

Those in the surroundings began to discuss the sight excitedly with each other. No wonder the Black Teeth race were known for their teeth's prowess. Their teeth really were pretty tough.

"Is that good enough?" Heichi Gu asked. He felt truly humiliated and turned around to leave.

However, Zu An quickly called him back, asking, "What are you in such a hurry for? There's still one more stone to open up."

Chapter 1339: On Purpose

Heichi Gu immediately froze. Forget about him, that was the case for Ban Ka too. Whatever confidence he had had previously, that was how badly he was panicking.

The others were also extremely depressed. They had initially planned to benefit from what seemed to be an easy payday, and yet they had been the ones to pay dearly. If there were something else in this rock too, many of them would be losing their entire family fortune!

Zu An was about to fall over from laughter when he saw what was going on. He called out, "Come on, why is everyone getting so scared? The chance of there being something in this rock is really small, right?"

Their expressions all turned strange. That was exactly why they had been so confident in gambling against him. They hadn't expected him to say the same thing right back to them. The tides really had turned...

"How about this? We'll just continue with our earlier bet. If there's nothing in this rock, we'll compensate all of you with a thousand ki stones. If there is something, though, all of you still need to compensate us with the same amount. What do you think?" Zu An asked.

The others were stunned. They couldn't help but become tempted. After all, according to the previous agreement, Zu An had already won. Whether there was something inside or not, he wouldn't have to pay them a thousand ki stones. Meanwhile, they still had to compensate him if there really was something inside for some reason.

And yet, perhaps out of pity for the poor, he had actually proposed such a condition. Why wouldn't they agree? After all, the prior two thousand ki stones had already made them lose a good chunk of their lifespans. It would be good if they could have a thousand ki stones to stanch the bleeding a bit.

"Brother, thank you for your generosity."

"The Snake Race is kind and sincere after all."

...

They spoke praises out loud, but inwardly, they were instead cursing Zu An for being an idiot.

Zu An could tell that these people had sinister designs. He also sneered. Let's see who's the dumb one later.

He walked up to Ban Ka and Heichi Gu and said, "The two of you must be quite thirsty right now. How about some water?" He grabbed a teacup that some random person had drunk out of and handed it over.

The two of them were disgusted, replying, "No need!" Pieces of rock flew out of their mouths as they spoke. Even Heichi Gu's teeth had turned somewhat white.

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You have successfully trolled Heichi Gu for +555 +555 +555...

Zu An looked toward Shi Min and the others, asking, "If the princes have no objections, why don't we open the final stone?"

Shi Rong and Shi Gong instinctively glanced toward their third brother. Shi Min nodded with a smile, saying, "Our Lion Race cares about the mentality of a knight the most. We will not go back on the bet we have agreed to."

"That's good then. Old sir, please begin," Zu An said politely to the Jade Garden's butler. However, inwardly, he was quite puzzled. Is this Shi Min really just so generous?

The Jade Garden's butler gave Zu An a surprised look. He had thought that this was a brat who was just too arrogant and wild, but now, it seemed that he was eating tigers while pretending to be a pig. He nodded with a smile. Then, he began to cut into the last rock.

Shi Rong sneered, "Hmph, just now, that was nothing more than a blind cat stumbling upon a dead mouse. I refuse to believe that you'll be able to find anything."

Ban Ka said in deep sympathy, "What the seventh prince says is indeed the case. This brat really is a bit too hateful."

Heichi Gu spat a wad of spit filled with rock fragments onto the ground. He said, "Hmph. I'll make him have a taste of rocks later too."

However, as soon as he spoke, a blinding expanse of red filled his vision. This time, the butler didn't need to cut for a long time at all. Just a single slice had already shown that there was something.

The others were stunned. We're done for! We're finished!

Just a grape-sized earth-grade ki stone had already made them bleed; this one was clearly much larger! Weren't they going to lose their entire family fortunes?!

Heichi Gu swallowed with great difficulty. He couldn't even be bothered to deal with the rock fragments scratching his throat, saying, "Everyone, don't panic. This might just be an empty layer. We've seen such things before. It looks nice on the outside, but the inside is just rock."

"You're right, you're right." The others seemed to have found some comfort. They all sighed in relief.

That's more like it. How can there be something that good from the yellow floor? Let alone the cheapest few rocks.

It has to be just a bit on the surface! It's definitely rocks inside. Yeah, that has to be it.

Even Shi Rong and Shi Gong were starting to pray inwardly. Furthermore, Shi Min, who previously seemed to have had everything within his grasp, changed his expression for the first time.

The butler's expression also became somewhat grave. He didn't cut boldly the way he had before, instead cutting very carefully. As the outer layer of stone fell away, the red light coming from inside grew brighter and brighter. Meanwhile, the faces of those outside became paler and paler.

In the end, there was a fist-sized red gemstone at the very center, and surging heat radiated from it. The entire room seemed to be filled with extremely rich ki that was much purer than that of the earth-grade ki stone from before.

"This aura... is it heaven-grade?" The voices of the spectators began to shake.

Yan Xuehen had previously been a bit worried for Zu An. When she saw that, she sighed in relief.

"Count this kid lucky." Yun Jianyue harrumphed. Even though she said that she was a bit disappointed that she couldn't see him eat rocks, there wasn't a trace of disappointment between her brows.

"This is a piece of heaven-grade Soaring Flame Glass! It has tremendous effects on a fire element user's cultivation!" Even the butler's voice was starting to shake as he spoke. Even though he had opened up many things more precious than this item, such a thing coming out from the yellow floor was simply unprecedented! It was enough to become an absolute legend in his trade!

"How many ki stones is this worth?" Zu An asked. Among the women at his side, Big Manman was a user of the fire element. He wondered if she needed such a thing.

The butler said, "At least a hundred heaven-grade ki stones."

"Ah, only a hundred?" Zu An asked, sounding a bit unsatisfied. When they were in Lord Sui's Tomb, trapped in the fog forest, the amount of ki stones Suolun Shi, Kong Nanjing, and the others had each had to take out to help Wu Liang activate his formation and get rid of the fog was precisely a hundred heaven-grade ki stones.

However, when he thought about it, all of those people had been the younger generation of the fiend races' very best clans. The resources at their disposal were definitely no joke. Even if the Demon race's

princess and the Peacock King race's princess carried around a hundred heaven-grade ki stones when they traveled around, it seemed that amount was actually quite a bit

The others got upset when they heard what he said. Is this something anyone with a conscience would say?

This was a hundred heaven-grade ki stones, which was equivalent to a hundred thousand earth-grade ki stones, or ten million ordinary ki stones! If they had ten million ki stones, would they be playing around on the yellow floor? And yet, out of greed for a thousand ki stones, they had ended up losing ten million!

Thud, thud, thud...

Several loud noises followed. It seemed that many of them had lost strength in their entire bodies, falling onto the ground.

Heichi Gu had an absent-minded expression. The Heichi Clan was known for their ties to the emperor, so ten million was definitely something he could pay. However, he was just a son of a branch family; did he have the right to use so many ki stones?

Ban Ka was even more depressed. The Hyena race had been poor to begin with, and their awareness of danger was rather strong. That was why, if they had any ki stones, they would use them to increase their own cultivation. How could they have that many to spare?

Zu An didn't seek them out first. and instead walked over to Shi Min's group. He called out, "These princes over here, it's time to pay up, right?"

"Damn brat, don't go too far!" Shi Gong and Shi Rong roared furiously. This guy was asking for them to pay up face to face!

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

Zu An's expression grew cold as he replied, "What, who was previously bragging about having the mentality of a knight? And yet now, you're thinking of becoming hostile and defaulting on the debt?"

Shi Gong and Shi Rong were about to act up when Shi Min stopped them, saying, "We did lose. There are three hundred heaven-grade ki stones here. I will pay for my brothers."

Afterward, he took out a heavy embroidered pouch. Everyone could sense the rich ki even through the bag. Those in the surroundings clicked their tongues. The Lion race really was rich and powerful,; even a prince could easily bring out three hundred heaven-grade ki stones.

Shi Gong and Shi Rong panicked. Even though a hundred heaven grade ki stones was a good amount, with their status, it wasn't that big of a deal. However, if they were going to look bad in public because of it, they would feel horrible.

"Third brother, aren't you pretty good at choosing rocks? Why did you end up giving him two rocks that were this precious?" Shi Rong asked Shi Min through ki, sounding resentful.

"Seventh brother, rock betting is never a hundred percent accurate. This can't be blamed on third brother," Shi Gong quickly replied, trying to stop him.

Shi Min's expression was extremely strange. He said, "Actually... I knew that these two rocks had something inside."

"What? You knew, but you still recommended them?" Shi Rong almost screamed out loud. Even Shi Gong looked at his older brother with shock.

Chapter 1340: Smugness of a Nobody

Shi Min sighed and asked, "Did you all really believe they only had a hundred ki stones on them?"

"Of course not," Shi Gong and Shi Rong both replied. This was the respected Medusa Queen, after all. No matter how much the Snake race had fallen, there was no way they would have fallen to that extent.

"I didn't either. The reason they said that was because they were rather guarded against us. They might not have taken the bait no matter what we tried to do to them," Shi Min said. "Sometimes, you have to slacken the fishing line to catch the fish. So, my plan was to let him have a taste of sweetness first, which is why I suggested some rocks. For things like rock betting, once you get really into it, it becomes too hard to pull yourself out. However, I didn't expect there to actually be a heaven-grade treasure inside."

Even he felt a bit depressed when he thought of that. If he had known that things would turn out that way, he would have simply bought them for a few hundred ki stones. That would be ten thousand times the profit!

"Sigh, we've really helped them get freaking lucky!" Shi Rong grumbled angrily. A hundred heaven-grade ki stones could make even him feel a bit heartbroken.

"It's fine. As long as we're on the yellow floor, whether we win or lose, it's still manageable for us... but it won't really deal them a serious blow. Just wait until we reach the heaven floor or even the immortal floor," Shi Min said with a sneer. "They've just won so much, so they definitely won't be willing to just end it here. I've already succeeded in my initial objective."

Shi Gong and Shi Rong both felt a bit better when they heard that. They thought to themselves, Third brother is third brother after all. His schemes are going to absolutely destroy this little bastard.

After collecting the lion princes' heaven-grade ki stones, Zu An walked up to Ban Ka and Heichi Gu, saying, "It's your turn now. The Lion race's princes have already been such good role models; you should learn from their example."

Ban Ka was rather straightforward and said, "Mmph, I don't have that many ki stones."

Heichi Gu copied him and said, "I don't have that many either."

"Oh? You're trying to back out of your debt?" Zu An replied. He glanced at the butler and asked, "How does the Jade Garden usually deal with these kinds of situations?"

The butler said with a smile, "Normally, if an agreement is made here and one of us serves as a witness, if one side wishes to go back on their debt, they will have one hand cut off as a sign of discipline. Of course, this is about a hundred heaven-grade ki stones, so one hand might not be enough."

Even though he had a smile, those present felt a chill run down their backs.

Zu An was a bit surprised as well. He hadn't expected the Jade Garden to be so bold! Looks like I was mistaken before. The Fox Merchant Company here probably doesn't have any relationship with Tushan Yu. She doesn't have that much power.

Ban Ka was furious. For better or for worse, he was still the prince of a clan. When had he ever been threatened like this before?

He was about to act out when Heichi Gu's expression changed and he hurriedly said, "I really don't have that many ki stones, but I managed to obtain ten Hidden Rainbow Stones. Their value should be roughly equal to the Soaring Flame Glass, so I'll just use this to pay for my debt."

Unlike Ban Ka, he had spent a long time in the Fiend King Court. He obviously understood the power of this Jade Garden. He took out an exquisite pouch after speaking; inside it were ten gemstones. Every single one swirled with rainbow brilliance. No wonder they had such a name.

"Hidden Rainbow Stone?" The butler said with a frown, "These things are rather precious, and they are rumored to be able to forge heaven-grade or higher weapons. However, these things are only an auxiliary material and not the main material. Furthermore, apart from that, they have not been shown to have any other uses. If this guest knows how to refine weapons, this thing will be quite useful, but otherwise... Our guest will have to decide if he will accept it for himself."

Zu An was a bit surprised. The butler's evaluation actually leaned in his favor. It seemed that being polite to him earlier was now coming in handy.

He said casually, "Forget it. Judging from this guy's shabby-looking face, he probably can't take out much else. Our Medusa Queen has always been generous and won't trouble you over this."

Yu Yanluo's face turned a bit red. Ah Zu keeps taking on all of the hatred, while always making me look better. He's so great.

Zu An took the sack of Hidden Rainbow Stones with a look of disdain. However, he was actually extremely happy. Perhaps to others the Hidden Rainbow Stones could only be used to refine weapons, but they had another important use for him.

One of the important materials the Valkyrie he had obtained, Mo Xi, needed to break through to higher levels was none other than the Hidden Rainbow Stone. He had felt a bit of a headache when he saw how the things the valkyries needed were all rare treasures. He had no idea where to get them, and yet just like that, he had obtained one set.

Heichi Gu almost fainted on the spot. Not long before, he had been the one mocking Zu An for being a bumpkin with a hundred ki stones. He hadn't expected their fortunes to rise and fall so quickly.

You have successfully trolled Heichi Gu for +888 +888 +888...

When he took the stones, Zu An didn't give Heichi Gu another look, and just walked over to Ban Ka. He said, "This hyena prince over here, it's now your turn."

"Hyena prince?" Ban Ka's skin bristled, and even his brown spots shook. Even though that form of address wasn't entirely wrong, why did it sound so humiliating?

You have successfully trolled Ban Ka for +555 +555 +555...

He gave Heichi Gu a look, then looked at Shi Min and the others. In the end, he took out a gemstone and said, "This is a Boulder Topaz I just obtained a few days ago. Its value should be roughly equivalent to the Soaring Flame Glass."

The Jade Garden's butler nodded and said, "This item is indeed around the same value as the Soaring Flame Glass. It can assist in the cultivation breakthrough of rock element cultivators."

Zu An took the Boulder Topaz and expressed his approval. Then, he handed it to Yu Yanluo. The Medusa bloodline's power was related to the rock element, so it would be perfect to help her break into the master rank soon.

Yu Yanluo gave him a gentle look and said, "Thank you~"

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but say with a bit of jealousy, "Hmph, he almost had to eat rocks because of this bet... and yet he still didn't forget to flirt with women afterward."

Yan Xuehen didn't comment and simply frowned. Why do I feel so conflicted? Don't tell me I really...

When he saw Zu An use his treasure to flirt with a woman, Ban Ka seethed with rage and hatred, but he couldn't do much in the Jade Garden. Once he left, however, he could arrange for some people to ambush the Snakerace. Not only would he then seize back the Boulder Topaz, he would be able to steal that Soaring Flame Glass, as well as all of the heaven-grade ki stones this bastard had won. The Hyena race had actually engaged in that sort of plundering many times. The Boulder Topaz itself had been obtained by robbing a merchant group.

He felt much better when he thought of that. He just thought of it as leaving his belongings for someone else to hold onto them for a bit. Once the time came, he would get much more in return.

When he thought about all the ki stones he would obtain, he began breathing hurriedly. I'm gonna be fucking rich! With all of those resources, I'll be able to become much stronger and rise above my brothers! Who knows, I might even become a strong candidate for the next clan leader!

Apart from the ki stones, there's also that incredible beauty, the Medusa Queen! Besides her, those two women to the side are kind of ordinary, but their asses are top quality. Won't it all be the same if we turn off the lights?

The more he thought about that, the happier he became. A smile appeared on his face.

Everyone else present merely assumed Ban Ka was going crazy from losing. Only Zu An had a rough guess as to what he was thinking. He sneered. If this guy wants to die, I'll just help him.

Then, Zu An began to collect his debt from the others. However, how could those people have so many ki stones? They didn't have any treasures like the Boulder Topaz either.

Still, that was all within his expectations. He had them take out everything they had of value, even practically stripping them of their clothes. Then, every single one of them had to write out a debt note and hand it to Maid Xing.

These fellows came from different races, so even if they couldn't pay the debts back, the Snake race could use their debt notes to negotiate with their clansmen, using them to purchase votes and other things.

Heichi Gu and Ban Ka immediately felt regret. If they knew about that, they would have written up debt notes too! Why did this scoundrel treat the others with an entirely different attitude?

You have successfully trolled Heichi Gu for +444 +444 +444...

You have successfully trolled Ban Ka for +444 +444 +444...

The two of them exchanged a look. Then, they conversed secretly through ki.

Off to the side, Shi Min watched what was going on silently. Then, he said, "I congratulate the Medusa Queen. Your harvest today is quite rich."

"It is all thanks to the three princes' help," Yu Yanluo said with a smile.

Shi Min practically choked. This woman was just as sharp-tongued as that guy called Yan Zu. However, he quickly calmed himself down and suggested, "Since the queen's luck is so good, how about we play a few more rounds?"

"That..." Yu Yanluo was a bit hesitant.

The others also cried out.

"Who leaves immediately after winning?"

"Exactly! Why don't you let us watch for a bit more?"

Zu An gave the onlookers who just wanted to see the world burn a look and asked, "Do you all have any more ki stones to bet with us? What the hell are you all making noise for?"

Their faces turned completely red, but they couldn't argue back at all. They could only curse him inwardly, while contributing a large sum of Rage points.

Zu An then turned toward Shi Min and the others, replying, "Sure thing. But I don't think the yellow floor is worthy of our queen's status. Even if we're going to bet, we should move to the immortal floor."

The others cursed inwardly. This guy hadn't even had the money to bet on the yellow floor before, and then he had made all that money through damned luck. Now, he was immediately putting on such a nauseating act! Hmph, exactly how a nobody who had suddenly gotten lucky would act.