

## Immortal 1351

### Chapter 1351: Complete Victory

Even the people from the lower floors of the Jade Garden sensed something. They all rushed to the immortal floor to take a look. Many of them couldn't resist the urge to see what had happened. Unfortunately, they were stopped by the guards. They could only discuss and speculate among themselves. Thus, the Jade Garden quickly became extremely lively.

Even many people from Fiend King Court City looked toward the Jade Garden. When they saw the miraculous divine radiance, they were all incredibly shocked. Could it be that some incredible treasure had appeared in the Jade Garden? As such, they immediately sent over subordinates to investigate the place.

"This is..." All those present on the immortal floor were shocked.

If the phoenix sign from before had been full of ki, making their bodies feel relaxed, this time, the light was so dazzling that no one could even open their eyes. Furthermore, it carried a powerful holy aura that was not something ordinary heaven-grade items could compare to at all; perhaps not even an immortal-grade item could match up.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both grandmasters who were full of experience. They quickly reacted, exclaiming, "Is this a deity-grade aura?"

Afterward, everyone else seemed to have woken up from a dream. The butler was already shaking all over. He was so moved he couldn't even speak anymore.

A figure suddenly appeared from who knew where. He was an elder with white hair, but had a youthful complexion. Judging from his outfit, he was clearly Jade Garden's guardian. He observed the divine radiance with narrowed eyes, and his lips began to tremble a bit.

Yun Jianyue nudged Yan Xuehen and said, "This Jade Garden really is mysterious, to have an air mortal form cultivator as a guardian[1]."

Yan Xuehen shared her sentiment, adding, "One at the peak of the air form, no less."

The master rank was divided into five levels: The hero, essence, core, power, and air mortal forms. The air form was the highest level of the five within the master rank, and the elder was at the very peak of that level. He was more or less a pseudo-grandmaster. The most important part, however, was that he was the protector of a mere merchant group. As such, how could they not feel any shock?

However, when they thought of how there were so many precious unpolished stones present, they realized that made sense. Without sufficiently high cultivation, one wouldn't be able to properly protect those items in a place like the Fiend King Court where there were powerful cultivators everywhere.

The white-haired elder said with a trembling voice, "Deity... Deity-grade aura. This is... This is Calamity Gold!"

"Calamity Gold?" Those present were all formidable cultivators with extraordinary experience. They had naturally heard that name before. Calamity Gold was one of the eight great legendary divine golds, and could be used to forge a deity-grade weapon.

How many deity grade weapons were there in this world? Each one's power was enough to cause supernatural phenomena in this world, and their masters were the most powerful beings in the world, who ruled over their own land. Many other powerful individuals also wanted their own deity-grade weapon, and yet due to the rarity of the materials, they had no choice but to bury that wish. Judging from that, it was obvious just how precious Calamity Gold was.

The Second Imperial Prince suddenly got up and said, "Medusa Queen, I will purchase this piece of Calamity Gold. Just name the price. Furthermore, from today onward, the Snake race will become the most sincere friend of this imperial prince. In the future, as long as this prince still exists, the Snake race will enjoy endless glory and splendor."

It wasn't that he wasn't being sincere enough by not offering a price; rather, such a deity-grade treasure was already priceless. It was something that could only be exchanged for through other means.

The expressions of the lion princes immediately changed. The Second Imperial Prince had clearly been partial to them earlier, and yet now, he chose the other side without a hint of hesitation. They felt truly upset, as if they had been abandoned.

The others were horrified. The price the Second Imperial Prince had offered was already extremely high. Such a promise would surely return the Snake race to their peak, or perhaps elevate them to even greater heights than before. They could definitely become one of the fiend races' most powerful clans.

They were all the most powerful representatives of the different races. They could more or less guess why the Second Imperial Prince would offer up such a huge price. The Golden Crow Crown Prince had his Sun Slaying Bow, while he didn't have anything like that.

The fact that the Second Imperial Prince wasn't willing to accept the Golden Crow Crown Prince was widely known. He believed that his own cultivation, talent, and strategic prowess all surpassed his brother's. Unfortunately, the crown prince had the deity-grade weapon the Fiend Emperor had passed down to him. If they really fought, he would definitely be at a disadvantage. That was why he so urgently wanted a deity-grade weapon of his own.

Refining a deity-grade weapon had other harsh requirements apart from those rare materials, but he wasn't concerned with that at the moment. He had to seize the Calamity Gold first before thinking about the next steps.

Yu Yanluo showed him an apologetic smile and said, "I fear that I must apologize to the Second Imperial Prince. We do not plan to sell this Calamity Gold."

As the Snake race's leader, she naturally knew that the Golden Crow Crown Prince was competing with the Second Imperial Prince. She didn't want to get caught up in the battle over the throne. Furthermore, the item was something Ah Zu had discovered, so it obviously belonged to him. There was no way she would selfishly make a decision over it.

Yun Jianyue's mouth was so wide open a chicken egg could fit inside. She exclaimed, "Stone cold woman, do you think Little An really just has blind luck?" Even with her knowledge and experience, the stone couldn't have been more ordinary looking. How could she have expected that it would be something so heaven-defying?!

Yan Xuehen frowned and said, "I think not. He confidently told Yu Yanluo to pick this stone. That level of certainty cannot be faked."

"Then how did he notice it?" Yun Jianyue asked. She was beyond shocked. "Not even Yu Yanluo could see anything, and that highly-experienced butler didn't notice anything while cutting either. He almost missed it too."

"I do not know. We will just have to ask him later," Yan Xuehen said indifferently.

"Do you really have no concept of politeness? This might be related to his greatest secrets. Are you sure he'll tell you?" Yun Jianyue asked, giving her a doubtful look. "When did you become so familiar with him?"

Yan Xuehen was alarmed. She promptly looked away, ignoring Yun Jianyue. After that guy bullied me like that before... What, is he not even going to answer something like this?

The Second Imperial Prince's face fell. He said, "Medusa Queen, you have to think things over properly. Even though this piece of Calamity Gold is mysterious, there is not much of it at all. There is definitely not enough to create a divine weapon. With your Snake race's power, you will not be able to piece together enough other kinds of divine gold, and it will only bring about the greed of others." His statement was a reminder, but also a threat.

Yu Yanluo didn't get annoyed. She showed him a refreshing and beautiful smile, replying, "Thank you for your reminder, Second Imperial Prince. We will properly safeguard this piece of Calamity Gold. If we change our mind and want to sell it, we will definitely give the Second Imperial Prince priority to purchase it."

The Second Imperial Prince knew she was just exchanging polite greetings, but he had to admit that upon seeing Yu Yanluo's exceptional appearance and friendly smile, his anger couldn't help but unknowingly dissipate.

Zu An looked at the palm-sized chunk of metal. It was surrounded by divine radiance, but it really wasn't that large. It seemed a little too small to be made into a complete weapon.

However, he was thinking of something else. Cracks had formed in the Tai'e Sword when it was struck by the Sun Slaying Bow, and because Mi Li was inside, it had affected her too. He could just use the piece of Calamity Gold to repair its cracks.

According to what Mi Li had previously told him, the Tai'e Sword had been sealed for so long that its grade fell. If he added the Calamity Gold, wouldn't that be able to repair the sword, and perhaps even help it continue to grow stronger?

Just then, Zu An looked at Shi Min and said, "Third prince, you're now convinced of your loss, right? Hand over that stuff first. Even though the Phoenix Stamen isn't all that much, it's still ours now."

He snatched the Phoenix Stamen that had just been found and added, "Oh yeah, don't forget about the True Corpse Bamboo you found earlier. That kind of thing is honestly a bit too sinister, so we'll help take it off your hands."

Zu An looked really troubled, almost as if he felt that the True Corpse Bone was a bit too filthy for his hand.

Shi Min was speechless.

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

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

This little bastard only has blind luck, and yet he's actually climbing all over us?!!!

Shi Rong was the first one to erupt in rage. "You damn bastard, you're going too far!"

"I'm going too far? I just repeated what you said to me before," Zu An said with a shrug. "What, don't tell me you guys want to go back on your bet? The princes and princesses here are all witnesses. I advise you to behave."

The others were speechless, and only Shang Liuyu had a smile on her face. This guy really was just as she remembered.

Hu Yong laughed so hard that the edges of his mouth seemed about to reach his ears. "Hahahahah! I've really grown in experience today! Turns out the Lion race is nothing but a bunch of sore losers!"

No matter how thick Shi Min's skin was, he couldn't stand such mockery in front of so many people. He said, "Enough. Seventh brother, give him the True Corpse Bamboo."

"Third brother!" Shi Rong exclaimed, his eyes completely red. He was still quite young and couldn't immediately accept such a loss.

"Seventh brother!" Shi Min snapped, shooting him a glare.

Shi Rong thus handed over the True Corpse Bamboo unwillingly. Zu An took it, then patted his shoulder, saying, "That's a good little boy~"

Shi Rong erupted with rage, exclaiming, "What did you say?!"

He was still young, so such words were what angered him the most. Zu An had talked to him like a senior addressing a junior, which really pissed him off.

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Zu An replied, sounding 'stunned', "So you don't like it when other people praise you! Then I'll say you're a bad little boy."

Shi Rong was speechless. He was so angry that his hair was standing on end. He yelled, "Scoundrel, I'm going to fight you!"

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Yun Jianyue burst out laughing, saying, "Stone cold woman, this guy really is despicable."

"This kind of behavior is indeed unlike that of a proper gentleman," Yan Xuehen said, frowning slightly. With her background, she didn't really like that kind of thing too much.

"Hmph, what do you understand? This is how you have to be when you're facing your enemies!" Yun Jianyue replied in dissatisfaction. "If he had entered our Holy Sect early on, who knows how much less I would've had to worry about."

Yan Xuehen remained indifferent, as if she had no interest in discussing the matter with her.

Seeing that Yan Xuehen didn't praise Zu An the way she had before, Yun Jianyue sighed in relief. What was I thinking before?

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Zu An shook his head and said, "Do I have to agree just because you want to fight against me?"

"Do you have no sense of a warrior's dignity?!" Shi Rong exclaimed with wide eyes.

"I think it's people who owe money but don't pay back who lack any warrior's dignity. I'm really starting to wonder if you perhaps want to use that chance to kill me, so you won't have to pay those hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones anymore." Zu An harrumphed.

"You..." Shi Rong's face had turned entirely red. That wasn't his intention at all; he had just acted impulsively from anger. However, he saw the looks directed at him, and they seemed to really believe what he was saying.

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

Shi Min said seriously, "Don't worry; how can we renege on our debt if we lose? However, a hundred thousand ki stones is no small number and we need a few days to collect it. We will bring it over then."

Zu An nodded and said, "That's fine. Then, let's write up a contract."

Shi Min was speechless. He eventually replied, "Our Lion race always keeps our word. Are you worried that we might back out of our debt?"

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"Even blood brothers need to write contracts for money; otherwise, there might be misunderstandings in the future," Zu An said, looking at him with a smile.

Shi Min gave him a hateful look, but he still made the contract in the end. Then, he stormed out with his brothers; he wasn't shameless enough to stay there any longer.

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When they left the Jade Garden, Shi Gong asked with a frown, "Third brother, are we really going to pay them a hundred thousand ki stones? That's not a small amount at all!"

Shi Min said coldly, "Of course not. The crown prince already told us to target the Snake race in the arena. I was a bit hesitant then, because I wanted to get some cash from the Snake race first. But now

that this has happened, they cannot blame me for acting like this. We can just properly cripple them in the arena.”

#### Chapter 1352: Those In the Mirror

Shi Rong had an excited expression as he replied, “Third brother, this is where I think you’re wrong. You should’ve agreed right away!”

Shi Min turned around and gave the Jade Garden a look, saying, “We were just doing what we did because of eighth brother and the Medusa Queen’s grudge, but apart from that, there was no hatred between us that couldn’t be resolved. We would not have gone too far. Furthermore, the Second Imperial Prince is contending against the crown prince, so they were secretly trying to rope us in. I was worried that by helping the crown prince, it would make me seem as if we were being more biased towards him, thus drawing the hostility of the Second Imperial Prince’s side.”

Shi Rong harrumphed. “That bastard Second Imperial Prince is truly hateful. He was helping us when we had the advantage at first, but then he immediately changed sides! He’s so despicable!”

Shi Min glowered and said, “If he wants to be heartless, he cannot blame me for not having any loyalty. Either way, the Golden Crow Crown Prince’s rise to the throne is practically decided. So what if we fully side with the crown prince now?”

Shi Gong said worriedly, “What I’m worried about is that it’ll be difficult for us to do much to the Snake race in the arena, though. The Snake race has always remained rather low-profile over the past few years, and only the clan leader has held a seat. If they don’t choose to participate, it’ll be hard for us to do anything to them.”

“You do not need to worry about that. We just received news that they have sent three of their people to participate. Included among them is that Yan Zu, as well as two women. They should be the two women who were at the Medusa Queen’s side today,” said Shi Min.

Shi Rong cracked his knuckles and said, “Then that’s perfect. I’ll fully cripple that little bastard and make him regret ever acting so cocky.”

Shi Gong also laughed, adding, “The two women at the Medusa Queen’s side do look a bit ordinary, but their figures are top rate. Besides, I find that the more I look at them, the more I sense a unique kind of charm. I’ll take good care of them later.”

“Are you going crazy from sexual frustration or something?” Shi Min said with a laugh. “However, those two ladies are indeed quite special, even though I cannot really say how.”

As they discussed what they were going to do to the Snake race, their mood immediately improved. Their previous gloominess from their time in the Jade Garden was quickly swept clean.

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Meanwhile, in the Jade Garden, everyone congratulated Yu Yanluo. Yu Yanluo naturally wouldn’t give up on such a great opportunity to get closer to the different races.

Shang Liuyu took the chance to move over to Zu An’s side and said, “Your mask is pretty special.”

"What is the princess saying? I don't understand," Zu An replied, glancing around the area. Even though Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue acted indifferent, their ears seemed to be pricked up.

Shang Liuyu had a faint smile as she said, "Look at you... Even after you change your appearance, that shameless side of you will never change."

Zu An chuckled and replied, "It's still big sis who knows me best. I didn't expect to meet you here at all. Even though I had a guess, only now did I learn that you were actually the Ocean races' mermaid princess!"

"It's just an identity of mine. I rarely stay in the Ocean races' territory. I spend most of my time in the human world." For some reason, Shang Liuyu's expression seemed to carry a bit of regret as she spoke. However, it quickly returned to normal again as she continued, "I didn't think that you would still take the risk of coming to the Fiend King Court."

"I know your warning earlier was reasonable, but I had a reason for coming here too," Zu An said, thinking about the Unknown Region in the Imperial Tomb. How was he supposed to get in there?

Shang Liuyu glanced at Yu Yanluo, who was completely surrounded. She asked, "Is it for her sake? Indeed, she's quite the charming person. Whether in the human world or in the fiend races' world, she's always been the focus of people's attention."

It was obvious that she had frequently heard about the capital's former number one beauty when she was in the human world. Zu An knew she had misunderstood, but he didn't correct her.

Soon afterward, the Little Golden Peng King walked over and asked curiously, "What is the princess talking about?"

"I was curious how he was able to recognize that there was a deity-grade treasure in that stone," Shang Liuyu replied, making up an excuse

"Oh, now that you mention it, that is something I was curious about too," the Little Golden Peng King said as his gaze landed on Zu An. Even though the stone had been selected by Yu Yanluo, even the butler had overlooked its contents, and yet this Yan Zu had been able to find the Calamity Gold inside. His level of perception was definitely special.

Zu An looked bewildered and replied, "I just made a random guess! Maybe my luck is just too good?"

The corners of Shang Liuyu's lips curled upward.

The Little Golden Peng King was speechless. He thought Zu An was playing the fool at first, but then Zu AN started to brag about his luck. At that instant, he couldn't even really tell whether Zu An just didn't want to talk about it, or his luck really was just that good.

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After the exchange, Shang Liuyu returned to the other side of the room. She worried that staying at Zu An's side for too long would bring him unnecessary trouble.

Some more time passed before Yu Yanluo bid her farewell to those present, and her group left the Jade Garden. The butler personally saw them out, and he even hinted that if they ever wanted to sell the Calamity Gold, the Jade Garden was willing to offer an extremely generous price.

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On the way back, the group began to talk about what had happened. Zu An said with a smile, "There really is more to this Jade Garden than meets the eye... They were clearly there when that Second Imperial Prince made his offer, and yet they're still trying to sneak an offer behind his back."

Yu Yanluo replied, "This Jade Garden is indeed extremely mysterious. However, based on how things currently look, their attitude toward us is still rather friendly, so there's no need to worry about them for now. On the contrary, it's the Tiger race that, because of our conflict with the Lion race, seems to be vigorously trying to rope us in."

Zu An replied, "The Tiger race and the Lion race have always contended for the title of beast king. Unfortunately, neither side is willing to bow down to the other. Both sides are pretty similar in strength, so it's not easy to decide a victor. We can become friendly with the Tiger race, as long as it's not to the point that they'll use us as a tool to deal with the Lion race."

Yu Yanluo nodded slightly. She had thought the same thing.

"Compared to Jade Garden or the Tiger race, what I'm more curious about is how you knew there was treasure in that stone!" Yun Jianyue exclaimed, sounding upset. Yan Xuehen had clearly said she would ask him, and yet she hadn't said a thing even after all this time. She had gotten more and more frustrated, until she finally couldn't take it anymore and just asked directly. This stone cold woman can't change her damn hypocritical nature after all!

Zu An was about to say something when Yan Xuehen spoke up first. "We do not want to hear you say that you have ridiculous luck or something."

"But I really am a child of luck..." Zu An began, chuckling in embarrassment. However, he continued, "Don't worry. That's just what I used to shake off the others. Everyone here is one of our own people, so I won't hide it from you guys."

"Our own..." The three women all thought different thoughts when they heard that.

Yu Yanluo felt that it made perfect sense, while Yan Xuehen's cheeks flushed red. However, she tried her best not to show anything. Yun Jianyue acted naturally, but ever since he had seen her most private parts, she had always felt a strange and indescribable feeling of shame.

Zu An didn't notice their different reactions and simply continued, "The 'Drop of Heaven's Essence' I obtained from Lord Sui's Tomb is a technique for studying the trends of heaven and earth, so of course, it has records on how to study rocks too. After all, these rocks are all products of ley lines.

"According to the records, upon reaching the highest level, one can easily find ki stone veins within a boundless mountain range, let alone seeing through an unpolished stone.

“Of course, my cultivation isn’t high enough, and I just vaguely sensed that something was off with that rock. The reason why I was able to recognize there was a great treasure inside was this.” He took out a bronze mirror while speaking. It was extremely elaborate and unusual.

Yun Jianyue had an ambiguous smile as she asked, “And which one of your sweethearts gave you this lover’s gift?”

Seeing that Yu Yanluo and Yan Xuehen were staring directly at him, Zu An’s heart leaped. He cried, “Big sis, you can’t make random accusations like that! This thing is called ‘King Qin’s Mirror of Souls’. It’s something that I found from an Unknown Region, rumored to be the mirror King Qin used to shine on his subjects to test whether they were loyal or not. It no longer has such a ridiculous ability, but it seems to be able to check what the contents of an unpolished stone are. That’s something I only recently learned about.”

“It’s that magical?” When they heard that it came from an Unknown Region, the three women immediately became interested in it. They all moved closer to get a better look.

However, what they saw in the mirror were three exceptional beauties, but to their horror, there wasn’t a shred of clothing on their bodies!

Chapter 1353: Ambush

“Ahhh!” The three of them were all the very best in their respective fields. They might not have batted an eyelid if a mountain collapsed before them, and yet at that moment, they all panicked. They immediately clutched their chests, then quickly backed up.

All three of their faces were entirely red as they stared angrily at Zu An and cried, “Zu An!”

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You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +555 +555 +555...

You have successfully trolled Yu Yanluo for +134 +134 +134...

Maid Xing and the others were curious why the three had gotten so angry to the point that they would risk exposing Zu An’s identity. They moved over to see what was inside the mirror too, but Yu Yanluo dragged them back.

Zu An was stupefied. He hadn’t expected such a situation to appear at all! When he saw how flames were about to shoot out of their eyes, he quickly explained, “I really didn’t know about this! I only secretly used it to look at that stone earlier!”

Yan Xuehen asked with an ice-cold expression, “Then why do you have a nosebleed right now?”

Even though Zu An had already seen everything back in the Great Snowy Mountains’ hot spring, she had resolved to forget about everything that happened that day. And yet now, she had been seen again! It really was endless suffering.

Zu An subconsciously wiped his nose. Sure enough, there was blood everywhere. He chuckled in embarrassment and said, “I must’ve been eating too well recently in the Fiend races. My ki and blood are going a bit wild, haha.”

A flash of killing intent passed through Yun Jianyue's eyes. "What did you see just now?"

"Absolutely nothing," Zu An said guiltily. However, the beautiful white expanse he had seen appeared in his mind. He instinctively began to compare them. The three ladies really did excel in their own areas, each having their own superlative parts. It would have been fine if he hadn't thought about it, but now that he had, more blood trickled out of his nose. He couldn't stop it even if he wanted to.

The three women were all speechless. They knew he was lying with his eyes open, and he knew they wouldn't believe him either. However, they could only pretend to believe him and let the matter pass.

Thus, the three women all harrumphed and ignored him. Zu An walked behind them guiltily.

Only Maid Xing remained at Zu An's side, handing over a clean handkerchief and saying, "Young master, use this to wipe that area."

"Thank you," Zu An said. He thought to himself that Maid Xing was still the most considerate one among them.

"Young master, what did you do to them? Why are they suddenly getting so angry?" Maid Xing suddenly asked, as a gossipy radiance flickered in her eyes. After all, they had still been chatting happily a moment beforehand, and yet now, they had suddenly turned on each other!

Zu An almost choked. He replied, "Ahem, it's nothing. There was just a small unexpected event."

When she saw how he was acting, Maid Xing grew even more curious. She was about to ask more when Yu Yanluo called out, "Maid Xing, come here."

"Got it..." Maid Xing replied. She only helplessly jog over.

Zu An secretly took out King Qin's mirror. He hadn't expected it to have that kind of function. There had been countless protagonists from webnovels who had x-ray vision and similar abilities. It was easy to see just how popular that kind of fantasy was. Didn't that mean any woman he looked at through it wouldn't be wearing any clothes at all?

His heart began to beat crazily. He knew such a thing was kind of bad, but he just couldn't suppress that urge. I'm just testing it out. I definitely don't have any other thoughts... Zu An began to console himself. Then, he carefully shone the mirror forward.

"If you dare to use that mirror on us again, I'll personally gouge your eyes out," Yun Jianyue said threateningly. That matter had clearly angered her greatly.

"Count me in as well," Yan Xuehen said just as coldly. For once, she stood on the same side as Yun Jianyue.

Yu Yanluo also shot Zu An a look.

"Haha, it's just a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding! This definitely won't happen again," Zu An said, quickly putting King Qin's mirror away.

Yan Xuehen was about to say something when she suddenly frowned. She pulled Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo over to Zu An's side.

At that instant, several dozen crossbow bolts pierced through the area they had just been standing in. The bolts dug several feet into the ground, their tail ends still vibrating. It was easy to imagine just how much force they carried. Blue light swirled across their surface; they had clearly been processed with special runes that specialized in penetrating the ki barriers of cultivators.

“Do I need you to save me? I could get rid of them in just a second.” Yun Jianyue harrumphed. She clearly didn’t like owing Yan Xuehen any favors.

Yan Xuehen rolled her eyes and didn’t feel like arguing with her. She looked at the crossbows, and her expression changed a bit. She exclaimed, “Military crossbows?”

Their expressions all changed. They thought to themselves, Who would dare to bring an entire army to kill us?

Their first thought was that it was Shi Min’s group, but after thinking about it, it didn’t seem too likely. This was the Fiend King Court and not the Lion race territory. Their strength wasn’t great enough to mobilize an army.

Then could it be the Second Imperial Prince or Little Golden Peng King? The two were both fiend race generals with their own troops under them.

The group had just walked into a secluded alley. That way, even if something happened, no one would come and save them for quite some time.

At that instant, another shower of bolts descended. Yun Jianyue was about to act when Yu Yanluo swept her sleeves outward. A painting scroll appeared above them, removing all of the bolts. Her painting turned into a space of its own, taking the bolts into its own world. No matter how great their power was, they were still within her control.

Yun Jianyue sighed in amazement. This woman’s cultivation rank wasn’t as high as hers, but her skills were quite unique.

“Huh?” A voice exclaimed in surprise from the shadows. The enemy clearly hadn’t expected their death trap to have been dealt with so easily.

Zu An sneered when he heard the familiar voice, saying, “Ban Ka, stop hiding like a filthy mouse. You dare to set up an ambush, but you’re too scared to show yourself? Right, Heichi Gu should be here too, no? Why don’t you both come out, then.”

He had already known that these two wouldn’t give up when they left the Jade Garden. Furthermore, the ambush had used military crossbows, which was something Ban Ka couldn’t achieve on his own. Only Heichi Gu from the Black Teeth race had the ability to set that up.

Someone sneered, and a group of black-clad individuals walked out of the distant shadows. The ones in the lead were Ban Ka and Heichi Gu.

“I only planned to leave after taking your treasures, but since you called us out, we have no choice but to silence you,” Heichi Gu said with a cruel laugh, exposing his pitch-black teeth.

When Ban Ka had first suggested working together, he had felt a bit hesitant. After all, the situation in the Fiend King Court was tense. If something really happened, things would be extremely troublesome.

Furthermore, if the Lion race's princes had won the bet, his ambush against the Snake race would have become meaningless. He had no intention of facing the Lion race.

And yet, afterward, news had spread that the Snake race had won! Most importantly, all kinds of incredible treasures had been revealed, and one of them even a deity-grade treasure. Even though they didn't know what it was yet, just the words 'deity-grade' were already enough.

As such, he had quickly joined forces with Ban Ka, deciding to work together to ambush the Snake race. However, he had already prepared some schemes beforehand. He would use the Hyena race's power first, but if something unexpected happened, he would just push all the blame onto Ban Ka.

Yu Yanluo looked around. She noticed that even though the subordinates behind Ban Ka were masked, the exposed skin around their arms and necks was covered in spots. They were clearly the Hyena race's experts. Meanwhile, on Heichi Gu's side, his subordinates were well-trained, but resembled a standard army more.

Now that she had some confidence, she coldly said, "Heichi Gu, the Fiend Emperor has established the order that fights are prohibited. There are Golden Crow Guards patrolling the entire court. Now that this has happened here, Golden Crow Guards will notice the situation soon, and you will be punished by execution. Could it be that you believe you can kill us within such a brief amount of time?"

Heichi Gu sneered. "So it seems the Medusa Queen is still hoping for the Golden Crow Guards to save you. Let me tell you something so you can give up those lavish hopes. I've already used my connections to seal off several streets around us. The Golden Crow Guards will think that we're investigating the assassin in this area. They won't come over here at all."

#### Chapter 1354: Pissed

Yu Yanluo's expression changed. She hadn't expected the enemy's preparations to be so thorough.

When he saw her expression change, Ban Ka felt more at ease. It was a really good thing that he had found Heichi Gu. Even though he was confident in the forces he commanded, feeling that they could also wipe out the Snake race's forces, there were too many things in the Fiend King Court that were outside his control.

"If you behave and hand over those things, we can consider sparing your lives," Ban Ka said, sweeping his gaze over the other group.

There was something else that he didn't say, however. The Medusa Queen was so beautiful, he definitely had to have his fun with her later. As for the two women at her side, even though they looked a bit more ordinary, their butts seemed quite big, so he couldn't let them go either. For the Hyena race, the ass carried an attraction that ran within their very genes.

As for that Yan Zu or whatever his name was, there was no need to keep him alive. However, Ban Ka wouldn't let him die that easily either. Considering how cocky Yan Zu had been, Ban Ka had to properly torment him for a bit first, to make him cry and beg for mercy. Only then would Ban Ka kill him. That was the only way he could vent out his hatred.

However, who would have thought that Zu An wouldn't feel alarmed in the slightest? On the contrary, he looked at them with pity and replied, "Do you guys know just how stupid what you did was?"

Do these guys not know who they're trying to rob? he thought. Forget about him, just a single Medusa Queen, or either of the two grandmasters, would be more than they could handle.

Ban Ka sneered. "Do you know what kind of situation you're already in? You should be begging for forgiveness right now. I'll make sure to pull out your tongue later. Let's see if you can still talk then!"

Zu An sighed and said, "You're from the Hyena race after all, only knowing how to bark."

"What did you say?!" Ban Ka exclaimed furiously. He had never expected that Zu An would act so arrogantly even in such a situation.

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

Zu An shook his head and added, "So the Hyena race's experts don't have good ears either."

Ban Ka's expression contorted heavily and he muttered, "Good, very good... I'll rip off your ears and eat them with wine later."

You have successfully trolled Ban Ka for +777 +777 +777...

Heichi Gu was a bit confused. Where was this guy getting his confidence from? Could it be that they still have some trump cards?

Still, they had so many cultivators with them, while the other party was just made up of five individuals, and four of them were women. Apart from the Medusa Queen being a bit more capable, the others all looked like maids and servants. He thought, The advantage should be firmly ours...

Ban Ka couldn't hold himself back anymore. He reached out a hand, commanding his subordinates to charge forth.

His subordinates all had equipment that resembled some sort of eye covering, as they still felt some apprehension toward the Medusa Queen's petrifying gaze. If they saw something even a bit suspicious, they would immediately cover their eyes.

According to ancient teachings, as long as they didn't look straight at the Medusa Queen, her petrification skill wouldn't work. Besides, the Hyena race's warriors felt that their smell and hearing were sharp enough alone, and they also excelled at fighting together. Even if their eyes were covered, they could still surround their target.

Yu Yanluo took out her World Painting, planning to suck all the warriors into it. Her skill was extremely suitable for group battles.

However, Ban Ka had already prepared for that. He took out a torch and removed the cap on it, and an almost entirely white flame rushed forth. It surged through the air, vaguely forming the shape of a white lotus, and it released a terrifying aura of destruction.

"White Lotus Flame?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen exclaimed, jumping in fright.

There were certain special flames in the world that were different from ordinary flames. They were incredibly powerful, and whether it was in terms of pill refinement or weapon refinement, they had miraculous effects. However, even with the Holy Sect and White Jade Sect's thousand-year history, they

had each only been able to find one kind of special flame. They had never expected a seemingly ordinary-looking Hyena race prince to have something so precious.

Yu Yanluo quickly put her World Painting away. After all, the World Painting was made of paper, so it was weak against water and fire. It didn't fear ordinary flames, but it definitely couldn't touch such a mystical flame.

Ban Ka roared with laughter when he saw them quickly avoid the flame. He boasted, "This is a treasure this prince recently obtained through an encounter. I didn't expect the heavens to show such concern for me, to give me more treasures so quickly."

If he hadn't had the flame to rely on, why would he dare to do anything to the clan leader of another race in the Fiend King Court?

Heichi Gu's eyes flickered. What is the meaning of this? Could it be that he plans to take all the treasures for himself later?

Right, there's only a single deity-grade treasure. How are we supposed to divide things later?

light as well just settle things completely and deal with this Ban Ka too. That would mean that other than the deity-grade treasure, even that White Lotus Flame would become mine.

He began breathing rapidly from excitement. His only worry was that he could end up being unable to beat Ban Ka due to the flame.

Ban Ka excitedly ordered, "Kill the man, but leave the women!"

Since the Medusa Queen didn't even dare to bring out her strange scroll anymore, he would just leave the rest to his subordinates. After all, using the White Lotus Flame in the Fiend King Court would cause too great of a disturbance. It would be bad if they ended up alerting the Fiend Emperor.

Heichi Gu also ordered his subordinates to make a move. If they were going to fight in the Fiend King Court, they had to finish it quickly. The ones he kept outside wouldn't be able to stall any investigation forever. When he saw the meticulous cooperation of the warriors Ban Ka commanded, his expression turned serious.

The Hyena race's warriors excelled at combined assault. Even though they were weaker than the Lion race's warriors individually, they could keep their lives if they were in a pair, and they would be on equal footing with three of them. The more of them there were, the greater their advantage would become.

The people Heichi Gu commanded also had decent coordination, but compared to the Hyena race's innate skills, they were still far inferior. If they had a falling out, he wouldn't have much confidence in his side winning!

He considered just calling Heichi Ran over. But if he did that, he would just be helping Heichi Ran get all of the treasures.

The two's subordinates quickly rushed at Yu Yanluo. The others were about to act when Yun Jianyue suddenly stepped forward and said, "I'm in a bad mood. Since you all came running at me, consider yourselves unlucky."

She took out her Empress Lantern and blew lightly, causing several small embers to flutter outward. Then, they quickly turned into a roaring sea of flames that completely swallowed up the incoming warriors.

No matter how good the Hyena race's warriors were at teamwork, their skills were completely worthless in such a situation. They didn't even have time to scream before being burned to ashes.

"Huh?" Ban Ka and Heichi Gu's smiles instantly froze on their faces. At that instant, they even began to doubt their own eyes.

Yan Xuehen frowned and asked, "Why are you using that skill here? What if we end up drawing the Fiend Emperor's attention?"

"Don't worry, I didn't use it at full strength. This bit of power won't alarm him," Yun Jianyue said with a frown.

"Just who are you all?" When they heard that she had even deliberately held back, and that she had mentioned the Fiend Emperor so casually, Ban Ka and Heichi Gu both swallowed their saliva. Had they miscalculated somehow?

Zu An's group didn't pay the two of them any attention. Yan Xuehen only said unhappily to Yun Jianyue, "It is fine if you punish evil, but those people were just following orders. Killing them all really is going too far."

Yun Jianyue's expression turned cold as she replied, "No way. I was pissed off."

As soon as she spoke, she turned into a string of afterimages. All of the crossbow-wielding soldiers were instantly slaughtered. They didn't even have time to resist before they took their last breath. Such ferocity and overpowering killing intent left both Ban Ka and Heichi Gu scared witless.

Ban Ka seemed as if he had just woken up from a dream. He opened up his furnace, and this time, he didn't hold back at all. The White Lotus Flame swept toward Yun Jianyue.

#### Chapter 1355: Hunter And Prey

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. She activated her Empress Lantern and the wild White Lotus Flame was instantly sucked in, ultimately turning into a soybean-sized flame that jumped around in the lantern. It seemed to be struggling with everything it had, and yet it couldn't break free from the Empress Lantern's restrictions in the end.

Ban Ka was shocked. He had never expected his trump card to be so easily dealt with! How could he not have realized that he had made a big mistake this time? He didn't hesitate, and immediately turned tail and ran. The Hyena race had powerful endurance; in terms of long-distance running, not even the Lion race was their match.

However, Yun Jianyue didn't give him a chance. She appeared behind him in almost an instant. Then, she grabbed his head, effortlessly plucking it like a turnip.

Indeed, she plucked it right off his body. There weren't many other words more suitable to describe what she had just done.

Ban Ka had no idea what had just happened. As he ran with everything he had, he suddenly felt as if his body had become lighter. Then, he suddenly saw a figure in front of him, but why was it still running without a head?

As soon as that confusion emerged, he realized a horrifying possibility. Then, his entire consciousness completely sank into darkness.

The headless body ran for a while, then suddenly collapsed. Then, blood gushed out powerfully from its neck as it twitched endlessly on the ground.

Heichi Gu was utterly horrified when he saw what had happened. He quickly ran in the other direction. However, his legs buckled several times, nearly causing him to fall. Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue was like the reaper of death, quickly reaping the lives of the subordinates around him.

Faced with the encroaching threat of death, Heichi Gu screamed while running, "You can't kill me! I'm from the Heichi clan! my uncle is the royal family uncle and the Court Grand Secretary, my big brother is..."

Before he could even finish, he heard wind stir behind him, making him worry that he would end up sharing Ban Ka's tragic fate. He quickly turned around and opened his ferocious mouth to bite down on the enemy. His black teeth flickered with a threatening radiance.

This was his clan's innate skill. His teeth were incredibly tough and could easily crush metal. They were also venomous, so if one were to get bitten, no matter how high their cultivation was, they would still suffer bitterly.

Unfortunately, the one he faced was the Devil Sect's sect master, someone who had experienced endless mountains of corpses and seas of blood. How could someone like her let him scheme against her? A blast of wind shot out from her finger, hitting him in the forehead. Then, blood and brain matter exploded out from the back of his head.

Heichi Gu's overbearing mouth instantly lost all the strength behind it, falling open weakly. He fell backward, utterly ruined. His eyes were wide open as he died in complete disbelief that someone dared to kill him in the Fiend King Court.

It seemed as if everything had happened in an instant. The hunter had become the prey, and such overbearing and vicious individuals had breathed their last.

Yu Yanluo was shocked. She was used to watching the two grandmasters argue back and forth, so she had already subconsciously begun thinking of them like little girls. Only then did she remember that Yun Jianyue was the vicious Devil Sect Master!

Yan Xuehen's expression turned completely cold. She cried, "Witch, aren't you being too cruel? You actually killed so many people!"

"Hmph, miss spineless, stop trying to preach to me," Yun Jianyue replied. Perhaps because she had just carried out a huge slaughter, there was still a hint of viciousness left in her eyes as she continued, "If you're not happy with it, then come at me too."

Seeing that the two of them were about to fight, Zu An quickly stepped forward to mediate things, saying, "Actually, big sis Yun is doing this for our safety. If we let some of them go, it would just bring about greater retribution. Besides, information about us would end up being leaked, and they would start to pay attention to and investigate us. Even the Fiend Emperor could start paying more attention, and if that happened, none of us would survive. Big sis Yun knows all that, but you know how she is. She just didn't feel like explaining it to us."

Yun Jianyue was a bit moved. This guy really does understand me. However, she wouldn't admit to it on the outside, saying, "Hmph, there's no such overly sensitive stuff. I just wanted to kill. There aren't that many reasons at all."

Yan Xuehen had already more or less guessed the reason, but she had been the leader of the orthodox faction for a long time. She found it a bit hard to accept such a vicious method. However, what she was even angrier about was that Zu An had actually chosen to side with Yun Jianyue, even though the two of them were clearly closer!

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +333 +333 +333...

Zu An jumped in fright. He didn't understand how he had offended her.

Just then, Yun Jianyue's Empress Lantern began to shake back and forth. Judging from the intensity of the shaking, it seemed as if it could explode at any time!

"What happened?" Zu An quickly asked.

Yun Jianyue said seriously, "I was able to seize this White Lotus Flame Ban Ka had because his cultivation was too low. However, this White Lotus Flame is a unique existence that belongs to the world. One mountain can't house two tigers. Even though I can restrain it temporarily with the Empress Lantern, the two true flames inside can't coexist. If this continues, it might explode completely."

Yan Xuehen quickly let go of her previous anger. She quickly said, "We need a vessel to store this true flame. However, a normal object cannot contain this true flame, as it would instantly be burned to ashes."

"Unfortunately, just now, Ban Ka's furnace was broken during the fight," Yu Yanluo said as she picked up the furnace from Ban Ka's corpse. It was already completely crushed. It seemed that when the Empress Lantern had pulled out the White Lotus Flame, its berserk force had damaged the furnace.

"Isn't it because someone was a bit too vicious?" Yan Xuehen remarked, shooting Yun Jianyue a hateful look.

Yun Jianyue's eyebrows rose. Zu An saw that the two were about to fight again and quickly said, "I have something on me, but I don't know if it can store this White Lotus Flame."

He took out the Nine Cauldron he had gotten from Shen Xuzi's courtyard in the Royal Academy. It had been a long time since he last used it to refine some Ki Condensation Pills. As far as he understood it, the cauldron needed a fire to refine pills anyway, so it would likely be highly resistant against flame.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both voiced their surprise. “Your cauldron doesn’t look like anything special, but on closer inspection, it seems really extraordinary... Not even we can see through its secrets. It really might be able to.”

Thus, Yun Jianyue taught Zu An how to collect the flame. At that point, the Empress Lantern was already reaching its limit. She was worried that the Empress Lantern would be damaged, so she released the White Lotus Flame, taking the chance to burn away the Hyena race and Black Teeth race’s people, not even leaving behind any ashes.

Zu An immediately began drawing the White Lotus Flame into the Nine Cauldron according to Yun Jianyue’s method. Yun Jianyue said with a sigh of praise, “Kid, your talent really is a bit ridiculous. How can you learn things that quickly?”

Yan Xuehen rolled her eyes. She thought, Did you forget about his transcendent aptitude already?

She suddenly remembered that she owed her recovery from her serious injuries to having been filled with Zu An’s blood essence... A faint blush instantly spread across her white and pure cheeks as she thought of that.

Meanwhile, Zu An was completely focused. In time, he successfully collected the White Lotus Flame. The flame, which had previously still been quite stubborn and unyielding, immediately became obedient when it entered the Nine Cauldron.

Yan Xuehen clicked her tongue in wonder, saying, “This cauldron is pretty interesting.”

“Let’s head back for now. The Golden Crow Guards seem to be hurrying in this direction,” Yu Yanluo reminded them when she saw rising smoke in the distance.

They had clearly caused quite the disturbance, startling local authorities of high status. Heichi Gu alone couldn’t have stopped them from arriving. Thus, the others naturally had no objections, and they quickly left.

Just after they left, a group of Golden Crow Guards quickly arrived. The one in the lead was, surprisingly, Left Guard General Ma Tian.

Because he was the one who had let the assassin into the palace, he had been sent out as a punishment, ordered to chase after the assassin. When he sensed the unusual ki fluctuations nearby, he brought his men over. He frowned when he saw the scorched black expanse.

There were quite a few capable people present. They reported that a battle had just taken place, but all traces of it had been burned away. To unleash such devastating power within such a short amount of time was something only the legendary true flames could achieve.

“True flame?” Ma Tian muttered, frowning slightly. Why did he feel that the Fiend King Court hadn’t been all that peaceful as of late? He commanded his men, “Send some people to look into the soldiers that stopped us earlier. Ask whose orders they sealed up this street on.”

Soon, the report came back. Ma Tian scowled, muttering, “Huh? Why is it the Heichi clan again?”

The previous time, they had been the very same ones to screw him over so badly!

## Chapter 1356: Mysterious Key

"Damned Black Teeth race!" Ma Tian cursed. Then, he ordered his subordinates, "Investigate the damn Black Teeth race thoroughly for me to see what in the world they are doing!"

He wouldn't be a real man if he didn't take revenge properly. This was the perfect chance for him to properly vent out his anger.

...

Meanwhile, Zu An's group was already far away.

Yu Yanluo glanced behind her and asked, "Do you think the Golden Crow Guards will find out that it was us? After all, many people from the Jade Garden saw that we had some conflict with Heichi Gu and Ban Ka."

Zu An replied reassuringly, "What are you scared of? Either way, there aren't even any ashes left behind and there are no witnesses to serve as proof. Even if they look for us, we just have to deny it."

Yu Yanluo was speechless. This guy really was shameless! However, sometimes, to deal with other shameless people, it was precisely such shameless methods that worked best.

"That's all we can do for now," she said with a nod. However, She suddenly thought of something and took out a pitch-black key, saying, "I picked this key up from Heichi Gu's corpse earlier."

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both voiced their surprise. "The White Lotus Flame didn't even leave behind bone ashes, so how could this key come out intact?"

Zu An's eyes lit up. He asked, "Could it be some kind of treasure?"

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen studied it for a while. In the end, they shook their heads and replied, "That is not the case. Even though the material is unusual, it has no special functions. It is just a key. However, any place that needs this kind of key to open it must be extraordinary."

Unfortunately, no matter how much they thought, they couldn't figure out where the lock the key opened could possibly be. Even Yun Jianyue was starting to regret killing Heichi Gu so quickly, thinking she should have asked him what the key was first. Still, who would have imagined that someone like him would actually have something so precious?

When he returned to his residence, Zu An secretly went to Yu Yanluo's room. However, she was feeling more sensitive than usual. There were two grandmasters next door, so if something really happened, it definitely wouldn't escape their notice. As such, she wasn't willing to be in the same room with him no matter what.

Zu An also remembered what kind of experience he had shared with Yan Xuehen. If she heard something, he had no idea how she would react. As such, he didn't press the issue and returned to his room to get some much needed rest.

Meanwhile, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen had their ears pricked up all night, thinking that something would happen. In the end, however, there was nothing at all.

“Tsk, boring,” Yun Jianyue grumbled. If one were to describe her reaction, it would be akin to someone waiting at the ready with a bag of popcorn, but having no drama to watch.

Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen was much more conflicted. She had a slight blush and her eyes swirled with radiance, and her true thoughts were unknown

In the following few days, the Golden Crow Guards began to appear more commonly on the streets. It was clear that after what had just happened, many people in the Fiend King Court became more vigilant.

However, no one came to investigate the Snake race. Instead, many clans tried to worm their way into becoming friends. It was clear that news of what had happened in the Jade Garden had already spread, and people had learned that the Medusa Queen excelled at rock betting.

Even an ordinary person with that level of ability would become a respected guest of a great clan, let alone a clan leader like herself, and such a beautiful one at that. Thus, Yu Yanluo ended up being occupied by social niceties.

Meanwhile, Zu An happily enjoyed his break. He decided he would check up on Snow in Elf King Manor to follow up on what had happened previously.

However, he hadn’t expected the Elf King Manor’s security to become much stricter than the last time. Furthermore, many Golden Crow Guards were undercover nearby. It seemed that after the assassination attempt on the crown prince, they suspected that Princess Snow had colluded with him. They weren’t completely convinced by her story, so they had arranged some people nearby to see if they could pick up any clues.

For fear that he would bring Snow trouble, Zu An ultimately decided not to risk it.

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Three days quickly passed, and the All Races General Assembly drew near.

The location of the assembly was at the mountain below the Imperial Tomb. There was a large ceremonial altar at the foot of the mountain, surrounded by a spacious plaza. The fiend races’ major ceremonies and important events were usually held there.

Zu An finally got to experience what an All Races General Assembly was for himself. It was indeed a place where there were all kinds of races, with people of all sorts of different appearances. Commonly-seen creatures were one thing, but there were some that he had never even heard of before. The animal kingdom of his previous world was nowhere near as spectacular!

Zu An stared at a race that moved as slowly as sloths in everything they did. Are these guys this slow in a battle too? Aren’t they just going to be trampled then?

However, he soon saw something even more ridiculous: The Tapeworm race. Zu An thought they were gross just from looking at them. Do these guys also live inside others and eat their shit?

There was also the Giant Maggot race, and they wriggled around like mountains of flesh. Zu An’s stomach churned. He was curious about what those guys ate. If they made breakthroughs in the future, would they become immortal flies?

Additionally, there were many other species that were similar to the Tapeworm and Giant Maggot race. Zu An thought to himself that he would definitely stay away from them. He really was scared that their innate skill would be spraying shit or something. That would really leave him with trauma for the rest of his life.

The different races sat down in their respective positions around the ceremonial stage. Zu An noticed that the ones closest to the center were all the most powerful races, while the Snake race sat in the middle.

As if seeing through his thoughts, Yu Yanluo said with a sigh, "When my mother was still here, the Snake race was really powerful. We sat at the very front. But now..."

"Haha, the fact that you're still able to sit in the middle here after being in decline for so long already proves that the Snake race is a great race," Zu An said reassuringly. He continued, "Don't worry. You've now returned to the Snake race, and with my help, you'll be able to restore your clan to its former glory."

Yu Yanluo had a bitter smile and didn't say anything. In truth, she didn't really want to stay on the fiend races' side; she liked her life on the human side more, and she approved more of the human world. However, she was now the Medusa Queen, so she couldn't show any weakness and disregard the will of her people.

As the different races got into position, a shrill voice called out, "The Fiend Emperor's carriage has arrived!"

All the representatives from the different races got up to bow respectfully. They shouted, "We respectfully welcome your majesty, the Fiend Emperor!"

Zu An secretly looked up to size up the Fiend Emperor. He saw a streak of golden light descend from above. A second later, a yellow-robed elder appeared on the broad dragon throne in the center of the stage. The traces of time were visible on his body. He didn't look too different from an elder with one foot already in the grave.

Zu An hadn't expected the powerful and awe-inspiring Fiend Emperor to actually be such an elderly man. No wonder he was planning to carry out a succession ceremony. It seemed that his time really was limited.

The Fiend Emperor's appearance was very ordinary; he wasn't particularly handsome, but not particularly ugly either. His most eye-catching trait was his towering nose, however. That and his sharp, falcon-like eyes made people realize that he definitely wasn't an ordinary elder.

When he sensed the Fiend Emperor's eyes sweep toward him, Zu An didn't dare to look too closely. This guy really was like a freaking hawk!

As the Fiend Emperor's eyes swept through the entire place, his divine will spread out. Those present felt a wave of terrifying power. No one dared to utter a single word, and the representatives of the weaker races began to shake all over in fear.

A great eunuch at the Fiend Emperor's side then shouted, "Everyone, you may rise!"

“Thank you, your majesty!” those present replied.

Some members of the younger generation were so moved their entire bodies had begun to shake. Among the fiend races, the Fiend Emperor was like a deity, the object of countless people’s worship. Now that they had finally seen him for themselves, how could they not be moved?

Yan Xuehen sent a ki transmission to Zu An, saying, “The Fiend Emperor didn’t come himself; this is just one of his separated souls.”

As a grandmaster, her knowledge of such things far surpassed that of ordinary cultivators. Zu An had heard the explanation from her before. At the earth immortal realm, one could cultivate the life soul, earth soul and heaven soul. They corresponded to the yin spirit, yang spirit, and origin spirit respectively.

A scorching sun had risen overhead. The Fiend Emperor on the stage was likely the Fiend Emperor’s earth soul. That person looked just like the real deal, though. If not for Yan Xuehen’s reminder, Zu An wouldn’t have been able to sense anything. The skills of an earth immortal truly were mysterious.

Zu An was quite curious. The human emperor had placed a soul into the crown prince’s body, but it had been destroyed in the secret dungeon. That had probably had quite the severe effect on the emperor’s strength, right?

“Looks like the Fiend Emperor really doesn’t have much time left. He can’t even attend this gathering with his real body,” Yun Jianyue said with a bit of excitement.

Yan Xuehen jumped in fright and asked, “You’re not going to run over and fight against him, are you? No matter how weakened he is, he is not someone you can deal with!”

#### Chapter 1357: All Races General Assembly

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes and replied, “Am I really that kind of reckless fool in your eyes? Why would I be so dumb as to run to my death?”

Yan Xuehen said with a grin, “In my eyes, you are precisely such a fool who no longer cares about anything once you act on an impulse.”

Yun Jianyue was speechless.

The two of them seemed about to fight again when the eunuch’s shrill voice suddenly called out, “The Second Empress has arrived!”

This time, a sweet fragrance seemed to spread through the place. Then, a fair and graceful figure slowly flew into view. A breeze brushed past, making her dress flutter gently. It really was as if a goddess were descending into the world.

Many people from all the different clans had heard of the Second Empress before, but this was the first time they had ever seen her. When they saw her beautiful and charming appearance, many people’s eyes lit up. Some people even gulped in an embarrassing way.

Such a thing would only happen among the fiend races. In the human world, if that kind of thing ever happened, it would be a huge crime of disrespect.

"The Second Empress really is an extraordinarily beautiful woman..." many people whispered to each other. They found it really hard to hide the shock they felt.

Zu An thought to himself, These people really are fearless! Do they really think the Fiend Emperor can't hear them just because there are people also chatting around them? They have no idea just how powerful the methods of an earth immortal are.

However, surprisingly, the Fiend Emperor continued to sit on his dragon throne without a single change in his expression, as if he hadn't heard the onlookers' discussions at all.

Yu Yanluo seemed to have seen through his puzzlement and explained quietly, "The fiend races are different from humans. In this place, men don't forbid others to praise their own women's beauty. On the contrary, they think of it as a kind of glory."

"But these guys' reactions aren't purely praise, right?" Zu An asked in confusion. Judging from how they looked, it seemed as if they really wanted to drag the Second Empress to bed.

Yu Yanluo's expression became a bit strange as she said, "The style of doing things here is indeed a bit different. To them, this kind of thing further proves a woman's charm."

Meanwhile, the Second Empress drew near to the high platform. However, she was careful and didn't fly above the Fiend Emperor, but rather descended halfway through her approach. Then, she leisurely walked across the steps. Her voluminous dress naturally spread out around her, looking extremely beautiful as it dragged along the steps; it made her resemble a phoenix.

Zu An had to admit that the Second Empress really did seem to have the noble presence of an imperial mother.

When she arrived on the high platform, the Second Empress smiled and greeted the Fiend Emperor. "This servant pays my respects to your majesty." Her voice was sweet and soft, making many people's entire bodies tremble. How could there be such a beautiful voice in this world?

"Hmph, just putting on airs," Yun Jianyue grumbled. It was as if, because they were both women, she really couldn't stand the Second Empress' coy and affectionate act.

Yan Xuehen smiled and asked, "Aren't your charm arts from the Devil Sect similar? Why are you mocking her?"

Zu An thought of something. People always said that Yun Jianyue's charm techniques were exceptional, and that even Qiu Honglei had learned from her. However, he had never seen her use them before.

He subconsciously glanced at Yun Jianyue. She was indeed devastatingly beautiful, but she was a bit too fierce. It really was hard to imagine what she would look like with her charm techniques.

"Why are you looking at me?" Yun Jianyue asked, her eyes narrowing. She felt that Zu An's expression was a bit weird somehow. Then, she turned around to reply to Yan Xuehen, "Do you really think it's the same? That's just a method for us to toy with men; it doesn't represent our real nature at all. That woman's seduction seems to be naturally formed, on the other hand. She was born to be a sow."

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo were speechless.

They were also women, and furthermore beautiful women, so they really didn't like talking about another woman like that. However, when they thought of Yun Jianyue's nature, they stopped thinking about it.

...

Meanwhile, on the elevated platform, the Fiend Emperor nodded. He reached out with a hand, gesturing for the Second Empress to rise. The Second Empress smiled sweetly as she got up, then sat down in a smaller seat at his side.

When the two sat together, even though one was old to the point that he already had one foot in the grave, while the other was a radiant beauty, none of the fiend races seemed to think that anything was strange. In their hearts, only someone as strong as the Fiend Emperor had the right to have a stunning beauty like the Second Empress at his side.

Only Zu An's expression was a bit strange. He thought to himself, Is this split soul the same as the original body? If you had all of your normal functions, wouldn't you easily cuck yourself...

Or maybe, every time, all three split souls get together and...

Zu An felt a chill when he imagined that. It was that damn earth immortal rank's fault for being too mysterious! Outsiders can't understand it at all.

...

An elder dressed in ceremonial official garb stepped forward to preside over the ceremony. Zu An was startled when he saw his black teeth, exclaiming, "It's the Black Teeth race again?"

Maid Xing explained, "He is the clan leader of the Black Teeth race, the fiend races' imperial uncle and the court's Grand Secretary. His relationship with the Golden Crow Crown Prince is close, and he is one of the leaders of the crown prince's faction. Between that and his relationship with the previous Empress, that is why the grand ceremonies of the fiend races are all managed by him."

Zu An nodded. He looked at the stage and saw that the Golden Crow Crown Prince had already made his appearance too, arriving in his extremely eye-catching golden war chariot pulled by six hornless dragons. Together with his dazzling golden armor, he looked mighty and formidable, and his presence was extraordinary. All those who followed him cheered loudly.

Only Zu An noticed the bit of weakness in the Golden Crow Crown Prince's expression, as well as the fact that his face had clearly received extensive makeup. It was clear that after having his lower body wounded so badly, even though he had been able to recover through the Fiend Emperor's help and by using the Golden Crow Sacred Fire, it was still extremely taxing.

Meanwhile, the fiend races had always worshiped the strong. If he revealed any weakness in such a grand celebration, it would clearly be unfavorable for the succession that followed. That was why he had put on such a getup.

Zu An's gaze shifted to the golden carriage. He thought to himself, That thing really is great; I have to get my hands on it sometime and give it a go.

Just then, he noticed another arrogant and prideful pair of eyes looking up at the Golden Crow Crown Prince. It was from a seat at the very front, closest to the elevated platform; the gaze belonged to the Second Imperial Prince.

The corners of his lips were slanted, and his expression was filled with disdain as he watched the Golden Crow Crown Prince receive people's praises.

Zu An was a bit alarmed. He suddenly felt as if he were looking at the popular 'disdain' meme in his previous world.[1]

Looks like the Second Imperial Prince really doesn't have the heart of a subject after all... But the Golden Crow Crown Prince is going to inherit the position of the Fiend Emperor soon. Even if he isn't convinced, what else can he do?

At the Second Imperial Prince's side were three yellow-robed individuals, all much younger than the Second Imperial Prince. The two older ones were probably the Third Imperial Prince and Fourth Imperial Prince.

Meanwhile, the youngest one seemed to only be six or seven years old, and he looked quite cute. However, he seemed to be trying very hard to look mature. When he looked at the Fiend Emperor and Second Empress on the elevated platform, his eyes were full of admiration. He was naturally the little prince who had been born to the Second Empress herself.

Zu An nodded inwardly. No wonder the Second Empress had her own schemes. Her own son was just too young, and so was she. If the crown prince became the new Fiend Emperor, their family situation would become too awkward.

However, the little prince was just too young. Did she really plan to forcefully support her son's ascension to the throne?

Apart from the princes, there were other imposing figures in the front row. They were clearly the important ministers of the fiend races' court.

The one dressed in bright colors next to the Little Golden Peng King was likely the Peacock Wise King. Zu An thought, Hm, I guess he is pretty handsome. No wonder he was able to give birth to a pretty daughter like Kong Nanwu.

Apart from that, the Elf King wasn't there; rather, his seat had been taken by Princess Snow. From time to time, Qiao Xueying looked in the Snake race's direction. Eventually, she just happened to meet Zu An's gaze, and her restless expression immediately eased up.

After not meeting for several days, both of them had been worried about each other. Now that they had seen each other safe and sound, they both sighed in relief. The two stared at each other just like that, as if they both had too many things they wanted to say.

...

Meanwhile, on the elevated platform, the Second Empress knew what was going on, and had been secretly observing Qiao Xueying. When she saw their interaction, a pensive expression appeared on her

face as she thought, Look at this pair of secret lovers. She had initially been a bit worried about her plans, but after seeing that, she felt a bit more certainty.

#### Chapter 1358: Picking Bamboo Sticks

It wasn't only the Second Empress who was paying attention to their exchange. Yun Jianyue also spoke up. "Damn kid, didn't you say that you and that Elf Princess were both innocent and pure?"

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo both looked at Zu An when they heard that.

"We are innocent!" Zu An exclaimed somewhat guiltily. He added inwardly, Snow and I are each other's sunshine. No matter what we do, of course we're innocent.

"Like hell I'll believe that." Yun Jianyue sneered. Yan Xuehen was emotionless, while Yu Yanluo seemed to be pondering something.

When he saw the bursts of Rage points he received, Zu An felt as if he would get a headache. It really is easy for things to screw up when you have too many women...

Just then, the Peacock Wise King seemed to want to talk to Qiao Xueying. She thus looked away, worried that she could expose Zu An's identity.

Zu An took the chance to change the topic, asking, "Is that middle-aged man in front of Shi Min and the others the Lion King?"

Shi Min and the other princes were standing respectfully behind a middle-aged man. He had golden hair, with a thick mane-like beard around his face. He was even tougher-looking than Shi Min and the others. Zu An's group could feel the mysterious pressure coming from his body even from far away.

Yu Yanluo replied, "That's right. He's the Lion Race's leader, Shi Zhentian. His cultivation is deep and profound."

"Shi Zhentian?" Zu An had a strange expression as he thought, Why didn't you name yourself Optimus Prime?[1]

Yun Jianyue instead said with a sneer, "He can only be a grandmaster at most. What do you mean, deep and profound?"

Yu Yanluo was speechless. Yun Jianyue was a grandmaster herself, so she really didn't know how to retort when faced with that remark.

Zu An noticed another large, tall man not too far away in the horizon. His back was extremely wide and his muscles were well-developed. He wore a short-sleeved shirt that fully exposed his shredded biceps. There were all sorts of fierce tattoos covering his body, making him look just like the boss of a criminal organization.

When he saw the usually wild and unruly Hu Yong and others standing properly behind the man like little kittens, Zu An mused thoughtfully, "That's probably Hu Qianxiao, right?"

He remembered the rumors that had surrounded Tushan Yu. Zu An thought to himself, If this guy learned that I took Tushan Yu before him, would he become so angry he'd join hands with the Lion race?

Now that they were on the topic, for some reason, Tushan Yu still hadn't arrived in the Fiend King Court. He wondered if something had happened to her, or if she had been held up by something.

While he was feeling worried, he noticed that Princess Suolun was also behind a middle-aged individual, looking cute and helpless. That was probably her senior in the Devil race.

She and Shang Liuyu both had higher positions than both Hu Zhentian and Hu Qianxiao. It was easy to see that among the fiend races, the Ocean races and Demon race were extremely powerful. Only if Shi Zhentian and Hu Qianxiao finally decided who was the king of beasts would they have a chance of being at the same level as those two.

Just then, Heichi Fei began the official ceremony. Zu An was completely surprised by all of the novel and different things that followed. There are quite a few differences between the fiend races and the humans after all.

Then, the Fiend Emperor spoke. He thanked all of the different races for making such a difficult trip from far away. Zu An sneered, thinking, Didn't you summon everyone from the various races to test their loyalty? Who would even dare to not come?

However, he was indeed a bit surprised. For one thing, the Ocean races' Dragon King and Demon race's Demon King hadn't come, and had only sent their representatives. It was easy to see that their clans were powerful enough to not fear the Fiend Emperor.

Apart from that, even though groups like the Lion race and Tiger race's clan leaders had come, the leaders of their younger generation, like the Western Lion and Northern Tiger, hadn't. It was clear that they were worried that something bad could happen in the Fiend King Court, so they had kept the most capable successors in their clan to avoid being completely wiped out.

Then, the Fiend Emperor talked about the selection of the Golden Crow Crown Prince as the successor. Once the clans' delegates were set, they would then hold a huge celebration. He thus hoped that everyone present could continue supporting the Golden Crow Crown Prince.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince looked around the area complacently, receiving the congratulations and worship of the various clans.

Meanwhile, under the elevated platform, the Second Imperial Prince was furious. He looked down at the ground; his true thoughts were impossible to identify behind his darkened expression.

The Third, Fourth and Little Imperial Princes had normal expressions, however. Perhaps because of their age or ability, they didn't have the qualifications to fight over the imperial throne.

"They make it sound all nice, but isn't it just to force the clans to express their loyalty to the new emperor?" Yun Jianyue snorted disdainfully. "The reputation of that birdman, the Golden Crow Crown Prince, has been covered in grime as of late, and yet it actually didn't affect his decision in the slightest?"

Yu Yanluo said, "Judging from the conversations I've had with the other races recently, the Fiend Emperor must have really cherished the deceased First Empress. He naturally loves the Golden Crow Crown Prince she gave birth to as a result."

Yun Jianyue was a bit surprised as she replied, "I didn't expect this Fiend Emperor to actually be the sentimental sort. Compared to a certain someone, he's already much more refined than a certain someone we know." She gave Zu An a sidelong glance as she spoke.

Zu An broke out into a cold sweat and replied, "That affectionate side of him is just a rumor! The First Empress already died, but didn't he still take in all those concubines? There was even someone outstanding like the Second Empress."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Hmph, men are all garbage, as expected."

Zu An was speechless. He thought, This woman has never even experienced love before. Which man in this world would dare to turn her down? And yet, she's saying something so cynical.

Yan Xuehen said "Actually, the Golden Crow Crown Prince is already a giant among men. To have his level of cultivation and fighting prowess at his age is quite extraordinary. It is just that he was unlucky, losing to Ah Zu twice."

Zu An remarked in embarrassment, "Ah... I wasn't expecting big sis Yan to actually praise me."

"Who is praising you? The only reason why you were able to win against him was just because you just happened to have methods that countered his. Against other experts, your strength might not be greater than the Golden Crow Crown Prince's." Yan Xuehen harrumphed. Her face reddened and she turned around, no longer paying him any more attention.

Off to the side, Yun Jianyue had a strange expression. She just felt that the stone cold woman had become a bit different recently, and yet she didn't know exactly how.

Sensing that the mood was becoming filled with suspicion, Zu An was alarmed. He was worried that if things were exposed, Yan Xuehen would take it out on him, so he quickly changed the topic and said, "The Fiend Emperor is passing on the imperial throne to the crown prince so quickly. Could it be that he's already on the verge of death?"

Even though the Fiend Emperor looked as if he were going senile, it didn't seem likely that he would die in the next few days, right?

Sure enough, that drew Yun Jianyue's attention. She explained, "I don't think so. Once he abdicates, he should be able to focus on resting. He might even be able to extend his life."

Zu An was a bit puzzled. He asked, "But didn't they say that once the succession ceremony concluded, all of his cultivation would be passed onto the new Fiend Emperor? Would he still be able to live then? Even if he kept his life, whether or not the new Fiend Emperor would allow him to live would be a different story."

The fiend races cared about strength the most; they didn't care too much about things such as loyalty or filial piety. Killing their fathers to gain the throne was a common occurrence among the various races. There were many who even took their fathers' wives into their own chambers. That was something the fiend races were long already accustomed to.

"That I don't know," Yun Jianyue said, frowning slightly. "The Fiend Emperor's succession is just a rumor. No one has ever witnessed it themselves. I don't know what really happens during that process."

Just then, the Fiend Emperor began to make offerings to his ancestors and the heavens. After completing all the required rituals, he left with the Second Empress. Then, the rest of the ceremony was carried out by the crown prince and Heichi Fei.

Soon afterward, the battle over delegate seats that those present cared about the most would start. All those who were interested in seizing a spot prayed that they would get a good bracket. After all, all kinds of things that had happened over the years. There had been some powerful races' candidates, who, because they encountered someone even stronger, were eliminated early. In contrast, some weaker races' candidates had only gotten weak opponents, so they had gotten the chance to successfully claim a spot.

Zu An walked up with Yu Yanluo to draw the lots. When they arrived on the stage, Heichi Fei looked as if he were welcoming them, but in fact, he asked them softly, "Has the Medusa Queen seen my humble clan's Heichi Gu?"

Yu Yanluo nodded. She replied in a normal tone, "I've had the chance to meet him. We shared a rock betting experience a few days ago in the Jade Garden."

"I see. Then after you left the Jade Garden, did you meet again?" Heichi Fei asked, looking at her calmly.

Just who was Yu Yanluo? She naturally didn't reveal any openings. She replied, "I didn't. What's wrong? Why is the Grand Secretary suddenly asking something like this?"

"It's nothing. You can draw the ballots now," Heichi Fei said indifferently.

Yu Yanluo gestured for Zu An to walk forward. Zu An said with a chuckle, "My luck has always been pretty good. I'm sure I'll be able to pull good ones."

Then, he randomly pulled out three bamboo sticks. However, when those nearby saw the sticks, they gave him sympathetic looks as they began commenting.

"They ran into the Lion race's people so early. Looks like the Snake race is doomed to only have a single delegate again."

"That guy still says he has good luck. His luck is clearly horrible."

...

Heichi Fei had an ambiguous smile when he heard the others' discussions.

Only Zu An sneered. These idiots. They have no idea that the Lion race's princes are the absolute best sticks to grab for me.

1. 'Shi Zhentian' is very similar to the Chinese name for Megatron. 天

Chapter 1359: Not Worthy

Shi Rong just happened to be the representative who had gone over to pull the bamboo sticks for the Lion race. When he saw what had happened, he said with a laugh, "A clash between enemies really is inevitable! You must now be feeling regret over how arrogantly you were acting a few days ago, right?"

Zu An sighed and said, "I always thought that villains spoke way too much when I read fantasy stories before. I didn't expect that to be the case in real life too. We'll just fight on the stage later, so why do you have to make noise here like a woman?"

Yu Yanluo was speechless. She felt somewhat offended.

Shi Rong was a bit stunned. He had thought that a look of nervousness or fear would appear on Zu An's face, which would give him a chance to show off a bit. However, he hadn't expected that kind of reaction at all! He didn't have any chance to feel good about himself!

You have successfully trolled Shi Rong for +355 +355 +355...

Shi Rong took a deep breath to calm himself down. He replied with feigned composure, "Tsk, with your strength, you might not even make it out of the group matches, and yet you want to face us? Who gave you this much courage? Pah!" He spat on the ground and turned around after speaking.

There were too many races among the fiend races, so there was no way they would immediately enter a knockout competition. They had to win in group battles before they would advance to the next round. They would save a lot of time that way. Meanwhile, the Lion race's princes and Snake race's candidates weren't in the same group. They would face each other once they entered the knockout competition.

Zu An almost laughed out loud. He remarked to Yu Yanluo, "This Shi Rong is normally pretty rude and impetuous, but he actually learned to use some psychological attacks this time? Looks like a stupid person really does have one decent thought out of a thousand terrible ones."

Yu Yanluo smiled and said, "He is a prince, after all, and was raised carefully. How could he be as unsightly as you make it sound?"

Zu An's expression turned serious as he said, "Even though I'm fine with the results of the drawing of lots, this is too much of a coincidence. Someone clearly did this on purpose."

Yu Yanluo said analytically, "Even though the Lion race is powerful, they don't have that much power in the Fiend King Court. It's definitely someone else pulling the strings."

"That Heichi Fei from earlier?" Zu An asked, immediately recalling the man's sinister smile.

Yu Yanluo shook her head and replied, "Even though Heichi Gu died because of us, they don't have any proof. Furthermore, I looked into it over the past few days. Heichi Gu is only a child of the Black Teeth race's branch family. Heichi Fei wouldn't go all out for the sake of the child of a branch family in such an important competition. There's clearly someone else involved."

"The Golden Crow Crown Prince!" Zu An immediately responded.

"It seems he's still suspicious about whether you really have returned to the human world after the assassination attempt in the imperial palace. That's why, since he knows that we and the Lion race share a grudge, he made things like this on purpose to see if he could force you out," Yu Yanluo said.

"That guy is surprisingly crafty," Zu An said in admiration.

Yu Yanluo replied with a slight smile, "You've bullied him so much, so of course he'd scheme to get revenge on you."

"It's his fault for doing such despicable and shameless things," Zu An said, thinking back to that night. If he hadn't appeared in time, Snow would have already been defiled. The only thing he regretted was that he hadn't been able to take the Golden Crow Crown Prince's life quickly enough back then.

...

When they returned to their seats, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's eyes immediately widened in disbelief when they heard the results of the lottery. They were still grandmasters, after all. How could they have expected that someone would be so eager to act against them one day?

"I'm already finding it a bit hard to hold myself back. I've been feeling so stifled, this is the perfect chance to vent it all out," Yun Jianyue grumbled. She had felt quite down as of late, having experienced so many wrongs she had never experienced before in her life.

Normally, with her personality, she would just burn anyone who offended her to ashes and be done with it. However, the one who had seen her was Zu An, so she couldn't do anything. However, things had gotten more and more out of hand afterward. Now, these Lion race guys had tried to take advantage of them again and again, so she had already decided that she had to teach them a proper lesson for some time.

Yan Xuehen glowered, saying, "Witch, you had better not do anything reckless. You cannot willfully slaughter the innocent." She was still brooding over what had happened the previous night. So many people had been killed just like that.

"Hah, just false righteousness. I didn't plan to kill them, but now that you've said that, I'll just kill them. So what?!" Yun Jianyue snapped, her voice carrying a hint of viciousness.

"Can you be reasonable for once? We are here to help the Snake race obtain delegate positions, so what if your whims end up troubling the Snake race?" Yan Xuehen replied, shooting her a glare.

Yu Yanluo said softly, "Actually, even though this kind of meeting forbids killing, it's difficult to stop things from going too far. There have been quite a few instances where people were crippled badly. So, as long as it isn't too cruel, it won't have too big of an impact.

"It's just that there are quite a few powerful cultivators watching this competition. If you make a slight mistake and they're able to recognize that you two are human, or your real identities are exposed, they'll all attack you together. You two are also injured, so..."

Yun Jianyue laughed and said, "Don't worry. I was just saying that to piss off that stone cold woman. We from the Holy Sect always spend time on the battlefield, our blades licking the blood of our enemies. We understand how to judge the hour better than anyone. It's this stone cold woman who's the stupid one, taking me for a fool."

"You...!" Yan Xuehen was so angry she turned around and ignored Yun Jianyue.

Zu An chuckled inwardly. He felt that Yan Xuehen had always been bullied badly by Yun Jianyue. As expected, the gentle ones were always the ones who were easily bullied.

...

Then came the first round, a free-for-all, winner-takes-all battle. The plaza was extremely vast, containing over a hundred sites that were quickly divided up.

The Fiend King Court sent out several Golden Crow Guards to each location, along with an official whose task was to record things. Zu An wondered if such a small number of people would be able to keep things under control if any real trouble broke out.

However, Yu Yanluo explained to him that in a place like the fiend race territory that highly valued strength, there were countless pairs of eyes watching, making it hard to play any tricks.

Furthermore, competitions of this sort were simple and straightforward. It wasn't like the group matches held by soccer teams in Zu An's previous world where two teams fought, and then they calculated all the points in the end. Instead, several hundred candidates would fight together at the same time in a free-for-all. The final ten would be the victors and have the qualification to enter the next round.

Zu An had a strange expression as he thought to himself, We were all worried about anyone being too violent... but in this kind of battle, you actually can't make it without being pretty violent.

No wonder the Golden Crow Crown Prince had sent the Lion race to snipe the Snake race in the following bracket. It was probably to borrow the situation to justify seriously injuring, or even killing, the Snake race's candidates.

Wait, are they not afraid that the Snake race's candidates won't even make it past the preliminary round?

He suddenly realized something. If they could arrange for the Snake race to meet the Lion race in the knockout tournament bracket, didn't that mean there could be undercover agents even in the free-for-all?

Sure enough, at first, people were careful when they first entered the battlefield. If they showed that they were too strong, they could just end up drawing attacks from all sides instead as others teamed up against them.

Furthermore, many races had previously already privately discussed among themselves, agreeing that if they ended up in the same group, they would work together. After all, a lone pair of fists couldn't fend off all enemies. The more helpers one had, the easier it would be to have the last laugh.

In the end, while most people in Zu An's arena were busy vigilantly observing their surroundings, a group of more than ten people quickly rushed directly at them with sinister smiles on their faces.

Zu An wanted to tell Yun Jianyue to hold back, but he saw her roll her eyes, as if she had no intention of doing anything. She said, "These nobodies aren't even worthy of us. I'll just leave them to you."

Zu An was speechless.

Then, Yun Jianyue said to Yan Xuehen, "Apart from these guys, there's that Giant Maggot race's candidate. He doesn't seem that weak, and we'll probably have to fight him. However, I firmly refuse to fight against something so disgusting."

Yan Xuehen nodded in deep sympathy, saying, "Indeed. We can just leave him to Zu An as well."

## Chapter 1360: Literal Shit Beaten Out of Them

Zu An was completely speechless. Big sis, aren't we all here to get some seats for Yu Yanluo? Why did this suddenly become a holiday for you?

Soon afterward, however, he didn't have time to mock them anymore. More than ten fighters from different races rushed at them. Due to the sudden assault, the previous tension gave way to pure chaos. The other groups began to split up, joining separate battles.

However, people of the same race usually fought together or worked together with their allies. No one was like the Snake race, where two people watched like bystanders and they only had one person fight.

Many people sneered. It seems the Snake race doesn't really get along! No matter how high their cultivation is, they'll still be easily taken down through numbers.

They didn't mind that at all, since it meant fewer competitors.

Soon afterward, no one paid any attention to the Snake race anymore. Each group fought either as an individual team or with allied groups, doing their best to take out as many people as possible. Only then would they have a chance of getting out of the first stage. Otherwise, they could end up having to fight against their own allies for a position.

Zu An was surrounded by more than ten candidates from different races. Their cultivation ranks were at the peak of the sixth rank at the lowest, while most of them were at the seventh rank. There were even some at the peak of the eighth rank.

The reason they could represent their respective clans was that they were carefully selected fighters. Even if their races were weak, finding a single strong cultivator still wouldn't be too difficult. Of course, they were still quite lacking compared to true experts. With Zu An's cultivation, he definitely didn't need to go all out. He could easily take them out with just some simple moves.

The fighters around Zu AN were confused. Their opponent only used simple martial arts that clearly seemed easy to avoid, and yet they somehow couldn't avoid getting hit. They used all kinds of profound skills, but they couldn't even touch a hair on his body. That kind of feeling was just too strange...

They all felt that this person's strength was just a bit greater than theirs at most, that they could definitely win if they just gave it another go. However, whenever they rushed forth again, they were quickly knocked down. They were all incredibly baffled, wondering if their luck was just awful that day or something, or whether this guy was using some kind of witchcraft.

Yan Xuehen nodded and remarked, "I did not expect him to be able to retrace the natural path at his age. He really is a genius among geniuses."

As the White Jade Sect's sect master, and considering her identity as a glorious grandmaster, she had seen many, many talented individuals. However, even the most outstanding ones seemed to pale in comparison to Zu An.

"That's why a certain someone really must be blind, or else why would they try to break up those lovers?" Yun Jianyue remarked, rolling her eyes. She wouldn't give up even a single chance to mock Yan Xuehen.

When she remembered how she had chased down Zu An to kill him, Yan Xuehen's face reddened. More importantly, afterward, they had even shared the most intimate kind of relationship! Sigh, I really don't know how to deal with all of this anymore.

Yun Jianyue didn't notice how Yan Xuehen was acting strangely. Instead, she looked excitedly into the distance, remarking, "What's so interesting about Little An's side? In my opinion, it's that Giant Maggot race fella whose skills look rather interesting."

Yan Xuehen looked in the same direction. She saw a pale and fat individual who resembled a mountain of flesh, standing in the midst of the arena. It was obvious that the other races' fighters also knew he was a bit tricky to deal with, and that he was all alone. As such, they agreed to attack him together by chance.

However, the Giant Maggot candidate didn't care at all, just letting those people hit his body. His soft body made him resemble the mascot of the Michelin tire company. His opponents' powerful fists only sent ripples coursing along his vast rolls of fat, but he remained completely fine. He simply appeared to be enjoying the situation, as if the others were just massaging him.

Yan Xuehen furrowed her pretty brows and said, "That guy is a bit..." With her restrained nature, she didn't want to say the word 'disgusting'.

Yun Jianyue nodded in deep sympathy, saying, "Indeed. I definitely won't fight against him."

As such, both of them tacitly agreed to shift their attention to Zu An.

Zu An's battle was close to its conclusion. The group of scheming individuals he was up against already lay strewn across the ground, howling in pain. Not a single one stood back up.

Another group of fighters exchanged a look, then rushed over. They weren't prompted by the crown prince; rather, they just felt that Zu An was strong, and that he was going to be a huge threat. Thus, they decided to take advantage of the opportunity while he was weakened from his previous battles.

Zu An was a bit speechless. He did have some area of effect skills, but he was worried that others would recognize him if he used them. As such, he just fought them honestly.

...

Just then, Shi Gong looked over in his direction and remarked, "Oh? That kid's cultivation doesn't seem that bad..."

Shi Rong sent an incoming enemy flying. When he heard that, he said with a sneer, "How could he dare to act so arrogantly if he didn't have some strength? Don't worry, it's only useful against those nobodies. He's nothing more than a little chick to us."

Shi Gong figured that made sense. Even though the three brothers weren't as strong as their eldest brother, they were still strong cultivators in their own right. Winning against the Snake race's nameless nobodies was but an extremely easy affair.

Meanwhile, Zu An was starting to get worked up too. When he saw the endless opponents coming at him, he thought to himself, Do these guys think I'm some pushover?

As such, he began to deal some heavier blows to set an example for the others. Sure enough, when a few individuals suffered serious injuries, the others were shocked. They began to hesitate, not daring to rush forward.

Yun Jianyue nodded in satisfaction, saying, "That's what he should've done earlier. Why was he acting like such a sissy?"

Zu An rolled his eyes and retorted, "You still have the nerve to say that? You're just sitting there and watching. If you all helped, these guys wouldn't have dared to flock over."

If all three of them showed off their strength, the others wouldn't dare to pick on them. But when the opposition saw that the two women looked ordinary and didn't fight, they just thought that the women were there to get free delegate seats and that it was mainly Zu An who would be fighting. Naturally, they didn't want to let the Snake race get more seats.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "What use do you have if you can't even deal with such a small situation?"

Zu An was speechless.

Yan Xuehen suddenly called out, "Be careful!"

As soon as she spoke, the ground trembled as the Giant Maggot race expert rushed toward Zu An. It was obvious that he wasn't satisfied with the small fries anymore. He had seen that Zu An was quite strong and wanted to give him a try too.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen immediately ran off into the distance, clearly not even planning to get anywhere near him.

Zu An felt as if he were about to puke. He had been joking about how he definitely didn't want to fight against this guy, and yet now, it had become a reality.

As the opponent ran over, a foul stench filled the air. Zu An nearly fainted. Do I f\*cking smell shit right now?!

How could he still have the patience to fight slowly against someone like that? He sent a fist flying immediately. It was surrounded by an aura of ki, because he didn't even want to touch the opponent with his skin.

When he saw the fist, the Giant Maggot warrior didn't dodge and let it hit his belly. However, his smile immediately froze. His belly visibly caved in, and he felt a wave of intense pain. Then, he could no longer hold himself back.

Bwah!

A huge amount of an unidentifiable yellow substance sprayed out.

Zu An was dumbfounded. He really does spew shit? Just f\*cking end me already!

He immediately used Grandgale to move to the farthest corner of this stage. Dark lines appeared on his face as he watched the scene unfold.

The Giant Maggot warrior didn't seem to have any intention of stopping, continuing to spray vast quantities yellow liquid. The air was instantly filled with an utterly vile and indescribable stench.

"Motherf\*cker! Who the hell actually got literal shit beaten out of them?!"

The contestants in the other arenas smelled it too. They all looked over in horror.

However, the contestants on Zu An's side were more unfortunate. Not only did the liquid stink, it was poisonous too. Those with lower cultivations fainted on the spot. Those with slightly higher cultivations wanted to run, but the yellow substance continued to surge forth like an ocean, instantly swallowing up the entire place and washing over them. Their entire bodies instantly froze, and they fell powerlessly to the ground. They couldn't do anything to keep the unidentifiable liquid from covering their mouths and noses. Many people actually had their mouths open in horror, so they accidentally swallowed a bit. Tears of grief and anger instantly welled up in their eyes.

After the whole farce, in the end, apart from the Giant Maggot, only nine people had successfully escaped to the edge of the platform. They continued to vomit. Everyone else had fainted after being soaked in that yellow substance.

The people from the other groups were shocked. They had never expected this group to have decided its results so quickly, and in such a manner, no less...