

## Immortal 1371

### Chapter 1371: Ritual

They couldn't help but be surprised. They had come for the Unknown Region this time, and every single Unknown Region was a place countless people yearned for. If news of that got out, all of the world's powerful cultivators would swarm over.

Wu Liang looked at them strangely. He didn't understand why they had such a huge reaction. He said, "There are many funerary objects in the Imperial Tomb, and all of them are extremely precious. What else would it be but a treasury?"

They were all speechless.

Zu An didn't know whether Wu Liang was telling the truth or lying, but he didn't have the time to think about all of that at the moment. He just took the party in the other direction.

The map he had gotten from Lord Sui's Tomb only gave him a rough idea of where the Unknown Region was. As for where its actual location was, it didn't mark that. Still, that made sense. The map had already existed far earlier than the fiend races' Imperial Tomb. Back then, the place hadn't been the Imperial Tomb, so the surrounding terrain had already completely changed. That had made the map lose much of its meaning. They had to look for the rest themselves.

The group looked around along the way to see if there were any special places. Meanwhile, Wu Liang was like a fish in water. He took all of the funerary objects in the rooms without any restraint. Most of them were gold or jade ornaments, but there were also some high-level ki stone treasures.

When they saw his greedy appearance, Zu An and the others sighed inwardly, thinking that they had overthought the situation.

Yan Xuehen was skilled in formation runes. She constantly looked around, but even though she found some hidden mechanisms, none of them had anything to do with the Unknown Region.

Suddenly, the view before their eyes changed. The space in front of them gave way to a wide open area. They were all surprised. At that instant, they almost thought they had already left the Imperial Tomb. There was a sun, moon, and stars above them, while beneath those were rivers and lakes.

"This is..." Yun Jianyue trailed off, her mouth hanging open in shock.

Yu Yanluo was shocked too, but she explained, "This is a miniature version of the world."

She specialized in art, and her treasure was the World Painting. She was extremely familiar with the lands and waters of the world, so she immediately recognized the scene before her.

"On top of that, it's a depiction of when the fiend races were at their peak," Yun Jianyue said with a sneer. "Right now, most of the mountains and rivers have already been seized by the human race. The fiend races seem to still be living in their own fantasies."

Wu Liang looked at her with a strange expression and asked, "Is this lady a human or a fiend? Your views seem to be a bit unusual."

Yun Jianyue gave him a cold look. Wu Liang's entire body trembled, and he didn't dare to ask any more questions.

Zu An couldn't help but sigh in amazement. He had read about the tomb of the first emperor being a city that contained a sun, moon, and stars, as well as mountains, lakes, and seas. He hadn't expected to experience the same thing in the fiend races' Imperial Tomb too.

Wu Liang looked at the heavens above and was eager to try inspecting them, saying, "Those must be at least heaven-grade ki stones, maybe even immortal-grade! They're also so big. Ah, how great would it be if I could pluck one out?"

Yan Xuehen said coldly, "Judging from how these treasures have been placed into the sun, moon, and stars, this is a huge formation. Forcefully removing them would definitely trigger the Imperial Tomb's alarm. In that case, no one would survive."

"I know, I know. Am I not allowed to just talk to myself..." Wu Liang muttered, feeling a bit wronged. He looked broken-hearted, as if he had come across a mountain of treasure he couldn't touch.

"There's a large lake here," Yu Yanluo said. She exclaimed in alarm, "Huh? The water is real!"

Normally, in order to preserve models of lakes and rivers in tombs, the architects would use substitutes like mercury; then, they wouldn't decay for a long, long time. They could also release poison that protected the tomb.

The others were also a bit surprised. They walked over and checked for themselves. Sure enough, it really was water!

"I understand what's going on. The flow of wind and water matters a lot to tombs, so water is actually extremely important. It's just that an ordinary person can't be as bold as the Fiend Emperors in their designs, to find an unending water source here," Wu Liang explained. "The Golden Crow royal family is of the fire attribute, the most dominant of the yang forces. We all know the saying that yang alone can't produce life, while yin alone can have no growth. There must be a harmony of yin and yang. This water source is used to balance the yin and yang of this Imperial Tomb. Tsk tsk, the one who designed this Imperial Tomb in the past really was a genius..."

Wu Liang continued to talk non-stop. Zu An and the others were in admiration as they listened. This fella had some tricks after all! The Pangolin race really were the true specialists of tomb raiding.

Yun Jianyue moved over to Zu An's side and whispered, "Little An, do you think the Unknown Region is inside this lake?"

Zu An nodded and said, "That's what I think too. How about this? I'll head down and take a look. You guys keep an eye on Wu Liang." He had the Blue Mallard ability that granted him a natural affinity with water. As such, he was the most suitable candidate.

"Don't worry, it's just a fat daoist priest. He won't be able to get anywhere." Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "You're the one who needs to be careful down there."

Zu An wanted to warn her that Wu Liang was different at first, but when he recalled that she was a grandmaster, he felt that his worries were a bit unfounded. Soon afterward, he jumped into the water and began to search the bottom of the lake.

The three women waited by the lakeside. Yun Jianyue looked as if she didn't care on the outside, but she actually watched Wu Liang in secret. However, he remained extremely honest and didn't do anything strange.

After an incense stick's worth of time, the water's surface rippled. Then, Zu An emerged from the water.

"So?" the three women quickly asked.

Zu An shook his head, saying, "I looked around inside, and I even examined the bottom of the lake. There weren't any hidden entrances or passages."

"What are you all looking for?" Wu Liang asked curiously.

"None of your business," Yun Jianyue snapped, shooting him a glare. Wu Liang snickered, looking completely unaffected.

"Then where would it be? We already searched a good amount of the Imperial Tomb," Yun Jianyue said with a frown.

Wu Liang said ambiguously, "Even though I don't know what you're all looking for, there is another place you haven't searched yet in this Imperial Tomb."

Zu An and the others were startled. The only place left was where the Golden Crow Crown Prince was going to undergo the previous Fiend Emperors' trial by fire. They hadn't expected that after all this time, they still had to go through what they wanted to experience the least.

Wu Liang continued, "From what I know, the crown prince is probably inside the Imperial Tomb's main hall. There's a fiend ancestor sculpture inside. The so-called trial of the previous Fiend Emperors is nothing more than a farce."

Zu An's expression was strange as he asked, "How do you know something that confidential?"

Wu Liang said with a chuckle, "We're tomb raiders by trade after all, so we know more secrets than normal people."

Zu An discussed things with the three women. In the end, they decided to enter the main hall and take a look in the end. Along the way, Zu An thought to himself, Could it be fate that I have to help the Second Empress this time?

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They moved quickly. Along the way, with the master of tomb mechanisms Wu Liang and the rune formation expert Yan Xuehen at their side, they were able to avoid a lot of dangers ahead of time.

Soon afterward, they arrived at the corner of a corridor. A bright flame shone before them.

Wu Liang said quietly, "The underground palace is up ahead."

Zu An nodded. He focused his mind and moved forward.

Inside was a grand palace. The most striking thing about it was a pitch-black sculpture that towered several meters into the air. It looked like both a person and a beast, and yet was neither. It had a human body with a bird head, and its hands were claws. Behind it was a pair of pitch-black wings, making it look as if it would spread its wings and fly away. Its sharp bird beak and the special pupils in its eyes gave off a unique air of violence and viciousness. Looking at it gave the impression of facing some great prehistoric beast.

Even though the sculpture was an inanimate object, there was a wisp of terrifying pressure spreading from it that was even greater than that of the current Fiend Emperor.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both shocked, exclaiming, "This sculpture is a bit strange!"

Yu Yanluo asked quietly, "Could it be that the Fiend Ancestor is still alive?"

"How could that be? The Fiend Ancestor was a being from tens of millions of years ago! How could he possibly survive until now?!" Yun Jianyue replied, shaking her head. "But this sculpture does seem to carry a bit of the Fiend Ancestor's aura."

"Could it be that the previous Fiend Emperors' heroic spirits all entrusted their soul fragments to this statue? But how is that possible?" Yan Xuehen muttered to herself. She seemed to have stumbled upon a difficult academic problem.

Meanwhile, Zu An was sizing up the palace surroundings. He saw someone dressed in a long golden robe, every part of his being exuding an insufferable air of arrogance. Who else could it be but the Golden Crow Crown Prince?

There were eighteen guards scattered around the hall. All of them were strong, yet reserved. The weakest of them was at the ninth rank, but none of them exceeded the Golden Crow Crown Prince's cultivation. Anyone who could be brought inside by the Golden Crow Crown Prince was definitely one of his most trusted aides.

Just then, the Golden Crow Crown Prince walked up to the fiend ancestor statue step by step. His face was brimming with excitement and admiration.

"I am going to begin receiving the trial. You are all to guard the exits. Do not allow anyone to interrupt me," the Golden Crow Crown Prince ordered.

"Understood!" the eighteen guards replied confidently, then began vigilantly watching the surroundings. One guard moved toward the passage Zu An's group was in. The party was so alarmed they quickly moved backward. Fortunately, they all excelled in stealth skills, so they weren't discovered.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince nodded in satisfaction when he saw that. Then, he spread his arms toward the fiend ancestor. After that, he began to chant cryptic syllables.

Suddenly, the fiend ancestor statue seemed to come alive. Its eyes shone.

Chapter 1372: Alarmed

Zu An and the others' expressions changed. Could it be that the Fiend Ancestor really would return to life? That would definitely be the absolute worst situation for them.

Suddenly, a strange event happened. The two guards closest to the Golden Crow Crown Prince moved, attacking his vitals at the same time.

The other guards hadn't expected the colleagues they were so familiar with to suddenly attack the crown prince. By the time they reacted, it was already too late.

The two guards were extremely quick, and their cultivation was on the higher end among the eighteen guards. They were already at the hero soul stage of the master rank. As such, even though the other guards all shouted in anger and chased after them, they couldn't catch up.

Meanwhile, the Golden Crow Crown Prince had his eyes closed, as he was undergoing the most crucial part of the trial. Even if he did notice the activity happening behind him, he wouldn't be able to break free from the trial for quite some time. That meant the two guards' choice of timing was particularly vicious and ingenious.

"Could it be that they were also sent by the Second Empress?" Yun Jianyue asked through ki transmission.

"I don't think so," Zu An said, shaking his head. If the Second Empress had already sent someone, why would she invest so much into recruiting him?

"The Golden Crow Crown Prince is probably finished. It's a good thing we didn't have to make a move," Yu Yanluo said, sighing in relief. She didn't want Zu An to take any risks.

"That may not be the case. The Golden Crow Crown Prince is too calm right now," Yan Xuehen said with a frown. The crown prince had been much less composed when he was in the Snake race.

Sure enough, as soon as she spoke, the crown prince who had previously been immersed in the trial swiftly opened his eyes. Then, a raging flame protected his entire body. It was the Golden Crow royal family's innate skill: Golden Crow Sacred Fire!

The two hero soul master rank assassins were somewhat surprised. However, they didn't withdraw. Instead, they each clasped a pendant and barriers of light surrounded their bodies. Thus, they were just barely able to fend off the Golden Crow Sacred Fire. They had clearly anticipated such a situation ahead of time and prepared a fire-resistant magical artifact as a defense.

Of course, the Golden Crow Sacred Fire definitely wasn't ordinary fire. Their magical artifacts definitely wouldn't last for long. However, a few seconds would already be enough for them to kill the powerless Golden Crow Crown Prince.

However, just then, a blazing wave of heat spread outward. A sun rose above the Golden Crow Crown Prince's head, and a golden war chariot rushed out from it.

The two assassins' bodies were clearly affected by the sun's radiance. Their fire-resistant pendants instantly shattered into several pieces, and smoke began to appear from their bodies.

The golden carriage rushed directly at the closest master rank assassin. It locked onto the assassin, who couldn't avoid it at all as it swiftly rammed into him. His entire body shook violently, blood gushing out of his mouth wildly. He then crashed into the ground like a broken sack.

The other assassin was horrified when he saw that. He bit down on the tip of his tongue and released a spray of blood essence, seemingly activating some life-saving skill. He barely managed to struggle free from the sun's restrictions, then ran for his life. He knew he wouldn't get another chance to kill the crown prince. The only thought left in his mind was to run away.

Suddenly, two giant wings that were several dozen meters long emerged from the Golden Crow Crown Prince's back. They were like giant blades, instantly hacking the fleeing assassin's legs in half. The assassin fell from the air and rolled across the ground in pain.

The golden wings weren't as simple as they looked. They contained sinister sword ki that entered through the wounds they created, which then ran amok in the assassin's body. As such, even a master rank cultivator like him ended up screaming miserably.

Zu An was shocked when he saw that. He hadn't expected this loser he had previously defeated to be so strong, seriously injuring two master rank cultivators so quickly. Even though they were only at the hero soul stage, they were still master rank cultivators!

He remembered that Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue had previously warned him that the only reason why he had been able to defeat Golden Crow Crown Prince was that his techniques perfectly countered his opponent's. It just so happened that Zu An didn't have to fear the crown prince's most powerful moves. However, against other opponents, Zu An wouldn't necessarily be stronger.

Otherwise, the Golden Crow Crown Prince wouldn't be publicly recognized as the absolute best of the fiend race's younger generation's five elites.

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Just then, the assassin who had been rammed by the golden war chariot struggled into a seated position by leaning on a pillar. However, the other guards quickly rushed over and aimed their weapons at his neck. They also sealed all of his acupoints so he couldn't move at all.

The assassin knew he couldn't escape, so he didn't vainly try to resist. Instead, he stared at the Golden Crow Crown Prince and asked, "Did you not enter the trial just now?"

"Of course not," the Golden Crow Crown Prince said proudly. "If I had done that, how would I have made you two take the bait?"

"You knew we were going to do something from the start?" the assassin replied, looking regretful. If the assassins had known things would turn out that way, they would have waited a bit longer and made their move when the crown prince completely entered the trial.

However, neither of them had known too much about what the previous Fiend Emperors' trial was really like. They had been worried that such a trial would end quickly. After all, the flow of time in a secret dungeon was different from the real world. Oftentimes, one would spend a long time in a sea of consciousness, but in reality, only an instant would pass. They had thought they couldn't afford to take that risk. If they had waited until Golden Crow Crown Prince passed the trial, it would all be too late.

"No," the Golden Crow Crown Prince said. "I suspected that there were definitely spies planted around me, though. I just did not know who. Furthermore, just now would have been the best opportunity, so that was why I threw out the bait. Sure enough, you two made your move."

He looked at the assassin coldly, asking, "Why did you betray me? Did this crown prince treat you unfairly somehow?"

"You did not. The crown prince has treated us extremely well, but we already had our own masters. We did not have the freedom to act," the assassin replied. He sighed, his tone full of deep helplessness. After all, he was still a master rank cultivator; furthermore, he was not an ordinary deathsworn assassin. He could have been set with amazing prospects, but unfortunately, he had gotten caught up in the struggle for imperial power. He couldn't decide his own fate at all.

Even master rank cultivators had their own families and people they cared about. That also meant they had weaknesses that could be exploited, making them easy to control by others.

"Another master?" The Golden Crow Crown Prince sneered. He looked down on the two of them from above, asking, "Who sent you two? If you tell me honestly, I might even let you two live."

The assassin revealed a pained smile and said, "Since we chose to become assassins, then we have already prepared ourselves for death. If we speak, we will only end up wishing we were dead instead."

As soon as he finished speaking, a strand of black blood began to trickle down from the corner of his mouth. Something similar also happened to the other assassin. The two took their last breaths soon after. The other guards were horrified and they quickly examined the assassins' mouths.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince erupted into a rage. "Do you not know how to do your jobs at all?! How could you let them have the chance to end their own lives?"

Many assassins kept poison between their teeth. If they failed, they would break open the poison and end their own lives to avoid confessions under torture.

The guards quickly explained, "Replying to the crown prince. That is not the case; they already took poison beforehand. Only now did the poison act."

Zu An and the others were shocked. To make two master rank cultivators take poison before carrying out a suicide mission... The mastermind behind the scenes really had invested quite a bit!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's face darkened as he said, "As expected, they really did plan things carefully." He stared at the two corpses and continued, "Even if you do not speak, I can make my guesses. Those fire-resistant pendants were made specially to deal with me, so it had to be someone with a thorough understanding of the Golden Crow Sacred Fire. In the end, only that good little brother of mine would have the ability and motive to accomplish this, right?"

Zu An almost began to feel admiration. The Second Imperial Prince really had gone through a lot of trouble. The people that the Golden Crow Crown Prince would bring with him to such a place were definitely his greatest trusted aides. They had been placed at his side who knew how many years ago, and had to slowly climb to their positions. The most important part, however, was that even if their assassination failed, there would be no proof left over. The second prince could just say he knew nothing about it later.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince suddenly laughed, remarking, "That good little brother of mine really is formidable. What a pity that in the end, it was all futile."

The other guards all knelt down and called out, "The crown prince is blessed by the mandate of heaven! Long live the emperor! Long live, long live, long long live!"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince enjoyed their cheers greatly. When they finished, he then said hypocritically, "Lower your voices; even though I will become the Fiend Emperor soon, I have not officially risen to the throne yet. Father emperor might feel too sensitive if he overhears this."

"This birdman isn't as stupid as I thought," Yun Jianyue said with a sneer.

Yu Yanluo also said with a sigh, "He was the publicly acknowledged number one among the fiend races' younger generation to begin with. Only recently was he defeated by Ah Zu."

Just then, some more things happened on the other side. The Golden Crow Crown Prince ordered the others to carefully store the two corpses. Furthermore, he had them form groups of three so they could monitor and keep each other in check, in order to prevent the previous events from happening again. Even though they were all the most loyal people he had carefully selected and the chance of another rebellion happening was extremely low, he still had to take precautionary measures.

Then, the Golden Crow Crown Prince officially began the ritual. The Fiend Ancestor statue flickered with radiance. It had been entirely black at first, but the black began to be shot through with gold. Then, the Fiend Ancestor statue's eyes suddenly opened. Two beams of golden light fired out, enveloping the Golden Crow Crown Prince within them.

The other guards staggered backward in alarm from the terrifying pressure that erupted at that moment. Their entire bodies trembled.

"This Fiend Ancestor's strength might have far surpassed the current Fiend Emperor," Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue remarked. Even they found it a bit hard to resist the terrifying pressure from far away. They subconsciously took a few steps back.

Crack!

Suddenly, while Wu Liang was stepping backward, he accidentally knocked over a candlestick on the wall.

"Who's there?!" Because an assassination attempt had just happened, all of the guards were on high alert. They immediately rushed over when they heard the noise.

#### Chapter 1373: No Morals

When Zu An had watched movies before, he always sighed at the number of idiotic companions the main character brought. For example, when they were eavesdropping outside the window, someone would accidentally step on a tree branch and wake up the people inside. Such plot lines were always incredibly annoying. Now, however, he had actually experienced it himself!

He didn't even have the time to curse a veteran like Wu Liang for making such a dumb mistake, because the guards were already charging at them. When they saw that there were actually people hidden there, the guards were shocked. However, they didn't say anything and just drew their weapons.



The crown prince was undergoing his trial, so the Imperial Tomb had already been sealed off, preventing anyone from entering. The imperial uncle Heichi Fei was even guarding the main entrance. Even though the guards didn't know how those people had entered, they had to be there to cause trouble.

The fact that the guards could serve as the crown prince's trusted aides and be selected to enter meant that their loyalty and ability were all first-rate. They were at the peak of the ninth rank at the weakest, and there were quite a few master ranks among them. When such a huge force rushed at them, Zu An and the others didn't dare to hold back. They quickly brought out their own skills to defend themselves.

Zu An felt a bit dejected. They had initially planned to pay the smallest price possible during the trip. They hadn't wanted to alert anyone, and had just wanted to enter that Unknown Region. Now, however, things had gone in the worst direction again and again. It seemed they had no choice but to help the Second Empress now.

In front of the Fiend Ancestor statue, the Golden Crow Crown Prince's body shivered, and his head tilted to the side a bit, as if he were trying to listen. It was clear that he had already noticed the disturbance happening outside, but because he was undergoing the ritual, he couldn't do anything.

Wu Liang cried loudly, "We need to seize the moment, or else if he finishes the trial and receives the Fiend Ancestor's acknowledgment, his strength will rise tremendously! In this Imperial Tomb, he could then borrow the power of the Fiend Ancestor and previous Fiend Emperors. At that point, we'd be dead meat!"

"How could the trials all the Golden Crow Crown Princes need to go through end that quickly?" Yun Jianyue harrumphed somewhat disapprovingly.

Wu Liang quickly explained, "He's undergoing a trial by fire in his mind, but it isn't happening to his flesh. The flow of time is different!"

The three women were all among the very best in the world, with knowledge and experience surpassing most others. With that reminder, they immediately understood.

"You damn fatty, I'm going to settle things with you later!" Yun Jianyue cursed.

She changed her leisurely attitude and no longer held back, wandering among the enemies like a ghost. Whenever she attacked, it was accompanied by a wave of bitter killing intent. The guards, who thought their cultivations weren't inferior to hers, began to feel alarmed. Their auras instinctively weakened a bit.

Yan Xuehen didn't seem to want to be outdone. When she attacked, she conveyed a completely different style; every move was elegant and graceful. She was like a beautifully dancing fairy.

Even though Yu Yanluo's cultivation was lower than the others', she had received the libationer's inheritance, and she also had the Medusa bloodline's special skill. On top of all of that, she had received Lord Sui's Pearl, which greatly increased her strength. Even though her cultivation was only at the ninth rank, her fighting strength was already on par with normal master rank cultivators.

Wu Liang was completely stupefied as he watched the scene. Why were these three dainty-looking women so formidable? Even harder for him to understand was, why were the three ridiculously strong women so nice and friendly at Zu An's side? How is this freaking fair?!

However, he didn't relax at all. His fighting skills were extremely special. When the battle began, he rolled along the ground from side to side, careening across the battlefield like a pinball. From time to time, he took out the claw passed down from his race's ancestor, tearing off large chunks of the guards' flesh and in some cases even severing their tendons. The crown prince's subordinates felt hatred and fear for him and began spitting curses.

Just like that, the group worked together. After a mere incense stick of time, the crown prince's side was completely wiped out.

"Damn fatty, you need to give us a proper explanation for that!" Zu An exclaimed, breathing heavily as he stared at Wu Liang. Even with his cultivation, he had needed to tire himself out quite a bit to eliminate so many opponents.

"There's no time to explain," Wu Liang quickly replied. He rushed to the statue, crying, "If the Golden Crow Crown Prince wakes up, we're all dead!"

By the time he spoke, he had already reached the Golden Crow Crown Prince. With the pangolin claw in hand, he smashed it toward the Golden Crow Crown Prince. His attack revealed that his cultivation was extremely high; the end of the claw began flickering with a dim yellow light, a radiance produced from the friction between elemental power and the air.

A barrier suddenly flickered to life around the Golden Crow Crown Prince's body, forcibly stopping the attack. Immediately afterward, the Fiend Ancestor statue's eyes became a bit brighter, and the barrier followed suit. Wu Liang looked as if he had been struck by lightning. He spat out a mouthful of blood, then fell heavily to the ground, unable to get back on his feet for a long time. He was clearly seriously injured.

Zu An had initially been suspicious, immediately starting to question Wu Liang's objective. But when he saw that, he understood what was happening. If they allowed the Golden Crow Crown Prince to finish the trial, they really would all die here. As such, he couldn't be bothered to worry about the details and rushed at the Golden Crow Crown Prince too. In any event, they had a grudge against the Golden Crow Crown Prince, and stopping him from completing the ritual had been one of their objectives from the start.

He took out the Poisonous Prick and used all of his strength to thrust it at the Golden Crow Crown Prince. However, he also encountered the barrier of light. He felt as if the Poisonous Prick had stabbed into a lump of cotton, completely dissipating the attack's force.

Then, a terrifying ripple emerged from the barrier of light, causing the energy inside him to surge. If not for the fact that his cultivation had already made tremendous progress, and his body had already been tempered repeatedly by primordial ki, he would have followed in the footsteps of Wu Liang's tragedy and become seriously injured.

However, Zu An didn't relax at all, because the recoil force came in waves. Furthermore, each time, it was a bit stronger than the last. He felt so awful he wanted to vomit blood several times. However, he had already become angry. His thoughts had become 'Either you die, or I die'. He continued to thrust the Poisonous Prick at the Golden Crow Crown Prince.

The Poisonous Prick excelled at piercing through ki defenses. On top of that, the barrier hadn't been created by the Fiend Ancestor personally, and Zu An was using all of his strength. As such, the Poisonous Prick moved through the barrier bit by bit, getting closer and closer to the Golden Crow Crown Prince.

Yun Jianyue, Yan Xuehen, and Yu Yanluo also rushed over, all using their own powerful skills on the shining barrier. In the end, the barrier could no longer hold on and ruptured loudly.

However, at that very instant, the Golden Crow Crown Prince woke up. He threw powerful punches toward the party.

Boom!

A burst of blinding radiance filled the air as Zu An and the others were blasted back by a tremendous force. The Golden Crow Crown Prince also flew back a good distance, blood seeping out from the corners of his mouth.

Zu An and the others frowned. After all, he had been able to win against the Golden Crow Crown Prince in a one-on-one fight before, and yet now, the crown prince could face all of them by himself with both sides on equal footing. Had he already passed the Fiend Ancestor's trial?

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's eyes turned red as he yelled, "Die! All of you deserve to die!"

Just then, Wu Liang, who had been lying on the ground, cried out, "Don't be scared! He hasn't successfully passed the trial yet! Judging from his current state, he must have failed at the last step. Still, he's obtained some benefits from the Fiend Ancestor and previous Fiend Emperors, so his cultivation should have increased by quite a bit. You all need to be careful!"

Zu An was speechless. This was clearly a situation that guy had created, and yet now, it had become their business instead. Because he knew Wu Liang was using him, he didn't act politely anymore either. He used the Heaven Devouring Sutra to suck Wu Liang over to him, then threw him at the Golden Crow Crown Prince.

Wu Liang hadn't expected that at all. He exclaimed in horror, "You bastard, do you have no morals?!"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince still remembered the fatty who had ambushed him earlier. When he saw Wu Liang fly over, a vicious glint flickered through his eyes. The wings behind him moved, then hacked down toward Wu Liang.

Wu Liang's entire body curled up into a ball again. A dense layer of fine armor suddenly appeared to surround him, and the Golden Wing Godblade skill only produced a string of sparks on his body. Meanwhile, Wu Liang took the chance to run away, completely unharmed.

#### Chapter 1374: Times Have Changed

As soon as Wu Liang landed, he pointed at Zu An and cursed, "You bastard, you're so evil! Weren't you clearly trying to kill me just now?"

Zu An sneered. "Damn fatty, what about you? You're clearly fine, and yet you're making it sound as if you're seriously injured or something, trying to make us and the Golden Crow Crown Prince take each other out!"

His scheme had clearly been seen through, but Wu Liang didn't look ashamed. He exclaimed, "But I really was seriously injured! I only managed to survive by relying on our ancestral skill."

Zu An chuckled. Not a single one of this damn fatty's words could be trusted.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince saw Zu An's group. He gritted his teeth and yelled, "You!"

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

Zu An smiled and replied, "The two of us really do share some kind of fate. Just how many times have we met already?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince choked. He clearly recalled the humiliation and fear he had experienced from those two defeats. Soon afterward, though, he said proudly, "You must be quite proud of yourself. Sure, I admit that you have some skill. In the past, I either had my skills countered, or I was ambushed, but I did lose to you. However, your worst mistake was challenging me now."

Zu An was startled. He replied, "Looks like you've obtained quite a few benefits from this Fiend Ancestor statue and become much stronger."

"Hmph, if I had gone through the trial normally, my strength would have already increased several times over, and not even my father the emperor would be much stronger than me. But I didn't expect all of you to ruin the ceremony!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince spat, gritting his teeth. He continued, "It is fine, though. This is already enough to destroy you all."

"Kid, you're quite cocky!" Yun Jianyue remarked, unable to keep watching his smug appearance. She moved as quickly as lightning, sending a palm flying.

Even Wu Liang's eyes widened. That palm clearly looked normal, but upon closer inspection, the dao it embodied was intricate and profound. Even he couldn't see through it! This woman's cultivation didn't look that high, so why was she able to deliver such a powerful attack? Just who was she?

The Golden Crow Crown Prince sneered. "Hmph, you're just overestimating your abilities!"

At the same time, he sent a fist flying. The Golden Crow Sacred Fire surrounded his fist, and he tried to overwhelm Yun Jianyue's skill through brute force.

The palm and fist collided. Yun Jianyue's expression changed. She was still seriously injured, and the cultivation she could use was limited. No matter how good her technique was, it couldn't compensate for the difference in raw power. She was blown backward.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince pressed the attack, wishing to take the chance to eliminate her and lessen the threat. Even so, with a simple wave of her sleeves, Yun Jianyue stopped him. He had no idea how she had done such a thing. The energies within him even stirred a bit.

Huh? What kind of background does this woman have? the Golden Crow Crown Prince thought. Now, he even had the same thoughts as Wu Liang.

Wu Liang shouted just then, "Look at the current situation already! Don't bother with normal martial courtesy or whatever anymore. Everything will be over if we alert the people outside!" He took the lead

and charged forward after speaking. He knew that the others would suspect him if he didn't do anything, and they would be even more unwilling to do anything.

"You're courting death!" Golden Crow Sacred Fire surged around the Golden Crow Crown Prince's entire body as he yelled. He thought, The special armor around this individual seems to be able to defend against sword ki, so let's see if it can guard against fire.

"Come on, guys, what are you all still staring blankly for? Do you all want to meet your maker here?!" Wu Liang began to scream from the heat, yelling at Zu An's group.

Zu An said to the women, "Let's deal with this Golden Crow Crown Prince first. Also, hold back a bit so that we don't end up being schemed against by this damn fatty."

The women nodded. They were all well-traveled individuals who at least had that much ability to hold back.

When he saw them attack together, the Golden Crow Crown Prince harrumphed. His wings spread behind him, and his feathers turned into countless streaks of golden sword ki. Then, they all fired at the party.

Zu An's expression changed. In the past, he had experienced the Ardent Sun Sword Formation. However, this time, it was many times stronger.

Not only was there more sword ki, every single strand was thicker. They all carried an incredibly sharp air of destruction. The group could feel a stinging pain on their skin even from far away, and it looked as if a sea of gold were surging over them.

Zu An immediately used his Blue Luan Sword Formation, and blue sword ki filled the skies.

In the past, the Blue Luan Sword Formation had been quite impressive looking, but this time, in front of the sea of gold, it seemed quite sparse in comparison. He could only stop some of them. Meanwhile, however, the other golden sword ki attacked the others.

Wu Liang turned into a ball of flesh, and the tough armor from before appeared on his back again. However, this time, the power of the sword ki was much greater than before. A lot of it smashed into the armor, with metallic pings ringing out. It hurt so much that he grimaced and cried out in pain.

Meanwhile, the crown prince took the chance to attack some weak spots that were exposed, trying to break through an opening that way.

Wu Liang was left an absolute mess from all of that. However, by relying on the tough armor behind him and the Divine Pangolin Claw he had obtained from Lord Sui's Tomb, he just barely was able to hold on.

As for Yu Yanluo, when she saw the endless sword ki, she used her World Painting, absorbing the sword ki into a special world. However, her expression quickly changed, because a lot of the sword ki rushed back out from the World Painting!

Her cultivation was far from the Golden Crow Crown Prince's, making it difficult for the world within her artifact to hold such great power. After that interference, however, the sword ki's power was already weakened considerably.

Yu Yanluo's eyes flickered with red light. The intangible sword ki in front of her paused for a moment, then began to petrify at a visible rate. In the end, the sword ki no longer listened to Golden Crow Crown Prince and fell to the ground, shattering to pieces.

Yun Jianyue's battle was much simpler. She didn't even raise a finger. A curved moon spun around her rapidly, slicing the sword ki that approached her in two.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince frowned. When he looked closer, he saw that it wasn't a moon at all, but rather a strange weapon shaped like a curved moon. He was a bit stunned. Where did these women come from? Why were they all so strong?

At first, Zu An was worried that the girls would be in trouble. When he saw that they had dealt with it so easily, he finally breathed a sigh of relief. He roared, "Birdman, it's time for us to attack now, right?!"

With that shout, he summoned Hundredwarble. At the same time, he mixed in the Lion Race's unique skill 'Lion's Roar', which he had learned recently. The two kinds of sound waves worked together to produce multiplicative effects.

Even the Golden Crow Crown Prince became a bit absentminded despite his increase in cultivation.

Zu An quickly took the chance to move over to his side. He summoned the Poisonous Prick and thrust it at the crown prince.

Right at that moment, the Fiend Ancestor statue's eyes lit up again. Zu An felt as if he had been targeted by a great primordial beast. An indescribable fear overtook his entire body. If not for his will being firm enough and the fact that he had already experienced all sorts of things, he might have been scared into becoming an absolute idiot on the spot.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince took the chance to recover. His wings hacked at Zu An's body; their power and speed were far greater than the Golden Wing Godblade he had shown in the Snake race territory.

However, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's attacks arrived just then. They had formed a kind of tacit understanding with one another. One carried a Flying Snow Sword, while the other had a Crescent Moon Blade. They forcefully blocked a single wing each.

Their lovely figures staggered backward and an unusual blush appeared on their faces. The attack had clearly made the energies within their bodies surge powerfully. Their injuries hadn't fully healed yet, so such a clash was extremely uncomfortable.

A ball of flesh rolled over just then, the claw in its hands shooting toward the weak point on the Golden Crow Crown Prince's throat.

Just then, a red sun appeared from behind the Golden Crow Crown Prince. Then, a golden war chariot rushed out, blocking Wu Liang. The impact made his flesh ripple, and he spat a mouthful of blood.

The others' expressions changed. They all cried out, "Don't let him get on that war chariot!"

Chapter 1375: Only Survivor

They had seen just how great the power of the war chariot was for themselves. The chariot's defensive abilities were almost unrivaled, and if he took out the Sun Slaying Bow too, with his current strength, they would probably be sniped down one by one.

Zu An reacted quickly and shouted, "What you lookin' at?!"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was about to get into the golden carriage, but when he heard Zu An say that, he felt an irresistible force compelling him to reflexively turn around and say, "I'm looking at you, shithead!"

He felt amazing after saying that, as if he had just eaten an incredibly refreshing ginseng. However, he quickly realized that something wasn't quite right. Why would he be distracted at such a crucial moment?

He tried to use the Golden Crow Radiant Flow technique to rush to the war chariot, but he was too late. Zu An had already grabbed his arm.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince sneered. Do you think I'm still the same as I was back in the Snake race territory?

His entire body surged with Golden Crow Sacred Fire, its power several times greater than before as it swept at Zu An. Furthermore, because his cultivation was now far greater than his opponent's, he was able to send a powerful force out of his arm, intending to seriously injure Zu An on the spot. He wanted to repay the humiliation he had suffered in the past two battles.

Just then, Zu An used Fire Phoenix, using the phoenix flames to protect himself. Furthermore, with the fire-resistant pendant Pei Mianman had given him, even though the Golden Crown Sacred Fire was several times stronger, he could still barely hold on. As for the titanic force that emerged from the crown prince's arm, he used the Heaven Devouring Sutra to suck it away.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was stunned. He couldn't understand why his ferocious attack seemed to be completely ineffective against the enemy at all.

After his first defeat in the Snake Race, he had deduced that the opponent's skills just happened to counter his a bit, and that he had underestimated the human who appeared out of nowhere too much. He had been confident that given a chance, he would be able to completely overwhelm Zu An.

Not long afterward, however, he had been defeated a second time, and had even had his lower body completely crushed!

Still, that hadn't convinced him of his defeat. He felt that he must have just been too overwhelmed by lust, to the point that he hadn't expected an ambush at all. Furthermore, because they had fought before, the opponent's attacks had been highly focused, which must have been why he had suffered so much. He had still been confident he could win in a direct confrontation, thinking, Now that there's such a huge difference in cultivation between us, I have the advantage!

This time, however, he really was bewildered. His cultivation had already increased by so much, and he should have been able to slaughter Zu An like a chicken; and yet, why couldn't he deal with him?

Soon afterward, however, he didn't have the room to think about these things. He could feel his cultivation flowing out at an absurd rate through his arm.

"What is happening?!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed in alarm. He wanted to break free, and yet no matter how much force he exerted, it was instantly dispelled.

With his knowledge and experience, he naturally knew about the world's sinister arts that specialized in sucking out the cultivation of others. However, even though such sinister techniques had near-instant effects, their upper bound was limited too. Eventually, the user's own cultivation could end up muddled and impure, causing them to experience cultivation deviation.

Furthermore, that kind of sinister art was often ineffective against the best cultivation methods, and couldn't absorb the cultivation of the truly strong. After all, those who were truly strong all had extremely firm cultivation foundations. Additionally, they normally had defenses against such situations.

As the crown prince, the methods he cultivated were naturally the best of the best. Normally, even if a sinister cultivator tried to suck it out, they wouldn't be able to. Now, however, his cultivation was leaking out wildly. The enemy's palm was like a black hole. No matter how he struggled, he couldn't break free at all.

"What kind of sinister skill is this?!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed, now truly alarmed. He quickly said, "You... Let me go. I'll just write off our previous grudges in one go! I definitely won't get revenge on you guys."

The three women who had been about to rush over were stunned. They hadn't expected the situation to turn around so quickly. Just how had Ah Zu done it?

Wu Liang was also confused, but he really was worried that Zu An would agree. He immediately shouted, "Don't believe him! After what's happened today, there's no way he would really let you go after he truly recovered!"

"I will make a vow swearing on the dignity of the fiend races!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed in a panic. "Not only that, I will even make you an important general, or even grant you a noble title! Additionally, the Snake race's status will reach the same level as the three great king races!"

Normally, such conditions could already be considered quite good; perhaps they were even a bit excessive.. However, the offer was no longer a deception on the crown prince's part, but rather an expression of his true thoughts. He knew that if he really did become the Fiend Emperor, all of those things could be done with just a word from him. If he died, however, he wouldn't have anything left.

The key was that the enemy was even sucking out his cultivation with that sinister technique. Even if he managed to keep his life, he would become a cripple afterward! In a world of cultivation, one could well imagine what kind of miserable ending a cripple would face.

Furthermore, the Fiend Emperor would definitely change his successor then. Considering how arrogant and despotic the crown prince had been over the years, many people would want his life. The rest of his days would be extremely miserable. That was why he really was scared, quickly showing the greatest sincerity. Beyond that... There was no way he could make his opponent the Fiend Emperor, right?



Worried that the other side wouldn't agree, the Golden Crow Crown Prince continued to raise his offer. "Right, you are on good terms with Princess Snow, no? I will personally preside over the wedding and bless it. On top of that, the Peacock Race's Princess Nanwu is also an extraordinary beauty. I can give her to you too!"

At that point, he couldn't even be bothered to pay attention to the fact that he had already chosen Kong Nanwu as the crown princess before.

When Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo heard that, they were all so angry their faces turned entirely red. They cried, "Shameless!"

When he saw how angry the three women were, the Golden Crow Crown Prince finally realized something and added, "There is also the Medusa Queen! I will also hold a wedding for you two! Right, I do not know how to address the other two madams, but I can grant both of you your own races and make your backgrounds equal to Princess Snow's!"

Yu Yanluo was one thing, but Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were so angry that their entire bodies shook. Are you blind? Do we look like his women? Do we really already look like Zu An's women in his eyes?!

Zu An's face also darkened when he heard that. This damned birdman was creating a hellish battlefield for him!

He was about to say something when a terrifying scene appeared in his mind: Himself being cleaved into mincemeat by a streak of golden light that descended from above. He couldn't be bothered to reply and quickly used Grandgale to withdraw several dozen zhang away. At the same time, he used the Heaven Devouring Sutra to bring the three women to him, yelling, "Run!"

The trio didn't have any time to react. They saw a golden light striking down exactly where Zu An had been standing before. A deep crater appeared in the ground. There was no loud noise, and no smoke or dust; it all happened silently, as if a piece of the earth had instantly been obliterated.

"This is..." Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions changed. Their cultivation ranks were even higher than those of the others, which was why they could sense the terrifying aura that accompanied the strike.

A figure slowly descended from the golden light, looking at those present with his hawk-like eyes.

Everyone in the room, including Zu An, felt their fine hairs stand on end. They wanted to run, but they were locked down by an invisible pressure and couldn't budge.

A white-haired elder dressed in imperial robes instantly appeared at the Golden Crow Crown Prince's side. At first, he just seemed to be an old man with one foot already in the grave, but they soon realized that he was one of the world's strongest, the Fiend Emperor whose cultivation was unmatched!

The Fiend Emperor stared coldly at the others. He didn't attack, and instead looked at the Golden Crow Crown Prince before saying, "You have truly disappointed me."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince fell to his knees, sweating intensely. He said, "Father emperor, please forgive me! That person used some sinister technique that almost sucked away my cultivation..."

When he saw that the Fiend Emperor's expression remained cold, he reacted quickly. His father never liked listening to excuses. He quickly changed his tone and said, "Father emperor, in the past, you taught me that as a ruler, as long as the green hills remained, one would never need to fear a lack of firewood. I only said what I said to convince him temporarily!"

"Hmph, an emperor should have the dignity of an emperor. What difference was there between how you just acted and shaking your tail as you begged for pity?" the Fiend Emperor replied, although despite that, he seemed to find the excuse barely acceptable. Then, he turned around towards the distant Zu An and said, "In all these years, apart from the human emperor, you are the first one to have kept your life after I personally interfered. How did you do that just now?"

#### Chapter 1376: Sudden Change in the Imperial Tomb

Forget about the Fiend Emperor, even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were incredibly shocked. After all, even if they were at their strongest, they might not have been able to avoid the Fiend Emperor's sudden ambush ahead of time.

Zu An was also confused. He didn't know what had happened either. It just felt as if the scene of the Fiend Emperor attacking him had appeared in his mind ahead of time. However, as he thought about it, he felt the image of a book appear in his mind. He didn't recognize the words that were written in it at all, but every single character contained profound dao laws.

He suddenly stirred. The book seemed to be what Lu Sheng had given him back in the Westhound Tomb secret dungeon. At the time, Qin Shihuang had sent Lu Sheng to search for the medicine of immortality, but Lu Sheng hadn't brought back any medicine; instead, he had returned with 'The Book'. The item was rumored to carry mysteries known only to heaven, able to decipher the future.

The famous phrase 'Death and destruction awaits Qin's people because of Hu' had come from none other than The Book. Qin Shihuang had thought that it was referring to the northern nomadic 'Hu people'[1], so he had sent general Meng Tian north to kill them, and even built the Great Wall. In the end, however, he hadn't expected the Qin Dynasty to fall to his son Hu Hai. Thus, in its own way, the prophecy had come true.

Back then in the Westhound Tomb, Lu Sheng had given Zu An The Book before he died. After that, The Book had always remained dormant in his mind and hadn't done anything. He had almost forgotten he had it. Just then, however, the sudden warning had allowed him to successfully avoid a disaster.

Of course, there was no way he would tell the Fiend Emperor about The Book's origins. He just said ambiguously, "It might be because my luck has always been quite good."

At the same time, he grumbled inwardly, I almost died against one of Zhao Han's split souls, but now, I have to face the full-power Fiend Emperor? Just what kind of blasted luck is this?

"Luck?" The Fiend Emperor sneered, clearly not believing his answer.

"Father emperor, do not listen to their blabbering! Let me kill them!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince said through gritted teeth. With his father present, he was confident he could make a comeback. He couldn't be bothered to consider Yu Yanluo and the others' beautiful appearance anymore. He just wanted them all dead.

The Fiend Emperor nodded slightly. The Golden Crow Crown Prince was overjoyed. He clenched his fists and walked toward the other group.

Zu An's group prepared to retaliate. Unfortunately, the Fiend Emperor's pressure locked them down in place. The difference in power was just too great, to the point that they couldn't even resist. They could only watch as the Golden Crow Crown Prince approached them.

Zu An's expression turned cold. Since things had already reached such a point, he could only go all out. He was about to make his move when the surroundings suddenly trembled. Apart from the Fiend Emperor, no one else could stand still and almost fell over.

"What is happening?!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed in horror. He raised his head and saw that the entire underground palace had begun to rumble. Endless dust and rubble fell, as if the tomb would collapse at a moment's notice. How could he still be bothered to kill Zu An and the others at that point?

The Fiend Emperor looked toward a certain area of the underground palace. He felt the ki there suddenly surge. At the same time, the fabric of spacetime became extremely chaotic. An ancient and bleak aura spread outward.

"This is..." the Fiend Emperor muttered, his expression changing.

"This is the aura of an Unknown Region," Zu An said emotionlessly. "No wonder we couldn't find it no matter what we did. Turns out it was only going to show itself at a special time."

Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo were all shocked. They hadn't expected him to reveal that secret! However, they were all intelligent people. They realized that Zu An was probably trying to draw the Fiend Emperor into the Unknown Region.

If they stayed in the tomb, there wouldn't be a single chance for them to live. However, the Unknown Regions were always full of dangers, and for them, that would become an opportunity. The more dangerous it was, the more of a handicap it would be for the Fiend Emperor. It would then become easier for them to survive.

Wu Liang was also shocked. He thought to himself, No wonder this group didn't look for the crown prince when they first entered, and looked all over the place instead. So they were looking for a legendary Unknown Region!

"Unknown Region?" the Fiend Emperor repeated, narrowing his eyes. Even with his status and cultivation, it was difficult to resist the shock he felt inside. After all, the Unknown Regions were related to immortality!

Eternal life might not have been so tempting for the young, but for elders like him with one foot already in the grave, especially an elder with the most power and authority on this side of the world, it carried a fatal temptation.

He quickly asked, "How do you know that it is an Unknown Region?"

Zu An took out the map he had gotten from Lord Sui's Tomb and tossed it over, saying, "I stumbled upon this map by chance and learned about this Unknown Region's existence. That's why I took such a huge risk to enter the Imperial Tomb."

The map had already completed its mission. As for what lay inside the Unknown Region, there was no way there would be any records.

The Fiend Emperor caught it. As he studied the map, his eyes began to burn with passion. When he sensed the special ki pour out of it, as well as the profound aura and spatial ripples it carried, he began to believe the story. He knew that such a simple yet intricate map, he knew it wasn't something the other group could have forged quickly. Thus, he believed Zu An's story.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince panicked, exclaiming, "Father emperor, this brat excels at using his mouth to fool others! You cannot fall for his tricks!"

As the fiend races' crown prince, he had studied extensively as well. He knew about the legends of the Unknown Regions too.

If one were to ask who wanted the Fiend Emperor to obtain immortality the least, it would be none other than the crown prince. Normally, he could have obtained the Fiend Emperor's cultivation and become the new Fiend Emperor. If his father obtained immortality, though, why would he pass on his skills? Why would his father allow him to become the new Fiend Emperor?

Furthermore, if his father obtained immortality, there wouldn't be any prospects left for him. Would he just be the crown prince for the rest of his life? That would really be a joke! There were so many people supporting him, but weren't they all just there because he had hopes of ascending the dragon throne, hoping he would reward them after he became the emperor? If he were doomed to serve as crown prince for the rest of his life, those people would inevitably desert him.

The Fiend Emperor frowned. He seemed to have realized a certain possibility.

Zu An chuckled and said, "Fiend Emperor, it looks as if your son really doesn't want you to obtain immortality."

"That is not true at all! Do not speak nonsense!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed, feeling shocked and furious. He hadn't expected Zu An to instantly see through his thoughts! He quickly looked at the Fiend Emperor in alarm.

You have successfully trolled the Golden Crow Crown Prince for +377 +377 +377...

The Fiend Emperor just happened to give the crown prince a long and deep look at that moment. When he saw that, the Golden Crow Crown Prince began to lose all confidence. He knew better than anyone else just how vicious and merciless the father he loved and respected could be. He quickly explained, "Father emperor, I was just worried that these people would fabricate some lies, and use that to escape! Father emperor, your respected self might also be in danger..."

"Danger?" The Fiend Emperor sneered. "In this entire world, not even Zhao Han could injure me. What danger would I need to be scared of?"

“Father emperor’s skills are unmatched! It was this subject who thought too much...” the Golden Crow Crown Prince trailed off, covered in cold sweat. He didn’t dare to say anything else, worried that his father would suspect his motives.

“What else do you know about Unknown Regions?” the Fiend Emperor asked, looking at Zu An. Even though he had confidence in himself, he wasn’t stupid. He had heard many rumors about the dangers surrounding Unknown Regions, so the more he knew, the more certainty he would have.

Zu An hesitated, wondering whether he should reply or not. He initially planned to take the chance to ask the Fiend Emperor to let the three women go, but then again, they wouldn’t necessarily be willing to accept that. Furthermore, the Fiend Emperor could realize how much he cared about them and use them to threaten him.

Wu Liang suddenly cried, “I know, I know!”

“You know?” the Fiend Emperor asked, looking at him in shock. Forget about him, even Zu An’s group stared at Wu Liang.

“Yes, while I was wandering around the Imperial Tomb, I began to feel that its layout was quite strange. It seemed to carry a sense of disharmony. Since it is the Imperial Tomb, however, the one who constructed it must have been one of the greatest talents at the time, so how could that kind of person make such a mistake?” Wu Liang explained. “The earlier disturbance allowed me to finally realize why. It’s because the Imperial Tomb just happens to be built atop an Unknown Region! Previously, because the Unknown Region hadn’t manifested in the tangible world, there were no abnormalities. As of late, though, the Unknown Region is showing signs of awakening again, which is why it’s begun to clash with the Imperial Tomb.”

Wu Liang knew full well that in such a situation, he had to prove his own value in order to keep his life, even for a bit. Otherwise, if the Fiend Emperor got everything he needed to know from Zu An, he could just kill Wu Liang.

“So you are saying that the Unknown Region is underground?” the Fiend Emperor asked, staring at Wu Liang with his hawk-like eyes.

1. Huns 📄

Chapter 1377: Intent to Kill

Wu Liang chuckled and replied, “Your highness, would it be possible for you to spare my life if I tell you?”

The Fiend Emperor remained expressionless as he replied, “If you do not speak, you will die right now.”

All of Wu Liang’s fine hairs stood on end. He exclaimed, “I’ll speak, I’ll speak, I’ll speak right now!”

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen rolled their eyes. This guy really lacked a spine. How could he give in so quickly?

Wu Liang continued, "If I'm not mistaken, the fiend races' Imperial Tomb has formed a spacetime distortion, intersecting with an ancient Unknown Region. That series of events has formed a special phenomenon in this tomb: A Yin Yang Tomb."

The Fiend Emperor frowned, asking, "What is a yin tomb, and what is a yang tomb?"

"In this case, the yang tomb is none other than this Imperial Tomb, the underground palace that everyone can see. The legendary Yin Yang Tomb uses the yang tomb as a pretense to draw the attention of various tomb raiders. Of course, there are many precious burial objects inside such tombs," Wu Liang explained, his eyes lighting up when he spoke of those objects. That was clearly something deeply ingrained in his very bones. He continued, "However, the true ruler of the tomb is hidden in the yin tomb. That way, using the yang tomb, his peace won't be disturbed by others after his death."

"You scoundrel, are you saying that our ancestors' Imperial Tomb has become a mere signboard for another?" the Golden Crow Crown Prince shouted angrily.

Wu Liang said with an embarrassed chuckle, "What I said was just a coincidence, a coincidence. Actually, it's also because it was hidden in the fiend races' Imperial Tomb that no one discovered this Unknown Region after all this time."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was about to say something else, but the Fiend Emperor stopped him. He released a deep sigh and said, "Even with my abilities, I was never able to find a single Unknown Region. Now, it seems that these legendary lands are all hidden extremely well after all. No wonder I could never find them."

Wu Liang continued, "Your majesty the Fiend Emperor, have these abnormalities happened at all in the Imperial Tomb in previous years?"

The Fiend Emperor thought for a bit, but then shook his head and said, "They have not. According to what I know, there have never been any records of such a thing in the royal family."

"That makes sense. If there were any records, this Unknown Region would have already been discovered by another Fiend Emperor in the past," Wu Liang said. He formed a hand seal as if he were calculating something, continuing, "If my suspicions aren't wrong, it's because a certain special condition was satisfied. Perhaps it was a designated time, or perhaps it has something to do with the alignment of astrological signs, but only now has the Unknown Region revealed itself. If we miss this chance, the next time it appears might be tens of thousands of years later."

The Fiend Emperor began breathing heavily with excitement. He thought to himself, Could it be that I really am blessed by the heavens? So many of the previous Fiend Emperor ancestors had missed such a chance, and yet he was actually presented with the opportunity while he was experiencing heaven and man deterioration.

"Are you the descendant of the Pangolin race?" the Fiend Emperor asked, giving Wu Liang a look. A hint of satisfaction appeared in his eyes.

"Your majesty's all-seeing mind blazes forth like a torch! These small tricks of mine naturally wouldn't have escaped your knowledge..." Wu Liang replied, immediately showering the emperor in bootlicking praise.

Zu An was speechless as he listened. This damn fatty really was good at flattery.

“The Pangolin race indeed had some unique skills in the past. It is a pity that their inheritance has been cut short,” the Fiend Emperor remarked.

When he heard the Fiend Emperor’s praise, an even bigger smile spread across Wu Liang’s chubby face. However, it immediately froze, because the Fiend Emperor gave him a cold look and asked, “Who sent you here?”

Wu Liang immediately replied, “This petty one has been a bit strapped for money recently, and so while carried away by a moment of impulse, I became greedy for the items in the Imperial Tomb. This little one hasn’t touched a single thing yet! I didn’t damage a single stalk of grass in this Imperial Tomb...”

Zu An rolled his eyes. This guy really had the nerve to say that? Who knew how much had been damaged when he made that huge hole to break in?

“Your majesty, please show leniency! This humble one will definitely work like a loyal horse. Furthermore, I’ll use everything I learned to help your majesty unravel the secrets of this Unknown Region!” Wu Liang exclaimed, sounding so sincere that even Zu An was almost convinced.

The Fiend Emperor interrupted him and said, “If you continue to refuse to speak the truth, you might never be able to speak again.”

A wave of killing intent surrounded Wu Liang’s body. He was so scared that all his fat trembled. He quickly exclaimed, “It was the Second Imperial Prince, the prince!”

Zu An thought to himself, As expected. He had had his suspicions for some time. This damn fatty looked so shrewd and sharp. No matter how greedy he was, why would he dare to set his eyes on the Imperial Tomb? Furthermore, even if he decided to, he would have chosen to enter during a more peaceful time. Why would he come on the day the Golden Crow Crown Prince was going through the trial? After all, the security on that day was far more strict than usual!

On top of that, Wu Liang had even ‘accidentally’ guided them toward the main hall. While they had been behind a corner, he had ‘accidentally’ alerted the people inside, forcing them to fight against the crown prince’s guards.

At first, Zu An had cursed him for being a clumsy idiot, but he had soon realized that considering how smart Wu Liang was, he definitely wouldn’t have made such a beginner’s mistake. It had definitely been done on purpose to exploit his party.

Meanwhile, in the Fiend King Court, the only one who had the motive and ability to make him do that, apart from the Second Empress, was the Second Imperial Prince.

“It was him after all! That bastard has the heart of a wolf and the lungs of a dog!” the Golden Crow Crown Prince cursed.

“Who are you cursing?!” the Fiend Emperor snapped, shooting him a cold look.

Only then did the Golden Crow Crown Prince remember that the Second Imperial Prince was also his father’s son. Wasn’t that cursing his father too, then?

He quickly said, "Second brother's schemes have harmed your first son greatly. Father emperor, you have to seek justice for me!"

The Fiend Emperor said with a cold snort, "This kind of thing is extremely common. Even if it had been you or me, if we had been in his position, as long as we had some ambition, we would be unwilling to accept our fate. We would similarly put in our all."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince muttered resentfully, "But he almost killed me..."

The Fiend Emperor said indifferently, "Our fiend races are different from the weak humans. We care about competition. The previous Fiend Emperors all rose up through cruel competition between their brothers and sisters. Only that way have we been able to ensure that every single Fiend Emperor is powerful and outstanding, that our fiend races would not come to ruin at the hands of trash."

Zu An was alarmed. No wonder the fiend races were filled with brave fighters. So that was something inherited through generation after generation of competition!

"I have benefited from father emperor's instruction," the Golden Crow Crown Prince said, lowering his head. However, inwardly, he was filled with killing intent.

Sensing his dissatisfaction, the Fiend Emperor said, "One day, when you ascend to the throne, you must treat your brothers well. Siblings can compete against each other over the throne, but once you become the Fiend Emperor and have already secured your position, they will become your most reliable allies."

"Yes, I will definitely treat them well," the Golden Crow Crown Prince replied. Inwardly, he sneered, but on the outside, he didn't show anything.

The Fiend Emperor frowned slightly. With his understanding of his son, how could he not tell what he was thinking? He wanted to say something else, but after thinking about it, he reasoned that if he received the method to immortality in the Unknown Region, he would then be able to remain the Fiend Emperor. With him there, the brothers wouldn't be able to cause any trouble anyway.

Just then, he sensed that many powerful cultivators and armies had rushed over. They had clearly all sensed the irregularities taking place in the Imperial Tomb. As such, he sent out his spirit. A golden figure left his body and passed through the entire mountain, appearing above the Imperial Tomb.

The massive projection looked at the people rushing over and said indifferently, "Pass down the order to guard every single major road. No one is allowed to approach the Imperial Tomb; all those who do are to be executed without exception."

Previously, Heichi Fei had still been a bit suspicious of whether the one who had gone inside was the Fiend Emperor. When he saw that, he felt relieved. It really was him after all! Thank goodness I didn't act on an impulse, or else I would be done for.

When he thought about how the Fiend Emperor knew that he knew about the affair with his wife, he felt nervous and hurried to prove his worth. As such, he quickly stopped the forces that rushed over and didn't allow them to approach.

The Fiend Emperor was a bit confused. This guy was normally the most loyal to the crown prince. He had thought that Heichi Fei would ask some questions, but he was actually so obedient today. Even so, he



didn't overthink it. After giving the order, he returned to the Imperial Tomb. He gave Yan Xuehen and the other women a cold look.

Zu An was alarmed. The Fiend Emperor was already displaying killing intent.

#### Chapter 1378: Poor Eye for Men

Meanwhile, the various forces that had gathered outside the Imperial Tomb were stopped by Heichi Fei and his troops. No one suspected him of falsifying an imperial decree. However, they all had their own thoughts as to why the Fiend Emperor would appear in the Imperial Tomb.

The most nervous one was none other than the Second Imperial Prince. He had put two schemes in play, one overt and one covert. For the former, he hadn't hesitated to expose the important pieces he planted at the crown prince's side. Even if they failed, the Golden Crow Crown Prince would lower his guard, subconsciously thinking that the second prince was already out of moves to play.

Apart from that, however, he had used a lot of effort to find the Pangolin race cultivator Wu Liang. That was his real trump card. That fellow was extremely mysterious, and he had all sorts of skills that left even the second prince in admiration. After arranging all of that, he had already been greatly confident in his success.

However, his father, the emperor, had suddenly appeared in the Imperial Tomb. Was it because the crown prince had died and he rushed over to stop the news from leaking out, or was it because he had actually been in the Imperial Tomb to begin with, causing the plan to fail?

That didn't make sense! Hadn't his father still been in the palace not too long before? He had no way to be absolutely certain of that, though. After all, with the Fiend Emperor's strength, his subordinates wouldn't necessarily be able to keep an eye on him.

On top of that, what was that disturbance in the Imperial Tomb? Could it have been caused by his subordinates and the crown prince? He was extremely worried because he really cared about that matter.

...

There was someone else who was just as worried as him. In a tower of the imperial palace stood a beautiful individual dressed in palace clothes. She had a fiery red fur coat draped over her shoulders, and the white snow and cold winds surrounding her made her seem even more elegant and stunning.

Many guards secretly snuck looks at her. Even though they knew that was a huge offense, the Second Empress was just too beautiful, so beautiful that they couldn't even shift their gazes away.

The Second Empress didn't have her usual charming and flirtatious smile. Her brow was slightly furrowed, as if there were dark clouds shrouding her mind.

"There was such a huge disturbance. Could it be that he succeeded?" the Second Empress muttered nervously to herself.

She had previously planted trusted aides among the guards around the Imperial Tomb. If the plan bore results, she would have immediately received the news. However, the Fiend Emperor had rushed over,

so all news had been sealed off. She had no way of finding out what was happening in the Imperial Tomb at all.

“With that brat’s strength, there really is a chance that he succeeded. But after the Fiend Emperor went over, did they end up selling me out after being caught?” the Second Empress muttered worriedly. However, she gritted her teeth and said, “Hmph, I can just refuse to admit it, and say that he was sent by the Second Imperial Prince and is just framing me. I am the mother of the little prince, so the Fiend Emperor still needs me to assist the young prince.”

...

Unlike those two individuals with sinister designs, the other forces’ analyses were a bit closer to the truth.

Hu Qianxiao and Shi Zhentian both looked in the direction of the Imperial Tomb from where they lived. They thought to themselves, Why was there such a huge eruption of ki from the Imperial Tomb?

Even though the Imperial Tomb was located in a place with excellent feng shui, it was still a tomb in the end. Normally, it would be full of a deathly aura and shouldn’t have contained such rich life force and ki.

In the Golden Peng King Manor, its current master, the Little Golden Peng King, was enjoying some wine in a gazebo. He looked at the Imperial Tomb and said, “There seem to be intense elemental forces in the air. Could it be that some kind of secret dungeon has been opened? But why would such a dungeon appear in the Imperial Tomb?”

Inside the Ocean races’ temporary residence, a beauty emerged from a pond. Under the sunlight’s illumination, the water droplets on her skin were dazzling and brilliant.

Shang Liuyu looked in the Imperial Tomb’s direction. After thinking to herself for a moment, she said through a ki transmission, “Little Chi Wen, go and investigate what’s happening at the Imperial Tomb. Also, go and see if the Medusa Queen and her friends are at the Snake race’s manor.”

Chi Wen replied unhappily, “I’ll look around the Imperial Tomb, but I’m not going to the Snake race’s manor.” He had received too many painful memories from the Snake race. He still had trauma from what had happened, so he really didn’t want to revisit a place that would trigger those memories again.

During the competition over the delegate seats, the Giant Maggot Race warrior had been beaten to the point where he spewed shit everywhere. At first, Chi Wen had also roared with laughter alongside everyone else, but eventually, his laughter had turned to tears, because he really had experienced that kind of taste before...

“Is your skin feeling itchy? Do you need a proper beating?” Shang Liuyu snapped impatiently.

Chi Wen shivered all over, replying, “I’m going, alright? What do you have to be so mean for...”

In the Dragon Palace, he had always been doted on ever since he was young. Everyone else had been extremely scared of offending him and always acted carefully. However, this little aunt of his didn’t care about any of that at all. Whenever he did something wrong, she really did act viciously. That was why, even though he had been practically fearless ever since he was little, the one he was the most scared of was none other than his little aunt.

In the Elf King Manor, Qiao Xueying couldn't sit still. In the end, she couldn't take it anymore. She didn't care about the manor's people trying to stop her and left.

At that point, she couldn't be bothered to worry about the crown prince's surveillance. The activity by the Imperial Tomb gave her a bad premonition. She had to visit the Snake race's manor to confirm Zu An's safety.

...

So many people outside were making guesses and feeling worried, but Zu An himself was even more alarmed. He worried that the Fiend Emperor would instantly kill the women around him if they said anything wrong. Yu Yanluo was one thing; as she was a clan leader, her death would have bad effects. However, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue didn't have similar statuses to protect them.

Due to his worries, he immediately said, "Fiend Emperor, this Lady Yan excels in rune formation skills, so she can provide help in the Unknown Region. This Lady Yun is good at... is good at..."

He was a bit at a loss. He couldn't say Yun Jianyue was good at killing, right? Even if he did, how could she compare to the Fiend Emperor? He definitely couldn't say she was good at seduction arts.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Brat, you don't need to speak up for me. So what if I die? There's no way I'll bow down to another, anyway."

After saying that, she gave Wu Liang a look. However, there wasn't the slightest bit of shame on his chubby face; instead, he had a big smile, seeming to be completely unbothered.

Yun Jianyue was too lazy to give him another look. If she had still been at her strongest, even if she wasn't a match for the Fiend Emperor, she could still make sure the Fiend Emperor paid the price. However, she was seriously injured. Fighting it out would be meaningless.

"As expected of Sect Master Yun, your heroic spirit is not inferior to any man," the Fiend Emperor replied, roaring with laughter. His voice made the others' hearts tremble.

"You recognize me?" Yun Jianyue exclaimed in surprise.

"I met you once on the battlefield. At my level, I would not forget someone, even after only meeting them once," the Fiend Emperor said. He looked at Yan Xuehen and continued, "If I am not mistaken, this is Sect Master Yan, no? How surprising. All of the intelligence I gathered stated the two of you are mortal enemies. Why do you two look like sisters here?"

Yan Xuehen was alarmed, exclaiming, "Who is her sister?!" She didn't fear death, but if someone found out about her relationship with Zu An before her death, that would be her absolute worst nightmare!

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both alarmed. After all, they hadn't fought the Fiend Emperor, but rather let the human emperor keep him in check. They hadn't expected him to have actually noticed the two of them all the way over in a corner of the battlefield. The soul of an earth immortal really was terrifyingly powerful!

Off to the side, the smiling Wu Liang looked at the two women. Sect Master Yun and Sect Master Yan, and they were arch-enemies... Could it be those two?

He was horrified. Then, he looked at Zu An with an admiring gaze. Just how had this guy done it? Other fickle men could only raise some pretty fish in their pond, and yet this guy had actually raised two massive sharks?!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was shocked and overjoyed. It turned out that it wasn't that he was useless, but rather that he had been facing two grandmasters! The most important part was that both of them were stunning. If he could subdue them, whether in terms of his personal harem or action against the human race, it would be an incredibly beautiful thing!

He had initially thought that they were both Zu An's women, but when he learned of their identities, he knew there was no way they would have that kind of relationship with Zu An. Thus, their bodies and minds were both pure. That perfectly met his standard for women. He felt absolutely amazing when he thought about that.

Afterward, the Fiend Emperor looked at Yu Yanluo with a conflicted expression. He said, "Alike... The two of you are way too alike. You are simply a mirror image of your mother in the past."

The others all had strange expressions. Judging from the Fiend Emperor's tone, it seemed that there had been something between him and Yu Yanluo's mother in the past. His eyes were too full of passion, which actually scared Yu Yanluo a bit. She subconsciously moved closer to Zu An. Zu An stepped forward to protect her, looking at the Fiend Emperor coldly.

"Is that the lover you have chosen?" the Fiend Emperor asked with a frown. "Unfortunately, just like your mother, your eye for men is truly poor."

#### Chapter 1379: Pathfinders

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exchanged a look. They had a feeling that there had been quite a bit of drama, judging from the Fiend Emperor's reminiscent tone.

As expected, the Medusa Queen had been incredibly beautiful, never lacking pursuers. Back in the human world, Yu Yanluo had also been incredibly famous. Countless nobles had been won over by her beauty and chased after her, and there had been a rumor that even Zhao Han had pursued her before.

Now that they learned that the Fiend Emperor and Yu Yanluo's mother had had a thing too, they thought this mother and daughter really were something. They had stolen the hearts of the two strongest men in this entire world! More importantly, neither of the two women had chosen them, instead picking other men.

Meanwhile, Zu An's mind was also wandering. I wonder just how outstanding that father-in-law of mine was. He's actually almost at my level.

Yu Yanluo eventually calmed herself down. When she heard that, she said unhappily, "I ask the Fiend Emperor to speak cautiously. Whether it is me or my mother, we followed our own hearts and chose the one we loved. Even before her death, my mother never regretted marrying my father. Similarly, I will not feel any regret." A steadfast expression appeared on her pretty but delicate face.

The Fiend Emperor became a bit absentminded when he saw her expression, saying, "That expression is just like your mother's. Your mother went against me just like this too. However, both of you have no eye for men at all. You both ended up choosing unreliable people."

Zu An couldn't take it anymore and said, "I actually feel that they're pretty good. It seems to be your eye for your inheritor that's really poor."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was speechless. What the hell? I was just happily watching from the side. Why am I being attacked for no reason?

You have successfully trolled the Golden Crow Crown Prince for +433 +433 +433...

The Fiend Emperor's expression immediately darkened. He wouldn't treat Zu An as kindly as he treated Yu Yanluo. He snapped, "You dare speak to me like that?"

"I'm just speaking the truth. If even I'm not reliable, then what about the crown prince I've beaten the shit out of three or four times now already?" Zu An shot back.

Wu Liang broke out into a cold sweat. This guy really didn't back down! Did he not know how temperamental the Fiend Emperor is?

"Very good, very good!" the Fiend Emperor exclaimed, his expression extremely cold.

Yu Yanluo quickly stood in front of Zu An and said, "You are not allowed to harm him."

She had managed a great clan for so many years, and after associating with powerful nobility in a place like the human race's capital city, she was quite good at grasping one's thoughts and behavior. When she saw that the Fiend Emperor had known her mother, she knew he probably wouldn't harm her, at least not at the moment. That was why she stepped forward to protect Zu An.

Yan Xuehen was a bit stunned when she saw that. At first, when she had heard that her disciple liked someone, and that the man she chose was quite perverted with many women around him, she had just assumed those women had been tricked through smooth talking.

At first, she had intended to expose Zu An's true colors, expecting that the women would all leave on their own then. She had thought that perhaps some of them only desired his outward appearance and wealth, which would make them even easier to chase away.

And yet, after being around him, she had discovered that the women around him were all quite different, but all of them were affectionate and true. Most importantly, even she herself had fallen into that trap.

Yun Jianyue also felt a huge headache. She had only been worried about Yan Xuehen's disciple at first, feeling that only someone like that would be a match for her own precious disciple. But now, it seemed as if neither one of them was enough to compete against Yu Yanluo! Could it be that they had to work together to fend off Yu Yanluo?

She shivered all over when she thought of that. How could her own disciple ever ally with that stone cold woman's disciple?

Zu An patted Yu Yanluo's shoulder and said, "Don't worry too much. If the Fiend Emperor wanted to kill me, he would've done so a long time ago. Why would he even give you the chance to step forward and stop him?"

Yu Yanluo was stunned. That was indeed the case. With the Fiend Emperor's earth immortal rank cultivation, if he really interfered, she wouldn't be able to react at all. She wouldn't have had the chance to stand in front of Zu An at all.

The Fiend Emperor gave Zu An a look, saying, "Young man, sometimes, being too smart might not necessarily equate to a longer life."

"It doesn't matter too much whether you're smart or stupid. What matters is your fate," Zu An said in a profound manner.

The Fiend Emperor was shocked. He said, "I did not expect someone as young as you would already sense the existence of fate. Not bad. As my cultivation climbed higher and higher, I became able to sense more and more clearly that everything is dictated by an invisible fate."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions changed a bit. At their cultivation realm, they could also sense the unclear and indistinct influence of fate. They had thought that maybe it was just a figment of their imagination, and yet it truly did exist!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince began to panic when he saw how the Fiend Emperor seemed to be chatting happily with Zu An. He said, "Father emperor, when my second brother sent assassins to kill me and you told me to forget about my grudges with him afterward, I had no problems with that. However, this guy is clearly my enemy, and he has tried to kill me several times. I suffered so much because of him! Is your respected self really going to let him go?"

The Fiend Emperor said indifferently, "You have disappointed me too much. You have only been concerned with fighting and have not given his identity any thought all this time. This one is a favored minister of the human emperor, the Eastern Palace crown prince faction's most trusted aide. Not long ago, he was granted the title of Great Lady Count. How can someone like that be killed so easily?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince stared at Zu An with wide eyes. He could never have expected Zu An to have such a great background! At the same time, a hint of humiliation flashed across his face. A subordinate of the human race's crown prince had beaten him black and blue?!

You have successfully trolled the Golden Crow Crown Prince for +555 +555 +555...

Wu Liang blinked. He thought to himself, You really can't judge a person by appearances. This kid actually had such an extraordinary background! However, he really is stupid. Why would he run all the way here to the Fiend King Court when he has that kind of identity? Isn't he just courting death?

Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo looked at Zu An worriedly. They hadn't expected the Fiend Emperor to have already investigated them so thoroughly. He really was too terrifying.

Meanwhile, Zu An was calm, saying, "The Fiend Emperor is unfathomable after all. No wonder you can face our human emperor as an equal."

"Bringing up Zhao Han right now is useless. The way things are, he cannot save you," the Fiend Emperor said. As soon as he spoke, he raised a finger, firing a streak of golden light at Zu An.

Zu An wanted to dodge, but he was locked in place by the Fiend Emperor's pressure. Furthermore, earth immortals didn't reveal any clues when they attacked, so how could he avoid it? He could only watch as the golden light entered the space between his brows.

The women were shocked. Yu Yanluo and Yan Xuehen quickly walked over to support Zu An.

Yun Jianyue stared at the Fiend Emperor, exclaiming furiously, "What did you do to him?!"

"Worry not, he will not die. I just placed a Puppet Curse on him, so he can only listen to my orders for the rest of his life," the Fiend Emperor said indifferently.

"Puppet Curse!" Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exclaimed, their expressions changing. At their cultivation rank, they naturally knew about the existence of that sinister technique. It made the target unable to act independently or refuse the user's orders. The worst part was that no one could undo the technique except for the one who used it!

Yu Yanluo had just sighed in relief when she saw that Zu An seemed unaffected. But when she saw the two grandmasters' reactions, she felt a weight in the pit of her stomach. Even though she didn't know the exact details, she could guess how serious it was from their reactions.

Zu An's expression also changed. He noticed that there seemed to be a faint golden diagram in his mind. It looked like a pair of terrifying eyes that were completely identical to the Fiend Emperor's! However, the eyes were still closed. He didn't know when the diagram would activate.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince finally revealed a smile when he saw that. Now that the Puppet Curse had been cast, wasn't Zu An already like a fish on a chopping block?

Once father emperor perishes, all of his cultivation will be mine. I can then just use this Puppet Curse to control him and make him offer up all his women to me!

Apart from the Elf Race's Princess Snow, there is also the Medusa Queen!

After learning that the Medusa Queen was Zu An's lover, and judging from their intimate expressions, he suspected that they had probably already been intimate. However, the Medusa Queens were women that not even his father and the human emperor had been able to obtain, so that gave him a deep desire to conquer them.

I'm going to obtain something not even my father could get!

The Medusa Queen was someone only the strong deserved!

I'll keep this Zu An on one side and let him watch as I subdue and wantonly toy with his women. Only then can I vent my anger, hahahaha!

Just then, the Fiend Emperor looked at Wu Liang, saying, "I sense that the surrounding spatial force seems to have stabilized. Bring us to the entrance of the Unknown Region. Everyone else is to follow along."

No matter how confident he was, he still had to act cautiously when he recalled the rumors surrounding the unknown regions. It would be best to use Zu An's group as cannon fodder to test the waters.

## Chapter 1380: Abyss

When he saw Wu Liang standing still in a stupor, the Fiend Emperor asked with a sneer, "Don't tell me you cannot find the entrance?"

"I can, I can," Wu Liang quickly replied, seeming as if he had woken up from a dream.

In truth, even though he had his guesses, he wasn't that certain. In this situation, though, even if he wasn't confident, he had to pretend he was. As such, he took out a divining wheel and began to fiddle with it. He checked it while leading the way.

The Fiend Emperor gestured for the others to follow along. As for Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo, he didn't place any restrictions on them. They were all injured, so to him, it didn't make a difference whether there was a seal placed on them or not.

However, Zu An was the one he couldn't see through. Even though Zu An had defeated the crown prince several times before, the crown prince was still the crown prince, after all.

Zu An's cultivation clearly wasn't high, but the Fiend Emperor got a vague sense of threat from him. He didn't know how someone who had just reached the hero mortal form could give him, an earth immortal, a feeling of danger, but he wasn't the negligent type. As such, he had planted the Puppet Curse in Zu An's body to guard against him just in case.

The three women moved over to Zu An's side, their faces full of worry as they asked, "What do we do?"

Zu An gave the Fiend Emperor's back a look, saying, "We'll just follow him into the Unknown Region."

The women were shocked by his composure. They hadn't seen any hope at all in their situation and had been about to lose their heads, but they were soon infected by his confidence. They also gradually calmed down.

Yun Jianyue even started to feel admiration for him. This kind of heroic temperament really was hard to find in this world! The man Honglei had chosen was quite excellent after all.

Yan Xuehen's expression also became a bit absentminded when she looked at Zu An, her true thoughts indiscernible. Suddenly, a faint blush appeared on her face and she quickly looked away to hide it.

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The Fiend Emperor said, "Sect Master Yun, I heard that you fought against Zhao Han not too long ago. Are your injuries from that exchange?"

Even though Yun Jianyue was normally incredibly arrogant and often boasted in front of Yan Xuehen, she felt her face heat up a bit in embarrassment now that a true earth immortal had asked her that. She said, "Calling it an exchange would be overestimating myself. Zhao Han didn't even show up in person, and injured me with a single move from far away..."

As for how she had been injured this time, she didn't go into detail. It would be fine if the Fiend Emperor assumed it was an injury from Zhao Han.



The Golden Crow Crown Prince curled his lips. This Devil Sect Leader always struts around as if she's hot stuff, but it turns out she wasn't even all that.

Up ahead, Wu Liang clicked his tongue inwardly. He thought, No wonder I always felt that this woman was a bit too fierce. So she had this kind of experience! He felt even more admiration for Zu An.

Not only did the Fiend Emperor not show her disdain, however, his voice was full of praise as he said, "To be able to preserve your life against Zhao Han's attack is something Sect Master Yun can take pride in."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince didn't agree with his father's response. He just assumed his father was being courteous. You can't even take on a single move! What's so amazing about that?

He was known as the fiend races' younger generation's number one. His cultivation had always been in competition with the generation before him. He was also the publicly acknowledged next Fiend Emperor, which was why his ambitions had always been extremely high. Apart from losing a few times to Zu An, he was confident he could win against anyone else.

The Fiend Emperor then asked Yun Jianyue about the details of the battle. Yun Jianyue frowned slightly. She knew that the Fiend Emperor wanted to take the chance to estimate Zhao Han's current strength.

At first, she wanted to put together a story to avoid leaking intelligence, but after thinking about it, she realized that wouldn't necessarily be enough to fool an earth immortal. Furthermore, why would she put in so much effort for that damn human emperor? As such, she told the other party exactly what had happened.

The Fiend Emperor listened extremely carefully, even interrupting her a few times to ask her about some details along the way. After listening to the story, he remained quiet for a bit. Then, he finally said with a sigh, "Zhao Han's cultivation has made quite a bit of progress since we last met so many years ago"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was shocked. Why did it sound as if his father had lost confidence? Could it be that he was already admitting he couldn't defeat the human emperor?

The Fiend Emperor released a long sigh, saying, "Unfortunately, no one can triumph over time. I might not have a chance of fighting against Zhao Han again in this life."

His tone conveyed the sense of a hero past his prime. Even though they were enemies, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both grandmasters. They could sense an air of loneliness in his voice.

"Father emperor is still in your prime; you will definitely be able to live a long time!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince quickly exclaimed in praise.

"Do you truly wish for me to live for a long time?" the Fiend Emperor asked, looking at him with an ambiguous smile.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince jumped in fright. He replied, "What is father emperor saying? Your respected self has treated me so well; of course I wish for your respected self to live longer. The longer the better!"

The Fiend Emperor remained silent for a while. Ever since ancient times, not only were the emperor and the crown prince father and son, ruler and minister; they also had a competitive relationship. The crown prince had to be competent enough to take over ruling the nation, but the emperor couldn't have his position threatened ahead of time. That had always led to a huge question that needed to be heavily considered. As such, the relationship between the emperor and crown prince had never been particularly great in previous dynasties.

However, he and his son had been an exception. The first reason was that his own cultivation was too high, so the crown prince had always been deferential; the second reason was that he was too old, and had already experienced signs of heaven and earth deterioration. That was why there had been no need for them to compete against each other.

If he obtained the method of immortality from an Unknown Region, however, their relationship would definitely become different from before.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was extremely nervous too. It wasn't guaranteed that the Unknown Region would contain a method of immortality. If he ended up offending his father badly, and the imperial throne ended up being given to his younger brother, that would be terrible.

The atmosphere had turned strange. Fortunately, Wu Liang called out just then, "I... found the entrance."

The party arrived at a large pool of water.

"It should be underwater!" Wu Liang quickly added when he saw the Fiend Emperor frown.

Zu An asked in confusion, "Are you sure it's here? We looked around underwater earlier."

"That was earlier. It's different now," Wu Liang said. "After the strange changes that took place, the layout of the Imperial Tomb has changed somewhat. It isn't too surprising for the entrance of an Unknown Region to appear underwater. There have been many tombs that were built through similar mechanisms. It's just that no one has been able to go to these lengths before."

The Fiend Emperor gestured toward Zu An, saying, "Go down and take a look." He was worried that Wu Liang would play some tricks, so he decided to throw the cannon fodder out first to test the waters.

Zu An didn't refuse. He really wanted a look at the Unknown Region too. As he entered the water, he quickly descended.

Back on the shore, the Fiend Emperor voiced his surprise. "This brat is not from the Ocean races, but he is actually so proficient at controlling water."

The three women all blushed at the same time. They had all been in the water bubble made from Zu An's Blue Mallard skill before. Back then, they had been so close to each other that their bodies touched.

Soon afterward, Zu An burst through the surface of the water and said, "There seems to be a transport gate-like object at the bottom of the pool. It's most likely the entrance to the Unknown Region. I'll bring you all down. It might be because the Unknown Region appeared suddenly, but the water's flow is chaotic, with all sorts of undercurrents. Everyone, be careful. You can't let yourselves be washed away."

“There is no need for all that trouble,” the Fiend Emperor said. He asked Zu An for the approximate direction, and with a wave of his hand, he cleaved the seemingly boundless pool in half directly. When he parted the water, it created a wide path.

The others’ expressions changed. Such a huge lake had been cut in half, and yet the Fiend Emperor had made it look so effortless! The strength of an earth immortal really was unfathomable.

At the very center of the lake, revealed by the separation of the waters, was a ring of light that resembled a whirlpool. Faint blue radiance continuously flickered around it, and its center was pitch-black.

The group soon arrived next to the ring of light. They had all been to their fair share of secret dungeons, so they were no strangers to such spatial pathways. However, the secret dungeons they had previously entered were all already open, thus guaranteeing their safety. Such an unfamiliar spatial pathway, on the other hand, could be full of destructive power. If they went in, they could end up experiencing a terrifying spacetime storm that would instantly rip them to pieces.

The Fiend Emperor waved his hand, and a rope appeared from his sleeves, wrapping around Zu An. Then, before he could react, the Fiend Emperor threw him into the vortex.