

Immortal 1401

Chapter 1401: Goldenrain Immortal Fruit

"Seal?" The Fiend Emperor repeated with a frown. Could it be that this ancient emperor still hadn't perished and was only sealed?

"Correct," the voice in the tomb said. "When my father was on his throne, many terrifying beasts roamed the world. The most powerful among them were named the Four Perils. The Four Perils were subdued by my father, so they naturally carried great resentment toward him. As such, Shun had the four perils respectively apply a seal, setting up a powerful formation that has suppressed my father for all these years."

"Four Perils..." The Fiend Emperor silently repeated those words. There was no expression visible on his face.

Meanwhile, Wu Liang was about to piss his pants. Those Four Perils didn't sound as if they should be bothered at all! They could even suppress the ancient emperor! The emperors back then were all dominating figures capable of ascension, so they had to at least be stronger than the earth immortals of the present, right? Unfortunately, he knew it would be useless even if he said anything. He wasn't the one who made the decisions, and could only try to look for opportunities to slip away.

That voice in the tomb explained, "The Four Perils are the Hundun, Qiongqi, Taowu, and Taotie. Right, since you all came from Feather Mountain, you should have already met the Taowu. I sensed its aura."

The Fiend Emperor's expression changed a bit. The monster he had encountered in Feather Mountain appeared in his mind. He hadn't expected that any random one of the Four Perils would already have strength comparable to his own. It also bore powerful resentment energy that was enough to corrode his life force, which made it really tricky for him to fight it. So what kinds of creatures were the other three perils? Even someone as powerful as him could end up in danger!

The voice continued, "Do you still recall that in my father's reign, the Black Emperor's descendant Gun fought against Shun? Heh, the Taowu was created from none other than the resentment he carried after his death. I sensed its return to this world. If I'm not mistaken, you've already undone one seal."

"Undone a seal?" The Fiend Emperor and Golden Crow Crown Prince repeated, stunned.

Wu Liang realized something and exclaimed, "That giant tortoise statue by Feather Abyss!"

Even the Golden Crow Sacred Fire couldn't hurt it at all. It had taken the Fiend Emperor's full powered strike to break it open.

The Fiend Emperor knew that Wu Liang excelled in mechanisms and formations. That kind of deduction likely wasn't far from the truth.

"That's why we only need to undo three more seals, and then my father can return to this world. Then, everything will go back to normal, haha!" The voice began to laugh maniacally when he thought about his father's return.

"Why should I help you?" the Fiend Emperor asked, unfazed.

“Your Golden Crow Ancestor was my father’s blood brother. Both of you are the White Emperor’s descendants. Do you think that if he learned the truth, he would let the Black Emperor’s bloodline steal our White Emperor’s world?”

The Fiend Emperor harrumphed and replied, “I do not care about a White or Black Emperor; those are all things from tens of thousands of years ago. Open your eyes and look. The world has already changed. No one cares about those two anymore. I am already an emperor myself; I do not need any of those so-called ancestors.”

The voice in the tomb roared, cursing him for forgetting his roots. However, after cursing for a while, it seemed to have gotten tired and gradually calmed down. Instead, it asked, “It is fine if you do not acknowledge our ancestors, but you still want eternal life, right?”

The Fiend Emperor replied with a sneer, “Why else do you think I had the patience to listen to you talk about all of these nonsensical things?”

“That means it’s even more important for you to undo those seals. When the time comes, my father can help you with much of your worries,” the voice said, acting as if its plans were a foregone conclusion.

“In my opinion, it might not be so troublesome,” the Fiend Emperor said with a cold snort. “Either way, you have managed to live for such a long time already. It should be the same if I ask you.” As soon as he said that, he brandished his palm and smashed a huge hole in the tomb’s main entrance.

Wu Liang stared at the entrance and inadvertently blurted out that such tomb entrances were usually the sturdiest locations, created from untold amounts of Dragonbane Stone. Whenever he raided a tomb, he would enter from the side, and yet the Fiend Emperor had actually blasted it open with a single palm...

The Fiend Emperor didn’t stop and headed directly into the tomb. At that point, his attention was completely focused on eternal life. He wasn’t in the mood to pay any attention to Wu Liang at all.

Wu Liang intended to seize the chance to run when the Golden Crow Crown Prince picked him up, saying, “Go, we’re heading in too.”

Wu Liang inwardly ‘greeted’ eighteen generations of his ancestors, but he didn’t dare to resist. Moreover, even though the Fiend Emperor had already gone inside, he could still kill him with just a single thought. Even if he fought against the Golden Crow Crown Prince, he wouldn’t necessarily be able to win. The Golden Crow Crown Prince’s reputation hadn’t been earned through shooting his mouth off; he was actually strong.

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When the two of them entered the tomb, Wu Liang felt alarmed as he watched the surroundings, saying, “Be careful...”

However, before he even finished his sentence, the Fiend Emperor already headed deeper inside. All kinds of mechanisms and formations were activated. In Wu Liang’s mind, those were all traps that could kill an intruder without even leaving a single bone behind. However, the Fiend Emperor just waved his sleeves and brandished his palms at most. Often, he didn’t even lift a finger, simply resisting the terrifying traps head-on.

Wu Liang was so shocked his jaw practically fell to the ground. Whenever he raided tombs, he was like a young mistress who had to suffer in silence, always having to carefully guess what the lord of the tomb had planned. He had to guard against such traps carefully. Even so, he would often be left in a sorry state. However, the Fiend Emperor seemed to be able to walk straight through, unfazed. When would he be able to become so cool?

The tomb was an imperial tomb in name, but it was actually extremely simple and crude. They arrived at the main throne room not too long after heading inside.

"What... What are you doing?" the voice called out. It was no longer as mysterious and profound as before, but instead sounded a bit panicked.

The Fiend Emperor wasn't in the mood to waste time with it, however. He brandished his hand and sent an invisible force blast outward. The coffin exploded into pieces.

However, all of them were stunned when they saw what fell out from inside. Nothing but a set of white bones emerged; they fell out and scattered everywhere. There was a jade-like layer over the surface of the bones, speaking of the owner's cultivation when he was alive. However, they still couldn't resist the corrosion of time, so all of them were dim. Furthermore, when they fell to the ground, many parts broke.

"It's been so many years! I'm finally able to come out of this damned coffin," the skeleton said as it suddenly sat up. Its jaw moved up and down, speaking the way it had before.

"So it was you who was playing all of these tricks," the Fiend Emperor said in surprise and anger.

The white bones didn't reply. Instead, the skeleton spread its arms, then seemed to breathe in. A look of pleasure appeared on its face; it was strange to be able to see an expression from a skeleton. It said, "I am finally able to breathe free air. So it was this sweet and fragrant!"

Wu Liang couldn't help but mutter, "Can you even smell in your current state..."

The skeleton sighed and replied, "You're right, I can't. However, I can imagine it."

The others were speechless.

"Why do you look like this?" the Fiend Emperor asked, giving it a cold look. Its aura was too weak. Forget about him, even the weak Wu Liang could easily kill it.

"What do you think I should look like? I've already been lying inside for so many years, so of course my flesh has already disappeared," the white skeleton replied, sounding as if it were talking about something completely unrelated to itself.

"Did you not mention eternal life before?" the Fiend Emperor exclaimed, his face darkening. "So you were lying to me!"

A terrifying pressure spread out and the entire tomb began to tremble. Large amounts of rubble fell from above, making it hard for Wu Liang in the corner to even breathe. The Fiend Emperor had clearly gotten worked up, expecting some more information about immortality. Now that he realized he had been fooled, he was truly angry.

It was as if an invisible hand wrapped around the skeleton's neck, raising it into the air. It struggled frantically, but still couldn't break free. It seemed as if it could be crushed to pieces at any time.

As if sensing its imminent destruction, the skeleton finally cried, "Goldenrain Immortal Fruit!"

The Fiend Emperor was startled, asking, "What is that?"

"Above the Great Desolate Cloudrain Mountain is a red stone; on it is a Goldenrain Tree that produces immortal fruits. If you eat them, they can prevent you from dying."

"And is that immortal state you are talking about your current damned appearance?" the Fiend Emperor asked fiercely.

"I was in a rush and only ate half of a fruit that hadn't fully matured yet. Of course, my cultivation wasn't enough either, so I couldn't activate the true effects of the immortal medicine," the skeleton said while clutching its throat. "Even so, it's allowed me to live for an indefinite amount of time, to continue existing until now!"

"Where is that Great Desolate Cloudrain Mountain you are talking about?" the Fiend Emperor asked, his eyes beginning to burn with passion again.

"I don't know," the skeleton replied. When it saw the Fiend Emperor's expression change, however, it quickly continued, "But my father does!"

Chapter 1402: Soul Capture

"Your father?" The Fiend Emperor asked, sounding shaken.

Dan Zhu was worried that the Fiend Emperor's hand would just end his life, so he didn't dare to keep him in suspense anymore. He replied, "It's none other than that Emperor Yao I talked about before. Only the emperors who succeed the throne know where these immortal medicines are. The immortal medicine I ate was a fruit that fell prematurely and didn't mature for various reasons. That's why I'm stuck in this state that's neither alive nor dead."

The Fiend Emperor frowned and asked, "If your father is an emperor, why would he give you an underripe fruit? Furthermore, you rose to the throne in the past too. Why do you not know?" This matter was related to immortality, so there was no way he wouldn't be careful. He didn't want to be fooled.

"Didn't I tell you already? My father was suddenly schemed against in his later years, so he didn't pass on the throne properly to me at all. Many secrets were lost just like that," Dan Zhu explained. "As for the fruit I ate, it was something my father stumbled upon in his younger years by chance. At first, it was just treated as a treasure to be collected without any real use, but when I was forced to abdicate and at the end of my rope, I secretly ate it. That's why I was able to persist until now."

"So that is why, if I want to talk to your father, there is no choice but to undo the seal the way you said, right?" the Fiend Emperor said with a sneer.

"You really are smart," Dan Zhu replied. When he saw the Fiend Emperor's expression become unkind, he quickly explained, "It's not that I'm trying to deceive you on purpose, but that it really is only my father who knows! If you can undo the seal and free him, he'll be extremely grateful!"

“Besides, I’ve been trapped here for so long that I hate Shun more than anyone else. What kind of status did my father have in the past? He was an emperor who dominated the world! In his later years, he was plotted against by his most trusted aides, so his hatred can only exceed mine. If you help him get revenge, why won’t he be thankful to you?”

“Furthermore, you’re from the White Emperor bloodline too, so in a sense, you’re his descendant. It’s reasonable to pass on the undying fruit to you.”

Dan Zhu fired off several reasons in rapid succession. Then, he looked at the Fiend Emperor expectantly.

The Fiend Emperor asked with a dull expression, “Where are the seals you speak of?”

Seeing as he had agreed, Dan Zhu was overjoyed, explaining, “The seal was applied by Shun. I don’t know the exact details, but over the years, I’ve thought about what happened back then countless times and formed some suspicions. Furthermore, you’ve already undone the Taowu’s seal, so those suspicions are most likely correct. Their seals are most likely related to their respective characteristics. For example, the Hundun’s is probably...”

He then told them about his speculations in detail. He added, “Bring me with you. I can explain things if there’s anything that you’re not sure about.”

The Fiend Emperor remained quiet for a while. Then, he suddenly said, “There is no need for all of that trouble.”

As soon as he said that, he raised his hand and thrust it through the center of the skeleton’s forehead. His hand seemed to be intangible; the sturdy skull didn’t receive any damage, and was unable to stop him at all.

“You...” the skeleton protested, struggling frantically. However, it was all futile.

The Fiend Emperor quickly pulled out his hand again; in it was a glowing blue light that resembled the will-o’-the-wisps often seen around tombs. The light in the center of his palm struggled, but no matter what it did, it couldn’t leave his palm at all.

The Fiend Emperor remarked with a sneer, “Isn’t this better? I can just ask you whenever I want.” Then, he closed his palm and the blue light suddenly disappeared.

Wu Liang shook all over when he saw that. It was the legendary Soul Capture skill!

Those kinds of techniques really were too terrifying, because they meant death was never the worst that could happen. Ordinarily, death was a kind of release in its own right. However, if one were restrained and tormented even as a soul, that really would amount to a fate worse than death.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince swallowed with difficulty when he saw that. He didn’t dare to say anything else and instead searched the area around him. A while later, he said in disappointment, “This guy’s burial objects are just too shameful. There are only some ordinary goods. There are a few things that might have been good, but they have already turned to dust after all this time.”

Wu Liang inwardly thought, That’s only because your standards are too high. One of you is the Fiend Emperor, while the other is the crown prince. The things they normally used were all of the highest quality, and the imperial palace was full of treasures. Of course, they wouldn’t care about such burial

objects. However, many of these things, if brought out into the outside world, would be enough to make cultivators go crazy.

“What kinds of funerary objects could someone like him who had his throne seized have?” the Fiend Emperor said indifferently. He also asked, “What do you think about what he said earlier?”

Sensing that his father was testing him, after some hesitation, the Golden Crow Crown Prince said, “Father emperor, I believe that you should be careful more than anything. Even if we did what he said and undo that Emperor Yao’s seal, the emperor would be grateful to us, but would he really give us something as precious as an immortal medicine?”

“As for what he said about our bloodline being the same, that is even more nonsense. Forget about a few tens of thousands of years, even brothers can turn on each other because of benefits.”

He gave Wu Liang a look after saying that. This guy had been sent by none other his lovely second brother to assassinate him.

The Fiend Emperor nodded and said, “Indeed. You did not waste my many years of cultivation.”

The Golden Crow Crown Prince felt much more reassured when he heard the affirmation. He continued, “Furthermore, who knows how high the cultivation of an ancient emperor might be? if he broke free, we would not necessarily be able to stop him. If he suddenly got another idea for some reason, we would instead be in danger.”

“What you say is not entirely without reason,” the Fiend Emperor replied. “Not only is that Dan Zhu or whatever said unreliable, he s;dp harbors ulterior motives. How could I allow him to do what he wants?”

“Father emperor is wise and brilliant!” the Golden Crow Crown Prince exclaimed, immediately showering his father in praise.

The Fiend Emperor said seriously, “However, if he wants to fool me, most of what he said should be true. So, I will take a look around the places he mentioned. However, we need to remain extremely vigilant.”

They knew it could be a trap, but the temptation of an immortal medicine was just too great. No matter how dangerous it was, he still had to try it.

“Understood!” the Golden Crow Crown Prince said respectfully.

Wu Liang was on the verge of tears. He thought to himself, You deities are about to fight it out, but can I skip out on this one?

If things went as he expected, he would definitely be the first one to face it if they ran into danger. Now that this was related to an ancient emperor and an immortal medicine, even if he had been a cat with nine lives, it wouldn’t be enough.

The Fiend Emperor took a few steps forward, but suddenly stopped and said to the Golden Crow Crown Prince, “I know what you are thinking. If we do find the immortal medicine, I will share a portion with you. That is why we, father and son, should be of the same mind. Do not do anything that involves turning on your own blood kin.”

Normally, he wouldn't speak so frankly at all, but they could end up facing the ancient emperor. Judging from what Dan Zhu had said, immortal ascension could be possible. The other party's cultivation wouldn't be lower than his own. If there was a great battle, it was hard to say who would come out on top. It would be troublesome if his son betrayed him at a crucial moment.

Furthermore, he was a bit regretful that he had let Zu An leave. Those people were only ants in his eyes normally, but now that he was facing a true ancient emperor, they had become a variable. He could need his son's help to fend them off. As such, he had decided to confide in his son directly.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was so frightened his face turned ashen. He exclaimed, "Father emperor, this subject would not dare to have any thoughts like that! I will always be loyal to you."

The Fiend Emperor frowned and said, "I am not testing you; you do not need to think too much of it. Furthermore, what I said was not a lie. If we do find the immortal medicine, I will share a portion with you."

When he heard the sincerity in his father's voice, the Golden Crow Crown Prince was immediately moved to tears, replying, "Thank you, father emperor. This subject will do my utmost to assist you!"

Inwardly, however, he felt ice-cold. As someone from the royal family, there was no way he would easily trust a promise like that.

Furthermore, even taking a million steps back and assuming his father really was willing, that was based on the premise that there was extra immortal medicine. What if only a single fruit remained? Of course, he didn't dare to voice any of those thoughts. His expression was as sincere as sincere could be.

The Fiend Emperor nodded in satisfaction, saying, "Then, we should head toward that Hundun Dan Zhu spoke of."

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Meanwhile, on Zu An's side, multiple groans filled the air. Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both opened their eyes at the same time.

Zu An quickly ran over and asked nervously, "What's wrong?"

Chapter 1403: Jiuyi Mountain Range

The two women had a fine layer of sweat covering their faces. The graceful hair around their temples had stuck to their skin, and an unnatural redness had spread across their faces. They looked even more lovely than usual.

At that instant, it was as if the two of them were the most popular courtesan queens, and they were showing their most attractive sides. However, Zu An couldn't help but laugh. What brothel had such stunning girls?

Yan Xuehen rolled her eyes, replying, "Oh? It almost sounds as if you want something to happen to us."

"Of course not," Zu An said, chuckling in embarrassment. Then, he looked at Yu Yanluo. She was sitting with her eyes shut, focusing on getting rid of the poison.

Yun Jianyue said, "We've already completely removed the poison. Fortunately, we didn't consume any directly, or else it would have been much more troublesome. I really hadn't expected there to actually be such a disgusting beast in this world."

Yan Xuehen nodded in deep sympathy as she imagined those slimy tentacles. That kind of thing made women feel extremely uncomfortable.

When he heard that the two women had already gotten rid of the poison, Zu An's expression grew strange. As expected of the two arch-enemies! Their cultivations were close, and even the amount of time it had taken for them to remove the poison was identical.

Yun Jianyue noticed his expression and remarked with an ambiguous smile, "Oh? You seem to be quite disappointed to hear that we've gotten rid of the poison."

Zu An chuckled and said, "Of course. At first, I thought that if the two beauties couldn't get rid of the poison, I'd have no choice but to sacrifice my own body to help."

"Shameless!" Yan Xuehen harrumphed. She hadn't expected this guy to say such a thing in such a bold and confident manner.

Yun Jianyue had initially been planning to tease him for a bit, but instead, she was the one who had been provoked! Even though she was normally tough, she was still a maiden. How could she win against such fierce aggression? She exclaimed, "You damn brat, if anyone else had spoken such filthy words to me, I would have already pulled out his tongue and fed it to the dogs!"

Zu An smiled and said, "It is true that big sis Yun really dotes on me."

"Hmph!" Yun Jianyue finally couldn't take it anymore. She turned around to look at Yan Xuehen, suggesting, "Stone cold woman, why don't we go and take a bath?"

Yan Xuehen voiced her agreement. After removing the poison, her entire body was sticky and uncomfortable.

Zu An's expression turned a bit strange when he saw that. Where had they expelled the poison from...?

After getting up, Yan Xuehen gave the concentrating Yu Yanluo a look. Her cultivation was a bit lower, so she couldn't finish as quickly as them. She asked, "Should we help her?"

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes, replying, "What are you worried about her for? Even if she fails, there's a stick of the antidote right there."

"A stick?" Zu An hadn't expected he would be described like that by someone one day. As expected of the Devil Sect's big sis Yun, she really was straightforward with her words.

Yan Xuehen harrumphed, clearly disapproving of the description. Furthermore, for some reason, she felt a bit strange when she heard what Yun Jianyue said. She became a bit absent-minded.

Zu An asked, "Do you guys still dare to go into the water? Aren't you scared of that big octopus?"

"We're just going to wash by the shore," Yun Jianyue said proudly. "That octopus is so large, how would it even be able to cross over? Furthermore, even if it shows up, with our cultivation, we should be able to safely escape back to shore."

Zu An couldn't help but picture the two beauties running out of the water in a sorry state without a shred of clothing on them. He suddenly began to hope that the huge octopus monster would come back.

After taking a few steps, Yun Jianyue turned around again and said, "Damn brat, you're not allowed to peek!"

"You are not allowed to use your divine sense either!" Yan Xuehen added.

"Am I that kind of person?" Zu An muttered unhappily. These two women really were something... He had already seen everything anyway, so why did they still have to deceive themselves like that?

"What are you mumbling about?" Yun Jianyue snapped, giving him a fierce look.

"Nothing, haha. I just wanted to say to be careful," Zu An quickly responded.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue thus left in satisfaction.

When he heard the sounds of splashing water soon afterward, Zu An shook his head and focused his mind to help Yu Yanluo watch her surroundings.

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Nearby, two beautiful figures bathed in the water. Surrounded by azure seawater, their skin looked even fairer and more moving.

Yun Jianyue secretly glanced at Yan Xuehen, thinking to herself that this woman normally always acted as if she were above everyone else, but she actually had such a seductive chest. It's not even outdone by my own.

"What are you looking at?" Yan Xuehen asked, covering her chest when she sensed Yun Jianyue's scorching gaze. Even though she was a woman too, it still felt a bit unnatural.

Yun Jianyue reached out a hand to touch them, but Yan Xuehen smacked it away with a palm. However, she didn't seem to mind and remarked, "It's not as if you'll lose anything from a touch." She then added, "Right, why do I feel as if you're acting a bit too enthusiastic around Yu Yanluo? It's almost as if you did something to let her down and you're working hard to make up for it."

Yan Xuehen had been about to get angry, but upon hearing that question, she just felt a bit guilty. She quickly explained, "Back then, she was seriously injured because I was the one who chased them. Of course I feel a bit guilty toward her."

"Is that really it?" Yun Jianyue replied, feeling a bit suspicious. She was about to ask more when Yu Yanluo ran over to them with a reddened face. She had clearly just finished removing the poison as well.

Because of the trauma they still shared from the huge octopus, the group didn't dare to mess around too much. They returned to shore after bathing.

When Yun Jianyue arrived ashore, she wasn't in a rush to put on her clothes and instead said to Yan Xuehen, "Stone cold woman, help me out."

Yu Yanluo was puzzled. However, Yan Xuehen waved her hand, and fluttering ice and snow wrapped around their bodies. Then, the snowflakes flew away, completely drying up all the seawater on their bodies. Yu Yanluo was amazed when she saw that.

The women thus put on their clothes and returned to where Zu An was.

A dangerous smile appeared on Yun Jianyue's face as she asked, "Little An, you didn't peep on us, did you?"

Zu An plucked a leaf from the branch in front of him and harrumphed in annoyance, retorting, "If I wanted to look, I would just go over and be open about it. Would I have to peep?"

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo's faces turned red. Zu An had seen both of them openly before. As for Yun Jianyue, she also felt a bit ashamed, because Zu An had seen her openly too...

Fortunately, Zu An didn't press the matter. He said, "Right, I looked around while you guys were washing up. I noticed a stone tablet by the foot of the mountain."

The three women immediately focused their attention. In this Unknown Region, everything around them was unfamiliar. If there was a stone tablet, it could indicate some treasure! They quickly followed Zu An in the direction of the stone tablet.

When he saw the three ladies' dresses fluttering around, Zu An suddenly asked, "Can you give me a set of your clothes?" Now that he thought about it, did women naturally have so many clothes? It had been so long, and yet he had never seen them wear the same outfits again.

"What do you need them for?" the three women asked, looking at him strangely.

"I have a skill that requires clothes," Zu An said without batting an eyelid. It had been such a long time already; he had change out the clothes in Pin Ru's Wardrobe. Otherwise, the next time he used it, it could end in disaster.

After being together for so long, the women knew that Zu An was extremely reliable. When they heard that it was related to a skill, they didn't worry too much and agreed. They all looked in their spatial storages.

"I need clothes that you've worn before," Zu An reminded them. If they were completely new sets, he wasn't sure if Pin Ru's Wardrobe would activate.

The three women immediately stopped, crying, "Pervert!" Then, they didn't pay him any more attention and walked away.

Zu An finally reacted and said, "Ah, you've all misunderstood! It's not that I want the authentic taste or something like that, it's just that I need some clothes you've worn before! Sigh, why can't I explain this..."

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As the group bickered, they inadvertently arrived in front of the stone tablet Zu An had mentioned before.

"Jiuyi Mountains[1]?" Yun Jianyue's eyes narrowed when she heard Zu An's reading of the text. She asked, "Stone cold woman, have you heard of this mountain before?"

"No," Yan Xuehen said, shaking her head. They were all experienced and knowledgeable individuals, and yet they had never heard of this place before.

Zu An only felt that the name was a bit familiar, but he couldn't recall where exactly he heard it before.

Just then, a slow, drawn-out voice called out, "The Puppet Curse of the White Emperor's lineage?"

Chapter 1404: Black Emperor's Descendant

"Who said that?" Zu An and the others called out, suddenly looking up. They looked all around them, but they didn't see anyone present no matter where they looked.

They exchanged a look, seeing the grave expressions on each other's faces. In truth, they were already some of the most powerful experts in the world. Their perception of their surroundings was incredibly sharp. Normally, not even the movement of a single blade of grass would escape their perception. And yet, the voice had emerged without any warning. They were completely unable to locate the source of it, before or after it spoke.

That meant the voice's cultivation was far above their own. They would be in great danger if this individual had evil intentions.

"Hm? You even have the skills of the White Emperor lineage, so why would you be afflicted with the Puppet Curse?" the voice wondered, seemingly full of confusion.

"Who are you?" Zu An called out. He looked around vigilantly at his surroundings because the voice hadn't come from a single direction; rather, it seemed to come from all directions. He couldn't locate its exact position at all.

"Who am I?" The voice seemed to be a bit surprised as it repeated, "Right, who am I? Who exactly am I?"

Zu An and the women looked at each other in dismay. This voice seemed to have something wrong with its head. As such, they gestured toward each other, deciding that they had to leave this weird place as quickly as possible.

The voice suddenly said, "I remember who I am. I feel so much hatred!"

Zu An's expression changed slightly. The level of hatred that filled the air meant the voice could be considered a malicious spirit even in his previous world! He thought, I have to quickly put some oil on the bottom of my feet.

"Could it be that you don't want to get rid of the Puppet Curse?" the voice asked.

Forget about Zu An, even Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo couldn't help but stop then. The Puppet Curse was related to Zu An's life and death. If it couldn't be removed, even if they left the

Unknown Region alive, he would still be the Fiend Emperor's slave. At that point, he would probably be better off dead than alive.

Zu An knew that Mi Li could only borrow the Unknown Region's chaotic laws to temporarily seal off the Puppet Curse. Once they returned to the normal world, her methods likely wouldn't be useful.

"There are no free lunches in this world. What do you want?" Zu An asked cautiously.

"There are no free lunches in this world?" The voice repeated that sentence. It seemed to be entertained as it continued, "That sentence is quite amusing. Why don't you come to the foot of the mountain first?"

Zu An was hesitant, but the voice said, "Don't worry. Since you have the White Emperor's Puppet Curse on you, that means that we share a common enemy. You don't need to worry about me harming you."

Zu An had never been the type to be overly cautious to begin with. When he heard that, he decided to head over and take a look.

He warned the three women to stay away first, but Yan Xuehen said, "We should go together. If there is any danger, we will be able to face it together."

Zu An felt warm inside, thinking, It seems that even though she normally treats me with that indifferent demeanor, she actually still cares a lot about me.

When she sensed his fiery gaze, Yan Xuehen's face heated up a bit. She turned around and didn't look at him anymore. However, Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo were worried about the mysterious being, so they didn't notice the other two's gazes.

Just like that, they began to be guided along by the voice. They soon arrived at the foot of the giant mountain in front of them. Only then did they notice that there was a simple cave entrance there.

Zu An stopped, maintaining some distance from the entrance. He said, "I'm already here, so if you have something to say, please say it."

Who knew if there was another damned old freak who wanted to possess his body or something? Ever since he had been schemed against by Old Mi, that mental shadow had always loomed over him.

As if it 'saw' the women at Zu An's side, the voice said with a sigh of amazement, "I had a few beauties close to me back then too, sigh..." It seemed to be full of disappointment and frustration.

Zu An cursed inwardly, So it was just another old pervert. Wait, why did I say another?

Yun Jianyue couldn't hold herself back from asking, "You said you could undo the Puppet Curse?"

The voice said, "The Puppet Curse is one of the ultimate skills of the White Emperor lineage. It's very difficult to undo."

Yun Jianyue's eyes widened as she exclaimed, "Were you messing with us?"

She was knowledgeable herself. Even though the mysterious voice's cultivation realm was extremely terrifying, if it really was so formidable, there would be no need for it to call them over at all. It could just use its skills to forcibly bring them over.

When she saw the cave, it only made her more confident in her suspicions. The voice had probably been trapped there for some reason, and that was why they were called over. As long as they were careful, there likely wouldn't be too much danger.

"I merely said that it was very difficult. I didn't say I couldn't get rid of it," the voice replied.

The voice was making things more complicated for no reason, so Zu An didn't want to be led by the nose either. As such, he took the initiative to ask calmly, "What was that White Emperor thing you mentioned about?"

The Puppet Curse on him had clearly been applied by the Fiend Emperor. Why was this guy talking about a White Emperor?

"Before I explain that, answer me first. Why do you know the White Emperor lineage's Heaven Devouring Sutra and Phoenix Nirvana Sutra?" the voice asked.

The three women looked at Zu An. They knew some of the skills he had, but this was the first time they had heard about both of those skills. Furthermore, how was it related to the White Emperor?

Zu An was also confused. He replied, "I don't even know who the White Emperor is, so why would I know his skills?"

This person really was mysterious; he could actually sense Zu An's Heaven Devouring Sutra and Phoenix Nirvana Sutra! However, Zu An thought, Huh, why can't he sense the Primordial Origin Sutra?

"Judging from that slow-looking demeanor of yours, you don't seem to be cunning and treacherous like those White Emperor descendants, so you're probably not one of them," the voice said, thinking aloud.

Zu An was speechless. He cursed inwardly, You're the slow one! Your entire family is slow!

The voice said slowly, "A long, long time ago, my ancestor, the Yellow Emperor, dominated all challengers, defeating outstanding individuals throughout the world. He was publicly acknowledged as the emperor."

The other three women thought he was just talking about a normal emperor, so they didn't think too much of it.[1]

However, Zu An was shaken up. Is this 'the' Yellow Emperor? Is it the same one I remember?

"When the Yellow Emperor ascended, he passed on his throne to his son, Shao Hao. He was known as the White Emperor," the voice continued.

"Ascended? What do you mean 'ascended'?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen exclaimed. Let alone Yu Yanluo, they were both stunned. They were just as confused as the Fiend Emperor had been. In their cultivation realm, they cared more about the pursuit of immortality than anything else. The so-called ascension and transcendence were things that had only existed in legends. They hadn't truly seen it before.

"It refers to someone ascending and becoming an immortal, of course," the voice said, sounding a bit strange. It asked, "Is it really something that surprising?"

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen were both speechless. This guy really knows how to act! Judging from his tone, however, it didn't seem that he was showing off on purpose.

The voice continued, "After the White Emperor ascended, because of his son's unworthiness, the throne was passed onto his nephew, my ancestor Zhuan Xu. He was known by the people as the Black Emperor. He succeeded the throne properly, but the White Emperor's descendants have always felt as if the Black Emperor used some kind of scheme to seize the throne. From then on, they always hated the Black Emperor's lineage."

Zu An cursed inwardly to himself. The Black Emperor had been the winner there, so of course they felt that it was natural. Meanwhile, the other side had seen that the throne wasn't passed down to the son, but to the nephew, so they had every reason to think that something was fishy.

The voice continued, "After the Black Emperor ascended, it was supposed to be his son who took the throne, but unfortunately, the White Emperor's lineage Jun took back the throne. The world knows him as Dijun."

Zu An was a bit moved. He hadn't actually known that much about the Black Emperor and White Emperor, but Dijun was extremely famous, especially in various Eastern fantasy novels. Dijun was a super huge boss-level existence!

"After the White Emperor lineage seized the throne, they suppressed our Black Emperor faction greatly. That wasn't all, though; they even wantonly slandered us," the voice said with a hint of hatred. "For example, three of the Black Emperor's sons were plague demons. One was known as the malaria demon, one was the goblin demon, and the last was the child demon. Another son was known as the worst of villains. After he died, his resentment became known as one of the Four Perils. Truly absurd!"

Zu An's expression was strange. He had thought that those things were just lesser demons, but their father was actually the Black Emperor, Zhuan Xu? However, he asked calmly, "Do you want me to help you defeat the White Emperor?"

"No. Even though the White Emperor's lineage is hateful, as we're from different factions, their unscrupulous means are understandable," the voice said coldly. "On the contrary, those who betray the same faction are the most hateful. The one I hate is someone who's also from the Black Emperor's faction!"

Chapter 1405: The Regret of Chang'e

When he sensed the strong resentment, Zu An thought to himself that no matter which world it was, being betrayed was always the most despicable thing. After thinking about it, however, he shook his head and said, "That's something between the two of you. It has nothing to do with me."

The voice was incredibly mysterious, and its cultivation was also really high. If the enemy was someone not even I could defeat, what the heck would Zu An be sticking his head in for?

"Do you not wish to eliminate your Puppet Curse anymore?" the voice asked, sounding strange, as if it were looking at someone who didn't value his life.

“The one who set the curse on me is an earth immortal, someone at the very top of this world,” Zu An said, shaking his head. “From the way you’re rambling, it doesn’t seem all that likely that you can get rid of his Puppet Curse.”

“An earth immortal? That’s it?” the voice harrumphed in disdain.

Zu An and the women were surprised. This guy really speaks boldly! Even earth immortals aren’t a big deal? Isn’t he going a bit too far with his boasting?

“There’s no need for you to try to provoke me. I can tell that you’ve suffered from the Puppet Curse, and I’ve also noticed that the Puppet Curse has been ingeniously blocked off by someone. That means I naturally have a way of undoing your Puppet Curse,” the voice said proudly, as if explaining itself was already showing Zu An a great deal of favor.

Zu An shook his head and said, “Forget it. Even though you didn’t tell me what you need me to do, it’s definitely extremely dangerous. This is my own affair, and I can’t drag all of them into it.”

The three women were all a bit moved. At the same time, they were all amazed that he could still talk so calmly in front of someone so terrifying. They had all felt that he was normally a bit shameless, but they hadn’t expected it to become a strong point in such a situation.

“They seem to be cultivators too. Though their cultivation is normal, they’ve barely reached the doorstep of heavenly dao. They must have some awareness of eternal life and ascension. So, if the prospect of immortal medicine is involved, even if you don’t agree, they will,” the voice replied

“Immortal medicine?” The three women were all moved. They were all the best in their respective domains. They naturally knew what that meant.

Yan Xuehen was the first to calm down. She said, “Immortal medicines have always been nothing more than a legend. Are you not looking down on us a bit too much by using that to tempt us?”

Zu An also nodded. Even Qin Shihuang, who had single-handedly unified China, couldn’t find any immortal medicines after searching the entire world. Such a thing didn’t necessarily exist at all!

“Have immortal medicines already become things of legend in this world?” the voice exclaimed. It was stunned and clearly surprised.

Zu An’s group exchanged a look. Were immortal medicines really so common back in that age?

Yun Jianyue was tempted. She asked, “How long have you lived in this place?”

The others were shocked. From the aura coming from the place, it was likely ten thousand years at the very least. Could it be that this person really had eaten an immortal medicine to live for so long?

The voice fell silent for a while. After a long time passed, it said with a deep sigh, “It’s been too long. I kept track in the beginning, but over time, I actually forgot... I know what you all mean, and I don’t want to deceive you either. I didn’t eat an immortal medicine, so I can’t be considered alive right now either.”

The others’ expressions changed. Yu Yanluo couldn’t help but cry, “Are you... Are you a ghost?”

The voice chuckled and replied, "This girl is quite cute. Of course, I 'm not a ghost, but I'm not too far from one. I'm nothing more than an unresolved, ruined will that hasn't faded away yet."

Zu An's expression was strange. Looks like being pretty really is an advantage... Even this mysterious being is treating them so nicely.

"Ruined will?" Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both shocked. Just a ruined will had been able to survive for this long... Just how strong had his original body been?

"I wonder if your world still has the legend of the Queen Mother of the West?" the voice asked just then.

"Queen Mother of the West?" The three women shook their heads as they repeated that name. They had never heard of it before. When it saw their reactions, the voice sounded a bit disappointed.

Zu An thought of something, asking, "Are you saying that the immortal medicine refers to the peaches from the Jade Lake of Mount Kunlun?"

The three women looked at him in shock. Even people with as much experience as them had never heard of something like that. Just where had he learned that stuff from?

"Huh? You actually know about the peaches from the Jade Lake of Mount Kunlun?" the voice asked, seeming a bit excited. It continued, "Still, the immortal medicines aren't the peaches of immortality. As for what they are, I can't tell you for now."

The three women were all a bit tempted. From their conversation, it sounded as if there really were immortal medicines.

Zu An said gloomily, "You aren't even telling me anything, so how do I know if you're lying to me or not?"

The voice paused for a moment, then said, "Since you spoke of the peaches from the Jade Lake of Mount Kunlun, then you should have heard of Chang'e, the lady in the moon, right?"

"Chang'e, who flew to the moon?" Zu An exclaimed, stunned. He had never expected to hear that legendary name from the past in this world.

The three ladies all looked at Zu An, thinking, That name sounded like a woman's. Could it be someone else who has something to do with him?

It wasn't their fault for thinking that, though. After all, there had always been beautiful women around Zu An ever since they met him, and they all had some kind of relationship with him.

"Flew to the moon?" the voice repeated, stunned. It continued, "There was a rumor like that? The Chang'e I'm speaking of is the Chang clan's priestess. She was married to the hero Great Yi. Because of Great Yi's feat of shooting down the suns, the Queen Mother of the West awarded him with medicine. However, the suns Great Yi shot down were actually the Celestial Emperor's sons, the Golden Crows. When he learned that he had offended the Celestial Emperor, he didn't dare to head into the Celestial Realm. However, his wife Chang'e couldn't resist the temptation and secretly ate the medicine, then ascended into the world of immortals. From then on, she was forever separated from Great Yi."

“Chang’e regretted stealing the medicine. She suffered in loneliness night after night...” Zu An muttered to himself. He hadn’t expected it to be that kind of story. It wasn’t quite the same as the one he remembered.

While Zu An was comparing things to his memories, the three women keenly sensed something else important. In their world, the Fiend Emperors had always been from the Golden Crow race, so they couldn't help but pay more attention to that. They repeated, “Golden Crows?”

The voice didn’t explain the matter of the Golden Crows and instead continued to say to Zu An, “Since you know about Chang’e, you should know that immortal medicine really does exist. What I’m entrusting you with just happens to have to do with Great Yi.”

Zu An fell silent for a moment before saying, “Tell me, then. Still, the reason why I’m willing to listen isn’t because of some immortal medicine. Rather, it’s because you clearly could have pretended to have eaten the immortal medicine to fool us, but you didn’t. That’s why I’m hoping you won’t attach too many schemes and expectations to what you have to say.”

The voice laughed in annoyance and replied, “Are you the one who was affected by the Puppet Curse, or me? Why does it feel as if I’m the one asking you for help instead?”

Zu An said, “Since you sought me out, that means that you need me. Otherwise... You’ve been here all alone for who knows how long. If you could have entrusted this to someone else, you would have already done it a long time ago.”

The voice was silent for a while. Then, it said, “You’re too intelligent. Those who are too smart are often disliked.”

Zu An smiled and said, “Then I can also become a bit dumber. Why don’t we both take only what we need from each other?”

“Haha, good. Let’s do that,” the voice said with a laugh. “In that case, you need to listen well to what I have to say.”

“Senior, please speak. This junior will definitely listen attentively,” Zu An said.

When they saw Zu An’s huge change in attitude, the three women endured their urge to laugh. This guy really needed a good beating.

Fortunately, the voice seemed to have experienced its fair share of different situations and wasn’t too affected. It said, “You’ve heard me mention the White Emperor and Black Emperor’s dispute. After the White Emperor Dijun took the throne, the following generations of emperors all came from the White Emperor’s lineage. The Black Emperor’s lineage was left in a miserable state. Fortunately, when it reached Emperor Yao’s generation, things were already at a turning point.”

“Emperor Yao?” Zu An asked, surprised. Could it be that Yao, the legendary sage ruler Yao Shunyu? Still, he didn’t interrupt and listened for the time being.

The voice continued, “Emperor Yao is a legendary figure who, just like you, had many, many women at his side.”

Zu An was speechless. He could sense the strange expressions from the three women at his side. He thought, Just tell your story if you have one! Why are you attacking me for no reason?

The voice continued, "The families of rulers are different from ordinary families. Even brothers and fathers fight among each other, let alone those born of different mothers.

"Every single one of Dijun's women and their descendants formed different factions. They all competed fiercely against each other.

"Back then, the ten Golden Crows the Sun Goddess bore were part of a different faction from Yao. When Yao rose to the throne, no one knows who instigated them, but they ruined the balance of heaven and earth. They always went out to play together, causing ten suns to appear in the sky. The world experienced a catastrophe. As such, Yao took the chance to seek out Yi. Using the pretext of saving the common people, he commanded Yi to shoot down nine of them, only leaving one."

The three women hadn't expected the Golden Crows to have that kind of background. Zu An was shocked that Yao was actually a stepbrother of the ten Golden Crows!

"Hmph, saving the common people. That Yao always knew how to twist things his way, to make the things he did look as if they were righteous," the voice said with a sneer.

When he heard the resentment the voice carried toward Yao, Zu An couldn't help but ask, "You aren't related to the Golden Crow race or Sun Goddess as well, are you?"

"Golden Crows?" the voice repeated with a sneer. It didn't answer, and instead continued, "Yao's succession to the throne wasn't as simple as it seems on the surface. The world was once a place with blissful weather for crops, but after he took the throne, all sorts of disasters erupted at the same time..."

Chapter 1406: Path of a Hero

"When Emperor Yao ascended to the throne, the entire country rose up in rebellion. The ten suns appearing at the same time formed one component of that. Apart from that, several demons such as the Yayu, Zaochi Giant, Nine Infants, Grandgale, Fenxi Boar, and Xiushe Serpent all appeared..." The voice seemed to be immersed in its memories, talking about the events of the past.

Zu An was shocked. Grandgale? He had a Grandgale among his skills. He wondered whether his Grandgale had anything to do with that Grandgale.

"Additionally, the famous Four Perils also emerged from that period. The Qiongqi, Hundun, Taowu, and Taotie all appeared when Yao took the throne," the voice continued.

Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo instinctively looked at Zu An. They remembered that he had called the monster they encountered back on Feather Mountain a Taowu. Could that be the same thing?

"The Taowu you're speaking of, does it look like a tiger with extremely long hair, the fangs of a wild boar, and a tail a dozen meters long..." Zu An gave a rough description of the monster.

"That's right," the voice said with a sigh. "I sensed its aura not too long ago. It sounds as if you released it."

Zu An's group was stunned, replying, "We didn't do anything. It suddenly appeared."

“Did you encounter a giant stone that resembled a tortoise?” the voice asked.

“We did. There were many bones inside. They seemed to be the skeletal remains of some giant creature,” Zu An said with a nod.

“Then it all makes sense. That was the seal used to suppress the Taowu. If you could destroy that seal, your cultivations are higher than I imagined,” the voice said, sounding a bit surprised; it seemed to be reevaluating them.

Zu An had a strange expression as he replied, “We weren’t the ones who broke that seal. It was someone who entered with us.” After some hesitation, he added, “That other person is a Golden Crow, but I don’t know if he has anything to do with the Golden Crows you mentioned before.”

“The Puppet Curse on you came from him, right?” the voice said before continuing, “Then it must be. That’s a unique skill of the Golden Crow lineage. No one else can mimic it.”

Zu An and the others exchanged a look. They hadn’t expected the Fiend Emperor’s history to actually be related to an Unknown Region. Why did all of this feel a bit unreal?

“By the way, would releasing the Taowu, one of the Four Perils, mean we’ve unleashed a disaster upon the world?” Zu An quickly asked. That was how movies often portrayed it.

“Just a single Taowu wouldn’t be that powerful,” the voice said, sounding quite relaxed.

“Judging from what you just said, it sounds as if releasing more will cause problems, right?” Yun Jianyue asked.

“That would indeed be troublesome,” the voice said. It didn’t seem to want to go into detail. It changed the topic and asked, “Do you know why they’re called the Four Perils?”

“I don’t,” Zu An replied. He thought back to the Taotie he had encountered in the Yin Xu secret dungeon, wondering whether it was also one of the Four Perils the voice had spoken of.

“The Yayu, Zaochi Giant, Nine Infants, and so on that I mentioned are powerful demons in their own right. However, the Four Perils weren’t beasts to begin with, but rather humans,” the voice said with a sigh.

“Human?” Zu An’s group exclaimed. Now, they were truly shocked. They thought of the Taowu’s malevolent appearance. How could that have anything to do with a human?

“Indeed. The Hundun used to be called Huan Dou, a son of Zhuan Xu. The Qiongqi was Gong Gong, the descendant of the Flame Emperor. The Taotie was named Chi You when he was still alive, and Chi You was also from the Flame Emperor’s lineage. The Taowu’s name was Gun, another one of Zhuan Xu’s descendants. Those individuals were all opposed to Yao, but after many years of battle, they were all defeated. Yao exiled Gong Gong to You Province, Huan Dou to Mount Chong, and San Miao’s Chi You to San Wei. Meanwhile, Gun was put to death on Feather Mountain. When those people died, their resentment and dissatisfaction turned them into the Four Perils,” the voice explained.

Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo were all stunned. Those names were too unfamiliar to them. It was as if they were listening to an imperial edict.

Zu An was actually incredibly shocked. Many things he had just heard seemed to completely contradict common knowledge! He hadn't expected Gong Gong and Chi You to actually be under the Flame Emperor's lineage!

The people of China in his previous world were referred to as descendants of the Flame Emperor and Yellow Emperor. In ancient times, the Flame Emperor and Yellow Emperor's largest tribes had merged together and continued to propagate, ultimately forming the ancient Chinese civilization.

He couldn't help but ask, "The Gong Gong you're speaking of, is he the one whose anger on Buzhou Mountain caused the heavens to collapse, releasing the great flood on the world? That Gong Gong? And Chi You... Is that the Demon Lord Chi You, who fought a great battle against the emperor?"

Huan Dou and Gun were one thing, because they weren't that famous in history. Gun was the antagonist in Yu the Great's story of taming the floods, so he was a bit more memorable. Compared to Gong Gong and Chi You, however, he wasn't anyone special at all.

Gong Gong had made the heavens split open and drowned the entire world in a great flood, forcing the great Goddess Nuwa to appear and repair the heavens. Chi You had fought a great battle against the Yellow Emperor, forcing even someone of his stature into a desperate situation several times. He was a vicious individual who had only been taken down in the end by the Yellow Emperor with assistance. There were many movies, shows, and web novels that made him out to be one of the greatest antagonists in history.

"Hm? You seem to know quite a bit about the events of our age," the voice said, sounding a bit surprised. He explained, "The Gong Gong you're talking about isn't the same one as the one I'm talking about. Gong Gong was a title, and every single generation had a new Gong Gong. The one who expressed his fury on Buzhou Mountain was the first-generation Gong Gong. The cause of that event was his defeat in a competition over the throne against the Black Emperor, Zhuan Xu."

The three women found that easier to understand. Just like the Fiend Emperor, even though every single generation's leader was called the Fiend Emperor, they were actually completely different.

The voice continued, "The Gong Gong I'm talking about is the one from Emperor Yao's reign. In the battle between the Flame and Yellow Emperors, the Flame Emperor was defeated. However, his bloodline's faction was still strong, which was why they were never willing to bow down to the Yellow Emperor. That was why they fought several battles against the Yellow Emperor's side.

"The most famous were the Battle of Banquan between the Flame and Yellow Emperors, the Battle of Zhuolu between the Yellow Emperor and Chi You, and the battle between the Black Emperor and Zhuan Xu.

"As for the Gong Gong of Emperor Yao's time, he was a later-generation Gong Gong. That Chi You wasn't the first Chi You either, but rather the title of the tribe leader of San Miao."

"So that was what happened," Zu An said. He was curious as to who those people were, as the voice knew about those events so well, almost as if he had been there.

"Back then, the entire world was in chaos. Yao was also hard-pressed, but he was quite capable and good at appointing people, so he raised a large group of capable generals. He sent Yi to kill the Zaochi

Giant in the Field of Splendor, the Nine Infants above the fearful waters, Grandgale in Bluemound Pond, and nine of the ten suns. Yi also killed the Yayu, then the Xiushe in Dongting, and lastly the Fengxi Boar in the Mulberry Forest.”

Zu An was shocked. This Yi really was quite an outstanding individual. He had been able to conquer Chang’e in the arts, while his martial might could slay demons.

The voice continued, “The reason I’m telling you all this in such detail is because I need you to repeat Yi’s heroic path. Only then can you obtain the acknowledgment of his divine weapon and have a hope of defeating that powerful being.”

Chapter 1407: Blacked Out

“Repeat Yi’s heroic path?” Zu An repeated, his expression strange. He thought, Is there a Chang’e included? If there is, I might actually consider it.

Of course, jokes were just jokes. He was more concerned with something else. He asked, “That powerful enemy you mentioned, just who is he?”

The voice fell silent for a while when it heard his question. Then, it said, “He’s a traitor who betrayed me.

“During Emperor Yao’s rule, all sorts of disasters appeared frequently. That was why he had no choice but to promote all manner of talents to deal with the dangers. Perhaps it was because the Black Emperor’s bloodline was strong, or perhaps it was because they felt a sense of urgency after being beaten down for so many years, but the Black Emperor’s descendants were all talented. For example, Gun’s family excelled in ruling over the waters, while I was also good at many things.

“Apart from that, I had eight trusted comrades who were all individuals of great talent back then, known as the Brilliant Eight. As time went on, Emperor Yao placed me in positions that were more and more important, and the forces I commanded also gradually grew greater.

“Since we were both descendants of the Black Emperor, I expressed my goodwill to him. When Emperor Yao was hesitant, I even personally spoke up to guarantee Gun’s ability to control the waters. Unfortunately, he failed to live up to my trust. After many years of wasted manpower and resources, he wasn’t able to properly manage the floods.”

The three women exchanged a look. They noticed that this wasn’t the first time the voice had mentioned floods. They had their own legends regarding a great flood in their world. Could it be that he was someone from that age? Still, his remnant will had been able to exist for so long... Wasn’t his strength a bit too ridiculous?

The voice continued and said, “That’s not all. He kicked his benefactor in the teeth, too. He forgot my favor of recommending him and our camaraderie, issuing a slanderous report to Emperor Yao saying that I ought to be executed.

“He was clearly someone from the Black Emperor’s faction. After so many years of being oppressed by the White Emperor, not only did he not think of revenge at all; he even went to serve the White Emperor’s descendants like a dog!”

Zu An could sense that the voice's resentment still hadn't faded. He asked with a strange expression, "So the powerful enemy you want me to defeat is Gun? Wait, no, he should now be called the Taowu."

They had already met each other. The Taowu had strength on the level of an earth immortal. Even though it couldn't compare to the Fiend Emperor or Zhao Han, it definitely wasn't an opponent Zu An could face at the moment. No wonder this person wanted him to find some divine weapon.

"Gun? He alone wouldn't be enough," the voice said with a hint of disdain.

Zu An was speechless. This guy even considered an earth immortal insufficient? What kind of being would be viewed as a powerful enemy by this person? He thought, Forget it... I still want to live a bit longer.

He was about to say a few things to appease the voice before slipping away, but the voice said, "I need you to face someone named Si Wenming."

Zu An was stunned. That name was unfamiliar to him. Was there really such a person in his memories? He thought, If he really was someone great like Chi You or Gong Gong, I should have heard of him. He can't be that great if I don't have any impression of him at all.

When he thought of that, he sighed in relief and said, "No problem. Leave it to me."

The voice was a bit surprised, replying, "Oh? You're quite brave. You knew who the target was, and yet you took the request without a moment of hesitation. As expected of an outstanding youth."

"You're overpraising me~" Zu An said, cupping his hands in a 'humble' manner. He asked, "Right, how did that person offend you? I'll have more confidence in being able to deal with the matter after I find out what happened."

Even though he had never heard of that enemy before, so he couldn't be that powerful, he still had to do his due diligence. Otherwise, he could end up being scammed without even realizing it.

"After Gun betrayed and harmed me, I only managed to survive after going through endless tribulations. My subordinates were furious and all wanted to get revenge on Gun," the voice said, "I knew that after that matter, our relationship had already completely ended. If he continued to slander me in front of Emperor Yao, not only I, but also my relatives and subordinates, would all be doomed. That was why I began my counterattack as well."

"Fortunately, because Gun failed to control the waters, he lost prestige among the people. Even though I didn't do a thing, he had already dug his own grave. Emperor Yao sent Zhu Rong to kill him on Feather Mountain."

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exchanged a look. They had passed by a mountain with several narrow grooves. Back then, the Fiend Emperor had said that the mountain was cut apart by sword ki. Now, it seemed that the one responsible was Zhu Rong. What kind of identity did that person have? There were no records related to him in history at all!

Zu An was shocked, exclaiming, "The god of fire. Zhu Rong?"

Just as Gong Gong was the river god in ancient Chinese mythology, Zhu Rong was the fire god. Those two were rumored to be mortal enemies and had fought each other ferociously.

The three women looked at him in shock, not expecting him to actually know that person. They felt that they really had to properly ask him just how many more secrets he had.

“Huh? Brat, you really do know quite a bit. How strange. Normally, at your age, you shouldn’t know about such things...” the voice remarked. Fortunately, it didn’t pursue the matter and continued, “Zhu Rong’s official duty was the post of fire god, but Zhu Rong is also just a title. There were many Zhu Rongs, so this Zhu Rong might not be the one you’re thinking of.”

Zu An nodded. He quickly sorted out the information the voice had given. He had a strange feeling that something wasn’t quite right.

The voice continued, “After Gun died, no one else could cause me trouble again. When Emperor Yao passed away, I successfully took the throne as the next emperor...”

He was about to continue when Zu An’s eyes suddenly narrowed and he exclaimed, “You’re Shun! So you’re Shun!”

He hadn’t expected this person to be the legendary sage king Shun! There were many, many great scholars in ancient times who had praised him as a sage. Yu Shun had always been considered the greatest of virtuous individuals. In the historical record, he had been considered the incarnation of good.

Zu An was actually having a conversation with such a legendary figure? He suddenly felt as if he were dreaming.

The three women jumped in fright when they saw his strong reaction. They were all intelligent individuals. They remembered that in their previous conversation, Shun had been named as none other than one of the ancient emperors. The emperors back then seemed to have been able to ascend into the world of immortals. He seemed to be far, far stronger than the Fiend Emperor.

When they thought about how that very person was in the cave right before their eyes, they even began to feel a bit doubtful toward their future. They had always wondered, was immortal ascension really possible? Now, there was a proper example right before their eyes! They couldn’t just do nothing.

The voice remained silent for a while. Then, it said with a sigh, “It’s been so long since someone called me that. I hadn’t expected someone would still remember me.”

Zu An also calmed himself down a bit, then said with a smile, “In my hometown, there probably aren’t that many people who don’t remember you.”

“Is that so?” The voice chuckled, seemingly not all that surprised to hear that. It seemed to have a natural air of confidence, continuing, “Since you know who I am, then I don’t need to beat around the bush any longer. In my later years, I suffered greatly from Si Wenming’s betrayal. That’s why I need your strength to help me get revenge.”

“Wait...” Zu An swallowed with difficulty. “The Si Wenming you’re talking about... Don’t tell me he’s...”

The voice explained, “Oh, he has another name that’s better known by the world. The people seem to know him as Yu the Great.”

Zu An’s vision darkened when he heard that name. He almost blacked out on the spot.

Chapter 1408: Path to Immortality Ruined

At first, Zu An had thought that this Si Wenming was a relatively unknown figure, whom he had never even heard of before. No matter how crazy he was, there was no way he could compare to the legendary Gong Gong or Chi You.

Yet now, it turned out that Si Wenming was Yu the Great?! Who was Yu the Great? He was the very founder of the Xia Dynasty! He even had 'great' attached to his name! How many people could reach that level?!

The worst part was that, if Zu An wasn't mistaken, this Unknown Region was clearly related to the Xia Dynasty. And yet, he had to fight against the land's freaking founding ancestor? He'd almost be better off spending his time thinking of the different ways he could write the word 'death'.

Just then, the voice said, "That's why I want you to repeat Yi's heroic path. If you obtain the divine weapon, you'll have the ability to face him."

Zu An was speechless. However, he also realized something. He couldn't help but ask, "Why do you have to target him? Don't the history books say you abdicated your throne to him?"

"The history books?" The three women blinked their beautiful eyes. They found the use of that phrase rather strange.

"History?" The voice said with a hint of ridicule, "History is nothing more than what's written by the winners."

"Could it be that there's some inside story that isn't commonly known?" Zu An asked curiously. Before doing anything, he had to at least understand the ins and outs. Only then could he make a proper decision as to whether he would do it or not, and also how he would do it.

The voice hesitated, but it still said, "Actually, this subject doesn't exactly paint me in the greatest light. Since you asked, though, there's no harm in telling you.

"Back then, when I took over the position of emperor, even though many of the disasters of the world had already been destroyed, the flood persisted. In order to help the common people, I disregarded my former hatred and promoted Gun's son Yu, putting him in charge of controlling the waters."

Zu An asked with a strange expression, "His father died because of you, and yet you still dared to use him?"

The voice replied, "Royal families are different from ordinary people. Relationships between father and son, and even between brothers, aren't that important. Instead, interests are the most important thing. As long as your interests align, even if a family head is killed, others in the family will still support you.

"I previously mentioned that many of the Black Emperor's descendants had been oppressed by the White Emperor's lineage for a long time. Most of the Black Emperor's descendants harbored dissatisfaction toward the White Emperor's faction. I represent those people's interests. Those like Gun, who was clearly from the Black Emperor faction and yet went to serve the White Emperor loyally, selling out his own kind, were extremely uncommon.

"I thought that dealing with Gun would have already settled things. Furthermore, Yu and Gun weren't actually on good terms. Their political views weren't similar at all. Especially in the matter of controlling the waters, it wouldn't be too far to say that they were complete opposites. That's why I raised him up without worrying too much, giving their clan a chance to return to the Black Emperor faction."

"As things turned out, I wasn't mistaken either. He didn't have much affection for Gun, and he didn't intend to get revenge for his father either. Furthermore, his ability to control the waters was excellent, so he didn't let down the trust I placed in him."

"If he didn't even want to get revenge for his father, how did your relationship break down?" Zu An asked, feeling extremely confused.

The voice replied, sounding baffled, "Do you think someone who wouldn't even get revenge for his father is worthy of trust?"

Zu An was stunned, but immediately understood.

Duke Huan of Qi, one of the Five Hegemons, had been extremely miserable in his later years precisely because he treated some treacherous court officials too well. Once, when his appetite hadn't been good, a sinister official had cooked and served his own newborn son to the duke.

The duke had even thought at first that it was delicious and appetizing. Later, when he heard the truth, he was really moved. He thought that person was incredibly loyal, to be willing to use his own son that way.

Guan Zhong had admonished him, saying, "He even dared to kill his own son, so why would he remain loyal to you when you're not even related?" However, Duke Huan hadn't listened at all. In the end, sure enough, he was done in by that very official.

If Yu could even put aside the grudge of his father's death, that meant his schemes truly ran deep.

The voice sighed and said, "Only later did I manage to think things through, but unfortunately, it was already too late.

"As Yu got the waters under control, he accumulated tremendous prestige. At the same time, he roped in a lot of capable individuals. Furthermore, because I replaced Yao, many people from the White Emperor's faction secretly defected to him."

"Is that why you ended up being replaced?" Zu An asked. He thought to himself that those 'abdications' in ancient times really were treacherous... The story really had completely changed his viewpoint on many things.

"If that were all, it still wouldn't have been enough to defeat me. More importantly, as Yu the Great managed the waters, he even obtained the support of the Flame Emperor's lineage," the voice said hatefully. "It was those powers working together that let them plot against me."

"The Flame Emperor?" Zu An asked, stunned. Why was that group suddenly involved?

The voice explained, "Back then, in the battle between the Flame and Yellow Emperors, the Flame Emperor lost to the Yellow Emperor. However, the Flame Emperor's group was never willing to accept

that. They revolted in all sorts of different ways. Gong Gong and Chi You were the representative figures of the conflict, and the great flood was none other than the worst consequence of that.

“Just as our Black Emperor’s lineage had many branches, the Flame Emperor also had many people who didn’t really approve of Gong Gong and Chi You’s ways. They believed that the two’s actions had already severely hurt the common people. The representative figure of that faction was the Flame Emperor’s third daughter, Yao Ji.

“Back then, when Yu was trying to control the floods, he passed by Mount Wu and obtained Yao Ji’s help. The Flame Emperor’s lineage always excelled at controlling water, so with their help, Yu gradually got the flood under control.

“After he succeeded at controlling the floods, his prestige climbed higher and higher until it threatened me. Only then did I realize that he had already amassed a huge force on his side. It was already impossible for me to deal with him.

“Back then, though, I was still optimistic. Either way, he was from the Black Emperor’s faction, and he was capable. Passing on the throne to him wouldn’t have been too big of a deal. I wasn’t the inflexible type who would insist on handing down the throne only to my son. On several occasions, I even hinted at my intentions to him.

“Still, he actually couldn’t wait. When I was patrolling the Cangwu Field, he suddenly launched an ambush against me. Then, he announced the news of my death to the world. He buried me on the southern side of this place, Jiuyi Mountain, saying that I abdicated my position to him. Heh, it truly was a deep and sinister plot.”

Yan Xuehen exclaimed in shock, “So you are already... dead?”

“Correct. To a certain degree, I am indeed dead,” the voice said sadly. “My current self is nothing more than a remnant will that was left behind because I sensed that something was off and wanted to have something just in case. I hadn’t expected the worst to have already happened.”

Zu An thought to himself, Just a remnant will was enough to last until now? Just how terrifying was this guy when he was at his strongest?

Yun Jianyue said, “I apologize for speaking bluntly. What you speak of is already tens of thousands of years in the past. If your enemy hasn’t ascended, then he’s also died. Isn’t asking Ah Zu to help you rather meaningless?”

Yu Yanluo was worried about Zu An’s safety, so she spoke up in agreement. “That’s right. You weren’t Yu’s match even when you were at your strongest, and even just a remnant will of yours is beyond our understanding. I fear that it won’t be too realistic to place your hopes on us to get revenge for you.”

“The path to ascension was already ruined by then, so there’s no way Yu ascended. However, with his power, it isn’t impossible for him to have survived until now. No, he’s definitely still alive. I can still sense his aura in this world,” the voice said, seeming to be somewhat moved. It continued, “Furthermore, back then in Cangwu Field, I was already far from my peak. In contrast, Yu was at his strongest, and he even had the help of the best fighters from both the White and Flame Emperors’ lineage. That was why I lost.”

Yu Yanluo clicked her tongue inwardly. As expected, no strong individuals were willing to acknowledge defeat. Her question seemed to have provoked him a bit.

“What did you mean when you said that the path to ascension was already ruined?” Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were more concerned with that, and couldn't help but blurt out the question. Countless stunning individuals had risen over the years, and yet not a single one had been able to truly become an immortal. Could that be the reason?

The voice said indifferently, “That’s related to a tremendous secret that I can’t tell you. Of course, if you complete my request, I can consider telling you.”

Zu An was speechless. This guy seems a bit two-faced! He doesn’t resemble that so-called history’s incarnation of virtue all that much...

Chapter 1409: My Most Precious Thing

Zu An tried to ask about it more indirectly, but the voice wouldn’t reply no matter what he asked. He knew that subject would be linked to many, many things, so it was understandable that the voice wasn’t willing to reveal everything.

“Then let’s change the topic. Why do the Heaven Devouring Sutra and the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra belong to the White Emperor’s faction?” he then asked curiously. Those two skills were respectively from the Shang Dynasty and Zhou Dynasty. What did they have to do with a White Emperor?”

“I’ve previously seen those of the White Emperor lineage use them before, so of course I know that they belong to the White Emperor,” the voice replied. It sounded a bit stunned, as if Zu An had asked an extremely stupid question. “Actually, there’s a really simple way to determine the differences between the White and Black faction. The White Emperor’s lineage worships the phoenix, so their totems are often different kinds of birds derived from the phoenix. Meanwhile, the Black Emperor’s faction’s emblem is the divine dragon.”

When he heard that, Zu An thought, No wonder dragons and phoenixes always had such a high status throughout ancient Chinese civilization. So it was because of that.

The Phoenix Nirvana Sutra had the word Phoenix in its name, so there was no need to talk about that further.

When it came to the Shang Dynasty, Zu An had been in Yinxu for a long time, so he was very familiar with their affairs. It was rumored that the Shang Dynasty’s ancestor had been born because his mother ate a mysterious bird’s egg^[1], and thus the mysterious bird had to be the phoenix.

Yan Xuehen couldn't help but ask, “However, according to what senior has said, Yi already killed those terrifying beasts on his heroic path, so why are they still in this world?”

The voice explained, “You’re looking down on those beasts too much. They’re naturally produced by the world, born from the negative emotions of people. Even if they’re killed, as long as humans still carry all sorts of desires, they’ll be revived again after some time. Now that I think about how long it has been, it’s about time for them to revive.”

The others' expressions became grave when they heard that. They could revive? Just what kind of creatures were these?

Yun Jianyue asked, "Even if he completed that so-called heroic path, why would he be able to obtain a divine weapon? Somehow, I feel as if those two things aren't exactly connected.

"That's a part of the natural laws of this world. As long as you can repeat Yi's heroic path, you'll obtain the acknowledgment of this world's will. Then, you can obtain the divine weapon," the voice explained.

"What kind of divine weapon is it? Judging from what you're saying, if Yu could survive until now, he has to be ridiculously powerful. How could a divine weapon alone defeat him?" Yu Yanluo said worriedly.

"That's not something you need to worry about. With that divine weapon, you'll have the strength to face Yu. As for what it is exactly, please forgive me for not being able to tell you. You'll understand when the time comes," the voice said.

Zu An really found this kind of deliberate obfuscation annoying. He replied, "But what if we really complete the mission and you don't deliver on what you promised afterward? We don't have any guarantee at all."

"If you can complete the mission, you'll have already received the acknowledgement of the world. Furthermore, you'll then have a divine weapon and can even defeat Yu. Why wouldn't you be able to deal with me?" the voice replied with a chuckle.

Zu An was speechless. Bro, you're making so much sense that I don't even have anything to say.

"Can senior come out and show yourself to us?" Yun Jianyue asked. She came from the Devil Sect and was used to running into sinister schemes. She still wasn't fully convinced.

The voice sighed and said, "I would actually like to, but there's a sealing formation restraining me here. With your current strength, you would only be throwing away your lives without achieving anything if you tried to barge in. You should just do as I say and follow the heroic path first. We'll talk about everything else after you obtain the acknowledgement of this world."

Zu An's group exchanged a look. They had sensed that he was really powerful earlier, but they'd had similar suspicions when they saw that he hadn't shown himself. Now, their suspicions were confirmed.

Yan Xuehen said through ki, "This cave is indeed covered in rune formations, and whether in terms of their power or their complexity, it far exceeds what we faced in the fiend races' Imperial Tomb. They are at a level I cannot comprehend."

Zu An gave the endless Jiuyi Mountain Range a look and added, "It's not just rune formations, either. This cave draws from the surrounding mountains' dragon vein. There's an extreme formation inside that borrows the great power of the world. Even if it were the Fiend Emperor or Zhao Han, they still wouldn't be able to leave that place."

He had been studying 'One Drop of Heaven's Essence' for some time and learned quite a bit. He was already able to pick up on some patterns among mountains and rivers.

Seeing that the group was going to continue, the voice explained the heroic path. "Back then, the first one Yi killed was none other than the Yaya... Yaya..."

After hearing that explanation, Zu An asked some questions before saying, "This junior will do my utmost. I definitely won't let down senior's trust."

The beautiful women were shocked. They hadn't expected him to actually agree so easily. However, they were all composed individuals. Even though they were doubtful, they didn't ask anything.

The voice sounded grateful as it said, "It's been so many years. I can finally see hope, hahaha! The heavens have treated me quite well after all."

Zu An took the chance to say, "Since senior is so happy, could you perhaps grant me some deity or immortal-grade artifacts? Or maybe some kind of skill? That wouldn't just be for us, it'd also let us complete senior's mission better. It's a win-win situation."

The voice chuckled and replied, "Kid, you're quite good at pulling these types of tricks. But that's also why I feel that you have a chance of success. When it comes to deity or immortal-grade weapons, I don't have any. As for divine abilities and secret skills, I actually... don't have any either."

Zu An was speechless. He had begun to get excited when he heard the first half, but who would've thought that it would be such a disappointing result?

He seemed to have learned the lesson that Lu Xun, a famous Chinese writer, had learned: 'In the courtyard, there are two trees. One is a date tree, and the other is also a date tree.'

You might just get your ass beaten if you talk like this all the time, you know?

As if sensing his discontent, the voice said, "My divine will is incomplete, so I can't remember any skills. Besides that, my skills are related to my bloodline. Even if I did remember, you wouldn't be able to cultivate them."

Zu An thought, That may not be true. I have the cheat add-on of the Keyboard System, so I might pick it up really quickly.

"There's no need for you to feel despair either. I've already given you my most precious possession," the voice said in consolation.

"Why do I not know about that?" Zu An replied with a strange expression. "Don't tell me your most precious thing is yourself, because I don't want that."

The women all blushed. This guy really deserved a good beating.

The voice was speechless.

You have successfully trolled Shun for +233 +233 +233...

He was finding it a bit hard to keep up with Zu An's thinking, but he replied, "Hmph, of course not. I'm talking about the secrets of the past that I've shared with you. These are things that have already practically been erased from history. After the tampering of those in power, there aren't that many left who know the truth. Now that you know what happened, you can brush aside the veil and find out what really happened, which will help you complete the trial."

Zu An sighed and replied, "Senior, your respected self is really the stingiest elder I've seen in all my years."

The reason he had said what he said before was actually just to provoke the voice a bit. After all, they had never even met each other, so how could he be sure whether what it said was real or not? However, through the help of the Keyboard System's Rage points, he had ended up receiving Shun's soul power. With that, he felt completely at ease.

"Hmph, ignorant brat. One day, you'll understand that no divine weapons or secret manuals can compare to the value of the things I shared with you today," the voice harrumphed in dissatisfaction, clearly a bit annoyed.

You have successfully trolled Shun for +250 +250 +250...

"Keep bragging then," Zu An said skeptically. "I'm not hoping for anything else either, though. I hope you'll remember your promise when we complete the mission."

...

It was meaningless for him to stay there, so he quickly brought the women out of the place.

"Ah Zu, do you really believe what he says? Also, that Yu seems to be an extremely powerful being. Do we really have to provoke him?" Yu Yanluo asked worriedly.

Even though Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen didn't say anything, the worry in their expressions was clear.

"I didn't actually accept his request because I believed him," Zu An explained. "You haven't entered Unknown Regions before, but every single Unknown Region has something like a main quest. You have to complete that mission to unseal the secret dungeon and be able to leave. Otherwise, you'll only be slowly waiting for your demise."

Chapter 1410: Shaoxian Mountain

After thinking about Zu An's past experiences, Yun Jianyue couldn't help but say with a sigh of amazement, "I didn't really think much of it when I heard you talk about it before, but only now that I'm going through it myself do I realize just how difficult it was for you to safely leave those Unknown Regions."

"And you have even unsealed several Unknown Regions," Yan Xuehen said, looking at him with a conflicted expression. When she had first met this fellow, she'd just felt that he was a pervert with flowery speech. And yet, the longer she stayed at his side, the more she understood just how outstanding he was. The only flaw was that he was already her disciple's man...

"Haha, praise me more! I'm shameless, so I can take it all," Zu An said. He felt amazing when he saw the three women's looks of admiration.

"Hmph!" Yan Xuehen harrumphed. This guy was still just as shameless as always.

"Ah Zu, I still feel that it's too dangerous this time. The powerful figures that person mentioned all seem as if they could ascend to immortality if they wanted to. Not even Zhao Han or the Fiend Emperor would necessarily be able to complete this kind of trial..." Yu Yanluo said worriedly.

“Unknown Regions are quite special. It isn’t necessarily possible to pass through by relying on one’s own strength. Instead, it’s necessary to rely on wit and luck,” Zu An said. He looked at the three women and continued with a smile, “The Fiend Emperor has a dunce of a Golden Crow Crown Prince at his side, while I have clever and resourceful beauties at my side. That’s already enough to cover the difference in strength.”

The three women blushed. They sighed inwardly, thinking that this guy’s words really were slathered with honey. No wonder so many women liked him.

Yun Jianyue was the first to snap out of her daze. She harrumphed and said, “Of course we’re smart, but are you really that confident in your luck?”

“Of course. If I had bad luck, how would I have been able to meet such stunning female friends?” Zu An replied, looking at the three with a gentle expression.

Now, not even Yun Jianyue could take it. She reached out and pinched his ear, saying, “Damn brat, you even dare tease your master? Did you eat a bear’s heart or something?”

“Ah ah ah, it hurts! Big sis master, please spare me!” Zu An quickly pleaded.

Yu Yanluo couldn’t help but grin when she saw Zu An lean forward while having his ear pinched ‘painfully’.

Yan Xuehen’s expression was strange. She thought to herself, This witch is still treating Zu An as a junior? One day, when she ends up being bullied by him, she’ll know just how much of a rude and domineering man he is. Ah... What kind of nonsense am I thinking...

Just like that, the group entered the vast mountains. They encountered some beasts along the way, but with their strength, they were able to deal with them easily.

Soon afterward, they arrived at a bare mountain. Let alone trees, there wasn’t even a single stalk of grass growing on it.

“This really is strange... Just then, this mountain was clearly full of life when we saw it in the distance earlier. It was greener and more lush than any other mountain. Why are there no plants at all now that we’re close to it?” Yun Jianyue wondered.

“It’s probably because of this.” Yu Yanluo raised her dress and knelt down, picking up a dark green rock.

“What is that?” Yan Xuehen asked, taking the rock from her and looking at it. Even though there were strands of ki in it, it wasn’t a ki stone and couldn’t be used for cultivation.

“Judging from the color and shape, these should be made of the legendary Green Jadestone, a material for weapon refinement. Apart from that, they’re rumored to be able to help some special cultivators break through,” Yu Yanluo explained.

The others knew that Yu Yanluo had once been the leader of the number one gemstone clan, so her knowledge of that field was definitely exceptional.

"Oh, so these are Green Jadestones! They're all good stuff. Collect as much as you can! They'll be useful once we get out of here," Yun Jianyue said. Her eyes began to burn fervently as she looked around. She discovered that there was quite a large amount of them, and a big smile appeared on her face as she collected them.

"Look at that greedy appearance of yours," Yan Xuehen said with a frown. She clearly felt that such behavior was unbecoming of a grandmaster.

"Hmph, stone cold woman, do you think everyone is like you, better than the common people? I didn't live a life as pampered as yours, with the White Jade Sect's people to help you with everything. Our Holy Sect has always been on the poor side. Of course I have to be a bit stingy in order to grow the Holy Sect..." Yun Jianyue said as she stroked the Green Jadestone in her hand. Her smile affected her normally sharp eyes to the point that they resembled crescent moons. She continued, "...let alone the fact that this stuff is worth quite a bit."

Zu An moved over to Yan Xuehen and said, "You should take some. Even though there's quite a bit of Green Jadestone here, it's extremely rare outside."

"I do not need any," Yan Xuehen said indifferently. At any other time, she would likely start collecting them, but after being mocked by Yun Jianyue, she really couldn't bring herself to do it. If she collected some now, wouldn't she be just as shameless? Who knew what Yun Jianyue would do to hold that over her.

Zu An laughed. This woman normally acted all cold and aloof, but she actually had such an adorable side to her.

"Hmph, stone cold woman, you'll regret this sooner or later. Don't come looking for me if you ever need these Green Jadestones, because I won't give you any." Yun Jianyue harrumphed.

Yan Xuehen thought, Why would I look for you? Wouldn't Zu An have some? She was alarmed as soon as that thought emerged in her mind. A pink blush appeared on her fair cheeks, making her look even lovelier.

Yun Jianyue gave her a strange look, thinking to herself, Why is this stone cold woman suddenly acting all cute?

Still, she had to admit that the woman was ridiculously pretty. If I were a man, I definitely wouldn't be able to resist her temptation.

Soon afterward, Yun Jianyue collected her fill. Even though she was a grandmaster, her storage space was limited. However, Yu Yanluo didn't seem to be stopping. Yun Jianyue quickly realized that it was the effect of the World Painting! They had even been able to collect the spiritual spring on Feather Mountain, so collecting some Green Jadestones naturally wasn't a problem. Even though there weren't really endless mountains and seas inside the painting, it was much larger than normal storage spaces.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but say with a sigh, "The libationer's skills in the field of spatial research really are terrifying."

Yan Xuehen's expression was grave. They naturally knew that with Yu Yanluo's current strength, there was no way she could create something like that. That meant it could only be the libationer's work.

Yu Yanluo blushed and said, "This is a treasure that I found in my early years in an ancient secret dungeon. Later on, my master helped me improve it a bit, and that was how this World Painting was formed."

Only then did Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue feel relieved. So it was an ancient treasure! If it really had been the libationer's work, it really would make others feel despair towards their own lack of talent.

Zu An suddenly thought of something, saying, "This should be the Shaoxian Mountain Shun talked about before."

They remembered the mysterious voice mentioning 'Shaoxian Mountain, devoid of grass, full of green jade'. Wasn't that the exact description of this place?

"Everyone, be careful. This is already the Yayu's domain," Zu An reminded them.

They stopped collecting the Green Jadestones and began to look around vigilantly.

"Did you all notice? Ever since we entered this mountain, we hadn't run into a single monster," Yu Yanluo said.

"That's normal. Other creatures often avoid the territory of powerful creatures," Yun Jianyue said. She also looked around with her divine will, but she didn't sense the Yayu there.

"Huh? There is a temple over there!" Yan Xuehen called out, pointing in a certain direction.

When the others followed her beautiful finger, they saw a secluded little temple halfway up the hill. They quickly rushed there, and saw that the temple was extremely run-down. There were holes everywhere, and it looked as if it could fall apart at a moment's notice. It was almost as if the temple would collapse from a light breeze.

"There are words written up there," Yu Yanluo said, looking up at the temple gate.

They saw a slanted board overhead. Perhaps it had been too long and the board had already degraded, or it had been broken by something, but there was less than half of the sign left. It hung in place diagonally, and only a single character was visible. The second character was incomplete and only had some fragmented strokes. They couldn't guess what it was at all.

"Er (貳)?" Zu An exclaimed, recognizing the first character. He was puzzled.

Who would write the character for 'betray' for the first character? Why did it feel as if the sign were mocking or cursing someone?

Favorite