

Immortal 1461

Chapter 1461: Coming In to Take the Spoils

"The Fiend Emperor's cultivation is too high, though. It's too dangerous for us to fight him," Yu Yanluo couldn't help but say. Their earlier capture was still fresh in her mind.

"It's different now. Big sisters Yan and Yun have already recovered most of their cultivation, and I have the divine weapon Sun Slaying Bow. We'll have a chance even if we're fighting against the Fiend Emperor," Zu An said confidently.

Yun Jianyue rolled her eyes and said, "You're already overestimating your capabilities after merely obtaining a divine weapon. Do you think the Fiend Emperor and the human emperor, who dominated an entire age, are that easy to deal with? Even if that stone cold woman and I were at our peak, we'd still be a few cultivation ranks below him. Even with you and the Sun Slaying Bow, we still aren't his match."

Yan Xuehen nodded and added, "That is. unless you can hit him with a single shot of your Sun Slaying Bow. Otherwise, with his cultivation, he will not give us a second chance."

All of them felt some pressure. They knew that with the Fiend Emperor's power, it wasn't too likely for them to shoot him down with a single attack.

Zu An said with an awkward chuckle, "We've met so many powerful enemies. I miscalculated a bit after getting used to them."

Ever since he had entered this Unknown Region, he had encountered so many cultivators at the earth immortal rank. There were some among them that were even stronger than the Fiend Emperor. His standards had unwittingly gone up without him realizing it.

However, he still said, "Still, that's just how things are now. Even if we know that there's danger, we have to take the risk. Otherwise, we'll never leave this dungeon."

Yun Jianyue nodded. She patted his shoulder to console him, saying, "You're right. If we aren't willing to accept defeat, we'll just have to do it!"

She was the Devil Sect Master, and that was just her personality. Otherwise, she wouldn't have boldly charged into the Imperial Palace to face Zhao Han.

In contrast, Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo were more cool-headed. However, they knew that staying where they were without doing anything would just be blindly wasting time. If the Fiend Emperor dealt with the formation core first, they would all be done for. As such, after weighing the pros and cons, they also concluded that heading over to the Fiend Emperor's location was the most sensible choice.

As such, Zu An summoned his Wind Fire Wheels. He said to the three women, "I'll bring all of you. Don't waste your own energy on flying. Make sure to save every ounce of your energy for recovery."

The three women didn't reject him. They had previously helped Zu An shoot down the nine suns and almost collapsed as a result. Even though it had already been some time, they still hadn't made a complete recovery. They were going to face the Fiend Emperor soon, so the more strength they recovered, the higher their chances of victory would be.

As for Zu An holding their hands and even wrapping his arm around their waists, after everything they had experienced, they were already used to it.

Zu An brought the three women with him as he rushed toward where the energy wave had come from. His hands acted very properly the entire time, however. At the moment, the only thing on his mind was what to do in the near future. He didn't have any time to think about inappropriate things.

The Wind Fire Wheels were truly heaven-grade weapons; even with a few more people, their speed wasn't affected at all. That made a great deal of sense; experts from the cultivation world could easily topple mountains and overturn seas. The weight of a few women was completely trivial at that level.

The three women took the chance to circulate their energies and recover. Meanwhile, the group gradually got closer to the explosive battle auras after flying for some time.

Zu An surveyed an unending mountain range that extended like a slumbering dragon, and couldn't help but voice his surprise.

"What is it?" Yan Xuehen asked, opening her cool and pretty eyes and staring calmly at him.

She had been looking forward to eliminating the 'Love Is More Solid than Gold' ability for so long. Now that she had finally been freed, her thoughts had been untangled.

However... Why didn't she feel that different from before? The biggest difference was that she felt a bit empty inside, as if she had lost something.

When he sensed that Yan Xuehen's aura had become as cold as when they first met, as if they had experienced some kind of estrangement, Zu An sighed inwardly. The two of them wouldn't necessarily be able to return to how they had been ever again.

However, he didn't have the time to worry about those things. He sorted out his thoughts and said, "This mountain range is dense. It's an absolutely outstanding land of treasure in terms of feng shui. It's the most suitable location for an emperor's tomb."

"I heard you mention that Yu the Great was the Xia Dynasty's founding ruler. Just now, though, the Fiend Emperor's fighting aura came from here too. Does that mean this is Yu the Great's tomb?" Yun Jianyue asked curiously.

Zu An was stunned. He hadn't thought of that before, and had just wanted to find the Fiend Emperor and gain some intelligence. After being reminded of that fact, he quickly concluded that it was likely to be the case.

Soon afterward, the group landed in front of a cave. The aura fluctuations came from inside. They hesitated for a moment before carefully entering.

The cave didn't seem that big from the outside, but the inside was full of winding and complicated paths, as well as many forks in the path. Fortunately, they were able to follow the shockwaves from the battle to gauge where to go. Otherwise, they would still have no idea how long it would take.

The entire cave shook continuously. From time to time, sand and stone fell from the ceiling, as if it could collapse at any moment. From time to time, the path ahead was blocked by boulders, but that was no problem for Zu An's group, and they simply blasted open new paths.

While walking at the forefront, Yan Xuehen suddenly said with a frown, "Something is wrong with this mountain."

"What is it?" Zu An asked, startled. He wondered whether they had fallen into some sort of trap.

Yun Jianyue explained, "In a battle between earth immortals, there's no way an ordinary cave could endure such power. It would have collapsed a long time ago. But even though some stones fall from time to time, this cave is still intact overall. That doesn't make sense."

Yu Yanluo said just then, "I feel as if the intense power in this cave is being absorbed and transmitted into the surrounding mountain vein. It's almost as if the entire mountain vein is collectively bearing the burden of the battle. That's why this cave can remain intact." The Medusa bloodline made her more sensitive toward the earth element, letting her sense the changes.

Yan Xuehen couldn't help but remark with a sigh, "Just how ingenious is this design? It can actually neutralize the aftereffects of an earth immortal-level battle! I do not think I could do it myself. No one in the entire White Jade Sect would be capable of that."

Zu An actually felt happy, rather than alarmed. He replied, "That means that we've come to the right place!"

There were quite a few people in this world who could accomplish such a thing, but Emperor Zhuan Xu had recently severed the path between heaven and man. Those divine beings had already been separated from the mortal world and couldn't interfere with it. In that case, who else could do such a thing but Yu the Great?

The battle's shockwaves gradually grew weaker and weaker. Then, a pained cry of grief and anger rang out. Zu An's group had never heard the voice before; it was enough to make those who heard it tremble even from far away. Anything that could make such a sound was definitely no ordinary monster.

Yun Jianyue quickly said, "The battle there has already come to an end. Let's hurry and head over!"

Whether it was exploiting the opportunity or negotiating for cooperation, the best chance they would have was when both sides were seriously injured. Otherwise, if either side recovered, it would become dangerous for the group. Thus, they didn't hesitate any longer and quickly rushed inside.

Soon afterward, the space ahead suddenly opened up to reveal a large chamber, with a giant door in the distance. Up ahead, there was a structure that resembled an altar, covered with a variety of sinister monster statues. The statues lay scattered and in disarray, clearly affected by the previous battle.

There was a grand flight of stairs in front of the door, but it had been greatly damaged, covered with bloodstains that had clearly been left behind very recently.

In the very center of the chamber lay a giant monster. It resembled a tiger with a pair of wings. Its face was sinister and terrifying, to the point that one wouldn't dare to look straight at it.

However, its current appearance was quite miserable. Its body was covered in wounds; one wing was torn off, and blood dripped from the stump.

Zu An was alarmed. He recalled the Golden Crow Crown Prince's Ardent Sun Sword Formation. All of the crown prince's feathers could turn into golden sword ki. The same move had clearly been used by the Fiend Emperor, making it countless times stronger.

The monster lay dying, its belly rising and falling quickly and its tail curled up powerlessly.

A short distance away, the Fiend Emperor sat, seemingly treating his injuries. He also seemed to be in bad condition. His crown was nowhere to be seen, and his hair was in total disarray.

Chapter 1462: Seal Undone

The Fiend Emperor's hair was stuck together by an unknown substance; it was hard to tell whether it was blood or sweat. Some areas of his scalp were even exposed, making him look like a balding middle-aged man. There was a huge hole in his chest, and Zu An could see the wall behind him through it.

Any normal person would have already kicked the bucket if they suffered such an injury. However, the Fiend Emperor's aura was still stable. Golden flames flickered around his entire body; he was clearly using the Golden Crow Sacred Fire to quickly recover from his injuries.

The Fiend Emperor sensed that something was strange. He opened his eyes and looked around. When he saw that it was Zu An's group, he was stunned. He had never expected it to be them.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince stood in front of the Fiend Emperor protectively, calling out, "You can forget about taking advantage of us. With me here, you won't be able to hurt a single hair on father emperor's body."

Wu Liang's eyes darted around. When the Fiend Emperor had fought against the Qiongqi, because his and the Golden Crow Crown Prince's cultivation ranks were too low, neither of them had gone over to help. Thus, they were still in good shape.

He wondered whether it was time to change sides and work together with the other side to eliminate the Fiend Emperor. Otherwise, if he continued to remain under the Fiend Emperor's control until the end, he wouldn't necessarily be able to survive.

The Fiend Emperor cursed his son as a fool upon seeing him put on a filial act. Wasn't his son basically telling the enemy that he was weak right now? He pushed the crown prince away and stared at Zu An's group with a burning gaze, remarking, "I did not expect you to actually still have the courage to come here."

Zu An smiled and replied, "Fortune favors the bold, no? If it weren't for my guts, how could I have stumbled upon such an excellent opportunity?"

The three women quietly spread out and prepared to fight.

Wu Liang also secretly stood up, preparing to make his move. However, he felt a bit depressed. Look at how everyone else has already found a group! I'm the only one who's all by myself. Even if I help one side, I'm still no match for them alone!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince gulped nervously as he looked at Zu An's group. He was still a bit traumatized from what Zu An had done to him. Even though he constantly reminded himself that his cultivation was higher than the other person's, he had already suffered two defeats. Moreover, he

didn't even have his divine weapon anymore, so his confidence in winning had only grown weaker. Furthermore, there were still the three women, who didn't seem easy to deal with at all!

"Do you think there is an opportunity for you here? It's a pity that you have arrived a bit too late," the Fiend Emperor said as he stood up, the hole in his chest already having closed. Waves of earth immortal power spread outward. Apart from looking a bit haggard, it was as if he hadn't even been injured at all.

Zu An's group was shocked when they saw that the Fiend Emperor's injuries had completely healed. All of them felt dispirited. It would have been great if they arrived a bit earlier. Now, he had already recovered, so the situation had already been reversed... That thought made them feel a complicated mix of negative emotions.

Zu An suddenly thought of something. He put away his weapon with a smile and replied, "What is the Fiend Emperor saying? We're all trapped in this Unknown Region together. Shouldn't we be old friends in a foreign land? We don't even have enough time to feel happy, so why would we take advantage of you?"

The Fiend Emperor was a bit startled. It was hard to know what he was thinking, but he didn't immediately turn hostile.

Wu Liang almost choked on his own saliva. This guy's shamelessness is almost on my level! He quickly relaxed and gave up on the thought of attacking.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince panicked, exclaiming, "Father emperor, do not listen to what he is saying. That guy is only acting pretentious because he saw that you recovered. We should use this chance to get rid of him together!"

Yan Xuehen and the other women grew vigilant when they heard that, preparing to fight at any moment.

The Golden Crown Crown Prince frowned. How did these women almost completely recover from their previous injuries even though barely any time has passed?

How is this possible?! Could it be that they encountered some kind of miracle?

He looked away from them and toward Zu An, asking, "Just how did you undo the Puppet Curse?"

Zu An said with a smile, "I have my ways." There was a 'do you really think I'll tell you' look on his face.

Sure enough, the Fiend Emperor didn't bother asking him about the curse, remarking, "Brat, to be honest, I admire you quite a bit, especially with what you said just now about being old friends in a foreign land. This world is indeed a bit strange. As we come from the same place, there is no need for internal strife. Why don't we work together to solve the riddles of this world?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince began to panic. He was about to say something when he was stopped by his father's gesture.

"That's exactly what I had in mind," Zu An said without hesitation. At the same time, he gave the three women a look.

They had already fought through dangerous situations together so many times that they could roughly guess what Zu An's look meant. He was agreeing to work together, but also reminding them to be careful.

Cooperating with the Fiend Emperor was the same as playing with fire. Unfortunately, he had already recovered, so fighting would only result in both sides suffering.

The only thing they were confused about was why the Fiend Emperor would agree. After all, his cultivation was higher than all of theirs, and he even had the Golden Crow Crown Prince to help him.

However, they were also sharp individuals, quickly realizing that the Fiend Emperor had definitely seen them coming and used some secret technique to recover quickly. Even though such secret methods could heal quickly, they definitely weren't as reliable as recovering properly. They could even have serious side-effects. Furthermore, the dungeon was full of dangers. The Fiend Emperor clearly didn't want to put himself in a worse situation by fighting them, risking his own death in the process.

Zu An's choice to agree was also understandable. For one thing, they needed the Fiend Emperor's information. Furthermore, the Fiend Emperor had just rushed his recovery, so he was at his strongest at the moment. Defeating him in his current state would definitely come at a severe price. The more time passed, the more his strength would fall.

When they thought through all of those things, Zu An's party felt more relieved.

Zu An took the chance to ask, "Your majesty, just what kind of place is this?"

Before the Fiend Emperor could even reply, a voice suddenly exclaimed with great emotion. "Haha, the Qiongqi is about to die, so the four great seals are about to be opened! I can almost sense my father's aura already."

Zu An looked in its direction with a frown. He saw that a bluish-white spirit of some sort had emerged from the Fiend Emperor's body. He was surprised; it seemed that the Fiend Emperor had really benefited from the trip as well. What was that spirit-like thing?

Was the monster on the floor the Qiongqi? No wonder it was so extraordinary. Unfortunately, it had still been defeated by the Fiend Emperor.

Apart from that, what were the so-called four great seals the voice had spoken of? And who was his father?

Zu An had too many questions at the moment. However, he quickly noticed that even though the spirit was acting very excited, there was a faint golden light restricting it. It was clearly under the Fiend Emperor's restrictions.

"Growl..." The Qiongqi lying in the chamber released a long sigh. Then, its limbs slumped as its last breath dissipated. Then, its body began to dissipate in a blast of yellow light.

The Fiend Emperor reached out, and a golden gemstone flew out of the light and entered his hand.

Those present all had high cultivation. With their sight, they could clearly see certain strange patterns on the gemstone's surface. The shape was very similar to a miniature Qiongqi.

Zu An thought, That spirit mentioned four seals, so has the Fiend Emperor already obtained four of these gemstones?

Why do I feel as if I was working my butt off for a sidequest, while the Fiend Emperor was doing the main questline?

“This is where the Four Perils’ Qiongqi resided. Previously, we dealt with the Taowu, Taotie, and Hundun’s seals. According to what this person says, there is an ancient emperor named Yao sealed here,” the Fiend Emperor said. He casually fiddled with Dan Zhu’s soul while looking at Zu An, continuing, “I have already told you so much. As we are working together, you should share a bit about what you have obtained in all this time, no?”

There were many powerful auras on the other side, and he even sensed a power that made him feel fear. It seemed to have something to do with Zu An. Even though he didn’t think that Zu An’s party could participate in a battle of that level, as long as he had been watching what was happening, Zu An no doubt had some information the Fiend Emperor didn’t.

Zu An was about to reply when the ground suddenly began to crack audibly. Then, it quickly split apart. The floor beneath both parties gave out, and they began to fall.

They were all caught off guard. Despite how powerful the previous battle’s effects had been, the entire mountain had still remained intact. And yet, it was only now that the battle had ended that the ground broke apart?!

Chapter 1463: Key

Could it be that the death of the Qiongqi triggered some kind of mechanism?

That single thought flickered through their minds. Fortunately, their cultivations were all high, so they quickly stabilized themselves and slowly floated down through the air. They were lucky to find that there wasn’t an endless abyss below; soon afterward, the group arrived on solid ground again.

They discovered that what lay below was another large room, and ahead of them was a gate. The gate was even more ancient and profound than the one above. Set in its center was a diagram that resembled a star atlas, containing certain special indentations.

The Fiend Emperor gave Zu An a look and said, “You still have not replied to my question.”

Zu An and the three women gathered together. He calmly replied, “I found out about the immortal medicine.”

The Fiend Emperor’s side could become hostile if he told them he had the Sun Slaying Bow now. Comparatively, information about the immortal medicine was far more suitable. It would make the Fiend Emperor feel some reservation about killing them.

“The immortal medicine!” the Fiend Emperor exclaimed, beginning to breathe rapidly. That was what he needed the most right now. He replied, “Not bad. You have the right to work with me now.”

A hint of bitterness flickered through the Golden Crow Crown Prince’s mind. If his father became immortal, wouldn’t he become a good-for-nothing crown prince for the rest of his life? Still, he didn’t

dare to show any of that. He could only console himself, thinking that if he could become immortal too, that wouldn't be too bad.

"Where is the immortal medicine?" the Fiend Emperor quickly asked.

Zu An chuckled and replied, "Do you think I would just tell you in this situation?"

"Reasonable," the Fiend Emperor said, not feeling offended. He didn't think Zu An was lying to him. If Zu An and the others didn't really know, they definitely wouldn't bring up something like that.

They would work together for the time being to pursue the higher power in this world. Once they left, it wouldn't be too late to force the information surrounding the immortal medicine out of Zu An then. There were so many women around Zu An, it meant the Fiend Emperor would have many ways of making him squirm.

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Meanwhile, Wu Liang had already walked up to the gate and began to study it. He caressed the runes on the surface while saying excitedly, "No wonder we couldn't find any way of getting in from above. It looks as if the gate above was just a fake. This is the real gate!"

The Fiend Emperor kneaded the spirit in his hand, making it deform. He asked, "This is where you said your father Emperor Yao was sealed?"

"Yes, yes! I can already sense his aura!" the spirit screamed in pain. It was filled with bitterness inside. Once my dad comes out, all of you are going to be crushed to bits!

On the other hand, Zu An was surprised. Wasn't it supposed to be Yu the Great? Why was this Emperor Yao's tomb? Could it be that we came to the wrong place this time?

But that shouldn't be! Earlier, Shun said I had to face Yu the Great!

"Did you not say that once the seals on the Four Perils were undone, your father would reappear? Where is he?" the Fiend Emperor asked, giving the spirit in his hand a cold look, as if he would crush it into nothingness at any moment.

Based on his interrogation of Dan Zhu along the way, he had already learned that Emperor Yao was a proper emperor in the past. There would definitely be a lot of treasures buried with him. More importantly, he longed for the power of that ancient emperor. As long as he could see it for himself, he believed he had a chance to advance a step further.

"This tomb needs to be opened up first. Right, just put those gemstones into the gate over there and it'll open up," the spirit replied. Its entire 'body' shook, as if it were scared that it would die before it met its father. That would really be too great a loss then!

The Fiend Emperor raised his head and looked at the special holes. Their shape was a bit familiar. With a wave of his hand, several streaks of light flew out of his sleeves. They were none other than the gemstones he had collected along the way.

The four gemstones, colored red, green, blue, and yellow respectively, filled the holes in the gate. Rings of light flickered across the gate's surface, and several glowing lines spread across its surface like electrical currents.

The group waited expectantly for the gate to open, but in the end, the light stopped moving. Then, the colors faded, leaving behind only ordinary patterns again.

"Why did this happen?" the Fiend Emperor exclaimed, his expression darkening. He looked at the spirit in his hand with an unkind expression.

"This... This makes no sense! This is the way to open the gate!" the spirit exclaimed in alarm; even his voice was starting to shake.

Wu Liang suddenly said, "I know! There's still something missing. There's a keyhole at the very center, so we're probably missing that key."

"Key?" the Fiend Emperor repeated with a frown. They hadn't found any keys along the way. He unwittingly glanced at Zu An's group. However, Zu An shrugged, as if to say that they hadn't encountered anything resembling a key either.

The Fiend Emperor's expression became unpleasant. He walked up to the gate, intending to rely on his earth immortal strength to open it through brute force. There weren't many tomb gates that could endure his full-strength attack.

However, after he sent his fists flying several times, a flicker of radiance appeared across the gate. He could clearly sense his power being dispersed in different directions to some unknown place. Even if he tried several more times, it wouldn't be able to blast open the gate.

His eyes narrowed. He looked at the keyhole at the center. A moment later, he turned toward the Golden Crow Crown Prince and asked, "Son, do you remember that in the Imperial Palace's treasury, there seemed to be a key that was shaped quite similarly to this keyhole?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince quickly went over to take a look, replying, "That is indeed the case. That key seems to have always been in the treasury. I played around with it when I was little, but I did not notice anything special about it at all. I did not know why it was kept in the treasury either."

The treasury of the Imperial Palace contained the accumulated wealth of successive generations of Fiend Emperors. Why would an ordinary key have the right to be stored there?

The Fiend Emperor said seriously, "That key was there ever since I was little as well. No one knew of its origins, but there was a rumor that it came from the ancient past of our Golden Crow race. Not even successive generations of Fiend Emperors could figure out its use. They only knew that it could not be damaged by water or fire. Not even our Golden Crow Sacred Fire could damage it in the slightest."

The others were shocked. The key was something that not even the Golden Crow Sacred Fire could damage? Just its material alone proved how extraordinary it was!

"I did not expect it to be used here," the Fiend Emperor said. He felt happy that he had unraveled an ancient secret of the Golden Crow race, but he was also filled with deep vexation.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but remark, "It's fine and all to talk about it, but did you even bring it with you?"

The Fiend Emperor and Golden Crow Crown Prince hung their heads dispiritedly. Even though they didn't reply, their expressions explained everything.

They really were frustrated! The final treasure was so close, and yet they were missing a key. They even had the key too; it was just that they hadn't brought it with them!

Who knew how long it would take before a dungeon like this would open up again? In all the years the Imperial Tomb had existed for, it was the first time. If they missed this chance, they wouldn't necessarily have the opportunity to enter again. Both of them wanted to vomit blood when they realized that.

Suddenly, however, Zu An exclaimed, "Hm? This shape seems a bit familiar to me, though."

The Golden Crow Crown Prince had been annoyed to begin with. When he heard that, he sneered and retorted, "Something in my royal family's treasury is familiar to you? Even if you want to brag, you should use your brain a bit!"

Zu An thought, Is your royal family treasury all that? I'm even familiar with your damn bed! However, he didn't feel like arguing with the crown prince. Instead, he carefully examined the shape of the keyhole.

"Stop putting on an act already. If even someone like you can figure something out, I will eat these damn rocks!" the Golden Crow Crown Prince remarked.

He secretly felt delighted. He realized that if his father couldn't obtain anything more from this dungeon, the old man, who was near his deathbed, would pass on all of his cultivation and the throne to him! That was why he had to stop Zu An with everything he had, even though he didn't believe that the other man could really come up with anything valuable.

To his surprise, however, Zu An suddenly fished out a strangely shaped key and called out, "You guys, take a look. Is it this one?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince's smile immediately froze on his face.

The Fiend Emperor didn't treat it with much importance at first. After all, why would a key from his own treasury be with someone else?

However, when he saw the item, he was shocked and overjoyed. He asked, "Where did you get that from?"

He was also a bit alarmed. Was it that easy for this guy to enter and leave the palace? I didn't even know he took this key from the treasury. Did he steal anything more precious?

Chapter 1464: Don't I Still Have You?

"I happened to get it from Heichi Gu," Zu An said, counting his blessings.

Fortunately, back then, he had seen that not even the White Lotus Flame could burn the key, and thus put it away. He hadn't expected it to just happen to be of use here. It really was too much of a coincidence, as if a pair of invisible hands had prompted Zu An into doing all that.

"The Heichi Clan really were double-crossing bastards!" the Fiend Emperor exclaimed with an ugly expression. The Imperial Palace's treasury had been entrusted to the Heichi clan to oversee. If something from the treasury had appeared in Heichi Gu's possession, what else could it be but embezzlement?

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was alarmed. The Heichi clan was his maternal uncle's family, which should have been his most secure ally and shield. From his perspective even though the Heichi clan was a bit greedy, compared to their help, this wasn't a big deal at all. Furthermore, his uncle's family weren't outsiders, so they had still technically been keeping good things on their side.

However, from the Fiend Emperor's perspective, it was completely different. He wasn't so charitable to the Heichi clan, and thought of the incident as already sufficient to prove their disloyalty.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was so frightened he immediately changed the topic. He berated Zu An ferociously. "No wonder we couldn't find anything from Heichi Gu's disappearance! So you killed him!"

You have successfully trolled Golden Crow Crown Prince for +110 +110 +110...

Zu An said indifferently, "You can eat whatever you want, but you can't say whatever you want. Be careful of speaking slander!"

"Hmph, this key was clearly in Heichi Gu's possession, so why would it be with you?" the Golden Crow Crown Prince asked coldly.

"If this key could be moved from the Imperial Palace's treasury into Heichi Gu's possession, then why can't it be in mine?" Zu An replied with a smile. Heichi Gu had been trying to kill him back then, and furthermore, he had only acted out of self-defense. There was no way he was going to admit to that at all, though.

Of course, the Fiend Emperor's side undoubtedly knew that Zu AN was the one who had killed Heichi Gu. Either way, they had already offended each other, so a bit more wouldn't make a difference as long as he didn't give them anything they could use against him.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was about to continue when the Fiend Emperor stopped him, saying "We should not talk about past matters for now. The most important thing right now is opening up this gate."

Zu An flicked his finger outward, and the key inserted itself into the hole in the center. He wasn't in a rush to open the door, however. On the contrary, opening the door could put him in danger.

The Fiend Emperor had confidence in his high cultivation and wasn't too scared. Thus, he grabbed the end of the key and slowly turned it.

When he turned it to a particular angle, the four gemstones began shining again with a crisp click. The patterns around them once again lit up like electrical circuits. They converged into four streaks of light that poured into the key's position at the very center. The previously dark golden key began shining with rainbow brilliance. Then, the light spread in all directions before disappearing into the depths of the tomb through the pattern's grooves. Several waves of rumbling followed, as if the entire tomb were coming alive.

Zu An thought to himself, If this key is so special, why did it end up with the Golden Crows?

The Golden Crow race had probably passed it down from one generation to the next since ancient times. However, Yu the Great should have appeared after Yi shot down the suns...

He only got more and more confused the more he thought about it, so he decided to just not spend any more effort brooding over the matter. Instead, he focused on the gate in front of him.

Suddenly, the gate split in two down the middle and slowly opened inward, revealing a dark tunnel amid a shower of scattered rocks.

The Fiend Emperor took large strides forward with a fervent expression. The Golden Crow Crown Prince quickly followed behind him. In a secret dungeon like this with terrifying beings at every turn, it was still safest at his father's side.

Meanwhile, Wu Liang had a conflicted expression. The Fiend Emperor wasn't paying attention to him and was focused on what lay inside, creating a great opportunity to flee. But how could he, who had robbed tombs his entire life, resist the temptation of such a grand ancient tomb? He gritted his teeth and followed them inside, muttering, "If I'm going to die, so be it!"

Zu An and the others exchanged a look, then followed at a moderate pace behind them. They expected that it would be dark inside and thought of making a torch, but it was actually brightly lit.

There were lamp-like objects hanging from the walls, surrounded by an assortment of runes that resembled electrical circuits. It was as if the light that had emanated from the four gemstones and the key from earlier had provided the entire underground palace with a light source.

Zu An was quite surprised. Why did such ancient things bear a strange resemblance to modern technology? He thought, Don't tell me there were aliens or something back then, were there? No wonder even after so many years have passed, we still haven't been able to find the Xia Dynasty's remains...

The group clicked their tongues, in awe of the tomb. Along the way, they saw many mechanisms. However, with a tomb raider like Wu Liang present, they got through each one feeling more scared than hurt. His prowess was such that he was able to find hidden switches to open up passages even when it seemed like there was nowhere left for them to go.

"This damn fatty is quite the talent..." Zu An muttered, amazed. He thought to himself, If I run into any more tombs in the future, I'll have to throw him an invite. That would increase our chances of success a lot!

They continued for some time just like that. Eventually, Wu Liang activated another mechanism, opening a gate that led to a spacious room.

"This should be the main tomb room," Wu Liang said, swallowing his saliva. He looked at the very center of the room, where there was a rectangular stone platform covered in runes; it seemed to have had some kind of seal applied to it.

Zu An noticed that there were two giant statues, more than ten meters tall, standing on either side of the room. One statue had the body of a giant snake, and there were nine heads on it; when he first saw

it, he thought it was of the Nine Infants. Only upon closer inspection was he able to tell that it was different.

Even though the statue also had nine heads, the Nine Infants had nine snake heads, while it had nine human heads. It resembled a sort of ancient demonic deity, emanating mysterious intimidation and pressure.

The other statue looked like a giant bear. It was completely red, with an extremely sinister expression. It didn't look like a being that belonged to the righteous faction.

Zu An wondered whether the two statues were just there to accompany the stone altar in the center, or if they were guarding something.

The Fiend Emperor kneaded Dan Zhu in his palm, asking "Did you not say that Emperor Yao knew about the immortal medicine? If one really existed, why would he be lying in a coffin?"

Indeed, the rectangular platform resembled a coffin. The Fiend Emperor quickly felt incredible disappointment when he thought about how Emperor Yao could be inside. He was close to the end of his life; what he desired the most was none other than immortal medicine and a higher level of power. Now, it looked as if neither of them seemed too likely to be obtainable.

Zu An was startled. The Fiend Emperor also had information regarding immortal medicine?

That makes sense. If that spirit really is Emperor Yao's son, it's not too strange for them to know. It and Emperor Yao are both from ancient times, after all.

Dan Zhu quickly said, "He's sealed... sealed inside. He definitely isn't dead and should know about the undying medicine!"

When he heard Dan Zu, the Fiend Emperor looked at the rectangular stone altar, seemingly feeling a bit moved.

Zu An quickly stepped forward to stop him, asking, "If there really is an ancient emperor sealed inside, would you be able to win against him if you unseal it?"

What if something terrifying came out and killed everyone?

The Fiend Emperor hesitated a bit too. He was seriously injured from fighting against the Four Perils several times. Even though he had recovered through the Golden Crow Sacred Fire, he was close to his limit. He was no longer in his best condition.

However, his longing for eternal life made him harden his resolve. He replied, "Don't I still have you here?"

Zu An was speechless.

Chapter 1465: Respectfully Welcome Master

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was furious. My father is actually treating this guy as someone on the same level?!

Zu An thought, Am I really that amazing, for you to actually be treating me with that much respect?

Of course, he knew what the Fiend Emperor was really implying. At this point, they were all in the same boat. If something strong appeared, Zu An's group couldn't rely on the Fiend Emperor alone. They had to help out too. After all, there were two grandmasters on his side and a Medusa. Between that and Zu An's unusual strength, they were naturally a force to be reckoned with.

The Fiend Emperor didn't wait for him to reply. He tossed a skull into Wu Liang's hands, saying, "Here, open up that sarcophagus in the center."

The skull was made of some crystalline material; its surface was sparkling and translucent, emanating a special kind of radiance. It was something the Fiend Emperor's group had obtained along the way. He had noticed that there were special grooves on the stone altar that matched this skull, which was why he told Wu Liang to test things out.

Wu Liang cursed inwardly. Wasn't this Zu An's job before?

Even though that was what he thought, he didn't dare to go against the Fiend Emperor's orders. Otherwise, he could end up having a Puppet Curse placed on him too.

Later, I really have to ask Zu An how he managed to get rid of that Puppet Curse... he thought as he cautiously approached the stone altar. He carefully observed the runes and formations around him. When he was sure that there were no lethal mechanisms present, he then slowly placed the skull into the recess.

Zu An frowned as he watched the whole process. Emperor Yao was a glorious emperor in his own right, and he should have been considered a proper hero. Why was something sinister like a skull needed to activate this place?

Still, that crystal skull does look pretty nice...

Suddenly, a crack rang out through the air, as the crystal skull fit seamlessly into the groove. Then, as if it had been sucked in by some force, it sank downward.

Zu An saw that Wu Liang still hadn't let go of the skull. He couldn't hold back, remarking, "Damn fatty, you still aren't letting go?"

The Fiend Emperor and Golden Crow Crown Prince watched Wu Liang vigilantly. They thought, Could it be that this fatty noticed something and wants to be the first to have access to the immortal opportunity?

Wu Liang cried out, his voice shaking a bit, "I want to let go too, but it keeps holding onto me and won't allow me to let go!"

While he was speaking, the skull emerged from the stone altar again. With their keen eyes, the others saw that Wu Liang's hands seemed to be stuck to the skull's surface by some kind of indescribable power. It didn't let him go no matter what he did.

Suddenly, the skeleton's eyes glowed with red light, and a sinister, ice-cold aura appeared out of thin air! The Fiend Emperor's expression changed, and he quickly took a step back.

Zu An and the others felt ice-cold intent flow over their bodies. It wasn't the sort of chill that came from Yan Xuehen's Snowflake Sword; rather, it was a kind of sinister aura that made them freeze up uncontrollably. Their expressions changed, and they also quickly backed up.

Wu Liang, who was closest to the altar, became even more frightened. He screamed, "Your majesty Fiend Emperor, save me! Please save me!"

The Fiend Emperor frowned, clearly having no intention to interfere. It was almost as if he had already planned to use Wu Liang to test the waters.

Zu An frowned. This fatty still shared a bit of friendship with him. He couldn't just watch him die without doing anything. As such, he flung an energy blade at Wu Liang's arm. Compared to a life, the fatty's arms wouldn't be that great of a price at all. Either way, high-level cultivators could all recover on their own. With some medicine, they'd grow back in a few years.

Wu Liang clearly understood his intentions. A hint of gratitude appeared on his face. As such, he didn't resist at all and planned to give up his hands to escape. However, as the blade energy approached him, the skull suddenly emanated a black vortex that sucked it all away.

Wu Liang screamed miserably. He could feel his own life essence being quickly sucked away as well! His two chubby arms visibly shriveled up. His smooth and round cheeks also began to cave in. He tried to detonate his own internal energy to remove his arms, but it was already too late. Before he could summon enough power to blow up his arms, it was already sucked away by the black vortex.

Afterward, he no longer had the strength to resist. He could only turn toward the Fiend Emperor. His lips shook slightly as he said, "Save... Save me..." He knew that out of all those present, only the Fiend Emperor had the ability to save him now.

However, the Fiend Emperor remained completely indifferent. If the stone altar only opened with a blood sacrifice, Wu Liang was clearly the best choice for it. Zu An's group seemed to share quite a bit of affection with each other. If he chose any of them, it would cause their already fragile alliance to break down completely. Apart from them, there was no way he would sacrifice his own son, right?

Zu An's group couldn't bear to watch. However, in the current situation, they were helpless.

In the blink of an eye, the chubby Wu Liang had already turned into skin and bones, as if he were a mummy. Zu An couldn't help but recall how Sang Qian had been killed by Mosquito Daoist. Back then, that was exactly how he had looked. Could it be that the altar had sealed a Blood race individual?

This fatty really is pitiful. He had all kinds of mysterious skills, but in the end, he died so easily.

Suddenly, a disturbance began to happen around them. The hardened dirt around the two giant statues gradually fell off. Then, two powerful auras suddenly manifested in the hall, quickly growing stronger.

Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both secretly warned the other two, "Be careful! These are peak grandmaster level auras! No, they're still getting stronger!"

Zu An's expression changed. Don't tell me they're two earth immortals?

Forget about him, even the Fiend Emperor was getting nervous. He stared at the two statues. By now, the hardened dirt had already completely fallen off, revealing their original appearances.

One was a scarlet bear-like monster. It rubbed its head as if it were still a bit muddle-headed after waking up. However, when it saw those who were present, it beat its chest and roared angrily.

On the other side of the room, the human-faced, snake-bodied monster's nine heads bore sinister and warped expressions, as if they had experienced unendurable suffering. Soon afterward, the space around those heads began to distort, and they gradually combined into a single head. Its body became smaller and smaller before finally turning into what resembled a handsome and delicate prince. His malicious, nine-headed and snake-bodied appearance was nowhere to be seen.

The Fiend Emperor didn't look down on it in the slightest. On the contrary, he was even more cautious of the man than the huge red bear. Even though the bear was big and ferocious, its aura was barely at the earth immortal rank. There was still a sizable gap between their cultivation. However, the white-clothed young master was completely different. His strength had shot up so quickly that it wasn't that far from the Fiend Emperor's own cultivation.

Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue explained what was going on to Zu An and Yu Yanluo. Both of them shivered when they heard what the grandmasters said.

"Wait, why are these two's auras completely different from that cold and eerie energy from before?" Zu An wondered, suddenly realizing the important issue.

In truth, the Fiend Emperor secretly felt glad that he hadn't fought against Zu An's group. Now, he could face the white-clad man, while the other group could face the scarlet bear. Together with the Golden Crow Crown Prince, there probably wouldn't be any problems.

However, when he heard what Zu An said, he was startled. He suddenly looked at the stone altar at the center.

The white-clothed man and the giant red bear both walked over to the altar and kneeled down on one knee, exclaiming, "We respectfully welcome our master!"

Chapter 1466: Rock Bottom

The group felt their scalps turning numb.

Master? These two were only servants? If the servants are already this powerful, what about the master?

The Fiend Emperor was shocked and furious. He squeezed Dan Zhu's spirit in his hand, asking, "Is that your father?"

"No... No..." Dan Zhu replied, trembling as he explained, "Something is wrong with this aura. It's not my father!"

"Obviously!" the Fiend Emperor snapped. He could tell that the sinister aura wasn't similar to Dan Zhu's in the slightest.

Just then, a terrifying vortex appeared at the center of the stone platform, wildly devouring the surrounding ki. Even with Zu An and the others' cultivation, they could barely resist it, feeling the energy within them leave their bodies. They quickly used their skills, barely managing to keep themselves stable.

Zu An voiced his amazement. The absorption skill seemed a bit similar to the Heaven Devouring Sutra! However, when he inspected it further, it also seemed to be a bit different.

Still, he didn't have the time to consider such questions. He shouted to the Fiend Emperor, "Hurry and stop him! If that guy revives completely, none of us will survive!"

The being inside had clearly only started to wake up. In his current state, he was at his weakest.

Zu An had considered interfering to stop the process too, but the terrifying suction force could end up making him quickly follow in the fatty's footsteps. Only the Fiend Emperor had the power to stop it.

...

"Achoo!" Somewhere far away from the cave, a heap of dirt suddenly swelled up from the ground.

"Motherf*cking... That was way too dangerous! Thank goodness I left ahead of time," the voice's owner muttered. He sensed a giant vortex in the cave behind him that continuously absorbed all the ki around it, and couldn't help but shiver.

If Zu An and the others had been there, they would have been shocked, because the figure was none other than Wu Liang, whom they had seen being turned into a mummy!

Wu Liang was in a sorry state; his once chubby body was now quite a bit skinnier. He had clearly suffered quite a bit due to his internal energies. A look of pain appeared on his face as he remarked, "Sigh, I lost another life here. I really lost quite a bit in this dungeon. I have to find some other treasure to make up for it."

As the last inheritor of the Pangolin Race, he had looted countless tombs and obtained many good things from within them. One of them was the 'Cat Fiend Nine Lives' secret cultivation method, which gave him nine more lives. Even though it didn't grant him a longer lifespan, if something unexpected happened and he was killed, he would have several more chances to live.

Once, he had encountered a crisis in a tomb, and been forced to use up a life. This was now his second time using up a life. His chubby face trembled just from the thought. It really hurt losing such precious lives!

He decisively made up his mind to go in the opposite direction of the cave. He had actually already taken some mental notes on some caves that could bring some benefits along the way. It was just that the Fiend Emperor had been utterly focused on the immortal medicine and a chance for immortality, and hadn't been too interested in those other things. The current situation just happened to perfectly benefit Wu Liang, however.

As for the terrifying tomb behind him, he knew that not even nine lives would be enough to survive in a place like that. His many years of tomb raiding experience had made him firmly believe in the principle of 'safety first'. He had to know his limits. Things that were clearly beyond his ability had to be given up on.

I'll just leave it up to the Fiend Emperor and the others. If they can uncover the secrets inside, I can follow them out of this Unknown Region too.

If they can't, and I have to spend the rest of my life here...

Staying behind in this world doesn't sound all that bad either. There seem to really be immortal traces here. If I loot a few more tombs and take a few decades, or even a century to increase my strength, I'll come back to that tomb later. Then, everything will be mine, hahaha!

When Wu Liang thought about that wonderful future, his dejected expression quickly changed. He quickly left in the direction of the sunset, gradually disappearing into the horizon.

...

Meanwhile, inside the cave, Zu An and the others definitely didn't share Wu Liang's good mood. They could only hold on bitterly as they experienced the coffin's terrifying nature head-on.

When he heard what Zu An said, the Fiend Emperor narrowed his eyes. He naturally understood the reasoning, but he was worried that if he interfered and got into trouble, Zu An would be the one who benefited the most in the end.

However, at this point, he didn't have the luxury to overthink it. Two spheres of golden light that resembled miniature suns suddenly appeared in his palms. In an instant, he quickly appeared next to the coffin, rushing directly at the crystal skull.

He knew that the source of all the strange phenomena was the joining of the crystal skull with the coffin. As long as the skull was smashed apart or they were separated, it would likely be enough to stop the crisis..

The white-clad man and the giant red bear rushed forward to stop the Fiend Emperor when they saw what he was doing.

However, two golden wings suddenly appeared behind the Fiend Emperor. Every single feather contained golden sword energy. He knew he couldn't waste any time, so he didn't hold back.

The red bear roared furiously. All of its hairs stood on end like steel needles, blocking the golden sword energy. Although chunk after chunk of its fur was blasted off, the Fiend Emperor's golden feathers gradually dimmed as well.

The white-clad man released a cold snort. Green flames swirled around his left hand, while a black water snake emerged from his right, attacking the Fiend Emperor from both directions. The air filled with an eye-stinging sensation, accompanied by a sour stench that could be smelled in the distance.

"There's poison!" Yun Jianyue quickly warned the others. She stared at the flames and black water the white-clad man produced. Both clearly had unnatural colors. She couldn't tell which one was poisonous, or if both of them were.

Zu An saw clearly that whether it was the white-clad man or the giant red bear, neither one of them was weaker than the Fiend Emperor. Even if the Fiend Emperor could hold on alone, he definitely wouldn't have the strength left to stop the being in the stone coffin from reviving.

As such, he couldn't afford to think about his grudge against the Fiend Emperor, and he prepared to rush over.

Suddenly, however, golden light erupted through the entire palace, and countless hidden runes in the walls lit up. Then, golden whips emerged from the walls one after another, continuously lashing at the stone coffin.

Furious roars emanated from the coffin. The sinister aura briefly stopped spreading, and the terrifying suction force became much weaker than before.

The group was overjoyed to see what was happening. Yan Xuehen quickly exclaimed, "This is a seal created by the one who built this tomb! It will not be easy for the one in the coffin to come out."

She prepared to rush forward to work together with Zu An, in order to distract the giant red bear and buy the Fiend Emperor some time.

Just then, the spirit in the Fiend Emperor's hands cried out, "This is father's power! I can sense father's power! Father, where are you? I'm Dan Zhu! Hurry and save me!"

The Fiend Emperor shivered. The current situation was already a huge mess. If another being like Emperor Yao joined the fray, he wouldn't stand a chance even if he grew two more heads and two more pairs of arms!

Only then did Zu An learn the spirit's name. So he was called Dan Zhu? Why does he look like that, and why was he enslaved by the Fiend Emperor?

However, Dan Zhu's pleas received no reply. They only drew the attention of the skull. It looked in Dan Zhu's direction, then suddenly opened its mouth, releasing a powerful suction force in his direction.

Dan Zhu's spirit form couldn't hold on and flew rapidly toward the skull. He screamed in fear. If he got swallowed up, he would be dead for sure! Unfortunately, because of the Fiend Emperor, he was only a ruined soul fragment, so how could he resist the skull's power?

The Fiend Emperor's expression changed. He tried to stop what was happening, but the white-clad man reacted quickly as well. The green flames and black water combined together, turning into a creature that resembled a yin-yang fish. Streaks of power arced out.

The Fiend Emperor was shocked. In that instant, he felt a threat to his very life! He knew that if he didn't go all out, he could be defeated outright by the attack. His eyes erupted with golden light, and a red sun projection appeared behind him as he stretched out his arms to face the yin-yang fish.

Suddenly, a terrifying power rippled outward in all directions, stripping away many of the rune formations on the walls, including ones that were intended to prevent damage to the great tomb's structure!

The Fiend Emperor and the white-clad man both groaned, both retreating more than ten meters.

The Fiend Emperor felt his internal energies stir. If not for his wounds from his battle against the Qiongg, his attack would have already been enough to seriously injure his opponent. Still, he knew that the white-clad man seemed to have just awakened, and thus wasn't at his strongest either.

Just how terrifying was the being in that coffin, then?

He suddenly looked to one side, only to see the crystal skull swallow up Dan Zhu's soul fragment. In that instant, he felt as if all hope had hit rock bottom.

Chapter 1467: Something Isn't Right Here

Zu An had considered heading over to try to prevent what was happening, but the battle was at the earth immortal level, making it difficult to get closer. Furthermore, he had still needed to watch out for the terrifying absorption force coming from the coffin in the center, so he was a bit too late in the end. He could only watch as that skull swallowed up the spirit.

Dan Zhu's screams came to a screeching halt as the skull visibly swallowed. It was clearly a skeleton, and yet it seemed to have a look of enjoyment on its face.

Just then, the golden whips of light that had previously been attacking suddenly stopped. They flew around aimlessly as if they had lost their target.

The absorption force burst out of the stone coffin again, devouring all of the ki near it. However, the golden lights didn't strike its surface again, instead withdrawing into the walls.

Yan Xuehen was shocked. She quickly explained, "Judging from what that spirit said earlier, these golden whips of light's power seem to be related to his father Emperor Yao. The skeleton has absorbed Dan Zhu's soul fragment, so it now has a bit of Dan Zhu's energy. These golden light whips recognized the energy of Emperor Yao's son, so they did not continue attacking."

Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo were amazed. This woman was good in her field after all!

However, that made things much more troublesome.

The Fiend Emperor also felt incredible regret. If he had known things would be like this, he wouldn't have kept Dan Zhu alive! He hadn't helped them much, and had only caused trouble for them.

Perhaps because the Fiend Emperor's prior attack had damaged the runes on the walls, the golden light whips weren't able to return to their original positions. Suddenly, the skull on the stone coffin opened its mouth, sucking in the whips like noodles.

The Fiend Emperor and his son were speechless. So was Zu An's group.

You had one job, and it was to seal this guy! Why aren't you resisting at all when it eats you up?

Even though Yan Xuehen's explanation had told them that it was most likely because the stone altar had absorbed Dan Zhu's aura, so the whips of light no longer viewed it as an enemy, it was still difficult for them to accept the shocking scene.

When the whips of light were all completely absorbed, fine cracks suddenly emanated from the center of the stone altar, spreading across its surface. In the next second, there was a huge explosion as the stone coffin exploded into pieces. A dense lump of black energy appeared from within, and the crystal skull flew into the position of its head. Soon afterward, the black energy vaguely coalesced into a human figure. An absolutely frightening aura spread outward, one that made even the Fiend Emperor tremble.

The figure was completely shrouded within black fog; only its crystal skull was clearly visible. Its jaw moved up and down, releasing ear-piercing laughter that sounded like fingernails on a chalkboard. It

exclaimed, “Hahahah! I laugh at Emperor Yao’s lack of insight, at Yu the Great’s lack of wisdom! They arranged all of this, and yet in the end, it only benefited me! The taste of Emperor Yao’s power really is exquisite.”

Zu An felt a bit dejected. The whips of light were Emperor Yao’s power, something he had most likely left behind to seal the coffin. Who would have thought that Dan Zhu would appear, and ultimately become nourishment for the revival of the one inside?

Who was the being that had emerged from the stone coffin? Why had both Emperor Yao and Yu the Great worked together to seal him?

However, there was another emperor missing. What was Shun’s role in this? If Zu An hadn’t personally watched Shun disappear into smoke, he would have wondered if this being was Shun himself.

“Just who are you?” Zu An took a deep breath and asked. Even if he had to die here, he wanted to at least know why.

Even the Golden Crow Crown Prince couldn’t help but feel a bit of admiration. The entire time, he hadn’t been all that convinced that Zu An was better than him. After all, he had been known as the Fiend Races’ number one for a long time, and he even had the support of all sorts of treasures. No one had been able to beat him for many years, so he had maintained absolute confidence in himself.

As for those losses at the hands of Zu An, he had concluded that they were only due to ambushes or schemes, and didn’t mean he was actually weaker. However, at that moment, he suddenly realized just which area he was inferior to Zu An in.

When facing a power that was even greater than his father, he had already begun quaking in fear, unable to stand still. However, Zu An could still stand firmly and converse with the being.

“My name? It seems I have already been away for too long. The world has actually already forgotten about the Deity of Water, Gonggong!” the crystal skull harrumphed, clearly unhappy that the ant before him hadn’t heard his name.

“Gonggong?” Zu An repeated, feeling greatly shaken. “The one whose anger at Buzhou Mountain caused heaven and earth to collapse, only for a flood to rush into the sky? And afterward, Nuwa had to come out to personally repair the heavens?”

The crystal skull’s expression clearly stiffened. The overflowing black energy around its entire body also froze for a moment.

You have successfully trolled Gonggong for +222 +222 +222...

Zu An was shocked. So you were Gonggong after all. What are you reacting like this for?

The white-clad prince said with a smile, “The one you speak of was the first generation Gonggong. Our master is the Gonggong of the last generation.”

His skills in battle were incredibly vicious and sinister; his skills were extremely venomous water and fire. And yet, when he spoke in human form, he was refined and courteous, almost like an elegant prince amid a world of chaos.

Zu An couldn't help but sigh in gratitude. This kid is pretty handsome. He's almost caught up to me. He asked politely, "May I ask what I should call this brother?"

"Brother?" The young master's expression froze. He clearly wasn't used to Zu An's quick change in attitude, but he didn't get angry and replied, "I am Xiang Liu. What is this little brother's name?"

Zu An cupped his hands and told Xiang Liu his name. However, he was terrified inside. Xiang Liu was the name of a famous monster from ancient legend! The water it sprayed out was poisonous, taking the lives of all those who touched it. Furthermore, the blood it shed could render all land within a thousand miles completely barren. He had never expected such a huge toxic hazard to actually assume the appearance of a refined young master!

When he saw Zu An looking at the giant red bear, Xiang Liu considerably introduced his companion, saying, "He is called Fuyou."

Fuyou asked in a low, muffled voice, "What are you speaking so much to an ant like this for?"

Zu An was a bit stunned. This guy was really rough and crude; why did he have such a graceful and light name? It felt the same as a tough-looking, full-bearded man having the name 'Captivating Wang'.^[1]

However, he quickly gathered his thoughts. According to what Xiang Liu had said, he deduced that this Gonggong had been Yu the Great's greatest enemy in history's great floods.

Gonggong was a water deity who had used the floods to cause chaos. Yu the Great had to control the floods, so naturally, both sides clashed.

Judging from what Zu An had seen and heard along the way, Gonggong belonged to the Flame Emperor's faction, someone who was probably unwilling to give up and wanted to fight for the throne. As for the floods, they were nothing more than a tool he used. Unfortunately, he had still been defeated by Yu the Great in the end.

Zu An couldn't help but ask, "If you were all fighting against Yu the Great, why did you mention Emperor Yao?"

That was what he just couldn't figure out. The emperor before Yu the Great was clearly Shun! There was no way Emperor Yao and Yu the Great had schemed together to seal up this Gonggong, right?

...

Meanwhile, the Fiend Emperor and the others were stupefied. This kid was speaking to the horrifying sealed being as if there were nothing wrong, and he even seemed to be familiar with its identity and background!

The Fiend Emperor's earlier conversations with Dan Zhu had only given him bits and pieces of information about that age. Just how does he know more than me?

Gonggong also recovered from his daze just then, replying, "There is no harm in telling you this. In the past, Emperor Yao was replaced by Shun in his later years, and he was sealed here. However, fortunes rise and fall; Shun followed in his footsteps in his later years and was overtaken by Yu the Great, who became more and more powerful over time. Yu the Great subdued me. Then, he used Emperor Yao and Shun's seal, drawing from its power to set up this seal. However, I am certain he never even dreamed

that one day, there would be an idiot who would bring Dan Zhu's soul here so I could use it to absorb Emperor Yao's power, hahahaha!"

The Fiend Emperor's expression grew ashen. He was the fool this guy was speaking of. You bastard, kill me if you wish, but how can you humiliate me like this?!

Zu An sighed in admiration. He hadn't expected Emperor Yao's ending to be so tragic. Emperor Yao had first been sealed by Shun, and then been used by Yu the Great to create another seal. In the end, he had become Gonggong's food...

As he thought about the details, his expression suddenly changed. Why is this guy patiently telling me all of these things?

Yan Xuehen also realized something. She quickly cried out in alarm, saying, "Be careful! He is stalling for time to recover his strength!"

Zu An quickly said through ki, "Fiend Emperor, hurry and do something!"

At the same time, he gave the three women a look. The Fiend Emperor was going to take the lead here and fight it out against these people. They had to see if they could take advantage of this situation once both sides took each other out.

And yet, a second later, the Fiend Emperor cupped his hands toward Gonggong, exclaiming, "I am willing to take your respected self on as my master and work diligently for your sake!"

Zu An's entire group was speechless.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince also looked at this father he had revered ever since he was little, completely in shock. In that instant, he felt as if something important inside him had collapsed.

Zu An thought he might have misheard at first. However, when he snapped out of his daze, he felt as if he would go crazy.

Hey, big boss, don't you have any integrity?

Chapter 1468: Want To Date, But Scared of Getting F*cked?

Who was the Fiend Emperor? He was the only one in the world comparable to the human emperor Zhao Han, even though many believed he was a bit weaker. Otherwise, the Fiend races wouldn't have been defeated in the great war and pushed back into a harsher land.

However, that was mostly what humans believed. The Fiend races almost all viewed the Fiend Emperor as the more powerful one. After all, he had greater seniority and experience, as he had lived longer. Thus, they all believed their defeat had been due to many other reasons, and not because the Fiend Emperor they revered wasn't good enough.

The debate over who was the strongest had already gone on for a long, long time. However, both sides believed that the two were on the same level. Even if there was some difference, it wouldn't be too big.

And yet, someone so unrivaled had actually sworn their loyalty to another so easily?

Forget about the Golden Crow Crown Prince, even Zu An, Yan Xuehen, and the others were completely stunned.

Yun Jianyue thought back to when she had invaded the imperial palace. Back then, Zhao Han hadn't even been there physically, and yet he had managed to injure her seriously. Now, someone of the same level was wagging his tail at another person?

Even though the Fiend Emperor expressed loyalty on the surface, they all knew that it was because he had already sensed that the difference in strength was too great. He was doing this to save his own life.

However, that was what Yun Jianyue found the hardest to understand. A real manly man wouldn't yield to anything in their path to cultivation. Even though she herself wasn't a man, she shared the same mindset.

Her cultivation was far weaker than the Fiend Emperor's, and yet there was no way she would bow down here and surrender. Then, why had the Fiend Emperor, someone who had achieved so much in the world of cultivation, actually chosen to yield like this? He didn't have the willpower of the strong at all!

You're an embarrassment to all cultivators!

But just how did you become one of the strongest cultivators in the world if you've never had the willpower of the strong?

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo even began to question life itself a bit. They couldn't understand the scene before their eyes at all.

Zu An felt as if he were watching 'The Mummy Returns'. The main character, alongside the big boss High Priest Imhotep, had gone into the Scorpion King's Tomb. At first, the main character had thought that a powerful being like Imhotep at his side could take on a share of the pressure. But who could have thought that the other person would choose to join the enemy?!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince looked at his father, feeling shock, despair, and then strong disdain.

How did this old man freaking teach me ever since I was little?

He told me I should have the willpower of the strong! He always preached that to me in a high-sounding and dignified manner, and yet when he's facing someone truly strong, this is how he acts?

Although he ridiculed his father inwardly, a second later, he also knelt down and said, "Deity Gonggong, this junior is willing to serve you diligently as well!"

Faced with the scene before them, Xiang Liu and Fuyou widened their eyes in disbelief. Gonggong was also a bit shocked, but he burst into mad laughter a moment later. "Hahaha, not bad, not bad. A wise man submits to circumstances. As I have just returned to the world, I just happen to need subordinates to help me expand and open up new territory. In the future, you will have your share of benefits too."

When he saw the obsequious smile on the Golden Crow Crown Prince's face, Zu An felt incredible disdain, thinking, As expected of father and son. Their servile appearances are the same!

Uh, well, right now... If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

He was already wondering how he could express even more sincerity than the Golden Crow father and son when Gonggong's eyes suddenly narrowed. Gonggong stared at him and exclaimed, "I can feel it, I can feel it! You have Yu the Great's energy on you!"

You have successfully trolled Gonggong for +444 +444 +444...

Zu An was speechless.

What the hell is going on now? If everyone else can join the other side, why am I the only one who can't?!

And what the heck is up with this 'Yu the Great's energy' thing?

Don't tell me I'm the main character designated by the Mandate of Heaven, that I'm Yu the Great's reincarnation?

He had read a lot of stories in his previous world. He couldn't help but think of such things in the current situation.

"Your majesty must have misunderstood! Who knows how many tens of thousands of years there are between me and Yu the Great? How could I possibly have his energy?" Zu An quickly explained.

"Tens of thousands of years? How many years has it already been?" Gonggong asked, looking perplexed. He was clearly shocked by just how much time had passed.

"Run!" Zu An suddenly cried, taking the chance to grab the three women. He immediately used his instant movement skill to flee.

The closest to him was the Fiend Emperor, but he didn't stop him. Instead, he even inconspicuously moved out of the way a bit. He didn't want to have any conflict with Zu An's group at the moment.

The giant bear Fuyou snorted loudly, then rushed forth to chase after Zu An's party. His heavy body made the entire hall tremble.

Meanwhile, Xiang Liu stood in place without moving. The first reason was because of his higher status; he wasn't willing to lower himself to such a level. The second was that he had to protect Gonggong, who hadn't been completely revived yet. However, The Fiend Emperor's slight movement didn't escape his notice.

Yun Jianyue raised a hand behind her. Countless hidden weapons flew out from her sleeves, all excellent items from the Holy Sect that carried shocking destructive power. Usually, she was proud and aloof and felt it beneath her to use them. However, as the enemy was too powerful, she abandoned her misgivings.

Fuyou roared. His arms swept outward, easily sending the hidden weapons flying.

At the same time, Yan Xuehen activated a formation. Light flickered and flashed like a string of powerful flash bombs, temporarily blinding those present.

Ever since she had entered the palace, she had quietly set up some rune formations while walking. She had originally intended to use them against the Fiend Emperor, but now, she had to employ them to escape the unexpected situation.

Fuyou was caught off guard and instinctively closed his eyes. However, that meant he couldn't completely avoid the incoming weapons, so many of them hit his body and inflicted fiery pain.

Yu Yanluo took the chance to activate the Holy Pearl, using the earth element to make the palace's ceiling collapse.

The tomb had initially been protected by ancient defense formations that made it nearly indestructible. Just then, however, Gonggong had already sucked Emperor Yao's power out of it. That very power was what the rune formations of the palace were built on. Without the formations, Yu Yanluo easily accomplished her objective.

Even someone as powerful as Fuyou ended up being covered in grime and dirt from the falling earth. By the time he broke out from the ruins, Zu An's group had already fled into the distance.

Fuyou roared in frustration, chasing them angrily.

...

Meanwhile, Xiang Liu waved his hand. The dirt above his head seemed to be blocked by an invisible barrier, and not a speck landed on him.

The Fiend Emperor also released an invisible wave of energy, preventing the dirt from hitting him. His eyes narrowed a bit as he looked at Gonggong. Gonggong didn't do a thing from start to finish, and even the dirt ended up being blocked by Xiang Liu. Could it be...

Xiang Liu frowned a bit, saying, "I seem to have sensed Nuwa's energy just now."

"Indeed, I can sense it too," Gonggong said as he looked in the direction Zu An's group had disappeared in. The red lights deep within his skull's eye sockets drifted around as he said, "Interesting. I thought they were just some ants at first, but I didn't expect all of them to be so outstanding."

The Fiend Emperor was shocked. First, it was Yu the Great; now it was Nuwa? Why hadn't Zu An's group died yet?!

The Golden Crow Crown Prince, on the other hand, felt calmer. If Zu An had just been an ordinary person, and yet managed to ambush a Mr. Perfect like him, his vast ego wouldn't be able to take it.

However, if Zu An were some sort of reincarnated deity, being defeated by him wouldn't be that hard to accept in the end.

"You should chase after them too, but be sure to capture them alive," Gonggong ordered. Previously, Fuyou alone would have been enough, but one person in the group had Yu the Great's aura, while the other had Nuwa's aura. There were just too many variables, so he sent Xiang Liu too just in case.

Of course, he could send the newly-defected Fiend Emperor, but what if the Fiend Emperor and those people worked together? Fuyou would be in danger then. As such, in the end, he felt that Xiang Liu was the more suitable choice.

Xiang Liu gave the Fiend Emperor and his son a look, feeling a bit of concern. However, he had always been meticulous in thought. He quickly realized that, as his master had made such arrangements, he had to have his own thoughts. As such, he quickly said before disappearing into the distance, "Understood!"

When Xiang Liu left, the Fiend Emperor stood to the side. He had a respectful expression on the surface; however, he was secretly examining Gonggong. He was starting to feel eager to challenge Gonggong.

Gonggong's crystal skull suddenly looked at the Fiend Emperor, remarking with an amused expression. "What, do you want to use this chance while they aren't here to attack me?"

The Fiend Emperor shivered. At that instant, he could barely resist the temptation to attack. He could tell that Gonggong was still in the process of recovering. Otherwise, Zu An's group wouldn't have been able to escape at all. However, Gonggong's calm demeanor made him uncertain as well.

This was a classic instance of wanting to date, but also being scared of getting f*cked.

Chapter 1469: Power of Dragon Veins

He's still recovering right now. Without Xiang Liu and Fuyou as his guards, and with the crown prince to help me, there should be a high chance of success.

But why is he so calm? That shouldn't be the case!

If this Gonggong was so powerful and well-known in ancient times, and he even has powerful subordinates like Xiang Liu and Fuyou, he's definitely not stupid. In that case, why did he make Xiang Liu leave, remaining all alone with me?

Could it be that his strength has already recovered to the point that he can subdue me? Is that why he isn't scared of me?

Or maybe he's using this as a chance to test me, and Xiang Liu is actually just hiding nearby?

In an instant, countless thoughts appeared in the Fiend Emperor's mind. In the end, he decided not to do anything. After all, the aura Gonggong had displayed was just way too frightening. He felt that Gonggong definitely had some hidden cards yet to play.

That was why even though Gonggong hadn't completely recovered, he didn't dare to take such a big risk. Instead, he replied, "Master must be joking. This subordinate doesn't dare!"

In the past, the Golden Crow Crown Prince had always seen large numbers of subordinates bowing down at the Fiend Emperor's feet. Now that he saw his father being so submissive in front of another, he suddenly felt extremely weary inside.

Hmph, what willpower of the strong? It's all fake. Only strength matters.

If you're stronger than others, of course you can retain your so-called willpower of the strong. If you're weaker, what else can you do but act like an obedient grandson?

After he had all those thoughts, his perplexed expression immediately became much steadier.

"I expected as much." Gonggong harrumphed. He continued to take in and release ki, his body becoming more and more solid by the moment.

When had the Fiend Emperor ever been looked down on like this before? He felt wronged and furious, but he was a shrewd person and didn't show it at all. He only quietly looked in the direction Zu An had left in.

They had clearly been enemies before, but now, for some reason, he was hoping that they could create some kind of a miracle.

...

However, Zu An's group wasn't in a good situation at all. The tomb was just too big, and they didn't know where to run to either. Even though they used all sorts of traps and mechanisms to deter their pursuer, Fuyou was still an earth immortal. The difference in strength was just too great.

"Little An, running forever like this won't be a solution either. Should we turn around and just risk it all against him?" Yun Jianyue asked nervously.

"And what would we even use to risk it all?" Yan Xuehen retorted, practically dousing her with cold water. Even though this Fuyou couldn't compare to the Fiend Emperor or Zhao Han, for better or for worse, he was still an earth immortal. If they fought, the group wouldn't last for very long, let alone win.

"The Sun Slaying Bow! We've even shot down suns before. They were all much stronger than this Fuyou," Yun Jianyue replied instinctively.

"We'll get rid of Fuyou, but what about the others?" Yan Xuehen replied coldly. There was only one special arrow left. Dealing with Fuyou naturally wouldn't be a problem, but they would still have to deal with the more powerful Xiang Liu, the Fiend Emperor, and even Gonggong. It would be way too much of a waste to use it on him.

"Then what do we do?" Yun Jianyue asked in annoyance. In all her years, she had never felt as dejected as in this Unknown Region.

"Ah Zu definitely has a way," Yu Yanluo said, looking at Zu An with a gentle expression.

Yun Jianyue didn't believe that to be the case. She thought, Even though this youngster is pretty strong, even with his assortment of skills, they can only make him about as strong as me in my current state. How can he deal with an earth immortal?

Is this another instance of women losing their minds after falling in love?

However, she never could have expected that the stone cold woman beside her would also be looking at Zu An with extraordinary confidence. The sight left her a bit shaken.

A loud laugh rang out, and Fuyou's massive body appeared, blocking their path. He taunted Zu An, "Kid, where are you going to run off to now?"

Zu An smiled. His previously nervous expression disappeared without a trace. Instead, there was a trace of mockery on his face as he replied, "Who said I was running? I just wanted to bait you here."

Fuyou was stunned. Then, he grumbled in his low voice, "Damn brat, have you gone crazy?"

Zu An didn't waste his breath either. His hands made a strange gesture as he exclaimed, "Descending Dragon Eighteen Palms!"

Yu Yanluo blinked. She asked the two women beside her, "Big sisters are knowledgeable, so do the two of you know what kind of skill this Descending Dragon Eighteen Palms is?"

Even after thinking for a long time, she couldn't recall hearing about such a skill from anywhere. She felt embarrassed by her own lack of knowledge. However, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both leaders of their respective factions, and grandmasters at that. Perhaps they had heard of the skill before.

When they saw the expectant look in Yu Yanluo's eyes, Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exchanged a look. They both felt their faces heat up as they replied, "The name is impressive, but we haven't heard of it either."

"His hand seal does not seem to be doing anything, and there are flaws everywhere. It looks a bit like..." Yan Xuehen began to say something, but then stopped.

"Like a scammer from the streets," Yun Jianyue finished bluntly.

How could they know that the hand seal was just a movement Zu An had seen actors perform on television?

Zu An took a step forward. Suddenly, all sorts of hidden runes in the surroundings activated, extending in all directions. Soon afterward, loud rumbles quickly came from the distant mountains. All those present were stunned. Suddenly, it was as if the entire mountain had come alive.

"Nothing more than a farce!" Fuyou snorted and pounced forward. The wind that accompanied his charge made it hard for Zu An's group to even breathe.

Suddenly, the walls off to the side broke open, and a giant yellow dragon flew out. It had a massive head with terrifying teeth, sharp claws, and many scales covering its body.

"Is this the dragon energy of this mountain's vein?" Yan Xuehen exclaimed, widening her eyes in shock.

She had some skill in rune formations, so she naturally knew that some great mountain veins had dragon vein legends. If cultivators trained there, they would achieve twice the results with half the effort. If an imperial tomb of a dynasty were placed there, the vein could extend the fate of an entire country, bringing them long-term prosperity.

However, that only existed in legends; no one had seen it before. Even Yan Xuehen had thought that dragon veins were nothing more than a vague and nebulous concept. She hadn't expected to actually see one for herself today.

Fuyou was also caught unprepared. His fist surged with red radiance as he sent it smashing forward. The golden dragon clashed with the red light, releasing a blast of dazzling radiance. The entire tunnel quaked and shook. If not for the fact that the tomb's defensive formations were still somewhat effective, they would have all been buried alive.

"Hmph, is that all?" Fuyou called out; he had only felt his palms become a bit numb. The power of the attack was great, but it wasn't enough to threaten him.

However, Zu An's expression remained firm. Countless golden dragon auras rushed out from the surrounding walls, ceiling, and ground. Every single one contained mighty power, surrounding and attacking Fuyou.

Just then, Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen's expressions changed as well. If they were in Fuyou's place, they might have been instantly ripped to shreds by the endless streams of dragon energy!

Most importantly, Zu An had only just recently reached the master rank. Why was he able to bring forth such a powerful attack?

Yan Xuehen was suddenly shaken. She remembered that when they had arrived at the mountain range and Zu An observed the shape of the mountain, he had commented that this place contained a powerful dragon vein.

It was already quite difficult for an ordinary spiritual mountain to have a single dragon vein; and yet, this place's mountain range undulated up and down continuously. So it was actually hiding so many dragon veins! That was why Zu An could borrow such great power.

Besides that, it was all probably because of 'One Drop of Heaven's Essence', wasn't it? Didn't that mean that in the future, as long as he was in a dragon vein, he would become comparable to an earth immortal?

The two women both felt a bit dizzy. If news of such a thing got out, it could shock the entire world!

It was one thing for them to know, as they were close to him, but the other powers wouldn't hesitate to rope him in. If they couldn't rope him in, they would definitely do everything they could to eliminate him. That was especially true for Zhao Han and the Fiend Emperor.

Yu Yanluo's eyes shone brightly. You're so handsome! When she first met Ah Zu, she had seen him as a young and immature little boy. Now, he was already a big, mature man who could be relied on! She thought, Oh my, why am I acting like this?

Dragon energy swirled all around them, and endless golden dragons attacked Fuyou.

Fuyou roared in anger. He had taken the most direct route, so he couldn't avoid all the golden dragons. He could only use his arms and legs, releasing streaks of red light to destroy the golden dragons. However, whenever he destroyed one, another quickly took its place. Even with his cultivation, he found it a bit hard to take them on.

Soon afterward, his body was repeatedly pierced by the golden dragons. One after another, spurts of blood burst out of him, causing him to roar unceasingly.

Unfortunately, he had just been revived and hadn't fully recovered his strength yet. As he was now covered in injuries, his movements grew slower and slower. His injuries became greater and greater in number as well.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both excited. They hadn't expected Zu An to actually be able to kill someone at the earth immortal level!

It was different from killing the Golden Crows before. That had been achieved through relying on the Sun Slaying Bow's power, as well as the support of Spirit Mountain Ten Shamans and the three women.

This time, even though Zu An was also borrowing the power of the dragon veins, One Drop of Heaven's Essence was something he had learned himself, so it was still his own skill.

Just as Fuyou was about to be finished, a white figure flashed over. Nine white figures immediately appeared, blocking all of the incoming dragon energy around him.

"Disperse!" Xiang Liu called out. Two kinds of light, green and black, swirled around him. A powerful domain emerged, destroying all of the nearby dragon energy.

Favorite

Chapter 1470: Heaven Never Bars One's Way

"Xiang Liu!" Zu An and the others exclaimed, instantly recognizing the new arrival. Xiang Liu looked extremely delicate, but he was actually much stronger than the tough-looking Fuyou.

Xiang Liu's gaze swept over them in surprise. He supported Fuyou while remarking, "Hey, how can you be so careless?"

"There's something strange about that brat!" Fuyou spat. His entire body was covered in all sorts of injuries, and he seemed somewhat weakened. He shot Zu An a glare, although there was a hint of fear in his eyes. Just then, he really had tasted death.

Xiang Liu looked at Zu An curiously, saying, "So little brother was actually so formidable. I really made an error in judgment earlier."

Zu An said, "Your majesty's bearing also leaves me in admiration. As we carry mutual respect, how about we just stop things here?"

Seeing as I've been holding up both of Gonggong's subordinates here for so long, the Fiend Emperor should be alone with him. Together with the Golden Crow Crown Prince to help him, they should be able to deal with that guy, right?

When Xiang Liu returns and sees that something has happened to his master, he'll definitely be furious. He'll definitely go all out against the Fiend Emperor to get revenge after, and the result will be one dead, one injured.

Then, if we show up at the very end, won't we have the last laugh?

Sigh, I really am a genius!

"You seem to look quite confident," Xiang Liu said in surprise. "Did you think that by stalling me, the Fiend Emperor would act against our master?"

Zu An shivered inwardly. He carefully controlled his expression, thinking, Is this guy a freaking mind reader? At the same time, he asked probingly, "Are you not worried at all?"

Xiang Liu chuckled. "Why would I be worried? On the contrary, you should be more concerned about that companion of yours."

Even though he knew that the two sides looked united, but were actually divided at heart, the two had still formed an alliance previously.

Zu An instantly felt discouraged. Was Gonggong really already so strong that the Fiend Emperor couldn't win, even when Gonggong hadn't made a complete recovery yet?

Xiang Liu slowly walked over, saying, "The dragon energy summoning skill you used just now was quite interesting. Unfortunately, a large portion of the dragon energy has been used on Fuyou, so it will not be able to deal with me."

After all, Fuyou was also at the earth immortal rank. Seriously injuring him would require a huge amount of power. Meanwhile, the dragon energy wasn't endless. It was already much weaker than before, and it would take some time to recover.

Xiang Liu didn't give Zu An any time to react. As soon as he finished speaking, two streaks of divine radiance, one black and one green, shot at Zu An.

Fortunately, after Zu An had arrived in this world, he had always been wandering along the edge of life and death. His strength wasn't necessarily the greatest, but his fighting experience was definitely top-tier. Even though Xiang Liu had still sounded kind on the surface, Zu An had remained alert.

He swiftly used 'Descending Dragon Eighteen Palms', summing the dragon energy to rush at the two incoming divine radiances. A huge explosion ensued.

Xiang Liu staggered, while Zu An flew backward and slammed into a wall, his body buried in a pile of rubble. Zu An's cultivation was still very far from that of an earth immortal. The fact that he could almost end Fuyou's life through the dragon energy was already something to be proud of.

However, it was precisely because of that battle that too much of the dragon energy had been used up. Furthermore, Xiang Liu was even more powerful than Fuyou.

Xiang Liu clicked his tongue in wonder, saying, "You were actually able to react in that instant even with your cultivation rank. That level of combat and reactive strength is difficult to find throughout the entire world." Apart from that, what left him even more surprised was that his attacks were poisonous, but Zu An didn't seem to be affected at all.

Zu An crawled out of the pile of rubble and spat out a mouthful of sand. Sometimes, being praised by an enemy wasn't something to be happy about.

Because Xiang Liu had just attacked without warning while speaking, Yan Xuehen was worried that Zu An would end up in trouble again, and that Xiang Liu would hurt him. As such, she harrumphed and thrust her Flying Snow Sword at Xiang Liu.

"Your sword technique is not bad, but unfortunately, your cultivation is lacking," Xiang Liu commented while deflecting the sword with a single finger, neutralizing its sharp strikes one after another.

The recoil that traveled back to Yan Xuehen through the sword made her internal energies stir, and caused her sword strikes to slow down.

Then, Xiang Liu seized an opportunity to catch her sword between his fingers. A wave of black and green energy rushed along the sword, forcing back the cold energy on its surface and reaching the hilt almost instantly.

Yan Xuehen naturally knew the attack was poisonous. She wanted to let go of her sword, but a strange suction force latched on to her and prevented her from escaping.

Fortunately, just then, Yun Jianyue took out the Empress Lantern, briefly interrupting Xiang Liu. She then took the chance to move close to Yan Xuehen, grabbing her and pulling her back.

"Thank you!" Yan Xuehen exclaimed. In the past, she would have cursed her nemesis and asked why Yun Jianyue would save her. However, after everything they had gone through, she was already used to it.

Before Yun Jianyue had a chance to reply, her expression suddenly changed, as Xiang Liu recovered. He opened his mouth and fired a streak of black energy that flew toward the Empress Lantern. The brightly shining Empress Lantern instantly grew dim as if it had been blown out, falling out of the air.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were both stunned. They had both lost their connection to their respective treasures at the same time. Xiang Liu seemed to be able to corrode the ki around magic weapons.

Xiang Liu raised his hand. The two women suddenly felt the presence of danger. Unfortunately, their internal energies were disrupted and they couldn't evade.

Fortunately, Yu Yanluo rushed forward. She used the Dragonsnake's Nine Transformations to activate the power of the Holy Pearl. A deep yellow light appeared in her eyes.

"Nuwa's power?" Xiang Liu exclaimed in surprise. A layer of petrification quickly appeared on the surface of his body.

Just as quickly, however, green and black energies moved around his body, undoing the petrification wherever they passed. He couldn't help but say with a sigh, "If we were at the same cultivation rank, I would not have been your match."

As soon as he finished speaking, he instantly appeared next to Yu Yanluo. He didn't want to give her another chance to use the Medusa's Eye.

Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were grandmasters, however. They had already recovered in the short time Yu Yanluo bought for them. They quickly worked together to ward off Xiang Liu. However, the two both thought nervously, Why isn't Ah Zu coming to help us yet? We can't hold on for much longer!

Zu An had wanted to help out earlier, but as soon as he got up, he had been stunned once again. He had turned around to see that there was a room beyond the crushed wall behind him. Inside, there was something that resembled an altar. More importantly, there was a groove in the altar that looked somewhat familiar.

He was startled. The group had struggled against Gonggong's subordinates alone; what of the even more frightening Gonggong?

There's no way to succeed in this type of situation at all!

But this doesn't make sense.

Something as terrifying as Gonggong definitely has something that can counter him.

What about those golden whips from before?

No, that was just the power Emperor Yao left.

According to what Gonggong said, several other things were arranged by Yu the Great. Then...

He took out the pocket-sized Nine Cauldron and placed it into the altar's groove. The ninth Nine Cauldron sank into it, releasing a translucent divine light. The entire altar shone.