

Immortal 1481

Chapter 1481: Is A Thousand Miles Far?

Just do it!

At that moment, Zu An had already begun to recall the Dongfeng missiles from his previous world. He actually started to feel some regret that as an online keyboard warrior, he had mostly neglected military matters. That was why his knowledge regarding weapons wasn't that much greater than an ordinary person's. He wasn't like some other big shots, who knew every detail about the most advanced and sophisticated weapons of different countries.

After thinking about it for some time, he decided that if he wanted power and speed to the point that the Fiend Emperor couldn't dodge it, he had to go with the hypersonic Dongfeng-17.

Almost as soon as he began to imagine it, the surrounding air rippled like water. A strange weapon slowly emerged right before the women's eyes. Its head was sleek and flat, resembling an enlarged arrowhead, but the object was much larger and more complex than an arrow.

What is that thing?

The three women immediately sensed a terrifying aura from the object. Their expressions changed. Their instincts as powerful cultivators told them that it was enough to threaten their lives.

The Fiend Emperor's expression also changed. Where was this guy getting so many strange weapons? That gatling bodhisattva or whatever it was had already scared him a bit. Thus, he knew he couldn't let Zu An do what he wanted. He charged forward again, planning to stop Zu An before he could use the item.

However, Zu An had already anticipated the move, and the chariot evaded in midair.

The Sun Goddess' Golden War Chariot was an item that carried the sun from east to west each morning. It was capable of reaching shocking speeds. Even though this one was an imitation, it was already strong enough to evade, reaching a safe distance.

The Fiend Emperor missed, which made him feel absolutely terrible. His opponent was clearly much weaker than him; as long as he closed the distance, he could finish Zu An within three moves. However, Zu An constantly brought out something strange that allowed him to escape. He was only at the master rank, so why did he have so many pseudo-deity-grade objects?

Suddenly, the Fiend Emperor was horrified. He recalled what Yu the Great had mentioned. Could it be that this was the benefit of receiving the world's recognition?

As there was no way for him to fight in close quarters, he tried a long range attack. The first thing he thought of was the Puppet Curse from before. He had been able to successfully restrict his opponent as soon as they entered the secret dungeon.

Still, he didn't know how Zu An had undone the move. The previous time, his soul had suffered a rebound because his technique was suddenly broken, which had almost made him suffer considerably in the fight against the Four Perils. At the very least, though, he hadn't been injured that severely.

He didn't know whether Zu An's method of undoing the seal was single-use, or whether it could be repeated. After some hesitation, he didn't take the risk. This brat has all kinds of skills. If my soul gets hit by a rebound now, I might just die here.

For the first time, he regretted giving the crown prince the Sun Slaying Bow. Otherwise, he would have brought it out and shot down his opponent already.

While he was feeling conflicted, a Dongfeng-17 had already taken form. However, Zu An wasn't satisfied with just one. If he wanted Dongfeng to purge the earth, how could just a single missile achieve his goal?

Thus, he continued using the Rune Weapon Chart. Another dozen or so missiles began to appear in the air behind him.

In an instant, Zu An suddenly felt his body grow weak. He felt as if he were a robust man who was thrown into a neglected harem of three thousand. At first, it felt great, but eventually, he was completely emptied out, feeling as if he would turn into a mummy.

He was starting to feel a bit alarmed. He had known that making the weapons wouldn't come without a price, but at this point, he was worried that his blood essence would be sucked dry. That would be too great of a loss.

As such, he frantically used the Primordial Origin Sutra and all his other methods to absorb the ki around him. If he could absorb it, he did, including the remaining power of the dragon vein.

He had to admit that because heaven and earth had just been isolated from each other, the ki in the Unknown Region was countless times purer than that of the outside world. That was why he was able to endure such consumption. If he were outside, he wouldn't dare to do such a thing; otherwise, he would have already been completely emptied out.

Even so, he discovered that it still wasn't enough. He quickly asked the three women, "Give me your strength, hurry!"

The three women were close enough to him that they had sensed his entire body becoming like a black hole, swallowing all the ki around him. They were extremely shocked and worried. When they heard that, however, they didn't hesitate and pressed their soft bodies against him, intending to pass on all their ki without holding back.

Their expressions changed as soon as their bodies made contact. They felt their ki flow out as if a dam had burst, even before they could do anything! Thus, they also experienced what it felt to be completely emptied out.

If it had been anyone else, they would have suspected that person of taking the chance to suck all of their cultivation dry. However, they had already fought together so many times. Their relationship was special, so they naturally didn't have such worries. Instead, they were worried that Zu An wouldn't have enough, so they tried to offer up everything they had, letting Zu An absorb everything frantically.

Almost instantly, they felt their bodies grow weak. Their faces were red, and they found it difficult to stand still. They could only barely support themselves by leaning against him. However, the powerful absorption force emanating from Zu An's body caused their ki to drain away even more quickly, leaving them gasping for breath and dripping with sweat.

If the Fiend Emperor had seen such a thing at any other time, his masculine instincts would make him feel extremely unhappy. However, he couldn't waste time with such thoughts, because all of his fine hairs stood on end as he felt a lethal threat coming from the strange weapons.

He didn't dare to show any negligence. Golden flames surrounded his entire body, and a giant Golden Crow projection appeared behind him. His eyes flickered with red light. He spread out his vast wings, then released a shrill scream at his opponent.

Zu An's expression was cold as he stood on the war chariot, looking down on his opponent like a judge. With a single thought, flames ignited at the ends of the Dongfeng missiles. Smoke surged from their tails, and they launched into the air one by one.

The three women's bodies were already completely limp, and they leaned against Zu An's legs. They were utterly shocked as they watched the scene unfold with wide eyes.

Dongfeng lights up the skies with blossoming flowers and a thousand trees, then descends like a rain of stars!

Zu An backed up, quickly driving the Golden War Chariot away.

As the flaming 'arrows' flew toward him with tremendous speed, the Fiend Emperor's eyes narrowed. With a wave of his hand, an enormous wave of golden sword radiance slashed outward.

Boom!

Engulfed in a gigantic mushroom cloud, everything within several dozen li was razed to the ground.

Even though Zu An's group had already retreated as quickly as they could, the terrifying blast wave extended outward at a visible rate in all directions. They were shaken up even while on the Golden War Chariot. The six dragons wailed in pain.

Zu An shivered, sending the war chariot even farther away.

Shit... I wasn't affected by nuclear radiation, was I? Doesn't radiation affect childbirth?

But we're all cultivators and are still vigorous and healthy. Our cells are extremely strong, so it's different from the ordinary people of my previous world.

He felt somewhat relieved when he thought of that.

"Did the Fiend Emperor die?" the three women wondered, their mouths hanging open as they looked at the terrifying mushroom cloud. They struggled to remain seated in the war chariot.

What kind of weapon was that? How were the 'arrows' so powerful? They were already comparable to legendary forbidden curses!

Zu An shook his head and said, "The moment the explosion happened, he instantly traveled through the air and moved far away."

The women sighed in regret. Yan Xuehen said worriedly, "The earth immortal rank is truly amazing. They can even escape the boundaries of space, moving a thousand miles away if they want to. That is why almost no one can kill an earth immortal."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Little An has done pretty well already. After all, who would even be brave enough to think about killing an earth immortal? Even if we haven't killed the Fiend Emperor, your power is already great enough to shock the world."

Zu An knew she was trying to make him feel better. His expression became a bit strange as he replied, "Who says I can't kill him?"

Was a thousand miles far? Earth immortals could instantly move a thousand miles away, but Dongfeng's express delivery had a targeting range of several thousand miles!

As soon as he finished speaking, several remaining Dongfeng-17s suddenly rushed out of the mushroom cloud and rose into the air, disappearing into the horizon almost instantly.

Chapter 1482: You Just Had to Go for the Mental Blow Too?

"Flying swords?" Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue exclaimed in surprise.

Upon reaching the highest level of the grandmaster rank and cultivating a yin soul, a cultivator could attach that yin soul to a flying sword and use it to kill even from a thousand miles away. At their cultivation rank, the two grandmasters could use the flying sword skill, but their range was limited. It wouldn't be as effective even a moderate distance away.

However, Zu An was clearly at the beginning of the master rank. At his current level, he was still cultivating the hero form. He hadn't even finished a single one of the seven forms and was far, far away from the three souls' life soul. And yet, he could control a flying sword a thousand miles away?

How could they know that there was a radar diagram in Zu An's mind? It was likely because he had materialized the complete Dongfeng-17 system, and the radar was a necessary component in order to truly make use of the missiles. As such, he had simply locked onto the Fiend Emperor using the radar. The remaining 17 Dongfeng-17 missiles followed the Fiend Emperor on their own.

A thousand miles away, the air rippled and the Fiend Emperor reappeared. However, unlike his usual confident and arrogant demeanor, he was battered and exhausted. His yellow robes were in tatters, making him look like a common roadside beggar.

No, he was even worse off than a beggar at the moment. His clothes were filled with holes, and blood dripped out of them; he had clearly been injured quite badly.

In truth, he had just barely managed to move out of the way. Even though he had avoided the nuclear warhead's explosion, he couldn't completely avoid getting hurt. He shivered inwardly when he recalled what had just happened.

What were those flaming arrows? Why did they have such destructive power?

If he hadn't been an earth immortal who could control space, he might have just perished right there and then.

That brat Zu An was clearly only at the master rank. Normally, there should have been no way for him to have such terrifying offensive methods, right? The Fiend Emperor was shocked, unable to understand the situation.

He looked in the direction of where he had just been and sneered, remarking to himself, "Even though I do not know how he did it, master rank is just master rank in the end. I instantly moved a thousand miles away. What can he do to me now?"

For some reason, however, he still felt a strong sense of unease. He didn't ignore the feeling; at the earth immortal rank, one's sixth sense was no longer imaginary, but rather a source of true premonitions.

"I feel as if this place is still a bit unsafe," he muttered, leaping through space again as soon as he spoke. Only after moving three thousand miles away did he feel a bit at ease.

"Hmph. I am already four thousand miles away. Can he still do anything to me?" he muttered. After recovering from his earlier shock, he had regained his usual domineering nature.

The Fiend Emperor figured Zu An would definitely have had to pay a great price for using such a terrifying weapon. There was no reason to face him head on. As such, he planned to avoid Zu An for the time being, only returning to deal with him once he was overcome with weakness.

At that instant, he felt a bit of regret. If he hadn't pushed so far and had just headed to Spirit Mountain to look for the immortal medicine, he wouldn't have been forced into his current state. As soon as that thought emerged, however, he was overcome with rage.

Who was he? He was the Fiend Emperor who inspired fear and awe throughout the world! He had remained unmatched for so many years, and yet today, he had actually been forced to use real tactics by a young brat!

Zu An had been able to reach the master rank at such a young age, and his strength even exceeded the normal limits of the master rank. It was to the point that he even posed a threat to the Fiend Emperor. What would happen if he were allowed to properly grow up?

I have to end him now!

Killing intent appeared in the Fiend Emperor's eyes as he concluded that he definitely had to erase Zu An from the world.

Suddenly, he sensed something. He reflexively raised his head. He saw several specks of light suddenly appear in the air.

"Shooting stars?" he exclaimed in surprise, which gave way to puzzlement. How were there shooting stars in the daytime?

Eventually, however, he saw what the shining things were, and he was filled with horror. They were none other than the 'arrows' that had a trail of fire behind them! He tried to flee, but the 'arrows' were simply too fast, arriving next to him almost instantly. How could he know that in the world they came from, Dongfeng-17s could reach Mach 10, or ten times the speed of sound? He no longer had any time to dodge.

The Fiend Emperor's entire body erupted with powerful energy as he clashed directly with the missiles. An enormous Golden Crow image appeared behind him, its golden wings shining with light, and endless

streams of golden sword ki flew forth. His body was set ablaze with Golden Crow Sacred Fire, so intense it almost seemed solid; it encased him in a golden barrier of light.

Just then, the Dongfeng-17s struck him.

Boom!

All 17 missiles exploded at once, creating a mushroom cloud countless times larger than before. The harsh, blinding light was visible even from a thousand miles away. The enormous blast waves quickly swept through everything in the vicinity. The nearby plants and trees were vaporized on the spot, and even the hardest rocks melted into lava.

The entire world trembled. People and intelligent monsters alike felt indescribably shaken. Such terrifying eruptions had already happened several times in succession today. Could it be the very end of the world?

Zu An quickly drove the Golden War Chariot close to the site of the explosion. He warned the three women ahead of time, "All of you need to protect yourselves with your skills. Otherwise, the substances in the air will harm you, making you wish you were dead instead."

"Is it really that serious? The explosion has already ended!" Yun Jianyue replied skeptically.

"Even though the explosion has ended, the area still contains powerful radiation... Ahem, you may be wondering what radiation is. It's hard for me to explain it to you in a short amount of time. Suffice to say that it's invisible, but causes harmful changes to the body, resulting in a disease no medicine can cure," Zu An explained. He thought for a bit, then added, "On top of that, your future children might end up becoming deformed too."

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "As if there's any man in this world who could make me bear a child for him!"

Yan Xuehen's expression became unnatural as she said, "I will do no such thing either."

Despite their protests, they couldn't help but look at Yu Yanluo, each adding a layer of protection around the chariot.

Naturally, high-level cultivators had a defensive membrane around them to begin with. Furthermore, the Golden War Chariot had powerful defenses. Consequently, Zu An wasn't all that worried about the radiation anymore.

The Golden War Chariot arrived in the air above the explosion site. It has already been some time, and yet extreme heat continued to surge. Fortunately, both Zu An's party and the chariot were powerful enough to endure it.

As the thick smoke and dust gradually dissipated, they saw a massive crater below; it was clearly the aftermath of the nuclear explosion. It was countless times larger than the previous crater.

"The Fiend Emperor couldn't have survived this, could he?" Yu Yanluo asked, her voice shaking a bit. The explosion's power had really scared her badly. Let alone her, even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue had never before witnessed any weapon with such destructive force.

Zu An didn't reply. Through the radar, he had sensed that the Fiend Emperor was caught off guard and didn't have time to escape. However, the Fiend Emperor was just too strong; Zu An couldn't be certain he had successfully killed his opponent.

If the Fiend Emperor was alive, Zu An had to see him; if he was dead, Zu An had to see the corpse. Otherwise, it would be impossible to feel at ease. However, at the center of a nuclear explosion, even a corpse would be burned to ashes, right?

Zu An quickly realized he was overthinking things, as he saw a figure slowly crawl out from the surging smoke and dust. The group felt nervous. Could the Fiend Emperor even survive something like this?

When the smoke cleared a bit, they finally saw that it was indeed the Fiend Emperor. However, he was in pitiful condition. Every hair on his body, as well as his clothes, had already turned into scattered ash. However, the women didn't see anything offensive of 'that' sort, as the Fiend Emperor was barely recognizable.

Half of his body was missing, revealing bones sticking out of the remaining half, with a few strips of bloodied flesh attached. He looked like a rack of pork ribs, the sort that hung in the meat shops of Zu An's previous world. The difference was that his body was bloody in places, but charred in others. Apart from the bits of flesh that remained, he was almost more skeleton than man. His inner organs were also a mess. Only his heart seemed to still be in good shape, still throbbing weakly.

The Fiend Emperor looked up at Zu An. The brain that peeked out of his half-skeletal head looked extremely horrific.

"Hahahah, the power of your attack was indeed great. However, you were still unable to kill me. Once I recover, I will definitely reduce you to ashes. I will throw all the women around you into brothels to serve as prostitutes. Every single person with any connection to you will wish they were dead!" the Fiend Emperor snarled. However, as his tongue was already destroyed, he used his consciousness to speak directly to Zu An's group instead.

You have successfully trolled the Fiend Emperor for +1024 +1024 +1024...

His words were truly disgusting. However, there was no other way for him to vent the hatred and anger he felt. After all, he was the glorious Fiend Emperor of this generation! Apart from Zhao Han, who could just about match him, he was unrivaled in this world. And yet, right now, he had been tormented badly by an ant.

He really had been a bit too careless this time. He hadn't expected the flaming 'arrows' to be able to hit him from several thousand miles away. Now that he was prepared, he wouldn't give Zu An another chance.

Yan Xuehen's expression changed. She said, "Oh no. The Golden Crow Sacred Fire has extremely powerful healing abilities. If he escapes, we will not be able to find him again."

Yun Jianyue added nervously, "Hurry and stop him!"

Unfortunately, she knew that was wishful thinking. Forget about the fact that they had already used up all of their strength; even if they were at their strongest, they still wouldn't have been able to stop him. Earth immortals could cross space in an instant. How were they supposed to do that?

Sure enough, ripples began to appear behind the Fiend Emperor; they were clearly about to send him away. This time, Zu An could no longer materialize his weapons, and had no way of knowing where the Fiend Emperor was going.

Suddenly, however, Zu An said, "Fiend Emperor, I forgot to tell you a secret."

"What secret?" the Fiend Emperor replied. He knew Zu An was definitely up to something, but he still couldn't help but ask. Of course, however, he wasn't stupid. Half of his body was already within the void. A second later, he would be transported away, so he wasn't scared of Zu An pulling any tricks.

"That secret is..." A strange expression appeared on Zu An's face as he exclaimed, "Your wife really is great!"

He immediately used the Goldensnake King's Eye. However, he was worried that it still wouldn't be strong enough, so he also activated Fragrant Barf at the same time.

Chapter 1483: Flesh and Bones

The three women all looked at Zu An as soon as he spoke those words, their expressions unkind.

You have successfully trolled Yu Yanluo for +666 +666 +666...

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +666 +666 +666...

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +666 +666 +666...

The scene of the Second Empress being pressed beneath Zu An inadvertently appeared in the Fiend Emperor's mind. He exclaimed in shock and fury, "Impossible! You must be provoking me to make me stay behind!"

Even though that was what his reason told him, his emotions forced him to believe it. The image of the Second Empress being toyed with in all sorts of different ways filled his mind.

Nooo!

When he saw that the Fiend Emperor didn't leave, just as planned,, Zu An sighed in relief. He added fuel to the flames, adding, "Why would I lie to you? I was even on the Second Empress' bed back then..." Then, he described the details of the bed in the Second Empress' room clearly.

Whenever the Goldensnake King's Eye was used on a target, just a single look would make them think their partner had an affair with the user. The skill wasn't all that useful normally, but in such a situation, it was actually extremely useful.

Meanwhile, Fragrant Barf would make the target unable to help but fight the user to the death. Unless Zu An was certain he could win, it was unwise to use the skill too often.

However, the one Zu An was facing this time was an earth immortal. He hadn't been sure how useful the skills would be, so he had just brought them out to piss the Fiend Emperor off as much as possible.

The Fiend Emperor's hopes hit rock bottom. How could Zu An know the details so clearly unless he really had spent some time in the Second Empress' bed? Even though he already had one foot in the grave and

it had already been many years since he last spent the night in the Second Empress' room, what man could tolerate his own wife doing such a thing?

"I'm going to kill you!" he exclaimed, feeling his blood boil. He set aside all thoughts of fleeing through space, instead dragging his ruined body along the ground to lunge at Zu An.

However, Zu An was already prepared. He slowly raised the Sun Slaying Bow.

When he saw the Sun Slaying Bow, the Fiend Emperor was horrified. Why was that item in Zu An's hands?

Previously, the Golden Crow Crown Prince had had his Sun Slaying Bow taken away by a mysterious power. Not even the Fiend Emperor had been able to stop it. Then, the mysterious power had severed their connection with the Sun Slaying Bow.

Back then, the Fiend Emperor had been extremely shocked by how mysterious and great that power was. He had even vaguely suspected that what happened had been carried out by the highest will of this world. And yet now, the Sun Slaying Bow had reappeared in Zu An's hands! Could it be that the will of this world had gifted it to him?

The Fiend Emperor's entire body trembled when he thought of that. His reason told him to leave quickly, but he was still completely overwhelmed by anger. All he wanted was to kill Zu An as quickly as possible.

Even though Zu An had the Sun Slaying Bow, he didn't have any Sun Slaying Arrows. Furthermore, he had just summoned so many powerful weapons, and he had even made the three women help him. They all lay helpless on the war chariot, and Zu An was likely also nearly at the end of his strength. He probably couldn't summon such ridiculous weapons anymore, so the Fiend Emperor believed that he had a good opportunity.

If he had been clear-headed, he definitely wouldn't have taken such a huge risk. However, he was under the effects of 'Fragrant Barf' and 'Goldensnake King's Eye', which meant his mind was filled only with thoughts of killing Zu An. Now that he had found another reason, that desire had magnified endlessly, to the point that he truly felt he had to kill Zu An.

When Zu An saw the Fiend Emperor rush at him, he knew he didn't have the extra strength to produce another powerful Dongfeng missile. It was to the extent that he couldn't even create an ordinary weapon. However, he still had weapons he didn't need to materialize!

A black glint flickered in the center of his palm, and he put the Poisonous Prick on the bowstring.

The first reason he didn't use the last Sun Slaying Arrow was that it used up way too much of his strength. At the moment, he couldn't supply it with any more power. The second reason was that he really didn't want to squander the last arrow just like that. After experiencing Dongfeng's baptism, the Fiend Emperor was barely clinging to his last breath.

As such, Zu An used what remained of his strength to pull back the bowstring just a bit, preparing to loose his 'arrow'.

The Fiend Emperor saw Zu An's move, but his thoughts were foggy. When he saw that it was just a small dagger, he thought to himself, Just how powerful can a trifling dagger even be? The desire to kill Zu An had already completely overtaken his mind. He would rather take some damage if it meant achieving his objective.

As Zu An released the bowstring, a streak of dark light flew forward. The Fiend Emperor clenched his teeth, turning to one side and taking the blow with the most damaged part of his body. Either way, he planned to use the Golden Crow Sacred Fire to recreate that half of his body again. A few more injuries wouldn't make that much of a difference.

Spurt!

The dark glint stabbed into the Fiend Emperor's body, then emerged from the other end. He gritted his teeth, thinking, As expected of the Sun Slaying Bow. Even though the bowstring had clearly only been drawn back a little bit and the shot had only used ten to twenty percent of its power, it was still strong enough to pierce through his body. However, that was all it did.

The Fiend Emperor quickly rushed over to the Golden War Chariot. His hands were like claws, extending toward Zu An's head. He planned to remove Zu An's head, then extract his soul. He would teach him what it meant to want death!

However, his body suddenly trembled, black runes swirling across its surface. A look of disbelief and shock spread across his face. In moments, he could no longer hold on and fell stiffly from the carriage.

Thud!

The others craned their necks to look down when they heard the Fiend Emperor land. However, they saw that he was already a corpse, left in pieces from the impact.

"The Fiend Emperor... really died?" Yu Yanluo exclaimed in disbelief.

Zu An landed the Golden War Chariot. Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen inspected the corpse on the ground. They both nodded, saying, "Yes. He could not be any more dead than this."

Even though their cultivation couldn't catch up to the Fiend Emperor's, there was no way their judgment would be wrong.

Yan Xuehen couldn't help but give Zu An a look. She exclaimed in shock, "Even though that dagger of yours isn't deity-grade, the effects are comparable. It really is an inevitable kill... Who would have thought that not even the Fiend Emperor would be an exception? Being your enemy really is an unfortunate thing."

Zu An sighed in relief, saying, "You don't have to be that worried. There's no way I'd use this to penetrate you anyway."

Yan Xuehen immediately felt her cheeks heat up. She looked at him in shame and annoyance.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +100 +100 +100...

Zu An was stunned. He thought, What is she even thinking, for her to be that angry?

However, there was no time to dwell on that. He took the bones and meat that remained of the Fiend Emperor with him. In that instant, it all started to feel a bit ridiculous. It was as if he had grabbed a handful of KFC.

He then said, "We can't stay here much longer. Let's get out of here quickly."

The three women also sensed that there was a strange, life-eroding force around them. They didn't hesitate at all and got onto the Golden War Chariot, quickly leaving the place. The carriage roared through the skies at high speed.

The three women suddenly looked at Zu An with unhappy expressions. In the end, it was Yun Jianyue who spoke up first. "Your wife is really great? Tsk tsk, Little An, you're quite similar to those 'flower-picking' scoundrels from our Holy Sect, no?"

Zu An's face heated up. He replied, "Uh, that wasn't real, but rather just a skill of mine. I used it to provoke the Fiend Emperor and keep him from escaping. You guys don't have to think too much about it..."

"Is that so?" the three women replied, clearly not believing him.

They asked him all sorts of questions about the Second Empress. Zu An had to go to great lengths in order to convince them that he and the Second Empress really didn't have anything to do with each other. Eventually, however, they finally relaxed.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but pinch his ears, saying, "To be honest, let alone the Fiend Emperor, even I would have wanted to beat him up if I had been the target of those words."

Yan Xuehen and Yu Yanluo nodded in sympathy. Zu An was about to say something when the Golden War Chariot under them suddenly broke apart, turning into specks of light in midair.

The group was caught off guard and fell. Yan Xuehen, Yun Jianyue, and Yu Yanluo had just given all of their ki to support Zu An, and then had needed to struggle to resist the radiation. How could they muster any strength to fly? They quickly plummeted through the air.

Yan Xuehen wasn't all that scared while she was falling, because she knew Zu An would save her. However, what she was curious about was which order she would be saved in.

The first one should be Yu Yanluo, right? After all, they are proper lovers, she thought. Despite her reason telling her that, she felt a bit bitter inside, almost as if she were secretly hoping for something. She didn't know why she would think such senseless things, but that was what she was thinking.

But that 'Love Is More Solid than Gold' skill has already been undone, right?

She suddenly felt a warm sensation as a sturdy arm wrapped around her. When she sensed the aura that couldn't be more familiar, she was shocked and happy. However, she suddenly panicked.

Why did he save me first? Oh no, this is bad! Little sis Yu and that witch will definitely suspect us now! How am I going to explain this to them?!

Ah Zu, you... Didn't I tell you to be a bit more mindful in front of others?

To her shock, Zu An quickly began moving his hands toward her waistband.

An explosion went off in Yan Xuehen's head, her mind going blank. She thought, What is he doing? Has he gone mad?

Perhaps because she didn't have enough strength, or she couldn't react fast enough, she couldn't stop him from undoing her waistband. Her heart immediately began to pound. She had no idea how to face him.

Chapter 1484: It's Everywhere

He's way too daring! This is completely reckless! The witch and Yu Yanluo are still here! Yan Xuehen thought, her heart beating crazily.

She reflexively glanced toward the two other women. She saw a bright red band fly out, wrapping neatly around their waists. She quickly realized that Zu An was using the Primal Skysilk to rescue the others. She couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed when she thought of that.

She was startled by that thought. Why am I having these kinds of thoughts? Isn't his skill already gone? Don't tell me that was just a trick Zu An and Mo Xi played together?

No, I saw it myself. Besides, Mo Xi wasn't his slave at that time, so there was no reason for her to work with him. Additionally, I sensed something being cut at the soul level.

"Ah!"

"Ah!"

Yan Xuehen's chaotic thoughts were quickly interrupted by two delicate cries. As she reflexively looked in their direction, her expression turned strange.

Perhaps intentionally, but perhaps not, the Primal Skysilk wrapped around Yun Jianyue and Yu Yanluo's waists in a way that made both of them simultaneously slam into each other before finally enveloping both of them. As a result, there was no way the two of them would continue falling; however, they were stuck facing each other, their bodies pressed tightly together. They were just way too close to each other!

Each of them felt a soft sensation against their chest. After being pressed against each other so tightly, it was natural that the one whose physique was a bit worse felt inferior...

Yun Jianyue's face heated up. However, she was still the Devil Sect Master. She reacted quickly, hooking her finger around the chin of the beauty before her. She remarked, "As expected of the number one beauty who has left so many men bewitched. Even a woman like me can't help but want to give you a kiss."

After her initial shock, Yu Yanluo snapped out of her daze. She had been with a man before, so how could Yun Jianyue's 'paper tactics' work on her? She reached out and gave Yun Jianyue's chest a squeeze, saying, "Big sis Yun, your physique is so amazing. Any man who married you would really be blessed."

Yun Jianyue's entire body trembled; naturally, her defenses were broken. She shot Zu An a hateful look, exclaiming, "Damn brat, are you doing this on purpose?!"

Zu An was stupefied. No wonder online posters in his previous world had always shouted for pretty young women to be stuck together. It really was an incredible sight! However, he was forced to reply, "Ahem, I really didn't. I was just in a rush to save you two, so it ended up catching both of you together."

"Then why did you go to get that stone cold woman..." Yun Jianyue muttered unhappily. However, when she saw Yan Xuehen's loosened dress and the long Primal Skysilk, she realized what had happened and swallowed her words back down. However, she still looked upset.

The group descended. Only then did they notice that the Fiend Emperor's corpse had already become a complete mess from the fall. The sight made them fall silent for a moment. After all, this was still the glorious emperor of an age, someone who had inspired awe throughout the world. The fact that he had ended up in such a state was simply too tragic.

"What do we do now?" Yan Xuehen asked, freeing herself from Zu An's arm. She was worried that the other two would notice something and quickly changed the topic. "If the Fiend races find out that you killed the Fiend Emperor, they might just hunt you down wherever you go!"

If news of the Fiend Emperor's defeat first got out, Zu An would enjoy a great reputation. However, apart from that, there wouldn't be any other benefits. Instead, it would only create problems for him.

First, it would make the human emperor Zhao Han feel wary. After all, in this world, only the Fiend Emperor was on par with him. If Zu An could kill the Fiend Emperor, didn't that mean that he could kill Zhao Han too?

Second, it would draw the attention of many hidden experts. There were many people who couldn't win against the Fiend Emperor, but could theoretically defeat Zu An. They would definitely go after Zu An for the sake of fame.

Third, even though Zu An's current cultivation was outstanding among his peers, he was only at the hero form of the master rank. That rank wasn't sufficiently intimidating to deter challengers.

Lastly, the Fiend races had many wild and ambitious individuals. They could use revenge for the Fiend Emperor as a pretext to unite all of the Fiend races. If that happened, Zu An would be in huge danger.

Yu Yanluo suggested, "Why not pretend to be the Fiend Emperor and rule the Fiend races in his place for now?" She had already separated from Yun Jianyue, her red cheeks revealing how embarrassed he was.

In the past, Zu An's impersonation of Cloudcenter Duke had been extremely successful. Yu Yanluo reflexively suggested the plan because the previous time had left her with a deep impression. However, that meant Zu An could really end up with the Second Empress. How annoying...

"Pretend to be the Fiend Emperor?" Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen both exclaimed. They had already been around him for a long time and understood him well. They knew about his 'Face of a Thousand Identities' skill, so the idea tempted them. However, after thinking about it, both women shook their heads.

"This plan is unreliable. Impersonating the Fiend Emperor might work in the short term, but you won't be able to fool those he's truly close to."

"The main problem is that the Fiend Emperor is at the earth immortal rank. Zu An cannot imitate his power, even with that skill. The Fiend King Court is filled with old monsters, and their eyes are all viciously sharp. If they recognize that you are a fake, they will act immediately."

"Besides, the Fiend Emperor nearing the end of his lifespan is something everyone knows about. The ceremony this time was to pass on the position to the crown prince. Even if you impersonated the Fiend Emperor, you couldn't keep the throne either."

...

Each of them bounced ideas off the other, speaking about all sorts of possibilities.

Zu An nodded as he listened. If it were a normal person, he could just impersonate them without too many worries, but the Fiend Emperor was too special. There would be countless eyes on him. He couldn't live openly as such a figure.

"If those options don't work, what is Ah Zu supposed to do?" Yu Yanluo asked worriedly. When she thought about the situation her lover would have to face once they left, her heart began to beat nervously.

Yun Jianyue replied with a smile, "Isn't that easy enough? You're all losing your heads with worry..."

Suddenly, she noticed something. She fell silent and looked in a certain direction. Zu An and the others followed suit.

A chubby figure ran toward Zu An's group, leaving them all stunned. He exclaimed, "You don't know how happy I am to see you guys!"

Zu An exclaimed in surprise, "Wu Liang? You didn't die?"

The one who had appeared was naturally that damn fatty Wu Liang. He said with a chuckle, "Pah pah pah, what do you mean die? That's so ominous and unlucky sounding. This young master's ancestor passed on a life-saving method that fortunately allowed me to keep my life."

Now, even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were shocked. Someone who could escape alive from Gonggong... Even though Gonggong hadn't been fully revived at the time, it was still shocking. Just how ridiculous was that life-saving method? Still, it was taboo to ask about the secrets of other cultivators. They couldn't really ask more about it.

"I saw that terrifying explosion earlier and quickly rushed over to see what happened. Then, I ran into you guys," Wu Liang said as he looked around vigilantly. "Right, how come I only see you? Where is the Fiend Emperor?"

Zu An replied, "All around you."

"What do you mean, all around me?" Wu Liang asked, sounding a bit stunned and confused about what had happened.

Zu An pointed at the ground, saying, "Look, that piece you're stepping on is part of him."

Wu Liang was bewildered, quickly leaping aside in shock.

However, Zu An simply continued to say, "That thing you're stepping on right now is also part of him. And that one, that one... All of it is."

Wu Liang was speechless.

Chapter 1485: This Fatty Is So Wise

"Fiend Emperor, you've died such a terrible death!" Wu Liang exclaimed, falling to his knees and grabbing a pile of what might have been internal organs or miscellaneous flesh. He looked as if the one who had died was his own father.

Zu An couldn't help but say, "Uh... There's no one else here. You don't have to show your loyalty or anything."

"What about the Golden Crow Crown Prince?" Wu Liang asked. He didn't get up, merely looking around frantically.

"He was sent out of the Unknown Region by the Fiend Emperor ahead of time," Zu An replied with a smile.

"Oh," Wu Liang said, immediately climbing to his feet. The tears on his face were already gone without a trace. He tossed the flesh in his hands aside nonchalantly, asking, "Is the Fiend Emperor really dead?"

Zu An was nearly dumbfounded. He replied, "Look at what condition he's in. Could he still have survived?"

Wu Liang was speechless for a moment. He moved closer, looking disdainful as he asked, "Big bro, just how did the Fiend Emperor die, and like this, no less?"

The group was stunned, as they had been wondering how to answer such a question. They hadn't managed to reach a conclusion yet.

Yun Jianyue pointed at the sky, saying, "Heavenly judgment suddenly descended, and the Fiend Emperor just ended up like that."

"Heavenly judgment?" Wu Liang repeated, looking as if his eyes would pop out.

Yun Jianyue retorted with a sneer, "Otherwise, what do you think happened? Do you think we were the ones who killed him?"

Wu Liang rubbed his hands and said with a chuckle, "Sect master must be joking."

With the Fiend Emperor's cultivation, even if another ten of them showed up, it still wouldn't be enough for them to even stand a chance. How could they possibly reduce the Fiend Emperor to such a state?

Yan Xuehen and the others had strange expressions, but they sighed inwardly in relief. They had been there when it happened, and yet they were pretending they didn't know a thing! With the difference in strength between both ends, no one would believe them even if they said Zu An had killed him.

“Was that terrifying explosion the heavenly judgment?” Wu Liang asked, feeling a twinge of fear as he looked at where the explosion had happened. After cultivating for so many years, he had never seen such terrifying destructive power before.

“Exactly. Back then, we saw several shooting stars suddenly fall from the skies, and then there was a huge mushroom cloud,” Zu An added, lying through his teeth.

“No wonder it was so powerful. So it was heavenly judgment!” Wu Liang gulped.

Previously, he had witnessed the power of those from the heavens when he was traveling with the Fiend Emperor and his son. The Golden Crow Crown Prince’s Sun Slaying Bow had been seized by a mysterious power that not even the Fiend Emperor could stop. If such a power were to summon heavenly judgment, it could very well display such tremendous strength.

“By the way, I saw two terrifying explosions. The second one was even stronger than the first. Don’t tell me there were two heavenly judgments?” Wu Liang asked as he realized something.

“Yeah. When the first heavenly judgment happened, the Fiend Emperor successfully escaped it. That was why there was a second one,” Zu An replied. His face didn’t even turn red as he spoke. The three women all felt strange, but they also knew what was most important, so they didn’t dare to laugh.

Wu Liang sighed and said, “As expected of the Fiend Emperor. He really was incredible, even able to escape heavenly judgment once.”

“You’re absolutely right,” Zu An said. “The Fiend Emperor was already invincible beneath the heavens, but he ended up coming into contact with those above the heavens.”

Wu Liang’s expression was strange. Beneath the heavens...? Above the heavens...? Could such a thing even be explained like that?

“Right, why would the Fiend Emperor suffer heavenly judgment?” he asked, unable to figure it out at all.

“How would I know? Maybe he was just too arrogant and too ugly, so he drew their disgust,” Zu An said willfully.

Wu Liang was speechless. He thought, Hey, is that something a human being should say?

Yan Xuehen also felt that Zu An’s wording was too ridiculous. She quickly said, “It might be because the Fiend Emperor desired the immortal medicine, and so the will of this world could not tolerate him.”

Wu Liang immediately expressed that he understood, but he couldn’t help but say with a sigh, “We’ve received quite a bit of information about the immortal medicine during my trip with the Fiend Emperor. It seems this world really does have an immortal medicine! Unfortunately, it has nothing to do with us.”

“You’re not going to go and look for it?” Zu An asked in surprise. Wu Liang was someone he knew to always be of the greedy sort, and yet he didn’t seem interested at all.

“Even the Fiend Emperor was blown to pieces! Would I add myself to the casualties for no reason?” Wu Liang replied, his face heating up. He had actually already gone to look for the immortal medicine after he barely escaped from Gonggong’s hands. Unfortunately, he hadn’t found anything.

Fortunately, he had eventually found some other good things, so the trip hadn't been made in vain. Of course, he couldn't tell Zu An such things. They had too many people on their side. If they had any ill intentions toward him, he'd be done for.

Yun Jianyue suddenly cried out in surprise, "Oh no, that exit might close soon!"

Perhaps because the nuclear explosion was too powerful, the entire world's spatial elements had become extremely unstable. The spatial vortex also showed signs of collapse.

All those present shivered. If the exit closed, they would be forced to remain here forever! Even though this place was rich with ki, they all had too many things to worry about in the outside world. They weren't willing to be trapped within. That wasn't even factoring in that if they really stayed behind, no one could guarantee that this entire world wouldn't be destroyed once the passage closed.

Whoosh!

Wu Liang quickly began running toward the spatial vortex with everything he had. The others hadn't expected his chubby body to actually be so nimble! However, what drew even more attention was the pair of small wings that had grown on his back.

The chubby body and small wings didn't seem to match at all. The group had no idea how they could even help him fly.

"It's a magic artifact. That damn fatty has quite a few good things," Yun Jianyue said with a sigh of admiration.

Zu An didn't have the strength to create another Golden War Chariot. He took out the Wind Fire Wheels, then picked up the three women before immediately following behind Wu Liang. Owing to the sheer speed of the Wind Fire Wheels, Zu An quickly caught up, even with the three women in tow.

Wu Liang frantically flapped the wings behind him. Huge drops of sweat slid down his chubby cheeks. When he heard the activity behind him, he turned around and just happened to see Zu An's group. His eyeballs almost popped out of their sockets.

What? Am I seeing right? Zu An has the human race's number one beauty on his back, the Devil Sect Master in his left arm, and the White Jade Sect Master in his right. Most importantly, none of them look embarrassed at all, as if they were already completely used to this.

For a man to have a woman in each arm is already enough to draw envy, let alone right now when he has three; besides, and every single one is an extraordinary beauty! Most importantly, these women aren't even in the service industry, but rather all giants of their respective fields!

Damn this Zu An, just how did he do that? Is there still any justice in this world?

If there really is heavenly judgment, this guy needs to be hacked to death! How are other men supposed to even live?!

"What are you looking at?" Zu An couldn't help but ask, noticing Wu Liang's strange expression.

"Hahah, I'm envious of Brother Zu's blessings. Do you have any tricks that you could share with this brother?" Wu Liang asked with a chuckle.

The three women's faces all turned bright red. Yu Yanluo was one thing, because she was Zu An's proper lover, but Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue immediately felt that the hand around their waist was especially hot. However, they had already used up all of their strength and couldn't fly anymore. They could only let Zu An carry them.

Yun Jianyue shot Wu Liang a hateful look, saying, "Damn fatty, if I hear a single rumor once we leave this place, I'm going to rip your tongue straight out of your mouth."

The Devil Sect Leader's killing intent was tangible. Wu Liang shivered and asked weakly, "That's not fair... What if it was one of them who leaked that information?"

Yun Jianyue said indifferently, "I'll still pull out your tongue."

Wu Liang was speechless. However, he also noticed that Yan Xuehen's gaze was ice-cold, knowing that she probably had similar thoughts. He felt a bit unhappy. These women already did what they wanted to do, and yet they didn't want anyone else to talk about them? His previous jealousy immediately disappeared without a trace. Brother Zu can have these violent and domineering women to himself and work hard for them. Please don't let them roam free and harm other men!

"Please don't worry, Sect Master Yun. I absolutely won't tell a third person about what happened here once we leave," Wu Liang said, raising his hand in a pledge.

At the same time, he added inwardly, Unless someone adds money.

The glorious Devil Sect Master and White Jade Sect Master were famous arch-enemies! Now, however, they were lovers serving the same man. Tsk tsk. If such explosive news were released, it would definitely sell for a good price.

I only promised not to tell a third person, I didn't say I wouldn't tell the fourth or fifth. Hahahah, this fatty is so wise!

The group quickly moved along. Fortunately, the exit wasn't too far away, so they managed to arrive in time.

Just as they let out sighs of relief, however, their expressions changed. The spatial vortex was rapidly shrinking. It had initially been a few dozen or so meters wide, but now, it was just a few meters wide.

At the rate it was shrinking, it could simply disappear completely a second later!

Chapter 1486: Forging System

When he saw the closing spatial vortex, Wu Liang frantically flapped the small wings on his back. At the same time, white silk suddenly shot out of his hands and through the vortex, then rapidly began to contract. It pulled Wu Liang through to the other side, his chubby body disappearing quickly.

Zu An's group was amazed. This fatty really did have a lot of treasures! Just how many tombs had he looted? The tool he had used resembled spider silk. Perhaps he had gotten it from looting some great Spider race ancestor.

However, Zu An didn't waste any time even while speculating about such things. He quickly used Grandgale, instantly sending himself and the three women into the spatial vortex. Almost as soon as he passed through, the vortex shrank to a point too small for anyone to pass through.

The next moment, the group emerged from the spatial vortex, and they quickly looked around. When they saw the familiar giant Fiend Ancestor statue before them, they knew they had finally returned to the Fiend races' Imperial Tomb. They sighed in relief. They were finally back! They had been worried that they would be trapped in that world forever.

Yan Xuehen quietly left Zu An's arms. She looked around and said with a sigh, "I thought we would reappear in that pool we first entered from, but we actually appeared here. It is good that there are no Fiend Race guards around, or else it would have been a bit troublesome."

Suddenly, a low, muffled voice said, "This place is a restricted area. Normally, only the emperor and crown prince have the right to enter. Of course there are no guards assigned here."

They followed the source of the sound and saw a chubby man sticking to a wall like a pile of mud that had been flung at it. When he finally freed himself from the wall, they saw that his face was swollen and blood was dripping out of his nose. The spider silk had clearly stuck to the wall and pulled him into it.

Zu An couldn't help but remark with a chuckle, "Chubby master, you have a bag full of tricks, don't you? It's almost as if they never run out."

"It's really not worth mentioning at all. You were able to escape easily even with three women with you. I'm really nothing special," Wu Liang said. His tone was very humble, but his expression was full of pride, as if to say 'please keep praising me, please'.

Zu An completely ignored that and asked, "Chubby master, what do you plan on doing now?"

As Zu An had begun talking about more important matters, Wu Liang's expression turned serious as well and he replied, "I was about to ask you that. Considering how outstanding you all are, why don't you just follow the Second Prince? You would all definitely be put in important positions. Furthermore, with your grudge against the crown prince, the only one who can face him right now from among the Fiend races is the Second Prince."

Either way, after the events in the Unknown Region, Zu An's group already knew that it was the Second Prince who had sent him to assassinate the Golden Crow Crown Prince. There was no need to hide that fact anymore.

Zu An said with a smile, "Thank you for your good intentions, chubby master, but we're already used to our freedom, so we really can't get used to serving another. I'm more curious as to why someone like you would actually serve another."

Wu Liang wasn't surprised by their refusal. He replied, "What do you mean, serve him? I didn't want to stick to him either, but that guy just paid so much... If you ever found some divine weapon for me, I'd even pretend to be your father."

Zu An's group was completely speechless. As expected, this damned fatty didn't have any moral principles!

Wu Liang cupped his hands and said, "I was really scared pretty badly in that secret dungeon. This chubby master's heart is still pounding. I need to loot this Imperial Tomb a bit more to calm down, so I won't stick around to chat with you guys. I'm sure we'll meet again some day!"

Immediately afterward, he turned into a spinning ball. A hole opened up in the ground, and he disappeared.

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but say with a sigh, "The Pangolin race's Earth Escape skill really is unmatched."

Yan Xuehen nodded. She remarked with a strange smile, "If the Second Prince were to learn that his ancestor's tomb was cleaned out by that man, I wonder what kind of expression he would have."

The others all smiled knowingly when they imagined that happening.

Zu An said, "There's a huge army standing guard outside of the Imperial Tomb. All of you should take some time to stabilize your condition here. Then, we can figure out a way to leave."

He had just spread out his spiritual senses. Even though there was no one in the tomb, the exterior would no doubt be heavily guarded. Leaving without anyone noticing would be difficult, so there would definitely be conflict.

The three women nodded. They brought out various pills to take, then sat down in place to stabilize their condition.

Zu An stood guard nearby to watch the surroundings. He had to admit that even though he couldn't see their beautiful eyes anymore because they were meditating, it didn't take anything away from their beauty.

Yu Yanluo was as gorgeous as a rose. Even more valuable than her beauty was the gentle and peaceful aura that surrounded her, which could make anyone who saw her feel a sense of intimacy. No wonder she had left so many men infatuated.

Yun Jianyue wasn't surrounded by her usual killing intent. Now, it was replaced with a poised and elegant demeanor. She was like a newly blossomed peony... Ah, her chest is really big.

Yan Xuehen's pure and flawless face was like a freshly cooked egg, to the point that one could hardly help wanting to take a bite. Hm? Why is her face a bit red? The hint of pink makes it look even more appetizing.

Yan Xuehen's long eyelashes trembled gently. Her thoughts didn't seem to be very peaceful.

Zu An thought, She's known for her Unshakable Daoist skill and normally cares about tranquility of mind more than anything. Why does she seem to be the most uneasy of the three?

Yan Xuehen suddenly opened her eyes. She stared at Zu An in annoyance and protested through ki transmission, "Stop staring at me!"

Zu An smiled and replied, "It's your fault for being so pretty."

Yan Xuehen bit her lip, feeling that there was nothing she could do about Zu An's mischief. She could only close her eyes again and try to ignore him.

"Alright, alright, I won't look at you then, okay? You should get some good rest," Zu An replied. In truth, he knew that the White Jade Sect's cultivation method was special. It would be bad if he ended up messing with her to the point that she began to vomit blood, like Xiaolongnu[1].

Yan Xuehen felt warm inside when she heard the concern in his voice. However, she quickly gathered her thoughts and didn't let herself get distracted anymore.

Zu An withdrew his gaze, intending to take the chance to look at the newly unlocked Forging System he had received after registering the Rune Weapon Chart. A holographic image of a furnace appeared in his sea of consciousness. Its surface was covered in profound runes. Zu An didn't know much about runes and couldn't recognize them at all, so he thought, I should copy these runes and study them with Yan Xuehen later.

He read the related explanations in the meantime. The furnace was indeed a place where magic weapons could be forged. However, it couldn't be used with normal fire, and had to have a true flame.

Well, things that come from the Keyboard System are always extraordinary. If normal flames could forge magic weapons, the results wouldn't be that strong anyway.

Fortunately, he had just obtained the White Lotus Flame. He had previously stored it in the Nine Cauldron, but after Yu the Great took the cauldron, he had begun to store it in his tailbone. That acupoint could store a flame, and he had the right attribute, anyway. However, he would risk cultivation deviation by doing so; if the flame grew out of control, it would become dangerous.

When the White Lotus Flame entered the furnace, the runes suddenly lit up. The entire furnace seemed to have come alive, radiating brilliant light. It had successfully been activated!

Then, Zu An noticed that the White Lotus Flame had turned into a small ember at the bottom of the furnace; it made no attempts to leave, as if it had found a home. He thought, This is great. Otherwise, he would have had to find some other way of storing the violent true flame.

A new message appeared in Zu An's mind, and he quickly checked it. It said that the Forging System had three key functions.

The first was that if one had a forging blueprint and the corresponding materials, it could create a weapon or magic artifact. Zu An focused on the words 'forging blueprint'. Materials were easy enough to understand, but what was that?

Standard-issue weapons used by the army or large clans often had corresponding blueprints. However, heaven-grade, immortal-grade, and deity-grade items were all created through coalescing the essence of the world. Why would they have blueprints?

Zu An looked at the second function, which was to repair, upgrade, or even advance the weapon to a higher grade. He was truly happy to see it. The Tai'e Sword had been damaged, so he could use the function to repair it.

Upgrading an item improved its quality. Just like the games he had played, there would be differences in strength between weapons of the same grade; upgrading a weapon could greatly increase its power within the range of its grade.

As for advancement, as long as enough materials were provided, a weapon could have its grade improved. For example, heaven-grade could be turned into immortal-grade. Immortal-grade could even be turned into deity-grade.

Zu An began breathing heavily when he saw that function. Didn't that mean he could mass-produce deity-grade weapons in the future? If he played around with a bunch of normal-grade weapons in the spring, he could harvest a batch of deity-grade weapons in the fall!

However, when he saw the conditions required, his excitement soon faded. Advancing the grade of an item required a ridiculous amount of resources, as well as some special, rare items. Such things were so rare that they were as hard to obtain as a weapon of the same rank. For example, the Great Origin Calamity Gold he had obtained was one of them. Such things had monetary value on paper, but would never appear for sale. Even if one had the money, one wouldn't necessarily be able to find it.

Other than the ridiculous resource cost, whether or not a weapon could break through into a higher level depended on whether it even had enough growth potential to begin with. With sufficient potential, an item could be taken all the way to deity-grade; however, for most items, advancement by a single grade was all one could possibly hope for. An ordinary weapon couldn't reach deity-grade no matter how many resources one poured into it, and it wouldn't necessarily be able to reach even earth-grade.

The third function of the Forging System was to melt down and reforge weapons. One could combine several weapons, along with the necessary resources for reforging, and a new weapon would emerge. It would at least be of the same grade, but its attributes and abilities would be completely random, not connected to the original weapons.

It could produce a weapon worse than the ones that were thrown in, or one that was substantially better. However, there was no consistency involved; all the results would be random. Even throwing in the exact same weapons and materials in twice would result in completely different results, with no correlation whatsoever.

However, the reforging function had a very small chance to produce a weapon that was higher-grade than the components. For example, throwing in several immortal-grade weapons could even produce a deity-grade weapon! Of course, the Keyboard System strongly warned the user that the chance was low, and to strongly reconsider making any such choice.

Zu An thought, Who in the world would put precious immortal-grade weapons in just for that tiny chance of getting a deity-grade weapon?!

Freaking gambling dogs again! I hate gambling dogs!

Chapter 1487: And You Said You Two Were Innocent!

Zu An thought about his experience with the Lottery System and the Valkyrie System. His luck really wasn't anything special. Overall, however, his pulls balanced each other out, but the process involved was always a rollercoaster. He hadn't expected the Forging System to be another wild ride, and yet it

turned out that way all the same. However, seeing as he had signed himself up for it, he had to see it through to the end, even if it cost him some tears.

Thus, he began to look through the different functions. At the same time, he checked what he would need to repair the Tai'e Sword.

Just like that, some time passed. Eventually, some activity began happening nearby. Yun Jianyue was the first to wake up. Yan Xuehen was a bit slower due to her prior exchange with Zu An. Meanwhile, Yu Yanluo had the lowest cultivation, so she woke up last. But she had the Holy Pearl, so she wasn't that much slower than the two grandmasters.

"The two of you have recovered completely!" Zu An exclaimed, feeling surprised and happy. They had been much faster than he expected.

"No, we haven't recovered completely, but it was at least enough for us to protect ourselves now," Yun Jianyue replied proudly. At the grandmaster rank, the power they could channel was nearly endless, so they could recover quickly. It was just that they had never expected Zu An to be like an insatiable wolf cub, crazily devouring their energies to the point that they were completely drained of strength.

Zu An explained the situation outside. The Golden Crow Crown Prince had clearly made special arrangements, because there were three layers of armies inside the tomb and three layers outside. The ones who led them were old acquaintances: Grand Secretary Heichi Fei and Left Guard General Ma Tian.

The former was a firm supporter of the crown prince's faction, while the latter was the Fiend Emperor's trusted aide. Both sides wanted information from the Imperial Tomb as quickly as possible.

"This level of security will really make it a bit annoying for us to get out," Zu An said with a frown.

He could change his appearance, but the three women couldn't. The uniforms the Second Empress had given him had already been destroyed, too. Furthermore, even if they still had the uniforms, there were just too many guards outside. If a few guards suddenly came out, their stories wouldn't match up.

"Why do we have to sneak out?" Yun Jianyue replied with a strange expression. Zu An was stunned, not quite understanding her point. Yun Jianyue continued, "The Fiend Emperor has already died. Aren't we powerful grandmasters? How would these people outside be able to stop us? Is there any reason to be all sneaky?"

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. Right; now that there was no earth immortal stopping them, the old freaks from the Fiend King Court wouldn't stick around as guards all day either. Couldn't the group just do whatever they wanted?

The army did have formations and all sorts of large-scale magic weapons to deal with higher level cultivators, so the group could end up suffering a bit if they faced such things head-on. However, as long as they weren't trapped in a formation, even an army would have no way of stopping cultivators like them from leaving at all.

Looks like I'm still too young. I can't compare to the mindset of big shots like them.

...

Meanwhile, outside the Imperial Tomb, Heichi Fei patrolled the surroundings with a group of people.

Considering his identity, he actually didn't need to get involved personally. However, the current situation was just too important. His nephew, the Golden Crow Crown Prince, had personally entrusted him with the task of keeping an eye on the tomb. He also had his own worries, so he continued to patrol the surroundings waiting for news from the Fiend Emperor.

Sigh. I really didn't expect the Fiend Emperor to have set his eyes on that old woman back home. Still, she does have some good points.

What do I do if the Fiend Emperor comes out and mentions that? Should I just play dumb, or should I warn him to take care of his health?

Both choices would make me seem like an idiot.

Suddenly, a soldier approached Heichi Fei on horseback. He was startled, recognizing that it was a special messenger who worked for the crown prince. Usually, only the most urgent tasks would be handed to such messengers. Thus, he quickly greeted the messenger and sent all the people around him away in order to receive the news alone.

The messenger took out a letter sealed in flame lacquer. Such lacquer was special; unless the appropriate tool was used to open it, it would explode and destroy the contents inside. Even if one's cultivation was high, it would be impossible to prevent that. The technique was used to pass on information that required absolute military secrecy.

Heichi Fei opened the flame lacquer. When he saw the contents of the message, his eyes narrowed. His expression changed greatly. He ran quickly to call over his subordinates, ordering them, "Follow me back to the Fiend King Court!"

The others asked doubtfully, "So we don't have to wait to receive the Fiend Emperor anymore? What if the Fiend Emperor ends up blaming us..."

"Like hell..." Heichi Fei almost blurted out, but he caught himself in the nick of time. He said, "That's not something you need to worry about. I know what's really important. We're going back first!"

Sensing his anger, the others didn't dare to ask any more questions. As such, Heichi Fei commanded his own troops to ride back to the Fiend King Court.

Meanwhile, Left Guard General Ma Tian noticed what had happened. He frowned, wondering, "What in the world are they up to?"

He was just about to send someone to investigate when he also received a message from the crown prince. When he saw the contents, his expression also changed drastically to one of hesitation and inner conflict.

A while later, he finally made up his mind. He put on his armor and mounted his horse. Then, he called over a trusted deputy officer and said, "Stay here with some of the men. If the Fiend Emperor comes out, contact me immediately."

Then, he left quickly with his remaining subordinates, just like Heichi Fei.

Many of the soldiers were startled by the sound of hoofbeats in the middle of the night. They all looked at each other in dismay. Even though they didn't know what had happened, it was clearly a major event

When Zu An's group emerged from the Imperial Tomb and saw that the number of soldiers outside seemed to have decreased by half, they were also stunned. Even so, their departure from the Imperial Tomb still drew attention. A group of soldiers quickly surrounded them.

Many of the soldiers expressed their loyalty by loudly shouting 'long live the emperor', but they were stunned to see that it was actually Zu An's group standing there.

Zu An's group didn't feel like arguing with the soldiers, instead flying directly into the air. The soldiers snapped out of their daze, sending ear-splitting bugles ringing through the camp. A swarm of soldiers poured out, filling the skies with arrows.

However, after the battles between deities the group had witnessed inside the Unknown Region, they were completely unfazed by such military tactics. Even though the archers were supported by a formation, they still didn't pose much of a threat; their arrows could be stopped with the mere wave of a hand.

The only thing that posed a real threat was a pair of heavy crossbows installed on a sentry tower. The crossbow was engraved with all sorts of runes and powered by a large ki stone, making it as powerful as an artillery piece from Zu An's previous world.

Zu An had almost been killed by a similar weapon when he was in the capital. Back then, the enemy had used a military crossbow. The pain caused by its bolt was still fresh in his memory. The one installed on the sentry was much stronger, however.

While the group wondered how they would destroy the heavy crossbows, a large cluster of vines suddenly emerged next to the tower. They knocked down all the soldiers operating the crossbows, then wrapped around the tower and pulled it down toward the ground. The tower couldn't endure their weight and came crashing down.

Zu An was surprised. He looked in the direction of the vines and saw a green-clad figure waving at him from the darkness, clearly gesturing for them to come over. Zu An didn't hesitate and rushed over. The other three women hesitated for a moment, but then they also followed.

When they arrived, the figure waved a hand, causing many plants to grow wildly out of the ground and form a thorny cage that prevented the army's experts and large-scale rune masters from following. By the time the cage of thorns was cleared out, Zu An's group had vanished without a trace.

...

Several dozen miles away, Zu An's group finally escaped from their pursuers.

Yu Yanluo was about to thank the green-clad person, but that person cried out and threw her beautiful figure into Zu An's arms. She sobbed, exclaiming, "I thought you would never come back out!"

Zu An embraced the woman's thin and trembling body firmly, gently patting her to comfort her.

Yu Yanluo swallowed her words of gratitude back down. She reflexively looked at the two grandmasters, but saw that they were staring directly at her, as if hinting for her to do something as the main lover.

She was left in a tough spot. Zu An was hugging the other woman so tightly, which meant they clearly shared feelings. How could she make herself the bad guy by interfering?

And you said you and the elf princess were innocent!

You have successfully trolled Yu Yanluo for +99 +99 +99...

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +99 +99 +99...

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +99 +99 +99...

Chapter 1488: Major Changes in the Fiend King Court

The three women were all world-class beauties, so their standards for beauty were naturally high. Even so, they had to admit that the Elf Princess really did have a stunning oval-shaped face. She had delicate and graceful brows, and her bright eyes seemed almost as if they could speak. She had a straight and refined nose, and her pink lips were curved slightly in a seductive manner. Anyone who saw them would feel the urge to give them a kiss. Her figure was also slender and fair. Under the moonlight glow, a layer of faint light surrounded her, as if she were the main character within the forest.

Yan Xuehen thought, Chu Chuyan, you little lass, what were you thinking back then? You actually took on such a beautiful woman as your maid?

Look, now she's after your husband!

Zu An finally realized that the current situation was inappropriate when he saw the Rage points coming from the three women through the backend. He quickly pushed the young lady in his arms away a bit, asking, "Snow, why are you here?"

Qiao Xueying suddenly noticed the three women off to the side, sensing that they were looking at her with interrogative stares that were almost tangible. She felt a bit embarrassed. She sorted out her hair, which had become a bit messy after she jumped into Zu An's arms, and replied, "I knew that you went into the Imperial Tomb, so I was worried about you the whole time. A while back, there was some activity by the Imperial Tomb; there was a rumor that some special secret dungeon opened in the tomb, and that the Fiend Emperor himself personally entered.

"Afterward, the Golden Crow Guards surrounded the Imperial Tomb and didn't let anyone get closer. Many experts in the Fiend King Court were extremely interested in this secret dungeon, but with the Fiend Emperor's prestige and the Golden Crow Guards guarding that place, no one dared to do anything publicly. That was why they could only hold back their curiosity and hide in their respective residences. However, they kept paying close attention to what was happening here.

"Then, the Golden Crow Crown Prince came out and caused quite the commotion. Many people began to stir restlessly, but the Crown Prince declared that the Fiend Emperor would come out soon, getting things under control that way.

"At the same time, though, more news began to appear, saying that other people had entered the secret dungeon, and that they seemed to be going against the crown prince. When the crown prince emerged, rumors spread that those people were all dead."

Qiao Xueying continued with tearful eyes, "But I knew you went inside too. Even though people all said you were dead, I didn't believe it. After all, we already..."

She gave the other three women a look and didn't finish her sentence. The ability to share half of their lifespan was the Elf King Race's greatest secret. If that information were leaked, a huge disaster would befall the Elf race.

Zu An naturally knew what she meant. He couldn't help but hold her hand, saying, "I've made you worry."

Qiao Xueying blushed and replied, "Everything is fine now that you've returned safely."

Yun Jianyue coughed and said, "What's the situation in the Fiend King Court right now? If I recall correctly, the princess was detained by the Golden Crow Guards and unable to act freely, right?"

Yu Yanluo, you really are a pushover. She's stealing your man right in front of you, and yet you're not even saying a thing. I have to be the one to step in!

Wait, why do I have to do anything? What does this have to do with me?!

Hmph, all of this is for Honglei. I'm guarding her disciple's man in her place. Sigh, look how much this master does for you.

Qiao Xueying replied, "Both the Fiend Emperor and the Golden Crow Crown Prince went missing, and many things happened in the Fiend King Court, so no one bothered to keep an eye on me. That made it much easier for me to move."

She had a special skill that could make her presence appear weaker. That was how she had hidden for several days without being discovered.

"But even though the Fiend King Court was astir, people still feared the Fiend Emperor's strength. That was why nothing too extreme happened, at least until the Golden Crow Crown Prince emerged two days ago."

"Two days ago?" Zu An's group repeated in surprise. The Golden Crow Crown Prince had clearly left only a day before them!

"Yes, he exited the day before yesterday," Qiao Xueying replied. Then, she looked at Zu An with her quick-witted gaze, as if she were scared that he would disappear. The time she had spent waiting was probably the greatest torture of her entire life. She had been worried that Zu An would really die in the secret dungeon, or that he wouldn't be able to emerge in time and be trapped inside forever.

Zu An's group exchanged a look, seeing the shock in each other's eyes.

Yan Xuehen slowly said, "There has actually been precedent for this. Spatial vortexes always have a chance of changing the flow of time. A difference of just two days like this is actually not too unexpected."

She was knowledgeable, and had quickly thought of several past cases. The party thus sighed in relief.

Qiao Xueying took the chance to secretly size up the women. That rascal Zu An! He can't get rid of his bad habit of flirting with women no matter where he goes!

According to the intelligence she had gathered, the Medusa Queen seemed to have already consummated her relationship with Ah Zu.

Sigh, as expected of the number one beauty who bewitched all of the capital's aristocrats. There really is a lot of pressure just being around her.

Additionally, that Devil Sect Master who spoke up earlier clearly seems to have a special relationship with Zu An. I have to make sure nothing happens here. This woman doesn't seem to be inferior at all, even while standing next to Yu Yanluo. Most importantly, her chest is really big...

She couldn't help but look down at her feet, feeling extremely annoyed. The Elf race's beauty was publicly acknowledged by the world, and their slim and graceful figures were considered exceptional. However, they had one disadvantage that had always been passed down, which was that they were ordinary in the chest department.

She secretly moved some distance away from Yun Jianyue so the contrast wouldn't be that strong.

This is a formidable opponent! The Devil Sect Master's cultivation is also too high, so I can't win against her...

Oh, thank goodness Sect Master Yan is here!

She's Chuyan's master, and Chuyan and I were once sisters, so we should be on the same side. I should privately get closer to her, and then it'll be much easier to deal with Yun Jianyue.

Hmph, the Devil Sect Master has already been famous for many years, but how old is Ah Zu? She's actually a cougar?! Does she know no shame?

"Snow, why are you smiling?" Zu An asked, suddenly noticing the strange expression between Qiao Xueying's brows. He thought that she was feeling odd and expressed his concern.

"What do you mean, why am I smiling? I'm not," Qiao Xueying replied, her face heating up. She had been looking forward to Yan Xuehen beating up Yun Jianyue, thinking about ending up all alone with Zu An. She had been so happy that her expression ended up selling her out.

Worrying that the three women would notice something, she quickly changed the topic. "Right, something major happened the day before yesterday when the Golden Crow Crown Prince came back. He publicly accused the Second Prince of sending an assassin after him in the Imperial Tomb to disrupt the ceremony. The morning court session broke out into a commotion, as that was an extremely serious accusation. If it could be confirmed, even someone like the Second Prince wouldn't necessarily be able to avoid execution."

Zu An chuckled and replied, "But I'm pretty sure there must be no way to confirm it."

Qiao Xueying nodded slightly, saying, "You're right. The Second Prince naturally denied it. The officials close to him all voiced their support, asking the crown prince to bring out proof. The crown prince brought out several corpses, but it turned out he had killed them himself. The crown prince said that they had been bought out by the Second Prince, but both sides stuck to their story, and the debate only grew more heated."

"The dead can't testify. I don't think that would be enough to convict the Second Prince," Zu An remarked, feeling a bit puzzled.

Even though the crown prince's moral character was lacking, he absolutely wasn't stupid. Otherwise, he wouldn't have become the leader of the five great experts among the Fiend races' younger generation. Why was it that even though he couldn't convict the Second Prince, he would still cause such a commotion in the morning court session?

"The Golden Crow Crown Prince mentioned that there was someone else who could serve as a witness. He seemed to be some kind of descendant of the Pangolin race. However, he died in the dungeon," Qiao Xueying said, recalling the rumors she had heard. As the Elf race's princess, she had far more access to information than an ordinary person. She continued, "As you said, the dead can't testify, so he can't convict the Second Prince. Still, the explanation he gave really was too detailed and complete, so people all secretly believe it can't have been something he made up.

"Besides, seeing as everyone knows the Second Prince has never accepted the crown prince, it wouldn't be all that surprising if he had done it."

Zu An suddenly realized something. Proof was only important for ordinary people. For some people, they didn't need to go through all that trouble if they wanted something done. As long as the big shots in the court believed it had happened, there would be no need for proof. At worst, they would just find some scapegoat and it would be enough. Either way, the investigations of the court always ended the way they wanted them to.

It looks like the Golden Crow Crown Prince has decided to go on the offensive against the Second Prince!

"By the way, why are there suddenly fewer Golden Crow Guards outside?" Zu An asked, puzzled. He had searched with his divine sense when they first left the secret dungeon. At the time, the Golden Crow Guards had surrounded the Imperial Tomb with layers upon layers of guards. Now, fewer than half of them were left. If not for that, Zu An's group wouldn't have been able to escape from them so easily.

"I don't know. I noticed that a few troops left in a hurry. Then, Heichi Fei and Ma Tian also took their respective armies with them," Qiao Xueying explained. She had been there the whole time, but she didn't really know what happened either.

Suddenly, bursts of fiery light erupted from the Fiend King Court's direction. Zu An's expression changed. He said, "There's something major happening in the Fiend King Court. We should hurry over and see what's happening!"

Chapter 1489: Internal Strife

Previously, in order to travel faster, Heichi Fei and Ma Tian had ordered their subordinates to move on their own. Meanwhile, they used their own respective skills to return to the Fiend King Court more quickly. The two didn't stop and headed directly for the Imperial Palace.

There was already a servant waiting for them, who quickly brought the two of them to the Imperial Study. Both of them were confused. Could it be that the Fiend Emperor had already emerged ahead of time? Otherwise, who would dare to use the Imperial Study?

After guiding the two of them inside, the servant closed the door behind him. The closing door felt as if it had been slammed on the two men's hearts. Only then did they notice the situation inside the room, however.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince sat in the main seat. Next to him was his guardian Elder Wu. Both men were quite surprised. Elder Wu's existence was supposed to be top secret, so why had he shown himself in public?

There were others as well, off to the side: Commandant of Guards Wu Li, Chief Attendant Wu Fa, and Imperial Secretariat Director Lei Xin.

The Commandant of Guards was in charge of the palace guards. The Chief Attendant was the head of the Fiend Emperor's secretary division. The Imperial Secretariat Director was the one who implemented concrete government affairs. At present, the last position was held by the Fourth Prince, but because he was too young and usually spent his time eating, drinking, and playing around, the relevant government affairs were managed by Director Lei Xin.

Wu was the unique surname of the Golden Crow royal family. As such, the three officials essentially represented the Fiend King Court, the central army, the government, and even the royal family's will.

Apart from those three important figures, the two men noticed that Right Guard General Niu Dao, Prosperous King Wu Cheng, Composed King Wu Pei, and Martial Guard General Nine Suns King Wu Cheng were all present. Those four, along with Left Guard General Ma Tian, jointly managed the King Court's elite Golden Crow Guards. Seeing as they were all gathered inside, there was clearly something major happening.

Just then, Commandant of Guards Wu Li said, "As the Grand Secretary and General Ma have already arrived, we can begin."

Chief Attendant Wu Fa nodded and took out an imperial decree, declaring, "The Fiend Emperor has a decree. All subjects shall receive the decree!"

A powerful aura emanated from the decree. It was none other than the Fiend Emperor's unique might, something no one could fake.

"Long live the emperor!" all those present exclaimed, quickly bowing respectfully.

Only then did Wu Fa read the contents of the decree. As it turned out, it passed the imperial throne to the Golden Crow Crown Prince, appointing him as the new Fiend Emperor.

Everyone in the room was shocked, especially Left Guard General Ma Tian. Even though he had always carried goodwill toward the Golden Crow Crown Prince, ultimately, he was still the Fiend Emperor's trusted aide. That goodwill was only due to the fact that the Golden Crow Crown Prince was the heir apparent to the throne.

But now, the Fiend Emperor hadn't even appeared, and yet the Golden Crow Crown Prince was already in a hurry to inherit the throne. That... was a bit inappropriate, wasn't it?

He could only test the waters by asking, "May I ask where his majesty the Fiend Emperor is right now?"

Wu Fa released a deep sigh. A few teardrops fell from his eyes as he replied, "His majesty, he... has passed on."

"What?!"

The decree appointing the crown prince to the throne was surprising, but they had all felt that it was to be expected. And yet, upon hearing that, they felt as if they had just received news that a meteor falling from the heavens was about to end the entire world.

"How did the Fiend Emperor die?" the generals in the room exclaimed. They were all shaken. The Fiend Emperor's position in their hearts was on par with Zhao Han's in the human world. He had always been a supreme being for countless years, the strongest in the land. He was their metaphorical backbone.

Not too long before, they had been waiting to meet the Fiend Emperor, and yet now, they had received a report that the Fiend Emperor died?

How could the unrivaled Fiend Emperor possibly die?! Who could kill him?

Commandant of Guards Wu Li replied, "The Fiend Emperor passed on in the special secret dungeon. As for the reason, I fear we have no way of knowing anymore."

Ma Tian asked with a frown, "Did the Crown Prince not previously say that the Fiend Emperor was dealing with some small matters and would emerge soon? Why is there news that the Fiend Emperor died inside?"

If not for the fact that the Fiend Emperor was too strong and the Crown Prince had no chance of scheming against him, the people in the room might have wondered if he had done something.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince rubbed his eyes and lamented, "I do not know either! Back then, father emperor was clearly fine, but who would have thought that something would happen to him so soon? This crown prince is filled with endless sorrow!"

Heichi Fei nodded inwardly. This nephew of mine has the mindset of a ruler. Whether he's happy or sad right now, at least he's already quite skilled at expressing the emotion he wants to express.

"Then how did the crown prince learn that the Fiend Emperor had already passed on?" Right Guard General Niu Dao asked curiously.

"Let me answer this question. There is a secret room in the Imperial Palace that contains divine tokens belonging to the royal family's lineage. Whenever a member of the royal family is born, a drop of blood essence is used to create a token. That way, if anything happens to any member of the royal family, the Imperial Palace will immediately find out," Elder Wu said from behind the Crown Prince. He continued, "It is unfortunate, but not too long ago, the divine token that represents the Fiend Emperor shattered."

Even though the Fiend Emperor was immensely powerful, he had left behind the same kind of divine token when he was born too.

"Fiend Emperor!" those present exclaimed in shock and alarm. As individuals in positions of incredible power, such techniques weren't completely foreign to them. However, this was the first time they had personally received confirmation.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince said, "The secret dungeon we entered was truly special. There were all sorts of powerful beings inside. Father emperor might have accidentally encountered something."

That was truly what he believed. Even though he knew the Fiend Emperor had stayed behind to deal with Zu An's group, no matter how broadly his thoughts traveled, he couldn't possibly believe that Zu An's group could pose any threat to his father. It was most likely because he had ended up provoking another being on par with Yu the Great or Gonggong.

"Could there truly be someone more powerful than the Fiend Emperor?" the others exclaimed with ashen expressions, their eyes filled with horror.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince quickly said, "It was not that there was someone more powerful than father emperor, but rather that the place was extremely strange. Additionally, when I came back, the spatial passage was already about to close. Perhaps father emperor could not leave in time, or something happened to him in the spatial passage."

Spatial passages often contained chaotic streams of spacetime. Even for dungeons that had been open for a long time, no one dared to move recklessly when they were in such spatial passages. As such, if something really had happened to the Fiend Emperor there, it would still just about be understandable.

Prosperous King Wu Cheng couldn't hold back his doubts and asked, "Then why did his majesty Fiend Emperor have the crown prince return first, while remaining in that dangerous place himself?"

The Golden Crow Crown Prince knew that these individuals, whom his father had placed in important positions, were all the most trusted of aides. Thus, he could only calm himself down first and say, "This was supposed to be an absolute secret, but I have no choice but to talk about it here. The reason father emperor remained inside was because he received clues about an immortal medicine. He went to look for it..."

Then, he gave them a rough account of the information surrounding the immortal medicine. Of course, he excluded Zu An and the others' presence. Either way, they had no doubt already been killed by his father, lying dead in the secret dungeon.

"Immortal medicine..." several people murmured.

Now, no one in the room had any more doubts. They all knew just how irresistible immortal medicines were for those who were nearing the end of their lifespan. Even they suspected that the Fiend Emperor might have died not too far from the immortal medicine. After all, anything that incredible would definitely have powerful beings protecting it.

Chief Attendant Wu Fa said, "As the Fiend Emperor has already passed, the crown prince will succeed to the throne. This is a decree that the Fiend Emperor left behind."

The generals still had some hesitation, but Heichi Fei quickly took the lead in kneeling toward the Crown Prince, declaring, "This subject pays his respects to the emperor. Long live, long live, long long live!"

As even the Crown Prince's uncle, the Grand Secretary himself, had begun to kneel, Commandant of Guards Wu Li and Chief Attendant Wu Fa both followed suit.

Imperial Secretariat Director Lei Xin, as well as the five generals who controlled the Golden Crow Guards, were a bit hesitant at first. However, when they saw the grandmaster Elder Wu giving them a pointed look, they also kneeled one after another.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince was overjoyed. He quickly walked forward to help them to their feet, calling out, "Everyone, please rise!"

"Thank you, your majesty!"

After they rose again one after another, Chief Attendant Wu Fa said, "Second Prince harbors unfilial thoughts. Previously, even when the late Fiend Emperor was still here, he dared to assassinate the Crown Prince. If he finds out that the late Fiend Emperor has already passed and that the Crown Prince has taken the throne, he will definitely rebel. Rather than waiting for him to prepare for a rebellion, we should take the chance to nip him in the bud!"

The others shivered. They were going to go all-out against the Second Prince!

Chapter 1490: Orphan and Widow

The Golden Crow Crown Prince hurriedly said, "Absolutely not! Even though my second brother and I have some conflict, we are still brothers after all. Now that I have just risen to the throne, if I immediately target my own family, what will other people think of me?"

All those present were important figures from the Fiend King Court, and anyone who could achieve such a position was naturally intelligent. They all sneered inwardly when they saw his act of brotherly affection.

If we even believed something like that, wouldn't we be utter fools?

Sure enough, Chief Attendant Wu Fa immediately said, "Your majesty might still carry brotherly affection, but the Second Prince might not be as gracious as your majesty! The late Fiend Emperor already decided to pass the throne onto your respected self and even took you into the Imperial Tomb, and yet the Second Prince actually dared to send assassins into the Imperial Tomb. Now that the late emperor is no longer here to keep him in check, will he not go even further out of control? With the late Fiend Emperor's tacit approval, the Second Prince's troops have made a name for themselves, and he became one of the Fiend Races' four great generals. Who knows how many soldiers and leaders he has who are loyal to him?!

"At this point, even if the Second Prince resigned himself to his fate, would his subordinates do so? They would definitely incite him to take up arms. If that happened, the Fiend races would be divided by internal strife. Brothers would turn against brothers, fathers would be separated from sons. As the ruler of the Fiend races, you cannot make your decisions solely based on brotherly affection and allow more of the common people to suffer."

The others in the room all shivered. They were all a part of the Fiend King Court's upper echelons and knew that Chief Attendant Wu Fa had always been at odds with the Second Prince. In the past, the two of them had even fought in the morning court session due to a personal conflict of interests. They hadn't expected him to immediately want to settle things as soon as the opportunity arose!

Sigh, it seems that it's still best to offend as few people as possible. Otherwise, you'll be doomed without even knowing the reason why.

Still, they had to admit that Wu Fa had a glib tongue. He was actually able to paint internal conflict between brothers as something incredibly righteous, almost as if not doing so would be a terrible crime instead!

Sure enough, the Golden Crow Crown Prince said excitedly, "Chief Attendant, what you say makes sense. I almost made a huge mistake based on personal relationships."

The five generals below exchanged a look, seeing the strange expressions in each other's eyes. They all knew the Crown Prince was putting on an act, and he himself knew he was acting too, but they had to perform in the play with him.

Commandant of Guards Wu Li coughed and said, "In that case, I believe decisive action in a complex situation would be best. We should apprehend the Second Prince before he has a chance to react to the situation. Otherwise, if he finds out that the late Fiend Emperor has passed away, things might become troublesome."

Just then, Heichi Fei said, "When the late Fiend Emperor was here, his power alone was enough to prevent anyone with wild schemes from doing anything. Now that the late Fiend Emperor has passed away, though, those scoundrels might become restless. However, the Golden Crow royal family's prestige has already become deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, so they will likely use one of the princes as their catspaw. The princes are still young and can easily be swayed and controlled by these people, which might cause your majesty to fight with your own family. As such, this old subject suggests protecting the princes first, to prevent them from being exploited."

The others present shivered. This guy really was vicious! Not only did he want to deal with the Second Prince, he also wanted to seize all of the other princes within his net in one go! He had referred to it as 'protection', but they all knew it actually referred to keeping them under control. For all they knew, some of the princes could even lose their heads amid the chaos.

Imperial Secretariat Director Lei Xin finally couldn't take it anymore and said seriously, "That may cause too much of a commotion. The three King races, Peacock, Golden Peng, and Elf, might not stand by idly."

Wu Li said, "The Great Golden Peng King has already died; what could that junior who remains do? The Great Elf King is currently in prison and cannot do anything. The Peacock Wise King is under house arrest and no longer has his previous influence at all."

Lei Xin said with a frown, "Even so, the three King races' power still cannot be disregarded. They still play a critical role in the Fiend King Court. Even if the late Fiend Emperor were still here, he could not completely ignore their voices."

Ma Tian and the others all voiced their agreement. As the late Fiend Emperor's trusted aides, they did support the crown prince's ascension to the throne, but they didn't approve of any plans that were too extreme.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince spoke up. "Regarding the three King races, there is no need to be too worried. Shi Zhentian and Hu Qianxiao will help us keep them in check. Their races are powerful and

have always desired the positions of the three King races, so we can make use of that to keep the others in check.”

The others were startled. So the crown prince had already made preparations to exploit the Lion and Tiger races to keep the three King races in check!

Over the past few years, the Lion race and Tiger race had rapidly grown in strength. That was why they were no longer content with their lower positions. Such thinking was completely expected. However, the two races that normally didn't get along couldn't possibly have expected that they would both end up being used by the crown prince.

The Golden Crow Crown Prince swept his sharp gaze across those present before asking, “Are there any other objections?”

Seeing as he had already arranged everything properly and had actively come up with a plan, what else could the others say? If they really voiced any other opposition, they wouldn't necessarily be able to leave the room again. Even the grandmaster Elder Wu was watching them carefully!

Thus, no one opposed the Golden Crow Crown Prince. He nodded in satisfaction and said, “Then I will leave the arrest of my second brother to Sir Commandant of Guards and General Ma. Uncle, please move with General Wu to protect my third brother. Sir Chief Attendant and Prosperity King, the two of you will protect my fourth brother. Director Lei and Palace General, protect my fifth brother...”

He thoroughly and methodically assigned each of them tasks. Naturally, he assigned more men to deal with the Second Prince. Quite a bit of the other generals' Golden Crow Guards ended up being transferred over to carry out that task.

Elder Wu had the highest cultivation among them. Additionally, Heichi Fei, Commandant of Guards Wu Li, Chief Attendant Wu Fa, and the like were core members of the crown prince faction; the five generals' relationship with the crown prince was also quite good normally. As such, even though not all of them were fully willing to go through with the plan, they didn't dare speak up.

Next was the matter of the Third and Fourth Prince. They were already adults and had their own subordinates, so they couldn't be looked down on either.

The final subject was the youngest prince. Even though he had the Second Empress supporting him, she was just a woman. Furthermore, he was still too young and there was no chance of him succeeding to the throne. That was why Director Lei and Palace General, who were the least loyal, were tasked to deal with him.

After arranging things, the Golden Crow Crown Prince opened the door and looked toward the exterior of the palace. “I must congratulate all of you on your victorious return here ahead of time. I will definitely remember everyone's contributions today.”

The others were shaken. Today's affair was rather aggressive, but if they completed their tasks, they would become the Fiend Emperor's most trusted aides. Previously, they had always needed to step aside for various old monsters, but in the future, the entire structure of the court would be controlled by them.

After realizing that, even those with unhappy expressions became a bit more excited. They all cupped their hands in greeting and left with renewed fighting spirit.

...

By the time Zu An's group arrived at the Fiend King Court, the city gate was already closed, not permitting entry or exit.

Not even Qiao Xueying's identity as the Elf Princess was enough. When she returned, she said angrily, "The ones at the city gates are managed by Commandant of Guards Wu Li. I will remember this!"

They had already noticed that more and more places in the city had begun with flames. The sounds of fighting had become more and more intense. They knew that something major was definitely happening inside the city.

Zu An quickly said to Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue, "I have to enter the city because of the Elf and Snake races. This matter isn't related to you guys, so I don't want you to take the risk..."

Yun Jianyue cut him off before he could even finish. "Damn punk, what are you saying? We've already gone through so much together. Do we need to be that polite to each other? Even if I didn't care about you, I'd have to help out little sis Yu here."

Yan Xuehen didn't say anything, but her act of taking Yu Yanluo's hand already declared her stance.

Qiao Xueying looked worried. The three's relationship was far better than she had imagined! Things would be a bit tricky now.

When he saw their decision, Zu An dropped all pretenses. If the soldiers wouldn't let them in, they would just force their way in.

The guards of the Fiend King Court were competent, and it normally wouldn't be so easy to trespass, but because the main force had already been transferred away from the city gate, it wouldn't be too difficult for them to go through at all.

...

Meanwhile, in the South Alley, where high officials and nobles gathered, a beautiful woman held a little boy tightly in the depths of the youngest prince's manor. She watched the slaughter happening outside, her expression grave.

The cruel scenes unfolding made the little boy's voice tremble a bit as he said, "Mother, I'm scared..."