

Immortal 1511

Chapter 1511: Great Elder

“Qiao Xugong, how can you take advantage of others’ difficulties like this? Are you proud of yourself for stabbing an injured person in the back?!” Duantian Chou protested, his miniature figure barely discernible in the mirror. He kept flinging himself from side to side, but he was trapped inside the entire time, only able to helplessly vent his anger at the Great Elf King.

Zu An was stunned. This weird father-in-law of his was actually named Qiao Xugong?

Still, that makes sense. He wasn’t the Great Elf King from birth, and he had his own name. But once he became the Great Elf King, people rarely called him by his real name. That’s probably why most people forgot about his name.

However, when he heard this name, he suddenly felt the urge to ask his close female friends, Between me and Xugong, who is more handsome?

Also, isn’t this guy a bit much?

Still, he saw that no one seemed surprised at all. They must have already become used to such scenes from being a part of the Fiend King Court.

“Take advantage of others’ difficulties? Backstabbing?” the Great Elf King replied, showing the mirror a perfect smile. “Isn’t this what you Dark Elves are best at? I’ve merely learned a trick or two, and yet you already can’t take it anymore?”

“F*ck!” Duantian Chou cursed. “Don’t show me that disgusting smile of yours!”

The Great Elf King was in a good mood and was about to continue, but when he heard that, he immediately erupted in fury. “You actually think such a handsome, refined, amiable, and flawless smile is disgusting? Are you blind?!”

Duantian Chou naturally wouldn’t back down. The two quickly began to curse each other.

Those present were speechless.

The Second Prince’s expression changed several times. With the arrival of the Great Elf King, today’s battle was likely already lost. If he didn’t quickly leave and bring Sixth Uncle with him, good things would come to those who...

Wait!

His eyes quickly widened, because he saw that Zu An had added another arrow and aimed it at Sixth Uncle.

Sixth Uncle was also horrified. He had already been panicking when he saw Sir Fu and Heichi Suiya’s deaths, starting to entertain thoughts of fleeing. As a grandmaster, which place wouldn’t welcome him?

However, this long-haired large-chested woman was just too vicious. She had brought out all kinds of powerful and mysterious skills, preventing him from leaving.

Motherf*cking... We don't even share any grudges! Do you have to go all out like this?

However, he had no idea that Yun Jianyue was actually furious right now.

That idiot Zu An actually helped the stone cold woman first! Why didn't he help me first?

We clearly knew each other first, and we even lived together in the Imperial Palace for so long. Our friendship should be greater!

And yet that punk is just like other stinky men, all becoming enamored by that stupid stone cold woman's aloof and fairy-like act.

All men should die!

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +444 +444 +444...

Sixth Uncle didn't know why his opponent's aura suddenly erupted and she attacked with twice her previous ferocity. Several injuries quickly appeared on his body. Then, he saw Heichi Suiya explode from an arrow, leaving him completely overwhelmed by fear.

Dark Elves could escape through spatial skills. Normally speaking, only they ambushed others. If they wanted to leave, it would be really hard for others to pursue them. Even so, Duantian Chou had managed to avoid the arrow by sacrificing half of his own blood essence to create a substitute. That meant his aura had already been completely locked onto by that arrow. Even if he escaped through space, he wouldn't truly have escaped. That was why he had to choose such extreme measures.

Sixth Uncle didn't have such a survival skill! If he were hit by an arrow, he would just explode on the spot! Thus, he reacted quickly. He immediately gave up resistance and pleaded with a smile, "This is a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding! We are all our own people!"

His sudden change in behavior caught Yun Jianyue off guard too. She was briefly at a loss for what to do too.

"Our own people?" Zu An sneered. He kept his arrow aimed at Sixth Uncle.

Sixth Uncle broke out into a cold sweat. He quickly said, "Young prince, I am your Sixth Uncle! I even bought candies for you when you were little! Right, I have nothing to do with the Second Prince, but I came to preside over things because the Crown Prince ruthlessly killed his brothers today. That does not mean I support him!

"Compared to the Second Prince, I feel like the young prince is more suited to becoming the Fiend Emperor! You are now the late Fiend Emperor's sole direct descendant, and your mother is the empress. Of course you are the one with the most qualifications to become the Fiend Emperor!"

He blurted out all sorts of reasons in one go. Even he hadn't known he could become so good at bootlicking, and that he could speak so quickly.

The onlookers were a bit alarmed. They really had widened their horizons today. Not only had they seen so many grandmasters fight against each other, they had even witnessed grandmasters being instantly killed. Now there was even a grandmaster begging for his life!

Hu Qianxiao suddenly teared up. My grievances have finally been justified, someone understands my pain! I am the glorious Hu Qianxiao! If not for the fact that I was really going to die, do you think I would suddenly become a kitty cat?!

The Second Prince's nose started to become crooked from anger. Just what kind of idiots had he ended up raising? He had built everything up with such difficulty, and yet all of it became a joke!

Zu An hesitated. Suddenly, his expression changed and he turned in another direction.

The winds became violent and the clouds rushed around. A terrifying aura spread from the clouds, and several faces gradually condensed in the sky. All of them were incredibly old, but their auras were powerful. Even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue both backed up. These were clearly just projections, yet their auras were stronger than the two women's own. That was especially true for the one in the lead. His aura wasn't too far from the past Fiend Emperor!

"Great Elder, your respected self has finally arrived," Sixth Uncle said, tears streaming from his eyes when he saw the figures.

"Silence, you disgraceful thing," the Great Elder said, shooting him a look. Two streaks of light surrounded Sixth Uncle's body, as if the Great Elder could instantly turn him into smoke. Sixth Uncle's entire body shivered. He didn't dare utter another sound.

The Second Empress quickly tugged on Zu An's arm and hinted for him to put his arrow away. She quietly said through ki, "These are some of the royal family's elders. Many of them are even older than the Fiend Emperor. They are usually sealed in the Imperial Tomb and have extremely shocking cultivations."

Zu An nodded. Sixth Uncle also seemed to be from the Committee of Elders, but he had only joined a few years ago. He was just like an intern at most.

These individuals all had extremely high cultivations. They were all people whose lives were nearing their end, but they couldn't break through to a higher realm, so they had sealed themselves up. They hoped that the world would change one day, upon which they would see if there was a chance to break through and obtain a new life. They hadn't sent their real bodies, but rather cast projections of themselves; it was probably in order to preserve their lifespan.

"I greet the elders!" the Second Prince exclaimed, his eyes shining with a look of excitement. He had initially thought that everything was over today. But now that the clan elders had come, there was a chance of things turning out for the better.

No matter how high that bastard Zu An's cultivation is, could it be higher than the elders? Especially Great Elder, whose strength is comparable to father emperor's; he alone could deal with this entire situation!

Let alone the fact that there are still other elders!

The Great Elder nodded slightly, then swept his gaze around the room. Soon afterward, his eyes landed on Zu An, as well as the Sun Slaying Bow in his hand.

The Great Elf King coughed and asked, "May I ask why we are suddenly honored with the elders' presence?"

His status was high, and because of his naturally proud nature, he wasn't as scared of these elders as ordinary people. When he saw the Great Elder look at that lacking son-in-law of his, he was worried they'd start fighting. After all, even though his son-in-law looked a bit ordinary, and far, far from being as handsome as himself, at least he was decent at shooting. He was still pretty satisfied with his son-in-law.

In his eyes, there were only three grades for beauty in this world. The first was, of course, himself. No one else was his equal. The second was merely ordinary-looking people. They were just too far from his own beauty. As for the others, all of them were ugly clowns.

Pretty leather bags were still leather bags. Once you saw one, you'd seen them all. As for ugly clowns, they could be ugly in all kinds of fantastic and odd ways. That was why the fact that this lacking son-in-law of his could reach the normal category was already quite amazing.

The Great Elder harrumphed. "The entire Fiend King Court has become such a huge mess. Did I even have a choice but to come?"

The Second Empress spoke up just then, saying, "Great Elder, that cannot be blamed on us, but on the Second Prince. He went after his brothers, and we were merely acting out of self-defense. I hope Great Elder can bring justice to us all."

As the empress, she was naturally the one with the most qualifications to speak. Furthermore, she was extremely beautiful, and together with the young child in her arms, she really was lovely and pitiful. It was hard for others to develop animosity toward her.

The Great Elder followed her line of sight and saw the Crown Prince's corpse bound up in the Second Prince's group, as well as Elder Wu's head. His expression immediately darkened.

Chapter 1512: Widow Maker

When he sensed the Great Elder's gaze, the Second Prince grew nervous. He quickly explained, "Great Elder is wise. The one who harmed my brothers was not me, but the Crown Prince. After father emperor perished, he was worried that these brothers would threaten his place on the throne, so he sent troops into the night to assassinate us. I was only helplessly acting out of self-defense.

"Third brother and fourth brother were both killed by the Crown Prince's people. I did not harm a single one of my other brothers. If the Great Elder does not believe me, you may ask everyone here. Many of them can attest to me regarding this," he concluded. As for the Crown Prince, he had wanted to kill him, so he was naturally left out.

The Great Elder's gaze landed on the Golden Crow Guard leaders and the other important ministers. Those people immediately felt as if they had been completely seen through. They didn't dare utter a lie. All of them shuddered, reporting to the Great Elder about what had happened. What they said wasn't too different from the Second Prince's story.

"The Fiend Emperor has died..." the Great Elder muttered, seeming a bit absent-minded.

Even though the Fiend King Court was now an absolute mess, for someone of his level, it was still limited in scale. It was instead the Fiend Emperor's death that was of more severe consequence. An era had come to an end, and the Fiend races had also reached a moment of crisis.

He gathered his thoughts, then looked at the Second Prince and the young prince, asking, "Is that why the only ones left with the Fiend Emperor's bloodline are the two of you?"

The Second Prince was delighted, saying, "Indeed. I ask the Great Elder to preside over this greater situation."

There were only two successors left. Compared to his young brother, it was easy to see who was more fit to become the Fiend Emperor.

He had been overwhelmed with hatred to learn that all of his painstaking efforts over the years would be for nothing; he thought that the heavens had no appreciation for those who worked hard. In the end, however, he discovered that the heavens weren't treating him that poorly. How could those grandmasters who had perished before compare to even a single sentence from the Great Elder?

The Second Empress grew nervous. She also understood that compared to the Second Prince, her own son didn't stand much of a chance. If they let the Great Elder make the decision, everything would be over.

Fortunately, a smooth and steady voice called out, "The Fiend Emperor passed on his throne to the young prince before he passed away. The Sun Slaying Bow is proof!"

Zu An raised the Sun Slaying Bow in his hands high into the air as he spoke. When they saw it, the elders were all shocked.

"The Fiend Emperor lost his life? What happened?" the Great Elder asked, his eyes shining brightly as he stared at Zu An.

Zu An felt as if a divine will were scanning over him. The light seemed similar to a lie detector. If most people were to have such a light shine on them, they would become badly frightened and confess everything in great detail. If they were questioned closely enough, they would likely even admit to peeping on the woman next door in the bath when they were younger.

However, Zu An wasn't like everyone else. He had already met many powerful beings, and he had even joked around with those at the Fiend Emperor or Human Emperor's level. He had even witnessed the power of multiple Celestial Emperors before. Even though the Great Elder was formidable, he wasn't even worth mentioning compared to those people.

As such, he calmly received the elder's gaze, then repeated everything he had previously said again. The Great Elder was surprised. After all, any normal person would tremble in fear beneath his gaze. When had they ever responded so confidently? It even made him become uncertain whether his skill was of any use.

However, he quickly dismissed that thought. This youngster's cultivation rank is still so low; how could he hide things from me?

“The Crown Prince is quite daring!” the Great Elder exclaimed, criticizing the Crown Prince harshly out of formality. He then turned to Zu An. There seemed to be a strange light burning in his eyes as he asked, “Is there still any more of that immortal medicine you mentioned earlier?”

Zu An sneered inwardly. Sure enough, these old monsters who already had one foot in the grave all had a special desire for things that could prolong their lives.

He shook his head and replied, “The Fiend Emperor didn’t obtain it either. Furthermore, the secret dungeon has already closed. I fear it will have to wait until the next time the dungeon opens again.

Disappointed looks quickly spread across the elders’ faces. The Great Elder knew that the next time such a secret dungeon opened again would definitely be a long time away. Who knew, it could take hundreds of years, or even more than a thousand years. He couldn’t even wait for another few decades.

He gave Zu An a doubtful look, wondering whether this youngster was hiding anything from him. Alright, I’ll have to find a chance to ask him in private. He obviously won’t speak the truth in front of so many people.

When he saw that the elders were slowly being swayed, the Second Prince immediately panicked and called out, “I am opposed to this. The succeeding Fiend Emperor has always been the one publicly acknowledged to be the strongest. Only then can he lead the Fiend races in defeating our enemies and bring us to prosperity. How could the Fiend Emperor pass on his position to a child? Isn’t this just putting the entire Fiend Races in danger? I suspect that Zu An has lied about the imperial edict!”

The elders exchanged a look. They felt the what the Second Prince said made some sense. Throughout the history of the Fiend Races, there had never been a young child who became the Fiend Emperor.

The Second Empress became dejected. This was her son’s greatest weakness! She had initially thought that she could rely on Zu An’s powerful assistance to take the throne, but now that the Committee of Elders had appeared, the plan was probably going to fail.

Just then, Zu An replied in a loud and clear voice, “If such simple reasoning was something even a blockhead like you could think of, do you think the Fiend Emperor wouldn’t have thought of it? Let me ask all of you, who’s the greatest enemy of the Fiend races?”

“The Human Emperor Zhao Han, of course!” the Second Prince blurted out. That was also what everyone else present thought.

Throughout the years, that name had weighed down on the Fiend races like a mountain. That was especially the case for older people, as they had personally witnessed Zhao Han’s terror. For example, the elders’ expressions were all unpleasant.

“Right? For someone like the Human Emperor Zhao Han, regardless of whether it is the youngest prince or you, the Second Prince, you’re both kids who aren’t worth mentioning at all. So is there any difference at all whether you take the position or the young prince does?” Zu An continued.

“I...” the Second Prince wanted to retort, but no matter how confident he was in himself, he didn’t dare claim that there would be any difference in front of Zhao Han. He would be crushed by a single finger all the same. Like hell Zhao Han would care if his opponent was a weaker or stronger ant; it was still an ant either way.

A cold and clear voice rang out, saying, “I feel that what Zu An says makes some sense. As it makes no difference who becomes the Fiend Emperor for the Humans, seeing as how much turmoil and bloodshed the Fiend races have experienced in this time, what we need more at this time is someone kind-hearted to lead everyone in our recovery. We cannot allow our people to continue this bloodshed.”

A beautiful figure dressed in an ocean blue wide-sleeved dress appeared; her curves flowed naturally like moonlight. Beautiful pearls and coral were embedded in her dress, making her easily recognizable by all.

“Mermaid Princess!”

The ordinary soldiers were merely shocked by this Mermaid Princess’ beauty, but the higher-level figures of the Fiend King Court knew just how much influence she had in the Ocean races. If she said something like that, it clearly represented the will of the Ocean races.

The Ocean races support the young prince!

Zu An sighed in relief. Shang Liuyu had always been hiding in the shadows, but now, just like the Great Elf King, even though she had said she wouldn’t join to leave a way out for her clan, she still stepped forward when it mattered.

With the Elf race and Ocean races taking the lead, the Demon races and other representatives came forward to support the young prince.

Hu Qianxiao almost smacked his thigh until it was swollen from regret. These fellas were normally so proud of themselves, and yet they were all so good at bootlicking when it mattered!

I was just distracted for a moment and ended up falling behind...

Thus, he also quickly expressed his loyalty with great fervor and passion. It was to the point that the other powers cast sidelong looks. Is this guy really the Tiger race’s leader? He’s not the Dog race leader doing an impersonation, right?

The Second Prince’s face became extremely pale when he saw so many of the Fiend races’ great powers support the young prince. He knew everything was over, and that he was finished.

Suddenly, a rainbow light suddenly descended from the sky, and a voice called out “Our Peacock King Race also supports the young prince. Furthermore...” The one who arrived paused for a moment. He turned to look at the Second Prince and continued, “the Second Prince killed the Crown Prince, and he has even caused the entire King Court to be covered in rivers of blood. He must be punished properly.”

“Peacock King Race!”

The onlookers cried out in alarm when they saw the one who had arrived. Two of the three great king races were here, and both of them supported the young prince.

After all, the Peacock King, the Great Elf King, and the Great Golden Peng King all had extraordinary status. They were practically only second to the Fiend Emperor among the Fiend races. Their words, to a certain extent, could represent the will of the Fiend races.

The Peacock Wise King had now antagonized the Second Prince in such a manner. Things probably couldn't be settled peacefully between them.

In truth, the Peacock Wise King was also furious at the moment. He hadn't approved of the Crown Prince's actions today, nor had he joined in.

But how could he have thought that that piece of trash would be killed instead despite having the initiative? The crown prince's death normally wouldn't have much to do with him either, but what really made him go crazy was that the Fiend Emperor had determined the Crown Prince's wife not too long ago. The Crown Princess was none other than his own daughter, Kong Nanwu!

He had actually been a bit hesitant about the marriage, but even before it went through, his precious daughter had become a widow. How could he not be furious?

Chapter 1513: Netherworld Seal

The Second Prince's expression changed. He realized what was going on too.

In the end, the Crown Prince had been too ambitious today. If he hadn't divided his men to take out his brothers, and had instead rallied the Peacock Wise King, Lion race, Tiger race, and the others to move together, there was no way the Second Prince would have had any chance.

But thinking back, even if the Crown Prince won against me, he would still have to face this monster Zu An. He still would have done all that work only to help someone else.

"Peacock Wise King, it was not that I wanted to kill the Crown Prince, but rather that he wanted to kill me. I was merely acting out of self-defense," the Second Prince said, gradually calming down. He knew he had no chance for the throne now and that it would already be good if he could simply keep his life. He could still seize an opportunity in the future.

"Self-defense?" the Peacock Wise King sneered. "I don't care what kind of grudge you share with each other. You've caused my daughter's reputation to be harmed, so you deserve death!"

Then, a streak of divine rainbow light swept toward the Second Prince. The Second Prince's expression changed. They were all a part of the Fiend King Court, so he knew fully well just how formidable that light was!

He tried to dodge, but he was surrounded by the light. He felt as if his entire body had frozen. The only thing he could do was frantically use his cultivation. A layer of black flames rose from his body, resisting the light. However, smoke was already starting to pour out of his entire body. It didn't seem long before he completely turned to ashes.

Zu An was surprised. He hadn't expected Kong Nanwu's father to be so strong! Hmm, he's pretty good-looking too. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to father such a beautiful daughter.

He couldn't help but give the Great Elf King a glance. He personally thought that this lacking father-in-law of his was slightly more handsome, but the Peacock Wise King had an aura of power around him. He seemed much more reliable than that silly and narcissistic father-in-law.

Suddenly, a streak of golden light rushed forth, blocking the Peacock Wise King's rainbow light.

The Peacock Wise King's face darkened. He looked in its direction, calling out, "Little Golden Peng King, are you going to stop me?"

With a flicker of golden light, a young, golden-armored prince appeared on a nearby rooftop. It was none other than the current Great Golden Peng King race's Little Golden Peng King.

Those present sighed in amazement. That movement skill was really fast! No wonder the Fiend races publicly acknowledged the Great Peng race to be number one in speed. Only the royal family's Golden Crow Radiant Flow was comparable.

The Little Golden Peng King smiled and said, "Wise King, please quell your anger. I know you are angry right now, but many princes have already been killed and the Fiend Emperor bloodline has almost become extinct. Only the Second Prince and the young prince remain. If you kill the Second Prince too, well, the young prince is still too young. If something unexpected happened, would the Fiend Emperor's bloodline not be completely finished?"

He smiled apologetically to the Second Empress afterward, continuing, "I hope that your highness can forgive me. I am not cursing the young prince, but rather speaking out of consideration for all the Fiend races."

The Second Empress harrumphed. As a mother, how could she have good intentions toward the other party when she heard such unlucky words?

The Peacock Wise King frowned. If he persisted in such a situation, wouldn't he take on the crime of ending the Fiend Emperor's bloodline?

What is the Little Golden Peng King trying to do?

His father died mysteriously back then, so he should hate the Golden Crow family. If there's anyone who wants the Fiend Emperor's bloodline to end, he should be one of the most likely suspects. Why is he defending them now?

Several elders nodded just then. The Great Elder said, "Indeed, what the Little Golden Peng King says is not entirely without reason."

The Peacock Wise King said with a sneer, "The Second Prince has enveloped the King Court in a storm of blood. Are we supposed to just let things be then?"

The Little Golden Peng King nodded slightly, saying, "Both the Crown Prince and the Second Prince bear responsibility for today's disaster. The Crown Prince has already died, so that is one thing, but the Second Prince cannot escape his crimes. However, I have just received news that the Netherworld Seal has started to move. The Ghoulish races have started to invade. We can send the Second Prince to deal with that situation to wash away his crimes."

"Netherworld Seal!" the various Fiend race people exclaimed, their expressions changing. They whispered to one another, looking as if they were about to face a huge disaster.

"Netherworld Seal? Ghoulish races?" Zu An asked in confusion. He had never heard anything about that before.

The Second Empress seemed to notice his confusion and explained considerably, "The so-called Ghouls are the collective term to refer to certain pitch-black, sinister beings. They seem to originate from another terrifying world. A long, long time ago, the Fiend races forced back the invading Ghouls by uniting with the other races of the world. Then, the opening they invaded through was sealed up. That is the so-called Netherworld Seal."

Zu An was alarmed. The Scaled Deathworm he had encountered in the Yu clan's mines also seemed to be a monster that had invaded from another world. He wondered if such worms could be considered part of the Ghouls races too.

"The war against the Ghouls races was bitter and cruel. Countless powerful individuals died, or else the humans would not have had a chance to rise up," the Second Empress continued. However, only then did she seem to have realized that Zu An was a human. She quickly showed him an apologetic smile. Her watery eyes seemed as if they could speak, making it hard for anyone to be angry at her. She eventually continued, "Additionally, the Ghouls races are really too powerful. Over time, the Netherworld Seal has become less secure. Every so often, ghouls have begun to pass through. Of course, in terms of scale, they have always been much fewer in number than in the past. As such, the Fiend races often send out armies to wipe out those invading ghouls, while also sending some experts to strengthen the Netherworld Seal."

Zu An nodded. It was just like the way this world had all kinds of secret dungeons; whether it was humans or fiends, they could head into secret dungeons in search of treasure. For those ghouls, this world was similar to a secret dungeon. They naturally wanted to invade this beautiful and fertile world, while the natives resisted fiercely.

"Even though the intruding ghouls are not too numerous, we still have to pay heavily to deal with them. It is just as the Little Golden Peng King said; the invading ghouls are much greater in number than in the past. Eliminating them will definitely be an extremely dangerous job," the Second Empress continued, her voice full of hesitation.

The Great Elder's projection soon looked toward the Second Prince and asked, "Are you willing to defend the Netherworld Seal and make up for your crimes that way?"

The Second Prince was conflicted. He naturally knew how dangerous the Netherworld Seal was. In the past, the armies sent there had all suffered casualties of at least twenty percent of their men. The scale was even greater this time, so it would definitely be even more dangerous. Even if it wasn't entirely without a chance of survival, the men he had raised so carefully would definitely suffer severe casualties there.

At any other time, he definitely wouldn't take on such a damned job. However, considering today's situation, if he didn't accept, he wouldn't necessarily be able to keep his life. Thus, after weighing the pros and cons, he gritted his teeth and said, "I am willing!"

The Great Elder's gaze shifted to the Second Empress. He asked, "What does the Second Empress think?"

The Second Empress nodded slightly and replied, "If the Second Prince offers himself up respectfully for the Fiend races, I naturally have no objections."

Zu An frowned and asked through ki, “Will it really be fine to release a tiger back into the mountains just like that?”

The Second Empress replied gently, “It will be fine. Firstly, the Netherworld Seal does need someone strong to deal with the situation. Whenever there is activity from that side, it takes several years before the situation comes under control again. Furthermore, the scale is even greater than before, so the amount of time needed will be even longer. In the end, what the Little Golden Peng King said is reasonable. The young prince is still too little, and the royal family bloodline is almost extinct. The military forces of the respective races will not be absolutely loyal to us, and each of the four great generals has a powerful army of their own. Keeping the Second Prince as a blade to hold those ambitious individuals in check is a good thing.”

Her voice was lovable and dainty, just like Big Sis Chiling from Zu An’s previous world. It was really hard for one to refuse her soft and gentle tones.

Zu An warned her, “Still, when the blade is this sharp, a moment of carelessness might lead to it easily biting the master instead.”

The Second Empress smiled sweetly, her face full of charming allure, and replied, “Don’t I still have you?”

Zu An was alarmed. She really was an alluring woman through and through! She was clearly already a married woman, and yet she was still acting like a young female student. The worshipful gaze she sent his way was clearly a soft expression, and yet it made his entire body harden. The dirty thoughts that suddenly appeared made him shiver.

It seems this is because of the cultivation I absorbed from Sir Fu earlier. I have to find a chance to properly adjust and refine it away, or else something really bad might happen.

Seeing as the Second Empress wasn’t opposed to the suggestion, the Great Elder turned to the Second Prince and said, “In that case, you will be appointed to deal with the Netherworld Seal affair. If the Ghoul race matter persists for a day longer, you are not to return to the Fiend King Court a day earlier. Set out immediately!”

The Second Prince gave the Imperial Palace a deep look, his gaze filled with unwillingness. However, he still clenched his teeth and said, “I will do as you bid!”

Afterward, the elders appointed the young prince as the new Fiend Emperor. Even though he was still young, only he alone would satisfy the different powers. His age naturally ceased to be an issue.

Apart from that, what had to be dealt with was dealt with, and what had to be rewarded was rewarded. The most dangerous people had already been dealt with by Zu An ahead of time. Sixth Uncle was brought away by the Committee of Elders, so only Duantian Chou remained.

This guy had the blood of countless people on his hands. People unanimously wanted him dead. Just then, however, the Great Elf King asked the others to let him take the Dark Elf away.

Zu An naturally had to help his father-in-law out with this favor. He didn’t oppose the request and only asked out of curiosity, “Respected uncle, what do you plan to do with him?”

The Great Elf King replied, "Of course, I am going to use this mirror to admire myself every day, to make him look at me."

Zu An was still confused. Then, the Great Elf King continued proudly, "To kill him through beauty!"

Zu An was speechless.

After the main offenders were dealt with, the rest were simply left for the Second Empress to deal with. Zu An didn't have to get too involved.

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Then, the Imperial Palace began to prepare for the young prince's ascension to the throne.

Because of the chaotic situation that had taken place today, Zu An didn't dare to leave the Imperial Palace, to prevent accidents from happening. He remained in one of the Second Empress' side chambers. If the Second Empress ended up in any danger, he could be the first to rush over and provide assistance. Meanwhile, he could meditate and adjust his own condition in the room.

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After some time passed, the Second Empress called out in her lovely and gentle voice, "Can I come in?"

Chapter 1514: Regent

The voice outside the door really was a bit too cute and lovely. Zu An felt heat stir within him when he heard it. However, he quickly calmed himself down and said, "Please come in."

The door quickly opened. A woman dressed in an empress' splendid attire walked in. It was apparent that she had to use her status as the Fiend Empress to convince the masses.

A look of surprise flickered through Zu An's eyes when he saw the Second Empress close the door behind her.

The Second Empress said gently, "My status is special, so it would be difficult to avoid gossip if we were seen in the same room together."

Zu An nodded to express his understanding of her reasoning. However, he thought inwardly, A woman and a man are alone in the middle of the night... If you close the door, won't people be even more suspicious?

"Has your highness finished dealing with everything?" he asked curiously. The young prince had been chosen as the next Fiend Emperor, so the entire Imperial Palace was busy preparing for the official ceremony the next day. The young prince was still too little and needed his mother to take care of everything, so she definitely had to be busy beyond belief.

"There are so many things to do, so how can it all be done already?" the Second Empress replied, yawning and stretching. Her wonderful curves came into full view. Then, she smiled toward Zu An and continued, "But compared to those things, it is more important for me to not give you the cold shoulder."

Her figure swayed back and forth as she walked to a special rhythm. Her entire body constantly emanated an irresistible aura of seduction.

Zu An felt as if the ki he had finally gotten under control was showing signs of surging randomly again. He couldn't help but frown. Mi Li had previously warned him that even though there were quick results from absorbing others' cultivation like this, there were also many hidden dangers. That was especially true for someone like Sir Fu, whose ki had been absorbed from countless others to begin with, making it even more impure.

The Second Empress arrived at his side. She sat down on a chair as if she had just returned to her own home... Actually, it was a room in her own palace, so calling it her home wasn't wrong.

She maintained a distance that was neither too close nor too far. The Second Empress's cherry lips opened slightly, and she began to report on some of the more important details regarding what she had done so far.

"You already know that the Second Prince was sent out to defend the Netherworld Seal. Apart from that, even though the Crown Prince scheming against the late Fiend Emperor and tonight's events are matters of rebellion, all of the various forces have reached a compromise that we will not release this to the public and preserve his reputation. The first reason is so that we can appease the forces loyal to the Crown Prince, and the second reason is as a way of consoling the Peacock Wise King.

"Otherwise, the Crown Prince schemed against the Fiend Emperor and killed his brothers; these are crimes that would be completely deserving of clan eradication," she continued, her expression turning a bit strange. "It is known that the Peacock Wise King's daughter was about to wed the Crown Prince. If we really looked into it, she would also end up being involved. That is why it is better for everyone if this matter is not dealt with too severely.

"Still, I know you and the Crown Prince shared a grudge, so I was worried that you would not be too happy. That is why I came here to talk to you about it," the Second Empress continued. Her skin was as fair as snow. She looked at Zu An with her misty eyes, carrying a pitiful expression that seemed to contain endless affection.

Zu An knew that this woman was using her charm skills on him again. He calmly said, "He's already dead; I'm not so narrow-minded. We'll just do things as you planned."

The Second Empress sighed in relief when she heard that. She sounded much happier as she continued, "By the way, the Peacock Wise King has been looking for a chance to nullify the contract between his daughter and the crown prince. He thought about letting her marry the young prince, as that would not be too bad of a choice. That way, she would still be the new empress and there would be no difference. Still, I thought that the young prince really was too young and that it would be unsuitable, so I refused. Do you know the real reason I refused, though?"

When he saw her playful expression, Zu An thought, You're a married woman for better or for worse; why do you act like a young girl sometimes?

He thought for a bit, then replied, "There's no way the other forces would agree to that. The Peacock race didn't contribute much to the young prince's rise to the throne. Why would they allow that clan to gain so many benefits?"

The Second Empress revealed a look of surprise. She hadn't expected Zu An's political intuition to be so sharp. However, she shook her head with a smile, saying, "That is indeed part of the issue too. However, the main reason is because of you."

"Me?" Zu An repeated, now truly stunned.

The Second Empress leaned forward a bit, lowering her full chest onto the small desk to the side. She rested her chin on her arm and looked at Zu An with a pensive expression, saying, "It is because I heard that in the past, the Crown Prince made a bet with you, and that the stakes were his Crown Princess. Then, sure enough, he lost. The Crown Princess is your spoil of war, so how can I overstep my place?"

Zu An was speechless. He had almost forgotten about that. Back then, he had only said that to anger the Golden Crow Crown Prince, and he hadn't even known who the Crown Princess was.

The carriage outside the capital containing Kong Nanwu's beautiful and refined figure appeared again in his mind. A thought flashed through. This... doesn't seem to be that bad?

However, he quickly restrained that thought. What was wrong with him today? Why was he being affected by such random thoughts?

After all, he was no longer the way he had been when he first came to this world. He had already met so many beautiful women and fought through so many life and death battles. He had experienced shocking events others wouldn't have gone through even across ten lifetimes! His will should already have been extremely steady. In theory, he shouldn't have produced such thoughts, or at the very least, not so frequently.

When she saw his expression, the Empress adjusted herself to show him a more beautiful angle, continuing, "The tricky thing right now is the Crown Princess' side. Once she returns, I will find a way to play matchmaker. With your current identity as Regent, you are more than qualified to take her as your wife. Not even the Peacock Wise King would refuse. They chose the wrong side before, so this kind of conclusion is already more than they can ask for."

"Regent?" Zu An asked, stunned.

The Second Empress explained, "When the young prince ascends to the throne tomorrow, he will make you the Regent. The young prince is still too little, so in the future, you... and I will both support him in ruling the court. Please do not refuse. You are his adoptive father, and you had the greatest contribution in his rise to the throne. You deserve everything." She stared deeply at him, her eyes filled with sincerity and gratitude.

Zu An actually felt that this was a bit of a pain. He requested, "Can you call me something other than Regent?"

"Why is that?" the Second Empress asked, stunned. She thought he was looking down on this position, but it was already the greatest price she could offer. The Regent position wasn't that common, but it had existed a few times throughout the Fiend races' long history. It was basically being under one person, but above the rest of the world! Before the Fiend Emperor became an adult, to a certain degree, he would be the emperor. If Zu An wasn't even satisfied with that, what did he want?

Could it be...

For some reason, the Second Empress' neck turned a bit red. A hint of bashfulness appeared on her face, almost as if she were secretly hoping for something.

"It's just the name that sounds a bit unlucky," Zu An said, thinking about Dorgon and Empress Dowager Xiaozhuang. Dorgon had served as a Regent for the Shunzhi Emperor, but was later accused of many crimes. Eventually, he had his coffin opened up, and his remains were exhumed and flogged in public.

However, when he heard the Second Empress nervously explain the position of Regent in the Fiend races' history, Zu An knew he was overthinking things. He said, "It's mainly because I'm a human, and there's no way I can remain here for a long time. It's unsuitable for me to have such an important position."

The Second Empress sighed in relief when she heard his response. To be honest, she had been a bit worried about that. After all, the relationships between historical Regents and Fiend Emperors had always been rather poor. After all, once the Fiend Emperor grew up, he had to rule himself. Meanwhile, many of the Regents had gotten used to their positions of power and became unwilling to return the authority.

Zu An's cultivation was profound and immeasurable. If he really did covet status, the young prince would be in trouble in the future. Even though she had a good impression of Zu An, she was a mother first and foremost. She definitely cared about her son's interests first.

Thus, the Second Empress smiled sweetly and said, "It does not matter. We do not need you to deal with too many political affairs. There are ministers who will help you. You can return to the human side whenever you want. Your position of Regent will always be here."

Zu An wanted to refuse at first, but after thinking about it, whether it was Yu Yanluo's Snake race, Snow's Elf race, or even the Ocean races and Demon races who had gotten some concessions, they needed someone of status to help them get what they were promised. With the position of Regent, many things would become much easier to deal with. Still, it would make things a bit troublesome for him once he returned to the human side.

Sensing his worry, the Second Empress remembered her previous suspicion. Her heart rate sped up. She looked at Zu An carefully. This man had sharp brows and bright eyes. He had an outstanding temperament; he wasn't inferior to even the Great Elf King, and his body was even more manly.

The memory of him shooting down Shi Zhentian with a single arrow, and how he had killed such famous and powerful individuals as Sir Fu and Heichi Suiya, replayed in her mind. Even Duantian Chou and Sixth Uncle were utterly terrified of him.

Isn't this the perfect lover I was imagining all this time? A knight in shining armor, riding on a white horse!

As she looked at him that way, the Second Empress' snow-white skin was soon covered in a layer of captivating redness.

Zu An seemed to have thought of something. He touched his own face in confusion, asking, "Is there something on my face?"

The Second Empress lowered her head in embarrassment. She hadn't expected that she could still become as shy as a young lady even though she was already a mother. She bit her lip, then got up. She walked up to Zu An, and then slowly knelt down under his puzzled gaze.

Zu An was stunned. He quickly tried to lift her to her feet, asking, "What are you doing?"

The Second Empress stopped him, saying, "You don't need to say anything. I know."

Zu An was stunned. What do you know?

Chapter 1515: Whoever Starts the Trouble Should End It

Regardless of what the Second Empress knew or not, Zu An quickly understood what she was about to do. He reached out his hand to hold her chin. He said with a conflicted expression, "There's no need for you to do this, your highness!"

The Second Empress moved the hair in front of her eyes behind her ear. She raised her head to look at the man towering above her, her eyes filled with a lovely expression, and replied, "You already refused me once before. If you refuse me again, I will really be too embarrassed. That's why... Please don't refuse me again."

She still remembered the despair she had felt today very clearly. Just then, however, Zu An seemed to have arrived from the heavens. Not only had both mother and son not needed to die, they had even reached the highest point of authority they could ever hope for. She still felt as if she were dreaming when she remembered all of those things.

All of that had been brought to her by the man in front of her. Even though the two had shared some friendship, things were different now. Back then, she had been the glorious Second Empress, while he was just a human who had just entered the master rank. The Fiend King Court had quite a few master rank individuals, and he hadn't been all that different from them. The only difference was probably that he was a little more handsome.

Now, the Fiend Emperor was already dead, so her status as the Second Empress had already lost its meaning. In contrast, Zu An had become someone who could easily kill grandmasters, an unrivaled individual who could keep the entire Fiend King Court under control. She couldn't behave with any pride or self-reliance in front of him.

As such, she was actually quite frightened. Zu An could choose to help the young prince, or he could choose to support someone else. Their relationship was just that brittle, so brittle that she didn't even know how to completely bring the two of them together.

In the end, the way for a man and a woman to become closer was really simple. If she wanted to seize this man, the simplest and most direct method was clear.

Still, she was a bit embarrassed. Normally, with her beauty and charm skills, just a single look or smile could make many people hell-bent on pursuing her, and she didn't have to do too much at all. And yet, this man seemed to have really expensive taste and didn't seem to care about any of her tricks.

If I really want to rope him in, I can only...

For better or for worse, she was now the Empress Dowager, so she still felt a bit of mental resistance toward such a thing. But when she raised her head and saw Zu An's handsome appearance, her face suddenly reddened.

It doesn't seem like I'm really missing out here, though!

That was especially the case when she remembered his confident and unrivaled appearance. He perfectly matched the fantasy she'd had of a dream lover in her youth. As such, she only hesitated for a second, then made her decision.

When he saw her teary-eyed appearance, Zu An was a bit stunned. She'll be heartbroken if I don't agree? I really don't know how to refuse now...

This woman is just too good at this stuff, isn't she?

While he was confused about what to do, a cool breeze blew past his legs.

"That's not too good..." Zu An muttered, seemingly trying to refuse, but as a man, he knew just how weak that kind of refusal was.

At first, the Second Empress was shocked by what she saw. The sight really was beyond her wildest imaginations. Her face immediately turned bright red.

In the past, she had thought that the Fiend Emperor was the strongest man. But now, she knew that in certain matters, he had been too far from this handsome young man in front of her...

In that instant, she even began to wonder whether this man really was a human, or if he was a kind of fiend!

...

Zu An's eyes widened, and he released a long sigh. Objectively, the Second Empress was still quite underripe in this regard. Compared to Yu Yanluo or Little Qing, she was much more lacking. Of course, however, that was due to the Snake race's unique skill.

Even so, the Second Empress' status was different. She was someone who had just convinced everyone in the palace, and she was wearing the most respected dress of the empress. She was adorned with a phoenix crown and a multicolored gown. Right now, she was the woman with the noblest status among all the Fiend races.

Such a unique sight paired with the sheer psychological shock really was something that was hard for others to compare to.

Zu An couldn't help but run his fingers through her hair. Her hair really is as smooth and sleek as satin...

...

Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen adjusted her breathing in a quiet room within the palace. She had just fought a great battle against a grandmaster, causing her energies to stir violently. After all, she had just recently recovered from her serious injuries.

Of course, that wasn't the most important point. What affected her most was that the shock of Zu An killing several grandmasters in a row was just too great. After all, none of those grandmasters were weaker than her, and yet they had all died so easily at Zu An's hands.

Naturally, because they had fought together through so many life-and-death situations, she knew his true strength wasn't that ridiculous. But even so... it was a bit absurd.

At the moment, her emotions were in just as much of a mess as her logic. After all, in her cultivation realm, every individual was a stunning genius, and they all had their own pride. Before she met Zu An, that pride had been very steady, and her mentality had also spurred on her strength.

However, after everything that had happened, that pride was completely shattered. She knew that if she couldn't calm herself down, her unsteady dao heart could prevent her from making any further cultivation progress.

As such, she had found a quiet meditation room far from Zu An to think over her gains and losses in the Unknown Region. In particular, she wanted to digest the powerful shock Zu An had brought her tonight.

Yan Xuehen had also seen that Yun Jianyue had sought out a quiet place to recover with a serious expression. She was probably in a similar situation.

...

After a long time passed, she finally managed to stabilize her almost-shattered dao heart. Suddenly, however, there was a knock on the door outside.

"Who is it?" Yan Xuehen asked, opening her eyes.

With her grandmaster cultivation, she had already seen a dainty and slender young lady standing there. The other woman paced back and forth for a while and raised her hand to knock on the door several times, but she hesitated and gave up each time.

It was the Elf race's Princess Snow.

She naturally knew about Snow and Zu An's relationship from their recent interactions. That silly disciple of mine... By having such a pretty maid, aren't you basically leading the wolf into the house?

She really couldn't understand how Chuyan could feel at ease with having this woman, whose appearance wasn't inferior to her in the slightest, as a maid. Was she blind?

There's no way the Chu clan could have been blind either. The people in Brightmoon City can't all be blind either, right?

Is this the kind of beauty a maid should have?

She didn't know that when Snow was in Brightmoon City, she had been under the Elf race's seal. It had sealed both her stunning features and weakened her aura.

Even though she knew it was Qiao Xueying outside, Yan Xuehen didn't expose her. She just felt that their relationship was a bit awkward, and thus hoped Snow would leave on her own.

However, Snow continued to knock on the door. After some hesitation, Yan Xuehen still asked the rhetorical question, "Who is it?"

"Sect Master Yan, it's me, the Elf race's Qiao Xueying," a clear voice replied.

Snow's voice really was as pretty as an oriole's. No wonder that guy likes her...

Seeing as Snow had paid her a visit like this, Yan Xuehen couldn't refuse her. She sorted out her thoughts and said, "Please come in!"

Using her divine sense, she could see that there was a gift in Snow's hands. Yan Xuehen's expression became a bit cold. Hmph, this girl stole my precious disciple's man! I won't eat her gift even if I have to die from starvation!

Soon afterward, a beautiful figure pushed open the door and came in. Qiao Xueying clearly had a few reservations. She opened the case in her hands, revealing all sorts of exquisite refreshments and fruits. "I heard big sister Chu mention what the sect master's favorites were, so I came to bring some of these fruits. I hope the sect master won't turn your back on them."

Yan Xuehen sneered. You used to call her young miss Chu, but now, you're calling her big sister Chu? But I guess you're still quite tactful, willing to be the younger one.

Even so, in order to help my precious disciple vent, I can't accept these gifts.

She was about to refuse when Qiao Xueying handed over another silver case, saying, "I begged my father for one of the Elf race's Flower Jade Pills. I hope it can aid in the sect master's speedy recovery." She knew Yan Xuehen had been injured based on their earlier interactions.

A look of surprise flickered through Yan Xuehen's eyes. The Elf Princess had clearly thought through her gifts. Most importantly, this Flower Jade Pill was no ordinary medicine, but rather the Elf Race's highest-grade recovery medicine. Every single pill had miraculous restorative effects. This gift was quite precious.

She wanted to refuse, but she had already used up all of her own medicines in the Unknown Region. She really did need such medicine to aid in her recovery, and also to stabilize her dao heart.

"Many thanks!" Yan Xuehen replied, feeling a bit ashamed. Didn't I already make the decision not to accept her gifts? But how can I refuse when she's giving me so much?

Qiao Xueying sighed in relief when she saw that Yan Xuehen had accepted it. Then, she asked about how Chu Chuyan was doing. As far as she knew, that was their sole connection. She couldn't just ask about Ah Zu right off the bat, right?

It just happened that because she had spent so much time in the human world, Qiao Xueying was quite good at reading people's body language. Even though Yan Xuehen intended to refuse her in the beginning, after talking for a bit, she had to admit that the Elf Princess was quite good at friendly conversation. The two quickly began to chat happily with each other.

When Qiao Xueying left, however, Yan Xuehen sneered. This Elf Princess is pretty sharp! She's actually trying to use me to help her deal with Yu Yanluo and the other women.

Still, she could understand that as well. Zu An had just too many women around him. As Qiao Xueying had expressed her good intentions, and she did share sisterly bonds with Chuyan, allying against the others was a good idea.

Yan Xuehen suddenly thought of something. What do these things have to do with me? They can just fight it out in the harem themselves!

She suddenly became a bit uneasy. She could no longer calm down her dao heart. After some hesitation, she decided to have a chat with Zu An. Whomever started the trouble should end it. For all she knew, she could potentially find some solution with him.

Chapter 1516: I Came at the Wrong Time

As she left through the door, Yan Xuehen hesitated for a moment. She thought, What if Zu An is together with Yu Yanluo? If she barged in in the dead of night, there was a high chance that there would be a misunderstanding.

She took a few steps back, but her mind was a mess. She couldn't calm herself down to meditate at all. In the end, she clenched her teeth and decided to continue forward.

Even if it's embarrassing to look for Zu An, it should be fine for me to seek out Yu Yanluo for some chit-chat, right? she thought, surprising herself with her own wit. She thus sought out a palace maid to ask about Yu Yanluo's whereabouts.

The palace maid recognized Yan Xuehen as one of the grandmasters who had fought in the skies for the Second Empress' side. Yan Xuehen looked so quiet and transcendent that it was hard to refuse her. As such, she respectfully replied, "The Medusa Queen needed to take care of some Snake race affairs and has already left the palace."

"Left the palace?" Yan Xuehen repeated, stunned. However, she quickly realized what was happening. The Second Empress had definitely promised the Snake race some generous conditions, so Yu Yanluo had needed to hurry back to discuss things with her clansmen and bring some people over to the Fiend King Court to see things through. After all, the Snake race's rise was already inevitable, and they definitely didn't have enough representatives in the Fiend King Court.

"Then what about Zu An?" she asked, feigning nonchalance. However, she laughed inwardly in self-mockery. Why did she have to go this far with a maid?

"The Regent is overseeing her highness and the young prince from a nearby residence to prevent any evildoers from starting any trouble in the palace," the maid replied.

She and her fellow maids grew excited as soon as they heard the name 'Zu An'. Word of Zu An's powerful achievements had quickly spread throughout the entire Imperial Palace. This world worshiped the strong, let alone someone who was so handsome on top of that.

When she saw the maids' starstruck eyes, Yan Xuehen thought, Zu An really is always surrounded by these love affairs. My... disciple will probably end up encountering a lot of future troubles.

Regent... That woman really is going all out!

As the White Jade Sect's master, she naturally knew what kind of authority a Regent symbolized in the history of the Fiend races.

Her pretty brows couldn't help but furrow when she thought about how Zu An was located near the Second Empress' chambers.

Don't tell me fiend women don't understand the concept of laying low?

Of course, even though she was a bit unhappy, she didn't think too much of it. There were just too many things that had happened during the night, and it was almost daybreak. At dawn, the young prince would ascend to the throne, and everyone present would become awfully busy. They would all have too many responsibilities, so how could anything happen?

She expressed her thanks to the maid, and with a tap of her toes, she swiftly floated into the distance.

The maids' little mouths hung wide open. They all had looks of envy. One exclaimed, "If I were as formidable as Lady Yan... No, even just a tenth of how amazing she is would be enough!"

"Hmph, even a wench like you has such high demands? I'd be fully satisfied if I could have even a tenth of her beauty," another remarked.

The other maids all stared at her, replying, "Isn't your requirement even higher?"

...

Yan Xuehen naturally wasn't paying attention to the conversation of the maids behind her. She quickly arrived outside the Second Empress' chambers.

She had always enjoyed peace and quiet. She didn't want her unannounced visit to Zu An's place to be known by more people, so she didn't alarm the guards outside. Her figure was like a wisp of smoke as she quickly entered the empress' palace.

Her divine will slowly spread out. Soon afterward, she cast her gaze onto a side chamber. Her usually cold gaze gave way to a hint of a gentle smile. That was Zu An's aura. Her gait quickened as she walked over, but she suddenly slowed down again. There was another person's aura there.

It was the Second Empress!

The gentle look between her brows instantly disappeared. What were a grown man and woman all alone in a room together for?

Still, she quickly calmed herself down. Zu An had already become the one the Second Empress relied on the most. It was understandable for her to discuss national affairs with him.

She felt more at ease now when she thought of that. As such, she stopped in place and admired the moon for a bit. She decided not to disturb their official business for the time being.

She planned to seek out Zu An after the two finished their chat. She didn't want to meet with the Second Empress, in order to avoid trouble. She had always enjoyed peace and quiet, and didn't like such social affairs.

Just like that, she continued to stand there for an indeterminate amount of time. At some point, a cold wind blew past, bringing with it a leaf that landed on Yan Xuehen's head.

Yan Xuehen removed the leaf from her head, feeling a bit surprised. The Fiend races' territory was located in the northern frontier, and it was winter right now, and yet there were still green leaves. She had to admit that the Fiend races' royal family really was impressive. They were able to raise many trees that could only be found in the sunny south.

But why are they still not done after chatting for so long?

She hadn't probed the interior with her divine sense out of courtesy and her own pride. But now, she found it a bit hard to hide her curiosity.

If it were anyone else, with the Unshaken Daoist Manual that Yan Xuehen cultivated, she wouldn't even have that thought. However, when it was related to Zu An, she felt as if her heart were being clawed at.

After some hesitation, she muttered to herself, "I have to see if something unexpected happened inside. Zu An won against those grandmasters, but he might have an internal injury that has only flared up now..."

When she thought of that, it was even harder for her to resist. She quickly extended her divine sense inside. For a grandmaster, divine sense was just like one's eyes. Even if there was a wall in between, they could see everything clearly.

Hm? Why is the Second Empress collapsed on the ground? Wait, she seems to be kneeling on the floor.

What's up with Ah Zu? Why are his eyes closed as if he's in pain?

From her viewing angle, she could only see the Second Empress from behind. The empress' body was blocking what was happening, so she couldn't exactly see what was going on.

As such, she extended her divine sense a bit deeper to look from a different angle. However, when she did that, her pretty eyes immediately widened. She was completely shocked by the scene.

She saw the Second Empress supporting her heaping mounds, then lowering her head just like that...

There's even something like that?!

Is this woman not scared of choking to death?

In the end, the problem was that Yan Xuehen was too detached from the secular world and naturally gave off a distant air to the people around her. People all treated her like a goddess and chose their words carefully. Nobles were always scared of being shown disgust by such a goddess; between that and her upbringing, she was as innocent as a white sheet of paper in this regard. Even though she had shared physical intimacy with Zu An, she still knew far less than even young virgins and unmarried maidens.

If it were the Devil Sect's Yun Jianyue, she would have already known what they were doing just from seeing the empress' back.

Still, no matter how innocent Yan Xuehen was, she still knew what was happening when she saw the scene. She glowered. A layer of ice began to spread outward from her, covering everything in the vicinity.

You have successfully trolled Yan Xuehen for +999 +999 +999...

When Yan Xuehen's divine will entered the room, Zu An had already noticed it. However, while he was in heaven, his reaction speed was naturally a bit slow. Only when he saw the backend explode with Rage points did he snap out of his daze.

I'm finished! I'm done for!

Yan Xuehen's gaze was completely cold. She turned around and left.

Zu An panicked and got up to chase after her.

The Second Empress felt a bitter chill sweep over her. She reflexively covered herself with her clothes. She wondered why she suddenly felt cold, but how could she have expected Zu An to suddenly stand up? She clutched her mouth and moved to one side, holding onto the table as she began to cough fiercely.

Zu An felt apologetic when he saw that. If he just ran away from the situation, that would be trashy of him and it would create a rift between them. It wouldn't be good for their cooperation in the future. As such, he gently patted her back to help her sort out her condition.

When the empress recovered a bit, Zu An quickly ran out the door. However, how could he possibly catch up to Yan Xuehen?

"What's wrong?" a tender voice called out. It turned out that the Second Empress had emerged while holding her clothes tightly around her, a pitiful look on her face. What had just happened left her confused. She thought that perhaps she had done something wrong.

Chapter 1517: Should I Run or Not?

The Second Empress had followed Zu An in a hurry, carelessly pulling her clothes over her body. However, it left plenty of her fair skin visible, making her appear even more lovely and attractive.

"It's nothing," Zu An said. He couldn't tell her that Yan Xuehen had shown up, right?

"Was I not good enough in some way?" the Second Empress asked; she seemed on the verge of tears, looking incredibly innocent and charming.

Zu An immediately felt a flame ignite within him. Even though this woman had said she was repaying him out of gratitude, she had constantly been using her charm skill on him. Her intentions definitely weren't as pure as she made them seem.

He felt as if his head would explode after Yan Xuehen's visit; he had no idea what he was supposed to do. Now, this woman was even playing tricks on him!

It's all her fault!

Even though his reason told him this had nothing to do with her, he had just absorbed Sir Fu's cultivation. The chaotic nature of that power, which he had done his best to suppress, once again completely erupted.

Isn't this woman trying to seduce me? Then, let's see if you'll still be in the mood to think such crooked thoughts.

He picked her up directly off the ground and carried her in his arms. The Second Empress really did have a special innate talent. She was clearly tall and slender, and yet when he picked her up, her body felt soft and boneless.

When she sensed the passion in Zu An's eyes, a slight grin appeared on the corners of the Second Empress' lips. She felt as if she had won at a certain small game.

However, at the same time, her heart pounded fiercely with even more nervousness and anticipation than back when she was newly wed. After all, she had only been aiming for the empress position back then and didn't have any feelings or... desire for 'him'.

And yet, when she saw that Zu An wasn't bringing her back into the previous room but rather into her own chambers, the Second Empress panicked slightly, starting to struggle. She protested, "Don't go there! There are people there..."

The empress' chambers naturally had a large number of maids and eunuchs. Even late at night when the eunuchs went back to the outer areas, there were always some personal maids left behind in the palace.

"So what?" Zu An replied, his tone carrying a hint of unquestionable intent.

"You really are an overbearing man!" the Second Empress exclaimed, biting her lip. His powerful arms made her feeble struggles completely useless. Furthermore, her own conflicted heart wasn't that resolute either.

Being seen by someone else would really be a big problem! There are no absolute secrets in the world unless I silence everyone forever. But those maids are all my trusted aides. I'm already lacking manpower, and it would be even more difficult to find trustworthy new people.

But if I firmly reject him, it might offend him...

Just like that, as those two thoughts continued to clash, she unknowingly arrived in her own chambers.

When they heard the activity, the maids inside came out to greet the Second Empress, but when they saw that her clothes were messy and that she was lying in Zu An's arms with a look of embarrassment, their jaws almost seemed about to fall off.

The Second Empress was very embarrassed, and she gave the maids a threatening look. The maids all shuddered and didn't dare to raise their heads again.

Just like that, Zu An carried the Second Empress into her room. The Second Empress' slender hand gently waved and closed the door, and she activated a sound isolating formation.

However, when he saw her movements, Zu An coldly said, "Shut down the formation."

“But...” the Second Empress began, somewhat nervously. She raised her head and saw his domineering expression. She was shaken. This man seemed to be embarrassing her on purpose!

However, after some hesitation, she still undid the formation.

Zu An walked around the resting chamber. As he breathed in the expensive fragrances and the familiar sweet scent coming from the Second Empress’ body, he couldn't help but smile, saying, “I didn’t expect to be back here again.”

The Second Empress’ face turned bright red. She knew he was talking about the time when the Elf Princess had been brought into the room. Back then, she had been forced to listen to them all night, and she had also been curious as to how the Elf Princess’ dainty physique could withstand such a fierce battle. She hadn’t expected to personally receive the answer herself today.

When she thought of that, her heart trembled. She said with a playful pout, “Your face was so scary before.”

Last time, they had needed to go through so much difficulty to help the Elf Princess escape. She had even generously saved them back then. Now, just how much had transpired since then? Zu An had already become someone she had to look up to.

Zu An didn’t reply to her, and instead threw her onto the phoenix seat.

Even the Second Empress’ skin was heating up. This was a place even the Fiend Emperor had considered off-limits. Previously, she hadn’t even dared to think that another man would defile this place. It wasn’t just her; no man among all the Fiend races would dare to have such a thought.

Furthermore, this man had deliberately taken down the formations, clearly intending to shatter her pride and fully tame her. As a woman who was proficient in charm skills, she naturally understood a man’s heart too.

For some reason, though, she didn’t feel any disgust. That heavy pressure instead made her feel a kind of indescribable expectation.

Her expression was extremely conflicted. She had clearly just received news of her husband’s death this evening, and yet she was already following another man to bed. I really am a bad woman...

...

Meanwhile, the maids in the palace shook in fear. They weren’t even in the mood to watch the drama unfold.

After all, as they came from the Imperial Palace, they knew the palace’s rules. The massive Imperial Palace constantly had people who died for various reasons. That was precisely because they had seen something they shouldn’t have seen and heard something they shouldn’t have heard.

After what happened today, not even dying eight times would be enough. Still, they were the Second Empress’ most trusted aides. Her highness wouldn’t kill them, right?

The maids hesitated as to whether or not they should flee, when a mature voice suddenly spoke up from one side. "Stop thinking nonsense already and guard your respective positions. Do not let anyone else approach this place."

"Aunt Xiao!" the maids quickly greeted her respectfully. The mature female official before them was someone from the Second Empress' family. She was the one in charge of the Empress Palace's various matters, big or small.

"As long as you are loyal to her highness, her highness will definitely not let you down," Aunt Xiao said as consolation, which finally dispelled their misgivings. After all, this kind of thing had already happened, and it would clearly happen again. Even if they were silenced and other people replaced them, there would still be a chance of news leaking out.

However, along with the encouragement came words of reality. Aunt Xiao's expression turned cold and she continued, "But after tonight, if any rumors start to spread, I will not investigate all of you one by one. All of you here will die! Understand?"

"Yes!" the maids replied, shivering. No wonder her highness didn't do anything before. She knew Aunt Xiao would take care of things later.

Aunt Xiao nodded in satisfaction. However, a frown appeared on her face when she looked at the tightly shut door. Her highness really is acting willfully.

Still, as someone who had followed the empress here and taken care of her since she was little, and furthermore remained unmarried the entire time, she saw the empress like her own daughter. She knew that even though the Second Empress looked bright on the surface, she had actually been cold and quiet in the palace, and always been extremely lonely.

Aunt Xiao had witnessed how impressive the Regent was tonight. He wasn't a bad choice for her highness.

Fortunately, she still had at least a bit of restraint, at least closing the door. The formation should be active, right...

As soon as that thought emerged, however, a noise emerged from inside. Aunt Xiao was speechless.

What is up with this girl? Does she have to go that far?

She had no experience with such things herself, and the palace had always been a lonely and empty place for her too. When had she ever experienced such a shock before? She quickly left with a reddened face, dragging the excitedly listening maids out with her.

"We will stand guard a bit farther out. We cannot let anyone within several dozen meters... no, several hundred meters!" Aunt Xiao ordered with a flushed face. The two inside really had gone crazy! The young lady was still the empress! Even though the Fiend Emperor had died, this was still the Fiend races' Imperial Palace. Who knew how many people were watching it?!

...

Just like that, after half a night, Aunt Xiao finally couldn't take it and knocked on the door. She called out, "Your highness, it is already daybreak. We have to carry out the young prince's ascension to the throne. Your highness also needs to wear the ceremonial dress."

The Second Empress' ceremonial dress was extremely grand and complex. It was something a large group of maids needed to help with.

"I got it~" a lazy, extremely sweet voice called out from inside. It even made Aunt Xiao, who was also a woman, shiver.

Inside the room, on the phoenix seat, the Second Empress' skin was covered in a layer of beautiful rosiness. She looked at the man next to her with tender feelings, her eyes misty and beautiful. She said, "I've discovered that the noble title I gave you before was just too fitting, my dear... Steady Aim Duke."

Chapter 1518: End of an Age

After daybreak, the grand ceremony began on the altar outside the Imperial Tomb. The first task was to announce the death of the late Fiend Emperor, and the second was to announce the ascension of the new Fiend Emperor.

The Second Empress thus became the Empress Dowager. Because the young prince was still too young, there were many duties she had to take over.

All of the representatives of the different clans attended the ceremony, gathering below the altar. They all sighed in amazement. It was said all across the world that the Second Empress was incredibly beautiful. Today, they discovered that her reputation was fully justified.

Furthermore, her complexion even looked a bit rosier than usual. Many people thought, Your husband just died, and yet you've become even more beautiful. Which man did you end up giving yourself to?

Of course, those were just playful thoughts. Not even enemy clans would really believe such a thing had really happened. Her son was now the new Fiend Emperor, and she had become the true ruler of the Fiend races. People tended to be in good moods during happy occasions, so it was natural for her face to be glowing like that. As for the loss of her husband, it was the royal family, the place that lacked feelings and affection the most.

The Second Empress walked along the carpet and up the stairs. It was the most important moment. As the Empress Dowager, she had to receive the bows of the new emperor. At the same time, she had to crown the new emperor in the late Fiend Emperor's place. She was dressed in splendid clothes; her long dress dragged behind her along the stairs, resembling a phoenix tail.

At first, she walked in a graceful and poised manner. Suddenly, however, her figure trembled and her beautiful brows furrowed.

Aunt Xiao, who was following beside her, was startled and quietly asked, "What's wrong?"

"It's nothing," the Second Empress said, shaking her head. A hint of bashfulness flickered across her face.

Just then... 'that' had trickled out. She had actually been trying hard to control it along the way. However, the stairs were so long that it really challenged her willpower.

That guy really does pour like a waterfall...

She hadn't slept all night, and dawn had broken before she realized it. Then, Aunt Xiao and the others had led the maids in to get her dressed. Time was just too tight, so she hadn't had time to bathe at all.

Fortunately, her dress was extremely grand, so it was also extremely sturdy. It prevented a shameful display. She took a deep breath, then continued up the stairs.

In people's eyes, the Second Empress' every action was dignified and noble. Apart from being a bit too lovely and charming, there wasn't a single flaw they could pick at.

However, the Second Empress' thoughts returned to the previous night's charming and gentle events. Zu An had deliberately told her to deactivate the formation. She had guessed what he was thinking, and hadn't been all that willing deep down, but she was just as unwilling to offend him over such a thing.

Thus, at first she had decided to use silence to express her rejection. Unfortunately, Zu An had charged straight in like a battering ram. The empress had been utterly defeated from practically the first encounter. As she had her own sense of pride, she had bitten down on her red lips to put up a weak final defense; however, the more she did that, the more Zu An took advantage of her.

She hadn't thought too much of it, and just assumed her charm had completely drawn out the instincts hidden deep within him. She even felt a bit of pride. Still, Zu An was just way too rough! It really was too... too good.

Before absolute force, her resistance was completely meaningless. Soon afterward, she had become unable to hold it in, giving Aunt Xiao a real fright.

She had never let herself go like that before, nor had she ever experienced such a feeling, where every single one of her cells was cheering with everything they had. At that instant, she had felt as if she had lived all her previous years for nothing. She was unsure whether she could ever feel as happy as she did at that moment again.

And yet, the moments that followed had completely overturned even that admiration...

She hadn't expected that not only was Zu An so formidable in cultivation, he was also even so... formidable in 'that' kind of thing. No, he was even better at the latter. She was pretty confident that he was unmatched in that field. At that moment, she finally understood why he had so many stunning beauties around him.

Whether it was the Medusa Queen, the Elf Princess, the two ridiculously beautiful grandmasters, or even the Ocean races' Mermaid Princess... Any one of them would be a woman whom most people could only long for but never obtain. And yet, those women all surrounded Zu An!

She had found it really strange before. Had these women all gone mad? They were all the best of the best, and yet they had to wrong themselves and share a man? However, after the previous night, she finally understood. She was still too naive.

After a long night of battle, she discovered that not only was she not tired today, she was even glowing with life. Even the injuries from the conflict from the night before were completely healed.

As the Fiend Empress, she naturally had more knowledge and experience than most. She had experienced such intimate contact before, so she immediately noticed that Zu An's blood essence carried extraordinary aptitude. It was absolutely amazing for women.

Even though she usually had a charming demeanor, that was just to win over the court ministers. No one had ever heard of her having any ambiguous relationships with others; she had never been a particularly licentious woman. However, the previous night had changed her completely, and she just couldn't get enough.

At first, she had only planned to borrow Zu An's transcendent aptitude blood essence to nurture herself. Eventually, however, she unknowingly completely fell under his spell. For a moment, she even had thoughts about birthing his child. She had completely opened her body and mind to him.

However, when the celebration began, she gradually recovered her reason. Her status was way too sensitive. If she gave birth to another son as the Empress Dowager, that would be a catastrophic event. As such, she had to purge those thoughts for now. At least... at least until the court's situation stabilized. Then, there would be a chance.

Aunt Xiao quietly observed her expression the entire time. When she saw the empress' sweet smile, others wouldn't know, but she definitely knew what was going on.

Do you really have to act like that while looking that beautiful... Aunt Xiao thought inwardly. However, she quickly recalled what she had heard the previous night, and she couldn't help but bite her lip.

...

The Second Empress finally arrived at the top of the stage. Then, she crowned the young prince according to tradition.

Just like that, the Fiend races' new Fiend Emperor came to be!

The different clan representatives all showed the new Fiend Emperor a bow. When they saw his young and tender appearance, they all had their own thoughts. One thing they all acknowledged, however, was the end of an age.

Then, the new Fiend Emperor and the Second Empress led their subjects in the sacrifices toward the previous Fiend Emperors, and particularly the late Fiend Emperor. Only after completing all the prior tasks did they start the festivities.

The new emperor started to bestow rewards on the different ministers. The first was Zu An, who was given the title of Regent.

When those of lower status first learned of that, they were all shocked. They all began to wonder just what kind of ridiculous person this was, that he would be given such an outstanding position. However, those who truly had authority weren't surprised in the slightest. The only reason why the young prince had been able to become the new Fiend Emperor had been due to Zu An's support, after all.

Still, even though Zu An's status was great, he didn't have any foundation in the Fiend King Court. Furthermore, he was even a human. There was no way he would be able to shake the authority of the old hierarchy. As such, no one was particularly opposed to it.

Then, the Elf race, Snake race, Ocean races, Demon races, and Tiger races all obtained generous rewards. They were the ones who had contributed considerably in the previous night's battle. The Peacock race and Great Peng race were also given some rewards to appease them.

The Golden Crow Guards' high-ranking officers were completely changed. Furthermore, the Second Empress aggressively promoted the Xiao Clan and the trusted aides she had built up over the years.

As for Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen, they had also done a lot. The Second Empress wanted to reward the two of them, but their statuses on the human side were special and they didn't want to get too involved with the Fiend races. As such, they were simply tactfully thanked.

...

The different forces congratulated Zu An. Zu An replied to them nonchalantly, then looked around for a certain ice-cold figure. Unfortunately, he couldn't find her no matter where he looked.

He felt dejected. This is bad. Big sis Yan didn't just leave out of anger, did she?

Her temperament is already like Xiaolongnu^[1]; how can her tendencies be the same too?

It wasn't just him. Even Yun Jianyue was looking for Yan Xuehen. The two of them were clearly sworn enemies that couldn't coexist, and yet now, she felt a bit unnatural when she didn't see the other woman around. She just felt that something was missing. However, she really couldn't find Yan Xuehen, so she asked around. She found out that Qiao Xueying had sought Yan Xuehen out the previous night, so she went to the Elf race.

When she saw Yun Jianyue arrive, Qiao Xueying was alarmed. After all, she had just contacted Yan Xuehen the previous night to face the other women together. Yun Jianyue's disciple was naturally one of her targets.

When she saw Yun Jianyue arrive, Qiao Xueying's first reaction was to think, Could it be that last night's events were exposed?

It had to be said that the pressure the Devil Sect Master gave off really was quite great.

Chapter 1519: Agate of Enlightenment

"Sect Master Yan disappeared?" Qiao Xueying asked. She had felt very worried that Yun Jianyue was there to criticize her, but when she heard the reason for the visit, she sighed in relief. "I don't know either. She left after our chat. I didn't notice anything strange back then."

"Oh? Then what did you chat with her about yesterday?" Yun Jianyue asked, also feeling confused. Yan Xuehen wasn't someone who couldn't distinguish between what was important and what wasn't. Had something unexpected happened?

"It's... nothing," Qiao Xueying said, her face heating up. "I was just asking about big sister Chu's current situation."

She couldn't tell Yun Jianyue that they had been discussing how to deal with her disciple, right?

"That's it?" Yun Jianyue asked with a frown. Generally, there wasn't anyone in the Fiend King Court who could threaten the stone cold woman. Even if their cultivation was higher than hers, there was no way a battle wouldn't cause any commotion at all.

"Yes," Qiao Xueying said, nodding quickly.

"Snow, what happened?" the Great Elf King asked as he walked over, making sure to flip the strand of hair in front of his forehead. It was a move he had perfected over many years, as it would fully display his exceptional appearance and carefree attitude. Each time, it always made a group of young ladies or aunties scream.

However, he never really showed off because he really did like someone. After all, in his opinion, there wasn't a single woman who was as good looking as him. The reason he did it was to enjoy the looks of shock and adoration toward his stunning beauty.

It was just a pity that Yun Jianyue wasn't that type of woman. Furthermore, because of the annoyance she felt from not being able to find Yan Xuehen, she only found his display even more pretentious. She said, "In that case, then, I'll ask around somewhere else."

She knew that the Great Elf King was probably worried that she would bully his daughter, and that was why he had arrived. As Qiao Xueying had said she didn't know, Yun Jianyue really didn't feel like dealing with this crazy narcissist.

Seeing that she was about to leave, the Great Elf King couldn't help but say with a sigh, "You were born with a passable face, but it's a pity that you're blind."

"Blind?" Qiao Xueying repeated, stunned.

"Otherwise, why would she be indifferent toward my stunning appearance? If she isn't blind, she definitely can't be a woman," the Great Elf King quickly replied.

Qiao Xueying was speechless. She found it a bit hard to handle her crazily narcissistic dad and shot back, "Maybe it's because she's seen a man who's more handsome than a certain someone that she's acting like that?"

"How could that be? In this world, whose looks can compare to mine?" the Great Elf King exclaimed furiously.

Qiao Xueying harrumphed, then didn't feel like paying him any more attention. She reflexively glanced toward Zu An, who was on the elevated stage. A hint of pride appeared on her beautiful complexion.

"So it was him," the Great Elf King harrumphed. "You're just in your honeymoon phase. As a father, I'll just forgive you. Right, once things are finished, you should go back to the Elf King Manor. I've already arranged for a few elders to personally instruct you on how to deal with the clan's affairs. You know that I was locked up in the Imperial Prison for a period of time, and too many things have accumulated in the clan. Recently, the Empress Dowager has massively promoted the Elf race, so we need someone to take care of all those things now."

"Isn't that your work? Why aren't you doing it?" Qiao Xueying asked nervously.

She still had to find her sweetheart afterward. It was one thing when he had been on the human side, and she could only think about him due to the physical distance. But now, he had finally come all the way to the Fiend race territory, and yet the two still rarely spent time together!

The Great Elf King proudly raised his chin and replied, "These complicated matters are too much work; it'll damage my perfect skin and accelerate my aging. I naturally need to leave them to you."

Qiao Xueying looked wronged, protesting, "Excuse me, are you not worried about the same thing happening to me?"

"You're still young, so it's fine," the Great Elf King replied, waving his hand. However, when he saw her pouting, seemingly really unwilling, he changed the subject. "Do you really like that kid?"

"Isn't that a rhetorical question? If I didn't like him, would I give him half my lifespan?" Qiao Xueying asked, looking at him as if she were looking at an idiot.

The Great Elf King didn't get upset as he replied, "Then there's even more of a reason for you to do these things."

"Why?" Qiao Xueying asked, sounding completely confused.

The Great Elf King's expression wasn't as frivolous as before, but instead filled with a wise air as he replied, "From what I know, that brat always has a lot of women around him, and they're all the world's most powerful individuals. The Medusa Queen, the White Jade Sect's inheritor, the Devil Sect's saintess, the Ocean races' Mermaid Princess, even the Demon races' princess... In terms of beauty, none of them are inferior to you, and those people all have powerful forces behind them. At the same time, because of their status, their experience and skills absolutely aren't something a naive young lady like you can compare to. Won't you be completely swallowed up by those women at this rate?"

"Additionally, from my perspective, that White Jade Sect Master Yan and Devil Sect Master Yun both seem to carry more than just a positive impression of that kid. If you don't accumulate some skills and experience, how will you fight them?"

Qiao Xueying rolled her eyes, retorting, "Are you crazy? They're Chu Chuyan and Qiu Honglei's masters. Why would they like their own disciples' man?" She sneered. "Whatever."

She just assumed her narcissistic dad was being dumb again. Still, even though she didn't believe that the two seniors would like Zu An, she still acknowledged her father's advice. She felt that she had to deal with the Elf race's affairs to raise her own personal skills, as well as to prepare for the future.

...

Even after the coronation ceremony ended, the Second Empress had many things to take care of. Zu An couldn't seek her out during the day, as a result.

Yu Yanluo planned to establish a new office in the Fiend King Court for the Snake race. The Second Empress had granted them a new residence and several other awards. There were many things that the two of them, as master and servant, had to take care of.

Apart from that, her gains in matters of cultivation had been great too. She had received all kinds of insights, which she needed to slowly digest in seclusion to break through into the master rank. Because

she had the Holy Pearl and her bloodline talent, together with the Boulder Topaz precious to earth element cultivators that Zu An had given her, there was no risk at all for her breakthrough this time. She didn't even need anyone else to watch over her.

...

Yan Xuehen had disappeared off to who knew where, and Zu An didn't know where Yun Jianyue was either. Qiao Xueying had also left in a hurry...

He looked around and saw that everyone had left, so he decided that it would be best to return to the Imperial Palace. When he arrived, he withdrew a batch of goods from the treasury. He had always been worried about his Tai'e Sword being damaged; as he had some free time now, it was the perfect time to fix it.

Previously, the Rune Weapon Chart had unlocked the Forging System. It allowed him to repair weapons, but he needed all sorts of materials. In the past, it might have been a bit difficult, but with his current status and authority, the materials issue had suddenly become extremely easy to solve.

He had mentioned it in passing to the Second Empress the previous night. The Second Empress was already completely submissive and obedient by that point, simply giving him her token. Together with his status as the Regent, none of the guards of the treasury had dared to stop him.

When he returned to his room, Zu An was a bit excited. His rewards this time were a bit unexpected.

First off, he had a large batch of heaven-grade ores. That was the bare minimum for repairing heaven-grade weapons. Furthermore, he even had eleven Meteor Spark Pills. Such items were extremely precious, and they were all the Fiend Races Imperial Palace had in their treasury. The pills weren't for people to eat, but rather, were used to forge weapons.

He planned to use up the Calamity Gold he had gotten from the Jade Garden rock betting game to increase the Tai'e Sword's grade too. However, for something like Calamity Gold, not even true fire was guaranteed to be able to melt it. The Meteor Spark Pills were needed as supplementary materials. Such pills could greatly increase the power of all kinds of fire. At the same time, rather than being explosive, they uniformly distributed the fire, greatly increasing the success rate of the process.

The previous night, when the Second Empress heard what Zu An was thinking, she had felt that using up Calamity Gold on a heaven-grade weapon wasn't really worth it. Zu An didn't think so, however. The Tai'e Sword had a special meaning to him. As he had managed to actually get some Calamity Gold this time, he would naturally have a chance to obtain other exceptional metals in the future too.

Seeing how he had already made his decision, the Second Empress didn't say anything else. They had quickly entered another round of crazy ups and downs again.

However, whether it was the large batch of heaven-grade ores or the precious Meteor Spark Pills, they weren't really why Zu An was excited.

What he was most excited about was that he had found the Agate of Enlightenment, one of the three divine objects Mi Li had said she needed to reconstruct her body!

Chapter 1520: Divine Weapon

The Agate of Enlightenment wasn't actually a piece of agate. It was a translucent honey-like liquid, but more viscous, stored in a ki stone bottle. The bottle had all kinds of runes and formations around it to prevent the medicinal qualities from leaving the bottle.

When Zu An opened the lid, rich natural ki rushed out. He had only sensed a similar density of ki from the Xia Dynasty secret dungeon, but at that moment, the concentration was even greater than in that dungeon.

Apart from that, there was an ancient and profound air about it that seemed to carry the great dao of the world, as if there were laws of the cosmos carved within. Even the slightest contact could bring great benefits, giving a cultivator vague signs of a breakthrough.

The reason why the Golden Crow Crown Prince had been able to gain such high cultivation and become the leader of the five extremes above all of his peers, apart from his superior aptitude and pointers from the Fiend Emperor, was partly due to the Agate of Enlightenment. It allowed cultivators to comprehend the dao and achieve breakthroughs more easily.

However, even the Golden Crow Crown Prince with his distinguished status had only received a single drop of this Agate of Enlightenment each year. It was easy to see just how precious it was.

And yet, Zu An had simply taken the entire bottle. Of course, out of consideration for the Second Empress, he still left behind a small bottle for the young prince's cultivation. However, if there hadn't been enough Agate of Enlightenment to begin with, he would probably have taken the rest too. At worst, he would have just compensated the mother and son in a different way.

Zu An activated the forging system. A large cauldron projection appeared in the room. He then sent in a strand of White Lotus Flame. The great cauldron instantly erupted into blazing flames. Fortunately, the Second Empress' palace was supported by special runes, or else a normal house wouldn't be able to hold such a large cauldron or such blistering flames.

He then added the heaven-grade ores to it. They were the most basic materials needed for the Tai'e Sword's repair. Such ores would both help to regulate the flame's temperature, and melt to repair the Tai'e Sword.

Zu An was about to put in the Tai'e Sword when he suddenly thought of something. He quickly took it back.

"Beautiful master, hurry and wake up~" he repeatedly called out to Mi Li. He had forgotten that her soul was still in the Tai'e Sword and almost roasted her alive.

"What is it?" After Zu An called out for a long time, a lazy voice finally replied. The voice sounded a bit upset, as if she had been woken up from her sleep.

A wonderful figure lay down on a seat off to the side. She wasn't dressed in lavish palace wear the way she usually was, and instead had some soft, light-colored clothes. She was like a stay-at-home married woman who had been roused awake and came down to open the door.

Her beautiful hair was bundled up in a simple manner around her neck and shoulders, a hairstyle pre-Qin Dynasty women often wore. She rested her chin on her hand, her soft hair casually falling down

across her snow-white skin and swaying with the wind. Her usually lively and heroic demeanor surprisingly gave way to a hint of gentle charm.

The light of the fire coming from the large cauldron in the center of the room was like a winding milky stream against her body, highlighting her incredible curves.

Zu An thought to himself, Is this woman really not a reincarnated gourd spirit?

However, after the previous night's battles, he was now just like a saint. He quickly recovered and said, "Beautiful master, I hope you've been well."

"It would've been better if you hadn't woken me up," Mi Li replied, rolling her eyes.

"Master, you really slept quite deeply. I almost lost my life in that Unknown Region!" Zu An began to grumble.

"Aren't you still fine?" Mi Li replied, then yawned while covering her red lips, her movements graceful and noble.

Zu An was speechless.

"Master, you might not know, but I had to be a substitute for the ancient deity Yi in the Unknown Region. I even shot down the suns in the sky! Later, I even killed the Fiend Emperor. When I came out, I even killed several grandmasters..." He gathered his thoughts and then began to tell her about what had happened in her absence with a big smile. Even though he didn't say it directly, his excitement clearly hinted for her to praise him.

"I know that already. Seeing as your Puppet Curse is gone, the Fiend Emperor is obviously dead," Mi Li said flatly. She remained calm, as if she were listening to something that couldn't be more expected.

Zu An was now at a loss. Is it because I didn't do good enough, or does this woman not care about me at all?

When she saw his expression, Mi Li grinned and said, "Alright, fine. Actually, I saw everything that happened in the dungeon."

"You saw everything?" Zu An asked.

"Of course. How could I sleep in such a dangerous situation? I was always secretly watching. I have to say, brat, you really do have some skill," Mi Li replied.

Zu An's expression immediately brightened. Looks like my beautiful master still loves me.

"As for those grandmasters last night, they're nothing special. In the Unknown Region, everything else was secondary. The most precious thing you gained was that unrivaled conviction. As long as you continue to win, you'll become stronger and stronger," Mi Li continued. If Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were here, they would definitely feel great admiration. She had been able to deduce the reason behind Zu An's increase in strength from a single glance.

"Then what if I lose?" Zu An asked with a frown.

"If you had that thought, you would no longer have that unrivaled conviction," Mi Li said calmly.

Zu An shivered, seemingly understanding. Suddenly, he thought of something and asked, “Master, seeing as you saw everything, what exactly is going on with the Celestial Emperors? Are there really immortals in this world?”

“Of course there are,” Mi Li said, getting up from the seat and walking over to the window to look into the sky. There was a somewhat wistful expression in her eyes as she continued, “In the past, when I saw the ancient records, I thought they were just myths. I didn’t expect them to really have existed! The Unknown Region you went to was a bit different from other secret dungeons. It could be a world that really exists.”

“Really exists?” Zu An asked, shocked. Didn’t that mean the Celestial Emperors, Sun Goddess, Spirit Mountain’s Ten Shamans, and the Mt. Wu Goddess... were all individuals who actually existed?

Mi Li nodded and said, “That world is a bit strange. If my suspicions aren’t wrong, someone snipped a segment of the river of history and cast it there.”

Zu An’s expression changed. He asked, “Is there really someone that powerful?” To be honest, such a skill was already beyond his understanding.

“There’s no need for you to think about those things right now,” Mi Li slowly said. “There are too many temporal and spatial laws involved in the process, so not even I can comprehend it. However, I do have some guesses...”

Zu An waited for her to continue, but when he saw that she didn’t say anything, he thought she was waiting for him to play along. He quickly asked about it, but she didn’t say anything. Mi Li instead replied, “It won’t be of any help to you if I tell you about these things now. When it’s time in the future, you’ll naturally know them yourself.”

Zu An was speechless. He hated it the most when others made things mysterious like this on purpose.

Mi Li didn’t seem to want to continue talking about the topic with him, however. She changed the subject, asking, “You didn’t call me out just to show off, right?”

Zu An finally remembered his objective. He handed over the bottle in his hands, replying, “Beautiful master, do you see what I have here?”

Mi Li opened up the lid and gave it a look. Her previously calm and aloof demeanor was immediately replaced with pleasant surprise. She exclaimed, “Agate of Enlightenment!”

When he saw her become as happy as a little girl, Zu An immediately felt better. He thought, This woman usually always acts so profound and immeasurable. She really lacks the emotions of a normal girl.

“Out of the four things you mentioned before, I’ve already gathered two of the Five-Colored Springflower, Agate of Enlightenment, and One Life Water. There’s still one more item that you never told me about, though. Can you tell me now? That way, I can keep it in mind. Otherwise, I might have missed out on this Agate of Enlightenment in the Fiend races’ Imperial Treasury,” Zu An said out of curiosity.

“Once you find the One Life Water, I’ll naturally tell you the fourth item then. Telling you now is still meaningless,” Mi Li said, a blush suddenly spreading across her white cheeks.

Zu An thought he had misheard her. He was about to ask again when Mi Li pointed at the large cauldron at the center of the room, asking, “What are you trying to do here?”

Sure enough, Zu An was distracted. He replied, “Wasn’t the Tai’e Sword damaged? This is a good chance to fix it.”

Mi Li could sense that the heaven-grade ores were starting to melt inside the cauldron. She nodded and said, “The skill you obtained in the dungeon is not bad. Together with these heaven-grade ores, you should be able to repair it successfully.”

“There’s also this,” Zu An said, bringing out a piece of metal and waving it around. “I plan to throw this in too. I even got some Meteor Spark Pills to help with its refinement.”

“Calamity Gold!” Mi Li exclaimed. With her knowledge and experience, she naturally recognized it. Her expression became a bit conflicted as she said, “This is something that can refine true divine weapons. Don’t you feel that it’s a bit of a waste to use it on the Tai’e Sword?”

Zu An shook his head and replied, “How is this a waste? The Tai’e Sword is the supreme treasure of your Chu State and Qin State. Now, it’s even where your soul resides. It’s different from normal heaven-grade weapons.”

A strange look flashed through Mi Li’s eyes when she heard him say that so naturally. However, she quickly covered it up and replied, “What a rare display of filial piety. But there’s no need for you to feel any disappointment, because the Tai’e Sword was a divine weapon to begin with.”