

Immortal 1531

Chapter 1531: Return to True Self

Long, long ago, it was recorded that there was a fish fry that dwelled deep in the dark north, named Kun. It was so large that it couldn't be cooked in a single pot...

The young Kun was thousands of miles long; it could transform into a bird, becoming a Peng. The Peng's wingspan was thousands of miles wide as well. When it took flight, it could cover the skies like clouds. It would nest deep in the south instead...

Various records all stated that the Kun could transform into a Peng. That Peng wasn't quite the same as the Fiend races' Great Peng race, though. It was clearly many, many times larger and stronger.

The Kun grew through feasting. There were different types of Kun depending on how they feasted, such as the Corpse Kun, Bright Kun, Blue Kun, Earth Kun, Herbivore Kun, Bone Kun, Giant Kun, Spirit Kun, Vicious Kun, Devouring Kun... The Kun's skills were completely reliant on such feasting.

Meanwhile, the Kun Peng diagram in Zu An's body had awakened the Kun Peng's power. Feasting on enemies would make him stronger, and there were no side effects.

Zu An was really happy to see that at first. The Heaven Devouring Sutra could swallow the cultivation of his enemies, but there were a lot of side effects, so he didn't want to use it recklessly. However, when he saw the word 'feasting', his eyelids couldn't help but twitch. Wouldn't he be just like a wild beast, a cannibal? He wanted to throw up just thinking about it.

Just then, however, a noise went off in his mind due to a message from the Keyboard System. Because he had the Heaven Devouring Sutra, the two skills were merged to form a new ability.

He didn't have to feast as the initial description suggested; instead, he would just have to kill his opponent. At the same time, the entire cultivation system would be reconstructed. It would no longer be the path of an ordinary cultivator, but rather an entirely new numerical system.

Something similar to an experience bar appeared in his mind. Subsequently, whenever he killed an enemy, that experience bar would grow. Once it was maxed out, his level would increase. Furthermore, there was the number 69 next to the experience bar. It was clear that he was currently at Lv. 69.

'Isn't this a bit too ridiculous?' Zu An thought, unable to help but mock the Keyboard System. Why did it seem almost as if he were in a game? It didn't even feel like cultivation anymore.

He had discovered that as his cultivation rank increased and he unlocked more of these smaller systems, the system also became much smarter. At the very least, it could respond to some of his simpler questions.

The current system layout has been modified into the format easiest for the user to understand. There are other interface models, but based on the user's knowledge and background, the user would not be able to understand them.

That was the keyboard's reply.

Zu An was speechless. He was actually being looked down on by this damn keyboard!

Still, he had to admit that it made some sense. This was indeed a much easier way for him to understand what was going on. Thus, he swiftly checked his own condition. He discovered that he couldn't tell whether he was at the core form or power soul stage anymore.

He couldn't help but become a bit worried. Big sis Yun was teaching me how to temper my heart at the power soul stage, but the entire stage is now gone?

Yun Jianyue suddenly voiced her surprise. "Huh? What's going on? Why do I feel as if your impure flame has disappeared? Wait, why can't I sense your cultivation anymore? What happened? Did you become a normal person?"

Yun Jianyue really was shocked. Previously, even though Zu An was mysterious, she had still been able to more or less tell what cultivation rank he was at. For a grandmaster, it would be strange if she couldn't recognize the cultivation rank of someone at a lower rank than her. But now, she couldn't sense the slightest bit of ki from him. He didn't even feel like a cultivator; he now seemed no different from an ordinary person... apart from being a bit more handsome.

There was no way his cultivation rank was higher than hers either. For those with higher cultivation than her, it was hard for her to see through them too, but she could at least sense the power coming from their bodies and know not to provoke them.

Did something happen when I was helping him before? Did I make his cultivation deviate and turn him into a cripple?

She was so scared she was about to cry when she thought of that. But I didn't do anything wrong before!

This won't do. I have to find Yan Xuehen to take a look. Her daoist faction might know a bit more about these things.

She couldn't waste time worrying about Yan Xuehen finding out what had happened. All she wanted was to save Zu An as quickly as possible.

Zu An had a strange expression when he saw Yun Jianyue's nervous appearance. He grabbed her hand and said, "Big sis Yun, I'm probably okay."

"What do you mean you're okay? I can't even sense your cultivation anymore! Are you really no different from a pretty boy now?" Yun Jianyue exclaimed, her voice shaking a bit. Even though she didn't mind having a pretty boy like that, she still didn't want Zu An to become a cripple.

"I really am okay," Zu An said. He thought for a bit, then realized that his words were a bit powerless. As such, he took out the Tai'e Sword and casually brandished it to one side. Blinding sword ki fired outward, causing a huge explosion.

When she saw a nearby mountain split apart, leaving behind a new valley, Yun Jianyue blinked. It seemed that the whole process seemed to be beyond her grandmaster rank perception.

"You clearly don't have any ki fluctuations coming from you though..." Yun Jianyue muttered, unable to understand. Furthermore, she couldn't sense the slightest bit of a cultivator's energy when he attacked. Just what the heck was going on with this world?

"It might be because my cultivation method is a bit special, so it's changed somehow..." Zu An trailed off, not knowing how to explain it either. However, he finally convinced her that he was fine and that he was now in the best possible condition.

Yun Jianyue examined Zu An's body for a long time, but she didn't find anything strange, so she sighed in relief. Then, a strange smile appeared on her face. She said, "If you were to ambush someone in your current state, you really would be unstoppable."

After all, in the eyes of other cultivators, Zu An was no different from an ordinary person. They wouldn't even put up any precautions against him. How could they possibly react if he suddenly attacked them? For someone like Yun Jianyue from the Devil Sect, a surprise attack wasn't really dishonorable. On the contrary, if it succeeded, that was the embodiment of wisdom.

Zu An shook his head slightly, saying, "I don't think I even need to use surprise attacks anymore."

After thinking to herself for a bit, Yun Jianyue didn't say anything else. Zu An had finally obtained the conviction of the invincible, so there was no need to make it waver.

"You really scared me to death just now," Yun Jianyue said, getting dressed while holding her chest. "Seeing as you seem fine now, it's time for me to go too."

Zu An jumped in fright and quickly hugged her, exclaiming, "Didn't you say you weren't going to go?"

A gentle expression appeared on Yun Jianyue's face when she sensed his warm hug. She replied, "I only said that before to appease your inner demon state. I already told you that I've been away for too long and the Devil Sect is a mess. I have to go back, or else there will be... problems."

Zu An knew that she was speaking the truth, but he still couldn't hide his disappointment. He asked, "Then was everything else you agreed to real or fake?"

Yun Jianyue raised her brows. A hint of dangerous intent appeared in her eyes. She asked, "What did I agree to?"

Zu An had an embarrassed smile. He discovered that now that his inner demon was gone, he had many more misgivings. He could only say, "You know."

"Damn punk, why didn't I realize you were this daring before? You actually dare to have those kinds of dreams?" Yun Jianyue harrumphed. Still, she came from the Devil Sect and usually went against established practices, so she nonchalantly said, "As long as you can convince that stone cold woman, I have no objections."

She assumed that if this guy treated Yan Xuehen disrespectfully, her Snowflake Sword would fly straight over to him. There was no way Yan Xuehen would ever agree to such a ridiculous request. As such, she wasn't losing out on anything by giving out such a blank check. If that scenario never happened, it would be because of Yan Xuehen, and she wouldn't have to be the bad guy.

If you're going to hate someone, go and hate Yan Xuehen~ she thought, suddenly feeling that she really was smart.

However, she hadn't expected Zu An's eyes to light up as he asked, "Really?"

Yun Jianyue was stunned. What is up with this guy's strange confidence?

Why do I suddenly feel as if I've dug a huge pitfall for myself?

However, she quickly tossed that absurd thought aside. How could the stone cold woman possibly agree to that?!

"Of course," she said, intending to send him off so she could get away. "Alright. I really have to leave now."

"Why not stay here and keep me company for three more days?" Zu An asked somewhat reluctantly.

"Three days?" Yun Jianyue exclaimed, turning red-faced. Forget about three days, she wouldn't even last another three hours. She really could break if she stayed here!

As such, she refused no matter how sweet-sounding Zu An's words were. In the end, Zu An couldn't really keep her from her important tasks and reluctantly let her leave.

After refusing Zu An's offer to send her off, Yun Jianyue waved her hand casually. She wanted to leave in a confident and easy way, but as soon as she flew into the air, she felt her legs weaken. She staggered and almost fell straight down. She shot Zu An an annoyed look, and only then did she stabilize herself and disappear into the horizon.

Chapter 1532: The Sound of a Heart Shattering

When he saw Yun Jianyue's look of shame and anger, Zu An couldn't help but laugh. Her reaction was the greatest praise to a man. In the end, however, he reluctantly waved toward Yun Jianyue. It was time for him to return to the Imperial Palace too and get used to the new system.

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In the following days, it turned out to not be too convenient for him to live in the Imperial Palace. Instead, he took up residence in a nearby place.

Various officials of the Fiend King Court all came to congratulate him and give him blessings as the new Regent. After all, what had happened that night was too shocking. They all knew that the young prince had been able to become the new Fiend Emperor almost purely through Zu An's strength.

Furthermore, the Second Empress treasured him greatly. There were even some rumors of something between them. After all, one was a young widow, while the other was handsome and confident. It was easy to make that association.

Still, that kind of thing was also quite common among the Fiend races. It wasn't something too shocking. Furthermore, no one had any proof, so they merely gossiped a bit during their leisure time. Many men were even jealous of Zu An's happiness.

Of course, many young ladies who had witnessed Zu An's handsomeness that night were also jealous of the Second Empress. They thought, This is a woman who already had a child, and yet she's taking such a handsome young man for herself! It's like feeding young grass to an old cow...

However, the ones who arrived were all respected figures. Even though they were all amazed, feeling that the Regent was even more handsome than the rumors claimed, they were more surprised about something else. The Regent didn't seem to have the slightest bit of a ki aura around him. It was as if he were an ordinary person without any cultivation.

Of course, even though they were curious, none of them suspected anything. After all, he had just killed several grandmasters not too long ago. They all just assumed that his cultivation had already reached the point of returning to one's true self, and that they just couldn't see it. As such, they all remained polite and courteous. Nothing unpleasant happened.

Zu An also received them patiently. After all, he didn't have much of a foundation in the Fiend King Court right now. Making more friends was better than having more enemies. Of course, that wasn't the most important thing. The most important thing was that the emissaries all brought abundant gifts, so why would Zu An refuse to meet them?

Money and precious metals were the basics, but in order to stand out more, they also carefully selected other valuable treasures to offer up. Many of them were helpful for cultivation, medicine, and health, while others were useful for pill refinement and forging. How could Zu An not become excited?

After taking stock of everything and collecting it into his Brilliant Glass Bead, even Zu An couldn't hide the smile on his face.

As expected, wealth comes quickly with authority! I worked so hard to gather all of my wealth alone, and yet it's less than what I've received over the past few days.

"May I ask what happened that put such a huge smile on your face?" someone asked with a soft laugh. Zu An turned around and saw a beautiful figure standing nearby, wearing a long dress covered in blue scales.

"Big sis Shang!" Zu An exclaimed happily.

The person was none other than Shang Liuyu. She wasn't dressed in the luxurious princess gown she had worn that night, but rather something more similar to the flashy scale dresses he often saw in his previous world's nightclubs. That kind of dress was very alluring, and yet on her body, it seemed elegant. He had no idea how she was able to accomplish such a thing. Her hair was decorated simply with a piece of coral that added a moving, fiery red color to her beautiful hair.

However, the most eye-catching things were still her flawless exposed feet. Whenever she stepped on the ground, a faint ripple of water spread out from beneath her feet. They seemed to vaguely form a lotus diagram, giving her an air of detachment from this world's vulgarities.

Shang Liuyu was also a bit lost in her thoughts at the moment. She blinked as she looked at the man in front of her. She knew he had always been good-looking, but she had never been someone who cared too much about appearance. But today, wasn't he a bit too attractive...

Compared to how he usually looked, he almost seemed to have a faint holy glow around his entire body. He looked pure and refined. When she saw him, it was as if a great azure sea appeared in her mind, with floating clouds and a gentle breeze... She always had a vaguely pleasant impression of him for some reason.

However, her expression quickly changed. She asked, "Why did your cultivation disappear?"

Compared to his changes in appearance, she was more concerned with that. The Fiend races worshiped power above all. There were countless ambitious individuals with sinister designs in the Fiend King Court. If Zu An didn't have his cultivation anymore, wouldn't he be quickly chewed up until there weren't even bone fragments left?

"Really?" a pleasantly surprised voice asked all of a sudden. Then, a distinctively large mouth appeared. Who else could it be but Chi Wen?

He was really excited, as if he had heard the best news ever. As the Dragon King's ninth son, he had always been full of mettle. And yet, after he met this guy, he had faced setback after setback. The power Zu An displayed in the battle a few days prior had already left him in absolute despair. Thus, when he heard that Zu An had become a normal person, it was like music to his ears.

"Huh? You were here too?" Zu An asked in surprise.

Chi Wen glowered. He snapped, "You only care about my little aunt, so of course you didn't notice me."

Shang Liuyu's face heated up. She shot her nephew a look and exclaimed, "Watch your mouth!" Then, she looked at Zu An worriedly.

Zu An said with a slight smile, "Don't worry. I'm fine. Actually, I'm better than ever."

Concerned that she wouldn't believe him, he reached out a hand and fired a streak of sword ki. A nearby flower vase quickly had a hole blasted through it. The cut was incredibly smooth, and otherwise didn't damage the vase at all. His control over his power was extremely fine.

Shang Liuyu sighed in relief when she saw that. In contrast, Chi Wen felt incredible despair. He had thought he could make a comeback, and yet harsh reality had struck, raining on his parade once again. He was left feeling incredibly gloomy.

Up until this point, he had even made sure to dress up in the Dragon Palace's most luxurious clothes. He had thought he looked really handsome, and thus went to pay the Demon race's Princess Suolun a visit.

As for Yun Jianyue, Yan Xuehen, the Medusa Queen, and the Elf Princess, even though they were goddess-like beauties, they were too close to Zu An. After taking his own safety into consideration, he didn't dare to set his eyes on them.

However, Princess Suolun was different. He had already asked around and found out that she wasn't Zu An's woman. He thus felt his opportunity had come. As such, he had chosen a beautiful pearl from the Dragon Palace as a gift, then dressed himself up in an 'incredibly handsome' fashion to visit Princess Suolun.

Princess Suolun had received him and expressed her thanks for his gift. But for some reason, their conversation just seemed a bit dry, and her expression had remained rather indifferent. It was almost always Chi Wen talking, bragging about his recent achievements. Meanwhile, the princess' responses were always 'oh', 'haha', or 'I see'.

Even though Chi Wen really wanted to deceive himself into believing that she was captivated by him, he still had some self-awareness. Compared to Zu An's appearance that night, he really wasn't making much of an impression at all.

But Zu An already had so many beauties! There was no way that the glorious Demon race's Princess Suolun would willingly lower herself to serve as a concubine, right? That was practically impossible! As such, he had released a deep sigh and launched a second assault on Princess Suolun.

It might just be a young lady's reservations, so maybe she had feelings for me, but was just too embarrassed to show it!

However, who would have thought that after just a few words, Princess Suolun would yawn and get up, saying she was going to take a bath?

Chi Wen's eyes had lit up. She's going to take a bath, so soon after we started talking? Don't tell me... She's actually seducing me?

Or maybe she's been completely won over by my charm and feels as if she has to dress up a bit better before meeting me? Women care a lot about their appearance, after all.

Maybe after being so close to me, she became infatuated with my masculinity and became a bit... down there, so she had to wash up?

He became more and more excited. He wanted to stay there longer, but he ended up getting shooed away by the Demon race's staff. He was furious!

These people really don't have an eye for good things at all! If not for Princess Suolun, this prince would have already taught them a lesson!

But for the sake of not leaving Princess Suolun with a bad impression, he hadn't caused any trouble, and just quietly left to show his own elegant demeanor.

"Princess Suolun is definitely secretly watching me, heheheh..." When he thought such beautiful thoughts, Chi Wen's eyes rolled upward and his mouth hung wide open; he even unwittingly stuck out his tongue.

Shang Liuyu gave her nephew a look of disdain. What is wrong with this kid again?

She turned to Zu An and said, "Now that the dust has settled here, I have to return to the Ocean races too."

Zu An was surprised. He was just about to ask more about that when someone came to report that Princess Suolun had arrived to visit him.

Chi Wen's eyes immediately lit up. Princess Suolun actually knew I was here and came looking for me?

She's so caring and considerate... Where can you find a better woman in this world?

Once I return, I'll definitely beg my father to agree to our marriage.

Then, he saw that Princess Suolun was wearing a fine, extravagant long dress. She'd had makeup done on her pretty face; she wore some powder, and her lips were bright red. Her skin was glowing, and her hair was glossy. Her freshly-bathed body gave off an almost misty air.

"Princess!" Chi Wen exclaimed as he ran over with a big smile, thinking he had to find a chance to tell her that there was no need for her to go through so much trouble when they met each other, that he liked it no matter what she looked like.

And yet, who would've thought that Princess Suolun didn't even seem to have seen him? She had a brilliant smile as she sprinted toward Zu An in high spirits, exclaiming, "Big brother Zu!"

Chi Wen was dumbstruck.

Chapter 1533: Wedding

"Princess," Zu An said, nodding in greeting. He had to admit that he had a good impression of Princess Suolun. When they were exploring together, she had been willing to stand by his side many times. Besides, she was also pretty.

In the end, Princess Suolun didn't throw herself into his arms; perhaps it was due to her reservations as a young lady, or it was just because she had noticed that there were others present.

"Big sis Shang, you were here too," Princess Suolun said, blushing with shame. Doesn't this mean she saw how I was behaving in front of big brother Zu?

Shang Liuyu voiced her agreement. Then, she gestured toward Zu An, saying, "Clouds gather yet unfold' karma rises and disperses. All of these are merely transformations of the world, and yet a flash in the grand scheme of things. I'm sure we'll meet again some day." She left immediately afterward.

Zu An couldn't help but sigh in amazement. Ever since the first time he had met Shang Liuyu, he had always taken notice of her free and confident air. She had an extremely unique charm.

Now that his little aunt had left, Chi Wen could only follow. However, when he passed Princess Suolun, he couldn't help but call out, "Princess~"

The princess really smells good... I wonder if it's because she just took a bath or if she wore something else... Or maybe it's the makeup.

Princess Suolun exclaimed in surprise "Huh? You were here too?"

Chi Wen almost vomited blood on the spot. I've poured out so much of myself to you, and yet you didn't even see me?

However, when he saw her beautiful appearance, he still suppressed his displeasure and tried to flatter her.

Princess Suolun replied to him nonchalantly. She didn't slip up on any of the usual courtesies, but she couldn't hold back her indifference and estrangement.

Chi Wen could only console himself by thinking that this woman's personality was just a bit cold. That was what everyone else had said when he asked around before, and when he went to the Demon races'

temporary official residence, it was indeed that way. She clearly treated everyone like that. As such, he tried to act elegant as he said goodbye to Princess Suolun. Then, he followed his little aunt out.

When he reached the door, however, he heard a burst of lovable laughter. He couldn't help but turn around. What he saw was that Princess Suolun didn't have her usual high and noble appearance at all, and instead had a huge smile on her face. She took the initiative to enthusiastically chat with Zu An about something, and her body rocked back and forth with laughter.

In that instant, Chi Wen felt as if he had heard something shatter. He thought, I shouldn't be here. I should have moved a bit faster. If I had left through the door, I wouldn't have had to see such a heartbreaking scene...

Meanwhile, Princess Suolun was enthusiastically inviting Zu An to visit the Demon race's territory whenever he had a chance. Zu An naturally agreed. Who wouldn't like such a trip done at public expense? He could enjoy some different scenery then!

Of course, he definitely didn't have time at the moment. He had to return to the human side. His heart began to sink when he thought about that side's affairs.

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After Zu An saw Princess Suolun out, he received a few more representatives from the various races. Eventually, however, he got some time to himself. He decided to jump over the courtyard wall and go for a stroll around the outside perimeter.

Sigh, the common people all want to become the emperor, but being the emperor is so tiring! I'm only a Regent, and yet I won't even be able to take it anymore at this rate.

Suddenly, a melodious laugh that resembled a silver bell rang out. Someone called out, "Big brother Zu, where were you planning to go now?"

A young lady dressed in green appeared. She was petite and lithe, and her hair was tied up in pretty pigtails. A natural and fresh aura emanated from her entire body.

"I came here to find my Snow, of course," Zu An said. His mood also became much better when he saw her.

"Tsk, there's not even an ounce of sincerity coming from your voice. You didn't look for me once these past few days," Qiao Xueying said with a pout; she was clearly a bit unhappy. She had previously been dragged back to the Elf King Manor by her father to learn how to handle various political affairs. All this time, she had been hoping that Zu An would look for her, and yet he had never arrived. Finally, she couldn't focus on her work anymore, and left to look for him.

"I was really busy too! I finally found some time to run over here," Zu An said, gesturing toward the endless stream of guests who were lined up outside his door.

"You don't need to personally visit those smaller clans at all. Just send some random subordinates to deal with them," Qiao Xueying said, hugging his arm. "Let's go! I'll show you around the Fiend King Court. This place is completely different from Brightmoon City!"

Because of her relationship with the Crown Princess, they had never been able to show themselves publicly together. Now, they didn't need to have such misgivings anymore. She felt that the sky was bluer than ever before, and that the sun was brighter and warmer.

"That sounds great!" Zu An replied. He had already been in the Fiend King Court for quite some time, but he had always been busy with different things, so he'd never had a chance to look around at all.

Qiao Xueying had a huge smile when she saw him agree. She hugged his arm just like that as they strolled through the Fiend King Court.

However, she suddenly wrinkled her nose after they walked a few steps. She moved her head closer and gave his clothes a sniff, remarking, "What a strong fragrance. Were you with other women just now?"

Zu An was speechless. He replied, "You're from the Elf race, not the Dog race, so why is your nose so sharp? I was with a few women. The Ocean races' Mermaid Princess and the Demon race's Princess Suolun... But that was all proper business. It's not what you're thinking."

"Hmph, you're the one with the dog nose." Qiao Xueying harrumphed. "I hadn't expected Miss Shang to be the Mermaid Princess... but that Princess Suolun definitely harbors bad thoughts toward you."

She didn't suspect Shang Liuyu, who had a special status, and they had previously interacted back at Brightmoon Academy. But Princess Suolun was different.

"No way, no way. She only came for proper business," Zu An said.

"Proper business? Have you seen how her eyes look like slits when she looks at you?" Qiao Xueying shot back. However, when she saw that Zu An didn't reply, she felt a bit guilty. "What? Do you think I'm being a bit annoying right now?"

Zu An couldn't help but laugh, saying, "Not at all. I just remembered that you were just like this when I first met you back in Brightmoon City."

"It's your fault for being so annoying back then," Qiao Xueying replied, blushing with embarrassment when she remembered what had happened in the past. "Right, back then, you said my boyfriend would definitely have uremia. What does that mean?"

Zu An staggered. He hadn't expected a joke he made back then to end up biting him in the ass. He replied, "It's nothing, haha. Pah pah pah, children's words carry no harm!"

He just happened to see some tanghulu being sold on the side of the street, so he bought some for her.

"I don't even like tanghulu! I like melon seeds," Qiao Xueying said. Despite that, she still licked the tanghulu with her little tongue. "I didn't expect the Fiend King Court to have tanghulu that tastes so good, though."

Her face suddenly turned red as she licked it. She hit Zu An lightly with her fists, exclaiming, "You scoundrel, I know what that uremia you were talking about meant!"

Zu An became depressed. Wasn't buying tanghulu for her basically giving her hints? No wonder they said married women weren't as innocent as little girls anymore...

After the two of them play-fought for a while, Qiao Xueying explained the surrounding environments to him, as well as introducing several famous spots. Every single place was related to the glorious history of a powerful figure in the Fiend races. Everything was very interesting.

When he felt the warm and soft sensation next to him, Zu An thought, Even flat washboards have their pros. He couldn't help but feel gentle when he heard the excitement and high spirits in Qiao Xueying's voice. He said, "Snow, I have a gift for you."

"Do we need to be so formal to each other?" Qiao Xueying replied. Despite that, the eagerness in her eyes was obvious.

Zu An held her hand, then placed a ring on her slender finger.

"This ring looks so ugly," Qiao Xueying said. Despite sounding as if she looked down on it, however, her expression was full of joy. There was one similarity between this world and Zu An's previous one, which was that rings weren't randomly given out. They often represented love or marriage.

"This isn't a normal ring; it's called the Universe Ring. It can change in size, and it can also serve as a defensive artifact for you..." Zu An explained the Universe Ring's functions and use to her. He didn't need this kind of treasure anymore, but it was really useful for Snow.

"Big brother Zu, you're so good to me!" Qiao Xueying exclaimed. She naturally knew the value of a heaven-grade weapon. She couldn't hold back her feelings and jumped into Zu An's arms. She got up onto her toes and kissed him.

While the two of them were flirting with each other, someone suddenly coughed lightly and remarked, "Ahem, did I come at a bad time?"

"Ah, dad!" Qiao Xueying exclaimed, suddenly looking like a frightened rabbit. She quickly ran off to one side to hide herself, covering her face in embarrassment.

Zu An was also a bit embarrassed when he saw the outstanding Great Elf King. He said, "Greetings, respected uncle."

"You already stole my daughter, but you still have the nerve to call me uncle?" the Great Elf King harrumphed in dissatisfaction. "There's quite a bit of gossip going around surrounding Snow. Seeing as we've bumped into each other today, let's set the marriage day. You're the Regent now, so you shouldn't have so many misgivings. Let's decide on a date and get this marriage over with."

"Huh?" Zu An exclaimed, stunned.

Chapter 1534: Huge Loss

Zu An was at a loss. He had so many beautiful women at his side. If he married her but didn't marry the others, he would be favoring one and discriminating against the others!

"Hm? What, are you not willing?" the Great Elf King continued, glowering when he saw Zu An's reaction.

"Why wouldn't I? Father-in-law must be mistaken!" Zu An exclaimed, quickly revealing an apologetic smile. "I was just caught off guard with happiness. Father-in-law didn't even want me to greet you too intimately not too long ago."

The Great Elf King choked. Zu An had indeed called him 'father-in-law' from their first greeting, and yet it was he who had told Zu An to call him uncle with a cold expression. He really had kicked himself in the foot there...

He cleared his throat and continued, "Then you agree?"

"Of course! Taking Snow as my wife would be my honor!" Zu An replied decisively. This wasn't a question that would allow for hesitation. He could only agree for now and think about the consequences later.

Of course, he was also being sincere. Even though he had been separated from Snow for a long time, their affection was still deep. Furthermore, she had even shared half of her lifespan with him, so how could he let her down now?

Snow's eyes shone brilliantly when she heard that. Her fair complexion revealed both embarrassment and happiness. She had been clinging enthusiastically to Zu An before, and yet now, she was so embarrassed she didn't even dare to look at him too much.

The Great Elf King's expression cleared up a bit. He suddenly felt that this seemingly ordinary man now looked a bit more handsome.

Zu An then said, "But the Medusa Queen and I have already pledged our undying love, and I can't let her down either. We might have to get married together."

He figured that he might as well take the chance to wed Yu Yanluo too. Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue had already left, so he didn't have to worry about them. As for the Second Empress, her status made it so that they could never reveal their relationship publicly.

Either way, he would be getting married under the identity of Regent, so it was fine even if the news got back to the human side. What did the marriage of a Regent here matter to the aunties and uncles back on the human side?

"Medusa Queen?" the Great Elf King repeated, his brows furrowing. "She's alright in terms of appearance. Letting her in the harem wouldn't be shaming our Elf Race too much."

"Dad..." Qiao Xueying tugged on his sleeves worriedly.

Zu An spoke up and said, "Father-in-law might have misunderstood. I don't intend to make the Medusa Queen a concubine."

The Great Elf King immediately erupted with fury. "What? Don't tell me you're going to make our Elf Princess a concubine?"

You have successfully trolled the Great Elf King for +666 +666 +666...

"That's not what I meant..." Zu An began, but before he could even finish, he was already cut off again.

"Hmph, you damn kid, do you think this king is scared of drawing blood?" the Great Elf King said threateningly. However, he quickly remembered that Zu An had easily killed several grandmasters, so he no longer had as much confidence. "Even if I can't do it alone, our Elf race still has many strong individuals."

Zu An explained, "Father-in-law has misunderstood! I'm not making either the Medusa Queen or Snow become a concubine, but rather, I think our family shouldn't have so many rules. We won't decide who is higher and lower; they'll all be wives."

"Hah!" the Great Elf King sneered. "That's just wishful thinking. Even the Fiend Emperor and Human Emperor only have a single empress. The rest are all just concubines. Are you more formidable than the two of them?"

"They've just never had this kind of intention. That doesn't mean they couldn't make such a thing happen," Zu An said, his tone full of sincerity. "Regardless of whether father-in-law believes me or not, that's what I really think."

"Nonsense," the Great Elf King snapped, feeling that Zu An's answer was completely rebelling against social norms.

He was just about to say something else when Qiao Xueying stopped him, saying, "Dad, I'm still young. There's no rush for this kind of thing..."

The Great Elf King was about to become even angrier when he quickly said to himself, "This won't do... Getting too angry will harm my liver and cause my skin to wrinkle..."

He took a few deep breaths, then said to Zu An, "Think things over properly. I don't want to hear such childish words again in the future."

Afterward, he didn't wait for Qiao Xueying to retort, and simply took her away.

...

When they got some distance away, the Great Elf King finally let go of his daughter. Qiao Xueying pouted and asked, "Dad, why did you break us up?"

"Dumb girl, do you understand that willingly putting yourself in these kinds of losing situations won't do you any good?" the Great Elf King snapped angrily as he looked at his daughter.

"Who said I was doing that? Look, big brother Zu even gave me something great," Qiao Xueying said, reaching out a hand for him to see.

When he saw the red fruit in her hands, the Great Elf King's eyelids twitched. He asked, "You were won over by just a single tanghulu?"

In that instant, he even began to wonder if he had carried her the wrong way back then when he was at war. Of course, he didn't suspect his wife of doing something that would let him down while she was pregnant. After all, he was so handsome; how could she have betrayed him for another man?

Qiao Xueying's face reddened. She shouted, "Look at the ring, the ring!"

Only then did the Great Elf King notice the ring on her finger. He knew he had ended up thinking the wrong thing. He remarked, "Hmph, this ring's appearance is so rough. It doesn't even have any engravings; how ugly! You can tell... Huh? This is a heaven-grade weapon?"

He was the Great Elf King, so he naturally had great knowledge. He quickly recognized it.

“Yeah. This thing can both be used in battle and change in size. Big brother Zu gave it to me so I could protect myself, and he even made it into a ring. He clearly thought about it a lot,” Qiao Xueying said, gently rubbing the ring with a blissful smile on her face.

“Hmph, look at how you’re acting from just a trifling heaven-grade artifact. You need to grow up!” the Great Elf King said; despite his words, however, his mood had still improved considerably.

Heaven-grade weapons weren’t too rare for the Great Elf King Manor, but they were still precious. Furthermore, there were also good and bad heaven-grade weapons. The aura this item gave off and the fact that it could change meant that it was of high quality among heaven-grade weapons.

That brat at least has some conscience.

“Go back with me and stay there obediently. A woman will fall at a disadvantage if she’s too proactive,” the Great Elf King lectured his daughter with a meaningful and sincere tone.

Qiao Xueying pouted and grumbled, “Weren’t there many aunties who went after you? They were much more proactive than me, and yet you weren’t opposed to it.”

The Great Elf King almost choked on his own saliva. He retorted, “Why else do you think I’m speaking to you like this? It’s coming from someone experienced! If you weren’t my daughter, would I say all of this? Sigh, who would’ve thought that I would father a daughter who would cost me so much? Is this retribution?”

“Can you use nicer words? If you keep acting like this, I’m going to smash that mirror of yours!” Qiao Xueying exclaimed.

“You dare? ...Hmph, I won’t say those things anymore, alright...” the Great Elf King muttered.

...

Meanwhile, Zu An was hesitant about whether to chase after them. Suddenly, however, several Golden Crow Guards came to report that the Second Empress wanted to meet him.

Zu An was a bit confused. The Second Empress had sent for him in a very straightforward manner, which meant there was something important to take care of. As such, he followed them to a grand and imposing building.

“The Crown Prince Manor?” Zu An exclaimed, startled. In that instant, he even wondered whether the remaining forces of the Crown Prince were trying to harm him.

However, all of those suspicions were quickly erased when he saw an extravagant carriage. The curtains fluttered, and a pleasant fragrance wafted through the air. It was the Second Empress’ personal carriage.

The Second Empress quickly emerged with the assistance of a maid. She was dressed in a light golden palace gown. Even though it wasn’t as grand as what she had worn during the offering rituals and other ceremonies, she was still gorgeous and noble. Her hair was tied up gracefully, embedded with all sorts of precious gemstone decorations. She wore red phoenix eye makeup and had bright red lips. As she walked, her waist elegantly swayed back and forth in an alluring rhythm.

"Greetings, your highness!" Zu An exclaimed. He had to show proper etiquette while they were in front of other people.

"There is no need for excessive formality, Regent. Do you know why I called you over here today?" the Second Empress asked. Her demeanor had only become more dignified after she became the Empress Dowager, but when she saw Zu An, her gaze became gentler. Only she knew how powerful this man was, in every sense of the word.

"I must request for your highness' enlightenment," Zu An said, his expression warm. No one else could guess just how wild the two of them had been in private.

The Second Empress didn't keep him in suspense. With a look, her subordinates by the doorway quickly tore off the red silk on the door, revealing the new words 'Regent Manor'.

"I initially wanted to prepare a new King Manor for you, but that would take a long time. The place you are residing in currently is too simple and crude, so I remodeled the Crown Prince Manor a bit for you. The only place in the entire Fiend King Court that is fitting for you, apart from the Imperial Palace, is the former Crown Prince's manor," the Second Empress said, gesturing for him to come inside and take a look.

Zu An followed her in. Before he could even admire the grandeur of the architecture inside, he was frightened to see many people kneeling on the ground. In particular, there were several women kneeling at the forefront; even though their heads were lowered, it was clear that their bodies were charming and their skin was fine. Just a quick glance told him that they were all outstanding beauties.

When she saw his shock, the Second Empress said with a smile, "I helped you to change out the servants and maids. You can take a look and see if they are to your liking. Right, the ones in the front were the Crown Prince's former concubines. If you find any of them to your liking, you can keep them to warm your bed. The Fiend King Court's winters get quite cold at night."

Zu An jumped in fright and said, "There's no need. I don't have that kind of fetish."

The Crown Prince knew how to enjoy himself, huh? Even though he didn't formally take on a Crown Princess, he still had so many concubines in the manor.

"Is that so?" the Second Empress replied, giving him a look. She clearly didn't believe him at all after their intimate experience. "If you don't want them, we'll send them to the government brothel."

She clearly still had a grudge from the Crown Prince's prior bullying.

Zu An was speechless.

Chapter 1535: Coming Out

Zu An glowered and said, "Aren't you practically forcing me to do something wrong here? Just let them go; they're all pitiful women."

He had to say that those who caught the Crown Prince's eyes were all top-quality beauties. Together with the temptation of the fact that they had belonged to another man... He knew that if it had been before he crossed over, he wouldn't have been able to resist such a temptation. But now, he naturally wouldn't do such a thing.

"Pitiful? These people lived lives of luxury and normally strutted around, bullying the common people. Can you really call them pitiful people?" the Second Empress sneered. Then, she looked around before saying with a chuckle, "But seeing as you requested it, I have to grant you that favor. There is no way we can just let them go, but we can choose not to send them to the government brothel. We will keep them under house arrest for a while. They were the people closest to the Crown Prince, so we cannot be certain if any of them are concealing malice."

Zu An nodded. He knew her worries were reasonable. The youngest prince's throne wasn't all that stable, so they had to be exceptionally careful with such things.

After handling the Crown Prince manor's staff, Second Empress took Zu An inside to look around, while introducing the different parts of his new home.

Zu An recalled just how frightening housing prices had been in his previous world. Buying a house in the capital would have been nothing more than an extravagant hope for countless people, let alone one so big.

As he looked around, Zu An felt as if he were touring Prince Gong Mansion[1] from his previous world. It really was large and luxurious, and yet also peaceful and elegant. That Crown Prince really had known how to enjoy himself.

And yet, in the end, all of this had become his? He had been so used to being a slave to his landlord in his previous world that he felt as if he were dreaming.

"The room up ahead was the Crown Prince's study. Normally, no one is allowed close to it," the Second Empress said. She paused for a moment, then ordered her subordinates, "I have something to discuss with the Regent. All of you are to stand guard outside."

"Understood!" the palace maids replied, all bowing slightly.

Zu An followed the Second Empress into the study. They didn't close the door, as closing it in front of so many eunuchs and maids could cause rumors to go out of control. It wouldn't be good for them if such news got out.

When the Second Empress entered, she walked up to the desk. Zu An asked with a smile, "Your highness, do you have any orders for me?"

The Crown Prince Study was top-notch in terms of privacy. Their conversation wouldn't reach outside ears. The Second Empress had taken him all the way here to speak to him. Could it be that there was something she wanted to say that she couldn't speak of publicly in the palace? Or were there spies afoot?

"How could I dare to order you? Only you can order me around, my great perfect shot king~" the Second Empress replied when she was sure no one else could hear them, the dignified appearance she had presented fading away. She looked at him with a flirtatious expression.

Zu An immediately thought of the events of that night when he heard her special tone. A flame ignited inside him. The Second Empress bit her red lip and looked at him with a smile, her misty eyes seemingly giving him a silent invitation. This woman really was a natural-born succubus!

How could Zu An hold himself back anymore? He threw himself forward!

“Don’t dirty my clothes, or else they’ll be able to tell outside...” the Second Empress quickly warned him.

Zu An replied a bit dejectedly, “Then what do we do?”

Even though the Second Empress was dressed relatively simply today, she was still a respected Empress Dowager. Even her most basic clothes needed many maids to put on. She walked up to a desk, then bent her upper body over a table. She raised her dress a bit, then turned around to look at him, saying, “Like this...”

Zu An felt as if he were about to erupt like a volcano. What man could resist such a temptation? He immediately pressed himself against her.

“Ah~” Second Empress held her hands tightly in front of her mouth for fear that the sound would reach outside. Her eyes were filled with happiness.

...

“No wonder you took me so deep inside. And here I thought you really had something important you wanted to say to me.”

“What, is this not important enough?”

“...Yeah, it is pretty important.”

“You’re so annoying~ If only I didn’t have so many followers around me. There’s no way to send them all away...”

“Hm? Aren’t all of your attendants your trusted aides? Many of them were the same maids who were at your palace last time.”

“You know my status is sensitive, so it’s better if fewer people know. I don’t want my son to think I’m a bad mother either.”

“Isn’t he already calling me ‘dad’? It’s fine even if he knows.”

“You’re so annoying~”

...

A while later, a maid suddenly reported, “Your highness, the Medusa Queen has come. She seems to be looking for the Regent.”

“Huh?” The two inside both trembled. Only after a few seconds passed did the Second Empress reply, “Invite her into the lounge to wait a bit. Make sure to bring out some tea and take good care of her.”

“Understood~” the maid replied as she slowly left, but she was a bit curious. Her highness’ voice seemed to be a bit strange, sounding strangely lazy and sweet. It left her a bit alarmed.

The two inside breathed heavily. They had both become far more sensitive because there were people standing guard outside. Between that and the stimulation of the Medusa Queen’s arrival, it was as if sparks had met explosives.

The Second Empress stood up. She carefully lowered her dress and sorted out her clothes to make sure there weren't any wrinkles or other traces. A radiant smile and a pink blush spread across her face as she remarked, "I really am jealous of the Medusa Queen, that she can be with you all the time even in public."

Zu An adjusted the side table, which had almost collapsed, propping it back up. He replied, "You can too. Just call for me whenever you miss me, your highness."

"You're the one who said it. You'd better not go back on your word!" the Second Empress replied, her eyes lighting up.

"Of course," Zu An said. He had to admit that the Second Empress really was naturally charming. He really wondered just what in the world the late Fiend Emperor had been thinking by leaving her all alone.

The Second Empress sighed inwardly. She knew that considering their status, that was completely impossible. She said, "Let's go back out. We don't want the Medusa Queen to wait for too long."

However, after taking only a few steps, she suddenly let out a strange noise. Her face immediately turned red. She looked at Zu An in embarrassment.

Zu An was a bit worried, asking, "Won't we be found out by the maids?"

After all, whether it was an Empress Dowager or an empress, there was no way they could wash their own clothes. Those would all be given to the servants to take care of. How could they hide anything then?

The Second Empress bit her lip and said, "Don't worry. I'll use my cultivation to hold in the stuff inside my body."

Zu An was stunned. He recalled some movie lines from his previous world. But that female master had forced it out; why was the empress doing the opposite?

...

The two of them quickly arrived at the lounge together. Even the Second Empress, an incredible beauty in her own right, couldn't help but be surprised to see a stunning figure wrapped in a snow-white fox coat; and yet, it didn't make the Medusa Queen seem too bulky, and only made her seem noble and elegant. It was almost like seeing a plum blossom tree amid a pure snowy mountain.

When she saw Yu Yanluo's exceptional appearance and starry, resplendent eyes, the Second Empress sighed. It seemed trying to win over Zu An purely through her own beauty would be impossible.

However, she soon gathered her thoughts. After exchanging a few words with Yu Yanluo while maintaining a gentle attitude, she noticed that Yu Yanluo was holding a heater. She thus ordered her subordinates to send skilled workers to create warming installations in the Snake race's new residence.

Yu Yanluo's eyes lit up. She immediately developed a much better impression of the Second Empress. It really was very difficult for the Snake race to endure the Fiend King Court's winters.

The two chatted happily for a while longer before the Second Empress got up to leave. Her status was special, so Yu Yanluo didn't find it too strange either. As the other woman started to leave, she couldn't help but quietly say with a sigh, "Your highness' complexion is so good. It doesn't seem as if..."

She wanted to say that the Second Empress didn't look like a new widow at all, but she quickly realized that it would be a bit disrespectful, so she shut her mouth.

Zu An thought, She's been irrigated day after day, so how can she not look great? However, worried that she would notice something, he quickly asked, "Huh? You already broke through into the master rank?"

"Yes! With the help of the Holy Pearl, it became much easier to awaken my bloodline power," Yu Yanluo said, looking quite proud. Suddenly, she gave Zu An a look. Her expression immediately changed as she exclaimed, "Huh? Something's not right with you!"

Chapter 1536: Ambush

"What's wrong?" Zu An asked, startled. Could it be that she's already found out about what I did with the Second Empress earlier? Is it because I still have some of the Second Empress' smell on me?

"Why don't you have any ki aura around you? You don't seem any different from a normal person," Yu Yanluo said, looking at him worriedly.

Zu An couldn't help but blush with shame. She's showing me such concern, and yet I'm thinking all of these nonsensical thoughts. He replied, "Don't worry. I'm fine. This is only because my cultivation method is a bit special..."

Yu Yanluo was still worried after she heard his explanation. Only after she checked his pulse and sensed that there was nothing wrong did she feel at ease. She said, "Your cultivation method really is unique. Anyone who lowers their guard around you might end up paying a heavy price."

Zu An chuckled, replying, "You're making me sound like a tiger dressed up as a pig or something."

...

After the two chatted for a while longer, Yu Yanluo's attention returned to the residence. She said, "I went over to your place to look for you. When I heard that the Second Empress bestowed a new Regent Manor on you, I came over to give this place a try. I didn't expect you to really be here, though. To be honest, the Second Empress really treats you quite well."

Zu An thought, It was more than just 'well'. We couldn't possibly know each other better! She knows what parts of me are longer and shorter, and I know her depth.

"Still, you practically promoted the youngest prince single-handedly. This is actually something you deserve," Yu Yanluo said with a sigh. In the past, it wouldn't have been difficult for her to gift Zu An with such a residence. After all, she had once been one of the wealthiest clan leaders in the world. But after what had happened to the Yu clan, that wasn't so easy anymore.

"Alright, let's not think about those things anymore. Come and pick a courtyard you like!" Zu An said, pulling her into the manor to look around.

"Ah... We're not related to each other yet, so this is a bit improper, right..." Yu Yanluo protested weakly, but despite that, she still couldn't hold back from following him. She looked around with her beautiful eyes. All women had a sort of natural desire for decoration, after all.

"What do you mean we're not related to each other?" Zu An replied, wrapping his arm around her slender waist. "The Great Elf King came up to me to discuss my marriage with Snow, but I said I wanted to take both of you as my wives at the same time."

"Ah?!" Yu Yanluo exclaimed, feeling both pleasantly surprised and embarrassed. However, after being the Yu clan's lord for so many years, she quickly realized that replying like that in front of the Great Elf King definitely wouldn't make him happy. Furthermore, her own status was special...

She sighed and said with a conflicted expression, "You don't have to worry about me too much. I still have my status as Cloudcenter Duke's madam, so it won't be good for your reputation if I marry you. You and Miss Qiao can get married by yourselves."

Zu An held her hand, saying, "Don't worry, it'll be the marriage between the Regent and the Medusa Queen. Who cares what Madam Yu in Cloudcenter thinks? You don't have to worry about such things."

Yu Yanluo was really moved by his words, nodding slightly. Still, she retained enough of her intellect to reply, "Even though the Fiend races' territory and the human territory are far from each other, many merchants still come and go between them. If news got back, it wouldn't escape the ears of those with ulterior motives."

"The rest of the world believes Cloudcenter Duke hasn't died yet. If you ever need to use Cloudcenter Duke's resources, as the Commandery Duke's wife, I'll naturally have a lot of say in that. In that case, I'll be able to help you accomplish some things. Right now, the world looks peaceful, but there are actually many sinister plans brewing in the shadows. We can't give up Cloudcenter Commandery's foundation so easily just like that."

"But you'll be wronged then," Zu An said with a frown.

"That's not being wronged at all! I don't want to be completely bound to the Fiend races either; I want to return to the Yu clan one day too. This feels pretty good to me," Yu Yanluo said to make him feel better. "Alright! Let's stop thinking about these things. Hurry up and take me in to choose a room."

"In that case, I just won't get married for now. We'll just wait until the situation becomes clearer," Zu An said. When he sensed Yu Yanluo's meticulous care, he felt that he really was the most fortunate man in the entire world.

Yu Yanluo was a bit worried, saying, "But if you do that, won't the princess' side..."

"Don't worry. Snow isn't in a rush either, and she's still really young to begin with," Zu An said as he pulled her inside to choose a room.

Yu Yanluo's frown gradually disappeared when she saw the elegant and secluded rooms inside.

...

Whenever there were some people who were happy, there were others in the world who weren't so happy.

At the moment, Sang Hong was feeling quite distressed. In order to stall for time for Zu An to come back, he had really racked his brains in every way to slow down the Imperial Envoy's return to the capital. If it wasn't mountain brigands, it was bandits. He had even assumed the role of a just and incorruptible official, helping the nearby provinces' common people preside over injustices.

In the end, however, the capital couldn't take it anymore. The emperor was furious and had sent a messenger criticizing him, forcing him to return as quickly as possible. When he felt the clear wrath in that decree, Sang Hong could only laugh bitterly to himself. He had no idea what kind of punishment awaited him once he returned to the capital.

Still, what was happening to him was nothing significant compared to the bigger issue of Zu An's disappearance. Just how great of a crime was colluding with the Fiend races?!

The only thing that was worth being happy about was finally receiving the news that his daughter-in-law Zheng Dan was pregnant. Previously, many letters from home had gone missing due to the distance of Cloudcenter Commandery, its messy political situation, and various problems with the Devil Sect and bandits.

Of course, he knew it wasn't Zheng Dan who was pregnant, but rather Qien'er who was pregnant. However, in order to pull the wool over people's eyes and make them think it was Sang Qian's posthumous child, they had decided to deliver the message that way.

"Finally... In the end, I didn't become the Sang clan's greatest sinner," Sang Hong murmured, shedding tears of joy. He felt that everything he had done so far was worth it. That outrageous bet had all been worth it.

"But unfortunately, I still can't contact Ah Zu," he muttered. He had tried to contact Zu An through the recording mirror, but for some reason, he couldn't reach Zu An at all.

His majesty had eventually sent a specialist to monitor his quick return to the capital, so he couldn't even use the mirror as easily anymore. Otherwise, the emperor could discover that Ah Zu was in the Fiend race territory.

"Sir Sang, Silkworm City is just up ahead," an imperial guard approached and said, pointing at the distant city wall.

Sang Hong frowned. Silkworms eat mulberry leaves... This city's name isn't auspicious for me at all...[1]

Still, he couldn't help but laugh soon afterward. It was because the city was good at raising silkworms and was a major producer of silk that it had obtained its name. They weren't that far from the capital city, anyway. What kinds of problems could even happen when they were in the emperor's domain?

Silkworm City's local officials rushed out to greet the Imperial Envoy. They said that, as the city was small, it couldn't hold many people. In response, Sang Hong expressed his understanding. This wasn't the first time such a thing had happened. As such, he had the accompanying Armed Escort Division remain outside the city while he took a dozen or so of his own attendants into the city.

Gao Ying had remained in Cloudcenter Commandery to continue serving as its military officer, maintaining the balance of power there. Pei You had been worried that Gao Ying wouldn't be able to

keep the various forces of Cloudcenter Commandery under control on his own, so he had stayed behind to help out.

Of course, Sang Hong wasn't all that convinced by that answer. That guy could just have stuck around to hang out in Cloudcenter's brothels because he was reluctant to return. After all, he'd be constantly under his clan's watchful eye if he were back in the capital. He couldn't do whatever he wanted there.

The Embroidered Envoy's Xiao Jianren, as well as Dai Seventh and Chen Eighth, had both returned to their posts ahead of time. They were part of the Embroidery House, so they couldn't waste time with the main troop.

After experiencing an enthusiastic evening banquet, Sang Hong returned to his room while feeling a bit tipsy. He was normally a careful person and never drank too much, but because his daughter had gotten pregnant, the huge weight on his chest had finally been moved aside. He drank a bit more as a result of his happiness.

He slept into the night in a daze, when he was suddenly roused awake by a noise outside. He looked out the window and saw fiery light flickering fiercely. The smell of smoke spread through the air.

"A fire!" he exclaimed, quickly reacting to what was happening. He hurriedly grabbed some clothes and ran out.

The members of the Imperial Envoy ran out one after another. Many of them were still sleeping. The others quickly rushed over to wake them up, while the relay station's men all did their best to put out the fire. The entire place was an absolute mess.

When he looked at the raging fire, Sang Hong suddenly felt as if he had been jolted awake. Such a ferocious flame definitely wasn't natural! As a connoisseur of scheming himself, he felt goosebumps all over his body.

"Go! We're leaving this city!" he called out, quickly summoning his subordinates and rushing to flee. As long as he could reunite with the army outside the city, he would be safe. Unless the attackers had a massive army, there was no way they could defeat the elite Armed Escort Division made up of several hundred members. However, this place was too close to the capital, so such a thing would be impossible.

Suddenly, a large group of masked marksmen appeared around the relay station, firing a concentrated barrage of arrows that covered every angle. Several of Sang Hong's men immediately collapsed.

Sang Hong was about to deal with the archers when a black rift suddenly opened up behind him. A slender, pitch-black sword stabbed at the vital point beneath his ribs with lightning speed, striking like a viper!

Chapter 1537: Anything Is Possible with Determination

In the end, Sang Hong was still a powerful cultivator who had already been famous for a long time. In such a moment of imminent peril, he had managed to avoid the most dangerous attack. However, there was still a deep, bloody gash across his chest. It was as expected of a dark elf's attack; they were the best of the best in terms of assassination.

“Shadow Group!” Sang Hong exclaimed, recognizing the assassin’s outfit. He couldn’t help but yell in shock and anger, “How brazen! You actually dare to assassinate the Imperial Envoy!”

Even though the Shadow Group was famous for being mysterious, as long as one paid enough money, they were able to go after any target. However, as an assassin organization, they still had some unwritten rules. They were willing to assassinate officials, but they were still careful about their targets. The targets usually weren’t individuals with especially sensitive statuses.

For example, even though Sang Hong’s official position wasn’t that high, he was still the Imperial Envoy, making him an important minister. He represented the dignity of the court. If even an Imperial Envoy could be killed, the court would definitely be furious, not hesitating to pay any price to punish the offender. That was why assassin organizations like the Shadow Group normally didn’t take such risks in their assignments.

“Hah, I don’t know anything about an Imperial Envoy or anything like that. All I know is that you’ve offended the wrong person, and they don’t want you to return to the capital,” the black-clad assassin said with a sinister laugh. Then, he rushed at Sang Hong like a swooping owl.

The others from the Imperial Envoy’s group came out to offer their assistance. Unfortunately, another group of assassins rushed forth. Even though there were capable members among the Imperial Envoy’s group, they had been roused awake by a sudden fire in the middle of the night and didn’t even have their clothes on properly, let alone being equipped with weapons. Some hadn’t even escaped from the fire in time. How could they be a match for several well-prepared killers? They quickly collapsed in pools of blood. It was a one-sided massacre.

Just then, the recording mirror in Sang Hong’s room shone, receiving a call from the other side. Unfortunately, it was hidden within fiery flames, and no one could hear anything. As the flames eventually covered everything, the mirror cracked from the heat, its surface dimming.

...

Meanwhile, Zu An frowned as he watched the recording mirror darken. If that happened, it either meant his call had been refused, or there was something wrong with the mirror itself.

Previously, he had been inside the Xia Dynasty’s Unknown Region the entire time. He hadn’t been able to contact the outside world then. After he emerged, he had been caught up in the struggle over the Fiend Emperor position. Now, he finally had some free time and wanted to contact Sang Hong, and yet he discovered that he couldn’t.

“Could it be that something happened to them?” Zu An muttered with a frown. He looked toward the south and sank into his own thoughts.

“What’s wrong?” a gentle voice called from behind him. Yu Yanluo sat up on the bed, holding the covers in front of her chest. Her beautiful hair fell across her snow-white skin like a waterfall. It really was one of the most beautiful sights in the world.

“Sorry for waking you up,” Zu An said somewhat apologetically. He gave her a summary of what had happened. “It’s already been quite some time since I left the human side, so it’s time for me to go back.”

Yu Yanluo voiced her understanding, even though her expression was full of reluctance. She was now the Snake race's leader, and she had been able to secure many benefits for them. That left her with many things to do, so she really couldn't leave. Still, she didn't stop him in the end and instead consoled him gently, saying, "You came to the Fiend Races because of me, so how can I stop you from going back?"

When he saw her broken-hearted expression, Zu An said quietly, "I'll try to clear your name when I return. One day, you'll be able to return to the Yu clan."

Even though Yu Yanluo did have the Medusa bloodline, she was also half-human. Furthermore, with the way she had conducted herself over the years, she had never done anything to let down the human race. And yet, in the end, she had been schemed against and had no place left to stay on the human side. That was a debt that had to be repaid.

Yu Yanluo was a bit moved too. Compared to the Fiend races, she was still more used to life with the humans. But in the end, she still shook her head and said, "There's no need for you to give yourself that much pressure. Based on what I know, Zhao Han is only treating you as a blade. A blade is something that can easily be thrown away. If you're ever unhappy with the human side, you can just return here. You're the Fiend races' Regent here, and you even have me and little sister Snow, the Mermaid Princess, as well as the Demon race's Princess. All of them are close to you. You and the Second Empress already have that kind of relationship too. You don't have to put up with anyone you don't want to."

Zu An chuckled in embarrassment, saying, "So you already knew."

"Her smell is all over you; it wasn't hard to figure out at all," Yu Yanluo said with a sigh.

"Sorry," Zu An said, sweating nervously.

Yu Yanluo shook her head and replied, "You don't have to be apologetic. Actually, I was more worried that your relationship with the child emperor and his mother wouldn't be too secure. After all, the Regents of the Fiend races have never met good ends. But now, it seems I was worrying too much. With that level of relationship, our interests actually align, and we can make decisions together."

As someone who came from a great clan, she looked at things from a different perspective than other women. Great clans would usually send their children off to other clans in marriage. Feelings were secondary; making sure that families were well-matched in social status and creating alliances was the most important. Zu An and the Second Empress only maintained a secret relationship, and yet they had achieved the same result. From that perspective, it was more than worth it.

Of course, from a lover's perspective, Yu Yanluo was still a bit jealous. However, this guy's body had already been tempered several times by the Primordial Origin Sutra and was way too tough. Even someone like her couldn't take it alone, so it was still best to have more companions to share the burden. Besides, compared to ordinary women, it was better to have someone with the Second Empress' status help out.

...

In the following few days, Zu An began to arrange his departure. When the Second Empress heard that he was going to leave, she actually had the strongest reaction of anyone. After all, she and her son didn't

have anyone else to rely on at the moment. Previously, it had purely been through Zu An's strength that they could keep everyone else in check.

However, Zu An finally managed to convince her after a long time. The young prince had already ascended to the throne, but he was still too young. He was only the Fiend Emperor in name. And yet, now the Committee of Elders supported the young prince. The Great Elf King, the Peacock Wise King, the Ocean races, and the Demon race were all friendly with him, and he also had Hu Qianxiao, who was a smart person. As long as the Second Empress let things take their course and didn't start anything that caused public anger, there wouldn't be any issues.

Furthermore, Zu An had the Wind Fire Wheels now. If something did happen, he could return as quickly as possible.

The Second Empress felt relieved when she heard him explain those things. However, because he was going to leave, she kept clinging to him for the next few days. It was as if, after she had found out he was leaving, she was scared that she wouldn't be able to enjoy a certain kind of pleasure again for a long time.

...

On the other hand, when Qiao Xueying learned that Zu An was going to return to the Human race, she excitedly said that she was going to follow him, but was stopped by the Great Elf King. In order to preserve his own beauty, he didn't want to be bothered with the clan's affairs and had begun to raise his daughter as his successor. She had to learn many things, so how could he just let her go like that?

Qiao Xueying was naturally unwilling. Compared to being his successor, she would much rather stay by Zu An's side. However, the Great Elf King explained Zu An's terrible situation on the human side, and that this side was actually his foundation, but once he left, this place wouldn't necessarily remain stable. Snow was then convinced that she had the responsibility to watch over Zu An's home as his woman.

Furthermore, when he was young, the Great Elf King had used to be a veteran playboy. He knew what kind of woman would remain the most important in a man's heart. The more power and bargaining chips the girl had, the more initiative they would hold. After all, his daughter's beauty was still far too lacking compared to his own and she couldn't really stand out among all of Zu An's extraordinary partners. She would have to rely on other things.

Qiao Xueying was still a bit hesitant at first, but when she heard about her father's 'path of the playboy', she immediately changed her mind. She took the initiative to tell Zu An that she would help him watch over this part of his foundation. Zu An was incredibly moved when he heard that.

...

In the end, Zu An set off on his path back to the human side. Because his identity as the Regent was sensitive, apart from a small group of people, the public was only informed that he had gone into seclusion. Then, he secretly got on the Wind Fire Wheels and flew south.

He turned around and looked at the Fiend King Court as it grew smaller and smaller. Zu An muttered to himself, "I originally only came to protect Yu Yanluo and was just passing by. How could I have known that I would play around here for so long..."

He couldn't help but massage his sore back. Those women had all known he was going to leave, so all of them had been incredibly enthusiastic. With that level of intensity day after day, even a back made out of iron would break down!

Chapter 1538: Intrusion of Bad Guys

Zu An flew quickly through the sky on the Wind Fire Wheels. When he saw the white clouds all around him, he was deeply moved. The Wind Fire Wheels had practically no offensive power, but their function was just too powerful! They pretty much turned the user into a private jet.

In truth, all cultivators above the master rank could fly, but unless they reached the earth immortal rank, they could not keep flying forever. Furthermore, this world was much bigger than Zu An's previous one. It was not something a master rank could traverse quickly. Such a distance was something that only an earth immortal, who could ignore the limitations of space to some extent, could move freely through. As such, the Wind Fire Wheels actually increased his mobility tremendously.

Zu An thought about the many things he had to take care of back in the capital. He had been away for too long without exchanging any letters. His friends were definitely worried sick.

Right, I have to deliver a message for the Peacock Wise King.

He recalled the situation from a few days ago when he had visited the Peacock King Manor. From here on out, he needed the Peacock Wise King's support to ensure the stability of the Fiend King Court. Considering the friendship he had with Kong Nanwu and Kong Qing, the Peacock Wise King was naturally someone deserving of a large investment.

When he arrived at the Peacock King Manor, however, the Peacock Wise King wasn't at home. Instead, Kong Qing, Paper Bride, and his other old acquaintances who had emerged to receive him with great hospitality. When they thought back to how they had almost killed each other back in Cloudcenter Commandery, and yet were now friends, that left them quite moved.

Paper Bride, in particular, had mysterious skills. She was quite beautiful herself. If he hadn't been busy all this time, Zu An would likely have tried to get closer to her. Her Paper Puppet Technique was quite unique.

After they talked for a while, the Peacock Wise King finally received news of Zu An's arrival and hurriedly rushed over. In many situations, such a small detail was already enough to know what kind of attitude a person had toward someone. It was obvious that the Peacock Wise King was showing Zu An the highest level of courtesy, so Zu An naturally returned the favor. They all chatted with each other happily.

The Peacock Wise King soon discovered that what he could obtain from Zu An was even greater than what he had received from the late Fiend Emperor. He naturally found Zu An more and more pleasing as time went on.

Later, when he heard that Zu An was going to leave for a while, he immediately struck his own chest, guaranteeing that he would do his best to support the Second Empress and the young prince. At the same time, he entrusted Zu An with contacting his daughter Kong Nanwu on the human side, telling her not to hurry to return to the fiend side. At the moment, she still bore the reputation of being the former

Crown Princess. Even though they hadn't truly gotten married, many people among the Fiend races knew about the engagement.

If she returned to the fiend side now, those with ulterior motives could abuse the situation. They could potentially ask for her to remain faithful to the Crown Prince and be buried with him or something like that. At that point, the Peacock race would be in a really tough spot. As such, it would be best for Kong Nanwu to stay on the human side for some time. Once the storm passed, the Peacock Wise King would find another clan to marry Kong Nanwu off to.

Furthermore, the king had entrusted Zu An with the task of taking care of Kong Nanwu. Even though his daughter had always been quite sharp, and her cultivation wasn't low either, the human race was full of powerful cultivators. If her real identity were ever revealed, she would still be in danger.

Meanwhile, Zu An's performance on that night had already won the Peacock Wise King's complete respect. He already treated Zu An as an equal. Asking Zu An to pay some attention to a junior was no doubt within his capability.

Zu An naturally agreed to that. Forget about anything else; after Kong Nanwu had given him that special feather in the past, there was no way he would let anything happen to her.

Furthermore, the Peacock Wise King was a smart individual. His first reason for entrusting her to Zu An's care was that he really was worried that something would happen to his daughter; the second was that it was like a transaction, so Zu An could feel at ease about the Fiend King Court.

Still, Zu An could never have expected that he had still underestimated the Peacock Wise King. The king had a third reason, but that was something he would only find out about in the future...

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Apart from that, the most important thing was Sang Hong's situation. Zu An had tried to contact him several times, but the call never went through. He was now almost certain that something had happened on the other side.

Even before factoring in Zheng Dan and Sang Qien, he and Sang Hong had already formed a relationship equal in value to master and disciple, perhaps even a close friendship. As such, when Zu An suspected that something had happened, not even the Fiend King Court's beauties or the glory and splendor of his new Regent identity could keep him on the fiend side. He quickly rushed back.

Zu An wasn't even in the mood to enjoy the view of the mountains and rivers along the way; he just wanted to get back as quickly as possible. According to the information he obtained from different channels, Sang Hong's group should have been about to reach the capital. As such, the location of the incident likely wouldn't be too far away either.

After flying tirelessly for several days in a row, he finally reached the human side. He clearly sensed that the climate there was much warmer. He sighed in amazement. No wonder the Fiend races' culture was tougher. They lived in a far harsher land and had to survive in such an environment; thus, they had to be much tougher in order to thrive.

Zu An continued flying for several more days before finally reaching a spot that wasn't too far from the capital. Along the way, he retraced the path the Imperial Envoy had been scheduled to take, eventually arriving at Silkworm City.

After a brief investigation, his expression turned ugly. The common people were still discussing what had happened that night. They talked about how a huge fire had suddenly broken out in the middle of the night by the relay station, and how all of the Imperial Envoy's people had been burned to death inside. Some claimed there were still survivors, while others made rather far-fetched claims, claiming that the Imperial Envoy uncovered some conspiracies set by the local officials, so the local officials had risked it all and tried to destroy the Imperial Envoy.

The common people's information was too inconsistent, however. When Zu An got a rough sense of what had happened, he looked for the local authorities. Of course, he didn't use his personal identity, but rather the Embroidered Envoy title. That identity was far better at intimidating the officials.

However, he only learned that a group of Embroidered Envoys had arrived to investigate a few days prior, then brought all of the evidence and involved personnel to the capital. Furthermore, the official who was in charge of the relay station had been burnt to a crisp in the flames. Silkworm City's County Magistrate had been locked up, but he had died in prison. They didn't know whether he had committed suicide to escape punishment or if someone had silenced him.

The only useful piece of information Zu An obtained was from the many charred corpses found in the wreckage. When he compared them to the information he had, he recognized a large portion of them to be the relay station and Imperial Envoy's personnel. He didn't find Sang Hong's corpse among them.

Zu An sighed in relief. Even though things boded ill for Sang Hong, as long as there was no proof of his death at the scene, there was still hope.

Then, he realized he couldn't find anything else, so he decided to return to the capital first, heading there directly. By the time he arrived in the capital's vicinity, the sky had already brightened again; he quickly found a spot to land outside the city gates.

There were countless strong people in the capital, as well as the city defenses and all kinds of defensive formations. Flying straight in would immediately bring forth huge retaliation from the city defense formations. As such, no matter how incredible any visitors were, none of them dared to fly brazenly in.

Zu An gazed at the grand city walls in the distance. Whether it was the city outskirts or the lively scenes from inside, such as the commoners selling vegetables or the merchants carrying large amounts of goods... All of it seemed to continue almost endlessly.

When he saw all that, Zu An suddenly felt as if he were gazing upon a scene from a lifetime ago. It was like a different world when compared with the cold scenery of the fiend side. He thought, As expected, it's still the human side that's better... No wonder Yu Yanluo still has lingering feelings about this place.

Zu An was worried that someone with ill intentions would recognize him. As such, he put on an ordinary face before entering the city.

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Meanwhile, at Sang Manor, a group of bailiffs roughly kicked the door aside. Then, a group of men stormed in and searched the area like wild animals. The entire manor was thrown into disarray.

"What are you all doing?" a voice called out.

Two beautiful figures supported each other. One was a beautiful young lady; her sole weak point seemed to be that her waist seemed to be a bit wide. The other was an elegant and beautiful woman dressed in a married woman's outfit. The two really were like twin lotus flowers on a stalk, each having their own charm.

The eyes of the one leading the charge lit up.

Chapter 1539: Coercion

One of the two women present was youthful and beautiful, and yet her appearance carried a hint of a mature air. The other had more of a classical and dignified appearance, with the bearing of a proper lady.

Because the bailiffs were usually in charge of the marketplace, they couldn't help but become a bit rowdy themselves. When they saw the women, they couldn't help but whistle in admiration.

The young man in the lead was dressed in embroidered robes, but they didn't do much to hide his deer-faced, rat-eyed appearance. His eyes swept wantonly across the two women's bodies. He clicked his tongue and said, "There have always been rumors that the Sang clan managed to bring back an incredibly charming daughter-in-law, but in my opinion, the Sang clan's young miss isn't so bad either."

"Young master's opinion is wise. These two women indeed both have their own distinctive traits."

"But didn't the rumors say that the Sang clan's young lady was slim? Why does she look a bit chubby today?"

"What do you understand? That's called being well-rounded! The feeling will be too wonderful for words. If they're too skinny, it'll just hurt a bit."

...

The other bailiffs surrounded the young master, all voicing their critiques without restraint.

Previously, Zheng Dan and Sang Qien had been in the lady's chambers discussing the disappearance of Sang Hong's Imperial Envoy fleet. Both of them were intelligent, but the amount of information they had access to was limited. The two had both been at their wits' end due to the situation.

"Don't worry. With Ah Zu there, nothing will happen to father-in-law," Zheng Dan said reassuringly, gently holding Sang Qien's hands.

"Yes, I hope so," Sang Qien replied, reflexively touching her swelling belly. That's the father of my child you're talking about...

The two of them hadn't actually been all that close before, and even during their most intimate moments, it had been pitch-black. And yet, right now, she felt a deep sense of attachment to that most familiar stranger.

Right at that moment, a disturbance had suddenly occurred outside. The two women had both emerged to take a look. Because Sang Qien was pregnant, Zheng Dan was worried that her condition wouldn't be at its best; thus, she stood protectively in front of her sister-in-law.

"Who are you? You dare cause trouble in the Sang clan?!" Zheng Dan yelled, staring furiously at the one in front.

Sang Qien said quietly through ki, "Sister-in-law, he's Yi Zhibing, the son of Yi Chun; he's someone who has always liked to oppress the people. He's famous for his wretched character."

Zheng Dan had spent a long time in Brightmoon City, so she still wasn't too familiar with the people of the capital. However, she frowned slightly when she heard Sang Qien's explanation. Even though the young man had a bad reputation, he definitely couldn't be stupid. Otherwise, there was no way he could have thrived for so long in the capital, which was full of powerful cultivators. And yet, such a person had barged straight in. That meant something big had probably happened.

"The Sang clan? Oh, I'm so, so scared!" Yi Zhibing replied, slapping his chest and putting on an exaggerated expression. His appearance really was as lowly as lowly could be. Shortly afterward, his expression changed and he said, "Sang Hong is suspected to have colluded with the Fiend races, conspiring with them to harm the Imperial Envoy fleet. I've received orders to carry out an investigation. Men, search this entire place!"

At the same time, his eyes wandered across Zheng Dan's body. He had heard from his circle that this woman who had just gotten married had a kind of traditional beauty to her appearance. Now that he had seen her for himself, he found that to indeed be the case. Even her angry voice sounded like that of a wise and virtuous woman. Her voice was enough to make him feel as if his bones were melting.

"Understood!" the bailiffs replied, rushing into the courtyard like wolves. They overturned trunks and boxes, turning the entire place into a complete mess. The Sang clan's staff had been about to fight back at first, but when they heard about such a huge crime, and that the bailiffs represented Capital Magistrate Yi and were acting under orders, they didn't dare to anymore.

Zheng Dan's long brows rose. She replied, "Nonsense! My... father-in-law has always been loyal and true to his majesty. How could he possibly have colluded with the Fiend races?!"

When they were in Brightmoon City, Sang Hong had been famous for being part of the emperor's faction. How could he possibly have done something like that?

Sang Qien added furiously, "Exactly! Just whose orders are you acting under? My father is the honorable Vice Minister of Finance. There haven't even been three trials yet, so how can he be convicted of a crime so quickly?"

"That's why we're here to investigate!" Yi Zhibing replied with a sinister laugh. Then, he gave a subordinate a look and said, "Search this entire place carefully; don't let a single corner go. This kind of proof would definitely be hidden in the most secretive places."

Sang Qien sneered, saying, "Hah, you can search all you want, but our Sang clan has a clear conscience." Inwardly, however, she was worried for her father's safety.

Zheng Dan frowned. Even though Sang Qien had always been a resourceful person, all she had been in contact with ever since she was little were schemes between the nobility. She didn't understand just how difficult those from the lowest rungs of society were to deal with at all. With her status, Zheng Dan initially hadn't known either; however, she had been the boss of the largest gang in Brightmoon City! She naturally knew how easy it was for them to leave a family completely destitute and homeless.

Sure enough, a bailiff soon emerged to report, "Young master, we've found some suspicious items."

"Oh? Lead the way!" Yi Zhibing replied, as if he had anticipated the answer. He didn't even need his subordinates to lead the way, quickly rushing in a certain direction.

Sang Qien and Zheng Dan quickly followed along, and the group quickly arrived in Sang Qien's chambers. The bailiffs had left it an absolute mess. Clothes had been tossed everywhere, and the bedding had been overturned.

"What in the world are you doing?!" Sang Qien exclaimed, her little face completely red. Even though there weren't any strict rules prohibiting men and women from entering each other's rooms, the chambers of an unmarried woman were still something few men entered. Now, however, this group had barged right in without any reservations and caused such a mess.

Zheng Dan gently patted Sang Qien's shoulder, as if to tell her not to let anger overtake her. With a wave of her hand, a blast of air sent the bailiffs who had overturned everything staggering back. She was an outstanding cultivation genius, after all; dealing with ordinary bailiffs wasn't difficult at all.

"Are you trying to rebel?!" Yi Zhibing quickly shouted.

The eyes of the bailiff who had always remained silently at his side narrowed. He stared directly at Zheng Dan, his hand wrapping around the hilt of his blade.

Zheng Dan was shocked. She immediately felt as if some energy had locked onto her. The capital really was different... Even a bailiff had such a high level of cultivation! Still, she figured that made sense. If they didn't have any skills, how could they carry out any arrests in a place like the capital?

Sang Qien said coldly, "Young master Yi, there's no need for you to try to scare us. There's no imperial decree, nor is there an arrest warrant from the Commandant of Justice. If you treat us like prisoners, your own violations will come first. There will be nothing for us to fear if this matter reaches the court."

"I've long heard of young miss Sang's sharp mouth. Today, I've seen that it is indeed the case," Yi Zhibing said, although he didn't get angry. He continued, "Still, you'll soon regret saying that."

Then, he gestured with his eyes. A bailiff off to one side quickly shouted, "Young master, we've found something here."

A hidden compartment by the bed opened up, revealing several sealed letters inside. Yi Zhibing seized them and said, "Haha, there's proof of Sang Hong colluding with the Fiend races right here. Is there anything else you two want to say?"

"You're clearly framing us!" Sang Qien exclaimed, vexed. There have always been rumors that you won't be in your right mind for three years after becoming pregnant. How could I have forgotten to guard against something like this?!

“Be careful, or else I’ll report you for slander too,” Yi Zhibing said with a laugh. “This is clearly something I found in your room. So many people here can attest to that. Why are you blaming me now?”

“Right, exactly! We all saw it ourselves!” the bailiffs around him all said simultaneously.

“You didn’t even look at the letter, so how do you know it’s proof of colluding with the Fiend races? The only way would be if you personally forged this evidence,” Zheng Dan said coldly. When she was a gang leader, she had seen such methods often. She had just never expected officials in such high positions to use such crude and simple methods.

Yi Zhibing choked. Only after a while did he catch his breath again. He said, “Hmph, whether or not this information is related to the Fiend races or not is something you can debate in prison. Men, bring them away!”

“Sir!” the bailiffs replied as they surrounded the two women.

Sang Qien’s expression changed. At the moment, she was covered by her spacious robes, but if she reached the prison, wouldn’t her pregnancy ultimately be revealed? The Sang clan’s reputation wasn’t nearly as important as her child. What if she ended up being treated roughly and something happened to the child? That was what she was most worried about.

Zheng Dan had clearly thought of that as well, so she stood in front of Sang Qien. She hesitated, wondering whether to take Sang Qien with her and run away. Even though the bailiff was tricky, if she and Sang Qien worked together, there was still a chance that they could get away. However, they would become wanted criminals. The capital was full of experts, so at that point, they really wouldn’t have any place left to stay. However, if they just willingly let themselves get captured, she knew it would only be more dangerous. She thus found herself in a dilemma.

Yi Zhibing waved his hands, gesturing for his subordinates to stand guard outside for the time being. He said, “Let me have a chat with these two women first.”

When the bailiffs closed the door, Zheng Dan asked coldly, “What do you want to talk about?” She wanted to see whether she could find a chance to seize him and turn him into a hostage.

Yi Zhibing sized up her wonderful figure. He clicked his tongue and said, “You have such an incredible body, such an incredible face; and yet, your fate is so cruel. Your husband died as soon as you got married, and you are still so young and youthful; and yet, you can only squander it as a widow.”

When she heard the frivolous tone in his voice, Zheng Dan’s expression turned cold. She snapped, “Shut up!”

“I only said that because I want to make a deal with you,” Yi Zhibing said, feeling that this young woman was incredibly endearing even when she got angry. He found it a bit too difficult to hold back. He raised the letter in his hands and began, “Madam, you don’t want anything to happen to this clan, do you?”

Chapter 1540: Not Even an Immortal Can Save You Now

“What do you mean?” Zheng Dan asked, although she naturally knew what he was saying. She only pretended otherwise because she was secretly gauging the distance between them to see if there was a suitable opportunity for a surprise attack.

Even though Yi Zhibing's character was rotten, and his aptitude seemed low, he had quite the providing father. He had definitely gotten access to more cultivation resources than Zheng Dan had been able to obtain in a more rural location. Meanwhile, even though Sang Qien's father had a high rank, as an honest official, he hadn't been able to provide her with a sea of cultivation resources either. Because of that, the difference between their cultivation wasn't all that great. If Zheng Dan couldn't restrain him immediately, that would end up startling the bailiffs outside. She wouldn't get a second chance then.

"Madam is an intelligent person. Do you really still not know what I'm getting at?" Yi Zhibing replied, greedily admiring Zheng Dan's body. "The Sang clan's safety rests on just a single thought from the madam. As long as I'm happy, I can pretend this proof doesn't exist. The Sang clan will naturally be safe then. Also, your clan back in Brightmoon City won't be involved either. Otherwise..." He didn't finish his sentence, but his threatening intent was evident.

"That was clearly something you forged. Even if this issue is dealt with, you can use the same method to frame us again," Zheng Dan said coldly. At the same time, she gave Sang Qien a look, hinting for them to both take action together.

"Heh, madam really is smart," Yi Zhibing said, his smile fading. He continued coldly "I won't waste any more time with you. As long as the madam can please me, nothing will happen to the Sang or Zheng clans." He was like a knife, and they were like fish on a chopping board. He wasn't scared of being direct.

In the past, Sang Qian had been incredibly proud and arrogant, and had bullied Yi Zhibing. Unfortunately, Sang Qian's cultivation had been higher than Yi Zhibing's at the time, so he couldn't even get revenge. He had thought he'd never get another chance, and yet the heavens seemed to pity him today! This time, they had placed the Sang clan's fate in his hands.

Sang Qian had died, so Yi Zhibing couldn't get revenge on him anymore, but he could still get revenge on the other man's wonderful wife! What other revenge could bring one more joy than dominating and firing crazily into the wife of one's enemy?

On top of that, a single wife wasn't enough to satisfy Yi Zhibing. He even set his eyes on Sang Qian's little sister. Still, considering how she was still a distinguished daughter who hadn't married yet, she could end up reacting too strongly if he forced her, keeping him from achieving his objective.

As such, he didn't show any desire for Sang Qien at first. He only focused his thoughts on Zheng Dan for the time being. Even though her husband had died as soon as she got married, she was someone who had gotten married before. She wouldn't have as much resistance toward such a thing as an unmarried woman. If he obtained her, the Sang clan's reaction wouldn't be as strong as before. Then, as he would frequently come and go from the Sang Manor, wouldn't getting to Sang Qien be easy enough?

Just the thought of having both in bed made his blood boil. It would be even better if Sang Hong's spirit could watch that happen! Wouldn't his revenge be the best thing in the world then? His excitement made his entire body feel as if it were about to burst.

Zheng Dan's gaze turned cold as she thought, The time is now! Just like that, she moved swiftly to attack!

Yi Zhibing was alarmed. He hadn't expected a classical beauty like Zheng Dan to actually be so experienced. Whether it was in terms of her timing or her fighting experience, she was comparable to someone from the world of warriors.

Yi Zhibing was forced to go on the defensive while dodging to one side. However, his feet felt a bit sluggish. As it turned out, Sang Qien had flung out a ribbon and wrapped it around his ankles, causing him to stagger. He cursed inwardly. I did want the two of them together, but not like this!

The two women were fully experienced in combat. They weren't like unmarried noble daughters in the slightest! They were more like veterans from the battlefield! Yi Zhibing was caught unprepared, so how could he retaliate at all?

Zheng Dan was happy to see the result, and tried to strike Yi Zhibing's throat to restrain him. However, a flash of blue light appeared from his body, blowing the two women back. Next, The bailiffs outside heard the activity and rushed in. The one in front was none other than the head constable. He stood in front of Yi Zhibing and stared both women down.

Zheng Dan and Sang Qien's faces were pale. They knew they had missed their best opportunity. Things would be difficult now.

Yi Zhibing stood up. He looked as if he had just recovered from shock. He took out a pendant from around his waist, saying, "Thank goodness I had this pendant my dad bought at a high price. It can even stop the attack of a master rank cultivator! You two brats can't do a thing to me."

A hint of despair appeared in Zheng Dan and Sang Qien's eyes. Such a treasure made Yi Zhibing practically invincible. What else could they do?

Just then, Yi Zhibing's expression contorted and he spat, "Fine, seeing as you didn't want to listen while I was talking nicely, you leave this young master with no choice but to use force. Men, remove all their clothing for me!"

The head constable couldn't help but frown, asking, "Young master, isn't that a bit inappropriate?"

"What's inappropriate? The Sang clan is already done for, and sooner or later, they'll be thrown into the government brothel. We brothers might as well enjoy them for ourselves first," Yi Zhibing replied, his mind overcome with lust. To think that mere moments before, he had almost been done in!

The bailiffs' eyes all turned red with lust when they heard him. Many of them threw themselves at the women like wolves.

However, some bailiffs looked at each other in dismay. They found such behavior a bit hard to accept. Still, they didn't dare to stand in young master Yi's way. The only thing they could do was choose not to participate.

When she saw the men move toward them, Zheng Dan stood in front of Sang Qien, fending them off one after another. With her cultivation, how could they harm her at all? Still, there were just too many of them, so the situation soon reached a stalemate.

Yi Zhibing's expression became a bit unpleasant. He hadn't sent his men at the women out of kindness, but rather because he knew the women's cultivation was high. Even he wouldn't be able to deal with

them, so he sent out his subordinates to wear them out first. However, from the looks of it, there was no way to capture the two quickly. Thus, he looked at the bailiff next to him and said, "Brother Wang, I'll need your help."

The bailiff frowned slightly, clearly unwilling to join in. However, Yi Zhibing said, "What's our mission this time? These two women are resisting arrest right now, and furthermore, they've injured quite a few of the bailiffs. We won't be able to handle the responsibility if we let any of them escape!"

That bailiff frowned when he heard that, but he finally moved. He reached out toward the two women, and a metal glove that flickered with light suddenly appeared on his hand. When it made contact with the metal glove, Zheng Dan's dagger immediately broke into several pieces.

Yi Zhibing smiled. Bailiff Wang had had a miraculous encounter in his earlier years and obtained an earth-grade weapon; it was considered particularly formidable within the earth-grade. As such, even though his individual cultivation wasn't too stunning in the capital, he had been able to rely on his glove; his name had thus left countless criminals terror-stricken. Compared to that, these two dainty women weren't much at all.

Sure enough, after a few moves, the situation soon turned critical for the weaponless Zheng Dan and Sang Qien. Eventually, while they were evading, they accidentally tripped on a fallen chair, revealing a huge opening as they staggered.

How could Bailiff Wang miss out on such a great opportunity? His fingers immediately turned into chains that wrapped around their bodies. In all his years, those who were restrained by his iron glove became powerless, unable to resist further.

Despair appeared in the two women's eyes, as they had just seen Yi Zhibing's despicable and shameless nature. They knew that if they fell into his hands, they would meet a horrible end.

Suddenly, a streak of sword light flashed past them, cutting the long chains into several pieces. A tall and slender figure appeared at their side and carefully supported them, asking, "Are you two alright?"

"Ah Zu!" Zheng Dan exclaimed, recognizing the face she yearned for day and night. Her eyes became a bit wet as she threw herself into his arms enthusiastically.

Sang Qien was shocked and happy. However, her relationship with Zu An was very awkward. They were clearly so familiar with each other that they knew every inch of each other's body, and yet their relationship was actually a bit estranged. As such, she was comparatively more restrained.

Meanwhile, Bailiff Wang was shocked. When he saw that the fingers had been cut off from his iron glove, even though Zu An had his back turned, he still didn't dare to do anything.

Yi Zhibing recognized Zu An and exclaimed, "Wow, who do we have here? Isn't this the human traitor who colluded with the Fiend Races?!" In the past, he had suffered quite badly along with Yu Nan when they competed over a courtesan queen. Zu An's face remained fresh in his memory.

Zu An supported both women as he looked around. When he saw the messy situation, his expression darkened and he said, "So you were the ones who did this."

“And so what if we were? The Sang clan has committed a huge crime, and we came on orders to investigate. I advise you to cooperate and wait to be captured. Otherwise, resisting arrest is a tremendous crime,” Yi Zhibing said with a sneer. This guy didn’t even have the slightest bit of ki aura. Had he ended up becoming crippled somewhere?

There’s no Bi Ziang to stand up for you this time. Just watch as I deal with you properly, he thought as he waved his hand, gesturing for his subordinates to capture the man.

The bailiffs had all thought that they would be able to enjoy two charming beauties, and yet now, things were suddenly incredibly complicated. They had been frustrated and annoyed to begin with, so they didn’t see what had just happened clearly at all. When they received the signal, they charged with a roar, their eyes filled with lust and desire.

“No, don’t!” Bailiff Wang yelled, horrified. He tried to stop them, but it was already too late.

Zu An waved his hand, and a streak of sword energy hacked outward. A streak of bloody mist appeared from the bailiffs' bodies, and they fell like broken sacks.

Yi Zhibing was shocked, but also happy. He exclaimed, “You actually publicly killed court officials? You’re finished! Not even an immortal can save you if they come for you! You’re done!”

Sang Qien and Zheng Dan couldn't help but look at Zu An worriedly. This was precisely the reason they had held back before: The Zhou Dynasty had always been extremely strict with their rules and laws. Even if one were wrongly accused, one had no choice but to go through the legal path of righting wrongs. Otherwise, practically anything would be a grave offense, let alone publicly killing court officials. That would be treated as a full-on rebellion!

However, Zu An didn’t pay Yi Zhibing any attention. Instead, he asked Zheng Dan just what exactly had happened. He had just returned to the capital, planning to first get some intelligence from the Sang Manor. And yet, as soon as he arrived, he had seen the mess that was taking place, putting the two women in a dangerous situation; he had been overtaken with fury. Only now did Zheng Dan give Zu An a rough account of what had happened to them.

When Yi Zhibing saw how close they were, he finally reacted and said, “Haha, the Sang clan has always been careful about their family matters, and yet their daughter-in-law was already colluding with an outsider! What were you still acting like a chaste woman in front of me for?!”