

Immortal 381

Chapter 381: A Secret Escape

Old Mi's entire body shook when he heard this voice. His smile remained frozen on his face. He turned to look outside the window.

An old man was already standing by the side of his bed. He coughed into his handkerchief, and then smiled at Old Mi.

If Zu An or Pei Mianman had been there, they would surely have recognized the Wei clan's mysterious expert, Wei Dan.

Old Mi's expression slipped the moment his gaze landed on this man. He sighed deeply. "I've always dreaded this day. Yet, now that it's come, I find that I'm not as anxious as I imagined I would be."

Wei Dan smiled. "That's how the world works. The most painful part isn't the actual event. It's the endless waiting."

Old Mi chuckled. "I didn't expect you to still be so fond of preaching after so many years."

Wei Dan didn't seem to mind. "I haven't seen you in so many years. We've all grown so old. You've led me on a wild goose chase all this while. The royal palace has spent countless resources and invested so much manpower to track you down, and yet they never picked up any trace of you. It was only recently that we discovered a clue."

"How did you all find me?" Old Mi asked curiously.

"During the recent Clans Tournament in Brightmoon City, we received a report that Zu An had employed a movement technique extremely similar to your Sunflower Phantasm. That made us suspect that you were most likely here," Wei Dan replied.

Old Mi scoffed. "So, that good-for-nothing leaked my identity after all. I warned him again and again never to show it to anyone, but he just refused to listen. I wouldn't have passed on that technique to him if I had known things would turn out this way!"

You have successfully trolled Old Mi for 760 Rage points!

Zu An was stunned when he saw these Rage points. What was going on?

He decided to check in on Old Mi. He could never figure out what that old man wanted. He'd sensed a growing danger recently, and he resolved himself to get to the bottom of it as soon as possible.

Of course, he wasn't going to run straight in. He would scout out the situation first.

He used Mirror Mirage to hide his aura, as a precaution against the old man's cultivation.

As he arrived, he noticed that there was another person in the residence. It was none other than Wei Dan! Zu An was shocked, and didn't dare go nearer. He hid in the shadows and secretly observed what was happening.

Inside Old Mi's residence, Wei Dan continued his interrogation. "To be honest, there is something that even I find strange," he said with a puzzled expression. Why would you teach your secret art to a wastrel who has absolutely nothing to do with you? This isn't like you at all!"

"There's no reason. He seemed like a good kid, so I taught it to him on a whim. I guess I was just too careless." Old Mi obviously didn't want to reveal that Zu An was his future vessel, and that he was going to possess him.

"So that's the reason." Wei Dan smiled. "Thank goodness for that. It would've really been hard for me to find you otherwise."

Zu An felt a flash of embarrassment. It had been because of him that Old Mi was discovered by his enemy! No wonder he was so angry just now.

"You were able to find me so quickly with just this piece of information alone. That in itself is quite admirable," Old Mi said with a sigh.

The two of them chatted as though they were old friends. However, neither of them had lost sight of the reality of the situation. The air was filled with a hidden killing intent.

"It wasn't all that quick," replied Wei Dan. "I didn't dare ask Zu An directly since I was afraid of scaring you away. I've had to resort to a secret investigation. I started with those in the academy who were in contact with him, but I didn't find any sign of you there."

Zu An remembered how the academy's teachers had been beaten up one by one. Apparently, it was the work of this person.

I have to thank my lucky stars that I wasn't caught by this fellow. I surely wouldn't have been able to escape.

Old Mi couldn't hide his admiration. "There are so many experts in the academy, and yet you played them all so easily. It seems like Eunuch Wei's cultivation has improved considerably over the years."

"Other than Jiang Luofu, none of the others are worth mentioning," Wei Dan declared with a snort. The woman—and her stunning legs—came straight to his mind. If he wasn't a eunuch, he might just have fancied her.

"That's true." Old Mi nodded, clearly agreeing with his assessment. "Why didn't you start your investigation in the Chu clan?"

Wei Dan casually answered his question. "I thought that Zu An had been able to marry into the clan and become a son-in-law because of your teachings. That made me believe subconsciously that you were hiding outside the Chu clan. The academy seemed like the best place to start."

Zu An grew upset. Why would someone as handsome as me need any other skills to become the Chu clan's son-in-law?

This dude's so ugly, there's no way he can understand how girls will willingly throw themselves at someone as handsome as me!

“So that’s why.” Old Mi nodded in understanding. He continued, “So, has the emperor been well in recent years?”

Zu An’s eyes widened. This Old Mi was affiliated with the emperor after all! After all the time he’d spent in this world, he already knew that, even though there were innumerable experts in the world, the undisputed number one expert was the emperor.

Old Mi himself worked directly for the emperor! No wonder his cultivation was so high.

“Little Ying, I’m surprised you’re still thinking about the emperor.” Wei Dan sneered. “Thanks to you, his majesty’s condition is extremely poor.”

Old Mi was stunned. “How could that be? His majesty’s cultivation is so great! Why would he be in poor health?”

Wei Dan snorted. “Why ask a question you already know the answer to? No matter how powerful his cultivation is, he cannot escape the fate of old age. That was why the emperor sent you out in search of that ‘Phoenix Nirvana Sutra’, which can grant eternal life. Who would’ve expected all of you to vanish without a trace?”

Zu An was shocked. You can obtain eternal life by cultivating the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra?

Another thing he’d learned from his time in this world was that, the higher one’s cultivation, the more they feared the merciless guillotine of time. Even the most stunning geniuses would have to return to the earth. No one had yet attained immortality.

Does this Phoenix Nirvana Sutra truly have such power?

No wonder cultivating it is so difficult! Reaching every single step requires so many Ki Fruits!

“The emperor thought that all of you had died without obtaining the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra. For a long time, the whole court grieved for your passing.” Wei Dan’s tone changed. “Later on, however, those tasked with investigating this matter discovered something fishy.

“Your plan was truly meticulous. You made sure that every single corpse was missing a part, to make it look as if you all were attacked by a vicious beast, and then you used these pieces to create a corpse to take your place.” Wei Dan had a look of admiration on his face. “However, your corpse lacked a head, which was sure to arouse suspicion. Our investigation went nowhere, until we learned from one of your attendants that you had a hidden mark on your back. With that final piece, we could determine that the corpse wasn’t yours.”

Old Mi sighed. “So that was what happened. I thought I had taken every precaution, but even I cannot see clearly what’s on my back. That’s why I overlooked this little detail.”

“Heaven is fair; the guilty will not escape.” Wei Dan smiled. All the years he’d spent investigating this, and it had finally borne fruit.

Zu An finally grasped the entire situation. Old Mi had probably led a party in search of the legendary ‘Phoenix Nirvana Sutra’, but greed had possessed him in the end. He’d killed everyone else and made it look as if the whole party had been annihilated. However, he was still discovered in the end.

He couldn't help but feel some level of admiration. This Old Mi really had some balls—metaphorically speaking. He had dared to covet the thing which the emperor desired most!

Old Mi sighed. "I only did that because our search for the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra was fruitless. I was afraid that the imperial court would chastise me for my failure. I was also already fed up with the two-faced nature of the palace, and I needed a secret means to escape it. Eunuch Wei, there was no need for you to go to such lengths."

"You didn't find the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra?" Wei Dan sneered. "Do you take me for a child? Hand it over, and I might still be able to convince the emperor to spare your life."

Chapter 382: Sunflower Finger versus Stellar Palm

Old Mi knew that there was no way he could bluff his way through this. He sighed. "Even if I had it over to you, there's no way I'll be spared. Aren't you the one treating me like a child now?"

Wei Dan's eyes narrowed. He walked forward. "Little Ying, it seems like you are begging for a fight."

Old Mi scoffed. "Are you sure that you can win?"

He straightened up from his usual hunched-over posture, and his shriveled body suddenly seemed rather tall and imposing.

Zu An's heart began to pound. He knew that the two of them were about to fight. Old Mi had always been a mystery in his eyes, and Wei Dan's cultivation was terrifying as well. If he hadn't set the room on fire the last time, Pei Mianman would have surely been caught by him, despite her meticulous preparations.

He didn't know which one of these men would win if they fought.

Wei Dan laughed at Old Mi's attempt at intimidation. "Little Ying, back when we were both serving as court eunuchs in the imperial palace, my cultivation was always the strongest, while yours was ranked second. I never expected your confidence to grow so much after all these years!"

Old Mi replied with a smile, "Cultivators strive to become fearless, and to always face challenges head on. How can we decide who will be the victor and who will bow in defeat without truly fighting?"

Wei Dan nodded. "Indeed. Your temperament seems to have changed considerably from before. No wonder you were able to deal with the rebels of the Chu clan so easily! One was at the seventh rank and one was at the sixth rank—neither of their cultivations could have been considered low."

Old Mi's eyes narrowed. "So, you even caught that."

Wei Dan smiled. "Didn't I tell you earlier that I've been investigating all those around Zu An? Once I had completed my investigation into the academy, the Chu clan was the next logical step. There were so many people in the Chu clan to look into, but you were kind enough to make a move yourself. If I still couldn't find you after that, wouldn't my whole life have been a waste?"

He paused for a moment, then said in a puzzled tone, "I'm honestly quite curious. Why would you take the risk of personally interfering in the affairs of the Chu clan? Is that kid Zu An that important to you? Why would you risk your own safety for him?"

Zu An had a strange look on his face. He was most confused about that as well. If someone were to ask him if Old Mi treated him well, then he would have to agree. The old man had given him a secret manual, and taught him a strong movement technique. However, his gaze had always given him the creeps, and there were other signs as well that made him feel as if the old man had ulterior motives.

But what was this objective?

His cultivation was low, and his background and social standing were insignificant. There was absolutely no reason for Old Mi to be plotting against him. As for the 'Primordial Origin Sutra', he had obtained it only after Old Mi had chosen to help him, so it couldn't be the reason why.

There was no way Old Mi knew about the Keyboard. Does this old man like me...?

Zu An's sphincter tightened as the thought popped into his mind.

"When one grows old, one naturally thinks about leaving a legacy behind," Old Mi replied. "You know that people like you and me are doomed never to have heirs. You still have an adopted son, but I have nothing."

"Ah, so you want him to carry on your legacy." Wei Dan seemed satisfied with that answer. Eunuchs like themselves were all fond of adopting children of their own. He himself had taken in quite a few, but Old Mi didn't have any. Such thoughts were commonplace. "What a pity. We used to be drinking buddies. Who knew that we would end up as mortal enemies?"

Old Mi sighed regretfully. "Indeed. Out of all those who entered the palace together with us, the two of us were still the closest. Now, we're the only two left..."

He suddenly moved midway through his sentence. He appeared at Wei Dan's side like a ghost, and thrust a finger towards his ribs. An exquisite sunflower appeared at his fingertip.

Zu An's heart was pounding crazily. He recognized that movement technique—it was the Sunflower Phantasm! He thought he was moving quickly when he used the Sunflower Phantasm himself. However, compared to what he had just witnessed, he was a mere tractor going up against a Ferrari.

Hong Zhong and Chu Tiesheng had both died to this single finger. Back then, Old Mi had stood still, but he was clearly going all out this time. It was almost impossible to understand just how much more powerful this finger was right now, and just how powerful was the opponent he was facing.

However, despite Old Mi's lightning-quick speed, Wei Dan seemed to have anticipated this attack. His left hand moved in a profoundly mysterious arc to meet the deadly finger.

BOOM!

A wave of heat spread out from the point of contact. All the trees within several zhang were instantly shattered, and the boulders, which had seemed firmly fixed to the ground, were launched far into the sky.

A boulder almost landed on Zu An's feet. He stared at it, completely dumbfounded. The scale of this battle was just too great! It was completely beyond the imagination of regular cultivators!

He'd heard that higher-level cultivators could draw upon power strong enough to move heaven and earth. From what he'd just witnessed, it seemed like this was indeed the case.

The smoke dissipated, revealing the two combatants facing each other, several zhang apart. Old Mi frowned, and didn't continue his attack. Clearly, his opponent's reaction had been outside his expectations.

Wei Dan took out his handkerchief and coughed into it a few times, then laughed in a cruel manner. "Little Ying, Little Ying... It's been so long. I didn't expect you to still be so cunning. I almost fell for your tricks."

Old Mi snorted. "Who can compare with you when it comes to cunning? You clearly anticipated my attack. Why are you still putting on such a careless demeanor to bait me in? If I hadn't retreated in time, I might have fallen right into your trap."

Zu An blinked. From the sound of it, they seemed to have exchanged a flurry of blows already.

But all I saw was him deflecting Old Mi's finger with his fist!

Wei Dan smiled. "There was an official who said it best. If you want to be an honest official, you have to be even more cunning than a corrupt official. Against a treacherous man like you, I obviously need to keep a few tricks up my sleeves."

Old Mi sighed. "It seems like you've already perfected your Stellar Palm. I'm truly envious of you."

Wei Dan snorted. "Isn't that the same with your Sunflower Finger? You came this close to poking a hole in me just now."

After exchanging this single line of praise, the two of them fell silent. They were clearly assessing each other, intent on finding openings.

A moment passed, and Wei Dan suddenly began to cough.

Old Mi made his move at once, and the flowers in the distant garden seemed to move with him.

Countless petals fluttered around Old Mi, vaguely forming the shape of a sunflower. Zu An's expression grew odd.

If a beautiful woman had displayed such a graceful move, it would have surely been considered stunning. However, seeing Old Mi perform this same move was enough to make anyone who saw it wish they were blind.

Wei Dan's eyes narrowed as he saw the multitude of flower petals flying towards him. He threw his handkerchief forward to meet them.

The handkerchief—which was only a few inches across—suddenly grew in size. It quickly grew to several dozen zhang across, large enough to cover the entire courtyard.

Zu An's eyes went round. He'd thought that this was just a handkerchief covered in spit and germs, but it was actually a magic weapon!

From the power it displayed, it was clearly not an ordinary item.

Something gnawed at him, however. If this handkerchief grew so much larger, then what about the spit and germs on that handkerchief? Would they enlarge as well?

If you were caught by that handkerchief, you'd die from disgust before it could strangle you to death.

The handkerchief suddenly flared open. Its surface was covered in specks of starlight, resembling a sea of stars.

The handkerchief began to spin quickly. The petals that Old Mi had launched were continuously sucked into the vortex of stars formed by the handkerchief.

In a flash, the handkerchief rolled up like a cocoon, wrapping Old Mi inside.

However, Old Mi was definitely not one to be trifled with. Soon, some sharp protrusions could be seen on the handkerchief's surface. Old Mi was clearly using his Sunflower Finger to stab at the handkerchief, trying to break out.

Wei Dan didn't dare act carelessly. He swung his hands about, shouting violently, "Stellar Palm!"

His hands glowed with specks of starlight. It seemed as though he were striking an invisible ball in front of him.

Spectral hands flickering with blue light appeared high up in midair, continuously striking Old Mi, who was still wrapped in the massive handkerchief.

Chapter 383: Steps of the Rising Lotus

The blue spectral hands left huge impressions in the handkerchief wherever they struck.

Even Zu An began to wonder if Old Mi would be crushed into ground meat inside.

Though he was suspicious of Old Mi's true objective, the two of them had spent quite some time together, after all. He still hoped to see Old Mi win.

Of course, the best outcome would be for both of them to wear each other out.

Thankfully, Old Mi wasn't so easily dealt with. The handkerchief bulged as Old Mi aimed a fist at Wei Dan from inside.

Wei Dan frowned. The frequency of his strikes increased, raining blows on the handkerchief with greater urgency.

Numerous hand-shaped imprints appeared on the giant handkerchief.

At the same time, numerous fist-shaped bulges pushed outward from within the handkerchief in quick succession.

The two of them were clearly exchanging blows, despite the distance between them.

Suddenly, a long fingernail pierced through the handkerchief. It slid downwards like a sharp blade, cutting open a large hole.

A purple lotus flower blossomed within. That giant handkerchief couldn't contain it, and unraveled suddenly, exploding into pieces with a loud bang.

Old Mi emerged from within. He leapt onto the roof of a hut nearby. "Sorry. It seems I've accidentally destroyed your Stellar Handkerchief," he said casually.

Wei Dan shook his head. "It was your own skill that allowed you to escape. There's nothing to apologize for. I'm astounded by just how much your cultivation has improved since our last meeting."

Old Mi chuckled. "Didn't I tell you earlier? We won't know who will emerge the victor unless we actually fight."

Wei Dan snorted coldly. "Is that so? I'll guess I have to see for myself just how far you've come, then." With a sudden tap of his foot, he rushed towards Old Mi like a zombie.

Zu An noticed that his arms were extended out in front of him rigidly, like the zombies in period dramas and movies. How could such a clumsy appearance be terrifying?

Despite this, Old Mi seemed extra wary, as if faced with a deadly enemy. He immediately used his Sunflower Phantasm to dodge to the side. The straw hut that he'd been standing on a moment ago was ripped to pieces by cutting winds even before Wei Dan's hands reached it.

Zu An's eyes widened. These two are both freaking superhumans!

Wei Dan pushed off against a pillar with his feet, and launched himself straight at Old Mi.

Old Mi dodged with his Sunflower Phantasm, waiting for his opportunity to counterattack.

Zu An expected that the Sunflower Phantasm would grant Old Mi a natural advantage in a frontal clash like this, yet Wei Dan always chose the shortest route, and his attacks were lightning fast. Far from being on the losing end, he managed to seize the advantage.

After all, dancing around left and right drained Old Mi's strength more quickly.

Sure enough, as the battle dragged on, Old Mi's movements began to slow. Even though it was almost imperceptible, Zu An could still sense it clearly, since he was familiar with the Sunflower Phantasm.

Zu An knew that Wei Dan's sight and cultivation level were slightly superior to his opponents, because he seized his opportunities and chose his angles of attack perfectly. This was impossible to do without a superior level of cultivation.

However, something still gnawed at him. Why didn't Old Mi use Grandgale or the other skills granted by the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra? Grandgale's instantaneous movement would clearly beat out Wei Dan's direct lunges. If he used it in tandem with the Sunflower Phantasm, Wei Dan would be the one at a disadvantage instead.

Was he trying to feign weakness, waiting for the critical moment to reveal his trump cards?

Right at that moment, the battle took a sudden turn. He heard Wei Dan laugh loudly. "I've caught you!"

"Inescapable Net!"

He made a circle with his palms, and Old Mi was suddenly encircled in a light blue ball of light several zhang in diameter. He pressed his palms towards each other, and the blue light ball began to shrink at a visible rate.

Old Mi was clearly stunned by this as well. He immediately shouted, "Sunflower Finger!"

He extended all ten fingers, and thrust his hands about him. Ripples appeared across the surface of the blue sphere of light wherever he made contact with it.

However, this finger thrust—which could kill a seventh-ranked expert—couldn't pierce through this weak-looking ball of light which seemed like a giant soap bubble.

Wei Dan smiled. "It's useless. This power is the result of the spatial laws that I've only recently gained insight into. It cannot be defeated by any worldly power."

Spatial laws? Zu An couldn't hide his shock. Just what level of cultivation did this old man possess?

No wonder that zombie-like movement was so powerful! He used spatial laws to augment it! As I was saying, there was no way the Sunflower Phantasm couldn't keep up with regular movements.

Old Mi stopped trying to break out using his Sunflower Finger. He suddenly turned to look at Wei Dan. "No wonder you're still unfazed even after your Stellar Handkerchief was destroyed. You had another trump card up your sleeve."

"But of course." Wei Dan clasped his fist. "Serving at the emperor's side means that I occasionally receive pointers from him. These pointers can easily save us a decade of arduous cultivation. How could I have dared to pursue you if I hadn't made any progress at all?"

As he spoke, the light blue sphere continued to shrink. A strange blackness appeared in the center of the sphere. Old Mi lost control of his own movements, and his body was slowly sucked towards that inky dark spot.

A black hole? Zu An was stupefied. It suddenly dawned on him that many things in this world were already beyond his understanding of science.

Old Mi tried to employ the Sunflower Phantasm several times. Unfortunately, not only could he not move his body, he was slowly being sucked towards the center.

Wei Dan's voice grew grim. "Little Ying, out of respect for our friendship, I'll let you go free if you break your own arms. Not even his majesty would be able to save you once you enter that darkness."

"Break my own arms?" Old Mi sneered. "I would rather die than surrender."

"Why must it be so?" Wei Dan frowned. "As long as you hand over the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, there is no need for you to die. Why are you so stubborn?"

Old Mi laughed. "It is precisely because I know that you still need my Phoenix Nirvana Sutra that I have the confidence to keep fighting! I refuse to believe that you will really kill me."

Wei Dan snorted, but the blue sphere of light ceased its shrinking. He knew that the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra would also be lost if he destroyed Old Mi with that inky darkness. How would he explain things to the emperor then?

However, his opponent's cultivation was just too high. If he let him go now, Old Mi would surely be on the lookout for him, and become even harder to catch in the future.

In that moment of hesitation, as the space around him stabilized, Old Mi made his move.

“Steps of the Rising Lotus!”

He stepped upwards into empty air as though walking up a flight of stairs, and every step he took left behind a footprint. A lotus gradually blossomed from each footprint.

Zu An was completely dumbstruck. This Old Mi was already an old man, yet he still cared so much about aesthetics. Every single technique he displayed possessed a stunning beauty.

If a pretty young woman used these techniques, she would easily harvest the hearts of countless young men.

Leaving Zu An aside, even Wei Dan was shocked. “You’ve also reached the gateway to understanding spatial laws?”

Old Mi began to smile, but suddenly vomited a mouthful of blood. The move he just used had clearly pushed him beyond his limits, and he was suffering its recoil.

How could Wei Dan give up this opportunity? He immediately used his zombie leap to close the distance.

His two palms lashed out, sending a flurry of blows at Old Mi. Even though Old Mi did everything he could to defend himself, he was still hit by three palm strikes.

“Pfft!”

Blood spewed from Old Mi’s mouth, and even the snowy-white beard around his mouth was dyed red.

“Tsk, ts, ts. It looks like you’re still clinging tightly to your identity as a eunuch! Even at your age, you’re still sticking all this fake beard around your mouth.” Wei Dan didn’t close the distance. He was clearly worried that Old Mi might feel like a cornered beast and risk it all. Old Mi was already seriously injured. The longer Wei Dan stalled, the more blood Old Mi would lose. The more blood he lost, the weaker he would become.

“Are you saying you don’t care? You have quite a bit of fake beard plastered around your mouth too!” Old Mi wiped away the blood staining the corners of his lips, accidentally rubbing off the rest of his fake beard. A pained expression appeared on his face.

Chapter 384: I’m Just a Bystander!

Wei Dan flew into a rage. His voice rose an octave. “Little Ying, are you testing my patience? Are you courting death?”

“Courting death?” Old Mi smiled mournfully. “Who would choose to die if they could live?”

Zu An grew sad. Even though he was always worried that Old Mi might have some ulterior objective for helping him, they had known each other for so long. It was difficult to see him like this.

A sudden noise came from a distance away. The pitched battle had clearly alarmed the people within the Chu Estate, prompting a party of guards to investigate.

Zu An was contemplating whether he should ask the Chu clan members for help. In the end, however, he decided not to.

Even the most powerful experts in the Chu Estate had been killed by Old Mi, and this Wei Dan seemed to be even stronger.

Qin Wanru was only at the sixth rank, and she was in no condition to help out. Even though the guards of the Chu clan were elites, they were no match for a real monster like Wei Dan.

If Chu Zhongtian had been in the estate, he might have still been of some use. However, he only had eight ranks of cultivation, which was probably still not enough.

The only way they would even have had a chance was if the Chu clan’s Red Cloak Army was in the estate.

When Zu An first arrived in this world, there was one thing he couldn’t understand. If individual cultivators were so powerful, why did things like countries and armies still exist?

Only later, when he attended the academy, did he find out why. Even though the individual cultivation of the soldiers in these armies couldn’t match that of high level cultivators, large armies could employ certain special tactics to absorb the power of expert cultivators and spread it out amongst the individual soldiers, lessening its impact. At the same time, these soldiers could all concentrate their attacking force on a single enemy.

An individual cultivator would always lose when faced with an organized army.

This allowed a country’s organizational structure and the strength of its more powerful individuals to be balanced out.

While Zu An was feeling regretful, Wei Dan spoke up. “Hmph, I don’t feel like bickering with you over these matters anymore. The Chu clan’s men are already coming. I’ll capture you first, then decide what to do with you.”

Old Mi laughed. “You think I’ll let you?”

His figure rushed straight towards where Zu An was hiding. He grabbed Zu An, and then he rushed into the darkness while his quarry stared at him in shock.

Clearly, he had known all along that Zu An had been hiding nearby.

Zu An wanted to resist, but the gap in their strength was too great. Just one tap on the shoulder from Old Mi, and he had instantly lost all of his strength.

Zu An was dumbfounded. “I’m just a bystander!”

“Shut up!” Old Mi snorted coldly as he carried Zu An off into the distance.

Wei Dan exclaimed in surprise. There had actually been someone hiding over there! Why hadn’t he noticed him before?

Whatever the case, he didn’t have time to dwell on this. He chased after them right away. “Where do you think you’re going?!”

The guards of the Chu clan arrived just in time to witness Zu An’s capture, and erupted in startled cries.

“Huh? Isn’t that our estate gardener?”

“Who is that other old man?”

“Even though I don’t know who that is, I think I saw them kidnap the young master!”

An uproar broke out, with everyone standing around yelling that they had to save Zu An.

Cheng Shouping jumped out and said, “Nonsense! Our young master has miraculous talent and skills! How could he be so easily captured by those two old men? He’s obviously steps ahead of them, and is only pretending to be captured!”

“What brother Cheng says makes sense.” All those who had gathered nodded their heads. After all, their young master had killed Hong Zhong and Chu Tiesheng. In their hearts, he was immeasurably powerful. There was very little chance of him being kidnapped by two old men.

Cheng Shouping immediately grew smug when he heard the crowd address him as ‘brother Cheng’. In all his years in the estate, this was the first time he had ever been shown any respect.

This was all because of the young master. That was why he had to continue to cling tightly to this young master.

How dare anyone besmirch the reputation of the young master by suggesting that he had been kidnapped?! He had to nip these bad rumors in the bud right away. His own reputation was on the line!

Zhou Lujun pulled Cheng Shouping to the side, his expression dark. “Are you sure that the young master planned this? Those two elders are at least at the ninth rank.”

“Ninth rank?” Cheng Shouping was shocked. “Is that higher than the young master’s cultivation?”

“Of course!” Feng Daniu said with a strange voice. “Everyone knows that ninth-ranked cultivators can soar into the heavens. Those two elders clearly flew away with the young master in tow. How can you lack such common knowledge?”

“Of course I know that!” Cheng Shouping said stubbornly, but he was full of guilt inside. He immediately began to pray fervently to the heavens for his young master’s safety. If something were to happen, his own prospects for advancement in the Chu clan would go up in smoke!

Zu An found himself carried into the air by Old Mi. The houses below grew smaller and smaller. He swallowed and said, “You guys can keep fighting if you want. Why did you have to get me involved?!”

Wind rushed into his mouth as soon as he opened it, and his words came out a jumbled mess.

Old Mi snorted. "You're involved in this matter too. You obviously can't remain a bystander."

"What does this have to do with me?!" Zu An suddenly realized that, since he knew the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra as well. Perhaps this matter did have something to do with him after all. "Please hold me tightly, then. I don't want to be dropped."

Old Mi smiled insincerely. "Don't worry. If you fall, you'll only be crippled at worst. You won't die. Heck, it might even improve your cultivation."

Zu An was not amused.

He knew that the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra required him to be beaten up in order to cultivate, but he didn't want to resort to this to increase his cultivation!

Wei Dan's voice came from behind them. "Little Ying, I'm surprised you noticed this brat just now. I didn't even know he was there."

Old Mi chuckled. "I have my ways."

Zu An was stunned. He thought that the difference in cultivation had made Mirror Mirage ineffective, but Wei Dan's words just proved his theory wrong.

How did Old Mi notice me, then?

"I guessed as much. You probably left a spiritual imprint on him." Wei Dan sighed. "I didn't expect you to care so much about this kid. Did you pass on the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra to him as well?"

Old Mi didn't reply. Zu An's heart began to pound.

Who would have thought that even the sudden quickening of his heartbeat would be picked up by Wei Dan?

"As expected. I wouldn't have gone through such trouble if I'd known that this was the case. I could have just interrogated him."

Old Mi snorted. "It's too late for regrets now."

"It's not too late. I'll just capture both of you for interrogation." Wei Dan smiled. "I was worried that your mouth would be tightly shut, but this kid might not be as tough to deal with."

Zu An really didn't like being treated as though he were invisible. "Can't the two of you talk after you land? Do you guys like it up here or something?"

His cultivation was far beneath the two of them. Little Zu An began to shrivel up from the cold.

"So, this youngster is scared," Wei Dan teased. "I guess it can't be helped. It's only natural for ordinary people to feel afraid the first time they fly this high. You don't need to feel embarrassed."

Zu An wasn't at all impressed.

"You think this bit of altitude scares me? I've flown ten thousand meters into the air without having to lift a finger! Do you see me bragging about that?" Zu An said with a sulk.

“Ten thousand meters?!”

Both Wei Dan and Old Mi were flabbergasted when they heard this number.

However, they quickly shook off their shock. Old Mi was so angry that he almost let go of Zu An.

“Damned brat, aren’t you going a bit too far with your lies?”

You have successfully trolled Mi Lianying for 666 Rage points!

Wei Dan shared his feelings. “Little Ying, why did you choose such an unreliable kid to become your successor?”

You have successfully trolled Wei Dan for 666 Rage points!

What kind of joke was this? The higher you flew, the stronger the winds would become. Not even his majesty, the number one expert in this world, could fly that high, let alone a brat like this.

Zu An twisted his lips. “There’s nothing I can do if you lack experience. Summer bugs don’t know anything about winter.”

He really wasn’t lying. All the aircraft in his previous world flew at that altitude.

Wei Dan wasted no more attention on him. He let Zu An persist with his nonsense, and brought his attention back to Old Mi. “Little Ying, I’m curious about something. Why haven’t you used the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra yet?”

Chapter 385: A Fickle World

This was something that was bugging Zu An as well. He too was wondering why Old Mi hadn’t used Grandgale, Blue Mallard, or any other skills. No matter how slowly Old Mi cultivated that secret manual, there was no way he could be worse than me, right?

He wanted to use this opportunity to see for himself what the higher levels of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra looked like. He wanted to see what new skills he would obtain.

Old Mi remained silent. He clearly had no intention of answering this question.

Wei Dan didn’t seem to mind. He began talking to himself. “It’s been so many years since we last crossed paths. Your cultivation has risen considerably since then, probably because of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra. As expected of the legendary Phoenix Nirvana Sutra! It was actually able to close the gap between the two of us. However, I really don’t think that’s all there is to the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra.”

Old Mi finally spoke. “The Phoenix Nirvana Sutra seeks oneness with heaven and earth. This is not easy for imperfect bodies like the ones you and I possess. Cultivating it doesn’t yield much results, and we will never reach its pinnacle.”

Wei Dan frowned when he heard this. This issue that Old Mi touched on definitely existed. Their imperfect bodies always had negative effects on their cultivation. He wasn’t at all surprised to hear that the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra shared this quirk.

A sudden realization came to him. He looked at Zu An, who was being carried by Old Mi. “No wonder you care so much about him. According to the rumors, he was complete trash not long ago, yet he’s grown into a young expert in such a short amount of time. This must be the work of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra!”

Zu An was furious. Who are you calling trash?!

You can’t even be called a man yourself! What gives you the right to brazenly call me that?!

The two elders naturally cared little for Zu An’s feelings. Old Mi snickered and said, “Indeed, I really wanted to see just how far he would go. He might even achieve immortality! I have no hope for myself, so I can only live vicariously through him.”

Zu An was touched by these words. He hadn’t expected Old Mi to have such a noble character! He really shouldn’t have suspected this elder.

However, there was something not quite right about this either. Old Mi had said that those who were crippled below the belt would experience poor results while cultivating the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, but there was no way this old man could know about his recovery! Wasn’t this a contradiction?

Clearly, that meant that Old Mi was trying to fool Wei Dan. Zu An wasn’t sure whether it was because Old Mi wanted to shift all of the focus onto Zu An, or if he didn’t want Wei Dan to take Zu An’s life.

Sure enough, Wei Dan’s expression turned to shock, and he couldn’t hold back a sigh. “There’s been one nice surprise after another today! There are actually two individuals who have cultivated the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra! The emperor will surely be pleased if I bring him back.”

Zu An pressed his lips together in annoyance.

He definitely didn’t want some old man to be interested in him! Unfortunately, he wasn’t in any position to make any choices. He had no say with two ridiculously powerful cultivators present.

Old Mi was already injured, and he was carrying Zu An as well. Even though his movement speed was excellent, he was sure to slow down eventually.

Wei Dan used this chance to leap in front of the two of them. “Little Ying, this game of cat and mouse has gone on for too long. It’s about time to end things.”

Old Mi’s expression turned grim. He tossed Zu An into a nearby tree, and prepared his body for battle.

Wei Dan wasn’t all that interested in Zu An right now. He knew that, once he took down Old Mi, Zu An would be his for the taking as well.

Zu An quickly examined his surroundings. They had flown beyond the walls of Brightmoon City, so this was probably deep within Hidden Dragon Mountain.

Even though Hidden Dragon Mountain was considered dangerous, that was only true for ordinary folk.

For super cultivators like Old Mi and Wei Dan, the vicious beasts that lurked here were nothing to worry about.

He felt a twinge of regret. If that red dragon were still alive, he could've finished off these two elders in one go. He'd only gotten rid of a single Chen Xuan the last time. Sigh, what a waste!

While Zu An was still living in his alternate reality, Wei Dan had already made his move. Old Mi had been injured all this while, and he'd fled while carrying Zu An a considerable distance. His strength had begun to wane.

The fight went as he had expected. In the previous exchange, the two of them had spent an equal amount of time on the offensive. Now, however, Old Mi spent less than a third of the time on the offensive, and only managed to hold on by relying on the miraculous movement speed of the Sunflower Phantasm.

After fighting for another hour, he couldn't even maintain this level of offense. He was completely focused on defense, yet new wounds continued to open up all over his body.

Wei Dan wiped off the blood staining his fingertips as he casually threw out strike after strike. "Little Ying, why must you be so stubborn? You can't win. Is there a need for us to waste so much time?"

Old Mi responded through gritted teeth, "Who can know the final outcome unless we fight to the final bitter second?"

"If you insist. You leave me with no choice. I'll just have to beat you down until you admit defeat." Wei Dan's voice became cold. His movements grew even more swift.

There was no way for Old Mi to dodge anymore. He could only clench his teeth and raise his palms to ward off this attack.

"Stellar Palm!" A nasty smirk appeared on Wei Dan's face. He was going to use this chance to completely cripple his opponent. The long battle had worn his patience all the way down to the bone.

A wave of air blasted out in all directions. Zu An was blown off of the tree he was on.

He fell onto the ground with a loud crunch. If his body hadn't been reforged twice by the Primordial Origin Sutra, he would surely have suffered a few broken bones at the very least. He'd fallen from such a great height, and his movement had been completely sealed by Old Mi earlier.

Instead, Zu An was overjoyed. He quickly began to circulate the ki within his body to break the seal. Recovering his ability to move was the top priority right now. While the two of them were busy fighting, he would seize his opportunity to slip away.

Meanwhile, on the battlefield, something unexpected happened the instant the two palms met. Old Mi's panicked expression vanished, replaced with the cold smile of someone who'd seen a scheme come to fruition.

In a flash, his outstretched palm morphed into a finger, and then he displayed his trademark skill: Sunflower Finger!

Wei Dan instinctively sensed that something was off. However, he just couldn't figure out what.

Old Mi's cultivation wasn't a match for his own. That was the case even when the former was at his peak, let alone now, when he was heavily injured.

With this in mind, Wei Dan threw aside his worries and pressed his palm forward. He was confident that once his palm made contact, that finger would crumble inch by inch, and Old Mi would completely lose the ability to retaliate.

Palm and finger met in a burst of blood, and someone screamed miserably.

Zu An was busy trying to undo his seal. He suddenly raised his head in horror, because the one who had screamed wasn't Old Mi. Instead, it was the one who looked certain to win—Wei Dan!

Old Mi's shining purple finger thrust straight through Wei Dan's palm. The blue glow of Wei Dan's Stellar Palm vanished without a trace, and only a bright, blood-red color could be seen.

Old Mi didn't hesitate at all. He thrust out his other hand, aiming straight for several major acupoints on Wei Dan's body.

Wei Dan collapsed to the side like a leaky sandbag. However, he seemed unconcerned about his own condition. Instead, he looked at the old man in front of him in horror. "How?!"

Old Mi's strength seemed to have instantly increased several fold. Previously, even though Old Mi's cultivation had been slightly beneath his, there wasn't much to choose between them. However, in that instant, Old Mi had completely overwhelmed him!

Why did Old Mi have to resort to such trickery if he'd possessed this level of cultivation from the very start?

Then again, if he didn't truly possess that level of cultivation, there was no way he could have defeated him so easily in that one instant!

He could not wrap his head around what had just happened.

Zu An's eyes were about to pop out as well. After all, he had been secretly rooting for Old Mi all along. He had been merely hoping that the old man could hold out just a little longer. However, in a sudden turn of events, Wei Dan—who looked odds on to win—had been defeated in a flash!

He hadn't managed to undo the seal on himself yet. That was why he was now praying for Wei Dan to hold on for just a few more moments.

The world was just that fickle. Surely this change had happened way too quickly.

Chapter 386: Old and Treacherous

Old Mi didn't answer his question immediately, but took a moment to catch his breath. That burst of strength had clearly dealt considerable damage to himself as well.

In time, some color returned to his deathly pale face. He opened his eyes and looked at the dying Wei Dan with a measure of ridicule. "Weren't you wondering all this time why I didn't use the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra? Well, your desire has been fulfilled. I've let you have a taste of it. So, what do you think? Do you regret saying that now?"

“That was the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra?” Wei Dan seemed to grasp what Old Mi was saying, but it left him with even more questions. “Is the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra a technique that greatly strengthens an individual?”

“You’re half right.” The knots in Old Mi’s brow finally loosened. The enemy that he’d worried about for so many years was finally dealt with. He knew that he shouldn’t be speaking so much, and should instead end Wei Dan’s life as quickly as possible. However, this was just human nature. Although humans possessed logic and reasoning, whether their emotions allowed them to choose that option was another matter entirely.

The ancient saying embodied this best: If riches weren’t brought back home, it was the same as wearing extravagant clothes on a night stroll—no one would notice your new-found wealth at all.

The situation was pretty much settled. Wei Dan had always been above him, in his official position or in cultivation. Even though Wei Dan tried to hide it in his speech, the feeling of contempt was already ingrained in his bones.

He had to properly cherish this moment as the victor. He needed to properly release all these years of pent up resentment that had built up by being inferior to Wei Dan.

“The Phoenix Nirvana Sutra can indeed boost a cultivator’s strength, but a certain condition must be satisfied first: it will only activate when the user is seriously injured. The greater the injury, the greater the boost in strength,” Old Mi continued.

Zu An finally understood what had happened. He’d been completely focused on Grandgale and Blue Mallard, the two special abilities that the technique granted him. He had forgotten this fundamental feature of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra!

Wei Dan finally understood. “No wonder it was so easy to injure you earlier... you deliberately let me injure you. Everything was an act! You baited me step by step into your trap.”

“Both intellect and strength are equally important for cultivators. I believe this was something you taught me.” Old Mi felt rather smug when he said this. After all, Wei Dan had been extremely condescending when he said this to him in the past. However, he had emerged the final victor.

Wei Dan’s eyes lost some of their sparkle. He had now fully experienced what was meant by winner-takes-all. It was now all over for him. He muttered, “A phoenix undergoes rebirth after reaching nirvana... why did I never expect this...”

Old Mi clearly didn’t want to talk about this matter any longer. He was more interested in learning something meaningful. “How many others know that I am here, apart from you?”

A smile finally appeared on Wei Dan’s face. “Do you think that all of this will be over once you kill me? Dream on! I’ve already informed the emperor about everything. As long as the Great Zhou Dynasty survives, there will always be someone coming after your life. It’s all your fault for coveting what the emperor desired the most.”

“I thought as much...” Old Mi frowned, but he wasn’t all that worried. He looked at Zu An, who was a distance away. He already had a way out of all of this. “By the way, what level has the emperor cultivated up to?”

“Hahaha, I do admit that the strength you showed in the end was shocking. Even I am far from being your match. But do you really think that you can rely on this to prevail against his majesty?!” Wei Dan laughed and coughed out some blood. “You are overestimating yourself!”

“Of course I’m not delusional enough to compete against his majesty. However, as a cultivator, how can I not pursue further growth? It’s completely normal for me to be fascinated by someone with a higher cultivation level,” replied Old Mi.

“You are correct.” Wei Dan didn’t retort this time, but said, “I advise you not to place too high a hope in this field. The two of us are naturally deficient, and we are doomed to never truly reach the peak of the heavenly dao. To try to force your way forward is to seek the path to your own doom.”

“That might not be true,” Old Mi sneered. He’d already found a perfect technique for rebirth. A cripple like Wei Dan couldn’t compare to him at all.

Wei Dan looked at him, his expression somewhat surprised. He had no idea where Old Mi’s confidence was coming from.

Old Mi then asked, “How fares the empress?”

“I wouldn’t have answered you if you’d asked about anything else. But since you’re asking about the empress, I guess you still have a bit of a conscience. You still remember the favor she showed you after all these years...” Wei Dan sighed. “When our batch of eunuchs first entered the palace, we were badly bullied until we received the empress’ grace. She truly is a benevolent person. What a pity that she gave birth to a...”

He realized midway through his sentence that he was about to blurt out a secret, and stopped himself.

Old Mi had no such qualms. He said, “So many years have passed. The crown prince’s... intelligence still hasn’t developed?”

Zu An was baffled. Intelligence? Why would you word it in this manner? Did she give birth to an ape or something?

Wei Dan shook his head. “The emperor and empress have sought out various doctors, and collected all sorts of treasures to try to nurture the crown prince. Even though he can’t be considered a genius, he can just about be considered comparable to most ordinary folk.”

Old Mi snorted. “In a royal family, being ordinary is the greatest disaster. His father is the most powerful cultivator in the world, while his uncle and cousins are great geniuses as well. It is truly unfortunate.”

Wei Dan smiled bitterly. “Perhaps all of the luck in the family has already been used up.”

Zu An had a strange expression on his face. Chu Chuyan had mentioned before that the current dilemma facing the court was precisely whether to hand the throne down to the crown prince, or to King Qi.

The crown prince was said to possess only an ordinary aptitude towards cultivation, which led many to support King Qi. However, from what he was hearing right now, his aptitude was far from even being ordinary—he was complete trash!

Wei Dan continued, "The empress has been worried sick over the crown prince all this while. She found a beautiful and capable concubine for the crown prince a few years ago. With her assistance, she should be able to make up for some of the crown prince's deficiencies."

"The crown prince has a concubine?" Old Mi was surprised. He sighed. "Time truly passes quickly. The crown prince was so young back then... Now, has already reached a marriageable age."

Wei Dan felt his heart stir as well. "Indeed... Back then, we could still drink and chat merrily... Now, we must fight each other to the death."

"All right, that's enough reminiscing for now. It's time for me to see you off." Old Mi walked up to Wei Dan and thrust out a finger, preparing to strike him between his brows.

In that instant, Wei Dan suddenly lashed out with his uninjured hand. His palm smashed into Old Mi's lower abdomen.

He'd clearly been stalling on purpose. All the time he'd been speaking, he had been preparing for this final strike.

Old Mi threw up a huge mouthful of blood. However, his finger still landed on Wei Dan's forehead.

The light in Wei Dan's eyes faded. His eyes grew completely gray, and his aura dimmed and disappeared.

Old Mi staggered backwards a few steps. He clutched at his abdomen, blood pouring out from his mouth.

Seeing this final exchange, Zu An's heart grew numb. The two of them were both incredibly treacherous! As expected of these two old friends from the imperial palace.

He had already undone the seal on his body, but he refrained from making any suspicious movements, pretending instead to still be sealed. "Elder, are you okay?" he asked.

Old Mi shot him an annoyed look. "Can't you see all the blood I'm vomiting out? How could I be okay?"

You have successfully trolled Old Mi for 233 Rage points!

Zu An laughed awkwardly. "Keep vomiting and you'll get used to it... Besides, Elder is truly powerful. I'm sure you'll recover quickly."

Old Mi had nothing to say to that.

It took him a while to catch his breath. "How could it be that easy? Wei Dan's last strike was truly powerful. I was careless at the last second. It seems he's managed to take me down with him in the end."

Zu An couldn't believe his ears. "Is it really... that serious?"

Old Mi suddenly turned to look at him. "Ah Zu, ask yourself—has this old one treated you well?"

Chapter 387: Hidden Intentions Exposed

Zu An's heart skipped a beat. He immediately said, "Elder has obviously treated me well! What you have shown me can be considered life-changing grace!"

After all, if not for the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, he wouldn't have had any foundation for cultivation, let alone any way to activate the Keyboard system.

"It seems like a kid like you still has some gratitude. My efforts weren't wasted after all." Old Mi nodded in satisfaction.

Zu An was curious. Why was he talking about this now?

The old man continued, "I'm sure you heard our conversation as well. I haven't had any adopted children in this life of mine, nor do I have any successors. To a certain degree, you are my adopted son, my successor."

Zu An's heart softened when he heard the weakness in his voice. He was surely about to pass away. "I will never forget the kindness Elder has shown me! If Elder doesn't mind, I can look after you and make arrangements after you pass on."

"I'm surprised at your filial piety." Old Mi laughed. "Unfortunately, I am not blessed enough to be able to enjoy that."

"Is Elder's injury really that serious? I'm sure that, considering the cultivation you possess, you should be able to recover after a period of recuperation!" Zu An even considered using some of his own medicine on him. He had the red bottles that granted instant restoration, as well as Ji Dengtu's Soul Return Pills. He should be able to treat this old man's injuries.

However, the final treacherous clash between Old Mi and Wei Dan was still fresh in his mind, and there was no way he could forget all the suspicions that he'd had all this while. He decided to wait a little longer. After all, he could bring the old man back as long as he still had one last breath in him.

"It's hopeless. I clearly understand my own injuries best." Old Mi continued on, "Let's not waste any more time. I want to use this last bit of time to pass on to you everything I know. That way, some part of my existence will live on even after I pass on."

Zu An frowned. "Elder, you should treat your injuries first! Let's talk about the rest afterwards."

"Not bad, you do have a conscience. I didn't choose the wrong person." Old Mi's smile suddenly altered. "But now is not the time for this. If you refuse to accept a gift bestowed upon you by the heavens, then you are the only one to blame."

There was nothing else Zu An could say. "Thank you, Elder!"

"All right, listen well." Old Mi sat down and said, struggling for breath. "I've already passed on to you my Sunflower Phantasm. The other move is the Sunflower Finger. Remember the way to summon it:

"Calm the heart as the sun rises, abandon all distracting thoughts. Imagine the descent of a goddess' fragrance, the birth of ki from an ocean of ki..."

Zu An immediately cleared his mind when he saw that this old man was really passing on his technique. At the same time, he began to wonder what this all meant. After all, this was a deep and profound technique!

When Old Mi was finished, he said, "That's all you need to summon this technique. How much of it do you remember?"

"All of it," Zu An subconsciously replied.

"All of it?" Old Mi frowned. "How could that be? Kid, you shouldn't lie. You have to clarify any doubts you have while I'm still alive."

Zu An was startled. His transcendent aptitude allowed him to pick up anything quickly, but Old Mi didn't know about that.

He remembered Jiang Luofu's warning, so he kept this secret to himself. He hurriedly said, "I only remember about half of it."

"Only half?" Old Mi snorted. "You've forgotten so much, yet you dare to boast like that?"

However, he realized that he was being too harsh, and mellowed his words. "Fifty percent is not bad, considering your aptitude. Pay close attention! I'll repeat it a few more times. You have to remember it completely."

"Okay." Zu An smiled sheepishly to mask his confusion. This old man had said that he was about to die. Did he really have the time to explain this over and over?

Old Mi not only repeated the summoning technique for the Sunflower Finger several times, he even explained several of the more difficult areas.

Zu An was already extremely familiar with it after listening to it so many times. He even felt as though he could use this technique right now. Even if it wasn't as powerful as Old Mi's, it would still be the Sunflower Finger.

His eyes darted around suddenly, and he said with an apologetic smile, "Elder, the move that you used to escape from the Inescapable Net was really awesome! You were actually able to produce a lotus with every step!"

Old Mi couldn't keep the annoyance out of his voice. "Brat, are you hinting to me to teach you that method? Hmph, it's not that I can't pass it on to you. It's just that your cultivation is too low, and this skill is way beyond your capabilities. You won't be able to learn it even if I teach it to you."

"How would we know for sure unless you teach it to me? I guess I don't need it, but having another skill never hurts!"

Old Mi was clearly still hesitant. Zu An kept on pressing him. "Elder, didn't you say that you were going to pass everything on to me? How can you withhold this most formidable Steps of the Rising Lotus?"

"What you say makes sense." Old Mi sighed. "All right, I'll pass on the Steps of the Rising Lotus to you as well."

“However, this skill isn’t something you can comprehend right now. How about this? I’ll engrave this skill onto a spiritual sense seed and plant it inside you. This way, the skill will appear in your mind automatically once you reach a certain level of cultivation.”

Zu An was stunned. Was there a need to make things that difficult?

Just thinking about letting the other party’s spiritual sense enter his body sounded like a terrible idea that should be immediately rejected. However, the temptation of the Steps of Rising Lotus was difficult to resist.

Old Mi had gotten back up to his feet slowly, and was walking towards him with unsteady steps. A streak of purple radiance appeared on his fingertip, which appeared to be a small seed. A small sunflower was vaguely visible within that seed.

Even though this sunflower was much smaller than all of the previous ones, it was sparkling and translucent, shimmering with brilliant colors. It seemed more powerful than any of the other sunflowers he displayed before.

“Relax yourself both physically and mentally. Do not reject it, or else the transfer will fail. I do not have the strength left to condense a second seed,” Old Mi said in a serious tone.

Zu An grunted in acknowledgement, but couldn’t shake the sense of unease within him, although he didn’t know what exactly was wrong.

Old Mi’s finger slowly moved towards Zu An’s brow. As the distance grew smaller, a smile gradually appeared on the old man’s lips.

He’d pretended to be a dying elder who wanted to pass on everything he knew before he died. He hadn’t even hesitated to pass on the Sunflower Finger. This was precisely engineered to lower Zu An’s guard step by step.

From their interactions, he knew that even though Zu An’s wasn’t particularly strong, he was a crafty and cunning fellow. That was why he was taking such a cautious approach.

Possession techniques were always extremely dangerous. There was always a chance of failure.

The stronger the will of the target, the higher the chance of failure.

On the contrary, if the target didn’t put up any resistance, then the probability of success would be close to a hundred percent.

That was why he’d willingly gone through so much trouble to set this up.

The feeling of unease within Zu An grew intensified as he saw the smile on Old Mi’s lips. When that sunflower closed to within an inch from his head, his fine hairs all began to stand on end.

It was as if every single cell in his body was warning him that he was in extreme danger.

Without a conscious thought, his body instinctively employed the Sunflower Phantasm, instantly sending him more than a dozen zhang away.

Old Mi's entire body trembled. He hadn't expected this to happen. He jerked his head towards Zu An. "You've already managed to undo the seal?"

Zu An laughed awkwardly. "Falling from the branch earlier somehow loosened the restrictions binding me, and I managed to recover somehow. I instinctively tested it out just now, and I somehow ended up here."

Old Mi's expression grew dark. "Come back here right now. It's not easy for me to maintain this seed in its condensed form. Soon, it will scatter, and you won't be able to learn the Steps of Rising Lotus."

Zu An waved his hand and said, "Umm... Elder, I suddenly don't want to learn it anymore. You should find someone with better aptitude to pass this technique to."

Old Mi snorted. "How am I supposed to find anyone else in this state? Come back here right now!"

The panic in his voice and the threatening tone he used made Zu An wary of actually learning this technique. He chuckled and said, "Really, there's no need."

Old Mi's expression turned frosty. "That's not for you to decide!"

His figure flickered, and his hand stretched out towards Zu An.

Chapter 388: Twisted

Zu An frantically evaded with Sunflower Phantasm when he saw Old Mi's sinister expression.

He was captured before he could react back in Chu Estate, but that was mainly because he was caught off guard. There was no way he would let the same thing happen again now that he was completely vigilant.

Old Mi sneered. I was the one who taught you the Sunflower Phantasm! Aren't you showing off before a real expert here?!

As such, he confidently grabbed out, predicting where Zu An was moving towards next.

He could only seize Zu An and knock him out before using the possession technique now. The success rate will obviously be lower, but the odds were still in his favor. It was still worth the risk.

"I've caught you!" Old Mi grabbed at Zu An. However, his smile instantly froze.

That figure immediately shattered. He realized that he grabbed a fake clone.

"How is this possible?!" Old Mi suddenly turned around to look at the other Zu An.

He was the one who passed on this Sunflower Phantasm! He understood this technique far better than this brat, so why did things end up like this?

This youngster actually split up into two figures! Moreover, it was completely impossible to differentiate the difference between the clone and the real person before making contact! Their auras, ki flows, everything was completely the same.

“How did you manage to get to this level?” Old Mi stared at Zu An. He merely attributed this to something Zu An accidentally stumbled upon while practicing the Sunflower Phantasm.

This type of stuff has happened before. There were so many miraculous techniques in the world, and many of them were created from accidents and coincidences.

“Making a new technique isn’t anything too hard for an awesome genius like me!” Zu An replied. But inside, he was thanking the heavens. Thank god big sis empress modified his Sunflower Phantasm! Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been able to do anything against Old Mi!

Old Mi was annoyed when he saw Zu An’s smug appearance. How could the technique he was so proud of be modified on a whim? This kid really overestimated his own abilities!

You have successfully trolled Mi Lianying for +666 Rage!

Zu An immediately said when he saw the rage points, “Senior, is there some kind of misunderstanding between us? I just don’t want to learn this ‘Steps of Rising Lotus’, so why are you so upset?”

Old Mi harrumphed. “As matters stand, there is no harm in telling you. This old one likes your body.”

“Fuck!” Zu An immediately ran for his life. He covered his butt while pulling open as much distance between them as he could. “Senior, I’m straight! I have no interest in other men!”

But he soon realized something. This old man is a eunuch, so he can’t do anything even if he has such thoughts. What am I so scared of?

He dropped his hands from his butt when he thought of this.

But Old Mi doesn’t have the ability to be on top. Is he a bottom?

He felt his stomach churn.

Old Mi also realized what he was thinking when he saw Zu An’s expression. He erupted in fury. “Damn brat, what kind of nonsense are you thinking?”

You have successfully trolled Mi Lianying for +781 Rage!

He decided to just say things clearly to prevent Zu An’s imaginations from running wild. “I might as well just tell you. You’ve heard from Wei Dan that even though he has died, there will be endless people pursuing me because I took the emperor’s possession for myself. For the sake of ending all of my troubles, I thought of a perfect solution.”

“What kind of solution?” You’re the wanted man here, why are you involving me?

Old Mi sized him up and down. He revealed a sinister smile. “It’s obviously Possession-Rebirth!”

“This body of mine is already old, and it is flawed to begin with. That is why I don’t have much reluctance in leaving it behind. However, you are different, and you even have the number one beauty in Brightmoon City as your wife! The Chu clan’s authority can provide me with status and wealth. Once I become you, not only would I have gotten rid of all of my worries, I would have a bright and beautiful future.”

“Possession?” Zu An was horrified. He immediately understood everything. This old man actually had this type of plan! No wonder he always felt like he was being looked at like prey.

This old man passed on all types of techniques to him so he felt a bit guilty for thinking such thoughts. But now that he knew about the real objective, he knew that all of this was for the sake of protecting his perfect vessel!

Old Mi smiled when he saw his stupefied appearance. “There is no need for you to feel so scared either. You don’t have much prospects with your bit of cultivation. You will forever be a useless drafted son-in-law. But I am different! With my cultivation and experiences, the Chu clan will soon be under my control. All of the Chu clan’s beauties will be mine to enjoy, and after a few years, your reputation will become widespread and glorious.”

“You will become a big winner in the eyes of this world’s people, a hero! Your name will echo for thousands of years and remain in the records of history! So? Isn’t this deal quite good for you?”

Zu An: “.....”

“Are you actually being serious?”

Old Mi frowned. “Did I not make myself clear enough?”

“Screw you, you damn eunuch! You are lusting after my wife and other women! Something has to be fucking wrong with my head to agree to something like that...” Zu An couldn’t hold himself back anymore and began to curse Old Mi out.

Old Mi’s face twitched. He was furious.

You have successfully trolled Old Mi for +444 +444 +444...

“You ungrateful brat!”

He didn’t feel like saying anything else to Zu An. He charged straight at him.

Zu An used the modified Sunflower Phantasm at once. He turned into two different figures and ran in two different directions.

He already made his decision. He was going to run to the gorgeous principal for help as soon as he returned to Brightmoon City. At the same time, he would fetch Ji Dengtu and the others too. He’ll even contact Governor Sang Hong and City Lord Xie Yi. The one this old fart offended was the emperor, so there was no way these officials would turn a blind eye.

No matter how strong Old Mi was, there was no way he was a match for all of these experts!

But even though his plan was wonderful, reality was harsh. He suddenly felt his shoulder sink. Turns out Old Mi already caught up!

“How?!” It was now Zu An’s turn to feel shock.

Just how did this old man know where he was? Was his luck that bad?

Old Mi snorted. "You are only splitting into two identical figures. Why would I need to guess between the two? I'll just capture both!"

The difference in cultivation between the two of them was too great, so Old Mi was obviously faster as well. When Old Mi knew that one of them was fake, then he would just attack both at the same time. This wasn't too difficult with his speed.

He was just about to seal Zu An with his ki, but Zu An's shoulder twisted. His arm twisted at a strange angle, and then his body slipped away like a loach. He instantly fled several zhang out.

"Oh? Pei Clan's Feathersilk Entangling Art?" Old Mi was shocked. He spent quite a bit of time back in the capital as well, so he was familiar with those major clans' techniques. He immediately recognized this technique.

Zu An gasped for breath. He would've been captured if he was even a second too late. He didn't have Wei Dan to distract Old Mi this time, so it would be much harder to break out of the seal.

"Looks like that Pei clan girl treats you quite well." Old Mi snickered. "Brat, you seem ordinary, but you do have some skills in chasing girls. Don't worry, this old one will take care of those girls well for you. That Pei clan girl actually knows this Feathersilk Entangling Art... her body is definitely supple and strong! She is surely top-notch."

Zu An's face darkened. "Are you eunuchs all this nasty?"

"Haha, you can't even begin to fathom how excited I am knowing I will become a complete man again!" Old Mi laughed. He didn't feel embarrassed at all. Zu An was already a dead man in his eyes.

As for Zu An's seal down there, he would just undo it after he possessed him. That wasn't a problem at all.

Chapter 389: A Missing Little Chick

Zu An's mind moved at full speed, desperately searching for a way to survive. However, his cultivation was just too far beneath Old Mi's. Old Mi was still being buffed by the effects of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra as well, which only made the difference even bigger.

He didn't see any chance of his own survival!

Zu An felt a chill run through him when he thought about how he was about to be possessed.

"Big sis empress, big sis empress! Please save me! We're both dead if you don't come out now!" Zu An screamed in his mind.

Unfortunately, there was no reply. It was as if no one was even there.

Of course, Mi Li had told him before that she needed a long period of hibernation in order to undo the effects of the 'Red Tears of Lady Xiang'. He didn't know if she was really sleeping, or if she had reached a crucial point of the detoxification.

Screw it, I have to risk it all! I can't just meekly accept my fate, can I?

Old Mi's voice came from behind him. "I have to admit that you are remarkably strong-willed. You still haven't given up, even when faced with such a situation."

"Old neutered dog, I wouldn't let you take advantage of me even if I have to die. Why the hell would I give up?" Zu An cursed.

"Old neutered dog?" Old Mi felt his face throbbing with rage. To even bring up this issue with him was taboo! The other party had clearly smacked him in his sore spot.

You have successfully trolled Mi Lianying for 999 Rage points!

"Damned brat, are you tired of living?!" Old Mi stared at him with gritted teeth.

Zu An braced himself and said, "What're you staring at? Are you going to let me go if I speak nicely? I'm dead anyway. I might as well go all out before that happens! You old, nasty cuckold. You don't have a dick so you want someone else's! Your dad should've pulled out and squirted onto the wall instead of giving life to you..."

Every single word stabbed deep into Old Mi's soul. Old Mi's anger spiraled more and more out of control.

You have successfully trolled Mi Lianying for 666... 666... 666...

"You're courting death!" He couldn't take any more of this. He charged murderously at Zu An.

Zu An felt a powerful wind wash over him even before Old Mi had gotten close to him. At the same time, a mysterious pressure seemed to descend from all sides, pressing down against him and robbing him of the ability to control his body.

Zu An was horrified. He immediately used Grandgale to move several zhang away.

Old Mi struck empty air. He was shocked. "Hm? What kind of movement technique is this?"

He had never even seen something like this. There was no way anyone in the Chu clan could have taught this to him either. This skill seemed more profound than even Wei Dan's zombie leap, which had touched upon the spatial laws.

Zu An was also shocked. He had been confused at first as to why Old Mi hadn't used these skills in his battle against Wei Dan. He had assumed that Old Mi was feigning weakness in order to catch Wei Dan off-guard.

However, Old Mi's surprised expression seemed genuine! That meant that he really didn't know about this skill.

How could that be? They both practiced the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra! Surely his cultivation was much higher than his own as well. Why didn't he have access to Grandgale or Blue Mallard?

Am I just too much of a genius?

He quickly rejected the thought. Old Mi was surely a genius at cultivation as well, considering how he had reached his level with an imperfect body. There was no way he would have fewer insights than Zu An.

Did the keyboard system unlock some of the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra's secret functions?

Or is it because Old Mi's body is flawed?

A related thought came to him, and his expression suddenly grew strange. Grandgale, Blue Mallard, or even the remaining phoenix chicks... They were all birds.

However, Old Mi was a eunuch. He didn't have a little bird down there.

Is that why...

A smile appeared on his face. The despair he'd felt immediately disappeared. "If you kneel, kowtow to me three times, and call me Master, I might be in the mood to tell you."

Old Mi's face darkened. "I don't know why you insist on provoking me again and again. Rest assured, though, you've successfully angered me."

You have successfully trolled Old Mi for 999 Rage points!

Zu An knew that there was no way to escape. Strengthened by the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, Old Mi's cultivation and speed were far greater than normal.

The only thing Zu An had going for him was that Old Mi was seriously injured. Right now, he was like those glass cannon bosses from the games he played. If he managed to sneak in a few good hits, he might just be able to beat him.

He thus gave up all thoughts of running away. Instead, he straightened and said, "Do you think I am some worthless soyboy? Come, my sword!"

Zu An gestured towards the empty air, and a sword suddenly appeared in his hand. This was none other than the Tai'e Sword that he'd obtained from the dungeon.

Standing tall, with a sword in hand and cold winds blowing around him, there was even a slight majesty to his appearance.

Old Mi was stunned. He looked carefully at the sword.

Zu An snorted. "Did you see my sword-summoning technique? Are you scared now? I've maintained a low profile all this time, but I won't hold back my trump cards any longer! I am actually also a great master who commands the spatial laws!"

Old Mi snorted disdainfully. "Isn't that just a spatial ring trick? I didn't expect a brat like you to have something like that. It seems like you managed to obtain quite a few things from that dungeon."

He didn't know about the crimson dragon, so he subconsciously attributed this as part of Zu An's spoils from the dungeon.

Zu An sneered. "I have far more things in my possession. You'll soon regret scheming against me!"

Not only do I have spatial storage, I have a strong and beautiful big sis empress by my side! If she were here, she would crush you like an ant!

He called out to Mi Li again and again. Unfortunately, there was still no response.

Old Mi roared with laughter. "The more things you have, the happier I am! Soon, everything you have will be mine! Hahaha!"

He moved as soon as he finished speaking, charging straight at Zu An.

Zu An didn't try to dodge, but rushed towards his opponent as well.

His Sunflower Phantasm had been taught to him by Old Mi, so even if he tried to run, he wouldn't be successful for long.

Instead, he would use offense as a form of defense. Old Mi was already seriously injured. If he could get a few solid hits in, he might just turn things around.

He had cultivated the Primordial Origin Sutra, which had boosted his constitution and his ability to recover quickly. His body was extremely suited to trading blows.

Besides, Old Mi wanted to possess his body, so there was little danger of him inflicting any life-threatening damage.

These two points gave him confidence in facing Old Mi.

Zu An adopted an imposing stance and thrust out his sword. Fine snow fluttered about him.

Sure enough, in the face of his decisiveness, Old Mi grew uncertain. He gave up on his attack, reaching out his hand instead to block the oncoming sword.

"Oh? Chu First Miss actually passed her Snowflake Sword on to you?" Old Mi was astonished. "Kid, you really are quite the playboy, huh?"

"Hmph! That's because I am heroic, suave, and talented! Obviously, an ugly eunuch will never experience the perks of a handsome man!" Zu An said. His hand remained steady, and thrust out three more vicious strikes.

He didn't use the Bixie Swordplay that he had created on his own. Bixie Swordplay was a combination of the Sunflower Phantasm with the Thirteen Forms of Elementary Swordplay. It was great for crushing noobs.

However, it was completely useless against a high level cultivator, let alone someone who employed the Sunflower Phantasm himself.

Old Mi had to be careful not to injure Zu An too badly. Caught off-guard by Zu An's reckless attack, he found himself in a slight quandary.

He backed away quickly, opening up some distance between the two of them. A line of red was drawn across his fingertip. He had clearly suffered a nick from the other party's sword qi. However, his expression was one of unexpected joy. "A heaven-grade weapon? No, this is more like an immortal-grade weapon! You really are full of nice surprises!"

Zu An said nothing, but continued to attack.

"I was lenient because I was scared of hurting you." Old Mi sneered. "Do you really think that I cannot deal with you?!"

He vanished instantly as soon as he said this, leaving only a faint trail of afterimages left behind.

Chapter 390: A Tiny Mishap

Zu An was stunned. How could you fight an opponent who was so fast that you couldn't see him clearly?

His only option was to retreat as fast as he could. He employed his modified Sunflower Phantasm, and then mixed in Grandgale as well, worried that Old Mi would see through his movements. He even swung the Tai'e Sword about him, trying to intimidate his opponent.

Even though he knew that he wouldn't hit anything, he had no other choice. He could only resign himself to fate and continue swinging it about.

A crisp, clear note rang out as Old Mi's finger struck the Tai'e Sword.

Zu An felt an enormous force pass through the Tai'e Sword. He lost his grip on the Tai'e Sword. His body flew backwards, his feet left large gouges in the ground as he tried desperately to neutralize the tremendous force.

He looked at his hand. Blood poured from the webbing between his thumb and forefinger. That single strike had severely injured his hand.

Sigh, the gap between us is just too big.

Old Mi occupied the place where he'd been standing just a moment earlier, the Tai'e Sword in his hand. He gently flicked the blade with his finger, and the Tai'e Sword emitted a clear, ringing note. He sighed with praise. "An excellent sword! As expected, a fine sword indeed!"

He wasn't in a hurry to attack. He wanted to draw out the rest of Zu An's trump cards.

After all, Zu An had already brought out way too many pleasant surprises for him today. He wanted Zu An to empty out his bag of tricks. That way, it would be much easier for him to possess him afterwards.

"You accuse me of being vulgar? You're the one who's vulgar! Your entire family is vulgar!" Zu An snorted.[1] He immediately activated the Tai'e Sword's domain.

The Tai'e Sword is a Sword of Kingship. Even though it was sealed, its innate power still existed.

Zu An had never used it before. He still had other trump cards, and he usually used other methods to achieve his objective.

However, his life truly hung in the balance right now, and this was no time to be saving any of his trump cards. He whipped them all out at once.

The Tai'e Sword had already acknowledged its owner, and established a soul connection with him. It didn't matter if it was in Old Mi's hands right now.

A sudden cry burst forth from the Tai'e Sword, and it trembled violently, sending out a terrible pressure that spread out in all directions.

Some vicious beasts began to whimper in the distance. They were clearly frightened by this terrifying power. They fell to the ground and began to shudder.

Old Mi bore the brunt of this pressure, and he naturally felt its effects more keenly.

His whole body shook uncontrollably, and his mind was filled with fear. His vision slowly darkened.

He saw the emperor standing before him, berating him for coveting his Phoenix Nirvana Sutra. Vengeful spirits flew around him, bearing the faces of his past companions, tearing at his body and demanding his life.

Zu An concentrated his attention on bringing the Tai'e Sword towards Old Mi's neck.

He knew that the difference between their cultivations was too great. This pressure could only tie Old Mi down momentarily. It would not last long.

Just as the tip of the sword tip was about to sever his neck, Old Mi's eyes snapped open, and he shook himself out of his daze instantly. He quickly dodged to the side.

Unfortunately, he was still within the Tai'e Sword's domain, and was suffering the physical effects of the pressure. His movements had become much more sluggish. Even though he managed to prevent his head from being lopped off, blood still splattered everywhere. The blow severed his right hand from the elbow down.

"AHH!!" He let out a wretched scream. The intense pain, coupled with his instinctive desire to live, finally wrestled him free of the Tai'e Sword's control.

He leapt back several dozen zhang. He looked at the Tai'e Sword, his expression overcome with fear. The sword had clearly left a significant shadow over his heart.

Zu An felt a burst of regret. Old Mi would've been finished if he'd taken just a second longer to recover his wits!

There was no time to waste. Now that his opponent had willingly backed away from him, he seized the opportunity to run.

"You damned bastard, I will definitely make you wish you were dead!" Seeing Zu An running away, Old Mi realized straight away that the sword's power couldn't be used continuously. The last of his misgivings went away.

He'd somehow almost lost his head to this brat whom he had always looked down upon! Old Mi was absolutely furious. He wanted nothing more than to hack Zu An's corpse into a thousand pieces.

Then again, there was no way for him to harm Zu An's body, not if he wanted to possess it himself. This made him even angrier.

You have successfully trolled Old Mi for 1024 Rage points!

Zu An was rapidly disappearing into the distance, which threw him into a panic. He quickly employed the Steps of the Rising Lotus.

Lotuses appeared with each step he took. He closed the gap in an instant, and moved in front of Zu An to block him.

Zu An frowned. He raised the Tai'e Sword and prepared his Snowflake Sword technique.

Old Mi didn't dare let down his guard. He was focused a hundred and twenty percent.

He treated Zu An as a real opponent this time. In just a few moves, he lashed out with a foot, and the Tai'e Sword was sent flying.

He'd learned from his previous mistake. Instead of picking up the Tai'e Sword, he kicked it far into the forest. Only then did he focus his attention back to Zu An.

Zu An acted decisively as well. He immediately raised a pitch-black dagger to his own neck.

Old Mi was alarmed. He needed Zu An's body, so he couldn't let him die.

He pushed off frantically with his toes, rushing forward to stop him.

Zu An took advantage of this to suddenly point the dagger towards Old Mi. This was his last hope. He prayed that the Poisonous Prick could nick even the slightest bit of skin, and that its effects would be enough to take out Old Mi.

Old Mi wasn't expecting him to resist this stubbornly even at such a juncture. This completely threw him off.

Unfortunately, in the face of absolute strength, all schemes and plots were useless.

There was a flurry of exchanges, and Zu An's wrist grew numb. He lost his grip on the Poisonous Prick.

Old Mi used this chance to seal up all of his acupoints. Then, he brought that pitch-black dagger up to his eyes. "Brat, you've truly brought me countless surprises. The material of this dagger is extraordinary! It even rivals that sword of yours."

Zu An's eyes widened when he saw Old Mi gently brush the edge of the dagger. He prayed and prayed. "Why don't you test it out on yourself? Better yet, give it a lick!"

"Are you hoping that this dagger will cut through my skin?" Old Mi sneered.

A chill ran through Zu An's body. However, he still forced a laugh and said, "I'm not that dumb. Your cultivation is so high. What can a shallow cut like that do to you?"

Old Mi snorted. "A little demon like you is full of tricks. Do you take me for a fool? This dagger is pitch black, and is radiating a bone-piercing chill. It's probably coated in some heavy poison. Even though I don't think someone with your level of cultivation can poison me, I don't want any more mishaps, not after what just happened. It's better to be safe."

All of Zu An's hope seemed to have turned to dust. He didn't expect his final trump card to be completely useless as well.

He called out to Mi Li again, but there was still no reply.

"This game is over." Old Mi let out a sinister laugh.

Zu An's vision went black, and he lost all perception.

A final thought flashed across his mind. I'm finished. I'm really going to be possessed by this old eunuch...

He really wanted to kill himself rather than let Old Mi possess him. Unfortunately, he no longer had the opportunity to do so.

Old Mi snorted when he saw Zu An faint. "I was almost done in by this brat's tricks. But this brat really has so many treasures on him! It'll be that much easier for me to rise to the top once I take over!"

He was about to have a brand new life. And one as a complete man, at that. He wouldn't ever have to worry about being pursued by the imperial palace either! He was so excited, his heart so joyful, that he almost burst out laughing.

He didn't want to waste another second. He raised his remaining hand, and a resplendent sunflower condensed on his fingertip again.

He pressed the sunflower imprint against Zu An's forehead, and a wave of purple energy spread out from the space between his brows.

His consciousness quickly occupied the other party, and he poured all of his cultivation into Zu An.

An hour later, Old Mi's body had shriveled up like a mummy's. It fell limply to the ground.

Zu An suddenly opened his eyes. A purple sunflower glowed within the depths of each of his eyes.

"Hahaha! I've succeeded! I've succeeded!" 'Zu An' stood up. His unrestrained laughter boomed out towards the heavens. In the distant forest, countless startled birds took wing, and many vicious beasts fled in alarm.

The exceptional appearance of the Chu clan's first miss appeared in his mind, as well as the cute and innocent second miss. Then there was the voluptuous and mature Madam Chu... All of them were his!

Awash in a sea of excitement, 'Zu An' suddenly felt that something was wrong. He lowered his head and looked at his crotch, where a bulging tent had formed. His eyes narrowed. "No! Impossible!"

A powerful yang force spread outward from his navel and burned up his fragile soul, which had just taken possession of this body. He screamed and howled in agony.