

## Immortal 491

### Chapter 491: Mosquito Daoist

Given his cultivation, Solitary Ice wouldn't have been killed in just a few short seconds if he'd faced off against her directly, even if he was no match for her. If he'd activated his ice ki armor, it would have taken the daoist nun a significant amount of effort to break through it.

Unfortunately, most of his attention had been focused on eavesdropping on the conversation happening below him. He was also too overconfident, believing that his senses were so keen that not even the sound of the wind blowing through the grass could escape his detection.

He had no idea that a powerful enemy had already crept up on him silently, and he wasn't even granted the slightest opportunity to fight back.

Even in the jungle, when two evenly-matched vicious beasts fought, the one who was caught off-guard would be killed immediately. Who cared whether or not his cultivation was equal to the daoist nun's?

Below them, Qiu Honglei lifted her head in confusion. "Solitary Ice, did something happen?"

Even though Solitary Ice didn't manage to put up any sort of meaningful resistance, his feeble struggle still produced some small bit of sound. Qiu Honglei was also a cultivator, and this sudden disturbance didn't escape her ears.

Of course, she didn't think too much of it either, but posed this question casually. After all, it was hard to imagine that one of the glorious Solitary Eight of the Devil Sect could be quietly assassinated.

Strangely, there was no reply at all. Qiu Honglei turned to the window in confusion, and called out again. "Solitary Ice?"

The window was suddenly smashed open, and a flash of apricot yellow burst in. A pair of fair-skinned palms flew towards her chest with great force.

Qiu Honglei had no time to think. She raised her own palm in front of herself to ward off the blow. The two of them clashed, and she felt as if she had been struck by lightning. Blood sprayed out from her mouth, and her aura immediately weakened considerably.

The attacker was, of course, the daoist nun. She gave a grunt of surprise. "As expected, the lady saint of the Devil Sect has some skill!"

Even though her tone was full of praise, she didn't stop her assault, but continued to target Qiu Honglei's vitals.

It was already a miracle that she had managed to block one attack while caught off-guard. There was almost no chance for her to escape the next blow.

A hint of despair flashed across Qiu Honglei's eyes when she saw those vicious white hands coming towards her. Her internal ki had been thrown into an absolute mess by the previous strike. Given her cultivation, she be able to recover within three breaths, but her opponent obviously wasn't going to give her the chance.

Another person suddenly appeared in front of her, and a warm arm wrapped around her. “We have to go!”

Zu An used his Grandgale skill at the crucial moment and rescued her from the deadly situation.

The daoist nun’s palm strike lost its intended target, and slammed into the pillar behind the spot where Qiu Honglei had originally been standing.

There was no earth-shaking noise. In fact, there was absolutely no sound at all, which was a surprise, given the aggressive momentum of her palm. It seemed an utter contradiction.

When she retracted her palm, however, the massive pillar instantly collapsed. It didn’t break into pieces, but turned into powder instead, scattering across the floor.

Both Zu An and Qiu Honglei grew pale at the sight of this. Surely they would have been reduced to a puddle of blood if they had been struck by that blow!

The two of them finally had a chance to see their attacker. She was a daoist nun dressed in apricot-yellow robes, and holding a horsetail whisk in her hand. She seemed rather ordinary, but gave off a strangely flirtatious aura.

Zu An was stunned when he saw her attire. “Li Mochou?”[1]

Her dressing and general demeanor was just too similar to Li Mochou! However, her beauty was still rather inferior.

“Hm?” That daoist nun didn’t press the attack, and looked at Zu An in surprise. “What was that that you just used? Why is it so fast?”

Zu An snorted. “Why should I tell you? Why don’t you tell me about your palm strike first?”

The daoist nun sneered. “Damned brat, you’re courting death!”

A palm flew towards them at once. It moved extremely quickly, and almost reached them in an instant.

Zu An cried out in alarm. He quickly used his Sunflower Phantasm to split into three copies which took off in different directions.

The daoist nun struck one of the afterimages, and her eyes widened further in greater shock. “This movement technique...!”

Zu An didn’t dare act carelessly. Carrying Qiu Honglei in his arms, he tried to burst through the doorway.

Of course, the daoist nun had no intention of letting him do as he pleased. With a flick of her horsetail whisk, the strands, which were several feet long, instantly stretched out to become tens of feet long, blocking his path to the door.

Startled by this sudden development, Zu An changed directions at once.

However, the strands of white horsehair seemed to be alive. They curled and began to wrap around the two of them like snakes.

Out of the corner of his eyes, Zu An noticed a stray strand brush across a wooden bench. Immediately, the sturdy bench split in two, and the looked extremely smooth. It was as though it had been sliced through by a laser beam. There was no way he could let those strands touch him.

He used his Sunflower Phantasm to continuously evade the attacking strands. However, the white strands of horsehair seemed to be never-ending. They continued to grow and extend, eventually criss-crossing the entire room like a spider's web. The safe spaces through which he could move grew ever smaller.

A cruel smile appeared on that daoist nun's face, like a cat who had finally cornered a mouse. "Kid, you really are quite the surprise. Your cultivation is rather average, yet your movement technique far surpasses that of many master rank cultivators. I'm growing more and more interested in you."

"Why are you being so ruthless if you're interested in me?" Sweat began to pour from his temples. White strands of horsehair streaked across the entire room. He knew that he was going to be captured in less than half a minute.

That daoist nun beamed and said, "It is precisely because I'm interested in you that I'm taking my time capturing you. I adore young and healthy men like you."

A chill ran down Zu An's spine. "Sorry, I don't have any interest in old hags like you!" he yelled.

"What did you say?!" That daoist nun erupted in fury. She let out a scream, and the threads of her whisk began to move even more aggressively.

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist for 678 Rage points!

"Mosquito daoist?" Zu An was startled when he saw the notification for the Rage points. He had been sure that she was a spider type.

Unfortunately, the price of angering her was great. The violent strands had blocked off all paths of escape. He could only look on as those threads closed in on him.

Qiu Honglei suddenly brought out a lantern, and pale yellow light began to spill out of it. The incoming strands seemed to have been frozen in place.

Even though Zu An had dodged all around the room earlier, he had moved extremely quickly. In reality, not much time had actually passed. Qiu Honglei had finally sorted out her chaotic ki.

"What? The Empress Lantern!" The mosquito daoist stared at the lantern in her hands, her eyes lighting up with greed.

Qiu Honglei was sweating profusely. "We need to go now! I can't hold her back much longer!"

Zu An hurtled around the room with her in his arms, feeling rather indignant. I want to flee as well, but this room is like a bloody spider's cave right now. How the heck are we supposed to escape?

The mosquito daoist giggled. "Your cultivation is too low, so you cannot utilize the lantern's full power. I'll recover soon. When that happens, this lantern will also be mine."

She didn't expect her luck to be so good. Earlier in the day, she had run into an ignorant fool outside. Even though he had been rather dumb, he was young and his cultivation was pretty high, which meant he tasted fabulous. The one on the roof had been a little older, which meant that he tasted slightly worse, but his cultivation had been even higher.

Her plan was to kill the lady saint of the Devil Sect, then slowly torture the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra out of Zu An. She never expected to find the Empress Lantern here! Even though it wasn't as powerful as she remembered, this was probably because Qiu Honglei's cultivation was too low.

She cackled with glee as she counted out her spoils for the day. I had to keep a low profile all this while because of my reputation, but once I cultivate the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra and obtain the Empress Lantern, who else will be able to do anything to me?

Chapter 492: Are You All Blind?

"Don't be scared, I'll make sure you die a painless death. I like the blood of healthy, strong men the most, but you're such a pretty young woman, and even I can't resist having a taste! I'll have to remove your skin as well. You have such perfect skin and a gorgeous face, so it's a huge waste to turn you into a dried corpse! Hehehe..." The mosquito daoist licked her red lips and cackled in a terrifying manner.

Qiu Honglei was the lady saint of the Devil Sect, and had seen all kinds of brutality before.

However, this woman in front of her was just too weird. If she let this nun kill her, she would be flayed, and would not be able to rest in peace! She shuddered in fear.

Zu An also felt a chill run through him as well. This... thing... was named Mosquito Daoist and not Daoist Wen.[1] Was she some sort of mosquito monster?

Mosquitoes drink blood! Wouldn't a mosquito of this size easily suck us dry?

The effects of Qiu Honglei's lantern grew weaker and weaker, and the daoist nun began to inch towards them. The two of them were horrified. In the face of such absolute strength, they were, for the moment, out of ideas.

Zu An's gaze swept across an oil lamp on a side table. He picked it up and poured the oil onto those threads, then threw the lantern at those threads.

With a loud boom, the threads burst into flame, the tongues of fire shooting quickly along the threads. The mosquito daoist let out a terrified cry and frantically retracted her horsetail whisk. Under normal circumstances, not even the flames of fire element cultivators could reach her agile whisk. Unfortunately, she was still under the effects of the pale yellow light, and her movements were sluggish, which was why it burned so badly.

Zu An used this chance to crash through the door beside him.

"What happened?" The activity had finally alarmed the other members of the Solitary Eight, and they rushed over, drawn by the noise.

Fury consumed them when they saw Qiu Honglei lying in Zu An's embrace, offering no resistance.

"Damned brat, where do you think you're going?!"

“Release our lady saint at once!”

You have successfully trolled the Solitary Eight for 555... 555... 555...

Seeing them rushing at him, Zu An was both panicked and furious. “Are you all fucking blind? Can’t you see what is going on?!”

All of them were stunned. They had never seen a criminal go so off-script before. They were just about to move against him when a daoist rushed out from inside the room.

A number of holes had been burned into the mosquito daoist’s horsetail whisk, and the white threads had been charred black. A burnt smell wafted through the air.

Even her apricot-yellow daoist robes bore traces of fire damage, large holes exposing the skin underneath and drawing the eyes of all the men. Even though this woman wasn’t as pretty as their lady saint, her body still held some unique charm of its own.

The mosquito daoist had leapt out in pursuit of Zu An and Qiu Honglei, but she frowned when she saw how many others were also present. For the moment, it seemed better not to act rashly.

Zu An and Qiu Honglei faced off against her, but were afraid of provoking her further. A strange state of silence fell across the scene.

At that moment, something black and charred rolled down from the roof and landed with a thump. All of them jumped in fright.

Solitary Wind, who was closest to the object, gave it a look. “Why is there a dried-up corpse here? Hm? His clothes look a bit familiar...”

A scream quickly followed. “It’s... it’s Solitary Ice!”

Even though it was a desiccated corpse, she could still vaguely tell who he was, given the clothes and general appearance.

The others were all shaken. Qiu Honglei immediately cried out, “She’s the killer!”

She finally realized why Solitary Ice hadn’t answered her when she called out earlier, and why Solitary Ice hadn’t entered to help even when the fight broke out inside. After all, he was the one who was in charge of keeping watch on the roof.

Zu An glanced at the mummified remains and swallowed hard. He had expected that, since she was a mosquito monster, she would drain blood, and consume much more than an ordinary mosquito. However, he never expected that she would consume so much that even someone like Solitary Ice would be instantly turned into a withered husk.

While they were still processing the shock from Solitary Ice’s tragic death, The mosquito daoist suddenly moved. The horsetail whisk in her hands flicked out at Solitary Fire, who was closest to her.

Solitary Fire couldn’t produce his ki armor in time. The impact caused a fountain of blood to spray out of his mouth as he was sent flying, crashing into a nearby house.

The mosquito daoist clearly did not appreciate being burned. She had chosen to deal with Solitary Fire first, in order to avoid history repeating itself.

She flickered, and instantly appeared next to Solitary Water.

Even though the water element was comparatively weaker in terms of offense, it was strong in providing healing. If he wasn't dealt with first, it could turn into a long-drawn battle.

The mosquito daoist was an experienced fighter, and she knew about this as well. That was why Solitary Water was the second target after Solitary Fire.

Solitary Water was an old man who had lived a long life, and he was brimming with experience as well. He quickly summoned his ki armor when he sensed that something was off. A transparent sphere of light materialized around him as he thrust out the staff in his hands.

There was no time to use any elemental skills—he could only use a physical attack to try to stall his opponent. As long as he could stall her, just for a short while, his companions could bail him out.

But his opponent's body suddenly wavered, causing his staff to pass through empty air.

In a flash, the mosquito daoist was already next to him. Her red lips curled upwards in a sneer. She raised a white hand and gently tapped his water element barrier.

Solitary Water was unperturbed. Your element does not counter mine! Do you think it's that easy to break through my ki armor?

But his composed expression suddenly stiffened. Cracks began to form on his transparent barrier, spreading out from where she had gently tapped against it. Her hand formed a fist, and she struck his barrier again.

This time, his barrier could no longer hold, and shattered. Barely slowing down, her fist continued forward and slammed into his chest.

Solitary Water screamed miserably as his body was blown backwards, sending him crashing into a pile of straw. Fortunately, his barrier had absorbed a portion of the power of her blow, or he might have been slain on the spot.

Even so, he was seriously injured, and was effectively out of the fight for some time.

The Devil Sect's Solitary Eight were all experienced fighters. They quickly snapped out of their initial shock.

They summoned their respective ki armors. By the time their opponent attacked Solitary Water, they had already prepared counterattacks, using their respective skills.

An expanse of thistles and thorns suddenly materialized under the mosquito daoist's feet the moment she smashed through Solitary Water's ki armor. Solitary Wood was attempting to restrain her.

The mosquito daoist tapped her feet against the ground and leapt into the sky. However, the sinister plants seemed like living animals. They stretched upwards like a net, and a host of green vines wrapped themselves around her legs.

Her expression became cold. She lashed out with her horsetail whisk. The soft strands of hair seemed to have turned into incredibly sharp saws. They tangled around the sinister vines. With a twist, they chopped through the thick vines, sending green juices splattering everywhere and filling the air with a strong smell of vegetation.

Countless streaks of golden light were already lancing in her direction. This was Solitary Metal's special weapon. His grasp of timing was perfect, using the exact moment that she had been distracted by his companions to cut off her retreat.

He wasn't holding back this time, not like before, when he fought against Zu An. Every single abacus bead contained enough power to smash a large boulder to pieces.

He shared a good relationship with Solitary Ice, and was filled with a murderous hate when he saw how tragically he had died. In his eyes, there was no room for mercy.

Seeing that she couldn't dodge this attack, Mosquito Daoist gave an angry huff. Her body trembled, transforming into a cloud of mosquitoes.

The numerous abacus beads were now outnumbered by these mosquitoes.

Solitary Metal now fully understood the feeling of trying to use cannon fire to hit a mosquito. Those mosquitoes could change their formation at will. His full-powered attack flew through empty air!

"A mosquito daoist! She's a mosquito daoist from the blood race!" A terrified voice rang out.

The Devil Sect's Solitary Eight were all experienced wayfarers when it came to the world of blood and violence, and one of them had swiftly recognized what she was.

### **Chapter 493: Right at the Edge**

A sudden silence descended upon the battlefield. The Devil Sect fighters had approached the battle in an extremely arrogant manner, but now, their eyes were filled with fear.

The black swarm of mosquitoes merged together, coalescing into the mosquito daoist again. She held the horsetail whisk in one hand, while the other hand was behind her back. She held herself up proudly and said, "Since all of you know who I am, why don't you back down quietly?"

She could tell from the earlier exchanges that these people possessed a decent amount of strength. Even though she didn't fear them, dealing with them all would cost her a considerable amount of effort. Her main goal was to obtain Zu An's Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, but now, she didn't want to miss out on that pretty girl's Empress Lantern either.

When he saw how the insufferably arrogant Solitary Eight had suddenly grown timid, Zu An immediately asked the beautiful woman in his arms, "What exactly is going on? Is this person extremely famous?"

Even though he knew from the start that this person was called Mosquito Daoist, he had never heard of such a name before.

Qiu Honglei blushed. "Can you let me down first? How much longer are you going to hold me like this?"

Only now did Zu An react. He laughed in embarrassment and said, "You were hurt pretty bad earlier, and I thought that you had yet to recover."

He let her down as he spoke. He hadn't realized it earlier while facing the threat of death, but her body really was incredibly supple, and she gave off a fragrance that made his inner beast go crazy.

Even after he let her down, he could still sense the lingering fragrance on his fingertips.

"I'm already almost fully recovered." Qiu Honglei awkwardly tucked a few scattered strands of hair behind her ears. Her beautiful face seemed to have acquired a rosy complexion, perhaps as a result of the light emitted by the fire in the room nearby. She looked absolutely stunning. "Thank you for saving me earlier."

Zu An's expression was colored with disappointment. "Is that it? Just a 'thank you'? Where's the sincerity in that? Shouldn't you be devoting everything to the one who saved your life?"

"Hmph! Shameless!" Qiu Honglei was clearly already used to his manner of speaking, so she didn't get angry. She quickly explained the situation. "Mosquito Daoist is a powerful expert of the blood race who excels in drawing out and consuming her target's blood essence. Many powerful individuals from various different clans have all fallen prey to her in the past. I never expected her to appear here."

"The blood race?" Zu An remembered Sang Liuyu's lessons in the academy regarding this race of people. He really couldn't figure out how such a large living being could have evolved from mosquitoes.

He had loathed mosquitoes in his previous world. Now, he had the pleasure of running into an intelligent mosquito monster.

Solitary Metal spoke up, his voice dark and thunderous. "Our Holy Sect and your blood race have never crossed paths before. Why did you kill our men?"

Mosquito Daoist covered her mouth with her hand, her body shaking with laughter. "You must be joking! I've always done whatever I wished, and killed whoever I wished to kill. Why do I need to explain anything to you all? Get out of my sight, if you know what's best for you. If not, then I don't mind sucking a few more people dry."

The remaining members of the Solitary Eight instinctively took a step back when they heard her words, clearly frightened by her vicious reputation. They had witnessed how easily she had taken out Solitary Fire, crushed Solitary Water's ki armor, and neutralized their attacks, and concluded that her cultivation was at least at the master rank. Having now discovered who she was, and knowing the various rumors about her, they became even more fearful.

Qiu Honglei spoke up at this time. "Aren't you just after the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra? Our sect master has demanded that it be brought back to the sect, so there is no way we will hand it over to you."

She said these things mainly to strengthen the waning spirits of the Solitary Eight, and remind them that this was their sworn duty.

The members of the Solitary Eight were startled. Only now did they truly remember that they had dedicated their lives to this mission. It was one thing to be defeated by a stronger opponent, but if they



lost Zu An because they surrendered in a cowardly manner, then only cruelty and torture awaited them back in the sect.

Qiu Honglei continued on. "In any case, I don't believe that you really can do whatever you want. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been constantly pursued and forced to remain low-profile for so many years."

Zu An was rather amazed. She fully deserved her reputation as the Immortal Abode's courtesan queen, which she had held for so many days. She managed to completely transform the mood and boost the confidence of her allies with just a few words... She's almost as good as I am!

The mosquito daoist was furious. "You annoying bitch, I detested you from the moment I first set my eyes on you. Die!"

As soon as the words left her mouth, she launched herself at Qiu Honglei, intent on killing her.

The remaining members of the Solitary Eight were fully prepared. With a flick of her fan, Solitary Wind sent out a gust of wind, pushing Qiu Honglei and Zu An away. Several tornadoes quickly surrounded their attacker.

Mosquito Daoist narrowed her eyes. She brandished the horsetail whisk and swung it about a few times to forcibly destroy those tornadoes. However, Solitary Wind's attack still managed to shave off a portion of her momentum.

With a roar, Solitary Lightning smashed her massive hammer down on her. Lightning swirled around the hammer, and it was easy to imagine just how much power was contained in this savage blow.

Not even Mosquito Daoist dared to face such a ferocious attack directly. With a snap of her wrist, the horsetail whisk wrapped around the shaft of Solitary Lightning's hammer, using a firm, flexible force of her own to deflect the power of the blow to the side.

Solitary Lightning felt a strange force run up the length of the shaft. She lost control of the direction of the hammer, and could only send it flying into the inn next to her.

With a loud boom, the inn came crashing down, throwing out smoke and dust in all directions. Almost half of the entire inn had collapsed instantly, and streaks of lightning continued to flicker about the ruins.

Zu An even saw some chickens fly out from the kitchen. Unfortunately for them, they were caught by the crackling lightning and instantly roasted.

He gulped. This woman is truly a T-Rex! That was some serious power... What a pity it didn't hit Mosquito Daoist.

Mosquito Daoist continued her charge. However, a tall and sturdy figure leapt to block her path. "You're courting death!"

Mosquito Daoist smiled in a sinister fashion. In that instant, her grin seemed to stretch all the way to her ears. The strands of the horsetail whisk in her hands spread out and stabbed towards him like steel needles.

The threads of this horsetail whisk had been carefully crafted from her own mouthparts over these past few years. They were both flexible and incredibly strong, and could suck the blood out of whatever they pierced. Even an elephant would be sucked dry in a few short breaths, as long as they penetrated it's body, let alone a single human male.

It was truly a pity that a third of it had been burned up by Zu An's oil lamp. Just thinking about it made her burn with grief and fury. It had been a difficult task to refine every single strand from her mouthparts!

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist for 731 Rage points!

"Be careful!" Zu An quickly shouted a warning to Solitary Earth. This Mosquito Daoist definitely loathes me... she didn't forget to contribute some Rage points to me even while she's fighting someone else! If I fall into her hands, I'm done for.

Solitary Earth let out a roar. A massive shield as tall as himself suddenly appeared in front of him. The countless needle-like strands crashed into it.

Mosquito Daoist was unimpressed at first when he created the shield. After all, her horsetail whisk could split boulders, and it wasn't all that difficult for it to pierce metal and jade either. What use was a shoddy shield like this?

However, the next moment, her eyes grew wide. Her horsetail whisk was actually unable to pierce through this massive shield!

"An earth element cultivator?" She quickly realized what was going on. This shield was rather extraordinary, and together with the protection that the earth offered, it indeed became quite difficult to break through.

She reacted quickly as well. With a flick of her hand, the horsetail whisk went around the shield, striking at her opponent from three different angles—from the left, the right, and up above.

Solitary Earth was already prepared. He reached out his hand and pressed against the ground. The ground suddenly swelled, and several massive figures crawled out through the surface.

"Gargoyles?" Zu An's eyes went round. The things that had just crawled out from underground looked similar to the gargoyles featured in the movies from his previous world, yet there was something slightly different about them, although he couldn't put his finger on exactly what it was. It seemed to him like these gargoyles lacked the cold and eerie aura of the gargoyles he remembered.

Those gargoyles surrounded Solitary Earth, blocking the attacking strands from the horsetail whisk.

Mosquito Daoist chuckled. With a flick of her wrist, the strands fanned out, slicing through the gargoyles in an instant.

However, her smile quickly froze, because the gargoyles didn't seem to care that they had been cut apart at all. The cuts quickly closed, and then the gargoyles charged towards her from all directions.

#### **Chapter 494: A Strange Excitement**

Despite their clumsy appearance, the gargoyles were actually quite agile. They closed the distance in the blink of an eye, reaching out their claws to grab Mosquito Daoist.

Mosquito Daoist struck out with her palm, instantly smashing a gargoyle's arm to pieces, although the counterforce caused her body to tremble as well.

She knew that facing off against these giant statues wasn't a sensible choice. After all, her opponent could continue to make more of them.

With a wave of her hand, her daoist robes fluttered about her, and she planted her feet firmly on the ground.

Solitary Earth was overjoyed. It seemed that this Mosquito Daoist, despite being known for her vicious reputation, wasn't all that impressive after all. He ordered the gargoyles to surround her.

The gargoyles grabbed a hold of Mosquito Daoist's arms and legs, then pulled with all their strength.

Mosquito Daoist's frail-looking body was instantly ripped to pieces.

Everyone on the battlefield was stunned, and even Solitary Earth was stupefied. He hadn't expected that the renowned Mosquito Daoist would be killed so easily.

Was this a clone?

Suddenly, the mutilated corpse of the mosquito daoist transformed into a swarm of black mosquitoes, which then flew around the gargoyles.

"Be careful!" Cries of alarm sounded from Solitary Earth's companions.

Solitary Earth knew that the situation was dire. He quickly dodged to the side, but Mosquito Daoist just happened to be right there. A fair-skinned hand struck him silently.

His ki armor only managed to last a few short seconds before shattering.

The fair, white hand drove straight in and slammed against his right side.

Solitary Earth felt as if he had been struck by lightning. His body was flung backwards like a leaky sandbag. More than half of his ribs had been broken, and he suffered severe internal injuries as well. His ki was thrown into an absolute mess. There was no way he could fight again.

Mosquito Daoist seemed surprised. "The bodies of earth element cultivators are pretty tough after all."

She was clearly surprised that Solitary Earth had only been seriously injured, and hadn't been killed straight away.

The rest of them finally realized what had just happened. Mosquito Daoist had used mosquitoes to create a clone, baiting in those gargoyles. Meanwhile, her real body had crept up to Solitary Earth's side in order to ambush him.

This woman was just too cunning, and it seemed almost impossible to be completely prepared for her attacks.

No one else wanted to give her another opportunity to try something. They converged on her at once. Solitary Wood spread his hands out, and green leaves showered down on Mosquito Daoist like a rain of arrows.

With a snort, Mosquito Daoist flung her the wide sleeves of her daoist robe outwards, sucking in all the green leaves flying towards her. Then, she leapt viciously towards Solitary Wood.

She was just too fast for him. There was no way Solitary Wood could evade in time.

Mosquito Daoist's fingers suddenly lengthened and became incredibly sharp. They stabbed straight into his chest, and she seemed about to rip his heart out. Suddenly, she frowned.

Solitary Wood had turned into a block of wood. Meanwhile, his actual body had already retreated a fair distance away. His face, which had previously given off a faint green glow, was now incredibly pale. That last blow had definitely terrified him.

"Wood Illusion Technique?" Mosquito Daoist had a wealth of experience and knowledge, and she quickly put together what had just happened.

At that instant, Solitary Wind's attack arrived. A myriad of wind blades swept over, each blade more than ten meters in length, flying towards their target with incredible, terrifying power.

Mosquito Daoist didn't face it head on, instead turning into a swarm of black mosquitoes to evade this attack. The blades were too large, which made it hard for them to harm those small mosquitoes.

"I've made you wait for quite a while!" Solitary Lightning suddenly charged out of the ruins of the inn, flinging her hammer into the air. It fired off countless streaks of radiant lightning, trapping the fleeing mosquitoes in an electric field.

"Ah!!" Mosquito Daoist screamed bitterly.

She could evade most physical attacks by changing into mosquito form. Even if she encountered a stronger opponent, she could live to fight another day as long as a single mosquito escaped.

However, an electrical field such as this one was her natural counter! Electricity arced through the sky, scorching the mosquitoes no matter how many there were.

A burnt smell spread through the air. A large amount of the mosquitoes had been electrocuted by the arcing lightning. Zu An swallowed as he took in this scene. Why does this remind me of those UV mosquito-killing lamps?

Mosquito Daoist no longer dared to remain in her mosquito form, and quickly reverted to her daoist nun form.

However, she had lost her previous confident and domineering stance. Her face was covered in a patchwork of black charring. A large amount of her hair had been scorched away or turned into a frizzy mass, and her clothing was even more tattered than before.

"You muscle-bound hag, I'm going to kill you!" Mosquito Daoist stared balefully at Solitary Lightning. It had been a long while since she had been made to suffer like this.

Solitary Lightning was furious when she heard her enemy address her in this manner. Her appearance was the one thing she was most sensitive about. She cursed out loud. "I'm going to blast you to death with my lightning!"

The hammer, which was still in midair, began to rotate more quickly, and thicker streaks of lightning began to arc towards Mosquito Daoist.

Mosquito Daoist spread out her arms, her loose daoist robes fluttering about behind her. She took a deep breath and opened her mouth wide, sending out a blast of energy that created visible ripples in the air in front of her.

The thick streak of lightning arcing towards her from above was deflected by this invisible ripple, and the air was filled with an unbearably loud buzzing sound.

This was a sound that everyone was familiar with; the sound mosquitoes made during the summer. However, it was now amplified many, many times.

All those present clutched their ears in pain. Several of them even fell to the ground and began to roll around in pain.

Zu An found it the hardest to endure. After all, his cultivation was the lowest out of them all, and it was extremely hard for him to protect himself against this sort of sound wave attack.

Qiu Honglei noticed this, and grabbed his hand. She transmitted a gentle aura through her hand to help strengthen his defenses against this tortuous sound.

However, she wasn't all that better off herself. Her beautiful brows were knotted together tightly, and her exquisite face was twisted in pain.

Mosquito Daoist smiled when she saw the pained expressions of all those around her. She began to walk towards Zu An and Qiu Honglei. She hadn't used this move at the start because this technique was quite exhausting to use, and she couldn't use it carelessly. In addition to that, the technique also easily alerted distant enemies.

She had grown accustomed to keeping a low profile these years, hiding in the shadows and ambushing her targets. She did her best not to alert others of her existence, knowing that it could spell disaster if she ended up provoking a truly formidable figure.

However, she couldn't be bothered with all of that now. Even though these people from the Devil Sect weren't particularly strong individually, they all had unique skills, and it was rather tricky for her to deal with all of them. She did not want the battle to drag on any further, just in case they brought out more tricks. Better to seize the two of them now, and leave this place quickly.

Mosquito Daoist drew closer, a malevolent smile on her face. Zu An knew that he couldn't let things continue on this way. He knew that, if he fell into the hands of other powers, he would still have a chance of escaping. However, if this woman captured him, it wouldn't be too long before he was turned into a desiccated corpse.

Was there anything he could do?

He scanned his surroundings, seeing the Solitary Eight clutching their ears in pain, and was struck by a sudden thought. "Whatcha lookin' at?"

Mosquito Daoist was stunned, and she felt a mysterious, subconscious urge to reply. "I'm looking at you, shithead!"

As she replied, her sound wave attack was naturally interrupted, releasing the rest of them from their torment.

Mosquito Daoist frowned. She couldn't understand why she would reply to such a question. However, dealing with these people was still her top priority. As such, she opened her mouth, preparing to use the same skill again. However, the instant she released her sound waves, the voice sounded again.

"Whatcha lookin' at?"

"I'm looking at you, shithead!" Mosquito Daoist replied again.

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist for 444 Rage points!

She was struck completely dumb. Once might have been a coincidence, but two times?

She suddenly looked over at Zu An. "Are you from the dragon race?"

She knew of the power of the dragon race's Soulspeak ability.

"Now that you know, why don't you just back down quietly!" Bracing himself, Zu An stuck out his chest. He was going to bluff his way through this situation by banking on the formidable reputation of the dragon race.

The last thing he expected was for Mosquito Daoist's eyes to light up in sudden excitement. "I've never had a chance to feast on a dragon's blood essence. I've really stumbled upon a delicacy today!" With that, she pounced at him.

## **Chapter 495: Raging Jealousy**

Seeing her throw herself at him so excitedly left Zu An at a loss for words. Are dragons in this world really considered that weak? If she wasn't scared off when I invoked their title then fine, but why did she have to get more excited...?

He grew suspicious of just what sort of status dragons held in this world.

However, it wasn't the right time to think about these things right now. He pushed Qiu Honglei away as his opponent rushed right at him, and he himself dodged in the other direction.

Mosquito Daoist had already witnessed his eccentric movement technique earlier, so she wasn't surprised that he evaded her attack, especially since she wasn't going all out. As he slipped away, she calmly continued her pursuit, trying to grab a hold of him.

Zu An used his Sunflower Phantasm several times. Even though he could evade her attacks for now, he couldn't break free from her. His opponent stuck to him doggedly, almost always remaining within three feet of him.

Several times, he was almost seized by her sharp fingernails, which caused Zu An to break into cold sweat.

Of course, his opponent's cultivation was much higher than his, after all, and she had dominated the murky underworld for many years. Her combat experience and uncanny vision were both outstanding. She continued to pressure him with her series of planned attacks, and it was getting harder and harder for him to evade.

"I've caught you!" Mosquito Daoist smiled flirtatiously, swiftly clawing at his shoulder with a single hand.

This was precisely the moment that Zu An was powerless—the split second between two different moves. There was no chance of him evading this attack.

Just as he was secretly cursing inside, a longsword flew out, perfectly intercepting this deadly strike.

"You vixen, I'll kill you!" Mosquito Daoist's eyes widened as she glared at Qiu Honglei, screaming in unfettered rage. She had finally pressured Zu An enough that an opportunity had opened up, yet this woman had stepped in and ruined all of her plans.

Zu An's strange movement technique was already tricky enough for her to deal with. It would be difficult to work another opening and capture him if he got away this time.

The more she thought about this, the stronger her hatred burned. She struck out to kill.

She had still been holding back a little when up against Zu An earlier, because he possessed the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, but Qiu Honglei was an entirely different story.

She only needed her Empress Lantern. As for Qiu Honglei herself, it was all the same to her whether she lived or died. Moreover, she had a deep hatred for women who were prettier than her.

Mosquito Daoist felt her rage burn within her each time she saw Qiu Honglei's devastatingly beautiful face, and each time she saw the infatuation and adoration in the eyes of all the men who looked at her. Not only did she want to kill her, she wanted to peel off her skin. Let's see how she'll be able to seduce a man then!

Qiu Honglei was horrified by this ruthless attack. She quickly raised her sword in defense, pushing her sword art to the fullest extent.

Unfortunately, the difference between their cultivation ranks was just too great. Mosquito Daoist's hand stabbed straight through the web of sword slashes, and snapped her longsword with a simple flick of her wrist. Her palm morphed into a claw, stretching towards Qiu Honglei's face.

She wanted to tear off that disgustingly beautiful face, starting from the top of her head.

As her sword snapped, Qiu Honglei's ki was thrown into chaos, and she couldn't muster any strength to defend herself.

Her mind went completely blank as she stared at the cold glint of those long fingernails. She seemed to have already sensed her inevitable death.

In that instant, a figure leaped in front of her and wrapped her in his arms, using his back to defend against the vicious claw.

\*Psshhh!\*

Even though Zu An's body had been reforged twice by the Primordial Origin Sutra, it was still easily ripped apart by Mosquito Daoist's razor-sharp fingernails. They slashed open five bloody grooves on his back.

Mosquito Daoist was momentarily stunned, then roared in fury. "You bastard, you'd throw away your own life for her sake?"

As a woman, she had never met any man who would do the same for her. That was why seeing another woman be blessed in such a way filled her with immeasurable rage.

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist for 1024 Rage points!

Zu An wouldn't really go that far for another girl, but he keenly sensed that Mosquito Daoist had attacked Qiu Honglei with a much stronger intent to kill, when compared to her attacks against him. He quickly recognized that she was after the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, which was why she wouldn't kill him immediately.

It was because of this, and the toughness of his body, that he chose to block this lethal attack for Qiu Honglei.

Of course, since she was being such a great wingman, there was no way he would give up a chance to win some affection. He immediately looked deeply into Qiu Honglei's eyes and said, "Of course! If she dies, then there won't be any point in living!"

"Ah Zu!" Tears immediately welled up within Qiu Honglei's eyes. She had already grown numb to the hypocritical flattery of the men within the Holy Sect and the Immortal Abode, and had never believed any of them.

But, in this moment, having seen Zu An sacrifice himself for her, and then say such words with blood spewing from his mouth, it felt as though her heart had been struck by a massive hammer. She was utterly overcome with emotion.

Zu An was frightened by her reaction. There's no need to take it this far, is there? This girl had been pretty good at teasing him, and all their flirting had always been just for fun, right?

Mosquito Daoist was disgusted by this display of affection. Her expression slowly darkened. She had to kill this Qiu Honglei no matter what, to assuage her anger!

At this moment, the Solitary Eight finally recovered, and came rushing over.

Mosquito Daoist was more than fed up with them. She instinctively opened her mouth to use her sound wave attack, but as soon as the buzzing noises came out, she was met by the same tired line: "Whatcha lookin' at?"



"I'm looking at you, shithead!" Mosquito Daoist finally experienced that old dragon's pain. What pissed her off even more was that Zu An never stopped her before she employed her ultimate move, but waited until she had begun unleashing it before stopping her.

This meant that she had to cut off her ultimate move abruptly just to respond with that stupid sentence. Forcibly pushing her sonic shockwave back into her mouth created a substantial amount of backlash within her own head, making her head ring with noise. If not for her powerful cultivation, she would have already been severely injured, and vomiting blood all over the ground.

Even so, being interrupted several times in succession felt terrible, and she couldn't immediately use this skill again either.

The Solitary Eight used this chance to bring forth their respective skills. Solitary Lightning brandished her massive hammer and called out to Qiu Honglei, "Lady Saint, hurry up and take Zu An away! We'll hold her off!"

They knew that Mosquito Daoist was after Zu An and the Empress Lantern. They couldn't afford to let her get her claws on either one of them.

Qiu Honglei understood just how critical the situation was, and was worried about Zu An's condition as well. She nodded and said, "Be careful, all of you!"

Then, she quickly disappeared into the darkness of night with Zu An in her arms.

Mosquito Daoist let out a howl of fury as she saw her prey escaping. She was about to give chase, but the Solitary Eight unleashed their most powerful skills at once. She had exhausted quite a bit of her own strength previously, and she was momentarily unable to get away.

Qiu Honglei supported Zu An in her arms as they fled, only stopping when the inn was out of sight. "Ah Zu, how are your injuries?" she asked.

Zu An shook his head and said, "I'm fine. They're not a big deal at all."

As he said this, however, he couldn't hold back a frown. That woman's fingernails really are quite terrifying. Why is the pain getting worse and worse?

"Your injuries are so serious, how can you say they're no big deal?" Qiu Honglei quickly examined his wounds, then cried out in alarm, "There was poison on her fingernails!"

Qiu Honglei wept as she took in the bloody gashes along his back, and the purple-black bruising all around the wounds. "It's all my fault. You wouldn't have suffered such terrible injuries if not for me."

"Silly girl, I was able to save a precious and delicate flower like you for the price of this little injury. That's already more than worth the sacrifice! Why are you crying?" Zu An couldn't resist reaching out a hand to wipe off the tears staining her cheek.

Qiu Honglei couldn't help but laugh, then hit him lightly. "Can't you see what sort of situation we're in? Yet you're still joking around."

Immediately after that, she said nervously, "We need to deal with the poison in your wounds quickly. There'll be trouble otherwise."

"How do we treat it?" Zu An wondered if the Primordial Origin Sutra had the power to detoxify as well.

"Don't move." Qiu Honglei said with a gentle voice, then sat down behind him. Her red lips pressed gently against his wounds, and she sucked out the poison from his wounds.

#### **Chapter 496: Nave Lovers**

"What?" Zu An was startled. Oddly enough, he was a little uncomfortable with this.

"Don't move." Qiu Honglei mumbled indistinctly, at the same time tucking the strands of hair that had fallen down onto her cheeks back behind her ears.

Zu An subconsciously straightened. The surroundings were quiet, so quiet that only the gentle breathing of the two of them could be heard.

He could vaguely smell the scent of her hair, as well as the delicate fragrance that had to belong to a young lady. Of course, the things he sensed most intimately were her soft lips and her flexible tongue...

Ahem, ahem, get your head out of the gutter! Be calm, be calm!

Just like that, the two of them sat quietly, leaning against each other as Qiu Honglei sucked out the poisoned blood and spat it out one mouthful at a time.

After what seemed like an eternity, Qiu Honglei finally heaved a sigh of relief. The color of his wounds had finally returned to a normal red. "I've already sucked out most of the poisoned blood. Fortunately, the poison in Mosquito Daoist's fingernails wasn't too strong."

As she spoke, Qiu Honglei took out a bottle of medicine and gave him a pill to swallow. She ripped off a clean portion of her skirt and bandaged him up.

Zu An handed her a container. "This will help to detoxify some of the poison. Swirl some around in your mouth, and then take some of it. Don't let the poison affect you as well."

Qiu Honglei didn't refuse, and drank the antitoxin that he offered.

She was surprised that he had somehow produced this bottle out of thin air, but soon reasoned that he probably had a spatial artifact with him. She didn't ask about it further, since these were often closely-guarded secrets that their bearers did not wish to talk about.

"Thank you," Zu An said sincerely.

"What are you thanking me for? It was clearly you who saved my life." Qiu Honglei smiled. Compared to the perfectly practiced smile she showed others, her expression right now was much warmer.

"You saved my life too." Zu An also smiled. "If you hadn't sucked out the poison from my wounds, it would have spread quickly and killed me."

Qiu Honglei gave him a blank look. This man was usually so indecent, but he actually had such a soft and gentle side. He was worried that he would feel as though he had let him down, and said these things to comfort me.

But how could he equate the two deeds? Even without her, the poison would have only caused him to suffer for a while, and would not have really cost him his life.

While she was looking at Zu An, Zu An was also looking at her—more specifically, at her moist red lips. He thought about how she had used her mouth to treat his wounds. Each time she brushed his wounds with her mouth, it felt as though little electric currents were sent through his body. The tingling feeling was incredible, as though every single cell in his body had been excited by her touch.

If her sucking on a wound already felt that good, I wonder what it would feel like if she did that somewhere else...

He stared at her tender and beautiful red lips, and swallowed. It was a small motion, but the sound of it was amplified by the utter silence of their surroundings.

Zu An subconsciously raised his head to look at Qiu Honglei, and their eyes soon met.

Qiu Honglei's face turned red. "Pervert!"

She turned away in embarrassment.

Zu An could not believe it.

He immediately cried out in injustice, "Am I a pervert just because I swallowed my saliva? I think you're the one who misunderstood me."

Qiu Honglei snorted. "You're well aware of what kind of nonsense goes through your own head."

Zu An stared at her, speechless.

This woman had spent quite some time in the Immortal Abode, after all, and was much more knowledgeable than the ordinary young lady.

So what if you're angry—where are my Rage points?

"Heh heh heh..."

At that instant, a low and terrifying laugh drifted over to them.

Both of them grew alarmed. The ambiguous atmosphere between them dissipated in an instant as they both put up their guards.

"Oh look at how innocent the two of you are! You're supposed to be running for your lives, yet here you are, muttering sweet nothings to each other."

The familiar voice of Mosquito Daoist echoed around the clearing. It seemed like it was coming from far away at first, but by the time she finished speaking, she sounded as though she was right next to them.

The two of them suddenly raised their heads, and noticed a woman in apricot-yellow daoist robes standing on a nearby treetop, perched on a relatively thin branch. It shouldn't have been able to support the weight of a human, not even a petite woman.

However, it seemed as though Mosquito Daoist didn't weigh anything at all. Her feet rested gracefully on top of the branch, her figure swaying naturally with the wind.

Qiu Honglei was shocked. "What about my companions? Did you kill them all?"

Mosquito Daoist snorted. "I've never had a habit of leaving my enemies unsilenced."

She felt heat rush towards her face. Even though those Devil Sect cultivators were individually weaker than her, they all had their unique skills. When they teamed up against her, it became quite difficult for her to take them out. She had been in a rush to capture Zu An and Qiu Honglei as well, so she didn't actually face them directly, but left behind some clones to distract them instead. Meanwhile, she had pursued the two of them here.

Her original form was a Blackblood Mosquito, which naturally excelled in flight. In terms of raw speed, she was much faster than humans of the same rank, let alone those who were much weaker than her, like Zu An and Qiu Honglei.

She was also extremely sensitive towards the scent of blood. Even though the trail of blood they had left behind was faint, it did not escape her notice.

That was why she had easily caught up with them, even though the two of them had run a fair distance away.

"Honglei," Zu An said quietly, "I'll do my best to stall her. Use this chance to get away. It's best if you can find your way back to your martial uncle, Lu Sanyuan. He should be able to ensure your safety."

Qiu Honglei shook her head, and gently held his hands. "I'll face her together with you."

Zu An grew agitated. "You're being foolish! She wants my Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, so she won't kill me, but she won't be so polite to you."

Qiu Honglei still refused to leave. "I won't leave you! If worse comes to worst, I'll wait for you in the afterlife."

She gave a slight smile as she said these words, her expression poignant yet determined. She was clearly ready to die.

Mosquito Daoist laughed cruelly from atop the tree. "What a moving performance! I've heard that spouses should face everything together, but your affection for each other seems to go even deeper than that of husband and wife."

Qiu Honglei's cheeks, which had turned completely pale from nervousness and fear, reddened slightly.

Noting her bashful appearance, even Mosquito Daoist had to admit that this woman was truly beautiful, no matter how picky she tried to be.

This only made her grow more jealous, which further fueled her rage. "What a pity—I love to tear lovebirds apart!"

She swooped down at the two of them.

She already knew that Zu An was as slippery as a loach, and that she wouldn't be able to snag him quickly. Rather than wasting time, it seemed expedient to deal with Qiu Honglei first.

The two of them had stepped in to save one another earlier, so she knew that Zu An would definitely jump in if she attacked Qiu Honglei. This would greatly reduce the effectiveness of his blasted movement technique.

Sure enough, when he saw her attacking Qiu Honglei, Zu An gritted his teeth and ran over to help her.

Mosquito Daoist sniffed disdainfully and took a step forward. She moved so quickly that even Zu An had no time to react.

She suddenly appeared right in front of Zu An and smashed a palm into his chest. She knew what he was thinking—that she would restrain herself in order not to kill him.

Even though she wasn't out to kill him, crippling him by taking away his movement ability was no trouble at all.

Forget about someone of the fifth rank—even someone at the peak of the sixth rank would be completely stripped of their ability to fight after being struck by her palm.

Blood spurted out crazily from Zu An's mouth as multiple ribs snapped. However, the Primordial Origin Sutra quickly did its job and repaired his injuries.

Mosquito Daoist didn't spare him another look, and pressed her attack against Qiu Honglei.

"Ah Zu!" Qiu Honglei screamed in horror. However, she couldn't afford to be distracted right now. She quickly took out the Empress Lantern. The pale yellow light surrounded Mosquito Daoist and substantially slowed her movements.

Mosquito Daoist didn't panic. "Hmph, your cultivation is too low. You cannot harness the lantern's full power."

The lantern had been most effective the first time she used it. At this time, the power of the lantern seemed to have weakened greatly. It wasn't able to completely immobilize Mosquito Daoist, but only slowed her movements.

In this way, Qiu Honglei was just barely able to keep up with her speed, and the two of them exchanged several blows. Even though that lantern had slowed her movements, it couldn't weaken her keen vision or dull her combat experience. In a matter of seconds, Mosquito Daoist seized an opening and struck her shoulder with her palm.

Qiu Honglei shrieked in agony as she was sent flying. Mosquito Daoist was just about to take her life when Zu An's voice came from off to the side. "Did you ask for my permission before touching my woman?"

## **Chapter 497: A Jealous Arrival**

Zu An spat out the blood that had accumulated in his mouth as he slowly stood up from the ground. Even though he was shaking a little, he seemed to possess a resolute strength.

“You... how are you still able to stand up?” Mosquito Daoist was shocked. She was very clear about the strength behind her earlier strike, and knew that it should have rendered her opponent unable to continue fighting.

Zu An wiped away the blood at the corners of his lips. He chuckled and said, “Why wouldn’t a real man be able to stand up again?”

Qiu Honglei’s face blushed. Even at this sort of time, he’s still able to make that sort of joke.

She suddenly recalled him calling her ‘his woman’ earlier, and her heart rate inexplicably quickened. She snorted inwardly. When did I ever become your woman?

Despite this, she wasn’t angry at all. On the contrary, she couldn’t hold back a smile.

Mosquito Daoist snorted. “Let’s see how many times you can stand back up!” She rushed at Zu An.

Her main objective was still to obtain the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, and she was worried that he might somehow slip through her fingers and escape, now that he had stood back up.

After all, even the closest of couples might declare that they would fight and die together, but when the threat of death reared its ugly head, they could easily have second thoughts. She didn’t dare to take that risk, and decided to capture him first.

Seeing her coming towards him, Zu An used his Sunflower Phantasm and moved in to engage her, wanting to create an opportunity to stab her with his Poisonous Prick. He was seriously injured right now, which meant that the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra’s strengthening effects had kicked in. It was still possible that he could fashion an opening.

He didn’t dare bring out the dagger now, in case his opponent noticed something amiss and put up her guard. He bided his time, waiting for an opportunity to present itself.

Mosquito Daoist frowned. She had a strange feeling that his speed seemed to have increased. However, she attributed this to the slowing effects of Qiu Honglei’s lantern, and didn’t pay it too much attention.

Now that she had gotten serious, Zu An was now put under an increased amount of pressure. Even though his speed and power had been greatly enhanced, the difference in their strength was still too great.

Not only was he unable to hurt her, he could barely fend off her attacks.

He couldn’t help but chastise Qiu Honglei. “Silly girl, why are you staring stupidly? Use your lantern!”

“Oh, right...” Qiu Honglei’s face went red. She seemed to have only just woken up from her daze. She quickly shone her lantern over at them.

Zu An was incredulous. “Don’t aim that shit at me!”

When the pale yellow radiance covered him, he finally experienced what everyone else had been subjected to. His body immediately felt much heavier.

Qiu Honglei’s face grew warm. “I didn’t do it on purpose.”

She quickly aimed the beam of light at Mosquito Daoist.

Zu An's request was actually a rather difficult one, because her lantern's radiance affected a large area, and it wasn't easy to exclude Zu An from its effects.

However, she possessed a sharp mind, and quickly discovered a workaround, using her hand and her clothes to block off some of the light. Even though this severely reduced the amount of light shining on the battlefield, it became easier to control where the beam went.

Mosquito Daoist was clearly unhappy with this new development. Even though she was fast, whenever the beam of yellow light landed on her body, her movement speed was significantly affected.

Because of this, Zu An almost managed to injure her several times.

Fury bubbled within her heart. Both of these kids had cultivations that were much weaker than her own, yet it seemed like everyone had special abilities these days, constantly tripping her up and preventing her from steamrolling them like she had planned.

Several times, she thought about turning around to deal with Qiu Honglei, but Zu An doggedly kept her from doing so.

He fought wildly, willingly suffering injuries in order to create opportunities for himself, which left her with quite the headache.

Given his cultivation, she had originally believed that it wouldn't make much of a difference even if she took a few hits. However, a mysterious sense of danger had crept up on her, warning her that she absolutely could not be wounded by her opponent in any way.

Even though her cultivation was high, she was rather infamous, and had made many enemies over the years. Having been pursued by them for many years had made her extremely sensitive toward danger.

Even though she didn't understand where this feeling of danger was coming from, she never doubted her intuition. She had relied on exactly this sixth sense over these years to get her out of some very tight spots.

He was able to get back up despite suffering such serious injuries... This style of fighting, disregarding any injuries you might suffer just to try to injure your own opponent, isn't usually a sensible choice either. His constitution must be quite special. She turned this over in her mind, and could only come up with this one conclusion.

The sudden increase in his speed and power had to be due to the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra as well.

It really was worthy of being a legendary technique!

Now that she thought about it, she wanted it even more. She had to deal with Zu An first. Compared to the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, the Empress Lantern didn't seem nearly as important.

Now that she was going all out, Zu An was hard-pressed to hold it together, even with the help of the mystical lantern's light.

His body was struck several times in quick succession by the horsetail whisk.

Her horsetail whisk looked soft and gentle, but every single strand of it felt like sharp steel wire when they lashed against his body. They lacerated his flesh, opening up deep wounds.

If it wasn't for his special constitution, he would have already been diced into little chunks.

"You little bastard, I'll give you credit for lasting this long with just five ranks of cultivation. However... This game ends here!" Mosquito Daoist crouched down, and then she tore up an absolutely massive chunk of earth.

The massive chunk of earth perfectly blocked off the light from Qiu Honglei's lantern.

Qiu Honglei was stunned. This mosquito monster wasn't an earth element cultivator—why was she able to control the earth?

She thought about it a little more, and finally understood what had happened. Mosquito Daoist had always been moving around the same area. She thought that she had been busy attacking Zu An, but she must have been using her movements to wear down the earth beneath her as well.

That was a terrifying level of skill to have. After all, she had to carve out the outline of this chunk of earth while ensuring that the surface remained in one piece. Only then would she have been able to lift it up as a single mass and block her lantern's light.

Qiu Honglei didn't have time to admire her strategy. The only thing that filled her mind was worry over Zu An's safety. "Ah Zu!"

Now that she wasn't restrained by the lantern's radiance, Mosquito Daoist's speed suddenly increased severalfold. She reached a hand towards Zu An's shoulder.

Startled, Zu An frantically shouted, "Whatcha lookin' at?!"

"I'm looking at you, shithead!" Mosquito Daoist replied, causing her to lose her focus for a split second.

Zu An immediately used Grandgale to blink a large distance away.

Mosquito Daoist could not believe what had just happened.

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist of 251 Rage points!

Despite her anger, she felt a grudging sense of admiration. Despite having a rather ordinary level of cultivation, his combat sense and techniques were top-notch, far superior even to those of some well-known experts.

She felt an even stronger need to kill him. This kid was already like this at just the fifth rank—what would happen once he actually matured?

Her thoughts were racing quickly through her mind, but it did not slow down her attacks. With a flick of her hand, the strands of her horsetail whisk extended again. She had already witnessed his instantaneous movement technique, so there was no way she would be caught completely off-guard again.

Zu An teleported again, but, to his horror, he was already surrounded by whisk strands. It was as if his opponent had already anticipated that he would dodge in this direction.



The horsetail whisk wrapped around him in the blink of an eye, the ends of its strands looking like straws as they stabbed towards his face.

Mosquito Daoist had clearly had enough of his never ending tricks. She decided to suck out a portion of his blood and completely cripple his movements first.

She had confidence in her ability to hold back. She could cripple him without taking his life.

As he saw the strands approach his face, Zu An recalled Solitary Ice's mummified appearance, and couldn't help but panic. He had enjoyed Qiu Honglei sucking on him earlier, but there was no way he was going to let this woman have a go!

Just as he was about to bring out his final trump card, a burst of black flame flew through the air, setting the incoming strands on fire.

Those black flames behaved extremely strangely. They instantly raced upwards along the whisk strands, heading towards Mosquito Daoist at incredible speed.

"Ah!!" Mosquito Daoist let out a horrifying shriek. She quickly retracted her horsetail whisk and frantically tried to put out the fire.

Given her cultivation, there was no way she could be injured by these flames, but it was a different story when it came to her horsetail whisk.

A good chunk of it had already been burned off by Zu An earlier while they were at the inn, and another half had just been burned away by these strange flames. Her horsetail whisk was now a sorry, barren thing, with just about a quarter of the original threads hanging loosely from the handle.

She whipped around in anger. "Show yourself!"

She froze almost immediately, swallowing subconsciously. So big! Her eyes lowered towards her own chest, and she was overwhelmed by an intense feeling of inferiority.

"Big Manman!" Zu An was overjoyed to see her enchanting figure.

Unexpectedly, Pei Mianman herself expressed no joy at all. She watched as Qiu Honglei ran towards Zu An with a face full of worry, then sneered and said, "All the way here, we worried about you constantly, but it seems you were actually enjoying yourself with another woman."

## **Chapter 498: Absolute Chaos**

Zu An scratched his head and gave an embarrassed laugh. He muttered quietly, "It really was pretty dangerous over here, you know..."

Qiu Honglei, who had been flying towards him, stopped when she noticed what was going on. She heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that Zu An was all right, but still felt extremely embarrassed when she recalled Pei Mianman's words.

Despite that, she recovered quickly as well. She laughed and said, "Ah Zu, is this lady your wife, First Miss Chu?"

Zu An had no idea what to say.

Pei Mianman simmered with fury. Clearly, this woman was deliberately mocking her for getting jealous even though she wasn't Zu An's wife.

"I'm Chuyan's good friend. What's wrong about lending her husband a helping hand?" Pei Mianman regretted her words as soon as they left her mouth. The two of them clearly already divorced, so why did she even have to mention Chuyan? What the heck is wrong with me and my guilty conscience?!

"Oh~" Qiu Honglei deliberately drew out this word. "You're helping your close friend watch over her husband? Or perhaps the close friend ended up falling for her husband?"

Zu An was yet again rendered speechless.

Pei Mianman looked like she was about to burst.

Mosquito Daoist lost her patience. "I don't want to listen to you guys bitch about your love affairs!"

She rushed straight at Qiu Honglei. Her lantern had really gotten on her nerves earlier, so she had to get rid of this girl first. From his actions earlier on, it didn't seem like Zu An was willing to escape on his own and leave this beauty behind.

Qiu Honglei braced herself, not affording herself any room for carelessness. However, she soon found herself in a tight spot. If it wasn't because Mosquito Daoist was slightly concerned about her Empress Lantern, she would have already lost her life a long time ago.

Seeing this, Zu An grew alarmed. He immediately drew his sword and rushed over. "Big Manman, now isn't the time to worry about personal grudges! We have to kill this damned mosquito first!"

Damned mosquito?

Mosquito Daoist flipped out.

"I will make sure you regret being born with that mouth of yours!"

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist for 888 Rage points!

Pei Mianman was shocked when she heard the word 'mosquito'. She had seen Sang Qian's wretched appearance with her own eyes earlier. Back then, Zhuxie Chixin had deduced it to be the handiwork of someone from the blood race. He had even named some possible aggressors, and one of them was none other than the Mosquito Daoist.

Now that she was right in front of her, who else could the perpetrator have been but her?

She quickly yelled out a warning. "Be careful! She can suck out your blood essence and turn you into a dried-up corpse!"

Zu An was shocked. Big Manman is truly knowledgeable—I'm surprised she even knows about this!

Mosquito Daoist's laughter was sinister. "Don't worry, I'll definitely suck all of you dry later!"

She stared at Pei Mianman's impressive chest and swallowed. I'm going to suck you dry in a bit. Let's see if you'll still be that large then!

Zu An and Qiu Honglei seemed to be faring worse and worse by the second, so Pei Mianman could not afford to wait any longer. Black flames surged around her as she charged in to offer assistance.

Sensing the strangeness of these black flames, Mosquito Daoist quickly kept away her horsetail whisk. Every single strand of this horsetail whisk had been refined from a mouthpart that she had shed, so they weren't easily acquired. Most of them had been burned up on this night alone, so she didn't dare use it any more, lest these black flames burn the rest of it up. Not even killing the three of them would be enough compensation for her losses then.

Besides, even without the assistance of a weapon, her cultivation was still far above the three of them.

Pei Mianman was only brushed by the wind produced by Mosquito Daoist's palm strike, yet her arm already felt numb. She was astonished. Why is this Mosquito Daoist so strong?!

Zu An noticed her reaction. Worried that she might be underestimating her opponent, he quickly reminded her, "Be careful, this person is at least at the master rank. She is also incredibly crafty."

Before Pei Mianman could reply, Mosquito Daoist chuckled and said, "What a cute lad, you really understand this big sis well. Come and let this big sis give you a big old smooch."

Even though she was smiling, she felt incredibly vexed inside. Given her cultivation, dealing with three sixth rank cultivators should be a trifling matter, not to mention that not even all of these brats were at the sixth rank!

However, the three of them really were rather strange. Zu An had his devilish movement technique, and he seemed to be growing stronger the longer he fought. Meanwhile, Qiu Honglei had her Empress Lantern to slow down her movements, and this woman now wielded black flames that were different from most other elemental flames. A single slip up and she might get burned, and perhaps even suffer soul-wounding pain.

With all three of them working together, she found herself in quite a bind.

The three of them shivered when they heard her laughter. She had clearly been going after Zu An earlier with the intent to kill, yet now, she suddenly appeared all seductive and flirtatious. It was a jarring contrast.

However, the three of them sensed that her attacks had grown fiercer, and they did not dare let themselves be distracted.

Even so, it wasn't long before Qiu Honglei groaned in pain as one of Mosquito Daoist's attacks struck her shoulder.

Mosquito Daoist's fingernails glinted in the moonlight as they clawed at her face. She would end her life with this strike.

An arm, wreathed in swirling black flame, reached out to block her, buying Qiu Honglei an extra second.

Zu An used this opening to drag Qiu Honglei behind him, avoiding Mosquito Daoist's follow-up attacks.

"Thanks!" Qiu Honglei said as she recovered from her shock. She didn't say this to Zu An, but directed her gratitude towards Pei Mianman instead.

Pei Mianman snorted, but could not spare the time or attention needed to reply her. Mosquito Daoist launched a barrage of attacks at her, and she couldn't afford to be distracted at all.

Mosquito Daoist felt her anger begin to boil over. These were just three kids, yet she couldn't deal with even a single one of them! She roared in fury, and a huge mass of Blackblood Mosquitoes swarmed outwards.

All three of them were greatly alarmed. Aside from Pei Mianman, who enjoyed the protection of her black flames that the mosquitoes didn't dare approach, the other two were immediately overwhelmed by these black mosquitoes.

Qiu Honglei fared a little better since she had her Empress Lantern, and could slow down the movements of the mosquitoes, allowing her to evade. However, there was no way she could help anyone else out.

Zu An fared the worst of all. He swung his sword about continuously, striking out with his hand from time, but the mosquitoes were incredibly nimble and elusive, constantly finding openings to bite him.

A terrible itch radiated out from these bites in endless waves, which made clear to him that these mosquitoes were poisonous. However, he had no area-of-effect skills to bring to bear, so there was nothing he could do about it.

Seeing his situation, Pei Mianman sent out a sliver of black flame to help him out. Those Blackblood Mosquitoes quickly evaded the approaching tongue of flame, which made things much more manageable for Zu An.

However, this caused Pei Mianman to be momentarily distracted, which gave Mosquito Daoist an opportunity. She did not hesitate, slamming a palm into her chest.

Pei Mianman screamed in pain, and a spray of blood left her mouth as she was blown aside.

"So soft!" The lingering feeling made Mosquito Daoist frown. This woman's chest was so large, which helped to cushion her blow significantly. That earlier strike of hers was probably not enough to kill her.

She immediately moved in to finish the job.

Zu An couldn't care less about the mosquito bites anymore, and leaped to help Pei Mianman, but Mosquito Daoist struck his sword with her finger, exerting a tremendous force that almost made him drop his sword. Blood gushed out from the webbing in between his fingers.

No longer hindered by the Empress Lantern, Mosquito Daoist could finally display her terrifying cultivation.

Zu An was completely helpless. He could only throw himself in front of Pei Mianman and use his own body as a shield.

Mosquito Daoist saw through his intentions, and flew into a rage. "Do you think that I won't kill you?!"

She held nothing back, thrusting her hand straight towards his back.

This strike would be enough to completely penetrate his body, allowing her to rip out Pei Mianman's heart.

Pei Mianman would certainly be dead, while Zu An might still survive. She wasn't aiming for any of his vital spots, and his terrifying recovery ability had left a deep impression on her.

Zu An smiled bitterly as he sensed the terrifying killing intent. "It looks like the two of us are going to pass on together, like true lovebirds."

Pei Mianman stared straight into his eyes, her expression incredibly warm. This man had leaped in front of a deadly blow without a second thought, utterly willing to give up his life to save her. In the face of such an act, she felt that that death was not such a terrifying fate after all.

The temperature suddenly plummeted, and several snowflakes even fluttered around the air. Many of the Blackblood Mosquitoes flying around them fell out of the sky like miniature ice sculptures.

Zu An was stunned. "Snow in summer? Perhaps not even the heavens are willing to see us lovebirds perish together."

Pei Mianman's face went entirely red. "Lovebirds my ass! Don't you even recognize your own wife's Snowflake Sword?!"

A streak of frozen light sliced through the night sky from the side, lancing towards Mosquito Daoist's vitals like a streak of lightning.

#### **Chapter 499: I Have Always Lived a Pure and Innocent Life**

Mosquito Daoist was shocked as well. This person's cultivation was higher than the other three, and was most likely at the seventh rank.

Whoever it was, they had chosen their moment well. If Mosquito Daoist had pressed on with her attack, even though the big breasted woman was dead for sure, she herself would have also been seriously injured.

Her many years spent on the run had made her prioritize her own safety above all else, and she would never expose herself to the risk of suffering severe injuries in order to kill someone. She retracted her hand at once, and blocked the incoming sword.

The two exchanged several blows in an instant. However, her opponent was extremely crafty, and did not try to overpower her directly, which greatly reduced the advantage of her superior cultivation rank.

Mosquito Daoist finally caught a glimpse of her opponent. She was a ridiculously beautiful woman whose entire being radiated the crisp, cold bite of a winter morning, granting her the air of an immortal goddess descended from heaven.

Mosquito Daoist felt her self-confidence get crushed in an instant. She normally flaunted herself as a beautiful woman, yet every single girl she had run into today was more stunning than herself! Either their chests were much larger, or their aura was superior to hers! She had been defeated in every single aspect!

She glared furiously at Zu An. What the heck was up with this brat? He didn't look like he was anything special, so why did he have so many stunning women around him? Is there something special about him that I don't see?

Opposite her, Zu An immediately cheered when he saw the woman in that long, icy-blue dress. This woman was just as coldly arrogant and gorgeous as he remembered. "Honey!"

They had already been separated for a few months, after all. When they had just separated, he could still see her from time to time using the communications mirror, but later on, he couldn't even do that anymore.

Chu Chuyan's cold and indifferent expression warmed considerably when she heard his voice. She turned to look at her husband. She was just about to say something when she suddenly noticed that he was on top of her close friend, pressed up against her until even Pei Mianman's breasts seemed uncomfortably squashed. Her beautiful brows immediately knit together again.

Pei Mianman didn't know what was going on either, but she was overwhelmed with guilt. She pushed Zu An off of her and said, "Chuyan, you're finally here!"

Chu Chuyan smiled ambiguously. "I might have missed out on such an exciting scene if I'd arrived even a moment later."

Pei Mianman's face flushed red. She waved her hands and said, "Don't get it wrong! It's not what you think, he did that to save me..."

Chu Chuyan giggled. "Manman, this isn't like you at all! I didn't think anything of it earlier on, but now, I'm really wondering if there's something going on between you two."

Pei Mianman quickly realized what was wrong. If she had been her usual self, she would surely have used this chance to tease others. When had she ever had to defend herself in such a panic?

However, she reacted quickly as well. She smiled sweetly and said, "Now that you mention it, the two of you aren't husband and wife anymore, so it shouldn't really matter even if I did make a move, right?"

Chu Chuyan snorted. "Go ahead! He's not that great anyway. I don't care."

Heartbreak was written all over Zu An's face. "Chuyan, how could you say something so hurtful?"

No one—not even he—expected Pei Mianman to hook an arm around his arm and throw Chu Chuyan a flirtatious smile. "You said it yourself~"

Chu Chuyan was given a fright. Was this woman being serious?! Then again, she remembered how daring Pei Mianman was usually, and immediately felt a twinge of regret. But she had already said what she'd said, and there was no way to take it all back. She could only give Zu An an unhappy look. What is up with that ecstatic grin on your face?!

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for 233 Rage points!

Zu An was completely enthralled by the soft, warm feeling around his arm. When he saw these Rage points, he almost leaped into the air in fright.

Qiu Honglei had a strange expression on her face, having keenly picked up on the awkward atmosphere. The corners of her lips curved ever-so-slightly upwards.

This Pei Mianman adopted such an overbearing manner earlier when she questioned me. To see her cowering like this in front of someone else is just too amusing...

But Pei Mianman's words also reminded her that Zu An was already single. From now on, it was every woman for themselves.

A pensive smile spread across her lips. She used to be Immortal Abode's courtesan queen, after all. Seducing men was her specialty.

Mosquito Daoist finally snapped out of her daze, and roared in annoyance, "They just keep coming, one after another. Just how many girls do you have, you brat?! Stop wasting my time and call them all out already!"

You have successfully trolled Mosquito Daoist for 582 Rage points!

Zu An waved his hands frantically when he saw the three girls eyeing him as well. "Stop trying to create disharmony between us! I have always lived a pure and innocent life. How could I have other women?"

Pei Mianman rolled her eyes. Like hell I'll believe you! Zheng Dan was willing to give up everything for you earlier on. Do you think I'm blind? Should I rat you out to Chuyan later...?

Chu Chuyan and Qiu Honglei scoffed disdainfully as well. They clearly didn't believe him either.

Despite their feelings, his first sentence reminded the girls that now wasn't the time to settle things with Zu An. They would deal with that after they made it through this crisis.

Mosquito Daoist used this opportunity to charge at Qiu Honglei. Her Empress Lantern posed the greatest threat, after all.

Chu Chuyan quickly brandished her sword and swooped over to help her. She understood the current situation. Even though Zu An had been captured by the Devil Sect, Qiu Honglei had most likely been helping him out this whole time.

Moreover, she knew more about her relationship with Zu An than Pei Mianman did. After all, back then, Qiu Honglei had taken the initiative to ask to become Zu An's concubine!

Even though she didn't feel good about it, she couldn't bring herself to watch idly from the side.

"Thanks!" Qiu Honglei gave Chu Chuyan a grateful look.

"We're all on the same side, there's no need to be so polite." Chu Chuyan smiled, then shifted her full focus to the battle.

Qiu Honglei was stunned. What did she mean by 'on the same side'?

In moments, however, Chu Chuyan was soon in great danger herself, and Qiu Honglei did not have the time to ponder its meaning any further. She quickly used her lantern to help her out.

Zu An and Pei Mianman joined the battle as well. They knew that, given Mosquito Daoist's cultivation, they still weren't a match for her even though they now had Chu Chuyan on their side.

It didn't take long for the light from Qiu Honglei's lantern to grow dim. She said in alarm, "I already used it too much today! The lantern will run out of energy soon!"

Almost immediately, the lantern went out completely.

Mosquito Daoist laughed. Her speed suddenly increased, and in no time at all, she covered the four of them in a fresh round of injuries.

Pei Mianman was already badly injured, and she could take no more. Her body flew through the air and crashed to the ground off to the side.

Zu An was the main meat shield, taking blow after blow after blow, and not even the Primordial Origin Sutra's incredible healing could keep up. If it wasn't because Mosquito Daoist still wanted the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, he would have died a hundred times over.

He too was sent flying, crashing to the ground and gasping for air. He struggled to find his feet again.

Seeing him drenched in blood, Chu Chuyan grew distressed and cried out, "Manman, hurry up and take Zu An away from here!"

She didn't tell her to bring him to Zhuxie Chixin, because sending Zu An to the capital was equivalent to sending him to his death. That was why it would be best if the two of them took this chance to flee. As for the consequences, she couldn't care less about them at that moment.

Pei Mianman frowned, but did not reply. She was not in good shape at all, and found it difficult even to muster the strength to speak.

Zu An was not about to leave. "No, I won't abandon my women and flee on my own."

Even when they fought together, they weren't a match for Mosquito Daoist. If only Chu Chuyan and Qiu Honglei stayed behind, they would be in even greater danger.

Qiu Honglei's heart skipped a beat. She wondered if he had said 'my women' instead of 'my wife' on purpose.

Chu Chuyan panicked. "If you stay, we'll just all die together! Besides, others will be here soon. You don't have to worry about us..."

Mosquito Daoist cut her off. "Not a single one of you will escape!" With that, she intensified her attacks, and even the ice around Chu Chuyan began to melt.

Zu An was stunned. There were others coming? Who?

There was the swift sound of approaching footsteps, and several members of the Devil Sect's Solitary Eight appeared. "Lady Saint!"

Qiu Honglei was overjoyed. "Quick! Help us defeat Mosquito Daoist!"



They were momentarily confused by the presence of Chu Chuyan and Pei Mianman, but they quickly pushed their thoughts aside once they saw the danger that Qiu Honglei was in. They quickly joined the fray.

The pressure on Chu Chuyan decreased substantially. She turned around and said to Pei Mianman, "Manman, take him away! Don't tell me you don't know the consequences of staying here!"

Pei Mianman bit her lip. "Fine!"

She tugged at Zu An and said, "Ah Zu, trust us!"

Zu An was about to refuse, but her words caused him to freeze momentarily. He let himself be pulled deeper into the forest.

Seeing this, the Solitary Eight of the Devil Sect was about to give chase, but Qiu Honglei stopped them from doing so immediately. "We'll deal with Mosquito Daoist first!"

## **Chapter 500: Bad News**

The Solitary Eight all frowned when they heard what she said.

Solitary Wind said, "Lady Saint, our objective right now is to capture Zu An, not to deal with Mosquito Daoist."

The cultivation of Mosquito Daoist was just too high. A few of them were seriously injured already, and they did not relish the prospect of facing her again. They were not willing to engage Mosquito Daoist in yet another fight unless absolutely necessary.

Qiu Honglei shook her head. "If you leave now in pursuit of Zu An, Mosquito Daoist will be the one to benefit in the end."

Solitary Metal wasn't convinced. "Even if we defeat Mosquito Daoist, we'll lose Zu An. Wouldn't all our efforts be for nothing, then? It's better if we leave right now."

They were clearly unwilling to fight Mosquito Daoist again. Earlier on, Solitary Metal had been furious that his good friend Solitary Ice had been sucked dry, and was all ready to avenge him. Unfortunately, the fight outside the inn had been too awful, and left them all with a lingering sense of dread.

Qiu Honglei grunted in displeasure. "Then what about my Empress Lantern? She wants to steal that too. Are you guys going to just let that happen?"

The Solitary Eight looked at each other in dismay. They knew that the Empress Lantern was something given to her by the sect master. There was no way the sect master would forgive them if they just looked on while it was stolen.

"But we'll be blamed if we let Zu An get away as well..." Solitary Lightning said. Even though she looked like a brute, she wasn't stupid.

Qiu Honglei cut her off. "I will take responsibility for everything when we face the sect master!"

Seeing her take this stance, there wasn't much else the Solitary Eight could say. They knuckled down and resumed their battle with Mosquito Daoist. Even though they had lost some of their companions, with the seventh ranked Chu Chuyan on their side, their overall strength was still relatively the same as before.

Chu Chuyan secretly sent Qiu Honglei a voice transmission. "Thanks!"

She was obviously aware that Qiu Honglei was doing all of this for her and Zu An.

Qiu Honglei replied, "Big sis saved my life earlier."

She immediately regretted calling her 'big sis' as soon as the words left her mouth. She had already divorced Zu An—why did she still have to call her big sis?

Chu Chuyan was momentarily stunned, and an odd smile touched the corners of her lips.

Unlike them, Mosquito Daoist was incredibly furious. She had let those idiots from the Devil Sect talk among themselves in hopes that they would give up on fighting her, allowing her to deal with Chu Chuyan alone. Who could have expected that they would end up working together?

"All of you can go to hell!" Killing intent surged within Mosquito Daoist as she charged straight at them.

...

Elsewhere, Zu An and Pei Mianman supported each other as they ran through the forest. The two of them were both seriously injured, and it was even a struggle to maintain an upright stance as they leaned against each other.

After a while, though, the regenerative properties of Zu An's Primordial Origin Sutra began to take effect, and he recovered at a much faster rate than Pei Mianman. Eventually, he was the one shouldering most of her weight.

In a remote part of the woods, Zu An sat down, still carrying Pei Mianman. He gave her another Soul Return Pill.

Pei Mianman also took this chance to regulate her breathing, and a faint trace of color finally returned to her face a while later.

"How do you feel?" Zu An asked, clearly worried.

"Much better. Your pills are indeed amazing," Pei Mianman sighed, clearly impressed. "Right, you've given me medicine, but what about you?"

She hadn't seen Zu An take any medicine of his own, so she immediately became worried.

"I'm fine. Can't you see that I'm already much better?" As he spoke Zu An flexed his arm, showing off his current condition.

Pei Mianman wasn't reassured. She traced her fingers slowly across his skin to examine his wounds. She could sense that the horrifying injuries that he'd sustained earlier were already starting to heal, and her mouth fell open completely. "Your body's regenerative properties are really astonishing!"

Zu An swallowed with difficulty. "Please don't touch me like that..."

He was carrying her in his arms right now, and her thin dress was unable to keep in any of her body heat. Her soft, supple body was pressed against his, and his nostrils were filled with her intoxicating fragrance. It was enough to turn any man into a beast!

"We're already so close. What's the harm in a little touching?" Pei Mianman couldn't help but tease him. "Have you really recovered..."

In the middle of her sentence, a trace of redness suddenly appeared on her face, and she bolted out of his arms. "No, you don't have to reply. I know you're fine."

Zu An wanted to cry. How is this my fault?! What kind of man won't have such a reaction with such a ravishing beauty in their arms?

Pei Mianman stood next to him, her face completely red. An awkward silence fell across them. Zu An tried to alleviate the embarrassment by asking, "Why did you insist that I leave?"

His heart was full of worry for Chu Chuyan. Mosquito Daoist was just too strong. A single mistake could end up costing her her life.

"Are you worried about Chuyan?" Pei Mianman seemed to have read his thoughts. "Don't worry, help is on the way," she reassured him.

"Who'll show up to help her?" Zu An immediately asked. He seemed to remember Chu Chuyan mentioning it as well. Did a few ridiculous simps follow her all the way there?

"Look at how nervous you are! It's not what you're thinking." Pei Mianman rolled her eyes. "We ran into a new contingent of troops dispatched by the capital. The leader is the Chief Commander of the Embroidered Envoy, Zhuxie Chixin..."

She gave him a rough summary of what had happened.

Zu An's expression grew strange when he learned that Sang Qian had been turned into a desiccated corpse. He sighed and said, "Even though I really wanted to kill him myself for ruining your plan to rescue me from the inn, I can't help but feel uncomfortable knowing that he met such a tragic end."

Even though he hadn't seen Sang Qian's death with his own eyes, he had seen how Solitary Ice had died. That sight alone had sent a chill down his spine.

"Don't tell me you're worrying about someone else's wife?" Pei Mianman snorted. "Take my advice and don't worry about Zheng Dan. Both her and the Sang family have been detained by court officials and taken back to the capital first."

Zu An was a bit disappointed to hear this, but he still said, "That's probably for the best. At least it's better than following me around and putting herself in danger."

Now that the emperor had sent out a larger force to escort them, the ones who wanted the Sang clan dead wouldn't dare get their way. Zheng Dan's safety would thus be ensured as well.

“So you guys made me leave because you didn’t want me to run into Zhuxie Chixin? Won’t he put the blame on you two then?” Zu An immediately noticed this problem.

Pei Mianman shook her head. “It’s all right. Your safety is more important. There is no way His Majesty can use this matter as an excuse to bring down both the Chu clan and Pei clan.”

Zu An was incredibly moved to realize that they had done all of this for him. He held her hand and said, “Big Manman, thank you guys so much!”

Pei Mianman’s face turned red, and she quickly pulled her hand away. “You can say whatever you want, but don’t just grab my hand out of nowhere.”

“You didn’t seem to mind when I carried and hugged you earlier,” Zu An mumbled.

“What did you say?” Pei Mianman replied playfully.

Zu An chuckled. “Nothing.”

Out of nowhere came a derisive snort. “Oh, look at you pair of adulterers! Your wife is out there risking life and limb for your sake, while you’re having the time of your life with another woman! Also, young miss, your best friend didn’t put her husband in your hands just so you could have your way with him.”

Zu An and Pei Mianman turned around immediately, and saw a familiar figure not too far away.

“You’re back again? Will you ever be satisfied?!” Zu An felt a huge headache coming on. This Mosquito Daoist haunted them like a bloody spirit! How long had she been pursuing him?

This time, though, her clothes were in tatters, and she was riddled with injuries. He could tell that she wasn’t in great condition.

“What happened to Chuyan?” Zu An looked behind her. Unfortunately, he didn’t see anyone else.

“Dead, of course.” Mosquito Daoist snorted, a hint of joy appearing on her face.

“Dead?” Zu An felt as though a bomb had gone off in his mind. It was hard for him just to keep his feet under him.

Right at that moment, a dazzling streak of light flashed through the sky, descending towards them at great speed like a blazing meteorite.