

## Immortal 831

### Chapter 831: What's Wrong with Lending My Wife?

Lu Xiao was no longer as aloof and indifferent as he had been. His eyes were filled with resentment. However, no one could still remain calm after experiencing what he had just experienced.

When they saw that Lu Xiao was still alive, everyone from the Eastern Palace felt as if they had dropped down from heaven straight to hell.

Bi Linglong quickly said to Zu An, "You should hurry and run; don't worry about us... Huh?" Suddenly, she noticed that Zu An was no longer at her side. With the flash of an afterimage, Zu An was already in front of Lu Xiao.

The others were in despair, but he wasn't. He keenly sensed that even though Lu Xiao was still alive, he was currently seriously wounded and had no way of fighting back at the moment. The longer Zu An waited, the more troublesome it would become once Lu Xiao recovered.

Lu Xiao hadn't expected Zu An to be so fast either. His expression was filled with alarm as he backed up in panic. Normally speaking, with his cultivation, avoiding such an attack was extremely easy. However, he was seriously injured. The fact that he could survive had been a miracle in itself. How could he possibly block the attack just then?

Zu An's sword was about to cut through Lu Xiao's throat, but just then, a streak of light flashed past. With a 'Ding!', the sword that would have taken Lu Xiao's life was knocked aside.

Zu An felt a huge force ripple through his blade, and almost lost his grip on the Tai'e Sword. However, he didn't hesitate and continued to stab at Lu Xiao. He wanted to use this excellent opportunity to kill a master rank cultivator. He gave up on using the Snowflake Sword's techniques and instead changed to the Bixie Swordplay. He wanted to kill his target as quickly as possible.

Zu An's body turned into a whirl of afterimages that continuously hacked at Lu Xiao's vitals. Unfortunately, his attacks were always stopped by that streak of light. No matter what kinds of crazy angles he attacked from, what kinds of tricks he used, that streak of light always intercepted his attack.

Zu An stopped moving, giving up on his offense. He realized that his attacks were all futile.

Just then, a person slowly floated over. That streak of light returned to his side, screaming as it cut through the air. It was a flying sword.

Mi Li's voice said, "Those at the master rank begin cultivating the soul. Their divine will covers the entire battlefield, so none of your moves can escape his detection. That's why he was able to block all of your attacks ahead of time."

Zu An couldn't help but sigh in relief when he heard her familiar voice. "Big sis empress, you're finally awake."

Mi Li merely grunted in response. She became silent again, as if she were thinking to herself. However, Zu An couldn't be bothered with that. He hurriedly asked, "Do I have a chance at winning?"

"Nope," Mi Li said without any trace of politeness.

Zu An was speechless. “Even with all of my abilities?” he added, not willing to give up.

“It’s because of your abilities that you might be able to barely run. Otherwise, you’d be dead several times over.” Mi Li harrumphed. “This time, your enemy is different from before. There’s a fundamental difference between the master rank and the ninth rank. There’s nowhere for you to run under the coverage of their divine will, so all of your attacks and evasion will be meaningless. If it were just a single master rank, with your ridiculous abilities, you would have a shot. But there are two right now, as well as two at the ninth rank and a group of seventh and eighth ranked warriors. What are you going to even fight all of them with?

“I advise you to start running while Lu Xiao still hasn’t recovered yet. You might be able to keep your life then. Otherwise, once he recovers, you won’t even be able to run away.”

Zu An turned around and gave the distant Bi Linglong, as well as his friends Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun from the Eastern Palace, a look. He fell silent.

Lu Xiao and Wei Pingyang also began to chat with each other. “I would already be a corpse if you waited any longer,” Lu Xiao said, his voice full of resentment. He had clearly been scared quite badly just then.

“Brother Lu, please don’t be upset. Didn’t I hurry over in time?” Wei Pingyang replied with a smile. At the same time, his gaze moved to Lu Xiao’s missing arm. He said with a sigh, “The emperor only left a bit of his aura on her, yet it was still so powerful. It truly is frightening.”

Lu Xiao nodded, still feeling lingering fear. “Thankfully, this dungeon has been a bit strange recently. It seems to have been able to cut off that strand of the emperor’s aura from the outside world. If we were in the outside world, I wouldn’t have just lost an arm.”

“Looks like the heavens are on King Qi’s side,” Wei Pingyang said with a smile. “Brother Lu, how long do you need to recover?”

“An hour. I’ll be able to fight again in an hour. However...” Lu Xiao looked at his bare left shoulder. “I don’t think I’ll be able to recover this left arm.”

High rank cultivators all had powerful regeneration abilities. At the master rank, the speed of their recovery would be even faster. Even though his wounds looked terrifying, the only things he had lost were his soulbound sword and his arm. Recovering from his other injuries wasn’t too difficult.

Wei Pingyang was actually secretly happy to see that. Lu Xiao had always been above him all these years, but after what had just happened today, even if Lu Xiao recovered, his cultivation rank would fall a bit. The position of King Qi Manor’s number one guardian might fall to him.

King Qi had always strictly forbidden internal conflict. With so many people watching, he had no choice but to save Lu Xiao. Otherwise, he would have been more than happy to see him die.

“Alright, you just rest up well, Brother Lu. I’ll protect you.” He stood at Lu Xiao’s side. Then, he waved his hands, indicating for his subordinates to surround the other party.

“Crown princess, why don’t you let this humble Wei experience your sword too?” Wei Pingyang’s voice carried a bit of ridicule. He clearly knew that Bi Linglong definitely couldn’t use her sword again in her current state.

Bi Linglong was upset, but she wasn't in the mood to retort either. Instead, she calmly looked at her subordinates and said, "Everyone, we'll most likely die here. I'm alright with all of you defecting to King Qi Manor. Linglong won't feel any resentment toward your choice."

Zhao Xi roared with laughter. "What is the crown princess saying? We're all courageous men who were selected to participate in this mission by our clans. How can we bow and bend our knees here? Furthermore, what happened today is so big; how can it not leak out? Rather than surrendering and dying in such a sullen manner, we might as well fight to our heart's content to the end."

Zu An nodded inwardly. Even though Zhao Xi looked like he was rather boorish, there was a good side to him.

There were actually many people who had been tempted just then. However, when they heard what Zhao Xi said, all of them threw away those thoughts and roared out, "We'll fight to the death! To the death!"

Wei Pingyang sneered. "You deserve praise for your courage. It's a pity that it's all meaningless." He gestured with his hand and coldly ordered, "Don't leave even a single one alive!"

Arrows rained down and King Qi Manor's deathsworn soldiers roared as they charged forward, "Slaughter them all!"

"Maintain the formation!" Bi Linglong was extremely weak at the moment, to the extent where she could only barely stand by leaning against Zu An. However, she still continued to command her people.

These were the elites of different clans. When they grouped up together, they would still be strong. But if the formation became disorderly, they would really become sheep awaiting slaughter.

The crown princess was practically lying on another man's body, yet no one from the Eastern Palace voiced any objections. Instead, it was as if this were how it should be. They maintained their formation to stop King Qi Manor's charge.

It was instead Wei Pingyang who commented, "Zhao Ruizhi, Zhao Ruizhi, your wife is lying in the arms of another man, yet you don't seem the least bit concerned? For you to be the crown prince really is the shame of the royal clan. I'd advise you to just abdicate your position and let King Qi take your place."

The crown prince was stunned. He raised his head to look at the floating Wei Pingyang, asking, "Your wife can't be in the arms of another man?"

Wei Pingyang laughed mockingly. "Obviously!"

"Then where is your wife right now?" the crown prince asked out of curiosity.

"My wife is obviously in our home outside." Wei Pingyang harrumphed.

The crown prince replied, "Didn't you guys say you were in this dungeon for many years already? You never went home. Maybe your wife is already in the arms of another man."

"What did you say?!" Wei Pingyang's face immediately became bright red. He had never expected to be embarrassed like this by a fool.

The crown prince continued, "Big bro Zu has always been good to me, and he saved my life several times; he's my good friend. What's wrong with lending him my wife for a bit? It's instead you who keeps bullying me and Linglong. Once this crown prince leaves, I'll definitely eradicate your entire clan and make your wife lie in the arms of other men!"

"Puahaha!" Even some people from King Qi Manor couldn't help but laugh.

"You dare to anger me?" Wei Pingyang was so angry smoke was coming out from his ears. "Damn fatty, are you tired of living?"

A streak of light flew at the crown prince's chest as soon as he finished speaking.

### **Chapter 832, (1): Inevitable Death**

What the hell does 'lending for a bit' mean? Bi Linglong was so angry she almost fainted. Even wives can be lent out? Even though she didn't really mind if it was Zu An, it really was too embarrassing in front of all of these people. Before she even had a chance to scold him, however, a streak of light flew at the crown prince's chest. She cried out in alarm.

Zu An reacted even faster than her. His figure flashed and reappeared by the crown prince's side as he blocked the attack with the Tai'e Sword. He shook his hand to ease the soreness. The flying sword of a master rank cultivator really was hard to block. His hand was even going numb.

The crown prince clapped his hands and shouted, "Big bro Zu is so awesome! Beat that bad guy to death!"

Zu An forced a bitter smile. How could it be that easy to take out someone at the master rank?

Wei Pingyang roared with laughter. "This is the first time I've seen a husband so close to his wife's boyfriend. You guys have really widened my world view."

Bi Linglong was so angry her entire body was shuddering. "Wei Pingyang, you're still a master rank for better or for worse. Why is your mouth so foul? You're just like a scoundrel from the streets."

Wei Pingyang coldly replied, "What can I say? I had to lower myself to you juniors' level. Kill them; leave none alive!"

He gestured for the other two guardians He Li and Mu Ping, as well as their subordinates, to make their move. He stopped attacking the crown prince as well and focused on the shield formation.

The shields were special, with an exquisite protection formation on them. However, under the attacks of a master rank cultivator, they became as weak as paper-mache. The Eastern Palace's formation cracked apart, and a wide hole instantly opened. King Qi's deathsworn soldiers roared as they charged at the opening.

The men from both sides engaged each other in combat, and flesh and blood immediately flew in all directions.

Zu An didn't dare to act carelessly. He quickly rushed over to stop Wei Pingyang's flying sword in order to stop him from damaging their formation further. If the formation broke down, there really would be no point in continuing this battle.

On the other side, King Qi's deathsworn soldiers were led by He Li and Mu Ping, two ninth ranked experts. They cleaved through the crown prince's men like tigers among a flock of sheep.

Zhao Xi roared furiously, "Our King Liang Manor isn't so easily bullied!" He crushed a jade pendant and his aura became much stronger, actually shooting up to around the eighth rank.

His father King Liang was at the master rank. He had given his son a protection treasure before sending him into the dungeon, telling him to use it in a dire situation. They were now in just such a situation.

The habitually silent Gao Ying roared furiously. His eyes shone with red light and his aura also began to grow stronger.

Pei You laughed indifferently. "Are you going to burn up your blood essence? I know how to do that as well!"

He stretched out his palm in front of him, and then drew his sword across it. His palm became covered in blood. He struck his own chest with his hand, and countless runes flickered. His complexion had been pale to begin with, but now, it was already deathly white like a ghost from the netherworld. However, his aura instead similarly rose to the eighth rank. Even though it was extremely unsteady, he was now at the eighth rank!

With the three of them joining hands, they barely managed to hold off the two powerful cultivators, He Li and Mu Ping.

Zu An watched the events out of the corner of his eye, feeling a great sense of gloom. Back then, in Brightmoon City's Ursae Dungeon, Chu Chuyan had used similar forbidden arts. These were probably the trump cards of the different clans, which could temporarily raise the users' strength.

However, the side effects were great too. After Chu Chuyan used her skill, all of her meridians had been destroyed, and she had become a complete cripple. Even though he didn't know what Zhao Xi and the others' forbidden arts were, the consequences were probably not much better.

They hadn't even used those arts when they faced the ninth ranked Jade Moon Serpent. It seemed they had all realized that they were already at the brink of death.

After the two ninth ranked cultivators were stopped, the pressure the Eastern Palace's warriors faced immediately decreased considerably.

However, King Qi Manor had prepared abundantly. The deathsworn soldiers were all trained well. Furthermore, there were a few at the seventh and eighth rank. The Eastern Palace's warriors were still at a disadvantage. If not for Bi Linglong giving them commands, playing to their strengths, it might have already been a one-sided massacre.

But tactics could only make up for a bit of the difference in strength. They couldn't change the huge gap in strength. Soon afterward, the Eastern Palace's men began to fall one after another.

An Eastern Palace guard's chest was pierced by a spear. However, he clung bitterly to the spear shaft, enduring the intense pain and continuing to walk forward, allowing it to pass through his body. He tried to close the distance and brandish his blade, wishing to bring down his enemy with him.

The warrior on the other side was alarmed. He couldn't pull out his spear no matter what he did. However, he was a seasoned soldier as well. When his opponent approached, he kicked at his stomach and sent him flying back.

After suffering two serious blows, the Eastern Palace guard's life was finally finished. In his final moment before death, his eyes were wide open and filled with reluctance, as if he had died with remaining grievances because he couldn't drag his opponent down with him.

"Jing Yanbao!" Piao Duandiao felt as if his eye sockets were splitting. This person was his subordinate, and they usually went drinking and whoring together. They were more like intimate friends.

His face was covered in blood, and it was unknown whether it was his or his enemy's. He charged over with a roar, his blade sending the deathsworn soldier's head flying. But at the same time, several of King Qi's warriors cut into his body. If not for the fact he was the Eastern Palace's guard leader, so his armor was higher quality, he might have already been chopped into pieces.

Jiao Sigun quickly rushed over. The two faced their enemies back to back. However, there were just too many enemies. Their bodies were cut here and stabbed there. They grew weaker and weaker, eventually reaching a point where they almost couldn't even raise their own weapons anymore.

Just then, one of King Qi's deathsworn soldiers leapt out. The blade in his hands flickered with radiance and hacked at the pair's necks. He clearly wished to get revenge for his companion, to let them have a taste of what being beheaded felt like.

Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun saw the blade from the corners of their eyes, but they no longer had the strength to evade. They decided to just not worry about it and use all of their remaining strength on the enemies closest to them.

But at that moment, a flicker of sword light appeared. The warrior had already lost his life in the middle of his leap. Then, a chill spread outward. The dozen or so deathsworn soldiers that surrounded them were turned into frozen sculptures.

"Big bro Zu!" The two of them were shocked and overjoyed. As they looked at Zu An, they felt as if they were looking at a war god. He had said that he would protect them before they entered the dungeon. Now, sure enough, he didn't go back on his word.

Although... How many times had he protected them already since they had entered the dungeon? Unfortunately, both of them knew that with how things were right now, there wasn't going to be a next time. The two of them quickly said, "Big bro Zu, don't waste your strength on protecting us; hurry and save the crown prince and princess."

Zu An quickly supported them when he saw that they couldn't even stand steadily anymore. Then, he carried them to Bi Linglong's side. He used Grandgale to then rush to Zhao Xi and the others, helping them fend off the two ninth ranked experts before bringing all of them back to the center of the formation.

"All of you, bring the crown prince and princess out of here! I'll hold the rear!"

Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun both shook their heads. "Big bro Zu, you should be the one to bring the crown prince and the others out of here. We'll hold the rear!"

"Indeed, I definitely don't want to be a deserter in this mission." Pei You normally didn't care much about appearances. Now, he even wiped off the blood from his face using his clothes.

Zhao Xi gasped for breath as he said with a chuckle, "I'm not as cowardly as that damn Meng Pan."

Even though Gao Ying didn't say anything, the resolute expression in his eyes explained everything.

Zu An shook his head. "None of you can even stand still anymore. Even if you stay behind, you won't last much longer. Let me hold the rear, as I can buy you guys more time. You all need to do what you can to run, run as far as you can. If you really can't escape, just hide in this mountain. As long as you survive, those outside will come inside and investigate."

"Ah Zu..." Bi Linglong's face was filled with grief. She knew what holding up the rear meant.

The others wanted to say something, but Zu An barked fiercely, "Stop wasting time! Otherwise, no one will be able to escape!"

Gao Ying said seriously, "I'll stay behind here with you. You might not be able to stop them alone, and we still need to command these warriors."

The silent Liu Xian suddenly said, "Cousin, you should leave as well. It's enough if I stay here."

"You?" The others were shocked when they saw that it was Liu Xian.

"Why, can't I?" Liu Xian's face was entirely red. Being looked down on just then was clearly an extremely uncomfortable feeling. His usual frivolousness was nowhere to be seen, and he said with a serious expression, "I was the one who caused this disaster, so I'll take responsibility in settling it."

Afterward, he looked at Gao Ying and said, "I know that in the eyes of the capital's young masters, I'm a joke, to the extent that they use me as a bad example when educating their kids. I also know I'm not very useful. But cousin, you're different. Our Liu clan doesn't have many geniuses in the younger generation, so in the future, we'll need to rely on you to support the Liu clan. You can't die here. Cousin, you've always taken good care of me all this time. Now, it's my turn to take care of you."

Without another word, he charged back into the battlefield. He exclaimed, "As a son of the Liu clan, burning up blood essence is something I can do as well!" His eyes turned entirely red as he spoke. His hair rose on end, and his aura rose as well. Only, it came to a screeching halt halfway. Unlike the others who had reached the eighth rank, his aura stopped at the peak of the sixth rank. It didn't even reach the seventh rank.

However, no one present laughed at him. Instead, their eyes were brimming with tears as they looked at his back. In this moment, this prodigal young master whom everyone looked down upon before instead seemed strong and mighty.

Wei Pingyang sneered. "There's no need for you all to feel conflicted. No one will be able to leave today!"

Zu An's expression changed. He reached out his hand and pushed. A huge wave of strength sent Bi Linglong and the others several dozen li away. He stayed behind to stop Wei Pingyang and the others.

Wei Pingyang sneered. "Mister Zu, you can't even win against me alone, yet you want to stop all of us? Where do you get your courage from?"

"How would I know that I can't stop you if I don't try?" Zu An stood there alone with his sword, facing the three guardians of King Qi Manor, Wei Pingyang, He Li, and Mu Ping.

### **Chapter 832, (2): Inevitable Death**

Bi Linglong turned around and gave Zu An a deep look. Her fingernails were about to dig into her skin.

If anything happens to you, I'll do my best to survive and get revenge for you! I'll make sure that there is not even a single living soul left in all of King Qi Manor! There was a resolute expression full of hatred in her eyes. Even if Madam Qi was her relative...

Even so, at that moment, she was praying inwardly, Ah Zu, you have to survive!

...

Meanwhile, Zu An was being cursed at by Mi Li. "What are you playing the hero for? You can barely get away while Lu Xiao is still powerless. Why would you stay behind and throw your life away?"

Zu An sighed when he saw the different clans' warriors fighting bravely; even that spoiled Liu Xian was charging courageously through King Qi Manor's formation. "Big sis empress, what do you think cultivation is?"

"To become stronger, of course." Mi Li didn't understand why he would suddenly ask such a question.

Zu An shook his head. "No, in my opinion, cultivation is done so that you can pay back gratitude and vengeance, to defeat those you want to defeat and protect the people you want to protect. These warriors will undoubtedly die, yet they still chose to stay here. If I ran as soon as I faced danger, I would be even less than these warriors who are weaker than me. What meaning would there be left in cultivation for me?"

"But you really might die if you stay!" Mi Li understood what he was saying, but her voice became extremely grave.

Zu An said with a laugh, "Life will inevitably result in death, so you can either live until a death as heavy as Mt. Tai, or one as light as a goose feather... Furthermore, I've always been lucky, so I just might not die here."

Mi Li was quite shocked when she sensed his strong fighting spirit and desire to survive. She had thought that he was planning to throw his life away out of hot-headedness and never expected him to have thought things out so clearly. Sigh... This guy wants to look cool and be a hero, yet he doesn't want to make any sacrifices. A win-win situation like this doesn't exist!

Zu An was already fighting against the two guardians, He Li and Mu Ping. These two were both ninth ranked cultivators, one at the peak of the ninth rank and one at the mid stage. They didn't treat Zu An as a big deal at all.



They thought he was a nobody that they could easily crush, but Zu An's movement technique was extremely strange, and he knew all sorts of skills and techniques. The two of them were having quite a hard time, and only by working together could they barely hold on.

The two of them were horrified. Just how old was this kid? Why was his cultivation so formidable? This should have been impossible, even if he had cultivated ever since he came out of his mother's womb!

Wei Pingyang had originally planned to chase after Bi Linglong and the others, but he discovered that his companions actually couldn't take down Zu An. He stopped out of shock, ordering them, "You two, chase after the crown prince and the others. Leave this one to me."

He was worried that something might happen if he left these two with Zu An, so he decided to just face him himself. The crown prince's group was already seriously injured, so two ninth ranked experts should be more than enough to hunt them down.

The two guardians' faces turned red. They couldn't defeat a junior even after fighting all this time! It really was shameful. However, they knew how important this matter was, so they didn't dare to waste time and let side issues keep growing. Furthermore, if they took out the crown prince and princess, that would be a huge contribution in itself. That was why they only hesitated for a moment before agreeing with Wei Pingyang's arrangements. They both headed in the direction the crown prince's group had run toward.

"The two of you are fighting me!" Zu An exclaimed, using Grandgale to intercept the two of them.

Wei Pingyang's face darkened. "No, your opponent is me!" The flying sword in front of him turned into a streak of light. It was so fast the sword itself became a blur. It continued to attack Zu An from all sorts of different angles.

Zu An used the Sunflower Phantasm to dodge left and right. Unfortunately, he was still a bit too slow. Blood splashed out from his body again and again, as he was actually struck several times.

Wei Pingyang exclaimed indifferently, "How can a petty firefly's light dare to compare to the splendor of the moon?! You don't understand what the concept of the master rank is! Even someone with trifling cultivation like you wants to fight against me?"

Even though Zu An's cultivation was already quite excellent, what did it matter? As long as he hadn't reached the master rank, he didn't pose Wei Pingyang any threat. He was only a stronger ant.

Zu An's face darkened. "Why are you acting so cocky just because you're at the master rank? I've even fought against grandmasters, yet they never acted as smug as you."

Whether it was Mi Li or Yun Jianyue, both of them were stronger than this guy. It was just that back then, for various reasons, they couldn't use their full strength. However, they were genuine grandmasters. Mi Li's cultivation might even be higher.

"Grandmaster?" Wei Pingyang felt as if he'd heard something hilarious. "You can't even defeat me, yet you want to fight against a grandmaster? A brat like you really knows how to let things get to your head."

You have successfully trolled Wei Pingyang for +222 +222 +222...

A streak of light flashed out. Zu An quickly blocked, holding his sword in front of his chest. With a loud clang, his fingers went numb and the Tai'e Sword almost fell out of his grip.

Mi Li sighed. "The further down the path of cultivation one is, the greater the difference between cultivation ranks becomes. If you were at the late stage of the ninth rank, with your ki density, there would be a chance for you to win. Unfortunately, you're only at the initial stage of the ninth rank."

"Even though there's a big difference, it's not at the level of despair." Zu An gritted his teeth and charged at his opponent. The power of that flying sword was too great. He would never win if he was always forced to defend. He decided to get closer and see if he could scrape out a victory with his Poisonous Prick.

Wei Pingyang stood there with his hands behind him, looking calm and relaxed. His flying sword formed an impenetrable net around him. He was completely unfazed no matter how Zu An attacked. He even had the leisure to look toward his two companions and remark, "What are you two staring stupidly for? Get going already and chase after the crown prince."

The two of them seemed to snap out of their daze. They were just about to leave when suddenly, a sweet fragrance filled the air, and a gorgeous beauty appeared in front of them.

This bitter battlefield came to a momentary halt due to her appearance, because she was just too beautiful. Her beauty seemed to possess both a pure innocence and a deadly charm, two entirely different styles at once. Any man would feel his go numb if she gave him just a single glance.

"What a gorgeous woman!" Even Lu Xiao, who was busy treating his wounds, couldn't help but exclaim. He was already quite old and was already past the age where he would be engrossed in women, but his heart that had long remained still seemed to have started rippling.

Wei Pingyang felt the same. His flying sword momentarily halted. Zu An seized the chance to draw closer, and then thrust his Poisonous Prick at Wei Pingyang's body. This battle would be decided if he could even lightly nick Wei Pingyang.

He had deliberately summoned Daji, firstly to stop those two guardians and secondly to create this opening. His plan succeeded, as the Poisonous Prick left a cut across Wei Pingyang's body.

However, Zu An didn't smile at all, because he heard a metallic noise.

Wei Pingyang brought out a cracked jade pendant from his inner pocket. His expression gradually became warped and sinister as he exclaimed, "You actually destroyed my life-saving treasure?! Only if I hack your body into a thousand pieces can I let go of this resentment!"

You have successfully trolled Wei Pingyang for +444 +444 +444...

Zu An sighed in pity. This was a master rank, so as expected, he had some life saving treasures. Now that his attack had failed, there probably wouldn't be a second chance.

Sure enough, Wei Pingyang's gaze shifted to Zu An's dagger. "That black dagger could actually instantly break through my defenses? I actually felt the threat of death just now. Looks like it's a divine weapon. I'll take it to compensate for the loss of my pendant."

A terrifying aura shrouded Zu An as Wei Pingyang spoke, making him feel as if his entire body were stuck in a swamp. Even just moving became extremely difficult.

### **Chapter 833, (1): Hunter and Prey**

A malicious grin appeared on Wei Pingyang's face when he saw Zu An wrapped within his technique. "Just go to hell!" he exclaimed.

The flying sword in his hands vibrated with noise, and white mist suddenly emerged from behind it. Immediately afterward, an ear-splitting boom followed. This was a result of the flying sword breaking the sound barrier!

Furthermore, Zu An was currently trapped in his technique right now. Wei Pingyang smirked. Once this guy died, he didn't have to worry about anyone else on the crown prince's side. Even though he had lost a life saving treasure, that pitch-black dagger was definitely more than enough compensation.

Suddenly, a terrifying pressure surged from Zu An's position. Even Lu Xiao, who was focused on recovering, couldn't help but open his eyes in shock as he looked in Zu An's direction. How could there be such a terrifying pressure? Even he felt an urge to kneel.

As the main target of the pressure, Wei Pingyang was affected even more. His entire body turned deathly pale, and he began to shake uncontrollably. His knees buckled, and then he dropped from the sky, kneeling on the ground.

This was the Tai'e Sword's Domain of Power!

Zu An felt the pressure around him immediately lessen. He didn't hesitate and charged straight at Wei Pingyang. He could only use the Domain of Power once, as it had a long cooldown. He obviously couldn't waste this opportunity.

However, a figure flickered in front of Wei Pingyang, blocking Zu An's strike of inevitable death for him.

Zu An was stunned. This person was another of King Qi Manor's guardians, Mu Ping. Why would he step out just then to block this blade for Wei Pingyang? Were the guardians that close to each other? He should have hesitated for a moment even if Wei Pingyang were his own father, right?

While Zu An was confused, Mu Ping didn't look at him. Instead, he turned to look at Wei Pingyang, murmuring, "You..."

Unfortunately, the Poisonous Prick's curse had already activated. Mu Ping's entire body was covered in black runes and he perished.

Meanwhile, Wei Pingyang finally recovered given the opportunity. He was a master rank cultivator, after all. Even something like the Domain of Power could only make him lose his composure for a moment. He controlled his flying sword, sending it at Zu An's wrist.

Zu An quickly pulled back. Unfortunately, he was still a bit too late. He felt a sharp pain from his left hand, and then he could no longer hold onto his Poisonous Prick.

“Hahaha, your wrist’s tendons have been cut!” Wei Pingyang exclaimed, still feeling some lingering fear. He had never expected that a glorious master rank cultivator like him could have almost died twice because of this opponent.

Zu An clutched his wrist and remained silent. If it were anyone else, that entire hand would have been lost after being struck by the flying sword. However, his body was tough enough that it hadn’t crippled him. But he didn’t expose that fact and instead planned to use it to fool his opponent. He was going to use it to give Wei Pingyang a surprise later.

What he couldn’t understand was why Mu Ping would block that blade for Wei Pingyang. Otherwise, Wei Pingyang would already be dead.

Fortunately, Lu Xiao helped clear up Zu An’s doubts by exclaiming, “Wei Pingyang, you actually set up a puppet curse on Mu Ping?”

He Li stayed far away, his eyes full of anger and fear as he looked at Wei Pingyang.

A puppet curse, as the name stated, would turn someone into one’s puppet. Nothing strange could be detected normally, but if their master’s life were in danger, they would immediately prioritize saving their master over everything else.

The skill was incredibly vicious, and its conditions were also harsh. That was why it had always been denounced by the world. Those who practiced this technique had practically all been wiped out. No one had expected King Qi Manor’s guardian Wei Pingyang to possess such a malicious skill.

Wei Pingyang said indifferently, “If I hadn’t just happened to pick up this skill, I would’ve already been done in by that brat. If I died, Brother Lu, you wouldn’t have any chance of living either.”

His vigilance had increased greatly when his life saving pendant broke. He had been worried that the opponent might have some other unpredictable skills, so he’d decided to use the puppet curse on Mu Ping, who was closest to him.

Among the guardians, his relationship with Mu Ping was quite good, and he understood the other person’s cultivation the best. Mu Ping didn’t have any reservations against him either, making the curse easier to apply. If he had used the puppet curse on anyone else, unless their cultivation was as high as Mu Ping’s, the effects definitely wouldn’t have been as good.

Lu Xiao didn’t say anything in response when he heard those words. He was at a key point in his recovery. If Zu An had killed Wei Pingyang and then attacked him, he wouldn’t have been able to stop him at all.

Wei Pingyang continued, “With things already as they are, it’s meaningless even if you blame me. We need to kill this little bastard first, then complete the mission our king gave us.”

Lu Xiao nodded. “You’re right. Completing the king’s mission is top priority right now. He Li, what are you dilly-dallying for? Why aren’t you dealing with that woman and chasing after the crown prince?!”

He Li was quite troubled. Even though the woman was only at the sixth rank, which man would be able to resolve to kill someone like her?

But when Lu Xiao spoke King Qi's name, he couldn't argue against it. He could only harrumph and say, "I've got it already."

He was an expert at the peak of the ninth rank. Once he became serious, Daji would be in great danger. If not for her beauty that naturally made men hold back, she would have already died many times over.

Zu An knew that keeping Daji here wasn't a solution and quickly gave her an order. She brought out a pipa and gently plucked the strings. Voice of the Devil's music spread outward.

Those from King Qi Manor who had lower cultivation suddenly turned their spears on their comrades. The battlefield quickly became chaotic.

Meanwhile, a large group of beasts suddenly appeared in their surroundings. Even though the strongest were only beasts on the level of Giant White Wolves, their numbers were too great. They immediately charged at the people there, sending blood and flesh flying everywhere.

"What the hell is going on?" Those from King Qi Manor were alarmed. Even Lu Xiao and Wei Pingyang were confused.

They were able to understand why their companions had suddenly gone crazy; that was probably because the ridiculously beautiful woman had used a charming technique. But what about these beasts? Why had they run out?

They obviously couldn't have known that it was the result of Zu An using his jade badge to control some nearby creatures to disturb the nests of vicious beasts and bring them over. Unfortunately, there was a limit to what his jade badge could control. Otherwise, he might even have been able to win against these people from King Qi Manor if he could control a huge army of beasts.

As he was helpless to do anything about the situation, He Li couldn't be bothered with Daji. He had to calm the disturbance first, or else they might not have enough men to hunt down the crown prince's people afterward.

He had thought that he could defeat Zu An, but even the master rank Wei Pingyang had almost died twice. He shivered when he thought about that. He decided to just leave the little monster for a master rank cultivator to deal with.

"Damn, kid, I have to admit that I underestimated you. You were able to pressure us this far with your insect-like cultivation! However, all of this ends here." Wei Pingyang stared at Zu An with his sinister eyes. With a raise of his hand, the Poisonous Prick that had fallen to the ground was sucked into his hand. "This thing is mine now. I want to see just what other tricks you have left."

"Idiot." Zu An sneered. With just a thought, the Poisonous Prick returned to his keyboard space. He felt a bit of regret that he couldn't control the Poisonous Prick like a flying sword, or else this battle would have already been finished if he could make a cut in Wei Pingyang's hand.

Wei Pingyang didn't become upset when he saw the dagger disappear into thin air, and instead felt even happier. He exclaimed, "So it's a treasure that's bound to a master! It is a divine weapon after all, hahaha! As long as I kill you, the dagger will be mine!" After he finished speaking, he no longer stood there calmly. Instead, he used his hand as a sword and charged at Zu An.

“Fast!” Zu An felt a chill. He quickly evaded, but even though he used the Sunflower Phantasm and split into three identical copies that ran in three different directions, Wei Pingyang still easily saw through it.

Wei Pingyang roared with laughter. “Those tricks are useless before the divine will of a master!” As he spoke, the flying sword attacked Zu An from all sorts of different directions, as if two master rank cultivators were attacking at the same time.

How could Zu An possibly stop them? His body was soon covered in blood.

“Oh? Your body seems to be quite sturdy. You can still hold on even after taking so much damage.” Wei Pingyang sneered. “But it’s all over now. Let’s see if you can still continue fighting after having your heart pierced through.”

His speed suddenly increased as he stabbed toward Zu An’s chest.

At that instant, Zu An felt as if no matter which direction he dodged in, this sword would still hit his heart.

### **Chapter 833, (2): Hunter and Prey**

As such, he decisively used Keyboard Come, yelling, “Your pants fell!”

Wei Pingyang was feeling smug due to the speed and timing of his attack, when suddenly, he felt a chill run through his legs. When he lowered his head, he saw that his shriveled little fella was dangling in the wind.

Wei Pingyang, Lu Xiao, and He Li were left speechless.

“Damn brat, I’m going to cut you up into a thousand pieces!” Wei Pingyang felt as if his mind would collapse. He had been completely exposed in front of so many people’s eyes!

You have successfully trolled Wei Pingyang for +999 +999 +999...

Zu An cried out pitifully. He had planned to use this chance to counterattack, but the soul of a master rank was too powerful and could see through his every move. Even if Wei Pingyang held up his pants with one hand, his other hand would still stab into Zu An.

“Your pants dropped again!” Zu An used the same skill again when he sensed Wei Pingyang’s killing intent. Unfortunately, it didn’t do much. A flash of light flickered around Wei Pingyang’s body, and his pants remained in place.

Wei Pingyang smiled maliciously. “Just a trifling Soulspeak ability!”

Mi Li’s voice said, “Once you reach the master rank, it’s possible to establish a soul domain around oneself that can resist some Soulspeak abilities. The dragon race would’ve already dominated the world if there were no weaknesses at all to Soulspeak.”

Zu An evaded Wei Pingyang’s attack with great difficulty while replying with a forced laugh, “Can you fix your issue of constantly disconnecting? This is actually really scary, you know?”

Mi Li said indifferently, “I already told you not to rely on me. I won’t help you.”

“You won’t help me even if I’m doomed to die?” Zu An exclaimed. “If I die, you won’t live either!”

“Don’t try to threaten me. You were the one who created this situation. You insisted on playing the hero, so you should be prepared for the consequences,” Mi Li replied.

Zu An was getting annoyed. “I refuse to believe I won’t survive.” He didn’t feel like talking to Mi Li anymore and charged toward King Qi Manor’s deathsworn soldiers.

Wei Pingyang asked with a sneer, “Are you trying to use King Qi Manor’s people as a cover to make me hold back? It’s meaningless. I can clearly distinguish my enemies through my soul.” His flying sword chased after Zu An.

Zu An chuckled. “Who said I was going to use them as a shield? I just didn’t want to waste my ultimate move. A sword? I have one too.”

As he finished speaking, he called out the Blue Luan. A loud and clear cry echoed through the air as a blue bird soared into the skies. Then, a massive sword projection descended. That sword turned into endless sword energy, surrounding the entire place.

“Aaaah!”

Waves of miserable cries followed. Many of King Qi Manor’s deathsworn soldiers immediately lost their lives under the vicious sword energy. After the rain of sword energy, only a few people several dozen zhang away could barely stand. However, all of them were wounded.

The deathsworn soldiers even farther out looked in their direction with faces full of horror. There were so many people from King Qi Manor, yet over half of them had instantly been killed by a single person!

“Fuck yeah! Get them, Sir Zu!” Liu Xian cheered weakly from nearby.

He had three arrows in his back, and there was half of a blade stuck in his shoulder. There was a long gash across his stomach, and even his internal organs were about to spill out. Only by holding his stomach with a single hand could he keep them in place. It was clear that he was already at the end of his rope.

His cultivation hadn’t been that high to begin with. Even igniting his blood essence had only brought him to the peak of the sixth rank. There were quite a few individuals from King Qi Manor who were also at his level. Together with their numbers, even though the Liu clan’s warriors had frantically tried to protect him, his wounds had only grown more and more numerous.

Eventually, one after another, the Liu clan’s warriors had fallen. His eyes were completely bloodshot from slaughter as well. Even though they had killed many enemies as well, his wounds were growing more and more serious.

The Eastern Palace’s side had been at an absolute disadvantage to begin with. After a bitter battle, they were almost completely wiped out. Only he and a few other warriors were left.

When he saw more and more enemies close in, he had prepared to close his eyes. However, Zu An had descended like a war deity, erasing over half of King Qi’s deathsworn soldiers. The enemy had killed far too many of their warriors, so they felt as if some of their resentment had been released after seeing the enemy slaughtered.

However, after the resentment left, Liu Xian could no longer hold on and fell to the ground.

Zu An quickly ran over to support him. When he saw that Liu An's life force was already almost gone, he couldn't help but feel apologetic. "Sorry, I can't save you all."

He couldn't afford to be distracted when he had faced Wei Pingyang and He Li earlier. There were several times where he had almost lost his life. By the time he could rush over, there already weren't many from the Eastern Palace left.

"We resolved to give up our lives here to begin with. Why do we need you to save us?" Liu Xian chuckled. His usual greasy smile now seemed exceptionally courageous and carefree.

"Is there anything you want me to pass on?" Zu An asked gravely.

"Of course, there are so many things." Liu Xian's expression began to scatter, and his voice became quieter and quieter. "I know that everyone in the capital looks down on me, but I don't have the talent, so what can I do?"

"If you can leave this place alive, tell my father that I know he's been mocked these years because of me. However, at the very least, this time, he can stick out his chest proudly. His son isn't trash who only knows how to play with women!"

Zu An said seriously, "It won't just be your father. Everyone in the capital will know about this."

"Really?" A smile appeared on Liu Xian's face. "Right, I raised some concubines back home. Please help me secretly release them, or else the Liu clan might make them die together with me. I can't bring harm to them just because they decided to follow me."

"I don't want to die in a foreign land either... If there's a chance, please have the Liu clan's people come in and bring out my corpse. I don't want to be buried in the Liu clan's ancestral shrine either, or else I might piss off those ancestors."

"My death is a bit too pitiful; it's really going to tarnish my reputation as a handsome and confident man, so just burn me to ashes. Then, scatter my ashes across the river next to Heavenly Abode. Whenever those Heavenly Abode girls watch the river waters ripple, they'll know that I'm sending them my greetings."

"Sigh, I have so many regrets... I originally planned to subdue the academy's Lady Qi with my absolute charm once we left this dungeon..."

...

Liu Xian's voice grew softer and softer, eventually becoming silent. Even in death, his eyes were still wide open. He still had many cherished desires that he hadn't fulfilled yet.

Zu An gently helped him close his eyes. "Don't worry, I'll definitely help you complete all of these things."

"You won't even be able to survive yourself, yet you want to help another complete their wishes?" A figure stood back up while trembling, his body covered in bloody scars. There were only scraps left of his



clothes as well. He looked like a beggar. However, his eyes were still sharp. His injuries were clearly not as serious as they looked.

Wei Pingyang said hatefully, "I have to admit that you have some skill, brat. You actually pushed us this far. That attack just now was brilliant as well. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to kill me."

Zu An's heart sank. That had already pretty much been his most powerful attack, yet it still couldn't take out his opponent. As expected, you couldn't defeat someone at the master rank unless you were a master as well.

"Everyone still alive is to chase after the crown prince and princess! Leave this guy to me." Wei Pingyang ordered. The Eastern Palace's warriors had practically all been wiped out, but their own losses were similarly heavy.

They had faced these people with an overwhelming advantage, yet they had still lost over half of their men. He had no idea how he was going to explain this to King Qi later. The greatest casualties had been caused precisely by this fellow in front of him!

The other guardian He Li, who was at the peak of the ninth rank, had already woken up the ones who were controlled by Daji. At the same time, he had slaughtered the chaotic beasts. When he was done with that, he saw Zu An's sword energy that covered everything. He shivered in fear. If that attack had been targeted at me, then I might have already been dead. I think staying farther away from that monster is a good idea.

He didn't object at all when he heard Wei Pingyang's arrangements. He quickly led the remaining deathsworn soldiers in the direction Bi Linglong and the others had run toward...

The crown prince's escorts were all badly wounded. Catching up to them wasn't anything difficult.

Zu An also realized that. He wanted to stop them, but Wei Pingyang blocked his path, not giving him a chance at all.

If they caught up, then Liu Xian's sacrifice would have been completely meaningless. Zu An sighed, thinking he shouldn't have acted on impulse.

### **Chapter 833, (3): Hunter and Prey**

Even though Zu An thought that, his expression became progressively more firm. He raised his head toward He Li and the others and used his Fragrant Barf skill.

At that instant, all of them turned around to glare at Zu An in anger. They became so enraged it was as if Zu An had killed their family. All of them only had a single voice echoing in their heads exclaiming, Kill him! Kill him!

Even He Li, who had been quite scared just a moment ago, had all sorts of thoughts. That kid is already so strong at his age; what about when he grows up? We have to use this chance to nip this talent in the bud before he grows out of control.

After Zu An used the skill, he used Grandgale to run in the opposite direction from where Bi Linglong and the others had escaped. He wasn't stubbornly throwing his life away; rather, he had some confidence.

As long as he entered the mountain, he could use the terrifying beasts inside to deal with these people by using Jiang Luofu's map and the jade badge's skill.

Zu An ran for his life. Just as he was about to enter the forest, however, a flying sword attacked him, piercing straight through the middle of his back. His body trembled. Blood burst out from his chest. Then, he dropped powerlessly into the lake below.

Lu Xiao, who had been sitting still the entire time, slowly stood up. That flowing light returned to his side, returning to the form of an iron sword.

Wei Pingyang, He Li, and the others were shocked. Wei Pingyang asked, "Brother Lu, you've already recovered?"

Lu Xiao said coldly, "You had so many people on your side, but all of you were beaten up so badly by a junior. Wouldn't he have gotten away if I hadn't recovered earlier?"

He Li's face heated up. Wei Pingyang said with a smile, "Brother Lu is formidable after all. You originally needed an hour of time to recover from these injuries, yet you recovered in just over half an hour."

Lu Xiao smiled. "It's thanks to the medicine King Qi bestowed upon me back then. That was why I recovered faster than expected."

Wei Pingyang and He Li were both envious. "Brother Lu truly has received King Qi's favor."

Wei Pingyang cursed inwardly. Lu Xiao, you cunning bastard. You clearly could have recovered in just half an hour, yet you didn't tell me the truth and instead kept me in the dark. You probably did that on purpose, fearing that I might turn against you. I have to be more careful when dealing with you in the future.

He Li's eyes landed on the iron sword that revolved around Lu Xiao. "Brother Lu, wasn't your soulbound sword destroyed? I didn't expect you to have refined another iron sword so quickly. Your skills really are unfathomable!"

Lu Xiao gently stroked the sword, saying, "This sword was what I used in my earlier years. I planned to get rid of it, but it grew on me after I used it for so long, so I always kept it at my side. I didn't expect it to become so useful this time. I guess people should cherish memories after all."

It would have been hard for him to refine another sword to this level of proficiency so quickly. Furthermore, it would have been difficult to strike down Zu An at that moment.

"That little scoundrel indeed had some skill. He has such powerful cultivation at his age. We wouldn't have been his match even if all of us fought him together at his age," Wei Pingyang couldn't help but say with deep sentiment.

Lu Xiao remarked indifferently, "Has this world ever lacked stunning geniuses? But if they aren't allowed to grow up, even the greatest talent becomes meaningless."

He Li arrived by the lake. He saw that it was already dyed red with blood and asked, "Is that guy really dead?"

Wei Pingyang looked around as he said, "We haven't seen a corpse yet. I'll head down and take a look."

“What, you two doubt my judgment?” Lu Xiao harrumphed. “That sword of mine already crushed all of his meridians. Not even an asura or immortal can save him.”

When the others heard him speak, the Fragrant Barf that Zu An had used on them finally disappeared. The crazy killing intent they felt disappeared. They were even confused themselves, not knowing why they had suddenly acted like that.

Wei Pingyang laughed in embarrassment. “Of course not; it’s not that I doubt Brother Lu. But this matter is related to King Qi’s future. We absolutely can’t let anyone live to tell of what happened here. It’s best if we check and confirm it.”

“There’s no need for you to threaten me with the king. Don’t think I don’t know what you’re thinking.” Lu Xiao harrumphed. “You merely want that kid’s dagger and want to use this chance to snag it.”

Wei Pingyang’s expression changed. Are you going to fight me over it?

He was just about to say something when Lu Xiao said, “The most important mission this time is to capture the crown prince and princess. They’ve already escaped, so we should be chasing after them. As for everything else, you can just come back for it once you complete the mission.”

“What Brother Lu says is correct.” Wei Pingyang couldn’t say anything since Lu Xiao had already said such a thing. The most important part was that Lu Xiao’s cultivation was higher than his, so he could only agree.

He thought to himself, It’d better not be because this guy also wants that dagger. He had to keep an eye on Lu Xiao to make sure he didn’t secretly come back and steal away that treasure.

Then, Lu Xiao took the lead to run in the direction Bi Linglong and the others had disappeared into. Wei Pingyang and He Li followed close behind. Trailing behind them were the rest of King Qi Manor’s experts.

Soon afterward, they arrived at a fork in the road. After King Qi Manor’s deathsworn soldiers looked around, they came back and reported, “They split up into two groups and ran in different directions.”

“Brother Lu, what do we do?” Wei Pingyang asked.

Lu Xiao harrumphed. “It’s just a small trick of that girl Bi Linglong; they just want us to split up. Unfortunately, they only have so many people, and we have a huge advantage in both cultivation rank and numbers. So what if they split up? You two go to the left; I’ll be in charge of the right. Don’t leave any of them alive.”

“Fine!” Their group also split up into two groups, one with Lu Xiao, and one with Wei Pingyang and He Li. As the pursuers, they all had confident smiles on their faces. After all, victory was within their sight. Once they got rid of the crown prince and princess, King Qi’s rise would be practically guaranteed. Wouldn’t they be the right hand men of the very emperor then? Being granted dukedoms wasn’t out of the question. They could establish clans and legacies of their own!

But their moods soon turned sour, because both sides quickly discovered that there was another fork in the road. Those people had split up again.

“She really is a crafty woman!” Both Lu Xiao and Wei Pingyang cursed inwardly. Only Bi Linglong could have thought of something like this.

“Hmph, it’s all useless!” He Li exclaimed with a laugh to boost his men’s morale. They had the absolute advantage. If their target split up, then they obviously could as well. They still had the advantage no matter how they split up.

Just like that, there were several more forks in the road. Even Wei Pingyang and He Li separated from each other. Wei Pingyang had been thinking about Zu An’s pitch-black dagger the entire time, that dagger that had made him feel the fear of death.

Lu Xiao, that bastard, he won’t use this chance to secretly seize that dagger, right? Otherwise, why would he have stopped me from jumping into the water?

Hmph, that fella has always been on his guard towards me, worried that I’ll surpass him in cultivation and affect his position. King Qi even gave him a life saving medicine, but didn’t give me anything! It’s only because he’s the first guardian. I need to take his place.

All kinds of thoughts rushed through his head. He found it harder and harder to hold himself back. As such, he chose a moment when he was apart from his subordinates to head back the way they had come

Flight was possible once one reached the master rank. As such, he just flew back and quickly arrived at the previous battlefield. The bloody scene had drawn many beasts, but they didn’t pose a threat at all to a master rank like him.

Then, he arrived at the lake and jumped into the water where Zu An had fallen. As a master rank cultivator, his mastery over the power of the world wasn’t something a normal cultivator could compare to. A trifling lake obviously wouldn’t stop him. He didn’t even need to create a protective formation around him; he could just use ki to communicate with the water element, allowing him to breathe underwater.

He swam deeper and deeper. The world around him also grew darker and darker. But this didn’t affect him too much. He released his divine senses to scan the surroundings and didn’t need to use his eyes to see at all.

“Found you!” Wei Pingyang exclaimed joyfully. Then, he quickly dove down, rushing toward his target.

Soon, he ‘saw’ the submerged Zu An. His skin was as pale as a corpse, and there was a huge hole in front of his chest left behind by Lu Xiao’s flying sword. He had already stopped breathing, but Wei Pingyang didn’t find that strange. It had already been some time, so all of the blood had probably already left his body.

He didn’t waste any time. He reached his hand into Zu An’s clothes and groped around, trying to find that mysterious black dagger.

“Huh? Is this guy a donkey?” Wei Pingyang felt a huge explosion go off in his head when he touched something. He remembered the Soulspeak ability this brat had used that made his pants fall, exposing him in front of everyone. It was as if he could sense the ridicule in the eyes of his subordinates the entire time along the way. He really was incredibly embarrassed when he thought of that.

The moment he was distracted, the 'corpse' suddenly moved, wrapping tightly around him like an octopus.

"This guy hasn't died yet?!" Wei Pingyang was horrified. But how was that possible? That was Lu Xiao's full powered attack, something not even he would be able to take! Why had this young brat been able to withstand it?!

But it didn't matter. He'd just finish the job here. He began to gather strength to kill Zu An. However, as soon as his strength gathered, it was as if it were sucked dry by a powerful force.

"What the hell?" Wei Pingyang was baffled. In that instant, he felt as if every inch of the person wrapped around him was like a black hole that continued to suck at everything he had. It was as if a dam had burst, as the ki within him instantly rushed out.

"Noooo!" Wei Pingyang's expression was no longer as calm as before, and he struggled frantically.

### **Chapter 834, (1): Emperor's Trump Card**

Unfortunately, Wei Pingyang's yelling didn't do anything. Instead, it only made Zu An more excited.

Wei Pingyang finally realized what was happening. He asked in a trembling voice, "Zu An, you didn't die?"

Zu An sneered. "How could I afford to die when you're not dead yet?"

"Impossible!" Wei Pingyang's entire body shook in fear and shock. "You shouldn't be alive after having your meridians destroyed by Lu Xiao's flying sword!"

Forget about Zu An, not even the emperor or King Qi would be able to live if they let go of their defense and just let Lu Xiao's sword strike them.

Zu An sighed. "Just because you had a life saving treasure, did you think I didn't have one?"

He recalled how before he had entered this dungeon, Jiang Luofu had brought him to see Xie Daoyun in the academy's rear mountain. Back then, Xie Daoyun had given him a Last Breath Talisman.

The talisman would block twenty percent of the damage when the user suffered a lethal attack. As for whether or not one could survive after blocking that twenty percent, that would depend on one's luck. That was why it was called a Last Breath Talisman.

Fortunately, Zu An's body was incredibly tough because of the Primordial Origin Sutra. After the damage was negated, the sword couldn't fully destroy his heart. Even so, if someone had dove into the water to check his corpse, he would still have been dead. But thanks to Lu Xiao's sense of urgency toward the crown prince and princess, his pursuers had left, giving him some time to catch his breath.

Furthermore, cultivators above the seventh rank naturally had powerful regeneration abilities; it was just that his current injuries were at a level that would need the better half of a year to heal from. However, the Primordial Origin Sutra's healing ability was far greater than that of an ordinary cultivator, allowing him to recover seventy to eighty percent in a short amount of time. At the very least, he could fight again.

Wei Pingyang never could have predicted this. While his guard was down, he ended up being trapped by Zu An's Heaven Devouring Sutra. When he heard what Zu An said, he felt despair. He knew he could no longer struggle free when he saw his own arms gradually shrivel up. However, a decisive look flashed through his eyes.

"Damn brat, even if I die, I won't let you take advantage of me!" he exclaimed, using all of his remaining strength to destroy his blood vessels.

He was a master rank cultivator after all, an outstanding genius himself. He naturally knew some special methods. Furthermore, Zu An was seriously injured right now, so he couldn't control the Heaven Devouring Sutra as well as he normally could. As such, Wei Pingyang successfully ended his own life.

Zu An let him go, a bit of admiration appearing in his eyes as he remarked, "He was a surprisingly decisive person."

Back then, it was precisely because Mosquito Daoist had had a strong desire to live that she'd ended up not only failing to survive, but also donating all of her cultivation to Zu An.

Zu An had Blue Mallard, which allowed him to be underwater for as long as he wanted, so he wasn't in a rush to leave the water at all. Instead, he inspected his own state first. His ki was abundant. Even though the wound in his chest still remained, he was starting to recover. His fighting strength was already back in peak form.

After Zu An checked himself, he discovered that eight of his ninth rank formations were already lit up. He was now only missing one last formation. He cried out pitifully. He had sucked out roughly half of Wei Pingyang's cultivation; if he had sucked it completely dry, he might have already broken into the master rank.

"What the hell are you thinking?" Mi Li harrumphed. "Do you think it's that easy to break through from the ninth rank into the master rank? It's not something you can reach purely through accumulating ki."

Zu An chuckled in embarrassment. "I was just kidding. By the way, why do I feel like the effects of absorbing other people are much worse than when I absorbed Old Mi's cultivation?"

"But of course." Mi Li explained, "Old Mi thought he could swallow you up, which was why he willingly poured his cultivation into you. Furthermore, he cultivated the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra as well, so his ki came from the same source as yours. It's a no-brainer that the effects would be better than the Heaven Devouring Sutra."

"So that was it." Zu An nodded as he rushed out past the water's surface. A whirlpool surged around him, and then he shot into the sky. He felt the ki inside of him rage. When he moved his arms, the water around him produced massive waves.

As he adjusted the energies inside of him, Zu An looked at his palm and happily said, "I feel like I can now win even if I fight against a master rank."

"Don't get overconfident." Mi Li rolled her eyes. "You only have a chance now, and you won't be as sorry as before. It wouldn't be too bad if you fought someone who just reached the master rank, but if you fought veteran master rank cultivators, you would have a much greater chance of losing than winning."

“Haha, that’s already enough,” Zu An said with a chuckle.

Mi Li didn’t retort against him. This guy was always winning from a disadvantageous position. He had managed to claw his way out of impossible situations time and time again. His real fighting abilities were indeed exceptional.

When she saw him look in the direction Bi Linglong and the others had left toward, she couldn’t help but ask, “You’re still going?”

Zu An nodded. “We’ve already made it this far. How can I give up now?”

Mi Li was starting to get a bit worried. “You’ve already gone far enough for that woman; you even almost threw your life away! Is that not enough yet? Even though your cultivation has risen a bit, Lu Xiao is a cultivator at the mid stage of the master rank. You can’t win against him!”

It wasn’t impossible for some geniuses to defeat opponents who were higher ranked than them, but the further they went, the greater the gaps in each stage in cultivation became, let alone entire cultivation ranks. Skipping cultivation ranks and winning was practically impossible.

Only a monster like Zu An with all sorts of ridiculous abilities could barely do it, but there was still a limit to that. The mid stage master rank Lu Xiao had already exceeded this limit.

Zu An looked at Mi Li and asked, “Tell me honestly. What are my odds of winning against Lu Xiao?”

Mi Li replied, “Twenty percent, thirty at most. That’s as much credit as I can give you.”

Zu An smiled. “That’s already enough. If we fight to the death, he’ll definitely be the one to die.”

Mi Li wanted to say something, but when she thought back to how this kid had dared to fight her when he was just around the fifth rank, she felt admiration. “As expected of the one I’ve taken a fancy to.”

When she had that thought, she didn’t try to dissuade him anymore and instead said, “Whatever. If you want to go, then just go. You have a heart that doesn’t fear a challenge. Even though this might very well cause you to die prematurely, if you’re allowed to grow up, then your future is limitless.”

Zu An said with a chuckle, “A rare instance of praise, I see.”

Mi Li rolled her eyes. “If you keep talking, that princess of yours might already be dead.”

Zu An didn’t want to waste any more time, so he quickly rushed into the mountains. With his current cultivation, he had also become capable of extended flight. He didn’t need to waste Grandgale’s skill to move quickly.

However, he quickly reached a fork in the road. He immediately understood that this was one of Bi Linglong’s tactics. While he was feeling a headache trying to decide which direction he should rush toward, he detected sudden waves of ki explosions in the forest.

“Lu Xiao?” Zu An exclaimed. He couldn’t be more familiar with the aura of the sword that had penetrated his chest. As such, he quickly rushed in that direction. As he drew near, he dropped from the sky and re-equipped the spice bag he had gotten from Concubine Bai. At the same time, he used Mirror Mirage to hide his own aura.

Even though he wasn't scared of his opponent, he would be an idiot to charge at this guy head-on. The world of cultivators was incredibly harsh. Anyone who insisted on fighting like that wouldn't live long.

If he wanted to win against someone stronger than him, he had to use strategy. As such, he quietly approached, planning to catch Lu Xiao unprepared and deliver him a surprise. He wanted to decide this battle as quickly as possible, because a prolonged battle would only be beneficial to the mid stage master rank Lu Xiao.

...

Meanwhile, several dozen zhang out, Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun weren't doing well at all. They were covered in wounds, and only by leaning against their swords could they even barely stand upright. The other Eastern Palace guards had practically all collapsed on the ground, either already dead or close to it.

They stared at the man floating in the air. Even though one of his arms was missing, his aura was incredibly powerful. He looked at them as if he were a deity looking at ants.

"You all think you're smart, but with a pig like Zhao Ruizhi, your footprints became a bit deeper than those of the others. As soon as I focused on that fact, I was easily able to find you," Lu Xiao said with a smile, his tone relaxed and carefree. Seeing this mission that had been in the works for several years on the verge of completion put him in an exceptionally good mood.

"Outrageous! You dare treat the crown prince with disrespect?!" Piao Duandiao roared angrily.

"Look at the situation you're in. You're all still treating him like a crown prince?" Lu Xiao brushed the dust off of his clothes. He had been seriously wounded by Bi Linglong's sword earlier, so he had already changed into a new set of clothes. "I have to admit that you all have quite the strong wills. You were actually able to hold on until now. However, everything ends here."

As Lu Xiao's voice lowered, an invisible wave of energy surged, smashing into the two guards. Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun flew away like kites with their strings cut. They smashed into a tree nearby, blood gushing out of their mouths. Then, they collapsed onto the ground and no longer moved.

### **Chapter 834, (2): Emperor's Trump Card**

Zu An just happened to arrive at that moment. His gaze immediately turned cold, but he didn't act rashly and instead continued to remain hidden, waiting for the best opportunity to strike.

Mi Li nodded as she watched him. This kid was growing up. He was clearly furious, yet he didn't act impulsively.

Lu Xiao dropped from the sky and looked at the fat crown prince. "Hm? You're actually not that scared even in this situation? You really are an idiot after all."

"Why do I have to be scared?" The crown prince looked at him with a strange expression.

Zu An was shocked as he remained in hiding. His attention had originally been completely focused on Lu Xiao in order to find a chance to take him down, but now, he couldn't help but take a look at the crown prince. It was the same face; however, it seemed extremely unfamiliar. He didn't know if it was because the crown prince's usual stupid smile was no longer there.



Lu Xiao also frowned, having sensed the same strangeness. "Because you're about to die... Sigh, I actually have to explain this to an idiot."

Seeing Lu Xiao's annoyance, the crown prince replied, "Do you think you're really smart then?"

"At least smarter than you," Lu Xiao subconsciously replied. Then, he frowned. "Do you understand your situation? Stop trying to show off already. Do you really think that you have any qualities of an emperor?"

The crown prince sighed. "Zhao Jing's subordinates are getting more and more out of hand."

Zu An felt a chill run down his back. He didn't know exactly why either, but all of his fine hairs were standing on end.

Mi Li's voice said in his head, "Be careful, something isn't right with this crown prince." Her tone was extremely serious, as if she had also noticed something.

"You scoundrel, you dare utter King Qi's taboo name?" Lu Xiao exclaimed. However, he suddenly frowned and stared at the crown prince halfway through his sentence, asking, "You aren't an idiot?"

The crown prince laughed. "Who said I was an idiot?"

Zu An felt his mind explode when he heard what the crown prince said and saw how he was speaking. He had thought that he was surrounded by old foxes in the capital; he hadn't expected the trickiest one to have been right next to him! Wait, if he isn't a fool, doesn't that mean that everything he did with Bi Linglong...

Lu Xiao was also quite shocked. "Wow, I never expected this! You actually fooled everyone in the capital for so long."

The crown prince didn't reply, and only continued to stare at him indifferently.

Lu Xiao really didn't like being looked at that way. He should be the one looking at others as if they were ants, not the one being looked at that way. "Damn fatty, you've hidden it quite well all this time, huh? You even tricked King Qi. However, it's all meaningless. You'll still die here."

"Are you sure I'll die?" A mocking smile appeared on the fatty's face. His smile would normally have only seemed comical, but now, it instead caused a strange sense of fear.

Lu Xiao didn't know why he was getting scared. He quickly suppressed his emotions and looked at the other party. "Crown prince, you've really hidden this well. But it's still meaningless! You're still too young. Even if you cultivated ever since you were born, what level could you reach? Do you think everyone's a monster like Zu An?!"

Zu An cursed inwardly. If you're going to talk, then just talk; why the hell are you dragging me in too? Right now, every single one of his cells was on alert. He really wanted to teach Lu Xiao a lesson, but he didn't dare to make any moves and instead focused on hiding his aura.

"Zu An?" the crown prince muttered to himself. "That fella is indeed a bit strange."

Lu Xiao frowned. He just felt that something wasn't right, yet he couldn't really put his finger on it. However, he quickly calmed down again. He was a powerful expert at the mid stage of the master rank. Even in the capital where powerful cultivators were everywhere, he was still among the very best. Why was he being scared by a damn fatty here?

He snorted. "I don't feel like wasting any time on you anymore. Once I kill you, I'm going to go after the crown princess and the others."

As he spoke, he kicked outward. A blade that had landed on the ground next to the guards shot out like a cannonball. It had enough power to blast apart every blood vessel in the crown prince's body, then nail his corpse to the tree. Lu Xiao then planned to lure vicious beasts over to devour the crown prince's entire corpse until there wasn't even a single bone left. This way, the emperor wouldn't find a single trace even if he sent people inside to investigate later.

The crown prince didn't evade at all; he didn't even move. Lu Xiao initially thought that he had been scared stiff. But his smile quickly froze, because the blade suddenly stopped cold, floating three feet in front of the crown prince.

Lu Xiao subconsciously took a step back, exclaiming, "What's your real cultivation?!" He couldn't even sense how the other party had neutralized his ferocious attack.

The fatty had a strange smile on his face. "It's already been many years since anyone dared to attack me. This kind of feeling really brings back memories."

Lu Xiao's expression changed as his entire body went on high alert. As a mid stage master rank, he was capable of anticipating danger ahead of time. He didn't hesitate at all and rushed into the sky. The only thing in his mind right now was to fly as fast as he could, the faster, the better. He had to get out of here.

But as soon as he began his ascent, he suddenly felt lighter. Then, he lost his center of gravity and crashed into the ground. He lowered his head and discovered that his legs had been cut off at the knees. Just then, intense pain finally spread through his body. He screamed in pain as he clutched his legs, rolling on the ground in agony. The cocky and arrogant Lu Xiao from just a moment before was nowhere to be seen.

Zu An felt a chill run down his back. He stared at the ordinary guard's blade in front of the crown prince. It was actually still three feet in front of him, as if it had never moved. However, the drop of blood that slowly trickled down the blade declared that it was precisely that blade that had cleaved through Lu Xiao's legs.

It's over just like that? Zu An was horrified. He hadn't seen how the blade attacked either. If that blade had been aimed at him, he probably wouldn't have been able to evade it either.

"Who exactly are you?" Lu Xiao stared at the distant crown prince in horror. The laughable fatty had now become utterly terrifying.

"Who do you think I am?" The crown prince cracked a grin.

Lu Xiao gritted his teeth. He formed a sword seal with his hand, and the iron sword he had used in his younger years appeared next to him. He was a mid stage master rank cultivator, after all. Even though his legs were crippled, he could control a flying sword without them.

The iron sword screamed as Lu Xiao pointed at the crown prince, exclaiming, "Swiftly!"

The flying sword transformed into a comet, moving twice as quickly as Wei Pingyang's sword! This was Lu Xiao's most powerful attack, his pride, the accumulation of a lifetime of cultivation. Whether he won or lost would depend on this attack.

The crown prince finally made his move. He slowly raised his hand. His fingers clearly appeared to move slowly in Lu Xiao and Zu An's eyes, yet they moved faster than the flying sword. His two chubby fingers clamped down on that lightning-fast flying sword.

"What?!" Lu Xiao exclaimed.

Zu An and Lu Xiao's eyes were about to pop out of their sockets. This was a scene neither of them had expected.

Lu Xiao's entire body trembled as he sensed the threat of death. He struggled to maintain his sword technique, trying to regain control over the flying sword. If a normal person had tried to clamp down on the flying sword like this, or even an ordinary master rank cultivator, he could just spur on the flying sword and slice those fingers to pieces. Under his control, the flying sword vibrated with noise, struggling intensely as it tried to free itself from the crown prince's fingers.

The crown prince gave it a look, and his fingers crossed. The flying sword broke apart inch by inch, and then turned to dust in the wind!

"Pfft!" Blood spurted out of Lu Xiao's mouth. His expression instantly became haggard, his hair turning gray.

Not only had the flying sword been smashed; the attack also continued to crush his soul! This was only something a grandmaster could do! No, not even a grandmaster could do something like this so easily.

He thought about the aura he had felt, and finally realized something. He looked at the fatty in horror, saying hoarsely, "Your majesty, it was actually your majesty..."

### **Chapter 835: Discovered**

A look of mockery flashed through the crown prince's eyes. "You only realized that now? Isn't it a bit too late?"

With that acknowledgement, forget about Lu Xiao, even Zu An was incredibly shocked as he remained in hiding. Even though he'd had similar suspicions, he still found it a bit hard to believe until everything became clear.

Zu An had actually always felt that something was strange. The emperor had arranged for him to protect their party from the dark. Putting aside whether he even stood a chance against King Qi Manor's people, even if he did, why would the emperor trust him so much?

When he had entered the dungeon and seen King Qi's various schemes, he'd felt both admiration for King Qi and contempt for the emperor. He'd felt that the reason why the emperor couldn't win against King Qi all these years was because his level of scheming was far inferior. But he was now the one who truly looked like a clown!

Even so, why was the crown prince the emperor? Zu An really couldn't associate that stupid fatty with this powerful and dignified crown prince.

Lu Xiao was also confused. He cried out, "Impossible... Impossible! How can you be the emperor?!"

The crown prince looked at him with a sneer, seemingly having no intention of explaining.

Lu Xiao suddenly realized something. "I know what's going on! You used a possession technique! You had Mi Lianying look for the method of immortality. He failed several times, but then later on, he brought back a possession technique. He was even punished for that, but you actually ended up secretly practicing that possession technique!"

Possession? Zu An shivered. He was too familiar with this process. Old Mi had wanted to take over his body too. Judging from what Lu Xiao was saying, the reason why Old Mi had known this possession technique was because he had searched for it in the emperor's name!

Lu Xiao continued, "Back then, the crown prince wasn't stupid. But after experiencing a great illness, he suddenly became slow-witted. Everyone in the capital thought it was because of King Qi, and they were baffled by his actions, but we know it wasn't because of King Qi. Now if I connect the dots, it's clear that you used the possession technique on the crown prince back then and ended up wounding his soul! That was why he became slower than an ordinary person."

A look of praise appeared in the crown prince's eyes. "You're quite sharp. No wonder you were able to become Zhao Jing's first guardian. Unfortunately, you realized this too late and joined the wrong camp."

Lu Xiao laughed bitterly. "Being able to receive your majesty's praise has made this humble Lu's life worth living anyway. But there is something I don't understand. Since you've already possessed him, why can your majesty and the crown prince both coexist?"

The crown prince's expression eased a bit when he heard Lu Xiao's praise. His mood was clearly quite good. "This emperor can help clear up your confusion, but you need to reply to some key questions about King Qi first."

Lu Xiao hesitated, but he still nodded in the end and said, "Please ask, your majesty."

He already realized that King Qi was doomed to be finished after learning that the crown prince was the emperor. Whether or not he spoke wouldn't change that reality, so he might as well die knowing the truth.

"Did the libationer take part in this secret dungeon's affairs?" The crown prince's gaze became incredibly penetrating. He had originally trusted the libationer, but King Qi had brought in so many people. There was no way the academy was completely uninvolved here.

Lu Xiao shook his head. "If the libationer had been willing to work with King Qi, why would King Qi even need to use all of these schemes?"

“Three years ago, when the academy dungeon was opened, the one in charge of the dungeon entrance was Sir Eleven, Yin Shi.” Even though he didn’t speak in too much detail, it was already enough.

“Yin Shi!” The crown prince was speechless, clearly already having decided on that person’s death penalty.

Zu An sighed inwardly. He had actually been quite worried when he first heard that the academy might be related to this matter. Jiang Luofu, Qi Yaoguang, and the others were all teachers from the rear mountain. Furthermore, the Jiang clan was part of King Qi’s faction, so he was worried that it might have been Jiang Luofu who was responsible. If that had been the case, then even he had no idea how he would have saved her.

Even if it weren’t Jiang Luofu, but rather the seniors Wang Shuyang or Hei Baizi, he would also be troubled. These individuals had treated him well. Thankfully, it was that annoying debater Yin Shi.

Zu An knew that his thoughts just then weren’t all that good, but what could he do in such a situation?

“Apart from sending you all in, does Zhao Jing have any other schemes this time?” the crown prince asked...

Lu Xiao shook his head. “There are no more. With our strength, we thought it would already be more than enough to wipe out the crown prince’s party. We actually had some criticism of this plan at first, thinking that any random guardian would’ve been enough for this mission, but the king insisted on this plan. Later on, only when we encountered that Zu An did I feel admiration for King Qi’s foresight. But even with all of his planning, he still never expected to fall into your majesty’s trap in the end.”

Zu An’s face was ashen. The emperor had always been in their party, yet he had just watched as the people protecting him sacrificed themselves one after another, never making a single move. Even though it hadn’t been explained clearly, he could understand the emperor’s schemes quite well.

The first point was that the emperor absolutely couldn’t reveal the fact that the crown prince’s body was possessed, and the second was that King Qi had always had an honorable reputation, someone held in high esteem all throughout the court. The emperor had to have ironclad proof to accuse him. Now, he had slaughtered these young masters and publicly schemed against the crown prince and princess. Once news of this got out, all of King Qi’s prestige and reputation would be completely destroyed. Once that happened, no one would help him.

This really was the plan of a mastermind!

Those young masters who had heroically sacrificed themselves before death had no idea that the target of their protection had actually wished for them to die as miserably as possible. Just how ironic was that?

The crown prince asked Lu Xiao a few more questions, and Lu Xiao answered them all one by one. Then, he asked timidly, “Your highness, I’ve already told you everything you wanted to know. Can you help me ease my confusion now?”

The crown prince sneered when he saw Lu Xiao’s expectant and fearful expression. “You don’t need to worry; why would this emperor do something like going back on my promises?”

Zu An laughed inwardly when he heard these words. Hah! Who knows how many people you've fooled with those words?

The crown prince slowly said, "Back then, this emperor had Mi Lianying lead a group in search of a method for immortality. After decades of searching, he finally found a possession technique. At first, I wasn't too happy, but Mi Lianying was never able to find the method for immortality. My time was coming as well, so I had no choice but to look into this possession technique.

"Possession goes against the natural course of this world, and the chances of success are low. There are only two ways to increase the chances of success. One is to cultivate the same cultivation technique, and the other is to be related by blood. That's why Ruizhi was the best candidate." The crown prince had a reminiscent expression on his face. "But Zhao Jing has always been watching carefully, so I had to keep him in check. I couldn't carry out the possession too early, yet I didn't dare put it off as a final hope. After all, if it failed, everything would be over. I thought of a perfect solution for that, which was to first send in a bit of my soul into Ruizhi's body.

"People have three immortal souls and seven mortal forms. The seven mortal forms represent happiness, anger, grief, fear, love, hatred, and desire. The three immortal souls are the heaven, earth, and fate souls.

"The results of the experiment went well. One portion of my soul successfully entered Ruizhi's body, replacing his fate soul. However, there's no way I can constantly control his body, so I remain in hiding most of the time. The fate soul is in charge of thought and intelligence. The reason why he normally looks so slow is because that part was damaged.

"I knew there would be some great scheme during the crown prince's exam, yet I couldn't figure out what it was. That was why I granted Linglong some energy and had her use it as protection at a crucial time. That way, once she used it, this portion of my soul would smoothly awaken. Once that happened, no matter what kind of schemes Zhao Jing had, I could easily deal with it."

Zu An was completely stupefied when he heard the explanation. This was a crafty old fox after all! What he had bestowed Bi Linglong wasn't some protection method, but rather an 'alarm' that would wake him up! Bi Linglong had been kept completely in the dark the entire time.

Lu Xiao sighed in praise. "Thank you, your majesty, for clearing up my confusion."

The crown prince stood with his hands behind his back, a satisfied smile on his face. "There's no need for you to thank me. It's just that I was never able to share my great plan with anyone all this time, which was quite the tragedy. Having someone listen to it is a sort of joy as well."

Lu Xiao's expression changed. He knew that he was already dead for sure now. Just as he was about to say something to see if he could change his fate, the other party raised his finger. A bloody hole instantly appeared between his brows, and he lost his life.

After killing Lu Xiao, the crown prince arrived at Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun's side. "Hm? They're actually not dead yet." He raised his hand after speaking, clearly about to silence them forever.

Zu An's heart couldn't help but pound as he watched. Right at that moment, the crown prince turned around to look in his direction, saying, "Show yourself."

## Chapter 836: Beyond Disrespect

Zu An felt all of his fine hairs stand on end when he saw the crown prince walk over.

However, the more dangerous the situation, the calmer he became. He didn't immediately rush out or move. He understood well that even if he had made great progress with his cultivation, even if he used Grandgale, he still wouldn't be able to escape. He saw something out of the corner of his eyes and couldn't help but become overjoyed, quickly using the jade badge to communicate with it.

The crown prince got closer and closer. But just then, a black figure suddenly jumped out of the underbrush. He casually reached out and the dark figure entered his hands, squealing as it struggled.

The crown prince's expression eased as he muttered, "It was just a Bright Fur Mouse." As he spoke, he twisted his hands, wringing the mouse's neck.

You have successfully trolled the Bright Fur Mouse for +1 +1 +1...

What the hell did I do to deserve this? thought the mouse.

The crown prince's aura swept around, then his eyes returned to Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun. He reached out his hand toward their heads, but then he stopped. He muttered to himself, "No, I have to leave two people alive as witnesses."

He confirmed that the two of them really had fainted. Then, he picked up one in each arm and rushed into the sky before disappearing.

Zu An was worried that the emperor might not be really gone yet, so he didn't dare to budge an inch. But a while later, he sighed in relief. "Thank goodness I was able to remain calm. Otherwise, I would've already been on my way to meet my maker."

"Heh." Mi Li sneered. "If not because I helped you hide your aura just now, do you think you really could've escaped his detection?"

Zu An was stunned. He couldn't help but smile and remark, "Big sis empress, so you do still love me after all."

Mi Li's expression immediately changed. "What did you say?"

Zu An explained, "It's just a common saying from my hometown. I'm saying that even though you're always talking about how you won't help me, you still won't remain indifferent when it counts."

Mi Li harrumphed. "I wasn't helping you, just saving myself. That was an enemy you had zero chance of winning against."

Zu An smiled. This woman really was tough on the outside, but soft on the inside.

But his focus quickly returned to the emperor. He said with a sigh, "I should've realized that something was off earlier. No wonder the emperor didn't seem to care that much about the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra. It was because he already had his own method of immortality. He even fooled me and said he was seeking some sort of immortality through historical fame. Call me naive and innocent, I actually trusted his damn words. How could an emperor like him possibly be satisfied with just leaving behind a name?"

Mi Li also nodded sympathetically. "This Zhao Han's shrewdness and grasp of politics has already reached the pinnacle of emperors. He would even have a chance against the first emperor Ying Zheng."

Even though Zu An sighed, he was also secretly glad. The emperor's soul must have been dormant most of the time, or else he might have known about the time Zu An had controlled the crown prince with the jade badge.

Huh? Wait... Zu An remembered Concubine Bai's warning. 'His majesty is more formidable than you imagine. He knows everything; it's just that he hasn't said anything yet.' Those words reappeared in his memory. He quickly asked Mi Li, "Do you think the emperor already knew about these things?"

Mi Li shook her head. "The price of awakening his possession each time would be huge. The crown prince wasn't in any danger back then, so I don't think controlling the crown prince for a short time with the jade badge did anything."

Zu An sighed in relief. "That's good, that's good."

Mi Li sneered, "Aren't you feeling happy a bit too early? Even if the emperor doesn't know, he'll probably find out about everything that happened in the dungeon. You've displayed tremendous strength this time. You're growing too quickly. As an emperor, he definitely wouldn't let a variable like you continue to exist. I'm sure he'll suspect you and wonder why your cultivation speed is so fast, as well as whether the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra you gave him was real or fake."

Zu An wanted to curse just then. Why the hell had he worked himself like this? Wasn't it for that stupid crown prince? Yet he had ended up exposing himself because of that. What the heck was this?

"He should've seen how close you were with the crown princess all this time as well," Mi Li said, her tone seemingly indicating she was actually happy to see him in this situation.

Zu An froze up. He remembered how back then, when he had saved Bi Linglong, not only was the emperor not grateful, he had instead become angry just because he hugged Bi Linglong once. He had demanded that Zu An cut off one of his arms.

He'd thought that the emperor was just temperamental, but he now knew that the reason for the emperor's fury was because Bi Linglong was not only his daughter-in-law, but also the future wife he had arranged for himself. No wonder he had shown no interest in the fact that the crown princess was a virgin the entire time. That was probably a present he had kept wrapped for himself in the future.

Zu An had not only slept with the emperor's current wife; even his relationship with the emperor's future wife wasn't clear. This was already beyond disrespect!

Zu An asked with a sullen look, "Then what do I do now?"

Mi Li said, "What's inside the crown prince right now is a portion of the emperor's soul. Normally speaking, the two's thoughts should be connected, but we're inside the dungeon right now. The dungeon is a world of its own, so not even Zhao Han can communicate between his souls across worlds. That's why there's something you can try, which is to erase this part of his will in the dungeon. That way, the emperor won't know about what happened inside. With your wit, you should be able to survive this ordeal."



Zu An could only laugh in self-mockery when he heard this proposal. He was going to erase the emperor's soul in this dungeon? He couldn't even take two hits from the mid stage master ranked Lu Xiao!

"Sigh, I think it's better if I start thinking about how I'm going to run once I leave this dungeon." Zu An even began to think about where he was going to hide once he left. Brightmoon City was definitely unsuitable and would only bring danger to the Chu clan.

I guess there's no choice but to go to the fiend races' territory. I can pay Qiao Xueying a visit along the way.

Sigh... Goodbye, this lively capital; goodbye, my beauties...

Mi Li fell silent for a moment before saying, "Whatever; it would indeed be quite hard to eliminate that soul of his. But if you want to run, it'll be best if you leave the dungeon now. Otherwise, once the emperor finds you, it'll be too late for you to run then."

Zu An voiced his agreement and ran in the direction of the dungeon entrance. He was worried that he might be discovered by the emperor, so he didn't fly and instead moved stealthily

As for Bi Linglong, the emperor was here, so she should be fine. He'd find a chance to leave her a message and tell her the truth later. His thoughts were quite grave at the moment, so he couldn't be bothered to think about it too much.

Suddenly, a rumble erupted, causing birds to leave the distant forest. Many beasts ran for their lives. It was as if an earthquake had happened.

Zu An was stunned. "What's happening?"

"There's something strange about this dungeon." Mi Li hesitated for a moment and didn't say too much.

"But that shouldn't be the case! This is the Royal Academy's territory. This dungeon should be extremely stable!" Zu An exclaimed, confused.

Mi Li said, "Humans know too little about dungeons. All sorts of things can happen in these spatial cracks. I think it's best if we leave as quickly as possible."

"Okay." At that point, Zu An was in quite the predicament himself, so he couldn't be bothered to think about what was happening.

Zu An turned around to run toward the dungeon entrance, but a while later, he heard sounds of fighting ahead. His expression changed. "This is just too much to be a coincidence, right?" He decisively changed directions, planning to take a detour. He didn't dare to meddle in the fight.

Just then, however, a charming female voice screamed. Zu An suddenly froze.

Mi Li said mockingly, "The two of you really were brought together by fate."

The female voice was clearly Bi Linglong's. Judging from the sound of her scream, she was already in extreme danger at that moment.

Mi Li didn't try to dissuade Zu An from helping. After sticking around him for so long, she knew he wasn't that type of person. Even though she always mocked him for making such unwise decisions, if Zu An really had been the type of person who was willing to do anything to achieve his goals, she would instead dislike that more.

...

Meanwhile, Bi Linglong sat on the ground in despair as she looked at the three deathsworn soldiers that surrounded her.

Her plan had been successful, drawing away the troops that were chasing after her. She had been about to run away, but she had ended up being surrounded by several of King Qi Manor's deathsworn soldiers.

As they had split up, she no longer had any guards around her. Furthermore, after she had used her secret technique, she had been drained of strength. She wasn't a match for these three deathsworn soldiers.

When they saw Bi Linglong's fair white arm exposed through her torn sleeves, the deathsworn soldiers' eyes burned hotly.

One of them gulped and said, "Screw it, I've already been holding myself back for three years! There hasn't been a single woman here; my hand has even been getting calluses from all the rubbing! I have to enjoy myself today no matter what!"

One of the other soldiers had some misgivings. "She is the crown princess after all. This doesn't seem too good."

"Like hell I care if she's the crown princess! She's about to become a corpse anyway." The third person harrumphed. "We're going to kill her anyway, but if we kill her immediately, that'd be such a waste. We might as well have some fun first."

The second soldier felt a strange sense of desire when he heard those words. They were deathsworn soldiers without any future anyway. Furthermore, they had lived such desolate lives alongside beasts for three whole years. It was enough to turn any human into a wild beast.

"It's just a pity, her hair is a bit too white..."

"It's been three years already! I'll even fuck a pig, let alone this chick who was hot to begin with."

"Who's going first?"

Bi Linglong was embarrassed and furious as she listened to their filthy words. She had never expected to end up in this state. Unfortunately, her acupoints had been sealed, so she couldn't even commit suicide.

When she thought about how the purity she had protected for so long was going to be destroyed, she felt regret. If she had known it was going to be like this, she would have just given herself to Zu An.

King Qi Manor's experts had chased after them, so Zu An, who had been holding up the rear, was probably already dead. She felt great pain when she thought of that. She could no longer hold herself back, and pearl-like tears trickled down her cheeks.

## Chapter 837: I'm Toast

"Hmph, these girls usually act all high and mighty, but we'll be able to press one of them under us and do whatever we want! Heh, just the thought alone is about to make me go crazy."

"I still can't believe I'll actually get to play around with the crown princess in this life."

"Beautiful miss, big brother is coming! I'm pretty big, so you have to hold on, alright?"

The three deathsworn soldiers' eyes turned red when they saw the crown princess sitting there, weak and powerless. How could they still hold back? They charged over with a roar.

Bi Linglong tried to bite her own tongue to end her life, but her body was sealed and she couldn't move at all. She could only close her eyes in despair.

But the foul-bodied soldiers didn't pounce on her the way she had expected. She sensed a gust of wind around her, and the screams of several men followed. She quickly opened her eyes. Those deathsworn soldiers lay collapsed on the ground, their eyes filled with horror. They were already dead.

A familiar figure stood behind them, saying with a sigh, "I guess you guys weren't that lucky, to have met me here after all."

Bi Linglong was happy and surprised to hear that familiar voice. She looked toward that person in disbelief. "Ah Zu!"

Zu An turned around and said with a smile, "How come you're always looking so haggard whenever I'm not at your side?" He walked over and undid her seals.

"Ah Zu!" Bi Linglong could no longer hold herself back. She jumped into his arms and sobbed.

There were just too many things that had happened today. She had lingered on the border of life and death several times. Just now, she had almost been defiled too. The worst part was that she'd thought Zu An had already died, yet he was standing alive and well in front of her. Even someone like her, who paid a lot of attention to her bearing, couldn't hold back all of the emotions she was feeling right now.

"It's fine; everything is over now." Zu An consoled Bi Linglong when he saw how she was shaking. At the same time, he quickly said, "We need to leave as soon as possible. This place is dangerous."

"What's dangerous?" came a voice from behind him.

Zu An felt all of his fine hairs stand on end when he heard the voice. He looked behind him stiffly, and saw that the fatty Zhao Ruizhi was nearby, watching the two of them. He no longer had that slow-witted smile, but rather stared at the two of them with sharp eyes.

I'm done for! Zu An cried out inwardly. Big sis empress, why didn't you warn me?

Mi Li harrumphed. "You wouldn't have been able to get away even if I warned you, so we might as well let nature run its course."

Zu An was speechless. Fuck nature running its course! His daughter-in-law and future wife is in my freaking arms right now! He was actually quite surprised that he could still joke around about that even in such a situation.

Bi Linglong also saw the crown prince. Her face turned red and she instinctively pushed Zu An away. "Ruizhi? so you were okay." Even though the crown prince was stupid, he was her husband. She couldn't help but feel a bit guilty embracing another man in front of him.

Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed in annoyance. "Were you hoping that something had happened to me?"

"Not at all!" Bi Linglong felt strangely guilty after having been seen by her husband, and didn't immediately react to the crown prince's strange behavior. "I remember that we ran in different directions, so why are you here alone? Where are Guard Piao and Guard Jiao?" She looked around while she spoke. Unfortunately, she didn't see any sign of them.

"You deliberately pushed me away because you wanted to meet him in private, hm?" Zhao Ruizhi remarked coldly.

You have successfully trolled Zhao Han for +222 +222 +222...

Zu An began to feel a bit numb when he saw these Rage points. All sorts of methods to save himself rushed through his mind, but no matter what he came up with, with their cultivation difference, he would still inevitably die.

But still, he wouldn't give up. He'd just fight a grand battle to the death if push came to shove. He had to find a way to survive.

"What did you say?!" Bi Linglong became a bit angry when she heard what the crown prince said. When had this fellow dared to speak like this to her? He didn't even dare to raise his voice normally. "I only just got here too, but then I was almost taken by those King Qi Manor deathsworn soldiers... But thankfully, Sir Zu saved me in time."

Zhao Ruizhi said indifferently, "You need to pay attention to your identity. You're the crown princess. You shouldn't express any closeness with another man, even if he saves you."

Bi Linglong was stunned and stared at him blankly. She finally realized that this crown prince seemed to be a bit different from usual.

"Why are you still not coming over here?" Zhao Ruizhi frowned. He was clearly unhappy to see that she had still been standing next to Zu An all this time.

Bi Linglong shivered. She seemed to have finally sensed the other party's prestige and pressure. This damn fatty is actually giving off a feeling of pressure?

She felt an extreme sense of absurdity. However, the other party's words made some sense. She was the crown princess, after all. Being too close to another subject in front of the crown prince was indeed inappropriate.

She walked towards the crown prince while feeling a bit guilty. At the same time, she sensed that something wasn't quite right and subconsciously spoke out in favor of Zu An. "Ruizhi, Sir Zu's contributions during this exam were extremely great. If not because he fought with his life on the line, we would have already died several times. He saved us many times, so we should be thanking him and not treating him coldly over such minor details."

"Are you teaching me how to do things?" Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed. "He saved me? What a joke!"

Bi Linglong stopped. Her brows furrowed deeply as she asked, "Ruizhi, what is wrong with you today?"

Normally, even though she was full of complaints toward him, she had already gotten used to dealing with the slow crown prince after being around him all these years. Sometimes, she even found his foolishness a bit cute. But now, his usual foolishness was nowhere to be seen. She had actually hoped that the crown prince could one day look like this, yet when the day really came, she felt a mix of estrangement and fear instead.

Zhao Ruizhi didn't pay her any attention and looked at Zu An, asking, "Were you hiding nearby before?"

Zu An shivered. But worrying that the other party might be trying to trap him, he replied with a smile, "Crown prince, what are you saying? I really don't understand you."

"Look at how sharp you are." Zhao Ruizhi smirked mockingly. "It's a pity, however; your spice bag gave you away. I smelled it back then, but I didn't react quickly enough. It's quite strange, actually. How did you avoid my detection?"

Zu An knew that he really had been exposed now. He said, "Sigh, if I really were smart, I wouldn't have been fooled by you."

Bi Linglong was extremely confused. She couldn't help but ask, "What are you two saying? We should use this chance to leave as quickly as possible, or else King Qi Manor's men will catch up!"

"We should?" Zhao Ruizhi sneered. "The 'we' you're speaking of refers to you and Zu An, right? My appearance seems unnecessary to you."

Bi Linglong frowned. "What are you saying? Sir Zu saved us, so what's wrong with me treating him a bit better? Besides, we still need him to protect us."

"Silence, you whore!" Zhao Ruizhi's expression suddenly became sinister. "Don't think that I don't know what you're thinking inside! Day after day, you stick around him like a lover. You don't see me as your husband at all!"

"What kind of nonsense are you saying? Sir Zu and I are both innocent! You can't slander us like this!" Bi Linglong became angry as well.

"Innocent?" Zhao Ruizhi roared with laughter. "Who were the ones who were completely naked together back then? Later on, who were the ones who kept meeting in private in the Eastern Palace? When Zu An fell into the water with that serpent, who was the one that jumped in after him? You dare claim you're innocent?"

Bi Linglong's face paled. "The events in the palace have already been cleared up by his majesty and the libationer; don't listen to those rumors. As for everything else, that's even more baseless. I didn't jump in to save him, but rather to complete this mission..."

But she suddenly realized something halfway through her sentence. She looked at him in shock, saying, "You aren't Ruizhi. Who exactly are you?"

## **Chapter 838: My Luck Is Just Too Good**

Zu An said with a bitter smile, "Crown princess, you're normally pretty smart. Why did you only realize this now?"

"What's going on?" Bi Linglong was full of shock. She instinctively backed up away from Zhao Ruizhi, instead feeling safer by Zu An's side.

Zu An sighed. "He isn't the crown prince, but rather his majesty. Uh... I shouldn't call him his majesty, because his majesty is also the crown prince."

Bi Linglong was stupefied. "What... do you mean?"

Zu An stared at Zhao Ruizhi, on guard against a sudden attack, while quickly explaining, "For the sake of pursuing immortality, he used a possession technique on the crown prince when he was little, sending a portion of his own soul into the crown prince's body to replace his fate soul. This soul portion usually stays asleep. The crown prince is stupid because he lacks his fate soul. However, when needed, the emperor's fate soul can awaken at any time."

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes narrowed. "You know everything, as expected. Looks like I can't keep you alive."

Zu An chuckled. "You make it sound like you were planning to spare me in the first place."

"You're his majesty?" Bi Linglong looked at Zhao Ruizhi in shock. Her husband had suddenly become her father-in-law, her father-in-law had become her husband... She remained in a daze for a long time. But she had always been smart. After putting together all of the things she had heard in the palace for years, she quickly understood the emperor's plans.

"You whore, your heart already belongs to him." Zhao Ruizhi watched as the two of them got closer and closer to each other. "You didn't come to your husband's side in a moment of danger, and instead instinctively moved closer to another man. I've given you a chance, but unfortunately, you didn't cherish it."

Bi Linglong's face paled. The killing intent in the other party's voice was clear.

Zu An remarked, "Can you please stop flattering yourself? You never planned to allow anyone to leave this place alive."

Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed. "A slave like you surprisingly understands me well. You were quite useful at first, but you're truly brazen, daring to even flirt with this emperor's woman. You're simply courting death."

Zu An thought inwardly, It's not just flirting. Your empress was calling me 'daddy' all night in bed just the other day. If it had just been the two of them, he wouldn't mind saying that to anger him further. He was dead either way, so he might as well let it all out and piss the emperor off more.

But Bi Linglong was next to him right now. Forget it, I won't be that shameless.

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes landed on Bi Linglong. "If you had only treated him as a servant, and remained faithful, then this emperor could have forgiven you. Unfortunately, your performance just now was just too disappointing. Besides, with your aged appearance, you're already no longer suitable to be the crown princess. You can just remain in this dungeon forever."

Zu An rolled his eyes. Is there something wrong with these ancient people's standards of beauty? Isn't it just her hair that's white? What part of her appearance is old?

It clearly makes her look even better, like the white-haired bride, or the white haired sister of the sky. Don't they look stunning in their own way?

Bi Linglong had already calmed down from her initial shock. "The crown prince can't get rid of the crown princess without good reason, so are you planning to kill me in this dungeon? But if you do that, you'll lose the support of the Bi clan, and the Bi clan might defect to King Qi. After all, my older sister is Madam Qi. Will you be able to bear the consequences?"

Zu An felt admiration. This woman was a politician through and through after all! She understood the benefits and interests of the political field clearly.

"Isn't it fine as long as no one inside the dungeon finds out?" Zhao Ruizhi didn't seem that concerned. "The Bi clan will only think that King Qi sent people to kill you; they'll only be even more united toward this emperor's mission. Of course, just in case, I'll choose another young lady from the Bi clan to bring into the Eastern Palace."

Bi Linglong was disheartened. The emperor had already thought things out so clearly. It seemed he really planned to kill them here.

"Your soul has always been sleeping in the crown prince's body. Does that mean you know about everything that happened in the Eastern Palace?" Zu An asked. He wanted to stall for a bit of time and see if any opportunities would appear.

"But of course!" Zhao Ruizhi exclaimed proudly.

"Then even though Linglong and I were flirting with each other all the time, why didn't you ever do anything?" Zu An asked with a smile.

Bi Linglong gave him a look. When did I ever flirt with you in the Eastern Palace? But there was no point in clearing things up, or else it would seem as if she were begging the emperor for forgiveness.

Zhao Ruizhi's breathing stopped and he stared hatefully at the two of them. "If not for the fact that Linglong's chastity remained, I would've already killed the two of you a long time ago!"

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Zhao Ruizhi suddenly paused in shock. "Huh? With my nature, I should've killed you a long time ago. Why did I tolerate this for so long?"

Zu An suddenly realized what had happened. It was probably because of the Hat of Forgiveness he had made the emperor wear back then, which had increased the other party's tolerance toward him.

Unfortunately, the Hat of Forgiveness only worked once. Now, it was probably already useless.

"You two should be thankful that you were able to understand these things before you died." Zhao Ruizhi's expression turned cold. "Now it's time for you two to die."

Zu An laughed out loud as he held Bi Linglong's ice-cold hand. "Being able to die together with Linglong can be considered passing on happily as lovebirds; the trip across the yellow springs won't be too lonely. Meanwhile, it's someone all alone like you who seems more pathetic."

"Passing on as lovebirds?" Zhao Ruizhi's face jiggled. "Do you think I'll let your ashes remain in the same place? I'll scatter one of you across a snowy peak, and the other into the sea! Neither of you will be able to meet even after you reincarnate! Let's see what kind of lovers' death you'll have then!"

As powerful killing intent surrounded them, Bi Linglong felt as if she were trapped in a frozen cellar. She began to tremble all over. But just then, warmth spread from the palm of the man next to her, helping her calm down a bit. She tightly grabbed his hand.

Zhao Ruizhi's pupils contracted when he saw their fingers interlock. How many years had it been since he had been this angered? He could remain indifferent in front of others, yet he always felt anger whenever he looked at Zu An.

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A figure descended from the distance as soon as Zhao Ruizhi finished speaking. Then, King Qi Manor's experts surrounded the area one after another. The one in the lead was the last guardian of King Qi Manor, the peak stage ninth rank He Li!

He was overjoyed when he saw the crown prince and princess. He thought to himself that even though Lu Xiao and Wei Pingyang's cultivation had been higher, they weren't as lucky as him! He was going to enjoy all of the contributions.

But he quickly noticed Zu An, making the smile on his face freeze. "Why are you still alive?"

This was Zu An's chance! He grabbed Linglong, crying, "Run!"

He used Grandgale to instantly rush several hundred zhang away. With his increased cultivation, skills like Grandgale had also improved greatly.

Zhao Ruizhi hadn't expected Zu An to be that fast. Just as he was about to move, He Li and the others moved in front of him.

He Li asked, "Crown prince, where do you think you're going?" However, he felt glad inwardly. Thank goodness that disaster Zu An ran, or else I really wouldn't have much confidence in taking him down. I'll wait until Lu Xiao and Wei Pingyang come back so we can chase him down together.

Zhao Ruizhi barked coldly, "Move!"

"Oh? Our stupid fatty is getting all upset!" He Li roared with laughter. "How does it feel to see your own wife abandon you and run off with another man? Wait, no, I remember something. Didn't someone say they didn't mind lending their wife to Zu An not too long ago?"

Forget about the deathsworn soldiers, even powerful cultivators like them were on the brink of madness after staying in the dungeon for three years. All of that was because of the stupid crown prince in front of them. How could he not use this chance to vent out some of their resentment?

Ah, my luck today is just too good!



## Chapter 839: Ghost Dungeon

"Huh? A damn fatty like you dares to glare at me?" He Li didn't like it at all when he saw how Zhao Ruizhi looked at him. Normally, he always had to suffer under Lu Xiao and Wei Pingyang's pressure, and today, he couldn't even teach that brat Zu An a lesson. He was already filled with resentment. Even if I can't deal with them, that doesn't mean I can't deal with a damn fatty like you!

Zhao Ruizhi said coldly, "The fact you were able to live for so long is a miracle in itself." He wasn't in a rush to chase after Zu An. Either way, the two of them wouldn't be able to leave the range of his divine will.

"You dare speak to this old one like this? Do you think you're the emperor or something?" He Li felt a strange lack of confidence under the other party's disdainful look. But it was precisely that fear that made him feel even worse. He was actually scared of this stupid fatty? If Lu Xiao and the others learned of this, how would he even survive in King Qi Manor in the future? Wouldn't they make fun of him every day?

He became angrier and angrier as he had those thoughts. He walked over and sent a palm flying at the fatty's face, yelling, "Here's the face you want!"

"...Huh?" He Li was shocked to discover that his neck was already in the crown prince's hands. Then, the crown prince lifted his body up. His legs flailed around, but his toes couldn't even touch the floor.

He Li wanted to scare the crown prince with his cultivation, but as soon as he gathered his strength, it was scattered by a mysterious force. Suddenly, he felt weaker than if he had spent three days and three nights at a brothel.

The other experts from King Qi Manor also sensed that something was off. They all drew their blades and charged over.

But Zhao Ruizhi only gave them a cold look. An incomparable power rippled out from him, and the deathsworn soldiers felt all of their courage disappear. One after another, they all knelt down, shaking in fear.

"This aura... You're the emperor!" He Li was at the peak of the ninth rank, after all, so he was full of experience. He quickly realized what was going on. He was so scared tears began to flow. "Your majesty, this petty one deserves death! I didn't mean to offend your majesty; I'm willing to serve you! From today on, I'll be willing to do anything for you... Your majesty, please give me a chance, your majesty..." There wasn't a trace of arrogance left in his voice as he begged and pleaded.

Normally, he wouldn't dare to oppose the emperor. The only reason he usually acted the way he did was because King Qi had been shielding him from above. He had never had to face the emperor himself, and had instead only faced only his subordinates, whom he obviously didn't have to fear at all. Only now that he faced the emperor did he learn true despair.

"You deserve ten thousand deaths for your crimes!" Zhao Ruizhi exclaimed coldly. Just as he was about to kill He Li, the earth rumbled. The ground beneath them began to rise and fall like waves, and no one could stand steadily.

A rumble came from underground. In the distant forest, waves of deep and mysterious cries emerged, as if some kind of demonic creature were crying out.

"Huh?" Zhao Ruizhi exclaimed, having floated into the air ahead of time. King Qi's men lay collapsed all over the ground. He flew higher into the air and looked into the distance, muttering to himself, "The space here is starting to become unstable. Something isn't right with this dungeon."

Zhao Ruizhi retracted his gaze. He saw that He Li, who was still in his hands, was already so terrified that his face was completely pale, his body limp like soggy noodles. He suddenly frowned, because he could smell urine. He gave He Li's wet pants a look and an expression of revulsion flashed through his eyes. "Disgusting!"

Zhao Ruizhi threw He Li to the ground. He Li felt only happiness, rather than anger. He continued to kowtow on the ground. "Thank you, your majesty, for not killing me! Thank you, your majesty!"

The other deathsworn soldiers also began to plead for their lives. Even though they had all been strictly trained, any desire to fight had already been completely crushed by the emperor's terrifying presence. They no longer had any desire to resist.

Zhao Ruizhi said indifferently, "Something big is about to happen in this dungeon, and you all might be of some use. All of you had better prove your value."

"Of course! Absolutely!" He Li's entire body was shaking as he sighed in relief.

"Where is Wei Pingyang?" Zhao Ruizhi asked.

"This humble one took different paths to chase our targets in different directions. He should be chasing after the others from the Eastern Palace right now." He Li had wanted to reply that he didn't know, but he feared that would make him seem useless, so he quickly changed what he wanted to say. He threw a bit of dirt at Wei Pingyang too, so later on, that guy might not even be able to change sides.

Zhao Ruizhi closed his eyes and his divine will spread outward.

He Li felt as if something swept past his soul. While he felt nervous, he also felt admiration. King Qi had always said that the entire imperial palace was under the emperor's divine will; that if something happened, it would be hard to escape his detection. Everyone had disapproved of that back then, but now, he understood what King Qi had been saying. Sigh, even though King Qi is formidable, he's still lacking compared to the emperor.

He didn't dare ask why the crown prince had become the emperor. He knew that the less he knew, the more chances he had of staying alive. But he also knew that King Qi's great plan had actually completely been within the emperor's control. Defeat was already inevitable. Changing sides now had been a sensible decision.

A while later, Zhao Ruizhi opened his eyes, saying, "I don't sense the auras of any other master rank cultivators. Wei Pingyang is probably dead."

"Dead?" He Li was stunned. Who else in this dungeon could kill the master ranked Wei Pingyang? "Don't tell me it was Zu An? That brat really is a bit scary."

Zhao Ruizhi gave He Li a cold look, and he felt goosebumps cover his body. This damn mouth of mine! Zu An just left with the crown princess, yet I'm praising him right now? Am I tired of living? He quickly changed his tone. "That little bastard is full of schemes. Wei Pingyang probably fell prey to one of his plots." Is the crown princess the emperor's daughter-in-law or woman? The royal family really is getting messed up now...

Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed and pointed to the west. "All of you are to chase in that direction and capture Zu An. Contact me as soon as there are any developments."

"Understood!" He Li was overjoyed. The fact that he had received a mission meant that he could remain alive for a while longer. He quickly brought his subordinates toward the forest.

He suddenly thought of something after taking a few steps, however. Why had his majesty only asked about Wei Pingyang and not Lu Xiao?

Unless...

He couldn't help but turn around when he had that thought.

He only saw Zhao Ruizhi standing with his hands behind him, somewhat absentmindedly staring at the distant mountain. He didn't dare to stare at the emperor for too long and quickly left.

Zhao Ruizhi stood there while feeling all kinds of emotions. After enjoying his great status for so long, he felt it was beneath him to do something like capturing someone himself. Furthermore, he had a more pressing issue. There had already been strange occurrences in the dungeon several times. When he recalled how the beasts in the dungeon all seemed to have become stronger than they should have been, he immediately realized that the world was changing.

"A ghost dungeon?" His eyes shone brilliantly. He stared into the sky, seeing ki surging there. Some buildings that were entirely different from what he was used to were barely visible in the distance, as if they were just a mirage.

The so-called 'ghost dungeons' manifested when two dungeons ended up intersecting spatially due to various coincidences. Normally, only a single dungeon would appear, but during certain times, when special conditions were met, another hidden dungeon might appear in place of the main dungeon. However, it wouldn't remain for long. If this chance were missed, it might be a few centuries or even millennia before another ghost dungeon would appear next.

Even with the knowledge and experiences of an emperor, he had only seen something similar in an ancient record. Such a dungeon signified tremendous opportunities.

It was a concept that was easy to understand. Most dungeons had already been explored many times. If there were any treasures or inheritances inside, they would have already been taken out. A dungeon that appeared once every few thousand years signified an entirely new, mysterious, and dangerous world, but also one full of opportunities.

With the emperor's cultivation, he didn't actually need any inheritances or opportunities. However, there was something he still wanted, which was eternal life. This possession was something he had done because he had no choice. If one had a chance, who wouldn't want their original body to continue living forever?

This kind of ghost dungeon that only existed in legends could very well possess the secrets to immortality.

Could it be that this world understands this emperor's ambitions, that it decided to give me this chance? Ha ha ha, the strong are blessed after all! Zhao Ruizhi's eyes began to burn fiercely when he had those thoughts.

#### **Chapter 840: World Splitting**

Elsewhere, Zu An ran as fast as he could with Bi Linglong. But when he sensed the sudden strangeness, he also stopped.

Let alone now, when Bi Linglong was extremely weak, even if she were in her best condition, she still wouldn't be able to stand still on this quaking ground. She cried out in alarm and fell into Zu An's warm embrace.

"Are you okay?" Zu An caught her and flew into the air. He didn't dare to fly too high and only remained several meters above the ground. Otherwise, the emperor would be able to see them from a distance.

"I'm alright." Bi Linglong blushed from the hug. Her young lady side made her want to subconsciously push him aside.

But the two of them were currently in midair! She would drop if she pushed him away. The ground below rose and fell like waves, and it was quite terrifying. To ease her embarrassment, she quickly asked, "What happened?"

Zu An shook his head. "I don't know. I feel like something's changed in this dungeon. The spatial element here has become extremely unstable. Something major might happen to this place soon."

Bi Linglong was always dignified and proud when she acted as the crown princess, but wasn't she still soft and lovely in his arms? As expected, even the toughest women were soft when hugged.

Zu An sighed in amazement when he smelled the noble fragrance coming from her clothes. There had always been a saying that dying for the sake of a woman was also a romantic thing. He hadn't expected it to happen to himself. He would be confident in his chances of fighting the emperor if he were given a few more years. But right now, the difference between them was just too great...

"Hah, look at you using what I taught you to flirt with a girl. Do you feel good about yourself?" Mi Li remarked in dissatisfaction, interrupting Zu An's thoughts.

"We're so close already, so what's the point of distinguishing between the two of us? What's mine is yours, and what's yours is obviously mine too," Zu An replied with a smile.

"Who wants to be close to you?" Mi Li harrumphed. "You're full of cunning plots, and you're not all that respectful towards me normally either. I can't let that continue! You're not allowed to call me big sis or whatever; we'll be master and disciple."

"Master and disciple?" Zu An replied with a strange expression.

"What, are you unwilling?" Mi Li's voice rose higher. "If you hadn't received my pointers, do you think you'd have been able to grow to where you are today? You have no idea how many people tried to be

my disciple, and yet I didn't even give them a single look. Why are you still making up excuses when I'm the one saying I'll take you in as my disciple?"

"Of course I'm willing." Zu An chuckled. After being around her for so long, the two of them were already no longer on guard against each other the way they'd been before, and instead trusted each other. The things she'd taught him had brought him huge benefits, especially her knowledge that transcended ages. "But isn't it pretty good being siblings? Why do you suddenly want me to call you master?"

"You don't have to worry about that." Mi Li cleared her throat. "Are you willing or not?"

"Sure." Zu An didn't ask too much when he sensed that something was off with her. "But I can't really kowtow to you as my master, the way things are right now."

"There's no need for all of that. You just have to call me master," Mi Li said.

"Mas... ter..." Zu An was still a bit embarrassed at first. But when he did say it, it didn't seem like that big of a deal either.

"Good disciple." Mi Li had a gentle smile on her usually dignified and beautiful face.

Zu An was speechless. He'd thought that perhaps it was for something important. Why did he now feel that she was only doing this to take advantage of him? Still, it didn't matter. Whether he called her master or not made no difference.

Bi Linglong suddenly spoke. "There's something strange going on with this world? Sigh, our situation is already so grim. When it rains, it really pours..."

When he heard the despair in her voice, Zu An consoled her. "It's actually the opposite. It's because of this sudden variable that we might have a chance to survive."

Bi Linglong was stunned. She was a smart person too, so she quickly realized what he was saying. She couldn't help but sigh in praise. "Even though you're always goofing around usually, you're more cool-headed than anyone else would be in critical situations."

"It can't be helped; it's just a habit I ended up having after constantly being on the brink of death." Zu An chuckled.

Bi Linglong realized something she had never thought about. Indeed, ever since she had first received information on him, she'd found that ever since Zu An was in Brightmoon City, he had always walked on the precipice between life and death! She felt both sympathy and admiration.

Zu An was a bit apologetic as he said, "Sorry, I ended up getting you caught up in my mess. You could have continued to be the crown princess normally."

Bi Linglong shook her head. "Ever since what happened between us at Concubine Bai's place, there was already no way he would tolerate my existence. Sigh, I really never expected Ruizhi to have been possessed by his majesty."

Even though she didn't feel much love toward the crown prince, they had lived together as husband and wife for so many years. It was normal to develop feelings for even a cat or dog one kept around all the time. She couldn't help but feel a bit awful when she learned that he had been possessed by his father.

"You're right, no one expected it," Zu An said. "The emperor has had his position for so long, his desire for immortality has become too strong. He's willing to try anything for the sake of his objective."

"What should we do now?" Bi Linglong had already lost her usual shrewdness and decisiveness. She was still a young lady after all. Anyone would become confused after going through so much in a single day.

The thought that her husband was actually her father-in-law was so horrifying it made her want to puke. With how powerful the emperor's cultivation was, where could she possibly escape to?

"Let's leave this dungeon first," Zu An said. "If push comes to shove, I'll bring you to the north's fiend races. No matter how powerful the emperor is, his influence can't reach that place."

"The fiend races?" Bi Linglong was stunned and shook her head. "I can't do that. I still have my family behind me. My status would cause a huge controversy among the fiend races. Countless people from my family would die because of me."

Chu Chuyan, Zheng Dan, and the others had already shown Zu An the sense of responsibility the women of this world had toward their families. He quickly said, "I'm not asking you to announce your identity to the world. We can just live there in seclusion. We don't have to worry about those things then."

"Live in seclusion..." Bi Linglong's face turned a bit red. It almost sounded as if she would be eloping with him. Her heart rate began to speed up. But soon afterward, she thought of the capital, about her ambitions and her years of effort going up in smoke. She felt disheartened again.

Just then, a voice said in the distance, "Heh, you two are still thinking of eloping?"

Zu An and Bi Linglong's expressions changed. It was the emperor's voice! Just as Zu An attempted to flee with Bi Linglong, the air and ki around him seemingly solidified. He couldn't move at all.

Zhao Ruizhi's fat figure appeared on the horizon. He took a light step, and in the next second, he was already standing in front of them.

"They're over there!" He Li exclaimed with pleasant surprise. He ran over excitedly with his men, but when he saw that the emperor had arrived before them, he broke out into a cold sweat. He quickly said in praise, "Your majesty is all powerful after all. You arrived first even though you left after us! This humble one is overwhelmed with admiration."

Zu An and Bi Linglong both frowned. These people had already defected to the emperor? What the hell were they still fighting for then? It wouldn't be easy even if they were just facing these King Qi Manor experts, let alone if the emperor were also there.

Zu An's heart sank to rock bottom. However, he didn't give up, as he felt great resentment inside. At worst, he would just try to bluff it out with Keyboard Come and try to drag down the emperor with him.

As if sensing his thoughts, Mi Li said, "Don't act rashly. It's not that sort of time yet."

Zu An asked happily, "Are you going to help?"

Mi Li shook her head. "I might be able to if I recover, but I'm not his match either right now."

Zu An was stunned. He said, "I can't even move right now under his aura's pressure. How the hell am I supposed to fight him then?"

Mi Li said, "This is probably his domain. To put it simply, he's using his powerful cultivation to redefine the ki laws of a set space, and that's why you can't move. Wait a second. Once I deconstruct these laws, you should be able to move freely again."

Zu An smiled bitterly. This woman really was giving him a lot of credit. Even if he could move, he still didn't stand a chance at all! However, he tossed that thought out as soon as it emerged. He'd just fight to the death if he had to. A man could lose his life, but not his pride!

As if sensing his fighting spirit, a startled expression flashed through the emperor's eyes. "Hm? A lowly servant like you surprisingly has a bit of a spine. You aren't willing to bow down to another after all. You can't be left alive."

As he finished speaking, he raised his finger. He didn't want to waste any more words on Zu An and planned to directly kill him. But just then, his expression suddenly changed and he lowered his head.

An intense rumble emerged from the depths of the earth. The noise was louder than before, and it didn't show any signs of stopping. The ground began to crack apart, revealing several bottomless crevices. Some of King Qi Manor's deathsworn soldiers couldn't dodge in time and fell in, screaming miserably as they dropped.

Zu An suddenly noticed that he could move. He quickly flew into the sky with Bi Linglong, evading the giant cracks that had appeared in the ground.

"Big sis... Master, did you break through his domain?" Zu An asked excitedly.

Mi Li shook her head. "No. The laws of this world have changed. The emperor's domain can't compare to the true power of a world."

When he saw Zu An's arm wrap around Bi Linglong's slender waist, and Bi Linglong also wrapping her arms tightly around his body, Zhao Ruizhi's eyes released powerful killing intent.

You have successfully trolled Zhao Han for +777 +777 +777...