

Immortal 841

Chapter 841: End of the World

Zu An felt his heart thud when he received the emperor's Rage points. He knew that the other party's tolerance had already reached its limit.

He searched through every skill he had, but no matter what he tried, it would only change whether he died sooner rather than later. His arm tightened around Bi Linglong's waist when he realized that, pressing her body tightly against his. Would this at least make his death seem a bit more honorable?

Bi Linglong was stunned, but she was extremely intelligent. She quickly realized what he was doing and immediately blushed. Her clothes had been thin to begin with. With their bodies pressed against each other like this, she could clearly sense the warmth from his skin.

The scene in the Hundred Flower Palace couldn't help but appear in her mind. The two of them had been together without a single strand of clothing. She felt her soul tremble, and most of her body grew weak.

She raised her head to look at the distant Zhao Ruizhi. If this had actually been Zhao Ruizhi himself, she probably wouldn't have allowed Zu An to hold her intimately like this. After all, no matter how stupid he was, he was still her real husband. Her upbringing as the daughter of a distinguished clan prevented her from ever doing something like being this close to another man in front of her husband.

But the current Zhao Ruizhi wasn't the real Zhao Ruizhi. To a certain degree, her husband was already dead, and the murderer was the one controlling her husband's body.

Furthermore, the emperor had already planned to kill her from the very start. When she thought of how powerful the emperor was, she felt despair. Forget about getting revenge for her husband, even just surviving would be impossible.

In her despair, most of the reservations and apprehension she had felt disappeared. Since she was going to die anyway, she might as well piss off this person before she died. Not only did she not resist Zu An's actions, she instead nestled her soft body into Zu An's arms in a lovely and helpless manner.

Zu An was stunned. He hadn't expected her to play along like this. He smiled knowingly, and pulled her a bit closer.

He Li felt his scalp go numb when he saw them. Even though he had accused the two of them of committing adultery, he had only said that as an accusation to offend them. The crown princess' character in previous years was something he understood well. Who didn't know that she was proud and dignified in public? That was why his thoughts hadn't gone in such a direction at all.

Yet how could he have known that the two of them really did have an affair? The key was that they were even acting like this in front of the emperor! Were these two tired of living? He noticed the emperor's dark expression and quickly stepped backwards. He didn't want to get caught up in the flames.

Zhao Ruizhi looked at the two of them with sinister eyes. "Very good; you two have successfully angered me." After he spoke, he raised his hand. A streak of golden light flew between Zu An and Bi Linglong, clearly intending to separate them.

With Bi Linglong's cultivation, she couldn't resist at all. She could only watch as the golden light got closer and closer.

Normally, even though his cultivation had increased drastically, Zu An still would have been pressured by the other party's domain until he couldn't breathe. He would also have been unable to react.

But now that two dungeons were merging together, the elements of the world had become chaotic. They had damaged the emperor's domain, so it couldn't completely imprison Zu An.

Zu An used Grandgale to quickly pull Bi Linglong aside. However, before he had time to catch his breath, the golden light suddenly changed directions, continuing to fly at them. He didn't dare to make a blunder here and quickly used the Sunflower Phantasm to send clones in four different directions. But sure enough, that golden light didn't chase after the fake clones and only continued to chase after him.

"A guided missile?" Zu An exclaimed, seeing that he couldn't get away no matter how he dodged.

"What guided missile? His divine will has already locked onto you, so of course you can't escape," Mi Li said in his head.

Bi Linglong also said, "You don't have to worry about me. It'll be faster if you run alone."

Mi Li was shocked. "This woman is surprisingly considerate."

Zu An chuckled. "How can I abandon you and run on my own? We'll just die together as lovers if we have to."

Bi Linglong's mind trembled. The oaths of undying love other men made didn't mean much to her normally, as their true hearts could only be seen in moments of life and death like these. When she saw that he wasn't willing to abandon her even at such a time, her expression became gentler.

Zhao Ruizhi looked incredibly irritated. "Die as lovers? I'll chop off all five of your limbs! Let's see how you die together then!" His hand brushed out, and another streak of golden light flew toward the two of them.

A single streak of golden light had been enough to push Zu An into a desperate situation. He immediately called out to Mi Li when he saw the second streak. "Big sis... Master, what do we do now?!"

Mi Li harrumphed. "Weren't you busy having fun with that crown princess just now? You finally remembered me now?"

Zu An knew that she was probably upset because he hadn't replied to her earlier. He quickly said, "I'll listen to all of your scoldings when we survive this disaster! I really need your help right now!"

He had already done everything he could, and yet that golden light had already cut off several pieces of his clothes. The most horrifying part was that the golden light was aiming at his little guy down there. If he didn't react fast enough, he might become Eunuch Wen's younger brother! He had been quite proud of that aspect before, but only now did he realize that there were pros and cons to it. It made dodging a bit harder.

Mi Li sneered when she saw how tough of a spot he was in. Then she quickly said, "You can't run after being targeted by his divine will. Furthermore, this golden light can continue to absorb the surrounding

force of the world. The longer it lasts, the greater its power and speed will become. That's why your best plan is to just stop and face it directly."

"Face it directly?" Zu An frowned. With their difference in cultivation, wasn't facing it head-on just suicide?

But the two golden lights had already cut off all paths of retreat. He didn't have any time to think too much about it and drew his sword.

He used the Snow Phoenix, and an ice sword hacked at the two streaks of golden light. He didn't hesitate and immediately followed up by using Fire Phoenix, using the Flame Blade. A scorching hot flame blade attacked at the same time.

Even though the power of the Blue Luan's sword ki was great, he didn't have a wood element technique to use with it. Furthermore, the golden lights were coming too fast, so he didn't have the time to charge it up at all.

Comparatively speaking, he had high level fighting skills for the ice and fire elements. He didn't dare hold back at such a time and used both of his skills.

He Li's eyes widened when he saw the scene. This brat actually had access to two elements? This has completely toppled the common sense of the world of cultivation! No wonder he's already so ridiculously strong at his age! If he's allowed to grow up, just how exaggerated will his strength become?

Sigh, it's a pity that he's facing the emperor. He's already dead for sure. So what if you're a genius? It's still a talent like me who can adapt to circumstances that will come out on top.

Zhao Ruizhi clearly saw the ice sword and flame blade as well. His brows furrowed slightly. This kid was actually this talented?

But there had already been instances of those who had awakened two types of elemental affinities, so he didn't find it all that surprising. It only further solidified his resolution to kill Zu An.

"You're overestimating yourself!" he harrumphed. Even though the sword and blade were both outstanding, they were still lacking if Zu An wanted to intercept his attack.

Sure enough, the ice sword and flame blade looked larger than the two golden lights, but they instantly scattered upon contact. Even so, they weren't completely useless. The two golden lights had clearly become much dimmer.

Zu An felt despair. Was the difference between them really just that great?

"Take out the Nine Cauldron!" Mi Li exclaimed, seemingly panicking as well.

Zu An didn't have any time to think about Mi Li's words. He instinctively summoned the Nine Cauldron in front of him. The two golden lights seemed to smash into it the moment it appeared, crashing against the Nine Cauldron.

Boom!

A heavy, but muffled noise rippled outward. King Qi Manor's deathsworn soldiers all clutched their ears, their faces turning pale. Blood gushed out of the ears and noses of those with lower cultivations.

Zu An, who was closest to the impact, felt awful as his blood and ki stirred within him. However, those two golden lights had already disappeared.

The green cauldron released a low drone. There were two faint marks on its surface, and a faint crack could even be seen on it, clearly caused by the two golden lights.

Zu An was extremely brokenhearted to see what had happened. Mi Li said, "Don't worry, you can repair it once you learn how to refine artifacts. Hmph, if not for the fact that the Nine Cauldron is incomplete, not even that guy's full powered attack would be able to cause any damage to it."

"Oh?" The emperor saw that the small green cauldron had actually been able to block his attack and remain intact. It was clearly a treasure. In terms of grade, it had to be at least at the immortal grade. No, it might be at the legendary deity grade!

With his cultivation and status, the emperor no longer cared too much about immortal grade treasures. But if it were a legendary deity grade, that was something he absolutely had to obtain. He reached out, and an invisible hand seized the green cauldron.

Zu An was frightened. He had already sensed that the Nine Cauldron was about to leave him before that hand even arrived.

Suddenly, a streak of purple light descended from above, perfectly striking the terrifying invisible hand and blasting it apart.

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes narrowed as he suddenly raised his head. The sky had already changed colors before anyone noticed. A red crack cut across the horizon, as if it were a massive eye.

Innumerable blinding streaks of lightning crashed down from the heavens with a horrifying aura. This scene was like the very end of the world!

Chapter 842: World Upside Down

Zu An raised his head toward the sky. A massive streak of lightning descended and branched off into several streaks. The once overcast sky immediately became as bright as day.

If Zu An had seen this in his past world, he might have just posted on the forums 'which dao brother is going through tribulation right now'. But now that he was in the middle of it himself, he had no such thoughts.

After cultivating beyond the eighth rank, one could borrow the power of the world. Zu An already possessed such an ability, but compared to the true power of the world, it was still far off.

At that point, the power of the world was chaotic and berserk. The emperor's attack had caused the surrounding ki to become disorderly, drawing over the lightning that had originally been aimed elsewhere. That was why it had just happened to scatter his attack.

Zhao Ruizhi's gaze conveyed his displeasure as he looked up. He had clearly realized that as well. If he continued to attack Zu An, with his cultivation, it would incur the wrath of the world. But if he deliberately held back, he might not be able to injure Zu An.

He felt annoyed. Having power in this situation was meaningless, so he had no choice but to let the brat live for a bit longer. But seeing the two of them in each other's arms made him feel beyond annoyed. Zu An was the first person who had been able to act smug in front of him without him being able to do anything about it.

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Bi Linglong's eyes had been closed the entire time, as if she were awaiting death. However, she had never expected Zu An to actually have avoided the emperor's attacks. She was shocked and overjoyed. She couldn't help but look at the man she was hugging. He had already shocked her enough when she saw him kill Shi Tong, and then he had even killed the Jade Moon Serpent. She hadn't thought this man could actually survive two attacks from the emperor! Just how many people in this world were capable of such a thing?

At that moment, Zu An was looking at the sky. That apocalyptic feeling made him feel quite uneasy, as the lightning had really left him quite shaken. Some arcs of lightning had landed not too far from where he was. If he hadn't dodged fast enough, he might already be a charred corpse.

"Big sis em... Master, what the heck is going on?" Even though Zu An's cultivation had grown quickly, he was still quite lacking in the breadth of his knowledge.

Mi Li also sounded quite conflicted. "I feel something familiar, but it's a kind of familiar feeling that makes me feel disgusted."

Zu An was stunned. He quickly asked her to elaborate, but she didn't reply no matter how he asked. Then, he gave the distant Zhao Ruizhi an apprehensive look. The emperor was also looking into the sky, not intending to attack him again for some time. Zu An sighed in relief.

Suddenly, several strange developments took place. Countless birds flew out from the forest in a black expanse, their cries echoing through the jungle. No one had expected this forest to be the home of so many birds! Of course, more of them were weaker beasts who were lower on the food chain. Right now, none of them had any intention of fighting. By chance, they had all agreed to run for their lives.

"Something big is probably about to happen," Zu An said gravely.

Even Zhao Ruizhi's expression changed. It was clear that he had never seen anything like this before.

With a sudden rumble, the massive mountain in the distance began to break apart. Dust rushed into the sky, then surged like a landslide. The frantically fleeing beasts were annihilated almost instantly.

The onlookers were horrified by the sight. However, Zhao Ruizhi was the first to fly into the sky. Zu An also took Bi Linglong with him into the air. For some reason, he felt as if he couldn't fly too steadily. On several occasions, he almost fell down, but he only attributed that to using up too much energy in his fight against the emperor and didn't pay it too much attention.

The deathsworn soldiers from King Qi Manor all ran for their lives as well. Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed. With a brush of his sleeves, a gentle force swept them all toward a large tree nearby. All of them frantically clutched onto the branches for their lives, their faces deathly pale.

“Thank you, your majesty!” He Li and everyone from King Qi Manor expressed their gratitude, yet Zhao Ruizhi didn’t even give them a look. He instead looked toward the sky with a pensive expression.

Zu An wanted to use this chance to escape, but he was also scared of alarming the emperor and drawing more attacks toward himself. He was momentarily stuck in a dilemma.

Mi Li said, “The world is about to change greatly. Get ready.”

“What do you mean?” Zu An was stunned. Just as he was about to ask more questions, the entire world shook. Even though he was in the air, he still felt the urge to throw up.

An earthquake?! That was Zu An’s first reaction, but he quickly refuted his own guess. With his current cultivation, and the fact that he was in the air right now, not even the greatest earthquake should have been able to make him feel like this, right?

Suddenly, King Qi Manor’s deathsworn soldiers asked with trembling voices, “The sky... Is the sky cracking apart?”

Zu An raised his head and just happened to see a bright arc of lightning flash past. The red mark that was like a starry stream became much wider than it had been before, and it was still widening at a visible rate.

“The sky is splitting?” he exclaimed, stupefied. This situation was completely beyond anything he knew. He wanted to ask Mi Li about what was happening, but she never responded. Zu An felt extremely annoyed. This woman’s habit of going offline whenever she wanted was really freaking annoying! He had to find a chance to properly teach her a lesson later.

The red crack started widening exponentially faster. Then a giant, pitch-black crack appeared. The ground cracked open in several different areas as well. The originally sturdy ground seemed to have become a stormy sea, rising and falling unpredictably. All kinds of massive cracks appeared and magma even spurted out from some areas.

Howling winds tore through the skies. Not even Zu An, with his current cultivation, could hold on, and he was blown from side to side. Fortunately, he managed to grab onto a large tree and barely held on. But with the changes happening on the ground, he didn’t know how long the tree could hold on either.

Those present were all battered and exhausted; only Zhao Ruizhi’s figure floated in the sky, unfazed by the crazy wind and rain.

Zu An even felt a bit of admiration. That guy really is strong. He urgently asked Mi Li, “Master empress, I feel like this dungeon is about to collapse! Why isn’t he using this chance to run and instead insists on staying here? If this world really collapses, his life will be over even with his cultivation, right?”

“It’s just ‘master’, what the heck is a ‘master empress’?!” Mi Li was a bit unsatisfied with Zu An’s form of address. “The reason he isn’t leaving is because he’s recognized that two dungeons are merging right now. This represents a tremendous opportunity, so how can he miss out on this chance?”

Zu An wanted to ask more, but the world around him suddenly spun and he was instantly flipped upside down. "What the hell is going on?!" he exclaimed, horrified. He heard the surrounding deathsworn soldiers scream miserably. Many people fell from the tree they were clinging to because they were caught unprepared.

It really was strange. Normally speaking, one would fall to the ground if one dropped from a tree, they were falling toward the sky! However, the sky and earth both became distorted. The sky was now below them, and the ground above.

This sudden change left even the seemingly unperturbed Zhao Ruizhi in a sorry state. There were several times where he couldn't remain still, and everyone around him saw him that way. Just as he was about to erupt in anger, his expression changed. He noticed that he could no longer remain flying, as he began to fall toward the sky beneath his feet. Those from King Qi Manor were even worse off. They screamed as they fell toward the sky.

Zu An's expression changed. He had one arm around Bi Linglong, his other arm doing everything it could to cling to the tree next to him. Unfortunately, that tree wasn't able to last much longer and was uprooted. The entire tree fell toward the sky together with the dirt attached to it.

Chapter 843: Happy and Unhappy Clans

The libationer, who was currently secluded in his residence in the academy's rear mountain, suddenly opened his eyes. A look of shock appeared on his usually calm face. "Heaven and earth have reversed, and the world has inverted?" He stood up and took a step forward. The next second, he was in front of the dungeon entrance.

The libationer rarely showed himself. Whenever he did appear, it would cause a huge commotion among the people around him.

But Qi Yaoguang didn't have such misgivings. She skipped over to the Libationer's side and asked, "Teacher, what are you doing here?" She was in charge of opening and closing this dungeon, so she had to remain present the entire time.

"Teacher!" Jiang Luofu was also present. She had spent the past few days chatting with Qi Yaoguang to relieve her boredom.

After some hesitation, the libationer said, "I've sensed a great change in the dungeon."

Qi Yaoguang was shocked. She quickly brought out her divination wheel, and her fingers drew patterns in the air. The divination wheel's star spun quickly. A moment later, she exclaimed, "It's really bad!"

Jiang Luofu cried out in alarm. "What does that mean?"

Qi Yaoguang explained, "I sense that the space in the dungeon is extremely unstable, as if it's about to collapse!" Even though she was the closest to the dungeon entrance, her cultivation wasn't as great as the libationer's. Only now did she sense that something was off.

"What? My brother-in-law is still inside!" Chu Youzhao cried in alarm as she ran over. She had often visited over the past few days in order to find out what was happening to Zu An.

If the number of days that had passed were tallied up, those inside should have already completed their mission, yet no one had come out. She'd had an ominous premonition, and so she came here every day to wait for new information.

And yet today, she'd heard such devastating news as soon as she arrived. Chu Youzhao panicked. If something happened to her brother-in-law, wouldn't her big sister be heartbroken? Furthermore, when she thought of how good her brother-in-law was to her, she suddenly felt as if the world were ending.

But she was stopped when she rushed up to the entrance. The guards said, "The dungeon's entrance has been sealed. For the sake of fairness, no one else is allowed inside until those inside come out!"

Chu Youzhao panicked. "Something so major has happened in the dungeon! Why are you all just standing around here?!"

Unfortunately, the guards all remained expressionless no matter what she said, not moving out of the way at all.

Murong Qinghe, who was by her side, tried to dissuade her by saying, "Big brother Chu, don't be so nervous. Big bro Zu is so formidable. Even if something happened, he'll still be able to take advantage of it."

Chu Youzhao was a bit absent-minded at that moment, but she seemed to have found comfort when she heard Murong Qinghe's words. She instinctively agreed. "You're right, he's so amazing. I'm sure he's fine."

But the activity still alarmed many people. Whether it was King Qi Manor or the crown prince's faction, they all walked toward the libationer and asked, "Sir Libationer, what's happening inside?"

The libationer looked at the dungeon entrance. "I don't know. I've only sensed that the elements in the dungeon seem to have become chaotic, to the point where the world inside has reversed. But how can this be...?"

Even he was a bit puzzled. Not even someone with his level of knowledge had ever experienced something like this before. It was to the extent where he wondered if there was a mistake in his own deduction.

Eventually, Zhuxie Chixin arrived as well. He had always been in the surroundings to prevent anyone from King Qi Manor from sneaking inside. At first, he had only watched when he noticed the activity. He'd thought that it might have been one of the King Qi faction's schemes, but didn't dare to leave his position without permission. But when he heard the libationer speak so seriously, he finally couldn't sit still anymore and quickly walked over to inquire about what was happening.

The libationer shook his head. "I don't know what is happening inside either. We can only find out if we send some people inside to investigate."

Zhuxie Chixin was quite troubled when he heard the response, worried that the libationer might be colluding with King Qi, thinking that he wanted to go inside and ruin the crown prince's exam.

Suddenly, a great shockwave erupted from the dungeon entrance. The nearest guards swayed from side to side; all of them were horrified as they looked at the dungeon entrance. The disturbance inside was

so great that the berserk spatial force had even spilled out. It was easy to imagine just how bad things were inside.

Zhuxie Chixin's expression changed. He couldn't hold himself back and rushed at the dungeon entrance, planning to look into it himself.

However, the King Qi faction's officials all stopped him. One of them said, "Fairness is absolutely crucial for this exam, so the crown prince must rely on himself to clear this trial! If Chief Commander enters, even if the crown prince brings out the Jade Moon Serpent's tendons, how will we know that it wasn't because of Zhuxie Chixin's help? After all, with Commander Zhuxie's cultivation, you could easily kill the Jade Moon Serpent."

Zhuxie Chixin was enraged. "Are all of you blind? Which one of you can shoulder the consequences if something happens to the crown prince and princess?!"

"Chief Commander, please don't speak such alarming words. Those who went inside with the crown prince are all carefully selected elites. How could anything happen?" The one who spoke was the Chief Attendant, Waterfront Duke Pei Zheng.

King Qi's faction had sent him over to keep an eye on things. Zhuxie Chixin was worried that King Qi's people might disrupt the crown prince's exam, while they were similarly worried that King Qi's plan would be ruined because someone else from the crown prince's side entered.

Zhuxie Chixin coldly said, "Something has clearly happened inside, and both the crown prince and princess are in danger. However, it looks as if the Waterfront Duke is trying to stop me. Are you plotting a rebellion?"

Pei Zheng wasn't intimidated in the slightest. "I've heard that when Commander Zhuxie handles a matter, he doesn't need proof. Today, it looks as though you're indeed quite domineering! This old one only cares about maintaining fairness for this exam. What's Commander Zhuxie trying to do by referring to me that way?"

Zhuxie Chixin sneered. "Everyone knows where your true thoughts lie."

Pei Zheng harrumphed. "Fine, if you want to go, this old one won't stop you. But if you bring him out and he hasn't completed the task, should we just call it a failure?"

"You scoundrel, the entire world inside the dungeon is changing; of course it's not suitable for the crown prince's exam any longer! We'll obviously need to find another time to redo the test," Zhuxie Chixin said.

Pei Zheng's expression turned grave. "This exam is for the sake of selecting our empire's next ruler. The results, to a certain degree, are the heavens' will. If something has happened in this dungeon, it means that the heavens have made their choice. Is there a need for further examination?"

Qi Yaoguang spoke just then. "Stop arguing already. The spatial elements in the dungeon are extremely messy, so you guys can't even go inside. Anyone who enters will be ripped to pieces by the berserk spatial storm." She had been researching the dungeon entrance the entire time, and gave her conclusion when she heard them arguing.

“What?” Zhuxie Chixin’s face paled. He couldn’t be bothered to argue with Pei Zheng anymore. He removed a blade from a guard next to him, inserted it through the dungeon entrance, and quickly pulled it back. The weapon’s blade was already nowhere to be seen, the cut extremely smooth. It wasn’t something any known weapon could cause.

“A spatial storm!”

The expressions of those present changed. There were many secret dungeons in this world, but not all secret dungeons were suitable for people to enter. Most of them had harsh environments that ripped one to pieces the moment they entered. That lesson had been learned through countless bloody experiences. Could the academy’s dungeon also have become that way?

Some clans were happy, while others became dejected. King Qi Manor’s people were obviously elated. They wouldn’t mind even if the entire dungeon were destroyed, as that would mean the crown prince could never come back out. Once that happened, King Qi would become the sole worthy successor to the emperor.

But everyone from the crown prince’s faction was worried. There were even many from the academy who had dispirited looks. After all, the dungeon represented endless resources, a place where they trained their disciples for many years. Without it, the academy would lose a lot of its strength and resources.

A flash of golden light suddenly appeared in the skies, and the emperor’s image condensed in the clouds. He asked in a dignified voice, “What happened?”

Zhuxie Chixin quickly reported the events that had transpired to the emperor.

“The world has inverted?” The emperor looked at the libationer. “Will this dungeon be completely destroyed?”

The libationer shook his head. “Even though the elements of the world inside are chaotic, I can sense a new set of laws within everything. I don’t believe that it will be destroyed.”

“Then we’ll just continue to wait!” The emperor’s figure in the clouds scattered after he spoke, leaving Zhuxie Chixin and the others in dismay. What in the world did the emperor mean by that? Was he not worried for the crown prince’s safety at all?

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Meanwhile, inside the imperial palace, the emperor opened his eyes. There was a portion of his soul in the crown prince, so it was fine as long as the world wasn’t destroyed. He trusted that his other self could deal with any situation. This was the perfect chance to inform the world that the crown prince was blessed by the heavens.

But how could he have imagined that his other self was in such a sorry state inside the dungeon? Zhao Ruizhi couldn’t even float steadily in the air. As he fell toward the sky, his limbs faced the opposite direction.

The same thing was happening to Zu An. Since the world had inverted and even the laws of the world had changed, he couldn't fly anymore. He could only watch as he continued to plummet. That giant red crack in the sky below was like a giant mouth, waiting to devour everything.

He had previously seen online that some new skydivers might die from shock. Weren't they going through the same thing right now? He was being tossed and turned to the point where his intestines were about to fall out. If it weren't for his special aptitude, he might've already fainted.

He suddenly saw that there was a small island next to him that wasn't falling as quickly, but rather floating in the sky. He quickly used Grandgale. Fortunately, that technique worked. He carried Bi Linglong with him, quickly moving onto the island. The two of them had never expected that having level ground to stand on would actually be such a blessing.

Chapter 844: Can't Catch Me

"Will we fall again from here?" Bi Linglong's face was incredibly pale. She definitely didn't want to go through that again.

"I think we're okay for now." Zu An looked at the floating island around him. It wasn't that large, only a thousand square meters or so in size. There were rocks and trees present, and the whole island floated in midair.

He had seen similar landforms in the games he played, so he didn't find it all that strange. He just couldn't figure out how it was floating in the sky. Everything else was clearly falling downward.

Meanwhile, the skies below had already turned into a thick layer of black clouds. The red crack was already starting to become unclear. Lightning flashed and thunder rolled within the black clouds. A lot of electricity seemed to be surging through them.

"The clouds are growing larger and larger... I think they're actually rising upward?" Bi Linglong mused, but she was interrupted as a giant flaming meteor suddenly fell down from above them.

"Be careful!" Zu An quickly pulled her behind him.

The giant ball of flames brushed past the edge of their floating island. Even though it only touched the edge, the areas they had just been standing on broke apart. Nearly half of the floating island broke off and fell into the clouds.

The entire island trembled, as if it might crumble at a moment's notice. Sensing that it was becoming unstable, Zu An quickly brought Bi Linglong to the center of the island.

"Are we going to die?" Bi Linglong held tightly onto his arm. Judging from how the island was shaking, she knew that once it broke apart and they dropped down, there would be no hope of survival left.

"Don't worry. My fortune teller told me I'll have ten wives. I'm still far from that. How can we die that easily?" Zu An replied with a consoling smile.

"Hmph, that fortune teller is no good." Bi Linglong harrumphed with a blush. This guy really was a pervert. What kind of situation were they in now? Despite that, he was still in the mood to joke around!

But she also felt admiration for him. For some reason, that dazzling smile of his made her calm down. She was quite confident in her willpower, but she still seemed lacking compared to this man. His optimism really was infectious.

At that moment, a voice that was clearly holding back great anger yelled from the distance, "How long do you two plan on holding each other for?!"

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The two of them turned around. They saw that Zhao Ruizhi was currently standing on another floating island, flames rushing out of his eyes as he glared at the two of them. He hadn't fallen into the 'sky abyss' below just then, and had instead also found a floating island. The floating island he was on was far larger than the one Zu An and Bi Linglong were on; its landmass resembled a small mountain. He Li and the remaining King Qi Manor servants were practically all on that island. They could even vaguely make out quite a few beasts in the forest. However, the beasts were all looking around in alarm, not in any mood for fighting.

Bi Linglong's face paled when she saw those murderous eyes. The emperor's power had already left an inextinguishable shadow in her heart after all these years. Knowing that they really might not make it this time, she got on her tiptoes and gave Zu An a kiss, not knowing where she got the courage to do so from.

Zu An was stunned. He never would have thought that she would do something like this. The ones in the distance were also stunned, thinking What is the crown princess...

Only He Li cried out to stir up more drama, and then he secretly moved backward. He hadn't died even after experiencing that world upheaval, so he definitely didn't want to die now just because he got caught up in the emperor's wrath.

"Very good, you've done very well!" Zhao Ruizhi was so angry he laughed instead. "Die!" He flew over as soon as he spoke. Even though they were a couple hundred zhang from each other, that much distance wasn't a big deal for him at all.

Bi Linglong felt despair. She tightly hugged the man next to her, as if only then could she feel a bit more at ease.

Zu An's entire body was covered in goosebumps. Even though he knew he was no match, giving up wasn't his style.

Just then, a dozen blinding purple arcs of lightning struck down from the clouds. Every streak of lightning was as thick as a massive dragon, but their power was far greater than that of a dragon. The streaks of lightning instantly locked onto the incoming Zhao Ruizhi, blasting his body.

Zu An was overjoyed. Was the emperor going to die from this? His luck had really turned around today! He was definitely going to thank the god of thunder later.

Now that he thought about it, the reason he had transmigrated in the first place was because he was struck by lightning. That trauma had even made him a bit scared whenever he saw lightning. But today, he suddenly became much fonder of that same lightning and thunder.

But he was quickly disappointed. Zhao Ruizhi's entire body shone with golden light, forming an eggshell-like golden barrier that forcibly blocked the terrifying streaks of lightning.

"Are you even freaking human anymore?!" Zu An's eyes were wide. No matter how steady his will was, he couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sense of powerlessness against such an opponent.

But fortunately, Zhao Ruizhi didn't have as easy a time as Zu An thought. After resisting the dozen streaks of lightning, his golden barrier was also covered in fine cracks. It then shattered into pieces.

The clouds below surged, and endless lightning seemed to converge. Zhao Ruizhi's expression changed and he quickly returned to the island he was previously on. The clouds gradually calmed again once they lost their target.

As he stood at the edge of his island and looked at the dark clouds, Zhao Ruizhi's expression turned grave. But when he saw the couple on the other side, fury raged within him again. He raised his hand and fired a golden beam from his finger at them. Since he couldn't cross over, he'd just kill them with a ranged attack all the same!

But several streaks of terrifying lightning appeared as soon as the golden ki left his island, directly scattering it.

"Master empress, what in the world is going on?" Zu An's eyes were about to pop out of their sockets.

"Hmph, you were so busy chatting with your crown princess a moment ago. You finally remembered me?" Mi Li replied in dissatisfaction. However, she still explained, "A new dungeon has appeared, so the laws of the world are currently being recreated. The elements of the world are in an extremely unstable state. Trying to use one's power recklessly here will only draw over these berserk elements. That emperor's cultivation is so high that anything he does will incur the highest level of this world's power. Normally, his attacks would be incredibly powerful, but in this unstable environment, he will instead be rejected by the world."

Zu An became more and more excited. "Doesn't that mean the emperor can't do a thing?"

"More or less. The greater the power he uses, the greater the rebound from this world. That's why you should be safe for now." Mi Li was about to say something else to him, but she saw that Zu An was already standing at the edge of the island.

Zu An began to dance and wave his arms around in front of Zhao Ruizhi, taunting, "You can't catch me, I guess I'm just too strong. What a loser, lalala~"

Mi Li, Bi Linglong, and Zhao Ruizhi were all left speechless. Even Mi Li felt this brat really needed a good beating, let alone the emperor.

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes became completely red, smoke even coming out from his nose. He stared daggers at Zu An. His figure flickered as he rushed over again, this time even faster than the last. Unfortunately, it only made the rebound of the force of this world even more terrifying.

Several dozen streaks of lightning wove into a net around him. The electricity was different from what one would normally see; it instead resembled a pure purple liquid. The borders of the islands even began to crystallize from a distance, so it was easy to imagine just how powerful the lightning was.

Not even the emperor could endure such power. The golden barrier around him quickly broke apart. The rings on his finger flickered with golden light, helping him block the incoming arcs of lightning.

Bi Linglong stared at the gemstone rings on his fingers in shock. She had always seen them on his hand, but she'd thought that these rings were just decorations the empress had given him out of love to her son. It turned out that all of them were actually magic artifacts! Any artifact that could block such terrifying lightning was definitely top tier.

Unfortunately, the power of heaven and earth wasn't so easily blocked. Soon afterwards, the rings continuously flickered with light, but every single one shattered after holding on for only a second or two. Even so, they already bought Zhao Ruizhi enough time to return to the island he was previously on.

He could no longer remain as calm and confident as he had been before. His hair had been blasted into a mess, and there were several scorched black marks on his face. His arms were shaking in his sleeves. The damage he had experienced definitely wasn't light...

Zu An cried out piteously. When he'd heard Mi Li's explanation, he had used Fragrant Barf without hesitation, forcing the emperor to attack him on the spot. He'd wanted to use the power of the world to get rid of this huge headache. Unfortunately, the emperor was so powerful that not even the terrifying sea of lightning could take his life.

Zhao Ruizhi gave Zu An a look from the other island, and the redness in his eyes slowly withdrew. Then, he turned around to walk toward the mountain behind him.

Zu An was stunned. What the hell? Fragrant Barf lost its effectiveness? Didn't the explanation say its effects won't end unless one of us dies?

Chapter 845: Deadly Misunderstanding

Zu An quickly asked Mi Li about what was happening. Mi Li thought to herself and replied, "There are three possibilities. The first is that the world is still in chaos, so the laws of the world are still being created. A lot of the energies that could normally be used can't be used, and that skill of yours has been affected as well. The second is the power of lightning we just saw. Lightning is the purest form of the world. It eliminates all things evil..."

Zu An was annoyed. "Are you calling my skill evil?"

Mi Li laughed. "That skill of yours is indeed quite sinister. It's likely a type of curse that affects the soul. It's not too surprising that the powerful lightning cleansed it away."

Zu An was speechless. Mi Li continued, "The third possibility is that the emperor is too powerful; that his soul has already reached an unimaginable level. He's able to retain a level of rationality even after being affected by your skill. After his previous experience, he believes that trying to kill you now would only put himself in danger, so he's decided to kill you after the world has calmed down."

Zu An sulked and muttered, "That's the worst possibility." He had always thought that the Keyboard System's abilities were of the highest level. If even these abilities were useless against the emperor, wasn't he practically invincible?

Zu An wasn't convinced. He decided to provoke the other party again. As such, he raised his voice and shouted, "Hey! Damn fatty!"

Zhao Ruizhi, who was seated underneath a tree in meditation, suddenly raised his head. He Li couldn't help but look at Zu An as well. This kid really was vicious! When other people offended the emperor, they would want to be as far away as possible, yet this guy was actually taunting the emperor? Was this kid going to do something strange again?

Bi Linglong also looked at him in puzzlement. She didn't understand why he was doing this. Suddenly, Zu An lowered his head and kissed her red lips in front of everyone. Her lips were extremely soft and carried a sweet fragrance. Bi Linglong's head went blank, as if an explosion had gone off.

King Qi Manor's deathsworn soldiers and He Li were speechless. He Li thought, What the hell? This kid is going too far! Even I can't take it anymore, let alone the emperor! He quickly turned to look in Zhao Ruizhi's reaction. He saw that the emperor's eyes were entirely red, and a terrifying pressure was spreading outward.

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

But what He Li was most surprised about was that the emperor quickly closed his eyes, as if nothing had happened in front of him. He couldn't help but feel admiration. This level of self-restraint wasn't something just anyone could have.

Zu An was also surprised. The emperor could even endure this? Still, he had already confirmed something, which was that Fragrant Barf was indeed ineffective. That was because Rage points earned during Fragrant Barf didn't count. Seeing that the emperor could still remain calm, he wanted to bring out the line 'your wife is amazing' to make him go insane. But out of respect for Bi Linglong, he discarded that thought.

Bi Linglong finally snapped out of her daze. She pushed him away in embarrassment, then ran into the trees behind them in alarm. What she had just done was already challenging her years of education and training on etiquette! So many people were watching too. How could she stand this?

Zu An gave Zhao Ruizhi a look, then quickly chased after Bi Linglong.

He Li and the others were already growing numb. The two of them were rushing into the trees, one man and one woman, so who knew what would happen!? Would his majesty really just watch this happen? They saw that Zhao Ruizhi continued to remain quiet, but his face twitched from time to time. He Li decisively chose not to cause a disaster for no reason.

Zu An caught up to Bi Linglong. He asked with a gentle voice, "Why are you running?"

"Are you really asking me that right now? You did... that to me in front of all of those people." Bi Linglong looked at him, embarrassed.

Zu An looked wronged as he asked, "Weren't you the one who kissed me first?"

"I did that just to... anger that person. It wasn't because I really... felt anything for you. You better not think any weird thoughts." Bi Linglong sounded flustered. Then, she strangely added, "Moreover, even if... Even if there is something, don't think I'm that kind of easy woman."

Zu An laughed. "You don't need to think too much about it either. I did that just now to anger the emperor too, hoping he'd lose his cool and try to get revenge. That way, I could use the world's power to defeat him. Unfortunately, I didn't expect him to be able to remain so calm."

"That's... good." For some reason, Bi Linglong felt a bit disappointed when she heard Zu An's response. She turned around and didn't want to look at him anymore.

When he looked at her snow-white hair, Zu An thought for a bit, then handed her some pills. "Right, your life force was damaged when you used that secret technique earlier. Here, I have some pills that can help you recover some ki. I'll help you absorb the medicine after you take it."

He had bought quite a few medicines from Ji Dengtu back then. Furthermore, he had also received a lot of medicine from Chu Youzhao before he came inside, and some among them helped stabilize one's ki. He took all of them out now.

Bi Linglong felt her heart soften. He had actually remembered her current condition. She was a bit embarrassed to receive such help after she had thrown that little tantrum.

However, when she saw her white hair, she still reached out her hand. "Thank you!" What girl didn't care about their appearance? She wouldn't have dared to take any medicine another man offered her, but this time, she didn't hesitate at all. She ate the pill and sat down to channel the nearly exhausted ki inside her body.

Zu An sat down before Bi Linglong. He reached out and placed his hand against her major acupoint, infusing a large amount of ki into her. He couldn't help but sigh when he did so. When the main leads of those dramas treated women, they would always remove her clothes. Compared to them, I really am an innocent and honest man!

Bi Linglong obviously didn't know what he was thinking. She began to digest the medicinal force inside of her with his help. A wave of warmth spread through her body and her complexion became rosier. Even though these medicines were far from enough to compensate for her lost life force, they still nourished her weakened body.

Zu An noticed the effects as well. After thinking for a while, he took out a large spiritual root, saying, "This thousand year root contains abundant life energy. If you ingest it, it should be of some help to your body."

Bi Linglong's eyes widened in shock. "Wasn't this something I gave you before?"

She was a bit flustered. Back then, she had been a high and mighty crown princess. She had only given it to him to win him over as a competent subordinate. How could she have anticipated that so many things would happen between her and that subordinate back then?

Zu An was completely unaffected and remarked loftily, "Doesn't this mean that we were brought together by fate? Perhaps the will of heaven is working in our midst."

Bi Linglong's heart pounded when she heard those words. Could they really be brought together by fate? Women would always feel a strange sense of trust in such mysterious things.

Mi Li scoffed as she watched out of boredom. This kid really was something else. He was using a gift the girl had given him to chase after her. The worst part of it all was that it had worked!

Zu An tore off a piece of the root and fed it to Bi Linglong. "There's only so much we can do right now, so please eat it."

Normally speaking, the spiritual root would be better used as an ingredient in preparing pills, but Zu An only had Ki Condensation Pills. If he tried to refine different pills, he might just end up wasting this precious ingredient if he failed, so he would rather have her just directly ingest it now.

Bi Linglong voiced her agreement and took the spiritual root. Her red lips opened slightly as she sucked on it.

...

Meanwhile, on the other island, Zhao Ruizhi was waiting for the world to stabilize so that he could teach Zu An a lesson. However, the world didn't show any sign of stabilizing even after a long time, leaving him more and more vexed.

He hadn't planned to check on what the two were doing; out of sight, out of mind. With his understanding of Bi Linglong, he knew she would never really do anything that would shame her identity. But he was a bit bored and annoyed, so he decided to pay some attention to the other island.

He Li wanted to eavesdrop on them as well. With his cultivation, a distance of a hundred zhang wasn't difficult at all. Unfortunately, crazy winds roared around them, and with how chaotic the elements were, he couldn't really hear anything.

But just then, the storms seemed to weaken a bit. Bi Linglong's soft and weak voice emerged. "It's too big, I can't take it all..."

He Li was stunned. What the hell are the two of them doing? They actually went that far? He gave Zhao Ruizhi a look and saw that the fat on his face was jiggling all over the place.

Zhao Ruizhi roared angrily toward the sky. "Zu An, I will hack your corpse into a thousand pieces!"

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Chapter 846: Great Beginning

On the other island, Zu An jumped in fright. "What the heck is wrong with him?"

Bi Linglong was also baffled. "I don't know."

Zu An said, "Then whatever, just ignore him. Let's continue."

"Okay." Bi Linglong thought for a bit before saying, "Don't push so hard next time; I really can't handle it."

She had just digested the medicine Zu An gave her. Now that she had eaten the spiritual root, she was full of medicinal power. If the ki transmitted by the hand on her back was too strong, she really wouldn't be able to take it.

Zu An nodded and replied, "Okay."

The two of them quickly continued the treatment. But they had no idea what these words sounded like to those on the other island.

He Li was already so terrified he didn't dare to look at Zhao Ruizhi. He only quietly widened the distance between them, cursing Zu An and Bi Linglong to death inwardly. Can't you guys go play quietly in the corner or something? Why do you have to do all of that... The worst part was that the emperor couldn't head over to get revenge right now. People like him on the same side were instead the ones in danger.

Zhao Ruizhi charged forward angrily, but unfortunately, he was sent right back after being struck miserably by the berserk lightning. Perhaps because he had challenged the world again and again, the world seemed to have become enraged. All manner of lightning struck down toward the island he was on. At the same time, the world above their heads began to break apart as well, and several flaming chunks of rock descended.

Perhaps Zhao Ruizhi's island had been causing too much of a commotion, so many of the flaming meteors fell that way. His expression turned grim. If this island were destroyed by these 'meteors', they would be done for. As such, he quickly moved to block them. Unfortunately, there were just too many of them. Even with his powerful cultivation, he couldn't stop all of them. Some smaller ones fell through the gap.

He Li and the other deathsworn soldiers quickly stopped the smaller meteors. They were all incredibly depressed. What the hell is this? Zu An is enjoying himself on the other side, yet we have to deal with all of this?

...

On the other hand, Zu An didn't have the leisure to keep 'enjoying himself'. Most of those meteors had fallen toward Zhao Ruizhi's island, but there were still some that came after them. He had no choice but to get up and deal with them. He had been a bit upset that the island he had chosen ended up being so small, but he changed his mind now. It was because the island was small that he didn't have so much to worry about, allowing him to protect it.

Those present thought that the 'meteors' were just temporary. However, even after it continued for a while, the meteor shower showed no sign of ending at all, and it continued for three days. Zu An and Zhao Ruizhi, as well as King Qi Manor's people, all fought against the meteor shower. Fortunately, cultivators weren't like ordinary people; they could go half a month without eating or sleeping.

But there was still a limit to that. Many deathsworn soldiers perished from exhaustion or from being crushed by the meteors. The others didn't have it easy either. Only Zhao Ruizhi alone seemed to be fine. His hair, which had been scorched by the lightning earlier, had already been fixed again.

Even though Zu An was dealing with the situation alone, the amount of land he had to protect was smaller, so he had a comparatively easier time. But he was still fighting alone. Even though Bi Linglong's condition was improving and she could help, at her cultivation level, she could only take care of some small meteors.

Zu An was starting to feel drained after the meteor shower continued for three days. What left him feeling even more powerless was that he had no idea how much longer it would continue for. He asked Mi Li for advice.

Mi Li replied, "The world above us is currently breaking down. It's such a massive world, so I don't think this will end for some time." Zu An felt even more despair when he heard her reply.

Two more days passed. Forget about Zu An, the other group was struggling to hold on too. Zhao Ruizhi was still standing upright, but many people from King Qi Manor couldn't take it. They were powerless to continue protecting themselves. Glaring holes were forming in their defenses.

Suddenly, a roar emerged from the forest behind them as a python flew out to help them block an incoming meteor. This python was several dozen zhang in length, its aura not inferior to that Jade Moon Serpent Zu An's group had fought previously at all. Several other powerful beasts came out to protect the island as well.

When beasts reached a higher level, they would develop sentience. They knew that if the island was destroyed, they would all be done for as well. They hadn't dared to show themselves earlier out of fear toward Zhao Ruizhi's aura. But now that the situation was looking dire, they couldn't be bothered to worry about him anymore.

They were even stronger than the deathsworn soldiers. Zhao Ruizhi immediately felt the pressure lessen. He couldn't help but give the other island a look, smirking when he saw how much Zu An was struggling.

Zhao Ruizhi couldn't cross over, but even so, the brat appeared to already be on the verge of collapse. If Zu An died under the power of the world, that could serve to vent his resentment. It was just a pity that he couldn't seize the kid himself and skin him alive.

...

On the other hand, Zu An's situation really wasn't great. The island he was on was quite small, so he could see everything on it from where he was standing. There weren't any powerful beasts there to help him. Bi Linglong had lost too much of her life force earlier, and had only recovered a little bit, so she couldn't help him much.

He hadn't gotten a wink of sleep, struggling against the meteors from morning to evening. He really was starting to break down after fighting for so long. Looking at the seemingless boundless landmass above them, he had no idea how many months and years it would continue to crumble. He told Mi Li with a bitter smile, "Master empress, I'm about to kick the bucket. I'm sorry that you have to die with me."

They wouldn't be able to last until the meteors disappeared even if Mi Li helped. After all, the continent above them was just too large.

Mi Li said, "I've been observing the situation this entire time, but the elements of this world show no signs of stabilizing. However, I've noticed something interesting, which is that because the laws of the world are chaotic, the primordial ki here is abundant."

Zu An hadn't had the leisure of noticing such things at all. What he usually focused on was the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, because normally, primordial ki was just too rare and precious. He quickly sensed his

surroundings when he heard those words, however. He was shocked to discover that there was primordial ki everywhere! Every cell in his body seemed to be cheering with joy.

“In the very beginning, the world wasn’t distinctly separated into heaven and earth, but rather took the form of primal chaos.” Mi Li looked at the changing world around her. “This current situation shares some similarities to the beginning of the world, which is why there’s so much of this rare primordial ki. You should use this chance to operate the Primordial Origin Sutra and temper your body. If you do that, it should help you survive this trial.”

Zu An had already realized that before Mi Li said anything. He used the Primordial Origin Sutra to the fullest extent. The primordial ki around him rushed toward his body crazily, entering him and continuously tempering his body.

Zu An felt all of his fatigue vanish in an instant. Instead, he felt as if he were in the best condition of his life. He roared out excitedly and smashed the descending meteors one after another with his fists, using them to compliment the Primordial Origin Sutra’s body tempering.

When Zhao Ruizhi on the other side saw Zu An’s actions, he couldn’t help but sneer. “Nothing more than a final mad struggle.” With his sight, he had already deduced that with Zu An’s cultivation, wantonly wasting strength would only speed up his death.

He Li saw Bi Linglong look at Zu An with eyes full of admiration. He sighed and remarked, “Is this youth? They don’t know how to pace themselves and only know how to blindly throw their lives away. He’s in his current situation all because of a woman. Nevertheless, the crown princess is so beautiful, so dying with a beauty like that by his side isn’t too bad of an ending.”

But what surprised both him and the emperor was that not only did Zu An not collapse after continuing for an entire day, he instead seemed to be getting stronger and stronger. His fists smashed the descending meteors with no sign of stopping.

Zhao Ruizhi frowned. However, he figured that it was probably because of some forbidden technique and didn’t worry too much. But after another three days, Zu An’s valiant figure was still fighting, finally making him worry.

“What kind of monstrous stamina does that brat have?” Zhao Ruizhi was incredibly shocked. He was even starting to admire the kid. If not because he dared to even defile Linglong... But he quickly threw that thought away. This brat was definitely not the type who would ever yield. As an emperor, he couldn’t tolerate the existence of such a person.

...

On the other hand, at first, Bi Linglong felt admiration toward Zu An’s bravery, but she gradually began to feel worry that he might not be able to hold on for much longer. “Ah Zu, you won’t be able to last like this. How about you rest and let me take your place for a bit?” She would be happy if she could buy him even a few seconds of reprieve.

Zu An smacked his own chest and exclaimed with a laugh, “Don’t worry, I’m feeling great! Right now, my body is even harder than these meteors!”

Bi Linglong’s face turned red. She harrumphed. This fellow really is a pervert.

Chapter 847: Three Sacred Mountains

Zu An obviously didn't know that Bi Linglong was thinking weird things. After he answered her, he focused on absorbing primordial ki.

In reality, most of the primordial ki was used to stop the neverending meteors. However, the primordial ki used for that wasn't wasted, as it served to continuously temper his flesh and bones. He could clearly feel every inch of his skin becoming sturdier. It didn't become as hard as a rock, but rather had a powerful elastic strength.

After his skin was refined, he then used the primordial ki to temper his muscles, bones, vessels, and internal organs. He felt that after this process was complete, his body would become several times stronger than before; the attacks of normal cultivators wouldn't be able to do much to him even if he didn't bother using ki to defend.

Zu An remembered Yun Jianyue mocking him, saying that the bodies of grandmasters were different from normal people and that only a powerful man could penetrate those at her level. But he was confident that right now, forget about a grandmaster, he was now tough enough to even do an earth immortal!

But the only earth immortal in this world was the emperor, so he immediately wanted to throw up when he thought of that.

Half a month passed just like that. Zu An had already completely tempered his body three times over. He had never felt so strong before; every single cell in his body was full of explosive power.

Bi Linglong couldn't help but move over. She touched his skin with a fingertip, asking, "Why do I feel like your skin tone has become lighter?"

"Really?" Zu An was a bit surprised. Could it be that he was born to be a pretty boy?

"I'm sure." Bi Linglong was a bit envious. "And your skin is so amazing! It's even prettier than a girl's."

Zu An realized that the tempering process had made him continuously shed and create new skin. That was why his skin had become whiter than before. "Being touched one-sidedly like this feels like I'm being taken advantage of! How about I touch you a bit too, to make it fair?" he cried out.

Bi Linglong harrumphed. She took a step back, blushing. "Per-vert!" She turned around and ignored him afterward.

Zu An sulked. Why is it fine when she touches me, but I'm a pervert if I want to touch her?

Mi Li coughed and said, "Stop flirting with the crown princess already. What layer has your Primordial Origin Sutra reached?"

Zu An replied, "I actually already finished the third layer a while ago. But I don't have the Primordial Origin Sutra's second half, so I can't go any further. It'd be a waste if I let all of this primordial ki go, so I tempered my body three more times."

"Three more times?" Mi Li's eyes widened and she couldn't help but reach out to touch him. "This really is a tremendous opportunity for you. Even though the successive generations of Qin's kings were

outstanding talents, they were only able to complete a single refinement to perfection. Who knows how tough your body will become when you completely cultivate this technique!"

Zu An smiled bitterly. "I only did this because I had no choice. I don't even have the second half of this technique, so I can only keep refining my body over and over again."

Mi Li shook her head. "To a certain degree, this will actually take you to a completely different level. I'm quite curious what kind of state you'll reach once you fully cultivate the Primordial Origin Sutra."

Zu An said, "But I have no idea where that latter half is... I might not even be able to find that mysterious Westhound Tomb in my lifetime."

In the dungeon, the Qin King's remnant soul had told him to search for Westhound Tomb if he wanted the other half of this sutra. Unfortunately, he had searched everywhere, and even accessed the Embroidered Envoy's information network, but he hadn't found a thing. He could only give up as a result.

Mi Li's expression turned strange. "Don't worry, you'll find it soon."

Zu An didn't notice the strangeness in her voice. He raised his head and asked, "Master empress, did you notice that the meteors seem to have decreased? The chaotic elements seem to have calmed down quite a bit too."

Mi Li nodded. "I believe the new dungeon will completely make its appearance soon."

Zu An wasn't too concerned about a new dungeon, and instead became worried. "Won't the emperor come to kill us if the elements stabilize?"

Mi Li replied, "Don't worry, the new world's laws are different from before. He won't be able to cross over that quickly."

...

Zhao Ruizhi observed them from his side. After a bit of hesitation, he decided not to make any rash moves. It was clear that with his cultivation, he was able to sense that the new world's laws weren't as calm as they seemed on the surface.

His prior actions had already made him lose a lot of face again and again without achieving anything, making him seem as if he only knew how to display his anger powerlessly. That was why he decided that he would only make his move when he had a hundred percent certainty.

He wanted to laugh when he thought of that. It had already been many years since he last felt such a thing. With his cultivation and status, when did he not have absolute confidence when he did anything?

Even when he was facing King Qi out in the open, he still felt everything was in his control. Yet here, a brat like Zu An had been beyond his control several times. However, the more things were like this, the more he would make Zu An pay later.

Suddenly, a rumble came from above as the entire world began to slowly descend.

Those from King Qi Manor turned pale, their eyes full of despair. Even the always-composed Zhao Ruizhi's expression changed. Even though his cultivation was high, it wasn't at a level where he could hold up an entire continent!

Even though a large portion of that landmass had already broken apart from half a month of meteor showers, it was still an entire continent in the end! If it crashed down on them like this, forget about an earth immortal, even a true immortal would be pulverized!

When she saw the descending landmass, Bi Linglong subconsciously moved closer to Zu An. It seemed as if only then could the ice-cold despair in her heart be broken by a sliver of warmth.

Even though Zu An was extremely nervous as well, he still held her hand to console her. Bi Linglong trembled. Normally, she would definitely have pulled her hand back bashfully. But in this situation, she didn't want those interlocked fingers to separate instead.

"Big sis empress, what do we do? Are we really going to all die here?" Zu An called out frantically to Mi Li.

"What are you panicking for? Just keep watching." Mi Li harrumphed. She raised her head to look at the continent, a hint of grief flashing through her stunning face.

Zu An was confused. Ever since they had entered this dungeon, he'd felt that her reactions had always been a bit strange.

"It stopped, it stopped!" King Qi Manor's people cheered joyfully. The landmass above them had stopped when it reached several hundred zhang above their heads. Even Zhao Ruizhi let out a sigh of relief.

Suddenly, they could hear the sound of cracking. They quickly raised their heads and saw that several visible massive cracks had appeared in the continent. Those cracks grew larger and larger until eventually, the entire continent was split up into three chunks.

Scattered rocks, dirt, trees, and other such things rained down from above. Zu An and everyone else began a new round of island protection. But those things didn't fall for long. Soon afterward, a ray of light descended, putting the long period of darkness to an end.

A gust of wind swept past. The smoke and dust that had surged because of the splitting earth scattered. Those present looked up, seeing three large islands floating above them. Every single island was many times larger than the island Zhao Ruizhi was standing on. Rather than calling them floating islands, it would be better to call them floating continents.

"I think I see a blue sky!"

"Sunlight, I can see sunlight!"

After half a month of bitter struggle, King Qi Manor's people had survived by the skin of their teeth. They all wept tears of joy.

"What is that over there? Is that an immortal palace?" Someone suddenly pointed at the continent that was directly above them. The original landmass had been divided into three parts, and they just happened to be under the middle continent, so they could already make out some things on it.

They saw all manner of decorations and buildings. What seemed like palaces towered one after another into the sky. Every single room seemed as if it were made from gold, silver, and jade.

Chapter 848: Encroaching Danger

Zhao Ruizhi's gaze was filled with excitement. When he thought about the immortality he could potentially obtain, he almost stopped caring about Zu An. Possession was, after all, just a last resort. If he really could obtain immortality, he would absolutely use his own body.

He walked over to the edge of the floating island, deciding to fly toward the three islands. Even though they were several hundred zhang apart, it wasn't too great a distance for him. However, he suddenly stopped. After some hesitation, he ordered He Li, "Fly up and take a look around first."

He Li's face instantly paled. Even though he was curious about what kinds of things these immortal mountains were hiding, he was usually timid and cautious in nature. He immediately understood that the emperor wanted him to use him as a guinea pig. They had just experienced more than half a month of hell. Even though the scenery looked peaceful, who knew what kind of dangers there were?

Unfortunately, he couldn't defy the emperor's orders. However, he suddenly had an idea. He ordered some of King Qi Manor's experts to lead the way. At the same time, he promised that if they found anything good up there, it would be theirs.

These fellows were usually rather submissive and easy to sway. Sure enough, their breathing became hurried when they heard that condition. These immortal mountains were just too amazing to look at. They completely fit the description of a legendary immortal dwelling! If they could head up first, they might encounter some miraculous opportunities.

Even if they didn't find anything else, they could see some fruits that were clearly extraordinary. If they ate a few of them, even if they didn't go through a complete rebirth, making significant progress in their cultivation wouldn't be an issue. As such, they agreed excitedly.

Zhao Ruizhi smiled. This He Li was quite the talent. Either way, he just needed people to scout out the situation. He didn't care who it was that went up there. As for whether or not they really found anything, it didn't matter if it didn't catch his interest. If it did, why would he let them have it?

The experts from King Qi Manor weren't at the ninth rank yet and couldn't fly. But now that the world stabilized, there were floating islands all around them. The distance between each island wasn't too great, so with their cultivation, jumping up wasn't too difficult.

He Li even helped them out a bit. With his cultivation at the peak of the ninth rank, even a rock he threw would reach those three sacred mountains. The experts borrowed the force of his pushes to land on the closest floating island. They were worried that they might be outdone by their peers, so all of them went all out. But their expressions suddenly changed midway.

"What's going on?" someone cried out in alarm, because they discovered that all of their strength had suddenly disappeared!

Then, the experts began to fall back down like lumps of iron. They were like drowning people, frantically waving their arms around to try and grab something, but they were in midair! What could they possibly

grab? Soon afterward, they dropped from the sky one after another, screaming in alarm and horror. Those remaining paled in fright as they watched.

The black mist below them was already rising higher and higher. It was already close to the small islands. But compared to its initial pitch-black color, now that sunlight had scattered down again, the black mist became pink. It was now as beautiful as a sunset glow.

The experts fell into the mist clouds, and their miserable screams came to a grunting halt.

“Huh?” They had created such a huge disturbance, so it was hard for Zu An not to notice it.

The laws of the world had clearly already stabilized, so why had they fallen? Furthermore, even those massive islands could float in the sky, so why had these people, who were small in comparison, dropped like that?

He quickly asked Mi Li, but realized that he was already depending on her too much. It was just like the famous saying: ‘If you don’t know about something outside of China, Google it; if you don’t know about something inside China, Baidu it; if you don’t know something about sex... Ahem...’ He felt as if Mi Li were becoming his Google and Baidu.

Mi Li explained, “Every world has its own laws. These laws can be all sorts of strange things, and you have no choice but to accept it. Once cultivators reach the grandmaster or earth immortal level, they can create domains of their own, which are equivalent to extremely small worlds. The laws are set by them, so they can use laws that are unfavorable for any opponents that invade their domains. Any enemies who are unaware of that might end up suffering greatly.”

Zu An remembered what it had been like when he faced Zhao Ruizhi. He couldn’t move an inch inside the other party’s domain. If not for the fact that the world’s elements had been in chaos, destroying the emperor’s domain, he might already be dead.

Mi Li continued, “This dungeon is similar; I believe it prevents flight. As for why those giant islands can continue to fly in the air, while people can’t, there’s no need to think about it further. You only need to know that the laws exist and how they operate. You might encounter laws that are even stranger and more outlandish.”

Zu An half-understood what she said. How badass would it be if he could create a world of his own? If he had the ability to set a world’s laws in the future, he would definitely make beaches everywhere. Bikinis would fill the streets, and only tank tops and booty shorts would be the limit, no more clothes beyond that...

Mi Li spoke again. “What you need to pay attention to is the pink mist. We clearly can’t see any more lightning, but why did those people become silent the moment they fell into the mist clouds?”

Zu An asked in confusion, “Don’t tell me it’s poisonous?”

“If it’s poison, then you should be happy because of your poison immunity.” Mi Li frowned. “But not even a strong poison should be able to instantly kill off those cultivators. Furthermore, the mist is still rising. Even though it isn’t moving quickly, it will reach this place sooner or later.

On the other island, the deathsworn soldiers didn't dare to continue trying when they saw their companions die so miserably. He Li was also getting a headache. I'm finished! What if the emperor asks me to go first?

Fortunately, Zhao Ruizhi wasn't in the mood to pay him any attention. Instead, he stood by the edge of the island and observed the mist below. Suddenly, he reached out his hand, seizing the tail of a massive python from the forest. With a startled roar, the python struggled frantically. It tried to wrap itself around Zhao Ruizhi, its mouth widening and biting down on him.

Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed. With a flick of his wrist, the python's body rippled like a wave. With that, all of its bones became disjointed, its body becoming as limp as a noodle, unable to resist at all. Even though its cultivation had reached its current level, it wasn't able to free itself from the weakness of being a snake.

The beasts in the forest hid themselves in alarm, as if they could only feel a bit safer if they got further away from the emperor.

The onlookers gulped. They could only sigh in admiration toward the power of the emperor. Even a beast this terrifying had been so easily subdued.

Zhao Ruizhi lowered the python into the cloud mist. Due to the ridiculous length of its body, it could barely touch the edge of the mist. After a moment, he quickly frowned and pulled the python back up.

The onlookers were startled, because half of the python's head was now missing! The front half was nowhere to be seen, and not a single drop of blood fell from the clean cut. They had no idea what kind of thing had sealed that area.

They finally knew why those individuals had become silent upon making contact. They were already just like this snake, devoured by an unknown and mysterious power! They all felt despair when they saw the mist rising higher and higher.

Zu An sighed. "That guy really is vicious... That python helped him protect that island for almost an entire month, so it should have been a comrade for better or for worse, yet he turned on it so quickly."

Bi Linglong also turned pale. "The emperor is the most ruthless one of all."

That was something she had always understood. It was just that she had been the crown princess, and the emperor had always backed the crown prince. He had always targeted enemies with his vicious methods, so she'd only felt admiration, and even a bit of adoration. But only now that the emperor had become her enemy did she understand how frightening such a person was.

Zu An patted her arm gently to comfort her. Zhao Ruizhi said coldly from the other island, "Stop flirting already. Why don't you think of a way to head on up?"

Even with the emperor's ability, he was still a bit stumped. The new domain was suppressing him considerably; otherwise, a trifling few hundred zhang of distance wouldn't be a big deal at all. He hated Zu An bitterly, but he had to admit that the kid was sharp, and he had a bunch of strange and bizarre skills as well. He might very well have a solution to this situation.

The mist below was getting closer and closer. Even though the mist might not be able to kill him with his cultivation, he couldn't last forever, let alone the fact that he still wanted to chase after immortality.

Zu An chuckled when he heard what Zhao Ruizhi said. "I see, you're begging me. But why do I feel your attitude isn't right? Maybe I'll feel a bit more motivated if you speak nicely."

Chapter 849: What If I Tell You to Die?

Zhao Ruizhi was speechless.

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With a shake of his hand, the python lashed out like a whip as he struck out of anger. With the sturdiness of the python's body, the winds that rushed forth as a result could be felt from far away. Even a mountain might be leveled if hit by such an attack.

Zu An remained unfazed. The roaring python swept past him, but it missed him by a few dozen zhang. He suggested with a chuckle, "Maybe you should stand a bit closer?"

The reason he was able to remain so calm was that they were several hundred zhang away from each other, and the snake clearly wasn't that long. Half of the python's head had gone missing in the mist earlier, so he obviously didn't have to be scared.

He even took a step forward after speaking. At first, he wanted to copy Hail the Judge's Fang Tangjing and say 'I'm jumping in and out, come on, hit me!' to earn more Rage points. But Bi Linglong was still watching, so that would be a bit too shameless...

Even so, Zhao Ruizhi was angered badly. He stared hatefully at Zu An, and his outreached hand shook. The several dozen zhang long python instantly exploded into a bloody mist. He couldn't do anything to Zu An, so he could only vent out his anger on the pitiful python.

He Li was horrified. The emperor's strength was so great, they didn't dare to rebel in the slightest! Why the hell was that Zu An angering the emperor? Was that guy sick in the head?

Bi Linglong had similar thoughts. "Ah Zu, his majesty is giving you a rare chance to cooperate and ease tensions. Why are you angering him on purpose?"

Zu An said with a sigh, "With the things I've done, he won't let me go even if I kneel for forgiveness, so why should I bow down? I might as well curse him a few times to feel better."

Bi Linglong suddenly realized he was right. "You're still smarter than me in this situation. I almost forgot."

"There's no need for you to feel that way." Zu An continued, "Besides, if he really needs me, no matter how much I've angered him, he'll endure it no matter what's happened thus far."

Bi Linglong had a complicated expression. "The emperor has never experienced such frustration in his life. You're the first to make him feel this way." She was filled with shock and admiration. This man really was different from normal people. After all, when others faced the emperor, even speaking was difficult, yet he was so calm and collected.

Just then, several cries could be heard in the distance. Some small islands had risen from below, each one of them roughly a square meter or so in size. Those floating islands would sometimes rise, sometimes fall, sometimes stopping in midair. They seemed to be moving in a rhythmic pattern.

What was even more important was that the floating islands they were on and those massive floating continents were surrounded by the rising and falling islands. They seemed to be forming a bridge that led to the 'sacred mountains'.

Zhao Ruizhi roared with laughter, "Heaven never bars my way after all!"

A dungeon like this wouldn't produce an impossible situation after all. There was likely an 'inheritance' waiting for those fated to obtain it up ahead after all.

He suddenly gave Zu An's island a look. Even though there were a few scattered islands in between, it wasn't enough for him to head over there. That was why he could only endure his rage and head up to the sacred mountain above first. Even so, he remained careful. He didn't go himself and instead looked toward He Li. "You, go up first."

He Li's scalp became numb. He finally understood why the other party had kept him alive. It turned out that it was so that the emperor could use him as a tool in this new dungeon after all! But he didn't dare to refuse. He could only agree with a smile.

Then, he looked at King Qi Manor's subordinates. When they saw him look at them, they all shrunk back. At the same time, they looked toward the sky, pretending they hadn't seen anything. They weren't going to be so easily fooled after seeing what had just happened to their companions!

"Cowardly bastards," He Li cursed. Even these guys were worthy of being called deathsworn soldiers?

Helpless to do anything about it, he could only brace himself and go up. He took a deep breath, then stepped onto the closest of the newly-formed floating platforms. Every muscle in his body was taut. He would immediately back up if there was something even slightly wrong. For a cultivator at the peak of the ninth rank like him, he at least had confidence to do that much.

Nothing strange happened even when he stood on that floating island for a long time. He couldn't help but beam with joy. "It's fine; there's nothing wrong with these floating platforms!"

He was about to step off when Zhao Ruizhi stopped him, commanding, "Continue forward!"

He Li's face fell, but he still felt helpless. He continued to the next floating platform. This one moved as soon as he stepped on it, slowly rising up. He was incredibly nervous, but he calmed down when he saw that the other floating platforms were also rising and falling in rhythm.

After he rose a few zhang, a new floating platform appeared in front of him. He knew that the platform he was on was going to start descending soon. He couldn't help but look toward Zhao Ruizhi, hoping he would be allowed to return first.

But even though Zhao Ruizhi didn't say a word, his grave and stern gaze expressed his intent for He Li to continue.

He Li gulped and quickly jumped to the third floating platform. That platform also slowly carried him up. He sighed in relief when he saw that the platforms were all fine, and his thoughts began to move

normally again. The emperor is too cautious, which gives me a great opportunity instead. If I arrive on those sacred mountains first, won't I have the best chance of obtaining miraculous opportunities? I can break free from the emperor's control then...

Anyone who could cultivate to the peak of the ninth rank was no idiot. He understood clearly that the reason why the emperor hadn't killed him yet was because he had some use in this new dungeon. Once they left this dungeon, it would be hard for someone like him to keep his life. That was why, if he could obtain some tremendous opportunity in this sacred mountain, it would give him a sliver of a chance at survival.

His footsteps became lighter when he thought of that, and he was no longer as scared as before. But he couldn't have expected that just as he stepped on the fifth floating platform, it began to descend the moment he actually stood on it, even though it had clearly been about to go up!

He Li was alarmed. He wanted to return to the fourth floating platform. With his cultivation, he could still jump at least that far. However, the previous platform quickly rose up, instantly widening the distance enough to leave him in despair.

Just then, a vine flew out and wrapped around He Li's arm, dragging him back. He recovered from his horror when he saw he was standing on solid ground again. He saw the vine in Zhao Ruizhi's hand and immediately bowed. "Thank you, your majesty, for saving my life."

Zhao Ruizhi said indifferently, "Just keep going. I'll bring you back if there is any danger."

He gestured toward the vine in his hands. He had gotten a flash of inspiration while swinging the python around, and torn off a long vine from the forest nearby. Unfortunately, it was difficult for these vines to reach a hundred zhang in length, or else he would have swung them at that damn kid on the other island.

The gratitude He Li felt immediately disappeared. He cursed inwardly. Your damn vine isn't even long enough! It might be enough in the beginning, but you can't even save me later on! But despite those thoughts, he could only brace himself and continue.

Since there were several paths that could be taken along the floating platforms, Zhao Ruizhi chose a few deathsworn soldiers to speed up the process. He watched from behind them, and whenever one of them fell, he would catch them and send another up.

After having been the emperor for so long, he naturally understood the importance of rotating through his men. If he continued to make the same people take risks, they would definitely become resentful. If they ended up doing something irrational out of despair, that might end up ruining all of his plans. That was why, if he rotated through them, not only would they still show their enthusiasm, they would also have hope. As for He Li, however, that fellow was too cunning and scared of death. He needed to be pressured a bit.

As he watched, Zu An saw that even though this process was slow, it was quite effective. They were already getting closer and closer to the sacred mountain.

He frowned. There were so many people on the other side, so they could experiment in such a way, but he couldn't! There weren't any vines like that on his island, and if he did try to experiment like that, with

her cultivation, Bi Linglong wouldn't be able to bring him back in time. However, he really didn't want to send the weak Bi Linglong ahead either.

But he couldn't have expected that Bi Linglong would take the initiative to scout out a path. She keenly sensed the importance of finding one. She said, "As for the vine... I have a lot of clothes in my storage. You can rip them up and use them as a rope."

Zu An shook his head. "It's too far. Even if we take off all of our clothes and make a rope, it still won't be enough. Those on the other side are planning to sacrifice lives to achieve their purpose. How can we use the same method?"

Bi Linglong's face paled. "Then what do we do? Are we supposed to just wait here for our death?"

The pink mist was currently rising. It was clear that it would completely drown out the island after just a few days.

Zu An asked Mi Li if there was something they could do. Mi Li didn't answer and instead asked, "Do you trust me?"

"Of course I do." Zu An chuckled. "I'll follow whatever master empress says."

"Then..." After a pause, Mi Li asked, "What if I told you to die?"

Chapter 850: Westhound Tomb

Zu An was stunned. He said with a chuckle, "Then I probably wouldn't die. Life is so amazing, and I have so many beauties waiting for me to be with them. I haven't had enough of living yet."

Mi Li was speechless. She looked at him silently. But in the end, she scoffed, "What else was I expecting from you?"

Zu An couldn't help but ask, "Master empress, what's up with you? You've been acting a bit strange ever since we entered this dungeon. You're always preoccupied about something, and you suddenly asked me to become your disciple. And now, you're asking me these strange things?"

Mi Li shook her head. "Now isn't yet the time. You'll know when it is." Zu An wanted to continue asking her, but Mi Li asked impatiently, "Are you done? The other party is getting closer and closer to the floating continents. Are you going to head out or not?"

"Head out?" Zu An gave the floating platforms a troubled look. "But we don't have the privilege of testing out the platforms one by one..."

"Who said we have to test them out? Also, do they really think they'll succeed purely through brute force?" Mi Li harrumphed. Her voice was full of disdain.

As if to prove her words, miserable screams filled the air as she spoke. Many of the deathsworn soldiers fell from the sky, and even with the emperor's abilities, he couldn't save all of them. Two deathsworn soldiers fell into the mist.

There was an uproar on the other island. Zu An looked over and saw that many of the deathsworn soldiers were stuck at a certain point. They couldn't make it past that point no matter what they tried.

They were all incredibly anxious. Some of them were scared by their companions falling and were in a hurry to come back, while some were thinking about the patterns of the floating platforms.

“Let’s go.” Mi Li paused for a moment, then added, “Make sure you immediately go wherever I tell you to. You can’t show any hesitation.”

“Alright, alright, I get it already.” Zu An grabbed Bi Linglong’s hand and said to her, “Let’s go as well.”

Bi Linglong was a bit hesitant. “They have so many people, but they still haven’t succeeded. If it’s just the two of us...”

Zu An replied seriously, “Trust me!”

Mi Li continuously rolled her eyes. This brat always used the things she taught him to court girls. It really was irritating.

When she saw how calm Zu An was, Bi Linglong gently bit her lip. She voiced her agreement, then followed him while holding his hand.

When he saw his subordinates’ confused behavior, Zhao Ruizhi felt a headache. He noticed movement on the other side and saw that Zu An and Bi Linglong were about to give it a try. He sneered, having already watched the situation for a while. The floating platforms on either end moved in different patterns. Trying to imitate their side’s trials would simply be courting death.

When he pictured Zu An taking a step but falling from the sky, Zhao Ruizhi grinned. That hateful brat was finally going to die. But when his hand shifted to the two individuals’ interlocked fingers, that bit of joy immediately vanished.

He had already served as an emperor for so many years. What kind of beauty hadn’t he met in his life? He obviously wouldn’t feel something like love for Bi Linglong. However, to a certain degree, Bi Linglong was his woman, his exclusive property. Only he alone in this world was allowed to touch her. Yet another man actually dared to be so affectionate with her in front of him! His masculine desire to dominate filled him with burning flames of jealousy.

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When Zu An saw the Rage points, he reached out his arm and pulled Bi Linglong into his embrace. Then, he shot Zhao Ruizhi a provocative look.

Zhao Ruizhi nearly exploded with anger. He could only look away expressionlessly.

Bi Linglong blushed, but she knew what Zu An was thinking. If it had been any other time, she would definitely have gotten angry. However, the two of them could die at any moment. She sighed and let him do what he wanted. She had no idea that another woman was helping her reprimand Zu An at that moment.

Mi Li said with a cold expression, “Put away those damn thoughts of yours and focus on what I’m telling you! We’re all doomed if you take even a single wrong step!”

“Okay.” Zu An didn’t dare to act carelessly either. He pricked up his ears and listened.

“From guimei to wuwang, wuwang to dayou, dayou to gutongren...” Mi Li said slowly.

“Stop, stop, stop!” Zu An quickly exclaimed. “Please speak human!”

Mi Li was speechless. When he saw how she was almost steaming with anger, Zu An quickly explained, “I know you taught me a similar chant when you changed my movement technique, but I really don’t know much about these divinatory trigrams. That means I’ll have to spend some time thinking about which way to go. Didn’t you say we don’t have any room for hesitation or delay, that a single misstep will ruin everything? That’s why you should just tell me whether to go forward, backward, left, or right.”

Mi Li stared at him. A while later, she sighed deeply. “If it were any other time, I would’ve made sure to beat the crap out of you.” Even so, she changed her way of speaking, giving him simple directions of forward, backward, left, and right.

Zu An quickly climbed up with Bi Linglong. Sometimes, he would step on several floating platforms in a row; sometimes he would make a huge detour in another direction. Sometimes, he would advance three steps and take two steps back.

Bi Linglong still trembled with fear at first, worried that they would fall like King Qi Manor’s people, yet Zu An was always able to bring them to a safe and correct direction. She couldn’t help but look at the man at her side. He really was becoming more and more mysterious.

A breeze blew past, and Zu An seemed like an immortal that moved amidst clouds. He looked confident and graceful. Bi Linglong blushed.

...

The other party also noticed what was happening on Zu An’s side. Zhao Ruizhi and the others had been waiting for him to fall, yet Zu An didn’t encounter any troubles at all.

Zhao Ruizhi was angry at first, but he quickly suppressed such useless emotions. Then, he carefully studied Zu An’s movements. “Huh? That seems to be the five elements eight trigrams[1] path...”

He began to think to himself. Even though the rise and fall of the platforms was different for each side, with his knowledge and resourcefulness, finding out the solution with that piece of enlightenment wasn’t too hard.

“But something isn’t right. If you follow this movement path, you’ll run out of places to go soon.” Zhao Ruizhi immediately noticed a problem.

On the other hand, Zu An quickly faced an important choice. “Take three steps to the left!” Mi Li said coldly.

Zu An was alarmed, because there was nothing there. Below that empty space was the dangerous pink mist. He wondered if Mi Li had made a mistake, but Mi Li urgently insisted, “Hurry, there’s no time!”

Zu An’s mind moved quickly. He suddenly recalled how Mi Li had asked him if he was willing if she asked him to die. Even though his reply back then had been that he wasn’t willing, he suddenly understood why she had asked him that. In that instant, he rushed three steps to the left.

Bi Linglong cried out in alarm. She grabbed tightly onto Zu An, as if she wanted to stop him from ending his own life. However, how could she compare to Zu An in strength? She was instead dragged along too. She closed her eyes and awaited death.

But then, she was shocked to discover that the two of them hadn't continued to fall, but instead stood firmly in midair. No, she could sense that she was stepping on something solid.

Is this... a floating platform? She quickly realized what was happening. Then, she looked at Zu An in amazement. How did he know about this?

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes narrowed. Then, they lit up. "So that was it! Aha!"

He was starting to even admire Zu An. That kid really was a talent. Unfortunately, he didn't have the heart of a true subject within him, so he couldn't be used.

...

Up in the air, the Zu An everyone was admiring was currently showering Mi Li in praise. "Master empress, you really are OP! You're the light, you're the way, you're an everlasting legend..."

Mi Li felt a strange chill when she heard all those cheesy compliments. "Enough, enough already. Just keep going." Even so, her grin gave away her joy. It wasn't really because of the praise, but rather that he had chosen to trust her in that moment of crisis.

Just like that, under her instructions, Zu An climbed up one step after another. He arrived on the nearest floating continent soon afterward.

"It's so beautiful!" Bi Linglong cried out in amazement. After all, the world below was full of death, while this was a world of pleasant meadows and fragrant flowers. There was even immortal mist lingering in the area. Under the rays of the sun, the distant golden palace and the white jade pillars looked grand and magnificent. It felt as if they had arrived in an absolute wonderland.

When he saw such a fantasy scene, which had previously only existed in dramas and games, before him, Zu An couldn't help but ask Mi Li, "Master empress, are there really daoist immortals in this world?"

Mi Li floated over. She raised her head toward the grand palace. Her eyes were full of mysterious sorrow as she answered, "The universe is boundless. Who dares to claim that there are no immortals in this world? But all of this is nothing more than a fabrication."

"Fabrication?" Zu An was confused.

"Do you know where we are?" Mi Li asked.

"Isn't it a new dungeon?" Zu An asked probingly. "From the looks of it, it seems like some sacred mountain from the legends."

Mi Li shook her head. "This is the Qin people's ancestral court, Westhound Tomb."

. Bagua ?