

Immortal 871

Chapter 871: Someone Has Finally Come

Bi Linglong shared his confusion, but she was more curious about how Mi Li had been able to survive until now. Of course, she wouldn't dare to say such things out loud.

Mi Li explained, "This crystal coffin isolates the interior from the world. That, combined with this special formation, is why his body was able to last for so long. But if this coffin is opened even a little, the one inside will instantly turn to ashes. How can the power of time be that easily defied?"

Her voice suddenly became cold. "Ying Zheng, how dare you... Even beasts look after their young, and yet look at you! Forcing Fu Su to end his own life is one thing, but you even kept him here and set up a Five Elements Formation. Was it all for the sake of your delusions about eternal life?"

Zu An was alarmed. He had already seen the earth, wood, and fire element rooms. Now that he thought about it, it was indeed a Five Elements Formation! However, could such a formation grant eternal life?

He turned around with a grave expression and quickly asked, "Master, what are you doing?"

"I'll find Ying Zheng's tomb and crush his bones to dust." Mi Li's voice was frighteningly cold. Her hatred at that moment was clear.

Zu An said with a chuckle, "Just leave that to me. My phoenix fire specializes in turning bones to ashes."

Mi Li gave him a surprised look. "Didn't you learn the Primordial Origin Sutra from him? Why are you helping me?"

"I almost died several times over last time, and I only got that sutra by relying on my own skills and luck. He didn't intend to pass it down to me at all. The one who's been helping me with my cultivation all this time is you." Zu An had never treated the first emperor as his master.

Mi Li's expression eased slightly. "Thank you."

Zu An laughed and said, "The disciple will take care of the master's wishes. There's no need for thanks."

Bi Linglong found that she couldn't really insert herself into the conversation at all. She thought to herself that this master and disciple pair were a surprisingly good match, as if they were always on the same wavelength and everyone else was an outsider. At the same time, she was shocked. What is the Primordial Origin Sutra? Why have I never heard of it before? How many secrets does this man have?

The group continued through the palace. Even though there were many rooms in the palace and the layout was confusing, they now knew that they were in a Five Elements Formation. Using that knowledge, Mi Li was able to roughly deduce where they were. They quickly arrived at another room.

They could feel the sharp aura of metal even from far away. Even the lowest rank Bi Linglong detected it quickly. It was most likely the metal element room.

"What kinds of monsters can the metal element usually produce?" Zu An asked. It was always better to be prepared beforehand so that they weren't caught off guard again. They might not be as lucky as before.

Mi Li shook her head. "The world is full of wonders and mysteries. Elemental existences can manifest in all kinds of forms. Even the slightest change in the environment can produce something else, so it's hard to predict beforehand. We'll find out once we go inside."

She was a competent and strong-willed woman. Together with the rage that filled her at that moment, she didn't hesitate and walked straight in.

Zu An and Bi Linglong followed behind her. They suddenly saw a trace of golden light out of the corners of their eyes, and a strong gale blew past their ears. Bi Linglong subconsciously raised her sword, but with a loud, crisp sound, her sword was cut in half!

As a crown princess, her sword was naturally top notch. Weapons were separated into the mortal, earth, heaven, immortal, and divine grades. Her sword was heaven grade and only beneath the legendary immortal and divine grades. There weren't many weapons at those two levels in the world.

Even a heaven grade sword had been easily sliced in half! She was completely stunned.

"Be careful!" Fortunately, Zu An reacted quickly and quickly pulled Bi Linglong aside. Even so, there was still a cut left on her clothes, revealing fair, alluring skin underneath. A thin, bloody cut was already visible on the surface.

Bi Linglong covered herself up in a panic while thanking Zu An. "Ah Zu, you saved my life again." She would already have been chopped in half if not for him.

Zu An patted her head to calm her down. Then, he stared at the creature ahead of him. It was a droning, levitating thing with scorching eyes. The thing was the size of a laundry ball. It was wider at the center, resembling a disk. It was like a miniature flying saucer. A layer of rapidly spinning sawteeth surrounded it, creating waves of golden light that resembled the lights on a UFO.

"What is this thing? Why didn't it attack you when you entered?" Zu An asked Mi Li while remaining vigilant.

"Maybe it targets those with poor moral character?" Mi Li released a rare laugh. However, she still explained, "This is the legendary Golden Wheel Disk. It's known for its unstoppable power that can cut through all metals and jade."

The levitating disk roared as soon as Mi Li finished speaking. Zu An took out the Tai'e Sword and hacked outward.

A loud noise erupted! A series of sparks flew out as the Golden Wheel Disk ground against the Tai'e Sword, before it flew outward.

Zu An's fingers were sore, but he sighed in relief when he saw that the sword hadn't suffered any damage. The Tai'e Sword was extraordinary after all!

The Golden Wheel Disk noticed that Zu An wasn't someone it should mess with either. It didn't choose to rashly charge again. Instead, it suddenly shook. Then, countless smaller disks spread out in all directions, every single one like a miniature version of itself, surrounded by sharp sawteeth. They screamed as they attacked from several different directions.

Even Zu An was given a hard time by their numbers and tricky angles. The key was that he had to protect Bi Linglong too, so he soon found himself in a dilemma. Wounds quickly opened up all over his body. Even though his powerful regeneration ability made it so that such small wounds didn't matter much, constantly fighting from a passive position didn't feel good at all.

He suddenly thought of something. He took out a giant U-shaped weapon from his Brilliant Glass Bead and flung it at the small disks. The sharp disks, that had been flying in bizarre and unpredictable patterns around him, were instantly sucked toward the U-shaped weapon, unable to move at all.

It was the electromagnet he had used in Brightmoon City to defeat the Yuan clan brat during the clan competition. He just couldn't bring himself to throw it away, so he had kept it together with some lightning element ki stones. He hadn't expected it to actually come in handy today.

The Golden Wheel Disk was stunned. It clearly couldn't process what was going on with its simple intelligence. It became somewhat frustrated and charged at Zu An with a roar, wanting to save its 'children'.

Zu An quickly swung the electromagnet over to suck it over too, but its body only trembled a bit. It wasn't too heavily affected and continued to fly forward.

However, a fair white palm suddenly reached over and gently pressed against its center. The Golden Wheel Disk trembled. It frantically tried to break free, but it just couldn't escape from the slender hand no matter how it spun and struggled!

"I don't have time to deal with you. Just go back to where you came from," Mi Li said indifferently. With a snap of her wrist, the Golden Wheel Disk was flung into the distance, inserting itself deeply into the wall.

It understood that it would never win. It trembled, then broke down into the metal element. It had decided to temporarily hide in the room and didn't come back out.

Bi Linglong's eyes widened in shock. Even though she'd had her suspicions that Mi Li was powerful, this was the first time she had witnessed the woman in action. In front of her, that terrifying murder weapon was nothing more than a toy!

Mi Li didn't say anything else and instead walked over to the wall. There were some murals on it; they depicted a group of people kneeling in front of a gate. The one in the lead was dressed like a sorcerer. In the next scene, that sorcerer was conspiring with others in a room, and then the third scene showed him fleeing for his life with many soldiers chasing after him. The fourth picture showed countless people buried in a deep pit, surrounded by soldiers with cold expressions.

"It was him!" Mi Li suddenly realized who the person was.

A long and drawn-out voice spoke. "It has already been so many years... Someone has finally come."

Zu An and Bi Linglong shivered. The voice had come from inside the coffin!

Chapter 872: The Book

Mi Li's brow rose. "Who the hell is playing the ghost right now?" A blast of strength rushed out as she swung her sleeves. The coffin's cover was sent flying with a loud noise. It spun in the air several times before crashing into the ground.

Zu An thought to himself, This woman really is violent! She destroyed this person's coffin as soon as she became unhappy!

Bi Linglong's eyes shone brightly. She felt great admiration for Mi Li's way of doing things. Would she ever be able to settle her grudges like this?

Mi Li floated over, and Zu An and Bi Linglong quickly followed behind her. They saw a 'living' corpse inside the coffin. It was a middle-aged man dressed in green robes and a tall hat. His attire perfectly matched the mural on the wall.

"It was you after all!" Mi Li exclaimed, surprised. As soon as she spoke, the lifelike and well-preserved body inside began to disappear, quickly turning into scattered ashes. Only a pile of withered bones remained.

Bi Linglong was a little scared and subconsciously moved a bit closer to Zu An.

Zu An thought to himself that these coffins were special after all. They could keep the flesh inside intact, but once the coffin was opened and the interior made contact with air, the body would immediately wither away.

"Master, who was that?" he asked out of curiosity. He could understand it if Fu Su's body had been preserved all this time because he was the crown prince, someone with extraordinary status, but why had this man experienced the same thing?

"Do you remember what I told you before, about those who enthusiastically sought out immortality for Ying Zheng?" Mi Li asked. She continued, "He's one of them, Lu Sheng."

She pointed at the mural and explained, "I already had my guesses when I saw the paintings. The first portrays the story of Lu Sheng pleading with Xianmen. Xianmen was a legendary ancient daoist immortal who was connected to the Immortal Sect. That was why Ying Zheng regarded Lu Sheng highly.

"But unfortunately, he didn't find the elixir of immortality. He used up a ton of manpower and resources and ended up finding 'the Book'. It was rumored to have been written by an immortal, granting one the ability to know the past and future.

"Ying Zheng asked him what the future of the Qin Empire was. Lu Sheng obtained a single verse from The Book: 'Death and destruction awaits Qin's people.' When Ying Zheng heard that, he thought that the cause might be the northern nomadic Huns, so he sent a great army of three hundred thousand north to build the Great Wall."

Zu An thought to himself, So that was what happened! Unfortunately, heaven's plans supersede those of man. The ones who brought about the Qin Empire's downfall weren't the Huns, but rather his successor Hu Hai.

Bi Linglong looked at the diagrams with curiosity and asked, "What happened afterward?"

Mi Li replied, "I already told you. For the sake of finding the elixir of immortality, Ying Zheng was able to sacrifice anything. But that only made Lu Sheng more and more scared, because after his years of searching, he already knew that such an elixir simply didn't exist. However, if he couldn't find it, he would be punished severely by Ying Zheng, so he secretly fled. Ying Zheng was furious when he learned of that. He thought he had treated Lu Sheng extremely well, and yet the man still betrayed him. As such, he searched the world and investigated every sorcerer to see if any of them were close to Lu Sheng. Several hundred were rounded up in total, and all of them were buried alive."

Zu An was horrified. "Isn't that 'burning the books and burying the Confucian scholars alive'?"

"Confucian scholars?" Mi Li frowned. "Confucian beliefs hadn't fully matured yet at that time. What would that have to do with them?"

Zu An suddenly realized that the dynasties of later generations had likely exaggerated the first emperor's infamy to promote themselves.

A voice suddenly spoke from behind them. "Who would've thought that I would still be able to meet the emperor again after so many years..."

Zu An turned round and stared at the mural. The voice was coming from its direction. A strand of light vaguely appeared over the image of a sorcerer. It was as if a semi-transparent person were about to come out of the mural.

Mi Li was also surprised. "Hm? You were able to survive until now too?"

A semi-transparent person came out of the wall soon afterward. Then, his image in the painting disappeared. He said, "This is but a fragment of my soul that was sealed here. I've only awakened after sensing the arrival of destined individuals, and will soon fade away. How can this be considered living?" The figure was naturally Lu Sheng, but his tone was rather somber.

However, he suddenly looked at Mi Li with burning eyes and asked, "Empress, why are you still alive? Could it be that there really is an elixir of immortality?"

Mi Li replied indifferently, "How can this world have such a thing? The reason I'm still alive is due to various coincidences. It's impossible to replicate." She clearly didn't wish to talk about her experiences in detail.

Not only did Lu Sheng not feel disappointment when he heard her reply, he instead sighed in relief. "No wonder, no wonder... Looks like my analysis wasn't wrong all these years."

"What happened back then? Why would you hide yourself in this mural like this?" Mi Li couldn't help but ask. With her sharp eyes, she could obviously tell that he wasn't lying. He might have been able to last a few more years if he remained dormant in that painting, but that option had been gone as soon as he chose to wake up.

Lu Sheng gave the painting a look. He sighed and said, "Everyone believed that I successfully escaped in the past, and that ended up wronging the lives of hundreds of sorcerers. But how could they have known that I was never able to escape, but was captured instead?"

"You were captured? What do you mean?" Mi Li was confused, as that didn't seem to match her memories.

Lu Sheng shook his head. "I'm now only a fragment of my soul; many of my memories are missing. I can't remember what happened."

Mi Li and Zu An were both speechless. This guy had put on that huge performance and built it up so much, but he didn't have anything to say at the most crucial part.

Lu Sheng also knew that his words were hard to believe. He slowly continued, "Your highness knows that I obtained the Book back then, right? I was able to discern a bit of the future through it. It told me that no matter what I did, I was going to die."

"I really couldn't understand why, with my cultivation back then, I would leave the world prematurely. But the Book is never wrong, so I decided to separate a strand of my soul as a precaution and to see what exactly happened."

"Then what happened? Did Ying Zheng kill you himself?" Mi Li asked. In her opinion, that was the most likely possibility.

Lu Sheng shook his head. "Even though I found out the truth back then, I've already forgotten it."

Zu An was stunned. Mi Li laughed coldly and retorted, "Are you making a fool out of me?"

Lu Sheng sighed. "Even though I don't know why I don't remember, I can deduce that since I found out the truth but don't remember it, there must be some kind of defensive mechanism in play. My body decisively chose to forget about those things, or else my soul fragment wouldn't be able to survive. However, I can still recall a feeling of extreme shock and fear. Something that could make my past self feel such emotions would definitely have been something big."

Mi Li frowned. "Since you don't even dare to remember it, what meaning is there left in struggling to keep this soul fragment alive?"

Lu Sheng said, "This soul fragment's purpose was to wait for a destined one to reveal the entire truth of the past, and also to get revenge for my original body. Just now, I sensed the aura of the destined one." He looked straight at Zu An after speaking.

Zu An said with a sneer, "Do you think I'm three? How am I this 'destined one'?"

Lu Sheng replied, "Did you forget The Book I mentioned? I'm capable of limited foresight. It told me that you were precisely the destined one."

Zu An shook his head. "Why the hell should I help you just because you said I was this destined one? It's already obvious that your affairs are dangerous, so why should I get involved?"

Lu Sheng revealed a mysterious and strange smile. "That isn't something for you to decide. You're already inside the trial."

Chapter 873: Grave of the Emperor

Zu An frowned. "What do you mean?"

Lu Sheng shook his head. "The mysteries of heaven mustn't be revealed. There are many things you'll naturally understand when it's time."

"I hate people like you who love to blueball others." Zu An clenched his fist. "Since you can predict the future, can you guess whether or not I'll beat you up?"

Lu Sheng's face froze. He chuckled in embarrassment and said, "You don't need to be angry. If you help me with this matter, I'll reward you with the Book."

Mi Li's expression grew serious when she heard him mention the Book. It was apparent that she knew of its value.

Zu An sneered. "Don't you know that you'll only seem even more suspicious if you immediately present a great offer?" Ever since Old Mi had tried to possess him, he had developed strong feelings of caution against baseless good intentions. He couldn't help but feel that this person was trying to scam him.

Lu Sheng was quite shocked that Zu An was unfazed. "Perhaps you aren't aware of the Book's power?"

"So what if it can foretell the future? You still couldn't change your own fate, and you could only hide here all these years with a fragment of your soul," Zu An said calmly. "Besides, I don't trust in completely unreasonable good intentions."

Lu Sheng was stunned. After a momentary pause, he sighed. "Your worldview is different, as expected. I relied too much on the Book in the past, so I sank into absolute despair when I learned of my fate. I didn't even have the courage to change it. You are the destined one after all. This book will definitely be much more useful in your hands than in mine." He pointed forward, and a streak of golden light landed on Zu An's forehead.

Zu An was alarmed. He quickly backed up and touched his own forehead. "What did you do to me?"

Unfortunately, nothing happened no matter how he rubbed his forehead. He was alarmed. After all, he had already experienced the Primordial Origin Sutra's body tempering three times. His body should have already become incredibly tough and invulnerable against ordinary blades and swords. Why wasn't he able to defend against the golden light at all?

"Don't worry, I merely placed the Book into your sea of consciousness. It won't bring you any harm," Lu Sheng said weakly. His eyes weren't even as bright as before, as if his body had become weak.

Mi Li was surprised. "The Book isn't actually a book?"

Lu Sheng shook his head. "Of course not. The book I gave his majesty was nothing but a diversionary tactic. This is the Book's original form. That's the reason why, thankfully, it didn't end up in that person's hands during the great disaster."

"That person?" Mi Li asked with a pensive expression.

Zu An quickly examined himself. Sure enough, he saw that there was a small golden book in his sea of consciousness. There was an ancient and grand aura coming from it; it was the feeling of dao. He didn't feel happy at all, and instead looked at Mi Li. "Master, am I really okay?"

Mi Li replied, "Don't worry, this is an opportunity for you. Brat, your luck really is pretty good."

Zu An finally felt relief when he heard her say those words. However, he still said with a pitiful expression, "Master, I'm dirty now..." He felt as if someone had put something inside of him, that his mind had now taken the shape of someone else. It really didn't feel great.

Mi Li was speechless. She exclaimed, "Get lost!"

Lu Sheng looked at her in shock. "So the destined one was your highness' disciple!"

"Hmph, he's just a naughty brat I picked up because he kept begging me. I could only barely agree to take him in." Mi Li raised her chin high, her attitude as prideful as could be.

Zu An was speechless. Who the hell begged whom? But he still let her show off a bit before her own minister.

"Looks like the Book really didn't deceive me. With your highness' help, I believe that my cherished desire should be fulfilled," Lu Sheng said, his body gradually growing dim. He began to scatter into the wind at a visible rate.

Mi Li fell silent when she saw Lu Sheng fade, a look of sorrow filling her eyes. Seeing her former acquaintances disappear one after another made her once again experience the inexorable power of time.

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The group continued through the palace. Mi Li remained silent the entire time. Bi Linglong asked Zu An out of concern, "Are you alright? That book or something went inside of you..."

Zu An shook his head. "I don't feel anything strange right now, but I have no idea what it can be used for. He didn't even give me a basic introduction." He had tried several times, but regardless of whether it was normal ki or primordial ki, he couldn't do anything to that small golden book.

Bi Linglong was worried. "That person foresaw that a great calamity was coming. I can't help but feel like what we're about to face will be extremely terrifying."

Zu An laughed. "The scarier the better. Don't forget that we still have a terrifying emperor on our tail. How can we hope to survive if the danger ends up being too weak?"

Mi Li nodded. "Kid, even though you're a little perverted and greedy, your nature is optimistic. Little girl, even though you're smart, you're far beneath him in this aspect."

Bi Linglong didn't get annoyed, and instead smiled. "I couldn't compare to him in the first place." If it had been a month earlier, her prideful self would never have admitted to that. But now, she instead voiced her sincere respect.

"Hmph, women." Mi Li snorted in contempt.

"We should be approaching the water element next, right? You knew everyone in those other rooms. Do you have any guesses as to who the one in that room is?" Zu An asked.

"I don't. I have a rough idea of who was involved back then, but I don't recall any of them being related to the water element." Mi Li shook her head.

“Could it be Xu Fu?” Zu An asked out of curiosity.

Mi Li supported her chin with her hand. “It’s not entirely impossible. Xu Fu spent a great deal of time out at sea.” However, five forked paths suddenly appeared before her. She stopped, her eyes filled with puzzlement.

“What’s wrong? Which path should we take?” Zu An asked curiously.

Mi Li said, “According to my analysis of the Five Elements Formation, all five of these paths are a possibility.”

Bi Linglong picked up a rock and threw it along one of the paths. A flurry of arrows quickly flew out from within. “It looks like only one of these paths is real, while the others are traps.”

Mi Li said, “Indeed. Unfortunately, those with traps might not be fake, and the one without traps might very well be the real path of death.”

While the two of them were deep in thought, Zu An suddenly realized something. He pointed at the path second from the left and exclaimed, “It’s this one!”

“How do you know?” Bi Linglong asked, confused. That path was the one she had just thrown the rock down, and yet many traps had immediately activated. Even Mi Li was surprised. She looked at Zu An and waited for him to explain himself.

“The Book told me.” Zu An rubbed his head. “I don’t know why, but the scene of the second path suddenly appeared in my head.”

“Then it’s that path.” Mi Li was the first to walk forward, as if she completely trusted the Book. Zu An almost warned her to be careful, but her cultivation was higher than his own. If there really was something, she should be able to deal with it.

They ran into some traps along the way, but Zu An and Mi Li dealt with them easily. After the first bit of danger, the rest of the path was smooth sailing. The group arrived in front of another large door. It was covered in orderly rows of golden knobs, making it look exceptionally grand.

“Huh?” Mi Li exclaimed.

“What is it?” Zu An thought there was something wrong when he heard Mi Li’s voice. He observed the surroundings vigilantly.

Mi Li only continued to stare at the gate silently. Bi Linglong said from off to the side, “There are nine rows of nine, totaling up to eighty-one knobs in total. Nine symbolizes the unsurpassed emperor, and only the ruler himself has the right to use this symbol. All others who rashly use this symbol will have their entire clans eradicated in punishment.” As someone from the royal family, she was sensitive to such things.

Zu An was shocked. He looked toward Mi Li. “Master, is that true? Is this where Ying Zheng is buried?”

Chapter 874: Ceremony Activation

The moment they stepped into the room, they could sense that the water element there was extremely dense. There was mist everywhere, making it hazy and hard to see clearly.

But what caught their attention even more was that apart from the dense water element, there was an even stronger feeling of resentment. It was enough to send shivers down their spines. There was also a cold chill sweeping through this room. Bi Linglong wrapped her arms around herself, trembling in place.

Zu An couldn't help but ask, "Why is there such a strong aura of resentment here?"

Mi Li frowned slightly as well. "This strong resentment has either been caused by a great injustice, or tremendous hatred. Those who would have the qualifications to be buried here shouldn't have experienced any of these situations..."

Zu An speculated, "Could it perhaps be a certain ancestor of the Qin rulers? Or maybe it's someone like Hu Hai?"

This was the Qin State royal family ancestral hall. It was natural for some related people to be buried here as well. After the first emperor fell and Hu Hai rose to the throne, he had trusted the eunuch Zhao Gao greatly. But in the end, the armies of many different places had risen up in revolt. When the chaos neared its end, Zhao Gao hounded him to death and used him as a scapegoat. As such, it wouldn't be all that surprising if Hu Hai carried such resentment.

"There is indeed that possibility," Mi Li replied. After being around Zu An all this time, she had not only learned about what happened after she was sealed in the Qin Dynasty, but also quite a bit about the twenty-four histories that had unfolded afterward. She naturally knew what had happened to Hu Hai.

"There's so much resentment here... Is it possible that some kind of malevolent spirits or dangerous elemental creatures might have formed here?" Bi Linglong was quite worried. Her personal sword had been destroyed in the metal element room, so she was already utterly terrified.

"That won't happen." Mi Li pointed at some different runes in the area. "There are formations set in place by many experts to prevent such resentment from gathering and developing sentience. It's merely the purest state of resentment."

Zu An and Bi Linglong walked over and took a look. There were extremely profound and complex runes everywhere. The two of them didn't know a thing about runes, but they could tell that they were formidable from their complexity.

Mi Li seemed to have thought of something. She looked up and saw that there was an area where the chilliness was richest. There even seemed to be some gleaming reflections there. When the group got closer, they saw that there was actually a pool there. They could make out the vague silhouette of a coffin at the bottom of this pool.

Mi Li stood by the edge of the pool. After thinking to herself for a moment, she said to Zu An, "Use your Blue Mallard to separate the water. Let's head down and take a look." They had just experienced a series of rooms, a Five Elements Formation, and this emperor-level burial room. She was becoming more and more curious about the person's real identity.

Zu An was stunned. "Blue Mallard can be used that way?"

Mi Li replied, "It might not work for a large river, but this kind of small pool should be possible with your current cultivation. Your Blue Mallard increases your affinity with the water element, so this much shouldn't be an issue. Use your imagination; stop constantly filling your head with ways to chase after girls."

Zu An was shameless enough that he didn't really care about the remark, but Bi Linglong really wanted to run away in embarrassment.

Under Mi Li's guidance, Zu An successfully parted the waters and formed a path for them to move through. At the bottom was naturally the coffin. Zu An had to give those of higher cultivation realms credit for their creativity in using and controlling the elements. It wasn't something that lower rank cultivators could understand. If he hadn't received pointers from Mi Li, it would have taken him many, many years to slowly grope around and realize such things.

Mi Li took the initiative to jump down, landing next to the coffin. Zu An and Bi Linglong quickly followed. The resentment grew stronger and stronger the closer they got.

Zu An asked, "We don't need to open the coffin this time, right? What if there's a crazy monster sealed up inside..."

Mi Li had swung her sleeve before he even finished what he was saying. With a loud bang, the coffin lid was blown off.

Zu An was speechless. Tsk, what's the point in even saying anything? But he was also curious and looked over. Mi Li had already moved aside the inner coffin's lid.

"Huh?" Bi Linglong cried out in alarm. The one lying inside wasn't human. To be more precise, her upper half was human, but her lower half was that of a fish.

What was even more shocking was the host's beauty. She had long blue hair, and she wore a crown made from coral and pearls. Even though there wasn't a trace of life force left on her face, it still didn't stop them from picturing her peerless magnificence when she had been alive. But her brows were tightly furrowed, and her face a bit warped. She had clearly been filled with resentment before she died.

"A mermaid?" Zu An's eyes widened. He had only seen them on a screen before. Who could have thought that they would really be this beautiful?

But as the lid was opened and air entered, that exceptional face immediately scattered away into ashes. Only a spotless, white set of bones remained.

"The remains of a beauty..." After personally experiencing it himself, the visual shock was too much. Zu An was even worried that it might leave behind some kind of psychological trauma.

Sigh, even a woman this beautiful ended up becoming nothing more than a pile of bones... He couldn't help but feel a bit down when he thought of that. He hadn't really cared much about immortality previously, but now, he suddenly felt as if he could understand those who pursued immortality a bit better.

His eyes suddenly narrowed as something caught his eye. He reached his hand toward the skeleton's forbidden area.

Bi Linglong had a weird look on her face. "She's already dead; isn't this a bit... disrespectful?" But she quickly realized that she had misunderstood. What Zu An had taken out was a sparkling scale. It was as beautiful as a piece of jade.

"This thing looks a bit familiar," Zu An remarked with a pensive expression.

Mi Li asked, "What happened?"

"It's nothing." Zu An smiled. He put the jade-like scale away. "Do you recognize this woman?"

"I don't. But judging from her appearance, she was probably an extremely important member of the Mermaid race, perhaps even their empress. No wonder she was able to enjoy such an extravagant burial," Mi Li replied. However, she had lost most of her interest when she saw that it wasn't someone she knew. She closed the coffin and returned to the surface.

Zu An was just about to follow her when Bi Linglong gave the coffin's bottom a conflicted look and said, "I think I sensed a lot of water element power flowing along the formation in a certain direction. Those other rooms were also similar. Have our actions triggered some kind of ceremony?"

Zu An was shocked. He turned toward Mi Li. "Was there really something like that going on?" Even though his cultivation was high, his fundamental knowledge of cultivation was lacking compared to someone like Bi Linglong, who had been raised in a great clan.

Mi Li had been examining something on the ground. When she heard the question, she replied indifferently, "Yes, there was."

Zu An became puzzled as he returned to the surface. "If you already knew about it, why didn't you take precautions?"

"We didn't even touch the coffins in the earth and fire element rooms," Mi Li replied. "That means that even if some kind of sinister ceremony was initiated, it wouldn't be complete, and would thus fail. We could then use that chance to destroy it completely and prevent something major from happening."

Zu An laughed and exclaimed, "Master sees far and wide after all! My respect for you gushes forth like the relentless tides of the river..."

"Shut up already." Mi Li rolled her eyes. "Get over here and look at these murals. It seems to talk about Xu Fu's journey into the sea later on. He found the Mermaid Race, and brought back either a princess or queen to offer to Ying Zheng."

"No wonder she carries so much resentment." Bi Linglong suddenly felt a bit of sympathy for the woman. Her role as the crown princess looked glamorous from the outside, but she had always served as a chess piece in the hands of another.

Suddenly, the entire room began to tremble as rumbling came from outside.

Mi Li's expression changed. "The five elements are acting up and flooding this entire palace! Has the formation already been activated? But how can that be?"

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Meanwhile, in the fire element room, the crystal coffin had been turned on its side. The lifelike Fu Su was now only a set of white bones.

He Li looked around the coffin and brought a pile of funerary objects to the fatty next to him. "Your majesty, I found these treasures."

Zhao Ruizhi harrumphed. "It's just a pile of scrap metal. You even call these treasures?"

Things that could serve as a prince's funerary objects were obviously not scrap metal. But for the emperor, who had the world at his disposal, they weren't anything special.

They hadn't found anything in the earth element room. Zhao Ruizhi had thought that he might have stumbled upon the secret of immortality when he saw the corpse remain intact after so much time had passed, but he felt greatly disappointed by what he had seen.

A rumble erupted in the distance, and the room began to tremble as well. He Li and the only two deathsworn soldiers who remained were horrified. Were the rooms around them going to reorganize themselves again?

Zhao Ruizhi had a look of excitement on his face. "Some kind of mechanism has been activated. I can sense the aura of life." He couldn't wait any longer and rushed out.

He Li and his two companions hesitated for a moment, but in the end, they couldn't suppress their curiosity. They quickly followed the emperor.

Chapter 875: Everlasting Spring Flower

Zu An's group rushed out of the water element room in search of the activated mechanism. However, they didn't really have to search, because there were visible strands of light moving from the water element room toward a certain direction. That was clearly where most of the water element power was being gathered. Similar scenes were likely occurring in the other rooms.

Zu An couldn't hold himself back and asked, "Is the first emperor absorbing the power of the five elements to revive or something?"

Mi Li's expression was grave. "There's a chance. But I've never heard of the Five Elements Formation having the power of revival."

When he saw how serious she was, Zu An said, "Master, you don't need to worry. Even if the first emperor revives, you aren't alone. I'm here with you."

Mi Li felt warm inside when she saw him acting decently for once. However, her words didn't reflect that. "Hmph, if Ying Zheng really did revive, a kid like you would be swatted like a fly. How are you going to help me?"

Zu An was speechless, but Bi Linglong almost burst out laughing. That guy is always bullying me, but someone else has him on a leash now!

Perhaps it was because the water room was the closest to the formation, but the group quickly arrived at a spacious platform. This platform was extremely large, and it was the size of a few football fields and round in shape.

“Orchid pond, heaven’s ascension stage, earth’s worship temple...” Mi Li muttered to herself as she scanned the surroundings.

Zu An asked, “What does ‘orchid pond, heaven’s ascension stage, earth’s worship temple’ mean?”

Mi Li explained, “‘Orchid pond’ is the Qin Imperial Palace garden’s beautiful pond, ‘heaven’s ascension stage’ is a place where offerings to the heavens are made, and ‘earth’s worship temple’ is where sacrifices to the state are made. This place has combined features from all of these places. I recognize many familiar features here.”

Prayer and sacrifice for good weather and abundant crops were the most important things for ancient countries.

Zu An examined the elevated area before him. He saw a ring of goblets surrounding a giant pond. In the middle was a tower, which seemed to be where offerings to heaven and earth were made. Next to the tower was a large and tall tree. However, its bare branches proved that it had already died a long time ago.

Several different-colored lights emerged from multiple directions. These were respectively the metal, wood, water, fire, and earth elements. As the elemental power gathered, some formations lit up in five directions surrounding the elevated stage. They flickered with yellow, green, blue, red, and brown lines that reached toward the ancient tree at the very center.

The ancient tree blossomed into brilliant radiance. Then, it seemed to return to the peak of its life in spring. Its branches germinated, and its previously bare branches immediately became lush with leaves. What was even more shocking was that its leaves weren’t green. Or at the very least, they weren’t only that; only a fifth of the leaves were green. The other four-fifths were yellow, blue, red, and brown. They clearly represented the power of the different elements.

“Come look, that tree has bloomed!” Bi Linglong cried out while pointing at the center of the place.

Atop the tree, a large flower slowly took form. It resembled a hydrangea, and its petals also had five different colors. Brilliant splendor swirled across its surface. A powerful aura of life could be felt even from far away. It was clearly something extraordinary.

“Everlasting Spring Flower...” Mi Li had remained unfazed no matter what she encountered, but at that moment, even she became a bit absent-minded.

Zu An was surprised. “Isn’t this precisely one of the materials you need to recreate your body?”

He had previously heard her mentioning that such a flower needed a thousand years before it even developed branches and leaves, and another few millennia before it would bloom. He had thought that he would never find one in his life, and yet now, it was right before his eyes!

Mi Li voiced her agreement. But just as Zu An was about to rush over and pick the flower, she held him back.

“What’s wrong?” Zu An was confused. Such a precious material was right before their very eyes! If they missed this chance, there might never be another one!

Mi Li's chest rose and fell continuously. She was getting emotional as well. However, she still calmly said, "You need to drill into your head that the prettier something is, the more likely it's trying to deceive you. Look beneath that tree. What do you see?"

Zu An turned around. Only then did he see that there was a massive coffin underneath the tree. He hadn't noticed it before because this tree was completely bare and the surroundings were dim. Now that the tree had bloomed and was flowing with brilliant colors, the surroundings had become bright as well. The coffin was now visible.

The coffin had a thick outer layer of bronze, and golden dragon decorations were carved on it. Whether in terms of its size or extravagance, it was far grander than any of the coffins they had seen on the way here.

Mi Li continued, "All of the five elements' power is flowing in that direction. That's clearly the eye of the formation. That Everlasting Spring Flower is most likely a trap to bait us in."

"Is that the first emperor's coffin?" Zu An was shocked as well.

"Indeed, it's probably him." Mi Li's expression was conflicted. "He was willing to try anything for the sake of eternal life. This formation gives me a bad feeling. I don't know where he learned it from, but he probably wants to revive himself by borrowing the formation's power."

Zu An thought for a bit before saying with a smile, "The Everlasting Spring Flower is so rare that we can't afford to give up on this opportunity. The promises of a real man are worth a thousand in gold. Since I agreed to help you rebuild your body, what kind of man would I be if I backed down here?"

He quickly told Bi Linglong, "Wait here for me." If there really was danger on the other side, the first emperor might even come back to life. At that point, he wouldn't even be able to protect himself, let alone her. It would still be safer if she stayed here. He used Grandgale and charged over after speaking.

Mi Li cursed inside when she saw him rush ahead. You fool! She was worried about his safety and quickly followed him.

Zu An arrived next to the tree. The closer he got, the greater the pressure he felt from that massive bronze coffin. His heart began to beat faster and faster. But it was already too late to think about the consequences. He jumped onto the tree, and a powerful and refreshing fragrance surrounded him.

He didn't know if the flower was poisonous, nor did he know if his poison immunity could resist the effects of such a strange flower that only bloomed once every few millennia. He gritted his teeth and picked it.

What was surprising was that nothing happened. The giant bronze coffin didn't move at all. There was no revival, nor was there any activity.

Mi Li had been watching the coffin vigilantly in preparation for something attacking Zu An. She sighed in relief when she saw nothing had happened. But that instead made her curious, and she said, "You should leave first. I'm going to open the coffin and look inside."

Zu An chuckled. "I'll go with you. If something really happens, I can at least fight at your side."

Mi Li opened her mouth, but in the end, she didn't chase him away. With Zu An's current cultivation, he indeed had the qualifications to fight at her side now. His body was also now incredibly tough, so he was able to protect himself.

Mi Li didn't say anything. She walked over to the giant coffin and slowly pushed aside the heavy lid. Sure enough, the inner coffin was a crystal one; it was just much larger than Fu Su's.

A man dressed in a dragon robe lay calmly inside. Even though his eyes were closed, his fierce eyelashes and high nose bridge, his strong chest, and his dignified aura made it hard for others to look straight at him. As expected, the descriptions of him from historical texts were accurate after all.

This wasn't the first time Zu An had seen the man. He had met a fragment of the man's soul back in Brightmoon City's secret dungeon. That soul fragment's pressure had been greater than what he felt right now; the real body instead seemed to pale in comparison.

Mi Li couldn't help but sigh deeply. "In the end, all of your efforts were for nothing. You pursued immortality for so long, but you couldn't escape death in the end. Instead, I'm the one who's still alive right now. Fate really does love to toy with us."

Zu An gave her a worried look, but he saw that there wasn't any love or affection in her eyes. There wasn't even any strong hatred left. After so much time had passed, when she looked at the corpse again, even her hatred had already grown faint.

But at that moment, Zu An suddenly felt alarmed. He quickly looked off to the side as a cold voice said from a distance, "Hand over that flower of immortality in your hands to me. Otherwise, I'll kill her."

Mi Li also turned around and saw Zhao Ruizhi standing at the entrance with his hand on Bi Linglong's shoulder. With his cultivation, Bi Linglong would immediately perish if he exerted even a bit of force.

He Li and the other King Qi Manor soldiers finally caught up while wheezing. When they saw the flower in Zu An's hands, their eyes lit up. It was swirling with brilliant colors and suffused with rich life energy. They quickly concluded that it was a symbol of immortality.

Chapter 876: Separated in Life and Death

Zu An had never expected this man to arrive at such a bad time. He also finally understood why the earth and fire rooms' power had reached this place.

The emperor's demands immediately placed him in a difficult spot. He wouldn't mind giving anything else away if it could be exchanged for Bi Linglong, but the Everlasting Spring Flower was tied to Mi Li's fate. They might never find another one if they missed this opportunity.

Mi Li didn't say anything and instead stared at him with interest, wondering what kind of decision he'd make.

Zu An decided to appease the other party with words first. "Let her go first; otherwise, what if you go back on your promise? Your cultivation is so high that we won't have any power to fight back."

Mi Li raised her brows when she heard Zu An's words. However, she still didn't say anything.

“Stop speaking nonsense. You don’t have a choice right now. Hand that thing over, or else I’ll kill her immediately,” Zhao Ruizhi said coldly. With his status and temper, no one had the right to negotiate with him. He obviously understood the advantages of seizing the initiative.

Bi Linglong screamed, “Ah Zu, don’t worry about me! He won’t let us go even if you give that to him!” After having been in the imperial palace for so long, she already knew what kind of person the emperor was. If Zu An didn’t hand it over, she might still have a chance of survival, but they would instead be dead for sure if he did.

“Shut up!” Zhao Ruizhi’s palm tightened and Bi Linglong felt extreme pain in her shoulder. Her entire body was restricted by a mysterious energy, preventing her from speaking again.

Zu An chuckled and said, “Your majesty, could it be that you got something wrong? She’s the crown princess, your daughter-in-law. Wait, scratch that; to a certain degree, she was the wife you chose for yourself. Why are you using your own woman to threaten me? That’s absolutely hilarious!”

Bi Linglong knew that he was saying those things on purpose; but rationality was one thing, her emotions were another. Her eyes turned red when she heard Zu An’s words, and her expression grew bleak.

He Li cursed inwardly. So now you remember that she’s the emperor’s daughter-in-law? Why didn’t you seem to realize this when the two of you were embracing and hugging each other?!

Sure enough, fury burned in Zhao Ruizhi’s eyes. “You adulterous couples did things that have let me down. You actually have the nerve to say such things now?”

“But I didn’t do anything...? We’re completely innocent. She’s still a virgin,” Zu An explained, trying to find a way to save Bi Linglong’s life.

Bi Linglong’s face was entirely red. Even though she knew what he was trying to do, she was still embarrassed to hear him talk about such a thing in front of everyone.

Zhao Ruizhi sneered. “Linglong, you’ve now witnessed it for yourself. He might be a smooth talker, but this is what he really thinks when it’s time for him to make a choice. You don’t have any place in his heart. Do you know how foolish you were now?”

Bi Linglong said indifferently, “There’s no need for you to try and break us apart. While we’re on the topic, shouldn’t the two of us be even closer? And yet, aren’t you similarly using me to threaten him? What right do you have to criticize him?”

“Either way, with how things are, I don’t want to live any longer. If you want to kill me, just do it. Why bother trying to use me to threaten him?”

Zhao Ruizhi had already been furious to begin with. However, his desire for that elixir of immortality made him hold himself back and patiently feign civility. When he saw Bi Linglong continue to stare apologetically at Zu An the entire time, he erupted into a rage. “Do you really think I won’t kill you?”

His palm slammed toward Bi Linglong’s back as he spoke. He had already scanned the area earlier. At such a distance, forcefully seizing that flower of immortality wouldn’t be too difficult, so he quickly calmed down. This woman had dared to go against him, and she even continued to look flirtatiously at

another man in front of his face! It would be better to just get rid of her earlier. Then, only by pulverizing Zu An to ashes would he be able to vent out all of his resentment.

Meanwhile, Zu An was alarmed, and even Mi Li's expression changed. Neither of them had expected the emperor to suddenly deal the fatal blow. With his terrifying cultivation, and the fact that the two of them were so close, there was practically no way to stop him.

But Zu An wasn't someone who willingly resigned himself to fate. He tossed the Everlasting Spring Flower to Mi Li. Then, with flickers of black and white light, Bi Linglong suddenly appeared beneath the tree.

Zu An had taken Bi Linglong's spot!

Bi Linglong felt dizzy. Before she even realized what had happened, Mi Li's expression changed greatly. Even if Zu An's body had experienced a three-fold tempering, he still wouldn't be able to withstand an attack from the emperor!

Zhao Ruizhi was also surprised. There was actually someone who could rescue a person from under his grasp in such a situation? Even so, in the end, he was experienced and knowledgeable. He quickly realized what had happened, his eyes narrowing as he exclaimed, "The libationer's Sacrificial Piece?"

With his status, he obviously hadn't regarded He Baizi and the other disciples with any importance. Such a skill was something he believed had definitely been passed down from the libationer to his disciple.

Bi Linglong snapped out of her daze. As the crown princess and someone who was on good terms with the academy, she would often visit the academy. She obviously knew that Hei Baizi possessed a great treasure called the Sacrificial Piece. It could turn someone else into the sacrifice so that they would take the damage one would have taken instead. But no one had ever used themselves as the Sacrificial Piece before!

She had known that Zu An's decision not to exchange the Everlasting Spring Flower was the most rational decision, but she still couldn't help but feel disappointment. She had even begun to wonder what she even meant to this man. But when she saw him use his life to protect hers, tears immediately trickled out of her eyes. "Ah Zu!"

Zhao Ruizhi's cultivation made him unstoppable. His palm pressed against Zu An's back, but he didn't immediately use all of his strength. He said with a sneer, "I didn't expect you to actually be willing to save her by sacrificing your own life. You really do invest everything into your girls! In that case, I'll help you accomplish your goal!"

He felt endless hatred for Zu An. This time, he didn't show any mercy and smashed his palm against Zu An's back.

"Pfft!" Blood gushed out crazily from Zu An's mouth. His entire body went limp, and he collapsed. He even stopped breathing.

He Li sighed in amazement. How is even the prettiest woman as important as your own life? Young people really are too reckless...

"No!" In that instant, Mi Li had already begun moving. However, she was still too late.

With the emperor's cultivation, even if they were at the same cultivation rank, everything within three feet would be his absolute domain. That was before accounting for the fact that he was already pressing down an inch away from Zu An's vital areas.

When she saw Zu An fall to the ground, Mi Li's expression became completely cold. Her long black hair flew chaotically behind her. "Die!"

A streak of red light flashed past Zhao Ruizhi, and his eyes immediately narrowed. He quickly raised his hand to defend himself.

Boom!

Zhao Ruizhi's body flew backward through the air. When he finally managed to steady himself again, he felt a movement in his throat. A streak of blood trickled out from the corner of his lips. This woman had actually injured him!

He knew that he had suffered serious injuries from his battle against the two mysterious generals. He was only half as strong as he would be at his peak. But even so, he had been certain that this entire situation was within his control. And yet, he had ended up being injured by this dainty and weak looking woman!

Mi Li's soul body also staggered, visibly growing a bit fainter. Fighting in a frontal clash against the emperor in such a state had really cost her a lot. She couldn't be bothered to chase after the emperor and instead rushed over to pick Zu An up. "Ah Zu, talk to me!"

Bi Linglong was also sobbing as she ran over. "Ah Zu, why did you have to throw away your life for me? I didn't have much time left to live anyway; sacrificing yourself for me wasn't worth it at all..." She had already used a forbidden technique previously, causing her to lose a huge amount of life essence. In theory, she really couldn't live for many more years.

Zu An's complexion was as pale as white paper. Bloodstains were all over his mouth. He smiled when he heard those words and replied, "How could I just watch you get hurt without doing anything? I acted before I could think. Can you give me a kiss before I die?"

Bi Linglong felt her heart crumble. She felt so much grief that no sound came out even as she sobbed. She didn't feel a shred of hesitation and jumped down to kiss him passionately. Unfortunately, for her, the kiss wasn't one that filled her with happiness, but rather with heart-wrenching pain.

He Li and the others sighed. Even though that kid was annoying, he was still an affectionate person to the end.

As he watched his wife kiss another man, Zhao Ruizhi felt anger boil inside of him. However, he felt reservation toward Mi Li's strength, so he didn't immediately rush over.

Mi Li couldn't help but curse, "Damn brat, when will you get rid of that skirt-chasing habit of yours? I'm going to be killed because of this one day!"

Even though Bi Linglong was usually a little scared of Mi Li, that went straight out the window at that moment. She glared at her and screamed, "Ah Zu is already dying; how can you scold him right now?"

“Like hell he’ll die. This brat is even more persistent than a ghost. How could he die that easily?” Mi Li could tell from the very first glance that even though Zu An’s injuries weren’t light, they weren’t fatal. Even though she didn’t understand how he had done it, she knew he wouldn’t die so easily here.

Zu An took out a broken scale from his inner pocket. He said with an embarrassed smile, “I guess I can’t get anything past you after all.”

Chapter 877: Death Wish

Bi Linglong was alarmed. She rubbed her teary eyes while examining Zu An’s body. “You’re really okay?”

“I’m fine. The reaper decided to give me another chance when he saw how broken-hearted this beauty was.” Zu An still felt lingering fear. Thank goodness I asked Bi Linglong to kiss me and not Mi Li. Otherwise, what I experienced would’ve been something else entirely...

Bi Linglong’s expression changed from tearful to smiling. She tapped her fists gently against his chest. “You’re so annoying...”

Mi Li rolled her eyes. Men are all liars.

Zhao Ruizhi’s eyes twitched when he saw the two playing around with each other. However, he was more shocked about something else. “Why aren’t you dead?” He hadn’t held back at all on his last attack. Even though he was far from his best condition, killing Zu An should have been an easy task.

“I am the one blessed by the mandate of heaven, shielded by the deities and buddhas alike. How could someone like you possibly kill me so easily?” Zu An was shooting his mouth off like no tomorrow, but inside, he felt quite guilty.

The reason he had survived was through a fluke. He had encountered a mermaid in that water room and noticed a familiar scale. It was extremely similar to the one Shang Liuyu had given him back then. He’d had his suspicions back then, so he had taken it with him.

Who could have thought that it would actually be able to block a fatal attack? Furthermore, its effects were even more powerful than the one Shang Liuyu had given him! It was even able to block the emperor’s attack.

Of course, it was still thanks to the Primordial Origin Sutra tempering his body three times. Anyone else would still have died from the emperor’s blow even if they had such a thing.

He Li and the others were dumbstruck when they heard his reply. They all looked at him in a stupor. Is this kid really someone chosen by the heavens?

After all, he had already done many seemingly impossible things ever since they met in the dungeon. All of those things made no sense. Not even a publicly acknowledged genius could accomplish the things he had!

“You scoundrel, you dare to speak about heaven’s mandate before this emperor?!” Zhao Ruizhi’s eyes shifted to the broken scale in Zu An’s hands. He finally realized what had happened and exclaimed, “The Mermaid Imperial Family’s Heart Protection Scale!”

You have successfully trolled Zhao Han for +444 +444 +444...

But inside, he was full of misgivings. What the hell was going on? This kid had so many miraculous abilities, and he even had the libationer's Sacrificial Piece and the Mermaid Imperial Family's Heart Protection Scale. The mermaid scale wasn't from any normal royal family member, because one that could block his full powered attack had to at least be at the empress grade. How did the kid know all of these people?

But none of those things were important. An unpredictable variable like Zu An needed to be removed as quickly as possible.

Zhao Ruizhi's entire body erupted with golden light. "Today, this emperor will teach you what heaven's mandate means." He reached out his hand and made a gripping motion. A massive golden hand appeared out of thin air and grabbed at Zu An. If the fist closed around him, Zu An would immediately be pulverized into ground meat.

Mi Li snorted. Her sleeve flew out and a red streak appeared. It tore straight through the golden palm, creating a hole. The giant golden palm deflated like a giant balloon, scattering into golden light.

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes narrowed. "Judging from your use of power, I can tell that you've reached the Earth Immortal rank as well. I didn't expect for someone else to also be at this level, let alone a woman. Just who exactly are you?"

He Li and the others' eyes widened in shock. It wasn't just a woman, but a young and beautiful woman! How was this possible? What the hell was wrong with the world all of a sudden?

Mi Li said indifferently, "Beyond man is the heavens, and beyond the heavens are greater heavens. A frog like you has been stuck at the bottom of your well for too long."

Even though Zu An hadn't died, she was still absolutely furious at the emperor. She decided to help Zu An get rid of him while the emperor was still weak. However, the moment she was about to move, she frowned. Her figure began to flicker.

Zu An immediately noticed her situation. He quickly asked her, "What's wrong?"

Mi Li told him through ki transmission, "My power is dispersing in all directions. The formation here seems to be absorbing my power."

Zu An sensed the surroundings. Sure enough, he saw that there was a faint mist scattering out from Mi Li's body, then seeping into the ground.

Mi Li quickly applied a seal and adjusted herself. "I can only do my best to stop this formation's absorption, but that can only slow it down. I might not be able to help you against the emperor soon."

Zu An said in consolation, "Just focus on that. Leave the rest to me."

Zhao Ruizhi roared with laughter. "I thought that you might have been some powerful existence. It turns out you're nothing but a soul! I'm going to end you today!" He noticed what was wrong with Mi Li and quickly deduced the truth from what he saw.

Zu An said seriously, "There's a Five Elements Formation here, and it's probably set up to revive a powerful ancient existence. If we fight to the death here, we might only be benefiting someone else. Why don't we get rid of this evil formation first before we settle our private grudges?"

Zhao Ruizhi exclaimed proudly, "Who do you think you are? Even someone like you thinks you're good enough to fight me to the death? I can crush you like an ant first and then deal with that formation. I'll have more than enough time."

He had obviously sensed that the formation was quietly working in the background. However, his many years as an unmatched ruler made him sufficiently confident to look down on any terrifying ancient existence. If any showed up, he would just eliminate them.

On the contrary, if he dealt with that formation first and allowed the red-clothed woman to revive, that would only become even more troublesome. There was no way he would agree to Zu An's suggestion.

"That mouth of yours is quite slick, but it's only good for fooling women. Did you really think you would fool me?" Zhao Ruizhi smiled maliciously. "I'll rip off that mouth of yours soon, then pull out your tongue. Let's see how you'll talk then."

Zu An knew that the emperor had already firmly resolved to erase him from this world, judging from his killing intent. Further talk was meaningless. As such, he said with a smile, "It seems like you believe everything is in your control, and that no one can fool you."

Zhao Ruizhi proudly said, "There hasn't been anyone born into this world who was able to fool me. Wasn't even the self-proclaimed schemer King Qi just dancing in the palm of my hand the entire time? As for your tricks, I just didn't feel like paying them any attention. Do you really think I didn't know about them?"

He Li and the others' faces were completely ashen. They had believed that King Qi was heroic and brilliant, and together with so many capable men on their side, seizing the imperial throne shouldn't have been too difficult. Yet only after what had happened in this time did they realize just how laughable all of that was. The emperor was just too terrifying and profound. He wasn't someone that human strength could hope to oppose. So what if this Zu An can jump around like a pest? In the end, you still can't escape the emperor, and you'll only experience a death more miserable than anyone else.

"No one can fool you?" An extremely strange expression appeared on Zu An's face. "It's already been many years since you last stayed the night in the Palace of Peace, right?"

Zhao Ruizhi frowned and asked, "What are you trying to say?"

Zu An didn't explain anything. Instead, he said in a meaningful and profound manner, "Your wife really was the best!"

Zhao Ruizhi was speechless.

He Li had been waiting to witness Zu An's miserable fall, but what the hell was going on now? Judging from what he was saying, he had an affair with the empress?! It was already ridiculous enough that he had managed to get this close to the crown princess, but he'd even had a thing with the empress?

He Li had previously had the fortune of seeing the empress from afar. That mature and noble beauty had left him with a deep impression. Is this kid trying to defy the heavens? For a man to have gone this far, even dying at this point would be worth it, right?

Bi Linglong's red lips were wide open in shock. Zu An and the empress? Even though the empress wasn't the crown prince's mother, so she didn't have much of a connection with her, this was just too absurd!

Zhao Ruizhi immediately thought of many things. One night, he had run into Zu An outside the Palace of Peace. His thoughts hadn't gone in that direction before, but now that Zu An had said what he said, the event became full of suspicions. He erupted into fury. "You have a death wish!"

You have successfully trolled Zhao Han for +999 +999 +999...

Zu An's goal had precisely been to make the emperor emotional. He immediately used his 'Knock-You-Up-Eyes' skill[1].

. Item description: When wearing this item, you may select whether to activate the item's effect when you look at a target. As long as the target makes eye contact with you, they will immediately experience pain equal to that of delivering a 10-month-old child. This effect doesn't discriminate against gender or race. The pain inflicted by this item will last for an hour. ?

Chapter 878: Tangled

Zu An had initially had three uses of Knock-You-Up-Eyes. He had already used two, and as for the last one, he had been reluctant to use it all this time. He had been saving it for a situation where he might really die.

Now was that time. He wouldn't have another chance to use it if he didn't use it now. He didn't hesitate after using it, brandishing his Tai'e Sword and charging at Zhao Ruizhi.

At first, when he saw Zu An run at him, Zhao Ruizhi was stunned. A sneer appeared on his face. This guy was normally pretty smart, but he was now going to throw his life away like this? Before absolute strength, passion and willpower were completely useless.

He slowly raised his leg. He hated Zu An so much that he didn't even want to use his hands anymore. Instead, he was going to kick him like the damn dog he was in order to finally vent out all of his resentment.

But he suddenly frowned as soon as he raised his leg. "Hm?"

He felt waves of pain coming from his stomach. With his cultivation, he would never get sick. How long had it been since he felt a stomachache?

"Is it a lingering effect from that sickle wielding fellow?" Zhao Ruizhi was puzzled. It was only a dull ache at first, but then it quickly became a powerful and intense pain. He had no choice but to lower his leg and grab his stomach.

He Li and the others were also stunned. What is going on here? Why does the emperor look like he's in such pain? Are his injuries that bad?

Zu An's sword instantly thrust outward. Just as it was about to pierce into Zhao Ruizhi's body, two fat fingers thrust out, clamping down on the Tai'e Sword. No matter how he tried, Zu An couldn't push his sword forward any further.

Zhao Ruizhi slowly stood up straight. He said through gritted teeth, "Do you think this bit of pain is enough to stop me? You have no idea how severe my injuries were during the war against the fiend races. I didn't even utter a single sound... Ugh..." A gripping pain tore through his stomach before he even finished what he wanted to say. Even with his willpower, he almost collapsed with a groan.

He'd thought that he had already gotten used to the pain, but he couldn't have known that the pain of labor wasn't a sustained and prolonged one, but one that would ease up, and then hit with another intense burst of pain. Each time the pain arrived, it would be worse than the last. It made one think that one had already gotten used to it, only to strike with an even worse round of suffering.

Zu An used the opening to try and push the Tai'e Sword forward. Zhao Ruizhi's fingers had loosened up a bit from the intense pain and couldn't hold the sword in place.

But in the end, Zhao Ruizhi was still an emperor who had risen up through a battlefield of blood and flames. Even though he was feeling an unfamiliar intense pain inside, sweat pouring down his forehead in large droplets, he still caught the sword again. The sword's tip was now a hair's distance from his body!

Zu An obviously wouldn't place all of his hopes on being able to kill the emperor with one strike. He decisively let go of the Tai'e Sword, and his palm slammed toward Zhao Ruizhi's forehead.

He Li watched the battle, his eyes wide. He was amazed that Zu An had decisively abandoned his sword. No wonder so many of their group had died because of this brat earlier! His combat instincts were just too powerful. He would always do things that were unexpected.

He Li knew fully well that a protector like him, in such a situation where he had just used all of his strength to fend off that sword, would never be able to avoid that palm strike.

But Zhao Ruizhi had already reigned as this world's number one for a long time. His combat experience was far greater than theirs. His arm curved at a strange angle, and then even though he attacked second, his palm arrived first.

Crack!

Zu An's arm clearly snapped, his joint bending at an unnatural angle. It was as if the onlookers could experience the pain themselves. Zu An's entire body was blown backward like a beaten sandbag.

Bi Linglong ran over frantically, her voice filled with panicked sobbing. "Ah Zu!"

Mi Li had been about to say something, but she fell silent when she saw what had happened.

Zhao Ruizhi laughed in ridicule. "Linglong, I've always thought of you as a quick-witted girl, but today, I've realized that you're an utter fool! You actually like this brainless moron? He dared to exchange an attack with me directly?"

He was the most powerful man in this world. He had already adapted to the labor pains. Even though there was still pain coming from his stomach from time to time, he had suppressed it forcefully through ki to a point where it became tolerable.

Bi Linglong stared at him hatefully. "Unlike someone like you who only knows how to use people like objects, he's willing to give up anything for me, even his life! That's something that a selfish man like you will never be able to do."

When he saw that the woman he had selected for himself was still speaking up for another man, Zhao Ruizhi was furious. "You're courting death!"

He Li nodded in deep sympathy. These two adulterers are going so far for each other that even 'm impressed.

But no one could have expected that Zu An would roar with laughter just then. A blast of blood sprayed out from his mouth. With another crack, his broken arm rigidly snapped back into place. The onlookers broke out in cold sweat as they watched him, and yet Zu An's expression never changed during the entire process.

Zu An cultivated the Primordial Origin Sutra, and his reformed body possessed astonishing regeneration powers. Even this level of injury had already pretty much healed up.

"Did you think I was just playing around when I traded blows with you?" Mockery and ridicule filled Zu An's expression.

Zhao Ruizhi was stunned. He suddenly felt a bone-chilling cold attack his soul. When he raised his hand, he saw that the surface of his palm was already covered in frost. That frost was even gradually extending along his wrist.

"Frozen Soul[1]!" He had traveled the lands and seas, and thus immediately recognized what kind of poison it was.

Normally speaking, even though Frozen Soul was incredible, it wouldn't do much against him. But at that point, he had been suppressed by the laws of the world, weakening his strength. Furthermore, he had been wounded from the battle against Wang Jian and Bai Qi's heroic spirits, and had even taken a blow from Mi Li after that. On top of all of that, he felt as if his stomach were about to explode, leaving him in the worst state he had ever been in. That was why the poison had successfully infiltrated his body.

But with his cultivation, even though the poison was a bit tricky to deal with, that was the extent of it. He transferred his ki through his body. A trace of golden light appeared, forcefully cutting off the white line on his arm.

Zu An rushed in again. There was no way he would give his opponent the chance to slowly detoxify himself. He was separated from the Tai'e Sword, so instead, a black glint flickered in his hand. The Poisonous Prick instantly entered his tight grip, and he thrust it straight at Zhao Ruizhi. He pushed his Sunflower Phantasm to its limit, splitting into several afterimages and attacking from every direction.

With Zhao Ruizhi's cultivation, the illusions couldn't deceive his eyes. However, his current situation was awful. He was wounded, and together with the labor pains and Frozen Soul's 'debuffs', his movements had become much slower than normal.

Furthermore, Zu An had changed his strategy, refusing to face the emperor from the front. Instead, he continued to use a hit and run tactic, leaving even Zhao Ruizhi momentarily helpless.

He Li and the others were stupefied. Zu An had exchanged over ten moves with the emperor without being at a disadvantage? If news of this got out, he would become world-famous within a single month!

How many years had the emperor remained at the absolute peak for? He had barely had to personally interfere in recent years, and whenever he did, it left all others in shock. Even the greatest cultivators of the world believed that they wouldn't even be able to block a single one of the emperor's attacks, and yet this Zu An was fighting him on equal footing?

Bi Linglong clenched her teeth. She was just about to run over to help when Mi Li stopped her. "Your cultivation is too low; you'll only be causing trouble if you head over. Zu An will be in an even tougher spot if he has to cover for you."

Bi Linglong wasn't a stupid girl. She knew that was really the case. But when she saw how intensely they were fighting, she still bit her lip and replied, "But we can't just watch without doing anything, right?"

"That's exactly what you should do." Mi Li paused for a moment and added, "Trust him."

...

Right at that moment, the battle situation changed.

Zhao Ruizhi exclaimed with a sinister smile, "I've caught you!" He grabbed Zu An's arm through the mirage of afterimages.

But what no one had expected was that Zu An didn't panic at all. With a flick of his fingers, the Poisonous Prick in his hands flew at his opponent's chest.

1. The poison that belonged to Ma An, the Imperial Hospital commissioner assistant, that even master rank cultivators can't resist ❸

Chapter 879: None of You Shall Escape

The sudden development happened far too quickly. Even He Li and the others felt sincere admiration, even though they were in opposite camps. This guy, Zu An, is absolutely insane! Every single action he takes is unexpected. He was even starting to hope that the emperor would be taken down by the attack. Then, their group would also be free.

However, the black light suddenly stopped. It was clamped firmly between two fingers. Zhao Ruizhi sneered. "I already knew about your strange dagger. Everything you were doing until now was to mislead me and cover up this attack, right?"

The pitch-black dagger made even him feel a strange fear. He quickly realized how dangerous the thing was, that it might actually possess a tremendous threat. Even though he didn't know why a dagger would make him feel this way, he wasn't stupid. He wouldn't take that risk.

Sure enough, Zu An had done all of that earlier precisely because he wanted to use the dagger.

The emperor held the dagger firmly. The feeling of completely crushing his opponent's plans, dominating them with intelligence, made him feel a powerful sense of superiority. And yet for some reason, he didn't see shock, annoyance, despair, or any other such emotions on Zu An's face. Instead, Zu An had a weird smile.

Zhao Ruizhi immediately went on guard. He quickly blew Zu An back with his fist, and dodged off to the side. Unfortunately, it was already too late. A nick had been made in the front of his chest. It hadn't been done by that pitch-black dagger, but rather by a strangely-shaped throwing knife.

He saw the throwing knife in Zu An's other hand, a bit of blood still lingering on its cutting edge. Zhao Ruizhi frowned. He didn't know why such a tiny knife had been able to cut through his defenses.

Zu An fell to the ground, unable to crawl back up for a long time. Blood gushed out from his mouth, but there was a big smile on his face. "You didn't predict this, did you? I wanted to stab you with the Poisonous Prick, and you knew I wanted to do that as well. I knew that you knew I wanted to do that, so that attack was just to cover this attack... You thought that I was thinking five steps ahead, but I was actually playing 4D chess."

Zhao Ruizhi had thought that he had completely established superiority in intelligence just a second ago, but now, he realized that he was the one who had been fooled. Anger filled him, but he still forcefully tried to maintain his appearance. "Hmph, you pulled that huge stunt just to hurt me with that tiny knife? What child's play."

Zu An sighed. "Do you really not sense anything wrong?"

"What could possibly be wrong..." Zhao Ruizhi's expression suddenly changed halfway through his sentence. He suddenly felt a sharp pain. It wasn't the pain of labor from his stomach, but rather a pain from his soul. His soul rippled powerfully, and his head was hurting so much it felt as if it were about to explode!

Now that his attention had been diverted, the 'Frozen Soul' on his hand and the Knock-You-Up-Eyes' pain flared up. Not even someone with Zhao Ruizhi's shocking willpower could withstand it anymore. He screamed miserably and fell to the ground, screaming and twitching in pain.

Bi Linglong instantly reached Zu An's side. She helped him up and asked, "Ah Zu, are you okay?"

"I won't die." Zu An wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth while trembling. He stared at Zhao Ruizhi while using the Primordial Origin Sutra to recover. What they were competing in right now was time. Whichever party could recover first would eke out victory.

The throwing knife he had used had been obtained back then from the Eastern Palace when Shi Kun schemed against him; it was one of the Immortal Beheading Knives. This knife looked ordinary on the surface, but it could wound the soul. It was incredibly treacherous.

Unfortunately, the Immortal Beheading Knives weren't complete, and so their greatest strength couldn't be brought out. Otherwise, that attack alone would have already erased the emperor's soul.

He had been left without any options earlier. The emperor had already seen the Poisonous Prick before, so he would already be prepared for it. In that case, he could only use it as the diversion to cover up the Beheading Immortal Knife's strike. Fortunately, everything had gone smoothly.

"What happened to him?" Bi Linglong had never seen the glorious emperor in such a sorry state. She was overwhelmed with shock.

Zhao Ruizhi was clutching his head in pain. Golden light flickered around his body from time to time, but at times, chills from the Frozen Soul poison appeared.

"Don't ask about so much. We need to kill him first. He shouldn't be able to move for a bit of time." Zu An urged.

Bi Linglong's face paled. The emperor's power was something deeply imprinted into the minds of those from the Great Zhou Dynasty. Her first instincts when she heard those words were fear and dread.

But when she saw Zu An's wounds and remembered how heroically he had fought, her reason won out. She gritted her teeth and picked up a fallen weapon. Then, she walked toward Zhao Ruizhi.

Zhao Ruizhi snorted. "He Li, kill them."

"Understood!" He Li instinctively rushed up to Bi Linglong. He was at the peak of the ninth rank, while Bi Linglong was only at the sixth rank. At that point, she was even extremely weak after using a forbidden technique. The difference between them was just too great. Bi Linglong was blown away from a single strike. If not because Bi Linglong was too pretty and he had subconsciously held back, she would already be dead. After seriously injuring Bi Linglong, He Li instinctively wanted to kill Zu An.

Zu An roared, "Bastard He, did all that time you spent cultivating go up your ass?!"

He Li roared furiously. "I might have had to take it if you acted arrogant at another time, but you dare to speak to me this way now? You have a death wish!"

You have successfully trolled He Li for +444 +444 +444...

"I'm indeed seriously injured, but isn't the emperor the same? Why aren't you using this chance to kill him? If he recovers, won't that just guarantee your death?" Zu An quickly said.

He Li subconsciously wanted to say something, but he was soon stunned. Wait, you're making so much sense. I can't even argue against that. He knew that he was from King Qi's faction. The reason he had been taken in by the emperor was because he might still be of some use in the dungeon as cannon fodder. But he now knew so many of the emperor's secrets, as well as how he had been cuckolded. Even if he really became the emperor's trusted aide, he would still be silenced afterwards.

He had already unconsciously turned around when he realized those facts and looked at Zhao Ruizhi.

Zhao Ruizhi's gaze turned cold. "He Li, Zu An has always been a glib talker. How can you be misled by him so easily?"

He Li chuckled. "Who the hell does Zu An think he is? How could he deceive me? But what he says isn't entirely without reason. Don't tell me your majesty will really let me go after the matter?"

"You're King Qi Manor's trusted aide, so after this matter, I can use you as a spy. That will be greatly helpful to me. Why would I kill you?" Zhao Ruizhi quickly said. His tone was steady and possessed a mysterious persuasiveness.

He Li figured that argument made sense as well. He became a bit conflicted.

Bi Linglong crawled to her feet while swaying from side to side. She weakly said, "You even know about the crown prince's possession, as well as all these ugly truths that happened in the dungeon. Why would he let you go so easily?"

He Li suddenly realized that she was right. What was wrong with him? He had actually almost believed the emperor! But he wasn't willing to admit his faults and glared at Bi Linglong. "Do you think I don't know such obvious things? Do I need you to tell me that?"

Then, he walked closer and closer to Zhao Ruizhi with a blade in hand. Even though the emperor looked seriously injured, there was still a powerful pressure emanating from him. He Li was a bit intimidated.

Zhao Ruizhi frowned and said, "If you don't believe me, then I can make a vow that I absolutely won't harm you."

He Li hesitated again. If his survival was guaranteed, then why wouldn't he choose to side with someone as powerful as the emperor?

Zu An roared with laughter. "Did you forget something? The elements here are unstable. You can't even make a vow here."

He Li felt annoyed at himself again. He had actually almost been fooled by the emperor again!

When he saw He Li's hateful gaze, Zhao Ruizhi coldly said, "You need to think things through clearly. If you attack me, it will only be a portion of my soul that dies. However, my real body will remain. Do you dare face my thunderous wrath once you leave this dungeon?"

He Li's face paled. Right! Even if I kill him now, that's only a part of his soul! The unmatched emperor will remain. I'll definitely be killed afterward... As such, he couldn't help but turn around and walk toward Zu An with his blade.

Zu An was speechless. "You won't believe me if I call you a moron, but this entire dungeon is isolated... As long as you kill him before this dungeon opens back up, the emperor outside won't know a thing about what happened inside!"

He Li was stunned. So that was the case... His understanding toward the soul wasn't too profound. If not because of Mi Li's reminder, Zu An similarly wouldn't have known about that.

Zhao Ruizhi's expression changed. He hadn't expected Zu An to know about that. Looks like this kid planned to kill me from the start.

Zhao Ruizhi was just about to say something again when He Li roared, "All of you, shut the hell up! My head hurts like hell! Stop arguing; isn't this problem easily solved if I just kill all of you?"

Chapter 880: Mastermind

He Li immediately felt relieved when he got all of that out. Maybe it was his imagination, but he could feel the looks of respect and fear in Zu An and the emperor's eyes.

He was a cultivator at the peak of the ninth rank after all, someone who received respect wherever he went. Even in a place like the capital where cultivators were more widespread, his presence still carried considerable weight.

And yet it was precisely his arrogant self who had constantly been overshadowed by these two ridiculous existences, turning him into a wretched yes-man. Only now had he recovered his usual dignity.

He gave the trembling Bi Linglong a look. Even though your hair is a bit too white, your face really is pretty. Your weak appearance right now makes you look more ladylike than your usual high and mighty appearance.

I'll kill the men and leave this extraordinary beauty alive. Who'll even be able to find me once I leave and live incognito?

I'll just spend some time with the crown princess here in the dungeon if I have to. What should I name the child? Hm... I guess it depends on whether it's a boy or a girl...

At that moment, he had already thought about many things. He suddenly wasn't so scared of the emperor anymore when he thought about the beautiful crown princess. The blade in his hands flew at Zhao Ruizhi's neck.

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes flickered with light. His hand shot out and tapped He Li's forehead.

He Li trembled, and his body fell limp to the ground. A streak of blood trickled out between his brows, his eyes wide in shock. As his world became completely dark, he still seemed to be confused.

Zhao Ruizhi slowly stood up. "Hmph, did you think that I was really begging you when I was talking to you? It was just to buy myself time."

The two King Qi Manor soldiers, who had become a bit restless, were frightened. They quickly bowed down. "The emperor is powerful and without equal! Long live, long live!"

Zhao Ruizhi roared with laughter. He suddenly turned to look at Zu An. "It's now your turn."

Zu An remained quiet. He had just recovered a bit of fighting strength too, but he hadn't expected the emperor to recover even faster. He had only managed to pressure the emperor previously after exhausting everything he had. The emperor was no fool and wouldn't fall for the same trick twice.

He felt despair when he thought of that. The emperor was just way too powerful. Whether it was the Knock-You-Up-Eyes, the Immortal Beheading Knives, or the Frozen Soul poison, any one of them would've been enough to finish off a powerful opponent. And yet Zhao Ruizhi had managed to recover after being affected by all three.

But while they were focused on each other, no one noticed that all of the blood they had lost had been completely sucked away by the ground.

Zhao Ruizhi walked toward Zu An one step after another, as if he was doing this to make him fully experience the fear before death.

To his disappointment, however, Zu An remained completely calm, and not even Bi Linglong looked that scared, as if they didn't care about dying at all. That wasn't all; they were even looking at each other affectionately.

Are they ignoring me? Smoke almost came out of Zhao Ruizhi's head from anger.

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

He decided that he was going to rip out Zu An's tongue first, then watch him scream in agony. He wanted to see Bi Linglong's expression of horror and regret.

Right at that moment, a rumble erupted from beneath them. Not even Zhao Ruizhi could stand steadily. He looked down with a frown and saw that the ground was cracking open down the middle. A huge jagged crevice gradually appeared. The two chunks of separated ground became different in color. One side was becoming whiter and whiter, while the other was becoming darker and darker.

Zu An looked at the ground. He suddenly realized something. "Isn't this a yin yang diagram?!"

Mi Li was confused at first, but then her expression changed to alarm. "This isn't a Five Elements Formation, but rather a Five Elements Yin Yang Formation!"

Zu An was about to ask what the difference was, but their surroundings changed again.

As the ground ruptured, water gushed out from underneath. The spring water was completely red in color, as if it were blood that rushed out. When paired with the altar and the current surroundings, it was quite an alarming sight.

Even Zhao Ruizhi stopped. He looked at the scene with a serious expression.

"Pure yang blood, pure yin body... How many years has it been? I've finally collected everything I need," a droning voice suddenly said. It echoed through the place, making it even harder to tell who the one talking was.

Zhao Ruizhi's eyes narrowed, because he noticed that even he couldn't lock onto the person's aura. How absurd was that? Ever since he had become the most powerful cultivator in the world, when had anyone escaped his divine senses?

"Pure yang blood?" Mi Li mouthed those words. Then, she gave the yin yang diagram on the ground a look. She suddenly realized what was going on. "So that was it!"

The pool of bloody water that filled the area suddenly boiled like hot water. The blood water surged, slowly forming a human shape. However, it was still rather crude, and its five sensory organs could only vaguely be made out.

The onlookers were shocked when they saw the strange existence. The two King Qi Manor soldiers who were closest to the blood man immediately turned to run for their lives. However, that blood man raised his hands. They stretched out and gripped the two's necks, dragging them right back.

"Your majesty, save us..." The two King Qi warriors were definitely not incompetent. The fact that they could survive until now proved that they were the best among their peers. However, they couldn't even put up the slightest struggle against that blood man. They could only look toward Zhao Ruizhi with pleading eyes.

Zhao Ruizhi remained completely indifferent. These two were just cannon fodder; why would he ever save them? But his brows furrowed deeper and deeper. For some reason, he felt threatened by the blood monster.

The two warriors had been begging for their lives just a moment earlier, but a split second later, their bodies shrank at a visible rate until they had only skin and bones left. They became two terrifying corpses.

Bi Linglong instinctively turned around when she saw the scene. Such a situation was way too horrifying.

Zu An's eyes twitched. The scene made him recall Mosquito Daoist. That really wasn't the happiest memory. Meanwhile, the blood man moved again and tossed the two corpses aside. His body rippled, and his facial features gradually became clear. A rough outline of his original appearance formed. but it was still formed from a glob of blood. It was still hard to tell what kind of monster it was.

"Xu Fu, how could it be you?" Mi Li was shocked and furious.

That blood man slowly opened his eyes and looked at her. "Long time no see, your highness."

Zu An felt his scalp turn numb when he heard those words. This blood man was Xu Fu? This was the Xu Fu who had supposedly looked for the elixir of immortality to present to the emperor!

All the time, he had actually thought that the last boss of the formation would be the first emperor. He had worried about such a monster coming out, but a completely different person had ended up appearing?

Zhao Ruizhi was completely confused. Who is Xu Fu? Why is he calling this woman 'her highness'?" He remained calm, planning to listen and gather information first. At the same time, he adjusted his ki. This blood monster gave off an extremely dangerous feeling; he needed to recover as quickly as possible.

The pain in his stomach was already close to disappearing, and only a dull ache remained. It was within his realm of tolerance, however. The Frozen Soul poison was forced back into his hand. He could expel it from his body if he were given a few more seconds of time.

The most troublesome part was the Immortal Beheading Knife's injury. He had only possessed the crown prince with a portion of his soul, so the body and soul weren't in perfect harmony. That damn knife just happened to attack the soul. He couldn't heal from it without a proper period of recovery and could only temporarily keep the wound down. He'd slowly heal the wound later.

"Why is it you? Where is Ying Zheng?" Mi Li stared at the blood man. She clearly shared Zu An's sentiments.

"Isn't Ying Zheng lying right over there?" Xu Fu pointed at the coffin, his tone carrying a hint of ridicule.

"Your highness, please don't fret. Please wait as I deal with this little problem over here first." As soon as he spoke, he turned into a streak of bloody light, shooting at Zhao Ruizhi.

Zhao Ruizhi had already experienced endless battles and slaughter, becoming the world's strongest cultivator. His combat experience was abundant. He was already prepared. A flash of golden light blew his opponent back. However, the exchange made his ki and blood stir within him as well.

He knew that he might not be able to win against the monster in his current condition, so he decided to not carry out a frontal clash for the time being. He wanted to find a place to recover for a bit first.

Just as he was about to leave, his entire body sank downward. He lowered his head. Blood had seeped out between the cracks when he wasn't paying attention. The blood flailed outward like arms, wrapping tightly around him.

Zhao Ruizhi snorted. Golden light flickered, scattering all of the blood arms. But in the time it took to do that, Xu Fu had already pounced over from afar.

Xu Fu didn't retain a human form the way Zhao Ruizhi had expected. Midway through his charge, he had already turned into a bloody mist. Then, that blood turned into a giant octopus. Countless tentacles wrapped tightly around Zhao Ruizhi's entire body.