

Immortal 881

Chapter 881: End of the Line

Golden light flickered around Zhao Ruizhi, instantly cutting through several tentacles around him. Unfortunately, there were just too many of them. Once those tentacles were cut, new ones quickly took their place seemingly endlessly.

Zhao Ruizhi was a bit frightened. If he had been in his best condition, he wouldn't care about the attack at all, but he was falling behind right now. He felt an increasing need to pull back and withdraw. He raised his arm and fired bursts of golden light. All of the surrounding tentacles were destroyed, and he quickly dashed backward.

Two extremely thick tentacles suddenly shot out at that moment, wrapping around his arms. He struggled, but those thick tentacles weren't as easily destroyed as the others. That brief instant was already enough for countless red tentacles to surround him once more. Then, a third thick tentacle rushed out from the massive octopus and flew at his head. If that tentacle made contact, even the powerful emperor would immediately lose his life.

Zhao Ruizhi roared. His arms closed together, bringing all of the tentacles with them. In a moment of life and death, he managed to catch the incoming tentacle. Veins popped on his forehead; he was already using all of his strength. That massive tentacle couldn't make any progress, leaving both sides stuck in a stalemate.

The others present were shocked. Bi Linglong couldn't help but turn around and start retching. Even Mi Li frowned. Women had a natural fear toward such sticky tentacle monsters.

Zu An was a bit better off, since he had already experienced his fair share of that 'culture'. But he couldn't understand something. Why had a proper official like Xu Fu changed into an octopus monster?

He suddenly remembered Mi Li mentioning that Xu Fu had spent a long time out at sea, searching for the first emperor's elixir of immortality. He had killed a giant fish along the way, and he had even brought back the Mermaid Race's empress, right? He had spent most of his time out at sea, so it wasn't all that strange for him to have some Ocean Race skills.

But now wasn't the time to think about such things. He picked up Bi Linglong in one arm and Mi Li in the other, deciding to leave the place first. Two monsters were duking it out right now. If he didn't take the chance to run, was he going to wait until one of them won and came after him afterward?

Mi Li's brows furrowed when she felt Zu An's arm around her waist. However, she knew that it was a rational decision and didn't act out. On the contrary, she made her soul force a bit more tangible to make herself easier to carry.

Zu An used Grandgale to flee quickly. The octopus monster seemed to have seen what was happening, but it was busy dealing with Zhao Ruizhi and didn't have the freedom to stop them. Zu An was happy to see that, as he had already reached the entrance. In a few more seconds, he would already be far away from this place. At that point, he didn't care if it was Xu Fu or Zhao Ruizhi; none of them would be able to find him.

Suddenly, Mi Li groaned. Zu An turned around and saw that her body was flickering. Her expression was full of pain.

"What is it?" Zu An asked, alarmed.

Mi Li frowned. "The formation has me trapped here. I can't get away. You should take that girl with you and leave first." Even though her cultivation was strong, right now she was still in soul form. That was why there were some things that could restrict her. This Five Elements Yin Yang Formation was clearly one such thing.

Zu An said gravely, "You'll die."

Mi Li was currently being suppressed by the formation. It was hard for her to even move. If she stayed behind, the only thing that awaited her was death. However, she said coldly, "After living for so long, I don't have much attachment to this world anyway. There are so many old acquaintances here, and there's a familiar palace. Even if I pass on here, it's not too bad of a choice."

Zu An exclaimed angrily, "Nonsense! Don't you still have me?!"

Mi Li was stunned. Her expression became complicated, but she still said, "It's meaningless for you to stay here. We'll only die together. Just leave already; there are many people waiting for you outside. Don't let them down." She knew all about his relationships after sticking around him for so long.

Zu An didn't pay her any more attention. Instead, he took out a bunch of medicine and some of the weapons and artifacts he had stored, giving them to Bi Linglong. "Get out of here first and find a place to hide. Wait for me; I'll find you later."

He paused for a moment before saying, "If I don't come out, this dungeon will reopen one day. You should just try to escape then. You'll be safe once you reach the academy's rear mountain."

Bi Linglong pushed the items back, shaking her head. "I'm not going."

Zu An was getting even more frustrated. He insisted, "Don't cause any trouble and leave."

"You were willing to sacrifice yourself for me, so how can I abandon you now? Let's just die together if there's no other choice." Bi Linglong's voice was quiet, but her tone was firm.

Zu An said gravely, "But the reason I'm staying behind is because of another woman."

Bi Linglong blinked. "She's your master. If you were to just abandon her, you'd be despicable scum! That's nothing like the... the outstanding man I like."

Zu An fell silent for a moment. However, he quickly laughed, his voice carefree. "Whatever. If we can't survive, then we'll just go down together! It's not so bad to die with the people you care about."

You have successfully trolled Zhao Han for +666 +666 +666...

The real husband is struggling over here, yet you adulterers are flirting over there?! Zhao Ruizhi's moment of distraction made him lose his grip on the massive tentacle, and it slowly closed in toward his forehead. He shivered and quickly focused on the attack. Unfortunately, those tentacles were extremely slippery, and he couldn't get a grip on them again.

Zu An and the others saw the scene as well. Bi Linglong asked, "Which side should we help?"

Even though the emperor really wasn't that likable, he was a human at least. What the hell was this blood octopus? But regardless of which side won and which side lost, their group would be dead after the fight was decided. Bi Linglong couldn't think of a solution no matter how hard she tried and could instead only ask Zu An.

After some hesitation, Zu An picked up his sword and charged at the giant octopus.

Bi Linglong nodded inwardly. That was the more viable plan. Zhao Ruizhi was already seriously injured, after all. Even if he won, he would barely inch it out. Zu An had a good chance of winning at that point.

On the contrary, it was this Xu Fu monster who was more frightening. Zu An had no confidence in winning against it at all. If Xu Fu defeated Zhao Ruizhi, it would probably retain most of its strength. That wasn't an opponent Zu An could beat, let alone the fact that Mi Li was trapped by his strange formation!

When he saw Zu An charge at the octopus, a look of gratitude appeared in Zhao Ruizhi's eyes. He even thought to himself that if this kid could help him kill the octopus monster, he might just write off all of their grudges. He didn't feel any real love for Bi Linglong, only a masculine desire to possess. Giving her to him wasn't that big of a deal.

But that thought was ruthlessly erased as soon as it emerged. This kid wasn't someone who would ever bow down. Once I get rid of this octopus monster, I'll immediately ambush him when he thinks we're working together. Otherwise, I might not be able to take him out easily with my condition.

Even though Zu An's cultivation wasn't high, he had way too many unique skills. Even the emperor was becoming a bit scared. While he was thinking those thoughts, however, he saw that the octopus monster had reached out with some tentacles to attack Zu An. He sneered. This octopus was really looking down on Zu An's strength. How could those tentacles stop that kid?

But Zu An didn't face the tentacles at all. Instead, his figure flickered before reappearing a good distance away. He struck the yin yang diagram on the ground with all of his strength.

Zhao Ruizhi was speechless. You motherf*cker!

This guy had never planned to cooperate with him at all! He was waiting for him to wear down this octopus monster so he could collect all the spoils!

Zu An had produced a forty meter long blade of flames. Unfortunately, after the impact, the yin yang diagram on the ground became completely calm after a wave of ripples.

Xu Fu roared with laughter. "It's useless! Once such a great formation activates, how can it be destroyed by mere mortal power?"

Meanwhile, the thick tentacle advanced ferociously again. Zhao Ruizhi couldn't take it anymore. He could only watch as the tentacle reached straight into his mouth.

Chapter 882: Method of Ascension Obtained

Zhao Ruizhi was alarmed. However, he wasn't someone who gave up easily, and he bit right back. With his cultivation, his bite possessed enough force to crush even the sturdiest of metals.

But the tentacle was too slippery. Its viscous surface neutralized a large portion of the force. On the contrary, rather than wounding the octopus monster, the tentacle took the chance to get in a bit further. It was already practically in Zhao Ruizhi's throat!

Zhao Ruizhi wanted to vomit. When had he ever been humiliated like this before?! Not only was his life in critical danger, his pride and dignity were being trampled right now! He frantically tried to pull the tentacle out of his mouth, but he felt as if once it had entered his mouth, a portion of it had broken down into liquid form and entered his stomach. Afterward, his strength quickly weakened. He could only watch as the tentacle reached deeper and deeper down his throat.

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Zu An shivered when he saw what was happening in the distance. This really was a terrible way to die... If I were... Ah pah pah! Why am I jinxing myself!

Xu Fu's laughter emerged from the octopus' mouth. "Hahaha, turns out you were possessing someone else! What a great opportunity; I'll just use your soul to compensate for my deficiencies after so much time has passed."

Zhao Ruizhi struggled frantically. Unfortunately, his movements became weaker and weaker, eventually becoming still. Then, a soul body that looked like Zhao Han was ripped out of his body, bearing an expression of extreme pain. However, Xu Fu's tentacle wrapped around him, making him unable to even put up the slightest resistance. His soul grew dimmer and dimmer, eventually shattering with a loud noise. He turned into specks of golden light and was sucked into the large octopus' mouth.

"Ah..." Xu Fu released a moan of pleasure. It was clear that he had just felt something incredible.

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Elsewhere, a certain someone didn't feel great at all. In the Imperial Palace outside of the dungeon, Zhao Han had been meditating in his study. His expression suddenly changed, and blood sprayed out of his mouth. His face turned as pale as a sheet of paper, and his aura immediately became significantly weaker.

"What's wrong, your highness?" Two lesser eunuchs ran over when they heard the activity. They jumped in fright when they saw the emperor's condition, and were scared badly.

A glint flashed through Zhao Han's eyes. The two lesser eunuchs felt as if an invisible hand had gripped their necks. Then, with a crack, they fell to the ground lifeless. How could they have known that their concern would instead become the cause of their death? How could the emperor let anyone who could potentially speak about his weakness live?

Zhao Han didn't even give the two corpses a look. Instead, he moved over to the window and looked in the direction of the Royal Academy with an awful expression. His split soul had actually been erased! Even though there was a world separating them, so he couldn't tell what happened, the two of them came from the same source. He had immediately felt it when his split soul disappeared.

He was incredibly shocked. Until that point, he had believed that everything was within his grasp. No matter what King Qi Manor had planned, even if he didn't know about some of it, he believed it didn't

matter at all since his soul was in the crown prince's body. It could just as easily take care of any situation, so why had it died?

Even though a new dungeon had appeared, he refused to believe that a new dungeon could threaten his split soul. Was it possible that Zhao Jing was also inside the dungeon?

Zhao Han quickly shouted, "Servant!"

Eunuch Wen came in and asked "What orders does your majesty have for me?"

He didn't even give those two lesser eunuchs a single glance. He had already served the imperial study for many years; he knew what he should and shouldn't be asking, and when he should be entering and when he shouldn't. The two lesser eunuchs were just too young...

Zhao Han had already wiped away the blood on his lips, and his aura returned to normal. He said seropis;y, "Bring in King Qi for an audience... Wait, no, forget it. Have our network find out where King Qi is right now no matter the cost!"

He was worried that King Qi would be able to sense his body's condition if he met him face to face. That would only further increase that man's confidence and the number of variables.

Eunuch Wen hesitated for a moment. "That might expose the network we placed in King Qi Manor."

Finding out King Qi's whereabouts wasn't something any old intelligence group could accomplish. Only the highest level spy in King Qi Manor had a chance of knowing. But once such a person was used, with King Qi Manor's sharpness, that person would be quickly exposed. That position in King Qi Manor wasn't easy to obtain. It would be too much of a pity if the spy was lost because of this matter.

Zhao Ruizhi's expression turned cold. "This emperor has already said 'no matter the cost'."

"I will obey the emperor's decree!" Eunuch Wen shivered. The emperor clearly didn't care about that person's sacrifice at this point.

Sigh, so what if you were chosen for such an important position? Aren't you still nothing but a chess piece in the end? I wonder when the same fate will await me...

But he didn't dare to show any of those thoughts on his face. He slowly withdrew. Before leaving, he brought the two lesser eunuchs' corpses with him. It was as if nothing had taken place there.

Zhao Han nodded in satisfaction. This servant understood tact well and dealt with things properly. But his mood only improved for a split second. Immediately afterward, his expression became ice-cold.

He stared in the direction of the Royal Academy rear mountain's dungeon. What had happened inside?! His eternal life project of many years had been completely spoiled at the last step!

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Inside the dungeon, Zu An's mood was similarly grave. He was frantically cursing Zhao Han for being freaking useless inwardly. This guy had always been shooting his mouth off, so why had he been eaten by that octopus so easily today? Not only had he failed to bring the monster down with him, he had

even ended up feeding the octopus, making it stronger? What the hell was the point of even having him fight it then?!

Zu An abandoned all thoughts of attack. Instead, he moved back to Mi Li's side to protect her. However, he didn't run. The other party had already absorbed a portion of Zhao Han's soul, so Zu An wouldn't be able to get away even if he wanted to.

The octopus' body twisted and warped, returning to a humanoid form. Then, the blood liquid seemed to coalesce together. All kinds of cracks covered its body, and a lot of the blood came off, revealing a person inside.

Compared to the human monster from before with indistinct features, the individual now looked no different from an ordinary person. However, his body's form still warped from time to time, exposing the fact that he still wasn't a completely tangible body. Zu An wondered if it was something similar to Mi Li's soul body or not.

The figure's eyes burned with desire as he looked at Zu An, licking his lips. "A pure yang body, and furthermore transcendent grade. The heavens really are on my side today."

Zu An felt a shiver run through his body under the other party's gaze. Fuck off, you homosexual pervert!

Mi Li spoke up. "Xu Fu, you still haven't answered my question. Why are you here? Also, didn't you disappear together with the three thousand people you led?"

After absorbing Zhao Han's soul, Xu Fu was feeling incredible, so he wasn't in a hurry to kill anyone. On the contrary, not having people to share one's accomplishments with was a type of torture in itself. Now that there was an audience here to listen, he couldn't be happier.

"Ying Zheng sent me to bring him the elixir of immortality. I went out into the boundless sea several times in hopes of finding the legendary sacred mountains, but the better question would have been, do immortals even exist? Failure after failure made Ying Zheng lose patience with me. Everyone in the world believed that I wouldn't succeed, but I actually found a potential method of immortality in the east sea."

"What?!" Forget about Zu An, even Mi Li was shocked. There was a method of immortality in this world?

Xu Fu chuckled. "It isn't really the method of immortality all of us were thinking about, but rather a kind of sorcery that can slow down aging. This technique needs a large amount of blood essence to compensate for time, and it also needs metal, wood, water, fire, and earth bodies to use as sacrifices. Of course, the most important things I needed were a pure yang body, as well as a pure yin body. With all of that in place, I would ascend to immortality, achieving an undying and imperishable body."

He paused for a moment and gave Mi Li a look. "Otherwise, why did you think Ying Zheng chose to take a spoiled brat like you from the Chu State as the empress, even though he was clearly going to attack the Chu state? Did you really think you were succeeding your older sister?"

Mi Li's expression changed. She hadn't expected there to be such a reason.

Xu Fu then asked, "Didn't you find it strange at all that even though Ying Zheng already married you for so many years, he never touched you once? That he chose to leave you as a virgin?"

Chapter 883: Substitution

Zu An looked at Mi Li in surprise when he heard those words. She was still a virgin even after being an empress for so many years? Doesn't this make her history's number one oldest bachelor girl? But why is there a grin on my face?

A rare blush appeared on Mi Li's face, but she quickly covered it up. She looked coldly at Xu Fu. "Why do you know about these things?"

That should have been the palace's secret, and there was no way the emperor would publicly talk about something like that. After all, it was related to the royal family's dignity! Xu Fu shouldn't have known about that. It now seemed that there were many secrets that had remained unknown to everyone.

Xu Fu laughed and replied, "A pure yin body has to be a virgin, no? Ying Zheng desired immortality so much, so how could he compromise on something like that? Of course he wouldn't choose to touch you."

Zu An had a strange expression on his face. Didn't this guy mention that I had a pure yang body? I mean I guess I do have a lot of masculine yang energy, but if the pure body needs to be a virgin, doesn't the pure yang body have to be a virgin as well? No matter how shameless he was, he couldn't bring himself to say that he was a virgin.

The others obviously didn't know that what he was currently worried about was something so strange. Mi Li said, "So that was why Ying Zheng set up a Yin Yang Five Elements formation here. But even though he completed everything, he still couldn't obtain eternal life."

"The reason he couldn't obtain eternal life wasn't because there was an issue with the formation, but rather because of me," Xu Fu said proudly.

Mi Li's brows furrowed. "Because of you?"

"Of course." Xu Fu looked as if he were recounting something he was immensely pleased with. "I spent my entire life looking for Ying Zheng's method of immortality, squandering away endless years. In the end, the heavens didn't let me down and allowed me to find it. My first reaction was to offer it to Ying Zheng, but then I suddenly thought, why? Why couldn't I use this for myself?"

Zu An remained silent throughout the entire speech. This was human nature. Perhaps Xu Fu wouldn't have dared to betray Ying Zheng, but once he touched upon immortality, who could resist such temptation in this world?

Mi Li sneered. "I knew you didn't have any loyalty. But what authority and power did you even have that would let you betray Ying Zheng?"

That was what she was the most confused about. After all, whether it was in terms of cultivation or status, Xu Fu couldn't compare to Ying Zheng. There were even some other authoritative subjects who had surpassed him in both respects.

"Indeed, I didn't have many qualifications back then, and I alone had no chance of completing such a great formation," Xu Fu said. "That's why I didn't reveal a thing and still reported this immortality

method to Ying Zheng. Of course, I made some modifications to this formation so that I could take his place.”

Mi Li frowned, but she remained quiet. She knew that he had more to say.

Sure enough, Xu Fu couldn't stop himself from continuing, “Ying Zheng was overjoyed when he learned that I successfully obtained the method of immortality, and his trust in me grew. He sent me over to oversee Westhound Tomb and put me in charge of this eternal life formation’s construction.

“The first problem with this formation was that it needed the blood and ki of tens of thousands of creatures as the foundation. Unfortunately, Ying Zheng was an emperor and couldn't kill his own people for no reason, as that would easily throw the entire world into chaos. As such, we thought of another method, which was to set out to sea again. Under the pretext of finding the elixir of immortality, we took many experts and three thousand male and female virgins with us.”

Zu An didn’t expect that to be what had happened. However, he quickly realized with horror, “Then those three thousand virgins...”

“Correct.” Xu Fu nodded with a smile, as if he were talking about something completely normal. “I left with those people, but never returned. There were many interpretations of what happened. Some said that we lost our lives at sea, while some said that I fled because I couldn't find the immortality the emperor wanted, so I just lived out at sea as a king and didn’t come back... No one once suspected that the three thousand virgins and the other experts were actually quickly turned into sacrifices.” He pointed at the blood that flowed all around the stage. “This pool of blood was made from their blood.”

Zu An felt a chill run down his back. Bi Linglong felt even more repulsed, unable to even look at the pool of blood anymore. She turned her head and threw up.

Mi Li asked coldly, “Ying Zheng actually still wanted eternal life even after committing something so atrocious against the heavens?” She was truly angry. All of the education she had experienced growing up made her unable to tolerate the merciless slaughter and sacrifice of thousands. Of course, the one who had planted those ideas in Ying Zheng’s head, Xu Fu, was even more hateful.

Xu Fu curled his lips into a smile. “What’s the big deal? The Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties’ emperors sacrificed who knows how many servants to be buried with the dead.” He continued, “Apart from those three thousand virgins, the second difficulty was finding those who matched the five elements. However, even though my actions could deceive most people, I couldn’t deceive other powerful sorcerers. The most brilliant of the sorcerers were Lu Sheng and Han Zhong. Lu Sheng, in particular, possessed the Book, so he was a major threat to me.”

Zu An’s mind stirred. No wonder Han Zhong had lost his mind and immediately panicked when he heard the name Xu Fu. Meanwhile, the danger Lu Sheng had foretold was probably referring to Xu Fu as well. Since Xu Fu had also been hiding in the palace, for the sake of preventing his own soul fragment from being exposed, he had deliberately erased his memories about Xu Fu.

“It wouldn’t have mattered much if it were anyone else, but if these two saw through my alterations to the formation, Ying Zheng would start doubting me.” Xu Fu stood with his arms behind him. He laughed and said, “It really is quite the coincidence, actually. One of them had the metal attribute, the other the wood attribute. They were perfect candidates for the five elements. As such, I secretly reported that to

the emperor. Ying Zheng was always harsh and merciless in nature, and he immediately resolved to kill them.

“Unfortunately, Lu Sheng’s Book was too formidable, warning him about our attack in advance, so he secretly escaped. Ying Zheng was furious and immediately carried out a search. He interrogated every official Lu Sheng came into contact with, ultimately killing hundreds of people he was close to. Finally, he was able to force Lu Sheng out of hiding.”

Zu An was alarmed. The same piece of history, from different mouths, could bring entirely different information. They were all talking about the same thing, yet a different perspective would immediately change everything.

Mi Li said, “Lu Sheng’s Book can bring profound revelations, yet he was still caught by you two in the end.”

“You can know heaven’s will,” Xu Fu paused for a moment before continuing, “But defying it is something else entirely.” He then added, “I thought that dealing with Han Zhong would be much easier, but somehow, he received some information and our encirclement failed. However, he was seriously injured from that battle. Even though he escaped, he became deranged. Later on, he couldn’t escape from our pursuit and was brought back to Westhound Tomb.”

Zu An figured that Lu Sheng had probably told Han Zhong what he learned from The Book, that he had secretly contacted Han Zhong when he ran. Unfortunately, he was still caught in the end.

Mi Li asked with a frigid expression, “Then Fu Su’s situation was also because of you?” She naturally knew that Fu Su was a candidate for the fire attribute.

“Correct. In order to achieve my ultimate plan, I had to get rid of Ying Zheng’s helpers. The one who bore the brunt was precisely the crown prince Fu Su, as well as the glorious Meng clan.” Xu Fu had the smile of a victor on his face as he recalled the past. “I keenly sensed Ying Zheng’s concern toward the Chu State’s power, so I used that to make him set his resolve. Fu Su carried half of the Chu State’s royal blood within him, so how could Ying Zheng, someone who boasted of having unified the world single-handedly, tolerate letting the Chu people inherit half the fruit of his success?”

“Together with the fact that Fu Su had the fire element, Ying Zheng finally made his decision. Meanwhile, the Meng clan was close to the crown prince, and Meng Tian was someone who spent a long time with the crown prince. In order to get rid of Fu Su, they had to first get rid of his faction, led by Meng Tian. Coincidentally, Meng Tian was the perfect candidate for the earth element himself. Ying Zheng didn’t feel a shred of hesitation then.”

“So the main culprit behind all of this was you!” Mi Li’s eyes were turning red. After all, Fu Su was her older sister’s son! Furthermore, the entire Chu State had been dragged into this matter as well. Just as she was about to act, however, her body rapidly grew dim. Countless strands of invisible energies firmly restrained her.

“Your highness, please don’t fret. This formation was created using the souls of so many sacrifices, so dealing with a soul like your current self is far too easy. The more you move, the more vicious the formation will become, and thus the faster your soul will disappear,” Xu Fu said with a smile.

Zu An quickly tried to appease Mi Li for fear that she might just kill herself here. In order to divert some of her attention, he quickly said, "The formation is still missing the water element. Whose body was in that position? Why did she carry so much resentment?"

Xu Fu's smile disappeared when he heard those words. In the end, a sorrowful smile appeared on his face. "She was the one I loved most in this life."

Zu An, Mi Li, and Bi Linglong were stunned. None of them could ever have guessed that would be Xu Fu's response.

Chapter 884: Betrayal

Xu Fu's voice became somber, as if he had remembered something extremely painful. "When I wandered the great sea in search of that fleeting sacred mountain, I encountered a large fish monster. Ying Zheng sent powerful reinforcements to help me kill it."

Zu An thought to himself that Xu Fu was probably talking about the fish bone temple they had encountered on the first sacred mountain.

Xu Fu continued, "But I didn't expect that fish monster to be the sacred beast of the Mermaid Race. Later on, the Mermaid Race came after me for revenge. After a chain of coincidences, I became acquainted with their empress... After several meetings, we developed positive feelings for each other. We eventually became friends. She was extremely curious about life on land, and one day, she decided to return with me to Qin State."

"And then you gave her to Ying Zheng?" Mi Li asked coldly. The mural painting in that room told a similar story.

Xu Fu nodded. "Indeed, I gave her to Ying Zheng."

"No wonder she's so resentful. You're complete filth." Zu An couldn't help but sigh. Did these men have NTR fetishes or something? Why were they always giving away the freaking women they loved?

"That isn't the reason for her resentment," Xu Fu replied.

Even Mi Li was now confused. Don't tell me that that woman also had some weird preferences?

Xu Fu explained, "She knew about my goal of betraying the emperor. She wanted to help me in the depths of my misery, so she was willing to go undercover for my sake and stay by Ying Zheng's side."

Bi Linglong said with a sigh, "It sounds like she really did love you."

A woman who was willing to serve another man for his sake... just how strong did her feelings have to be for her to even be willing to do something like that?

A hint of gentleness appeared on Xu Fu's face. "She really treated me well."

Zu An asked with a serious tone, "Then why did she develop so much resentment toward you?"

Xu Fu didn't answer his question and instead looked toward Mi Li. "I didn't plan to deviate from my plan. I wanted to gather the five elements, and then find the pure yang and pure yin bodies. After all, you were still the empress, someone with extraordinary status. We couldn't act rashly against you, so that

was why we were going to leave you for the final step. But perhaps because of Ying Zheng's ambitions, he actually sealed you up ahead of time and hid you somewhere we didn't know about."

Mi Li's brows twitched. She was clearly unhappy recalling that segment of her past.

Xu Fu's voice sped up. "I was alarmed and thought that Ying Zheng saw through my entire scheme. That was why I decided to push my plans up. I contacted Prince Hu Hai, Prime Minister Li Si, and Imperial Attendant Zhao Gao. We collaborated and rose up in revolt during his outing to the sandy hills."

Zu An was stupefied. He had never expected there to be such a side to that historical event. So it had all been orchestrated by Xu Fu!

Mi Li harrumphed. "You three still wouldn't have been Ying Zheng's match even if you worked together." Even though she had never consummated her marriage with Ying Zheng, they had still been married all those years. She naturally understood Ying Zheng's cultivation.

Xu Fu chuckled. "Indeed. Back then, we couldn't win against Ying Zheng. However, did your highness forget that there was one more person?"

"That Mermaid Empress?" Mi Li asked, startled.

"Correct. She poisoned Ying Zheng with a sinister poison from the sea, and she also ambushed him, leaving him seriously wounded. That was why we were able to surround and kill him." A hint of fear flashed across Xu Fu's face when he remembered the past. "We were already the strongest in the world after him, but he was still too powerful. Even while poisoned, he made our group suffer severe losses as well.

"The Mermaid Empress was seriously injured. Li Si became a cripple and lost his cultivation. Hu Hai's head was badly hurt, so he became a fool, unable to distinguish between a horse and a donkey. I was also seriously injured, without many years left. The only one whose condition was comparatively better was Zhao Gao."

Zu An thought to himself, No wonder Zhao Gao was able to easily take out Li Si even though Li Si was the prime minister, while Hu Hai was deliberately misrepresented and turned into a laughingstock. Apart from Xu Fu, the one who had benefited the most from this plan was Zhao Gao.

Mi Li's expression changed several times. Even someone as powerful as Ying Zheng wouldn't be able to survive such scheming.

Sure enough, Xu Fu said, "We paid a great price, but we successfully killed Ying Zheng eventually. But in the end, Ying Zheng learned the entire story as well. He destroyed all of his meridians so we wouldn't have a pure yang body." His voice carried anger, as everything had fallen through right when the plan was almost complete.

Mi Li sighed. "So the pure yin body you chose was me, while the pure yang body was him. You really are quite bold."

Zu An thought to himself, No wonder Ying Zheng harbored suspicions. He knew that he was a pure yang body, and when he recalled Mi Li's yin body, it was easy to guess Xu Fu's motives. All of his doubts were now cleared up.

He had been extremely confused back then when he first encountered Mi Li. Why would the first emperor go to such ends to seal her? Wouldn't killing her have saved him a lot of effort?

The reason why Ying Zheng had left her alive was to use her for the Yin Yang Five Elements Formation in the future! Once everything else was successful, Ying Zheng would bring her out and activate the formation, thus obtaining eternal life. If something unexpected happened, then Mi Li would still be hidden, giving him more leverage to work with.

"How can you ever obtain eternal life if you don't have guts?" Xu Fu laughed. "I was seriously wounded and I didn't have much longer to live. I couldn't find your highness either. Helpless to do anything else, I could only activate the formation ahead of time. Even though the formation wasn't complete, it was enough to prolong my lifespan.

"Unfortunately, in order to activate the formation, four elements were needed at the very least. Han Zhong was nowhere to be found, and was only found and locked up here later. I didn't have any other choice. The formation had Lu Sheng for the metal element, Fu Su for fire, and Meng Tian for earth. I was still missing one, so I could only shift my attention to her."

Mi Li sneered. "You are a cruel and ruthless person after all. That Mermaid Empress really was a moron. You betrayed your very own ruler, and you were even willing to present the woman you loved to another without any hesitation. Why would you cherish her?" She didn't pity that Mermaid Empress at all. After all, she was one of the key reasons why their empire had fallen. If not for her, both she and Ying Zheng would still be fine.

Bi Linglong tugged at Zu An's sleeves and quietly remarked, "You can't be like him, okay?" She actually sympathized greatly with that Mermaid Empress. She had given up so much in the name of love, and yet this was the result.

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. "Don't worry, there's no way I'd be willing to do that to you."

Bi Linglong blushed, but she didn't know which girl he was talking about. However, she quickly realized that both of them were probably going to die here. What was the point in thinking about all of that now? She gradually calmed down as well.

Xu Fu said expressionlessly, "That's right. When I attacked her, she was first shocked, and then she became extremely angry and resentful. It was precisely her endless resentment that I wanted to use to complete the ritual."

When she heard how emotionless his voice was, Bi Linglong blurted out, "Did you not even feel a twinge of guilt?!"

"Why would I feel guilt?" Xu Fu had a confused look on his face. "Am I not doing this for eternal life? I'll be reborn into this world in a completely new form, and so a portion of her will live on within me. She'll be forever remembered by the world as a contributor to the world's first immortal! Isn't that a kind of immortality on its own?"

"Absolutely absurd! That's clearly not what she wanted!" Bi Linglong was so angry her entire body was shaking, as if she had taken the place of that Mermaid Empress.

Xu Fu laughed and didn't pay her any attention. He instead looked at Mi Li. "My body dissolved into this pool of blood, becoming one with it and entering a dormant state. I waited for the day you would all arrive, because I knew that Ying Zheng definitely had plans. It now looks as though my guesses were right. All of this has been decreed by fate. The heavens have allowed me to become the world's first immortal."

Zu An quickly asked Mi Li, "Master, is there any way to deal with him?"

Mi Li shook her head and didn't say anything. She had been suppressed by this place. Zu An alone couldn't possibly defeat this terrifying monster no matter what they tried.

Chapter 885: Who Is Number One?

"Alright, I've already told you everything about the past, so you can at least die knowing the truth. It's now time to start the final ritual." Xu Fu had already revealed this past he was greatly pleased with. He already felt enough satisfaction from their expressions of shock. It was now time to take care of important business.

Bi Linglong grabbed Zu An's hand and held it tightly. Her body was shaking slightly. Even though she had already mentally prepared herself for death, her body's instincts refused to listen.

Zu An patted her hand to console her. Then, he looked toward Xu Fu and asked, "What do you need us to do during this ritual?"

Bi Linglong felt admiration. There were many men who were cocky and arrogant normally, but lost their heads during true moments of crisis. But Zu An was different. Whether he faced the emperor or Xu Fu, he remained perfectly composed. On top of it all, it wasn't a feigned calm, but rather true calm. It was as if no concept of life and death existed in his mind.

"It's rare to find such a calm sacrifice as you." Xu Fu was also surprised. "Naturally, I need to dissolve you into this pool of blood and collect your pure yin and yang essences. Then, together with the power of the five elements. I'll obtain eternal life."

Zu An suddenly felt a bit embarrassed and said, "But I'm not a virgin."

Bi Linglong was confused. Mi Li was speechless.

This guy's train of thought really jumps everywhere! The two of them stared blankly for a while before realizing what had happened. They both scoffed inwardly.

Xu Fu was also stunned. A moment later, he roared with laughter. "Haha! That's not a problem at all. The pure yang body is different from the pure yin body; remaining a virgin isn't important. Otherwise, I wouldn't have targeted Ying Zheng in the past."

"Why doesn't the pure yang body have to be a sexless virgin?" Zu An was rather upset. If it had been in his past world, such a theory would be downvoted to hell by female netizens on the forums.

"Sexless virgin..." Xu Fu's eyelids twitched. Is this person maybe not right in the head?

Mi Li and Bi Linglong remained unfazed. They were already used to the way Zu An talked.

Xu Fu said with a snort, "I'm not going to waste my time talking to you. The empress is the empress after all, so she needs to be respected. Let's start with you first." The blood pool beneath them surged as he spoke, and a tentacle made of blood encircled Zu An.

Zu An might have sounded as if he'd been talking mindlessly, but he had actually been getting ready. He used Grandgale to close the distance, then hacked out with his longsword.

Xu Fu's body flickered, evading to the side. "Hm? So it was King Qin's sword. You don't have the right to use this sword. Just hand it over." He grabbed the sword after speaking, and fiercely pulled it downward. A huge force rushed along the sword down to the hilt.

Zu An's fingers ached with pain, finding it a bit hard to hold onto the sword. However, he had never planned to hold onto it. A pitch-black dagger quickly emerged in his hand. It stabbed toward the red tentacle at a tricky angle. He knew that with the other party's cultivation, it would be hard for him to stab Xu Fu's true body. However, it would have the same result if the Poisonous Prick stabbed any spot.

Xu Fu clearly didn't expect the attack, but he cut off a part of his own tentacle regardless. He frowned as he brought that tentacle in front of himself. "Your combat senses are unexpectedly high."

Zu An's eyes widened. "Why are you still okay?"

Xu Fu smiled. His eyes shifted to the pitch-black dagger in Zu An's hands. "I felt a strong threat of death just now. Others might die on the spot after being stabbed by this dagger, but I'm different. I've already abandoned my mortal form and am now one with this blood pool. Your dagger naturally doesn't pose much of a threat to me."

Zu An didn't have time to feel annoyed. Instead, he summoned Snow Phoenix and used the Snowflake Sword. A layer of thin ice gradually formed over the blood pool. He didn't stop afterward, either. He immediately summoned the Fire Phoenix to create a powerful fire and ice reaction. He wanted to see if he could make the pool of blood evaporate.

The pool of blood began to boil, but it didn't show any sign of evaporating. Xu Fu laughed. "I used a secret method from the sea as the foundation, and used three thousand male and female virgins as well as so many Qin Palace experts. This pool of blood has long become impervious to water and fire, becoming imperishable. How can those tricks of yours possibly accomplish anything?"

"Why would you covet immortality so strongly if you were already truly imperishable?" Zu An refused to give up and attacked again. Unfortunately, the difference in their strength was too great. He was quickly slammed into the ground. But he had the ability to recover quickly. He charged again, and was thrown down again. The cycle repeated itself again and again.

Bi Linglong ran over when she saw Zu An being slammed into the ground again and again, his body drenched in blood. However, a tentacle snatched her off the ground and smashed her into the ground too. Just that impact alone almost killed her. She couldn't even crawl back onto her feet. The monster's cultivation was too great, to the point that she didn't even have the qualifications to fight him.

Her eyes began brimming with tears as she watched Zu An's bitter, yet futile struggle. "Ah Zu, just stop! We can't win! I'll die together with you, we don't have to suffer anymore..." she said through sobs.

Zu An coughed out a mouthful of blood and grunted. His expression was firm. "Bodies can be beaten down, but wills cannot. How can I give up without seeing this to the end?"

Mi Li fell silent when she saw the scene. She recalled their first meeting. Back then, Zu An had also been beaten into a blood-soaked figure, but he had never yielded. He had continued to fight...

Xu Fu nodded in admiration. "You have quite the spine, kid. You also seem to have cultivated the Qin Imperial Clan's Primordial Origin Sutra. This body of yours isn't bad. After refining it a bit, it'll have the qualifications to become my new body."

Zu An was speechless. What the hell? It would be one thing if those pretty girls wanted my body, but why do these old monsters all want a piece of me? What the hell did I do to deserve this?!

Mi Li suddenly spoke up. "Ah Zu, you should rest for a bit. You can't win against him like this, so let me fight against him."

Zu An was shocked. "You can move again?"

Mi Li didn't reply and instead said, "Take that girl with you and leave. Run as fast as you can." Then, her body no longer flickered like before, and instead became much brighter. Her aura also surged powerfully.

Zu An thought that she had already broken free from the restrictions. But before he could feel happy for her, Xu Fu said, "You want to self-destruct and take me down with you? Unfortunately, you're under the control of my formation! Even if you self-destruct, it won't do much to me. Instead, your yin energy will be absorbed by this formation even faster!"

Mi Li said, "It's hard to say if something really will happen without giving it a try first. I learned that from the kid." She gave Zu An a look after saying so. There was a smiling expression in her eyes.

Zu An was alarmed. He knew that Mi Li had already decided to give up her life here, and judging from what Xu Fu said, it didn't seem as if it would do much. He quickly ran over and stopped her. "Master, don't be rash! I still have a way!"

"You have a way?" Mi Li frowned. The two of them had known each other for a long time, so she already knew about all of Zu An's abilities. What could he possibly bring out here?

"Trust me." Zu An held her hand and looked at her with a firm expression.

Mi Li was stunned. For some reason, his tone had a mysterious persuasive quality to it. As such, she temporarily withdrew her intent to die. Her figure stabilized as well.

Xu Fu roared with laughter. "You have a solution? What kind of solution could you possibly have? Hahaha, the young really do love to shoot their mouths off, even when they're about to die."

Zu An ignored him. He looked at Mi Li and asked, "Who is the strongest person in your memories?"

Mi Li didn't hesitate for a second. She instinctively replied, "Ying Zheng, of course."

Zu An nodded. Then, he looked at Xu Fu. "What about you? Who do you think is number one?"

Xu Fu harrumphed. "It was indeed Ying Zheng back then. But now, I fear that it's me."

Mi Li snickered. She felt he was just talking big.

"Fine then." Zu An stood up straight. His body released a sort of strange loftiness. Then, he used the skill Keyboard Come[1].

A dignified voice echoed through the entire place. "I am Ying Zheng!"

Chapter 886: Sacred Sword

Bi Linglong was completely baffled. She had no idea what in the world Zu An was doing right now. He had asked them who they thought the strongest was, and then said that he was that person? What does that mean? Don't tell me he really thinks this will scare Xu Fu away?

Mi Li was also confused, but she had already stuck around Zu An for so long, so there were almost no secrets between them. She quickly recalled the Keyboard Come skill and was horrified.

Even though Keyboard Come could speak things into existence, the side-effects were just as crazy! With Zu An's current soul, he couldn't use it much at all, and he could only use it for some smaller tricks. And yet right now, he was going to become Ying Zheng? Even if he really managed to kill Xu Fu, he wouldn't be able to escape the powerful rebound! He might burst into ashes immediately...

She was about to stop him, but she saw that he had already used the skill. Her expression became extremely conflicted. He clearly could have run, but he did this just because he didn't want me to self-destruct... But does he not know that because of our life and death pact, if he dies, I'll die too?!

But she felt relieved soon afterward. Dying like this wasn't so bad. At the very least, they were going to fight to the death.

Xu Fu was stunned at first, but he roared with laughter immediately afterward. "Is it you who has gone crazy, or is it me? Do you really think that you've become Ying Zheng after saying that?"

Zu An didn't reply. Instead, he stared coldly at Xu Fu. Xu Fu was about to mock him again when his expression changed. He sensed the other party's change in aura.

A loud explosion suddenly rang out nearby. Those present subconsciously turned around. They saw that the lid of the coffin under the five-colored tree had flown into the air, as if it had been kicked flying by someone.

Xu Fu frowned. He looked in that direction in utter shock as a faint soul body flew out from within. Mi Li's eyes widened in shock. Even though its form was blurry, she could still tell that it was precisely what Ying Zheng had looked like in the past.

Xu Fu didn't dare to show the slightest bit of carelessness. He quickly waved his hand. Several tentacles took form from the pool of blood and flew toward the soul body. So what if it was Ying Zheng's soul? His formation specialized in suppressing souls!

Unfortunately, the soul seemed to be completely intangible. The tentacles passed right through it. It soon arrived by Zu An's side and entered his body.

What the hell was going on? Xu Fu was stunned. He could vaguely sense that an even higher order of power was breaking through the laws of the world.

Zu An finally opened his eyes again. However, the expression in his eyes wasn't that of his usual playful and unruly self, but rather one of ruthless power.

"Xu Fu!" Zu An spoke. However, his voice was completely different from his usual one.

Bi Linglong subconsciously backed up. Even though this man's appearance hadn't changed, she felt an unprecedented feeling of estrangement. In the past, she had always thought that Zu An was a bit too frivolous and indecent. But when she saw the dignified and steadfast man before her, she suddenly felt that the previous Zu An was better.

Mi Li was also looking at Zu An with a complicated expression. This man's presence and voice were completely identical to that man from the past.

Xu Fu's heart pounded. He subconsciously backed up, but he quickly felt ashamed. What the hell do I have to be scared of? He straightened his back and stuck out his chest before looking at the other party again. "Ying Zheng?"

Zu An said coldly, "Preposterous. You dare call this emperor by my name?"

Xu Fu roared with laughter. "Do you still think you're the first emperor who unified the world? Wake up; the times have already changed."

Zu An frowned and looked around him, as if he were trying to recall something. His expression turned cold when he saw Mi Li. "Empress, you're here as well?"

Mi Li remarked with a snort, "What, you didn't expect me to escape that seal? Even though I hated you for sealing me before, I've always felt respect for you. Who could have thought that you had actually been betrayed by your own people and toyed with like this. To be honest, I have nothing but contempt for you now."

Zu An's brows were filled with anger when he heard what she said. However, he looked as if he had remembered something. He didn't direct his anger at Mi Li and instead turned around to look at Xu Fu again. He was like a tiger eyeing his prey.

Xu Fu reacted to what had happened too. "I didn't expect that brat to actually be able to summon your soul in this way."

"Soul summoning?" Bi Linglong realized what was happening as well. So Ah Zu summoned Ying Zheng's soul! My goodness, I thought he became someone else.

Only Mi Li alone knew that wasn't the case. But to a certain degree, it was close enough.

Zu An looked at Xu Fu as if he were looking at an ant. "Speak; have you decided how you want to die yet?"

"Were you expecting me to get on my knees and beg for mercy?" It was as if Xu Fu had heard the funniest joke. "I really might have felt fear if it were in the past, but now..." He paused for a moment. His voice also became cold. "Even though we suffered disastrous losses back then, you lost everything. For fear that we would use your body for this formation, you even destroyed your own body. Your soul has also scattered into nothing."

Xu Fu frowned as he spoke. Back then, he had even made sure that there was nothing left of Ying Zheng. So what was the deal with this fractured soul? Even so, Ying Zheng's strength was already incomparably weaker than before, so he didn't mind those details too much as he remarked, "All that's left is a soul fragment attached to the body of another. You have but a tenth of your past strength. I really want to know where you're getting your confidence from!"

"It looks like you're quite confident. Do you feel as if this emperor can't do anything to you?" Zu An retorted mockingly.

Xu Fu stood with his arms behind him and exclaimed proudly, "Is this not the case?"

"This emperor was indeed deceived by you back then, but I sensed that something was off toward the end. That was why I sealed up the empress beforehand." Zu An gave Mi Li a look as he spoke, and Mi Li looked away. He continued, "I left behind half of my legacy for someone fated to obtain it in the future, and then I told them to find Westhound Tomb. That was all precisely so that if something unexpected did happen, they could lend this emperor a hand."

Mi Li suddenly realized what had happened. No wonder there had been so many trials set up, and that soul fragment had urged Zu An to find Westhound Tomb!

The dangers here weren't something that could be faced if a mediocre person obtained his legacy. Only someone like Zu An could defy the heavens and change his fate. Unfortunately, he lacked the time to grow.

Xu Fu saw through that point as well. He laughed and said, "What a pity. The one you waited for all this time for wasn't anything special." He had obviously noticed that Zu An cultivated the Primordial Origin Sutra after facing him all that time. But so what?

He didn't want to stall for time anymore. His arms unfolded, and the pool of blood became chaotic. Endless blood tentacles shot out from behind him. "I could kill you back then, so I can naturally kill you a second time now!"

Following his movements, the entire place became dyed blood red. The terrifying pressure made it difficult to even breathe for someone like Bi Linglong with weaker cultivation.

But Zu An looked as if he hadn't even noticed anything happening. He muttered, "His cultivation is a bit lower than I expected, but it's barely enough." He reached his hand out. "Sword, come!"

The Tai'e Sword that had been dropped earlier vibrated. Then it whizzed over, turning into a streak of light and flying into his hand.

Xu Fu's eyes narrowed, but he didn't pay it too much attention. "The Tai'e Sword is a great treasure, but you're no longer the same first emperor as before! Your cultivation is far from the past. Forget about a single Tai'e Sword, it wouldn't make a difference even if you had ten."

Zu An gently caressed the Tai'e Sword. He looked as if he had reunited with an old partner. "You only understand common swords that cleave necks and pierce innards, so of course you can't comprehend the true power of this sacred sword."

He intoned, "The sacred sword divides the clouds above from the earth below. When this sword makes its appearance, all nobles will rise up, and the world will submit." As his fingers caressed the blade, the Tai'e Sword's vibrations became louder and louder. It formed the sound of jubilant cheering!

He raised the sword high up, and it erupted with blinding radiance. Voices called out, "How can we remain as ghosts past the nine springs? We shall be free from the shackles of soil once more! The soldiers of Great Qin will heed your call!"

Chapter 887: Scatter with the Wind

Xu Fu hadn't been worried at all before, and had been watching with amusement. But when he saw what was happening, his expression finally changed. The reason why he hadn't been in a hurry to attack was because he had sensed that Ying Zheng's strength was less than a tenth of what it had been at his peak. Thus, Ying Zheng didn't pose any threat to him.

Whenever he recalled the absolute fear he had felt toward the domineering first emperor, he really wanted to see that fear and alarm on Ying Zheng's face now that their roles were swapped. If he went on his knees and begged, that would be even better!

Ever since he'd had to offer the woman he loved to Ying Zheng, there had always been a thorn in his heart. Even though his plan had succeeded, just the fact that that had happened made him feel a feeling of defeat whenever he faced Ying Zheng. He was now going to completely change that.

He even gave Mi Li a look. He thought to himself, Since you slept with the woman I loved, how about I sleep with yours in revenge? Even though Mi Li was now just a soul, it was still possible to do it, right?

But the situation had suddenly completely changed! Ying Zheng had actually called in reinforcements! Even though Xu Fu didn't believe that the soldiers Ying Zheng had summoned could win against him, he didn't dare to delay any longer. The endless tentacles in the air turned into a bloody mist and rushed over.

Bi Linglong could smell the strong, bloody foulness of the mist even from far away. She wanted to vomit. This wasn't just the smell of blood; it had also been created from the resentment of countless creatures. Those who were affected would also become part of that endless resentment.

Zu An's sleeve swept out, and the scene before him suddenly completely changed. They were no longer in the previous room, but instead on a massive stage. Bi Linglong keenly sensed something. Wasn't this the plaza they had passed through before they entered the palace?

Xu Fu's attack naturally hit empty air. When he saw where he was now, his brows furrowed deeply. The other party had a mass teleportation ability? No, this is probably one of the hidden mechanisms he set up in this palace beforehand.

He quickly became vigilant and suddenly raised his head. He saw that the originally spacious and open environment had suddenly been filled with black-armored soldiers. All of them had grave expressions on their faces, their orderly formation exuding a powerful and intimidating killing intent.

What he was most concerned about were the two generals in front. One wielded a powerful bow, while the other carried a giant sickle blade. They were naturally Wang Jian and Bai Qi.

“The terracotta army!” Xu Fu exclaimed through gritted teeth. Now, he finally understood why the first emperor had spent such a long time building the terracotta army. Many people had gossiped in private that the thought of having the clay army protect him underground was a complete delusion. But now, it really had happened!

“Long live the emperor! Long live, long live!” The soldiers gripped their weapons while bending down on one knee in unison. The terracotta army was clearly incapable of speech, and yet the plaza was filled with roaring voices.

Mi Li was left a bit absent-minded. She felt as if she were dreaming about her past. During her great wedding, she had also been greeted like this by civil and military officials, as well as countless soldiers.

Bi Linglong was the crown princess, so she had experienced something similar. However, whether it was in terms of number or grandiosity, what she had experienced couldn't compare at all. She stared at Zu An's side profile absentmindedly. I guess he's pretty handsome when he's serious...

Xu Fu roared with laughter. “I was wondering what kind of trump cards you had. You wanted to win against me with just these clay toys?”

Bi Linglong was worried. The soldiers had only managed to seriously injure Zhao Ruizhi when they surrounded him. Xu Fu had already absorbed Zhao Ruizhi's split soul, so his strength was even greater. These soldiers probably couldn't...

Zu An remained expressionless. He pointed forward and commanded, “Kill him!”

The Tai'e Sword flickered with specks of light that scattered across the endless soldiers' bodies. The half kneeling soldiers all got up, then turned toward Xu Fu simultaneously. With the sound of heavy footfalls, they walked forward, striking their shields with their weapons. The noise sounded like the reaper's war drums, and also like voices that demanded the surrender of lives. An austere aura flooded the world.

Xu Fu's expression changed. He could sense that the soldiers were different from before, so he didn't dare to show any carelessness. He controlled his tentacles as he charged, intending to tear straight through the soldiers' defenses and eliminate Ying Zheng.

The warriors standing at the very front were instantly crushed by the tentacles. However, the soldiers behind them immediately got into formation. They continued to swarm toward Xu Fu like an ocean of steel!

In the beginning, Xu Fu was able to easily tear through the enemy army. Wherever the tentacles went, destruction ensued. The tentacles that had formed from the special blood pool could absorb the essence and souls of living creatures, leaving him in an invincible position. Unfortunately, the terracotta army wasn't alive. They didn't have any life essence for him to absorb.

On the contrary, it was precisely for that reason that they didn't feel fear like normal human armies. They remained expressionless even as Xu Fu tore through their numbers. They executed the orders of their generals with robotic precision, maintaining their formation like a well-oiled machine.

Xu Fu gave the commanders Bai Qi and Wang Jian a look. As people from the same age, he fully understood just how powerful their commands were. If it were any other general, there would easily be holes in the army's defense despite its size. Unfortunately, under the command of the two great

generals, the soldiers not only resisted being quickly wiped out, but also continued to maintain their perfect formation as they attacked him.

Fear gradually grew inside of him. He could no longer continue his brute offense and began to back up. Unfortunately, as soon as he pulled back, it was as if a landslide had crashed down on him. He was drowned under an endless sea of soldiers.

Xu Fu roared, erupting with terrifying energy. He returned to his giant octopus form, clearly about to fight to the death. His giant tentacles took out a huge mass of soldiers wherever they swept. At the same time, many tentacles rushed toward Zu An.

Bi Linglong's face paled. She couldn't help but remember that the insufferably arrogant Zhao Ruizhi had also been devoured by this monstrous form.

Mi Li consoled her, "Don't worry. No matter how high an individual's cultivation is, before an army, only defeat can await them."

Wang Jian drew his bow and fired as soon as Mi Li spoke. Streaks of light tore through the sky, severing the tentacles one after another. The archers under his command fired their bows as well, and a storm of arrows poured down on the giant octopus' body.

Xu Fu's body had been too small for them to fire at before, and he had been fast as well. The efficiency of arrows in that situation was too low. Now that he had become a giant octopus, he had thoroughly become a living target.

The octopus roared and roared. Unfortunately, the arrows weren't ordinary arrows, and they all had exorcism properties. Xu Fu soon found that he couldn't take the assault anymore and returned to human form.

"He was forced back!" Bi Linglong laughed. When she saw Xu Fu's sorry state, she finally felt a bit better.

"Ying Zheng, if you have the guts, then fight me in a fair battle!" Xu Fu roared in anger and alarm.

Zu An said expressionlessly, "I have the sacred sword in hand. There is no need for me to fight an ignorant man to prove myself."

Xu Fu's breathing stopped. This was the son of heaven he was fighting against; fighting him alone would really be a stupid choice. He sighed at the rise and fall of fortunes. He had plotted for so long, and yet today, it had been repaid several times over.

But there was no way he was going to just stand there and wait for his death. He turned into a puddle of blood and darted around. No matter how tight the army's formation was, they couldn't stop the flow of water!

At that moment, Bai Qi, who had only been focused on command the entire time, moved. He turned into black mist and rushed toward the puddle of blood. Both of them tangled together, and outsiders couldn't join in on the battle at all.

Bi Linglong looked worried. "Master, your respected self said that this Bai... Bai Qi's cultivation is far inferior to when he was alive. He might not be a match if he fights Xu Fu alone, right?"

Mi Li had a strange expression when she heard Bi Linglong call her 'master' just like Zu An, but she still replied, "Xu Fu has already used up a lot of his strength in his battle against the army. Furthermore, for some reason, Bai Qi has already recovered all of his strength. It really is strange."

A black figure leapt out not long after she finished speaking. His pitch-black sickle thrust into the pool of blood, hooking around a soul body that clutched its neck in panic as it was dragged out. Who else could it be but Xu Fu?

Bai Qi's sickle blade flashed, and the soul body's head tumbled off. Then, it dissipated into thin air. He then walked up to Zu An and said, "Your majesty, I am blessed to have not disappointed you!"

Zu An nodded. "You have all completed the mission you waited ten thousand years to accomplish. Rest in peace."

"Thank you for your favor, your majesty!" With Bai Qi as the leader, all of the soldiers knelt down and bowed toward Zu An. Then a breeze blew past, and they turned into yellow sand, scattering with the wind. The plaza became bleak and calm once more.

The surroundings warped, returning those present to the room with the altar. Zu An turned around to look at the two girls behind him.

Bi Linglong asked with a trembling voice, "Ah Zu, is that you?" Zu An didn't reply, and instead looked silently at Mi Li.

Mi Li sneered. "What, are you going to kill me too now? Are you going to continue to seek eternal life through this Yin Yang Five Elements Formation?"

Chapter 888: Collapse

Zu An remained silent for a time, but he eventually sighed and said, "I was so obsessed with immortality that I let that scoundrel Xu Fu's plan succeed. But now that almost ten thousand years have passed, I finally understand that there's no such thing as immortality in this world."

Mi Li laughed mockingly. "I never expected to hear these words come out of your mouth."

Zu An didn't become upset, but instead continued, "This Yin Yang Five Elements Formation Xu Fu created can only increase one's lifespan by a bit. But even if one can keep living, if one has to become that kind of freak, what meaning is there left in staying alive?"

Mi Li asked, "Didn't Xu Fu say that your body and soul were destroyed? Why are you still here?"

Zu An explained, "In the battle of the sandy hills, I was betrayed by them. I knew I wouldn't make it, so I sealed up a portion of my split soul. The requirement for activating this split soul was an existence who had cultivated the Primordial Origin Sutra, so Xu Fu naturally didn't detect it."

"So you already planned all of this when you sealed me in that place?" Mi Li frowned. "But since you were able to make all of these preparations beforehand, how could you still let Xu Fu plot against you? How disappointing."

"I didn't make those plans to guard against Xu Fu." Zu An sighed. "My main worry was that this formation's ritual would fail, so I made some arrangements beforehand. That way, someone could find me in the future and assist me in my revival."

Mi Li's expression changed, and she quickly reacted. "So that wasn't an inheritance you intended to pass down, but rather bait! You were using the temptation of the Primordial Origin Sutra's latter half to bring you a sacrifice that would help in your rebirth!"

"What?" Bi Linglong was shocked when she heard that. What would Zu An have done if that had really happened?

Zu An frowned when he sensed the two women's concern. He asked, "What kind of relationship does this man have with you?"

Mi Li said calmly, "He's my disciple."

Zu An clearly relaxed when he heard that reply. "So be it. To a certain extent, he can also be considered my inheritor. Both of us, husband and wife, ended up teaching the same person."

"You betrayed my older sister, killed Fu Su, and used me as a sacrifice. I've already severed all bonds of marriage to you." Mi Li looked calm on the surface, but she clearly didn't wish to talk about such things with him. "How much longer are you going to stay here for? His body can't endure your possession for that long."

Anger appeared on Zu An's face as his brows furrowed, but they gradually unfolded again. "If someone dared to speak to me this way back then, they would've already had their body ripped to pieces."

Mi Li merely harrumphed.

Zu An said with a sigh, "I've slept for so long before finally waking up again. Anyone in my situation wouldn't want to leave so soon."

Mi Li said unhappily, "If you have something to say, then just say it. Stop stalling in his body." She knew about the rebound of Keyboard Come. She was worried that Zu An would suffer more and more damage the longer they waited.

"You care quite a bit about this disciple." Zu An's smile faded. "Unfortunately, he's about to die."

"What?!" Mi Li and Bi Linglong both cried out when they heard those words.

Zu An's expression remained calm. "His body was already close to breaking down from the start. If it wasn't for my skills repairing his body, he would've already scattered into ashes."

Mi Li thought to herself, So that was the case after all! She sighed and said, "Thank you!" She had actually been confused all this time. Why was there nothing wrong with Zu An even though he had used Keyboard Come to do something so absurd? It turned out Ying Zheng had helped him!

"You're actually willing to thank me?" Zu An was shocked. But he quickly realized that it was for the sake of the man he was currently possessing, making him feel strange. However, that man was Mi Li's disciple, so he let it go.

"If not for the fact that his body had already been tempered several times by the Primordial Origin Sutra, he would've already collapsed." Zu An frowned. "But even so, I can only slow down the rate of this collapse. Once I leave, I fear..."

Mi Li's expression changed. She quickly asked, "When are you leaving?"

"Soon..." Zu An's voice gradually grew fainter. Then a vague and transparent soul, vaguely recognizable as Ying Zheng, left his body.

Mi Li panicked and exclaimed, "How can you be so irresponsible?!"

Ying Zheng felt annoyed. This woman had previously been rushing him to get out, and yet now, she was blaming him for leaving too soon. Do you think I don't want to stay here? The conditions won't allow me to! His soul was already starting to scatter as his final words echoed through the air. "I've already left behind the latter half of the Primordial Origin Sutra in his sea of consciousness..."

Even before he could finish his sentence, his soul scattered completely. The emperor of an age disappeared from the world forever. Even Mi Li, who had hated him deeply for so long, couldn't help but feel a bit emotional.

Zu An suddenly cried out as blood gushed out of his mouth.

Bi Linglong cried out in alarm, quickly moving to support him. "Ah Zu! Ah Zu, are you okay?" She could see the cracks covering Zu An's skin. Some parts of his body seemed to be shattering. His body was frantically trying to recover, but his recovery speed was far inferior to the rate of collapse.

Zu An chuckled and said, "I thought I might explode to death on the spot. At the very least, though, we killed that stupid octopus."

When she heard that familiar frivolous voice, Bi Linglong knew that the Zu An she was familiar with was back. "Do you know what kind of situation we're in? How can you still joke around? Hurry and eat these medicines!" She took out all sorts of precious medicines while speaking.

"It's useless." Zu An shook his head. He took out a bottle of 'Faith in Brother Spring' from the Brilliant Glass Bead. This was the only bottle of full-recovery medicine he had left. He had always been reluctant to use it, but if he didn't use it now, there wouldn't be a chance later.

He quickly drank the medicine. Sure enough, the mess his body had been left in was nourished. His continuously cracking skin also gradually began to heal. But Zu An didn't feel happy yet, because he knew that this was a 'Faith in Brother Spring (small)'. It wasn't enough to completely heal him.

Sure enough, his skin cracked apart again, just a little more slowly. But even so, he would completely break apart soon afterward. He said with a sigh, "I guess I'm still dying here."

"Ah Zu..." Bi Linglong rushed into his arms, tears pouring down her face. Her strong exterior was already nowhere to be seen.

Zu An wanted to pat her head to console her, but he couldn't even do something that simple anymore. He could only hug her with an apologetic smile. He said to Mi Li, "Master, I might be dragging you down with me.."

Mi Li squatted down next to him, her ice-cold hand pressing against his skin to check his pulse. She examined her condition while replying, "I would already be dead if it weren't for you. Why would I blame you?"

Zu An wanted to say something else, but Mi Li stopped him. "Don't think about anything else right now. Ying Zheng gave you the lower half of the Primordial Origin Sutra, right?"

Zu An voiced his agreement. He couldn't even nod. He felt a splitting headache, as if his head were going to explode. Blood was already coming out of his seven apertures.

Mi Li's eyes narrowed when she saw that. She quickly said, "Hurry and cultivate the lower half."

"It'll be useless even if I cultivate it," Zu An said with a bitter laugh. He hadn't lost consciousness when Ying Zheng took over his body. He could sense that even though Ying Zheng had operated the Primordial Origin Sutra to preserve his body, it still couldn't stop his body from breaking down.

Keyboard Come's rebound was just that powerful, and he had even boasted about something so crazy. Fortunately, a strand of Ying Zheng's split soul had existed, so he hadn't really become Ying Zheng out of nothing. That had made the rebound a bit lighter. Otherwise, he would have exploded as soon as he uttered those words. Even so, the rebound wasn't something he could withstand.

But even though he said it was useless, giving up wasn't his style. He did his best to use his primordial ki. Ying Zheng had already used the latter half on his body earlier, and the ki flow remained. Otherwise, he probably wouldn't be able to cultivate it in his current state.

Mi Li nodded inwardly, but she still remarked, "Didn't you say it was useless? Why are you still doing it then?"

Zu An chuckled. "I'm not living for myself. If I live for a minute longer, you can live for a minute longer. I can also look at you for a minute longer."

Mi Li became absentminded. This rascal even dares to tease his master! Her face heated up a bit as she subconsciously gave Bi Linglong a look. However, she was crying so bitterly that she didn't notice anything strange. Mi Li sighed in relief.

Zu An barely managed to circulate the Primordial Origin Sutra's lower half through his entire body once. Then, he said with a shaking voice, "I don't think I can... hold on any longer, sor..." He fainted before he could finish.

Bi Linglong panicked. "Master, why isn't he getting better?!"

Mi Li sighed. "It looks like cultivating the lower half indeed isn't enough to heal him."

"Then doesn't that mean he'll die?" Bi Linglong looked at Zu An in distress, cradling him in her arms. She was biting down on her lips hard enough to draw blood.

"There is one other way," Mi Li suddenly said.

"What is it?" Bi Linglong felt as if she had found something to barely hold onto after falling into an endless abyss. She grabbed Mi Li's hand firmly, but for some reason, that hand felt cold... so cold.

Chapter 889: What in the World?

When she saw Bi Linglong's expectant expression, Mi Li hesitated for a moment. Then, she took out a porcelain bottle from Zu An's inner pockets. "Why don't you take this?"

"What is that?" Bi Linglong didn't suspect her at all now that they were in such a critical situation.

"This medicine is named 'Bull's Cream'; it's a powerful... aphrodisiac," Mi Li explained.

Zu An had obtained three kinds of those substances from various villains. One of the other two was 'Eighteen Spring Winds', which might be too powerful for this situation. She wasn't scared that Bi Linglong wouldn't be able to take it, but rather that Zu An wouldn't. The other was 'Worries Be Gone'. It would make others forget about everything that happened in a certain period of time. There was no need to use it right now.

Bi Linglong's hand froze next to her mouth when she heard those words. Then, she glared at Mi Li silently in embarrassment.

Mi Li explained, "The cultivation method Zu An cultivates is special. Not only can it temper his body, it can save lives through the exchange of yin and yang. The upper half can save the lives of others through the exchange of yin and yang, while the lower half can save his own life through the same exchange."

That was what Ying Zheng had meant when he mentioned that he had already passed on the lower half of the Primordial Origin Sutra to Zu An.

Even though Bi Linglong was a young lady, as the crown princess, she had some knowledge about that field from her clan and the imperial palace. She knew what the exchange of yin and yang meant. Her face was bright red. "How can there be... such a weird and sinister method?"

"There are too many strange things in this world. This technique is related to the creation of life, so it isn't that weird and sinister." Mi Li picked up the bottle, planning to just force her to drink it. From her perspective, she didn't care if Bi Linglong was a crown princess at all. If it would save Zu An, she would do anything.

Bi Linglong bit her lips. Her chest rose and fell. She was clearly currently carrying out an intense inner battle against herself.

Mi Li handed over the bottle again. A bit of shame flickered through Bi Linglong's eyes, but she shook her head in the end, saying, "I don't need this." She looked at Zu An, her eyes becoming warm and gentle. "Ah Zu, you saved me so many times. It's my turn to save you." After saying that, she slowly undid her waistband.

Mi Li was stunned. She retracted her hand. Since the girl was willing to do it herself, that was the best scenario. But nevertheless... This kid was always frivolous in behavior and looked as if he really needed a good beating. How did he get so many beautiful girls to like him?

When Bi Linglong saw that Zu An's condition was getting worse and worse, she didn't dare to stall any longer. She took off her clothes, revealing her exquisite collarbone and her smooth and fair shoulders. She suddenly thought of something and turned to Mi Li, blushing. "Master, can you... leave, please?"

Even though she was willing to sacrifice herself to save Zu An, she was still a maiden. This was something extremely embarrassing to begin with. If there were someone watching too, just the thought alone would make her die from embarrassment.

Mi Li thought to herself, Why would I want to watch something like that? She had already watched him do it many times with other girls after being around him for so long. She was already used to it.

Right, what number is it now? One, two, three... Hmph, he's a player after all! She cursed inwardly, but she didn't trouble the young girl in front of her. She nodded and walked away. "I'll be over here. Call me if something happens."

Even though she could choose not to watch, she wouldn't really go too far away. Otherwise, it would be bad if something really did happen.

Bi Linglong's heart was pounding crazily. She actually wanted Mi Li to go a bit farther away, but she couldn't really say anything else in response to that. At least she has her back to us, so she can't see anything, right...

She gently caressed Zu An's cheeks. Everything that had happened between them appeared in her head, especially the things that had happened in this dungeon. She suddenly smiled, as if she had realized something. Her nervousness disappeared. Instead, her attitude was replaced with decisiveness.

"Ah Zu, I like you..." She leaned down and whispered quietly by his ear, as if she were scared that Mi Li would hear her from a distance.

When she saw how his entire body was cracked like pottery, she didn't dare to waste any more time. She quickly removed her extravagant clothes, then embraced him tightly with her warm and slender body.

A while later, Mi Li suddenly heard an aggrieved voice. "Master... Can you... come here?" She was shocked. Why is this girl calling for me now? But she didn't dare to show any carelessness, considering the state Zu An was in. She rushed over.

Her eyes narrowed as soon as she stood in front of them. Bi Linglong was covering her chest with her dress, but that only made her exquisite body seem even more seductive. Even someone with as high standards as Mi Li had to admit that Bi Linglong was beautiful.

This Zu An might not be good at anything else, but he has pretty good taste. She coughed lightly and focused her thoughts. "What is it?"

"I... I... He... He..." Bi Linglong opened her mouth, her face completely red from either panic or shame. She couldn't find the words to explain the current situation.

Even though Mi Li had never experienced this herself, she had experienced the education of the royal family. Furthermore, after staying by Zu An's side for so long, she quickly had an idea of what had happened.

It turned out that since Zu An was half unconscious at the moment, and his body was gradually breaking down, it wasn't like before when just a bit of stimulation would get him to react.

Bi Linglong had already tried her best. She was the crown princess, so her wet nurses had taught her a bit about these things.

Mi Li almost burst out laughing. This was what Zu An was proudest of normally. Who could have thought that he would experience such a thing today? But she quickly noticed the severity of the issue. If she wasted any more time, Zu An might really die.

The problem was, was this even something someone else could help with? Bi Linglong clearly realized that as well. She was extremely worried.

Mi Li's expression flickered several times. Finally, she seemed to have made her decision. "I have a solution. Wait a moment." Then, under Bi Linglong's startled gaze, she turned into a wisp of smoke, disappearing into Zu An's body.

Soon afterward, Zu An's eyes opened. But unlike his usual frivolous expression, there seemed to be a bit of... seduction in his eyes?

It was naturally Mi Li who was controlling Zu An's body. The two of them had already signed a soul contract. Together with the amount of time they had spent together, their souls were marked with each others' auras. That was why Zu An's body didn't reject her.

Mi Li immediately sensed a heart-wrenching pain when she entered Zu An's body. Her entire body was in intense pain, and her head felt as if it were going to explode. She had no idea how he could endure such a feeling.

Mi Li didn't dare to show any negligence. She quickly used her own power to help heal Zu An's wounds. Her cultivation was great, so she was able to quickly stabilize Zu An's condition. But she knew that it was only temporary. Her soul's power was limited. Once that power was used up, he would still die. As such, she didn't dare to delay. She reached out her hands and pulled Bi Linglong into her embrace.

Bi Linglong quickly realized what was happening and subconsciously resisted. "You..."

"Don't worry, I'm only helping him out a bit." Zu An opened his mouth, but it was Mi Li's voice that came out.

Bi Linglong was so embarrassed she wanted to dig herself a hole to hide in. What in the world was going on? Mi Li also felt that the current situation was cursed, but she endured the uncomfortable feeling and kissed Bi Linglong.

...

A while later, Mi Li's soul left Zu An's body. She flew into the distance without even turning back around. "The rest is up to you."

Bi Linglong noticed the redness on Mi Li's face and was confused. Even a soul can blush? But she didn't have the time to worry about anything else, because they had now reached the critical point.

She could clearly hear her pounding heart. However, she still gently pulled Zu An into her embrace. Her beautiful brows furrowed, and her eyes quickly filled with tears. After all, she was only a young lady who had never done something like this before!

Before she could even say anything, the half unconscious Zu An cried out first. "It hurts!"

Bi Linglong and Mi Li were speechless.

Chapter 890: Chosen One

The half-unconscious Zu An felt as if his entire body were about to split apart. He felt as if he were in an endless desert, with a scorching sun staring down on him from above. He felt more parched than he had ever felt before, as if he might just drop dead from thirst at any moment.

But a sweet oasis suddenly seemed to have appeared in front of him, and he instinctively ran over. He really wanted to jump straight in and greedily take in all the water. His Primordial Origin Sutra began to work on its own, and he could feel his body being nourished. The pain and suffering he had been going through gradually disappeared.

Bi Linglong's eyes turned red. Tears trickled down the sides of her fair face. However, she still firmly held the man in her arms and embraced him gently.

Mi Li nodded from a distance. This brat really doesn't know how to treasure girls. He'd better properly apologize to her once he wakes up.

Suddenly, mumbling could be heard in the distance. Bi Linglong subconsciously looked in its direction, and saw Zhao Ruizhi's body, that had been lying collapsed on the ground, move. Then he struggled to a seated position.

Zhao Ruizhi looked around himself in a daze, muttering, "Where am I..." He looked over in Bi Linglong's direction while speaking.

Bi Linglong was horrified. Even though the two of them shared no feelings, nor had they ever consummated their marriage, she was still his wife in name. If he saw this scene, no matter how stupid he was, he would definitely know what had happened!

Mi Li rushed over and tapped Zhao Ruizhi's acupoint, and he fell to the ground again. She examined his body and said seriously, "Xu Fu devoured Zhao Han's split soul. Zhao Ruizhi's fractured soul might not have been all that useful to Xu Fu, so it managed to survive. That's why he woke up after some time."

Bi Linglong's body shook violently. Her heart had been about to pop out of her chest just now! Even though she found it embarrassing, she still asked quietly, "Then will he be able to return to normal again in the future?" Her voice had unconsciously become softer and more charming.

Fortunately, Mi Li didn't turn around. Her expression became a bit unnatural, but she still replied, "He can forget about returning to normal. Because of the possession, his soul has suffered a natural deficiency. He'll only be able to recover to his previous stupid self at most, or maybe he'll become even stupider. Besides, he's been injured quite badly. Without the support of Zhao Han, he might not be able to leave this dungeon alive."

Bi Linglong bit her lip. She took out a bag full of various bottles and containers. "Master, can you help him take these medicines?"

Even though she had never really approved of the crown prince, she felt a strange sense of guilt. She felt as if she had really wronged him. Saving him was the only thing she could do at that moment.

Mi Li had a rough idea of what she was thinking. She nodded and replied, "Fine!" She tapped Zhao Ruizhi's chin and poured the medicines into his mouth.

Gently feeding someone medicine was obviously not her style of doing things. The fact that she was even willing to do that much was a favor, in exchange for Bi Linglong saving Zu An. She fed Zhao Ruizhi the medicine while asking Bi Linglong, "So how is it?"

Bi Linglong's face turned red. She thought to herself, Why are you asking something like that? But she still instinctively replied, teary-eyed, "It hurts..."

Mi Li was stunned. She took a deep breath and asked, "I was asking how Zu An's body is now; if his condition has improved."

Bi Linglong was speechless. She really wanted to crawl into a hole and hide there forever. However, she replied a bit later, "His body isn't continuing to break down anymore."

"That's good then. Keep going." Mi Li sighed in relief. It seemed the Primordial Origin Sutra was useful after all.

She picked up Zhao Ruizhi and flew outside, tossing him out of the room, and didn't go back inside either. She instead sat down by the entrance and began to adjust her own breathing. But when she thought about all the things that had happened today, all the acquaintances from the past she had encountered, she found it hard to calm down.

Bi Linglong saw Mi Li bring Zhao Ruizhi outside, and knew that she had done so to help her with her embarrassment. She was extremely grateful inside.

But her thoughts were quickly interrupted by the man wrapped around her. She couldn't help but tap his chest with her fists. "You're really a bad man..."

...

After some time had passed, Bi Linglong was suddenly shocked by something. She felt as if there were a black hole inside of her body that was frantically absorbing her life essence! She instinctively wanted to push Zu An away, but she soon thought of something and decided not to. Instead, she held him gently and mumbled, "I don't have many years left to live anyway. It's okay as long as I can save you."

She thought that Mi Li had tricked her, that such treatment might actually be a transfer of life essence. But when she saw her own snow-white hair, and remembered that her life force was already almost gone from using that forbidden technique, it didn't make that much of a difference if she lived for a few more or fewer years. This man had saved her without any regard for his own life, after all!

As Zu An absorbed her life essence, she felt weaker and weaker. Her skin became dimmer in color, even drying. Her consciousness gradually became blurry. She thought she was already dead for sure.

However, something unexpected happened soon afterward. She felt a wave of vigorous life essence pour into her body! Then, her withered body and meridians were nourished. Her body recovered, and her skin shone with a layer of sparkling radiance. Even her withered white hair had recovered its previous color. No, her black hair was now even more beautiful and supple than before!

"What is..." Bi Linglong was stunned.

“His cultivation method is special. Together with his special blood, he can revive even the dying. Back then, Chu... Ahem, restoring your lost life force isn’t an issue.” Mi Li had already arrived next to them, unbeknownst to her. She hadn’t felt at ease, and had come over to check on their situation.

Bi Linglong covered herself with her clothes in embarrassment. Mi Li pretended to not have seen anything and checked Zu An’s aura. She sighed in relief when she saw that his condition had indeed stabilized.

Bi Linglong watched from the side. When she saw that Mi Li didn’t show the slightest bit of awkwardness while examining Zu An’s body, a strange look appeared on her face. These two really didn’t seem like master and disciple!

Zu An felt as if he had just experienced a long dream. He had dreamed about too many things. When he opened his eyes, he saw that Mi Li seemed to be looking at him with an ambiguous smile. Meanwhile, Bi Linglong was avoiding eye contact guiltily, but still sneaking looks at him, her expression much gentler than before.

Zu An quickly rubbed his own body. Then, he circulated his ki internally to check his condition. He jumped in excitement, “Hahaha! I, Zu An, am just too tough to die here! I was able to even survive something like this! I’m the chosen one after all!”

Keyboard Come had always made him experience tremendous pain before. He had made such a big boast this time, so he had already been prepared to fade away into ashes. He’d really had no choice back then.

He hadn’t expected to actually survive. But not only had he survived, his current state was even better than his previous peak! If that didn’t make him the chosen one, who else could be?!

Mi Li said mockingly, “Stop acting all smug already. Your life was saved by Linglong over here.”

She had always referred to Bi Linglong as ‘little girl’ or something similar. But this time, she had changed the way she addressed her. After all, this girl had done so much, so she already saw her as her disciple’s wife... or at least one of them. As a senior, she had to at least do that much.

“Linglong?” Zu An was stunned. He thought to himself, How does Linglong have the ability to save me? Then, he suddenly noticed that Bi Linglong’s hair was black again. He exclaimed happily, “Your hair has recovered?”

“Yeah.” Bi Linglong’s pretty face was completely red. She didn’t know how to explain what had happened.

It was still Mi Li who couldn’t continue watching the scene in the end. “Damn kid, are you stupid or are you pretending to be? She’s already sacrificed so much for you, but that’s all you have to say?”