

## Stranger 651

Chapter 651: Secret Lady

“Pwack!”

The woman in red shook violently as she spat out a mouthful of blood. The attack was such that her energies plummeted in an instant.

“Mercy, third senior sister...”

“Naughty girls... should be punished...” Ah Su landed on the ground and stared at the woman in red.

“I know I made a mistake. I swear I won’t do it again, so please, have mercy and forgive me, third senior sister!” The woman in red begged.

“Ah Xiu... decides...” said Ah Su while looking over her back.

“I made a mistake, first senior brother.” The woman in red looked at Su Xiu, “I know you cherish me the most. You will forgive me, right?”

“I told you not to overestimate yourself, but you just won’t listen. Now you’re suffering the consequences, and for what?” Su Xiu asked gently.

“Sigh. I know. It’s all because of second senior brother. If he hadn’t bewitched me with his silver tongue, I would never dare to defy first senior brother and third senior sister, would I?” The woman in red said pitifully.

“You’re blaming Second? But Second said you’re the one who bewitched him!” Su Xiu smiled.

“Surely you are aware that second senior brother is an expert liar who’s most proficient at sowing dissension and slandering others, first senior brother?” the woman in red argued. “If you don’t believe me, I’m willing to confront him directly.”

When Su Xiu didn’t answer her, the woman in red asked, “You believe me, right first senior brother?”

“Of course I do, junior sister,” Su Xiu replied. “In fact, I already taught him a lesson on your behalf.”

“You’re such a good person, first senior brother.” The woman in red looked very happy. “May I know how?”

“It’s nothing big. I cut off his hands for you, and Ah Su sewed his mouth because he was too noisy,” Su Xiu replied in an indifferent tone. “Also, he kept trying to run away, so I broke his legs after a few escape attempts. You wouldn’t be as disobedient as him, right junior sister?”

“Of course not! Out of all of our brothers and sisters, you and third senior sister are the two people I listen to the most!” the woman in red giggled.

“Good.” Su Xiu nodded before voicing his disappointment, “A shame that the wheelchair I made for you is going to go to waste though. It was such an exquisite work of art too.”

“Thank you very much for the gift, first senior brother,” the woman in red said, “but my legs are perfectly fine unlike yours. You should save that wheelchair for yourself.”

“I sincerely hope you’ll remain a good girl then,” Su Xiu replied.

“If first senior brother and third senior sister continue to treat me well, then why would I be anything else?” the woman in red tilted her head.

“Good. Ah Su and I love good, obedient children,” Su Xiu said while caressing Ah Su’s hair a little. “So, where is the item, junior sister?”

“It’s not with me right now,” the woman in red replied helplessly.

“And right after you promise to be a good girl too,” Su Xiu said gently while rapping his knuckles against his wheelchair’s arm. There was nothing welcoming about his gentleness, however.

“Disobedient children... should be punished...” Ah Su said while grabbing the woman in red’s shoulder. When she tightened her grip, the woman in red’s shoulder immediately started cracking ominously.

“Ouch ouch ouch!” The woman in red curled into herself while crying in pain, “Give me some time to fully explain myself, will you? I meant that I’m not carrying the Demon Controlling Jade Manual right now. I hid it in a safe place.”

“Oh, I see.” Su Xiu didn’t seem to be surprised. “And where is it?”

The woman in red replied, “I hid it in a place that’s absolutely safe. So safe, in fact, that I can’t even recall where it is.”

“Junior sister! You shouldn’t toy with your senior brother and sister!” Su Xiu frowned with displeasure.

“I wouldn’t dare! It’s simply the truth.”

The woman in red explained, “Have you heard of a Stranger called the Secret Lady, first senior brother? Secret Lady looks like a young woman who enjoys wearing green clothes and carrying a red candle. She only appears during the night.”

“Those who encountered the Secret Lady could tell her a secret. They would forget about the secret after the fact. Only by locating the Secret Lady again and

trading her another secret could they recall the secret they had previously told her. Not only that, they would forget the secret they traded to the Secret Lady forever.”

“So, you’re saying that you told the location of the Demon Controlling Jade Manual to the Secret Lady?” Su Xiu asked.

“That is correct,” the woman in red confirmed. “Unfortunately, I am the only one who knows how to find the Secret Lady.”

“You wouldn’t lie to me, right junior sister?” Su Xiu asked slowly while tapping his wheelchair.

“You don’t believe me, first senior brother?” The woman in red replied in an aggrieved voice, “You can search me if you don’t believe me!”

Upon hearing this, Ah Su turned around again and shot Su Xiu a cold look.

“Ahem... you must be joking, junior sister. Of course I believe you.” Su Xiu coughed before continuing, “In that case, please lead the way and take us to this Secret Lady of yours, junior sister.”

“On that note, do try your best to be a good girl, okay? If you anger Ah Su, she might dig out your eyes, sew your mouth, cut off your arms, and break your legs. When that happens, not even I can save you, understand?”

“Of course I will! I’m third senior sister’s goodest girl.” The woman in red giggled. “I shall lead you two to the Demon Controlling Jade Manual right now.”

“Good. Ah Su, you can release her now. I don’t think she’ll try to escape any longer,” Su Xiu looked at Ah Su and ordered gently.

Ah Su did as he requested and released her grip.

“No sense in wasting time. Let’s go, junior sister.”

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“Greenlake Bai?!”

Hidden in the shadows, Ye Qing was watching the departing trio with an odd expression. The barefooted woman in red was none other than Greenlake Bai, the woman who screwed him over back at Fengdu. He had always wanted to meet her again and repay the “favor”, but this was the last place he expected to see her.

“Hehehe. Karmic retribution really does exist in this world. If you hadn’t tricked me back at Fengdu, then you probably wouldn’t be in this situation, would you?” said Ye Qing while barely stopping himself from laughing out loud.

Although the trio kept bringing up their relationship and emphasizing their shared bond, it was clear that they were hostile toward each other.

Assuming he hadn't misinterpreted their words, the reason Su Xiu was chasing after Greenlake Bai was to obtain something called a "Demon Controlling Jade Manual".

He could also sense Su Xiu was brimming with killing intent from the start until the end. If Greenlake Bai actually gave up the Demon Controlling Jade Manual to him, he would have killed her immediately after the fact.

Of course, Greenlake Bai was no fool. She was a shrewd woman who had tricked even him before, so of course she knew what Su Xiu was plotting. That was why she had hidden the Demon Controlling Jade Manual beforehand. As a result, Su Xiu couldn't just kill her and be done with her, not unless he gave up on the Demon Controlling Jade Manual completely.

It was also why Greenlake Bai never showed any fear from the start until the end.

Of course, this stalemate was temporary. Su Xiu was still going to kill her as soon as he obtained the Demon Controlling Jade Manual. That was why the woman was definitely going to stir up shit on the way and make life difficult for Su Xiu as much as possible. In fact, she was definitely going to try and kill him somehow. It was the only way she could survive after all.

For now though, Ye Qing was absolutely enjoying Greenlake Bai's misery.

"Wait a second. Su Xiu, Greenlake Bai and that Ah Su are all pretty strong. Maybe I could..."

A light bulb suddenly appeared on top of Ye Qing's head. An idea to kill three birds with one stone just occurred to him.

#### Chapter 652: That Is Not Yours

Su Xiu, Greenlake Bai and Ah Su were currently retracing their route back to where they came from—or so they thought. No one noticed that they were actually straying off the path and moving farther and farther away from the exit.

*Thud.*

Suddenly, they heard a thud from somewhere behind the fog. Su Xiu wasn't sure why, but he subconsciously looked in the direction of the noise and saw what looked like a bronze door.

A pair of snakes were wrapped around the door. One of them was white, and the other black. The way their necks were intertwined above the door gave them a mysterious, profound appearance and made it clear that the door was no ordinary object.

Su Xiu made a grabbing motion, and the bronze door flew into his hand.

"What is that, first senior brother?" the woman in red asked curiously.

"I don't know." Su Xiu shook his head while examining the bronze door.

It was at this moment the two snakes on the door abruptly opened their eyes and moved about.

“Foolish mortals who can’t even see Mount Tai. If your eyes are just decorations, then you might as well do yourself a favor and remove them,” the white snake taunted.

“Foolish indeed,” the black snake echoed in agreement.

“You’re artifact spirits?!” Su Xiu’s shock quickly morphed into wild joy when he realized that the Strange Artifact was sentient.

“Of course we’re artifact spirits. What else could we be?” The white snake scoffed.

“Waste of breath,” the black snake added ruthlessly.

“If I may ask, who are you?” Su Xiu asked carefully. The snakes were so intelligent they might as well be human. It was obvious that this was no ordinary Strange Artifact.

“Listen well...” the white snake cleared its throat.

“Harden your knees...” the black snake added.

“When Nanke dreams, the world ages...” the white snake began.

“Infinite time in a snap of a finger...” the black snake ended.

Right after that, both snakes declared at the same time, “We are the artifact spirits of Nanke, White Lord and Black Lord!”

“Nanke?” Before Su Xiu could even react, Greenlake Bai let out a cry of surprise, “Are you the legendary Nanke, the one that can create cultivation dreams for your wielder?”

“Ah! I guess not all of you are blind,” White Lord declared proudly.

“Nanke? You’re really Nanke?!”

Even with Su Xiu’s mental fortitude, he couldn’t help but blank out a little. Nanke was named in the Strange Artifact Register. Of course he had heard of it. He just couldn’t quite believe that the legendary Strange Artifact was currently within his grasp.

“Tsk tsk. You’re kinda dumb, aren’t you boy?” White Lord complained when he saw Su Xiu’s reaction. “I’m starting to regret choosing you to be our master.”

“You... You want me to be your master?” Su Xiu asked in disbelief.

“You found us, so you’re our master. What’s so hard to understand?” White Lord replied matter-of-factly.

“Congratulations, first senior brother. One hundred years, a Nanke dream. With Nanke by your side, it is only a matter of time before you go down in history as the strongest warrior of this era.”

“I will go down in history... as the strongest warrior of this era?” Su Xiu murmured. Was he a so-called Chosen One? Someone who was so lucky he could randomly pick up a legendary Strange Artifact on the side of the road?

No one would believe him if he told them about this encounter. He couldn't quite believe it himself even though he was living the cliché right now.

“That Strange Artifact does not belong to you, friend.”

Suddenly, a voice came from within the fog.

“Who are you?”

Su Xiu immediately slipped Nanke into his sleeve before looking in the direction where the voice came from.

A man and a woman stepped out of the fog. The man wore a snow-white outfit and looked impossibly handsome. It was as if he was a celestial who descended from the heavens.

The woman was petite, but had an hourglass figure many women would kill to have. She wore a long dress with colorful ribbons floating around her. She too looked like a heavenly celestial.

“Please give us the item, friend,” the man in white said with a smile on his face.

The man's voice was just as sweet and divine as his appearance, but his authoritative tone was unmistakable. This was a man who did not take rejection kindly.

“Why should I?” Su Xiu countered.

“Because that item is originally ours,” the man in white answered.

“Is that so? On what basis do you claim ownership over the item?” Su Xiu asked unhurriedly.

“It originally belongs to the Eight Legions of Devas and Nagas,” the man in white—or rather Dream Master—answered.

Earlier, they were tracking Nanke using the Edict of Divine Thought and pursuing it as quickly as they were able, but the Strange Artifact proved to be quite elusive. As if that wasn't bad enough, Nanke's presence suddenly disappeared again somewhere in the middle and worried them greatly.

Luckily, Nanke's presence reappeared soon after, and the duo immediately gave chase like their life depended on it. When they finally managed to catch up to Strange Artifact, they immediately saw Su Xiu holding it in his hand.

Dream Master did not know how Nanke fell into the trio's hands—did the thief run into the trio and got himself killed or something?—but ultimately, it did not matter. He couldn't care less about the truth so long as he retrieved Nanke.

“You’re one of the Eight Legions?” Su Xiu’s eyebrows knitted a little. Of course he had heard of the Eight Legions. In fact, he knew them better than most jianghu warriors due to his background.

“That is correct.” Dream Master saluted him politely. “I am Dream Master of the Devas, and the item you’re holding is an important Strange Artifact that’s been passed down within the Devas for countless generations. My lord, Di Shitian, has charged me with the duty of bringing it home, so I hope that you will oblige this request.”

“The Devas? Di Shitian?” Su Xiu stopped tapping his wheelchair. He was surprised to hear that the strangers before him hailed from the Eight Legions, but the mention of the Devas and Di Shitian shocked him greatly.

As was evident in their full title, the Devas and the Nagas were the most venerated legions of the Eight Legions. As for Di Shitian, he was both the head of the Devas and the Eight Legions of Devas and Nagas. His strength was unfathomable, and he was a named warrior on the Heaven Champions Ranking.

If Nanke really was the Devas’ Strange Artifact, and if Dream Master really was carrying out Di Shitian’s order, then it would probably be a bad idea to hold onto Nanke.

However, he was reluctant to surrender the Strange Artifact. After all, it was Nanke, the seventy-eighth Strange Artifact on the Strange Artifact Register.

He was still hesitating when a pair of snake heads crawled out of his sleeves and yelled at Dream Master, “Go fuck yourself you fart of a bitch! What Devas? What Di Shitian? We’ve never even heard of you, so how could we possibly be your inheritance? Stop plastering your face with gold[1] you liar!”

“We don’t know you. We’re not familiar with you. We have no idea what you are,” Black Lord fired a triple denial.

Dream Master flinched. He never expected White Lord and Black Lord to reject him. “Black Lord, White Lord, you...”

“It looks like this item isn’t yours after all.” Su Xiu suddenly broke into a smile.

“What are you trying to say, friend?” Dream Master asked.

“It’s very simple. If this isn’t your item, then why should I give it to you?” A hint of determination flashed in Su Xiu’s eyes.

It was said that rejecting the heavens’ gift was akin to courting divine judgment. Nanke had literally delivered itself to his doorstep, so how could he give it up without a fight? How could a warrior who didn’t strive to be better possibly become stronger?

Besides, this was Nanke, a top one hundred Strange Artifact in the Strange Artifact Register. There were millions and millions of Strange Artifacts throughout the world, and Nanke was better than most of them. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that it was a unique Strange Artifact that possessed the power to change one’s fate—the same could be said for any Strange Artifact in the

top one hundred as well. While it was ultimately up to the person to change their own fate, that did not change the fact that Nanke represented an opportunity; a path to ascension.

Countless people failed to reach greater heights not because they were lazy or untalented, but because they never had the opportunity.

That was why Su Xiu couldn't let it go. He was confident in his natural talent and the amount of work he put in to grow stronger. If he could obtain Nanke, he was sure he could rise to greater heights and become a noteworthy person. And if he could become a noteworthy person, he might just be able to treat Ah Su and mend the eternal regret and sorrow in his heart.

Love and pain flickered in Su Xiu's eyes as he watched Ah Su.

#### Chapter 653: Call of the Nether

Su Xiu and Ah Su were childhood friends who grew up together. Ah Su was a year older than him, so she cared for him like an older sister. No matter what happened, she always took his side and protected him. Later, they joined the West Kunlun, one of the Nine Demonic Ways.

East Kunlun, one of the Three Temples of Dao, called themselves the ancestral ground of Taoism. West Kunlun was the opposite. They worshiped the Progenitor Demon Rahu, and they called themselves the ancestral ground of the Dark Ways. Naturally, West Kunlun was one hundred percent a demonic sect where the law of the jungle reigned supreme.

There were twelve abodes in West Kunlun, and the head of the Nethercall Abode noticed Su Xiu's talent and took him as an inner disciple. In most other places, this was the opportunity of a lifetime and the best thing that ever happened to them. But for Su Xiu, it was the beginning of an unending nightmare.

The head of the Nethercall Abode was cruel, violent and sadistic. He especially loved torturing others using all sorts of unusual methods. For example, Su Xiu had lost his legs because the abode head had tortured them for three days straight using the Wind of Ultimate Purity of the Nine Heavens and the Destructive Water of the Nine Nethers.

Ah Su wasn't chosen by the abode head. She had willingly joined the Nethercall Abode as a servant to protect him. Every time the abode head tortured him, and every time someone bullied him, Ah Su would step in front of him and bore the brunt of the damage. This was why Ah Su had become like this.

Even in her mentally disabled state, Ah Su never forgot to stand in front of him and protect him from all dangers. She was like a gigantic tree or a faithful umbrella who would endure the wind, the rain, and even the lightning for him.

If his life was mostly composed of pain, darkness and hatred, then Ah Su was the single ray of light and innocence that kept him from plunging completely into the darkness.

That was why he had three wishes in his life. The first was to kill the abode head of the Nethercall Abode, a.k.a his master. The second was to become an accomplished person; someone no one could ever torment again. And third, he wished to heal Ah Su so she could enjoy the rest of her life in true happiness and health.

Today, one of his wishes had come true. His master—the old bastard both him and Greenlake Bai had spoken of—was finally dead due to his scheme. He had schemed with Greenlake Bai to leak his



whereabouts to his sworn foe, causing him to be ambushed and grievously injured by his enemies. He died from his injuries not long after he returned to West Kunlun.

It was a shame he wasn't able to kill the old bastard with his own two hands, but it was still a wish fulfilled.

Now, he only had two wishes left. One, to become an accomplished person, and two, to heal Ah Su back to full health.

Unfortunately, it was very difficult for him to fulfill his two remaining wishes with his current strength. If he missed the opportunity of a lifetime in front of him, he was going to regret this forever.

He neither wanted to live under another's shadow forever, nor did he wish for Ah Su to be forever stuck in a quagmire of darkness and confusion. He wanted her to live under the sun and be happy, forever.

In the past, Ah Su willingly became his tree and protected him from all harm.

Now, it was his turn to step up and find that ray of hope for her.

That was why he wasn't going to give up Nanke. He was going to grasp this life-changing opportunity with all his might not just for himself, but also Ah Su.

As for whether he would offend the Eight Legions and Di Shitian with this act, he wasn't too worried.

Forget that there was a fair chance Dream Master was lying to his face, so what if he was actually telling the truth?

Dead men tell no tales. If they all died here, then no one would find out that Nanke had fallen into his hands.

"Are you sure you want to make an enemy out of the Eight Legions, friend?" Dream Master asked casually. It was impossible to tell if he was angry or annoyed.

"That's our question. Are you saying that everything under the heavens belongs to the Eight Legions so long as it doesn't have an owner?"

Greenlake Bai taunted before Su Xiu could say anything, "Anyone who doesn't give up an opportunity to the Eight Legions is an enemy, is that it? If I didn't know better, I would think that you're the masters of the world!"

Dream Master paid her provocation no heed. "Of course anyone can lay claim to an unowned possession, but the opposite? That is a very different story."

"The item your friend is holding belongs to us. Therefore, you are not laying claim to an opportunity. You are simply stealing from us."

"When you steal from someone, you must be prepared to bear the consequences. Fortune and misfortune do not have a preference, it is always

the people who choose them through their actions. I beseech you to think carefully before choosing misfortune, friend.”

“You speak as if you have proof. Nanke itself claims that it doesn’t know you, so who can tell if you’re telling the truth or not?”

Su Xiu smiled. “Besides, no one knows if a decision is fortunate or unfortunate until after the fact, and I’m pretty sure you can’t see into the future.”

“Mortals truly are foolish. We can pave a road for them, and they’ll still choose to walk the thorny trail.” Dream Master shook his head regretfully. He could tell that the trio were pretty strong, which was why he tried to persuade them into returning the Strange Artifact instead of attacking them outright. Unfortunately, it would seem that negotiations had broken down.

If they won’t surrender Nanke, then he would take it and their lives by force.

“And how would you know if the single-log bridge in your eyes isn’t the high road in my heart?” Su Xiu chuckled once before tapping his wheelchair.

Tap.

The area abruptly plunged into darkness. The rocks disappeared, the yellow sand disintegrated, and the plants melted as a cold wind blew. It was as if this corner of the world had plunged into the Nether.

“‘Call of the Nether’? You’re a disciple of West Kunlun! That explains your confidence,” Dream Master exclaimed with a languid smile on his face. The wind was deadly, but some sort of invisible forcefield was keeping them from entering within one meter of the man.

Su Xiu lifted his finger again, and the wind abruptly tripled in intensity.

*“Call of The Nether: Stormrage”*

The world grew even darker as the storm howled. It felt as if the ground itself was about to be ripped out of the earth and sucked into the sky.

Seeing this, Dream Master raised a hand and pushed. The storm sailing toward him was immediately reflected back at Su Xiu.

Ah Su wanted to help Su Xiu, but the young man grabbed her shoulder and stopped her. “It’s fine, Ah Su. I’ll handle this. Just watch your junior sister and don’t let her run away.”

“What are you saying, first senior brother? I already said I would come with you. Why would I run away?” Greenlake Bai complained, though Su Xiu didn’t even glance in her direction. He watched the mad storm surging toward him—bigger and stronger than when he first unleashed it—and began drawing shapes with his fingers.

“I ride the darkness of heaven and earth,

I command the nether of the six qis,

I call the abode of gods and demons,

I sacrifice the terrors of humanity...”

The mysterious lines Su Xiu drew in the air slowly formed a massive array as he chanted. It seemed to be calling out to some sort of mysterious existence.

“With my life as the anchor, and my blood as the sacrifice, I summon you!”

He flicked his finger, and his index finger detached from his hand and flew into the array, disappearing. His blood was also floating in the air as it slowly seeped into the array.

The array began giving off bizarre, anomalous waves of energy as it shook violently. Right before the storm was about to hit Su Xiu, a fist suddenly reached out of the array and punched it.

The storm scattered into nothing just like that.

That wasn’t all. A humanoid creature with a bull’s head, a pair of flaming horns, and dark green snakes tangled around its body slowly stepped out of the array. Big as a hill, black water covered the demon god’s feet as he let out a deafening roar that shattered the clouds and even the darkness around it.

“The Vigorous Bull Demon? You’re using the Magia of the Call of the Nether, ‘Demoncall’, which means...” Dream Master frowned deeply. “You’re the eighth named warrior on the Human Champions Ranking, ‘Demon Caller’ Su Xiu?!”

“Demon Caller” Su Xiu was the inner disciple of the abode head of Nethercall Abode. Despite his crippled legs, he was an extraordinarily talented warrior who successfully mastered the “Call of the Nether” before he was thirty. An expert in eight Magias, he was especially proficient in summoning the demon gods of the Nether and deploying them in battle. He was famed as the number one disciple beneath the Saint of West Kunlun and known as “Demon Caller” in the *jianghu*.

Dream Master knew this because he recognized the demon god Su Xiu just summoned. It was the legendary Vigorous Bull Demon.

#### Chapter 654: Two Tigers Fight, Ye Qing Wins All

The Vigorous Bull Demon was one of the thirteen demon gods of the Nether. Its body was as tough as metal, and conventional weapons could not put even a scratch on its skin. It favored strength and could move mountains as easily as flipping its palm.

Of course, the thirteen demon gods of the Nether were immeasurably powerful. Few people possessed the right or the ability to command them. That was why the Vigorous Bull Demon Su Xiu summoned was just a projection imbued with a sliver of its power and not the demon god itself. Even so, the projection’s power could not be underestimated.

“That’s right. It is I.”

Su Xiu was looking a little pale right now. His hand where his finger was bleeding profusely, though he couldn't seem to feel it for some reason. Not only that, the blood disappeared into thin air as it dripped.

"You should've figured it out sooner though." A cruel look overcame his features. "Kill them."

Upon hearing Su Xiu's command, the Vigorous Bull Demon let out an angry roar. The two snakes tangled around his shoulders stood up and spat ghastly flames and black water at Dream Master and Dancer respectively. At the same time, the Vigorous Bull Demon raised its foot to stomp the duo into the ground.

Dream Master and Dancer were like ants before the humongous projection. When its foot finally struck the duo, the ground within a hundred meters of the point of impact was shattered like a mirror.

That wasn't all. The Vigorous Bull Demon raised both of its fists and began pounding at the duo like it was beating a drum.

For a time, the earth shook, the sky shuddered, and the dust clouds blotted out everything.

"Is this all the Eight Legions could do? How disappointing."

Su Xiu's eyes oozed with disdain when he saw how easily the Vigorous Bull Demon had overwhelmed Dream Master and Dancer.

"Is that so?"

A gentle, melodious voice responded, and the Vigorous Bull Demon's fist suddenly came to a halt as if it was blocked by something. The demon god roared furiously, but no matter how hard it pushed, it was unable to overcome whatever its enemies' defense.

When the dust clouds settled a little, the trio finally realized that the object blocking the Vigorous Bull Demon's fist... was another fist.

The owner of the fist was none other than Dream Master.

Dream Master was an ant compared to the Vigorous Bull Demon, much less his fist. It would not be an exaggeration to say that his fist was as small as a speck of dust.

And yet, there was no denying that an ant-sized human had stopped the Vigorous Bull Demon's assault; that a dust-sized fist that had stopped the Vigorous Bull Demon's fist dead in its tracks.

That was just the beginning. Su Xiu and the others watched in astonishment as Dream Master slowly pushed upward and forced the Vigorous Bull Demon's fist away from him. The humiliating sight caused the demon god to roar furiously and hatefully at Dream Master, but no matter what it did, it couldn't stop its back from straightening, couldn't stop Dream Master from pushing it away.

After Dream Master had pushed back against the Vigorous Bull Demon three inches, he abruptly waved his hand like he was brushing away the dust on his shirt. Caught off guard by the sudden burst of strength, the demon god lost its footing and fell on its back.

For a time, silence permeated the air. No one could quite believe what they just saw.

The feat was akin to an ant toppling a gargantuan tree or stirring the clouds in the sky. It should've been impossible.

"Is that all the Vigorous Bull Demon has? How disappointing," Dream Master threw Su Xiu's words right back at him. His voice was as sweet and gentle as ever, but his words were insulting to say the least.

"He's looking down on you and our Nethercall Abode, first senior brother! What a loathsome man!" Greenlake Bai pretended to be angry.

"The arrogance!"

Su Xiu's expression turned serious as he clenched his right fist before opening them. Four fingers detached themselves from his hand and sank into the void.

The next moment, four demon gods leaped out into the open and shook the world.

The first demon god was a skeleton who was covered in flames. However, the flame was so cold that ice quickly coated the earth and spread to the surroundings. It was the Skeletal Demon God.

The second demon god was scorched black in color and covered in flames as well. Unlike its brethren, its flames were hot enough to melt rocks and sand and transform its surrounding into a molten hell. It was the Scorched Flame Demon God.

The third demon god was surrounded by streams of water. Its face was completely hidden, and the water looked murky and smelled horrible. Countless rotten bodies and bones floated in the streams. It was the Black Water Demon God.

And finally, the fourth demon god was some sort of insubstantial, shapeless existence that could take on any form it wished. It could be a man, a woman, a monster; laughing, crying or yelling. Possessing the power to bewitch minds or disrupt souls, it was the Heart Distorting Heavenly Demon.

As soon as the four demon gods emerged into the world, Nine Nethers Demonic Qi filled the sky, the mountains and rivers were dyed black, and even the sun and moon turned dim and powerless. It was as if the apocalypse was upon them.

The next moment, the four demon gods charged Dream Master at the same time and unleashed their respective power. But despite this, they were unable to harm the warrior. It was as if Dream Master was some sort of god as he summoned storms of heavenly lightning, fields of earthly fire, hordes of vicious tigers and dragons, formations of celestials and gods, sword beams that seemed capable of chilling nineteen provinces, saber beams that could cut open the Nine Heavens and more.

His bag of tricks seemed endless, and despite fighting four demon gods on his own, it actually looked like he was holding the upper hand.

"I'll help you, first senior brother!"

Realizing that Su Xiu's assault wasn't bearing fruit, Greenlake Bai decided to join the battle.

Ah Su herself gently put down Su Xiu's wheelchair before pouncing toward Dream Master.

On Dream Master's side, Dancer too threw herself into battle.

Greenlake Bai flickered like a ghost as she appeared everywhere and anywhere at once. The afterimages looked fake, but some of their attacks were real, and some were not. This made it very difficult to distinguish which attack should be blocked. On top of that, Greenlake Bai was unleashing all sorts of secret arts and magic against her enemy. She certainly was putting in the effort if nothing else.

In contrast, Ah Su's techniques were much more brutal and simplistic. She was just throwing her hands and legs at her opponent almost without any rhyme or reason whatsoever. This was what people called a "farmer plowing style".

However, Ah Su's attacks were powerful, heavy, and unstoppable. Moreover, her body was so tough it was almost as if she was immune to all weapons and arts. No matter what Dream Master threw at her, they failed to put even a scratch on her skin. Every time a blade or a spell hit her body, it would elicit some sort of metallic ping and nothing else.

Thanks to Greenlake Bai and Ah Su's participation, Dream Master slowly but surely fell into a disadvantage. Still, it did not look like he was going to lose any time soon.

The battle grew more and more intense, but it would be a while before the victors were decided.

.....

"What are they doing?"

Ye Qing was sitting on top of a broken wall and staring at the two groups with a strange expression.

Giggle was also copying Ye Qing's behavior and tilting his head at the distant groups.

From Ye Qing's perspective, Su Xiu and Dream Master were "calmly" threatening the fuck out of each other when suddenly, they fell completely still. They just stood there like they were statues, and no one was saying a word.

The tension was razor sharp just now. I thought for sure you guys are gonna fight each other to the death, so why aren't you fighting?

Why are you just standing there like you had suddenly fallen asleep?

This is fucking bullshit!

Ye Qing couldn't begin to describe how puzzled and miffed he was. He was puzzled because he didn't know what the hell was going on with the duo, and he was miffed because he couldn't play the fisherman if they didn't fight.

Yes, Ye Qing's plan was very simple. He was going to let the sandpiper and the clam wear each other out before he destroyed them both.

Su Xiu had picked up Nanke not because he got dogshit lucky, but because Ye Qing had made it so.

First, he leaked Nanke's presence and drew Dream Master and Dancer toward Su Xiu. A moment before they arrived, he dropped Nanke in Su Xiu's path.

That was how Su Xiu came across Nanke.

However, there was a chance Su Xiu might not recognize Nanke. Not everyone was as well-read as him after all. So, how could he make Su Xiu recognize its value?

He left that up to Black Lord and White Lord. It hadn't taken much effort at all to persuade the two artifact spirits to put up an act, and all it cost was a simple request.

Thanks to Black Lord and White Lord, Su Xiu quickly recognized the true value of Nanke and became greedy. He no longer felt like giving it up to anyone.

Right after that, Dream Master and Dancer showed up. What followed next was a series of threats and counter threats.

Just in case Su Xiu succumbed to Dream Master's threat and surrendered Nanke, Ye Qing used his demonic thought to enlarge his greed and his obsession.

It worked. Negotiations had broken down just a few minutes later.

#### Chapter 655: Dream Butterfly True Scripture

Since negotiations had failed, it was time to speak with one's fists.

Su Xiu was strong, and Dream Master was no weakling either. A battle between the duo was almost certainly going to cost them dearly. Depending on how evenly matched they were, it might even result in mutual destruction.

If everything went smoothly, then he would be able to eliminate Dream Master effortlessly, end their hunt permanently, and even take revenge against Greenlake Bai. He would be killing three birds with one stone. What's not to like?

At first, things had gone exactly as he envisioned. Negotiations had broken down, and it looked like the duo was going to clash against each other in epic combat. And then... nothing happened.

Both Su Xiu and Dream Master had suddenly frozen in place as if they were pretending to be a tree. It was the same for everyone else. A moment later, they even closed their eyes as if they were taking a nap. Were they so tired that they fell asleep or something?

It was at this moment Ye Qing realized something. "Wait a second. Sleeping? Dream Master?"

Suddenly, Dancer opened her eyes and giggled softly. Then, she began walking toward Su Xiu and his group.

When she was right in front of Su Xiu, she summoned an oddly-shaped weapon into her hand.

The weapon was about one meter in length and shaped like a rectangular dagger. The corners of the blade looked very sharp, and there was a hilt at the center of the weapon. It looked somewhat similar to a Buddhist's gada[1], except it was covered in black dried blood and rust. At first glance, it didn't look or feel special at all.

Dancer then raised the gada and thrust it toward Su Xiu's forehead.

*Looks like I'm right.*

Dancer's action confirmed Ye Qing's suspicion. Unless he was gravely mistaken, Dream Master must have used some sort of art to draw everyone into a dream. Then, he woke up Dancer so she could kill the trio in real life.

Although he couldn't feel anything unusual from the gada, he had no doubt that it would deal Su Xiu a grievous blow, if not kill him outright.

Ye Qing furrowed his brow in hesitation. Should he rescue Su Xiu, or should he let him die?

He quickly arrived at a decision. He was going to save Su Xiu.

The reason he pitted them against each other in the first place was to weaken both sides, and that couldn't happen if one side overwhelmingly crushed the other side. If Dream Master won right here and now, then he would be able to face Ye Qing at nearly full strength. It was the same if Su Xiu overwhelmingly dominated Dream Master. In both cases, he would be at a disadvantage.

Therefore, the best outcome for him was if both sides were grievously injured.

On the surface, it looked like Su Xiu had the numbers advantage. Su Xiu, Ah Su and Greenlake Bai were also quite strong, so it looked like the upper hand was theirs. In reality, they weren't united in purpose. Not even remotely. Su Xiu and Greenlake Bai in particular were barely hiding their hostility toward each other beneath a veneer of feigned civility and nominal bond.

If Su Xiu died, and there was no one left to suppress Greenlake Bai, then the woman was going to run away for sure. There was a higher chance that a toad could eat a swan[2] than Greenlake Bai staying behind and fighting Dream Master to the death, and alone, it was highly unlikely that Ah Su would be able to defeat Dream Master and Dancer.

Should this scenario happen, forget killing his pursuers or taking revenge against Greenlake Bai, it was far likelier than he would lose both Nanke and Greenlake Bai. All of his scheming would only lead to a painful double loss.

That was why he needed to ruin Dream Master's ploy and rescue Su Xiu. Only when both sides were on even ground could he maximize the damage they suffered.

His mind made up, Ye Qing pointed a finger toward Su Xiu and tapped the space in front of him.

.....

Inside the dreamscape, Su Xiu was growing increasingly pale. The stumps on his right hand were no longer bleeding blood. Instead, they were bleeding black refined qi and vitality.

While "Demoncall" was a powerful art that allowed its practitioner to connect to the Nine Nethers and summon gods and demons to help them, the price was the practitioner's mind and vitality.

Su Xiu believed it was worth it if he could kill Dream Master and obtain Nanke though.

Dream Master was slowly but surely faltering under the combined assault of five demon gods, Ah Su and Greenlake Bai. Just a little more, and victory would be his.

Suddenly, Su Xiu sensed a terrible killing intent that chilled him to his core. It had appeared out of nowhere and seemingly originated from a different world. It was both confusing and unexpected.

*Wait a second. If the killing intent came from another world, then where am I?!*



As soon as doubt sprouted in Su Xiu's heart, the world before his eyes abruptly started rippling like a reflection that was disturbed by a gust of wind.

*It's all fake!*

Su Xiu's eyes widened. His eyes began rippling like a wave, and a pair of flood dragons abruptly burst into the open and ripped the mirage before him into pieces. When he returned to reality and opened his eyes for real, he immediately saw a sharp object growing larger and larger in his vision.

**"The audacity!"**

Every cell in Su Xiu's body screamed for him to react as he swept out with his astral qi and spiritual power. Completely caught off guard, Dancer took a direct hit and was sent flying into the air, blood spraying out of her mouth like a geyser.

Her injuries weren't her concern though. Su Xiu's sudden awakening was.

Dream Master's cultivation art was called the "Dream Butterfly True Scripture" or the "Zhuangzi Dream Butterfly Scripture". It was a divine art created by an ancient Taoist sage known as Zhuang Zhou.

Legend had it that Zhuang Zhou—also known as Zhuangzi—was sleeping on a grassy plain when he had an interesting dream. He dreamed that he had transformed into a butterfly who was flying about and exploring the world aimlessly. It was such a happy moment that he almost forgot who he was and what he was.

Zhuangzi jolted awake from his dream eventually, but he could recall the details of his dream as clear as day. When he got up to take a good look at himself and recall his dream, he was suddenly struck by a most curious dilemma: was he Zhuangzi the human, or was he the butterfly? Did he transform into a butterfly in his dream, or did the butterfly transform into him in its dream? Was he a human who had jolted back to reality after his dream came to an end, or was he a butterfly who was just starting a new dream as a human?

Later, Zhuangzi created the "Zhuangzi Dream Butterfly Scripture" based on this experience. Practitioners of this art could enter dreams via butterflies, and the dreams were so realistic that it was nigh impossible for the victim to recognize, much less break out of.

Of course, Zhuangzi hadn't created the "Zhuangzi Dream Butterfly Scripture" with murder and assassination in mind. It was originally an orthodox Taoist art that was used to hone one's heart and temper one's ability to distinguish reality and illusion. This allowed the practitioner to achieve transcendence and become one with the world, also known as Heaven-Human Unity.

Later, the "Zhuangzi Dream Butterfly Scripture" fell into the Eight Legions' hands. After many years of study and improvement, Di Shitian slowly modified it into the "Dream Butterfly True Sutra". He preserved the "Zhuangzi Dream Butterfly Scripture"'s ability to enter dreams via butterflies but made it even more anomalous and undetectable than before. It allowed the practitioner to draw someone into a dream without their knowledge and slay their soul within the dream, leaving no trace in the real world.

At the adept level, the "Dream Butterfly True Scripture" could even transform an entire corner of the world into a dream. When the dreamer awoke, everyone and everything residing within the dream would perish.

It was the fate of a denizen of a dream to disappear after all.

This was not an exaggerated account either. Once upon a time, a champion of the Devas went to sleep after reaching the adept level of the “Dream Butterfly True Scripture”. Unbeknownst to him, every living being within hundreds and hundreds of kilometers of him fell into a slumber as well. Inside his dream, he dreamed of marrying a beautiful wife, having a son, building a family, and generally experiencing a life that was so real it was nigh indistinguishable from reality. When he finally passed away inside the dream and awoke to reality, the dream disappeared, and every soul who had been unwittingly drawn into the dream perished as well.

Although Dream Master was an excellent warrior among his peers, of course he was still a ways away from mastering the “Dream Butterfly True Scripture”. He could draw someone weaker than him into his dream and extinguish their soul instantly, but if his opponent’s cultivation level was equal or stronger than his, or if their mind was particularly strong and tenacious, then it would take a little more effort to kill them.

#### Chapter 656: Devour Demon

Although Dream Master could draw someone into a dream undetected, and he was over twice as strong inside a dream than he was in real life because he was the master of the dream, he still couldn’t snuff out an equal’s mind with a single thought.

Moreover, once his enemy began doubting the reality around them because they noticed something amiss inside the dream, or their real body were disturbed in the real world, the dream would shatter, and they would return to reality.

There was a caveat though. The longer they remained inside a dream, the harder it was for them to distinguish between dream and reality, real and unreal. The moment they fully believed that the dream they were trapped inside was reality was the moment they were lost in the dream forever, never to awaken again.

Was Su Xiu, Ah Su and Greenlake Bai strong?

Of course they were.

That was why Dream Master could not kill them outright despite being strong enough inside the dream to fight them all by himself.

But Dream Master didn’t necessarily have to kill them inside the dream. If someone were to kill their bodies in real life, then they would perish just the same.

This was Dancer’s moment to shine. While the enemies were still trapped inside his dream, she could kill their bodies in real life.

The feat required more skill than it seemed though. No one here was a weakling, so any disturbance from the real world such as energies or killing intent could potentially jolt them awake. What this meant was that she needed to assassinate her enemies without a hint of killing intent or energy.

This was nothing to Dancer though. She had cooperated with Dream Master many times to assassinate a target. She was practically an old hand in this regard.

The weapon in her hand was called the Soul Boring Gada. It was a Phenomenon-class Strange Artifact. All she needed to do was to strike her target’s forehead with the weapon and draw blood,

and it would punch a hole through their soul and damage their Yin God. It was a deadly weapon to put it mildly.

From Dancer's perspective, she was doing everything perfectly. She had not revealed any killing intent or energy, so why did Su Xiu awaken at the last moment and ruin everything?

Now wasn't the time to think about these things though. After Su Xiu awakened, he let out an angry roar and a shockwave of energy that snapped Ah Su and Greenlake Bai out of their dream as well.

Right after they awakened, a colorful butterfly flew out of their head each. It crumbled into nothing just a few seconds later.

“The ‘Dream Butterfly True Scripture’?!”

All of the gentleness Su Xiu wore on his face earlier was gone. His eyes were ice cold as he stared at the crumbling butterflies for a moment. Since when had they plunged into a dream? Maybe it was when they first met. Maybe it was even earlier than that. He couldn't tell since he never noticed anything wrong until the very end. As far as he knew, the only martial art the Eight Legions possessed that could pull off such a feat was the “Dream Butterfly True Scripture”.

Even now, Su Xiu's heart was beating with trepidation. If it wasn't for that killing intent that came out of nowhere, he might already be dead. Speaking of which, it probably came from Dancer.

Su Xiu subconsciously looked at Dancer and gave her a gentle smile that did not reach the eyes. As thanks, I shan't torture you too much before I end your miserable life.

Dancer's response to Su Xiu's obvious hostility was a blank, confused stare.

Meanwhile, Dream Master had opened his eyes and said smilingly, “A most astute deduction, Brother Su.”

“Oh? I thought you would deny it.” Su Xiu sounded surprised.

“Why would I? It's not like the ‘Dream Butterfly True Scripture’ is a taboo art that needs to be kept under wraps.” Dream Master's smile did not falter in the slightest.

“Looks like you're ready to die,” Su Xiu declared with a nod.

“What makes you say that, Brother Su?” Dream Master replied unhurriedly.

“Now that I know that your cultivation art is the ‘Dream Butterfly True Scripture’, I can no longer be influenced by it. What can a Dream Master possibly do without his dream powers?”

Su Xiu scoffed with dripping disdain. “Prepare to die.”

Although the “Dream Butterfly True Scripture” was incredibly potent, it was strongest when its victim wasn't aware of its existence. Now that he was fully aware and on guard against the martial

art, he did not believe it could exert much power. In his opinion, Dream Master was already dead. Reality just hadn't caught up to the fact yet.

"I understand your logic," Dream Master nodded, "but a dream can be real, just as the real can be a dream. You thought you had pierced through my dream and caught me at my weakest, but did you really? Are you sure you've pierced the veil of illusions? Are you sure you aren't still dreaming?"

"You think you can trick me with that?"

Su Xiu's face darkened as he summoned the Vigorous Bull Demon, the Skeletal Demon God, the Scorched Flame Demon God, the Black Water Demon God, and the Heart Distorting Heavenly Demon into existence once more. They then rushed toward Dream Master at the same time.

"The world is an illusion, humanity a dream..."

Dream Master remained calm even though five terrifying demon gods were charging him. As he slowly opened his palms, a flock of butterflies flew out and caused the space around him to ripple like water.

The strange barrier kept the five demon gods away from Dream Master. No matter how hard they ran, no matter what they tried, they could not get close to the man no matter what. What should've been an arm's distance felt like infinity. It was as if they didn't exist in the same space.

Su Xiu's response to this was to summon a shadow from behind his back. It kept growing and growing until it looked like it was carrying the sky on its back.

The shadow did not have a fixed form and appeared more like a cloud or a fog. The ripples covering its whole body also prevented it from being recognizable.

The next moment, five chains burst out of the giant shadow and wrapped around the five demon gods. Before they could react, the chains pulled them all into the shadow.

Bloodcurdling screams and chewing noises came from within the shadows. When the sounds subsided, the shadow faded away to reveal a powerful demon god.

The demon god had a face that resembled Su Xiu. It had a pair of horns on its head, and it carried dragons and serpents on its shoulders. It had a skeletal body of scorched black bones, and flowing streams carrying countless rotten bodies circled around it. Eerie screams, wails, and laughter filled the air, bending the mind and warping the soul with every passing second.

The new demon god looked like a union of the five demon gods Su Xiu summoned. This was Su Xiu's "Nethercall" and "Devour Demon".

A Nether Caller possessed the ability to form a link between the Nether and the real world and borrow its power, and "Devour Demon" was a method to better utilize that power and the strongest Magia in the "Call of the Nether".

"Call of the Nether" was the ultimate art of the Nethercall Abode of West Kunlun. A Grandmaster-stage martial art, it boasted five arts and eight Magias. Out of

the eight Magias, “Demoncall” and “Devour Demon” were the strongest and possessed unlimited potential.

“Demoncall” summoned demon gods from the Nether and put them under the summoner’s command. The stronger the summoner, the more powerful the demon god they could summon.

Should “Demoncall” proved to be inadequate, “Devour Demon” was the next step of the equation. The summoner could have their Yin God devour all the demon gods they summoned and transform into a super demon god that possessed all the powers and abilities of the demon gods.

Naturally, the more demon gods it devoured, the stronger the yin god would become.

The five demon gods were pretty strong, and they were strong enough to handle most enemies. Unfortunately, Dream Master was clearly out of their league.

Just now, he had fought a great battle against Dream Master in his dreamscape. Although it was just a dream, the spiritual power and mental power he expended was very real. Knowing that a battle of attrition would probably put him at a severe disadvantage, he decided to end this battle as soon as possible.

That was why he used “Devour Demon” and have his Yin God devour the five demon gods. After his Yin God transformed into a super demon god, it was over five times stronger than it was before and on par with a Grandmaster.

But of course, the duration of the super demon god was proportional to the amount of strength it gained. If he tried to maintain the power for too long, his Yin God would explode, and his mind would disappear like a candle flame.

At his current strength, he could only retain the power of a Grandmaster for three breaths at most.

There was a massive power gap between a Grandmaster and a Half-Step Grandmaster though. Literally speaking, it looked like they were only separated by two words. In reality, it was the difference between heaven and earth.

Three breaths were short, but it was enough time to kill a single person.

#### Chapter 657: Needle of Suffering

Su Xiu watched Dream Master with eyes that resembled the downcast reflections of the sun and the moon. Space shattered, and countless butterflies disappeared without a sound.

For the first time, Dream Master lost his composure. His body shook, and his complexion turned a little paler than usual. Then, a gigantic butterfly appeared in front of him.

The butterfly looked as big as a mountain and had a pair of wings that looked like they were hanging from the topmost point of sky. Unnaturally colorful and dreamlike, it enveloped the entire area in light and gave it some sort of ephemeral, dreamlike quality.

The butterfly flapped its wings so gently that it did not conjure any wind whatsoever. However, the colorful light it emitted conjured ripples of light that looked like countless dancing butterflies. It looked as if the entire world was a massive, ever-expanding dream.

Su Xiu let out a cold chuckle and commanded his Yin God forward. In response, the Yin God let out a heaven-shattering roar and surged toward Dream Master on a river of black water.

At first glance, it looked like the two warriors were only fifty or so meters away from each other. In reality, the butterfly's light seemed to stretch the space between them until infinity.

It didn't matter though. Every time the Yin God took a step forward, the light would wink out, the ripples would disintegrate, and the butterflies would disappear. The Magia that kept the five demon gods from approaching Dream Master earlier could not stop Su Xiu's Yin God in the slightest.

During the first breath, the Yin God crossed what looked like an infinite distance, shattered the illusion, and appeared in front of Dream Master.

During the second breath, the Yin God grabbed the wings of the gigantic butterfly, roared, and ripped the butterfly in half.

And finally, during the third breath, the Yin God ripped open the sky itself and engulfed Dream Master in a swarm of meteors.

*BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM*

The ground shook like crazy, and everything and anything was destroyed. At the center of the impact, Dream Master scattered into countless butterflies in an attempt to dodge the powerful attack. However, they were destroyed by the falling meteors and the deadly shockwaves one after another.

When the dust clouds faded to reveal a bottomless chasm and a scorched wasteland, not a speck of Dream Master could be found anywhere.

Su Xiu barked out in laughter when he scanned his surroundings and found no traces of Dream Master. "Hahaha! So what if you're one of the Eight Legions of Devas and Nagas? You're still nothing before me!"

"Most impressive, first senior brother."

Greenlake Bai paid him a compliment before looking at Dancer's direction all of a sudden. The woman was currently running away at top speed. She said in a hurry, "Not good! If she manages to escape, then first senior brother will be in deep trouble! You must catch her, third senior sister!"

When Ah Su heard this, she immediately took off with a bang and gave chase. Su Xiu blanched and shouted, "Ah Su! Come back!"

Unfortunately, he sensed his voice being blocked by some sort of invisible power. As a result, Ah Su did not hear his shout.

"Hehehe... don't waste your breath, first senior brother. Third senior sister can't hear you."

A gentle voice rang right next to his right ear, followed by a gust of fragrant wind.

Greenlake Bai appeared behind his back before he could react. Holding his shoulders with both hands and bending a little, she pressed her face against Su Xiu's back firmly.

The gesture seemed affectionate, but of course there was nothing affectionate about her intentions.

“What do you think you’re doing, junior sister?”

“Taking care of you, of course.” Greenlake Bai beamed at him. “You just used ‘Devour Demon’, and your mind is damaged and weaker than it has ever been. I bet you’re so exhausted you can barely move, can you? Since third senior sister is chasing after that woman, it falls upon me to take care of you, don’t you agree?”

“How kind of you,” Su Xiu said with a gentle smile that didn’t reach the eyes.

“It’s only right. After all, I owe you much during our time together.” Greenlake Bai continued to smile brightly as she toyed with Su Xiu’s hair. “In fact, I owe you so much that I’m not sure how I can ever repay you. The only way I can think of is —”

“This is the part where you offer your hand in marriage, isn’t it?” Su Xiu asked.

Greenlake Bai giggled. “Hahaha... your idea is sound, but I already have a husband. It is unethical for a woman to marry more than two husbands at the same time, and even if it isn’t, I don’t want to break third senior sister’s heart. That is why I’ve come up with a better idea.”

“Oh yeah? What is it?” Su Xiu asked smilingly.

“Ending your life,” Greenlake Bai replied with a smile that did not fit her words at all. “If you’re dead, then I won’t ever need to repay you, am I right?”

“I see!”

Su Xiu did not get angry though. In fact, he seemed unusually calm for some reason. “Before that, I have a question for you, junior sister. Do you think I’m foolish?”

“Not at all. You are wise and farsighted.”

“Do you think I’m stupid?”

“Not at all. You’re one of the smartest people I’ve ever met.”

“Since I’m neither foolish nor stupid, what makes you think I would give you the opportunity to kill me?” Su Xiu stared at Greenlake Bai scornfully and ridiculingly despite his pallid complexion.

“Oh my, I’m so scared!” Greenlake Bai patted her chest with feigned terror while giggling like a bell. “Third senior sister isn’t coming back anytime soon, and you are exhausted right now. What could you possibly do to hurt me, first senior brother?”

“You’ve always been a smart girl, junior sister. Why don’t you check out the back of your neck yet?” Su Xiu asked calmly.

Greenlake Bai instinctively touched the back of her neck and immediately felt a small bump. It almost felt like an insect bite, but insect bites rarely stung, itched, chilled, warmed and numbed the flesh all at the same time.

“The Needle of Suffering...”

“You do remember it.” Su Xiu nodded in satisfaction.

He knew better than most that Greenlake Bai was a cunning fox. That was why he had planted the Needle of Suffering in her since the very beginning. It was his insurance in case Greenlake Bai decided to make her escape.

“Out of everyone in our abode, you are the last person I expected to learn our master’s Needle of Suffering, first senior brother,” Greenlake Bai said sarcastically.

The Needle of Suffering was invented by their master, a.k.a the abode head of the Nethercall Abode. In many cases, needles were a tool of healing and recovery. But in the hands of the abode head, it was a torture device.

When he was still alive, there was nothing the abode head of the Nethercall Abode enjoyed more than torturing others. He had invented so many torture methods in pursuit of his sick pleasure that some of the worst methods he invented were given a title: “One Needle, Three Punishments, Five Severances, and Eight Annihilations”.

To elaborate, the One Needle inflicted suffering beyond mortal endurance, the Three Punishments made the victim wish they were dead, the Five Severances tortured the victim to the point where they permanently lost an aspect of their humanity, and the Eight Annihilations terrified even the ghosts and gods.

The One Needle referred to the Needle of Suffering. It was also the cruelest out of the seventeen torture methods.

As its name implied, the Needle of Suffering inflicted tremendous suffering upon its victim. Just inserting the needle into one’s body was enough to inflict suffering beyond mortal comprehension. It could inflict every pain and suffering there was to inflict in the world and make the victim beg for the sweet release of death.

That wasn’t the worst of it, however. The pain and suffering inflicted by the Needle of Suffering only grew as time passed. It would continuously get worse until the victim broke down, or the needle was removed.

Back when he was still alive, the abode head loved nothing more than to torment Su Xiu and Ah Su with the Needle of Suffering. Moreover, he never tortured them at the same time. He only tortured one of them and forced the other person to watch.

Even crueler, the abode head would occasionally make them torture each other using the Needle of Suffering. It was a kind of cruelty worse than death itself.

The Needle of Suffering was easily the reason he loathed the abode head to the bone. He was also beyond terrified of it. Despite this, Su Xiu always chose the



Needle of Suffering every time the abode head asked him to pick a torture method. It was clear he was obsessed with it despite it being the thing that terrified him more than anything.

This wasn't important though. What was important was that the Needle of Suffering was invented by the abode head and thus could not be cured by anyone except him. Attempting to remove it would only worsen the pain and suffering.

"Why are you surprised? Besides each other, this is the one memory that we will never forget in our lives. Why wouldn't I learn it?"

Su Xiu's smile was gentle, but his voice was distorted by madness and anger. "Not only did I learn it, I toiled endlessly to perfect my mastery. Only then can I repay everyone for all the misery they had inflicted upon me and Ah Su. Only then can I torture those who harbor malice toward us until they wish they were dead. Don't you agree, junior sister? Hahahaha!"

Suddenly, Su Xiu noticed something. "Hmm? You don't seem afraid, junior sister."

Chapter 658: Demon Controlling Jade Manual

"My, my... I admit that I'm afraid of master's punishments. Oh, I'm absolutely terrified..."

Greenlake Bai pretended to be shocked by the revelation. "However, out of all the punishments he could dish out, the Needle of Suffering is the one thing I'm not afraid of. It's a mighty coincidence, don't you think?"

"What?" Su Xiu's calm facade cracked a little. With a thought, he activated the Needle of Suffering he implanted in Greenlake Bai's body. After the Needle of Suffering had entered the victim's body, the controller simply needed to think to subject the victim to a kind of torture that was worse than death itself. However, Greenlake Bai was perfectly fine after he activated the Needle of Suffering inside her body. Not only that, she wiped a finger across the wound and extracted an unbelievable number of silver needles—all as thin and small as a bull's hair—from it.

The name "Needle of Suffering" made it sound like it was one needle, and to be fair, it was a single needle before it was implanted in one's body. However, once the needle entered a victim's body, it would split into countless silver needles the size of a bull's hair and spread to every corner of one's body and mind. That was why it was so difficult to remove the Needle of Suffering completely. And yet, there was no denying the fact that Greenlake Bai had removed the Needle of Suffering from her body like it was nothing.

"How is this possible?"

Su Xiu panicked. He could not understand what was happening.

"Haven't I told you that I'm a practitioner of the Needle of Suffering as well? In fact, I'm willing to bet that my mastery is greater than yours. Do you know why?" Greenlake Bai beamed at him.

“Impossible! The old bastard told me that he taught me and only me the Needle of Suffering. There’s no way you would know it!” Su Xiu exclaimed in disbelief.

“And you believe him? Seriously?” Greenlake Bai moved closer to Su Xiu and whispered beside his ear. “Well, he was telling the truth this time. You are the only one he taught the Needle of Suffering.”

“But you see, there is one secret that I haven’t told you yet. I’m the one who invented the Needle of Suffering and taught it to master.”

“You... that’s impossible! It just cannot be possible!” Su Xiu yelled. He had considered many possibilities, but this was the one possibility that never crossed his mind. It was literally more ludicrous than stumbling onto Nanke by accident.

It had to be the truth though. Otherwise, there was no way she could’ve removed the Needle of Suffering so easily.

It also meant that everything she did until this point was a trap; a trap she had laid for him and Ah Su to obtain the Demon Controlling Jade Manual.

Greenlake Bai was talented, but she was still pretty young. She wasn’t the weakest of all the direct disciples the abode head taught, but she definitely wasn’t the strongest either. In a head on battle, she was absolutely no match for Su Xiu or Ah Su, much less the two of them combined.

That was why Greenlake Bai purposely feigned weakness and allowed herself to be caught. It was because she knew that Su Xiu was obsessed with the Needle of Suffering, and that he would definitely use it on her once he captured her.

Greenlake Bai didn’t fear the Needle of Suffering in the slightest because she knew how to eliminate it. On the other hand, he had grown lax and careless because he thought he had Greenlake Bai’s fate in his palm. When it was time, she could easily turn the tables against him, which she did. Hells, she might even have steered things so that this exact scenario would happen.

A million thoughts raced inside Su Xiu’s head. In the end, it all morphed into a sigh. “You’re well-prepared. As expected of you, junior sister. This is my loss.”

“So, what do you want? I shall fulfill any wish so long as it is within my power to fulfill.”

Su Xiu recognized that there was no turning this around, and that everything he had such as the Demon Controlling Jade Manual or Nanke would soon fall into Greenlake Bai’s hands.

Was he satisfied with this outcome?

Of course not!

Was he resentful?

Of course he was!

But no matter how resentful and angry he was, there was nothing he could do to change this outcome. The only thing he could do now was to survive.

The dead could not affect anything. That was a privilege that belonged solely to the living.

That was why he must live. Only by staying alive would he get the chance to get revenge against Greenlake Bai.

“Do you really need me to tell you what I want, first senior brother?” Greenlake Bai giggled happily while playing with Su Xiu’s hair.

“I know you want me dead, junior sister, but killing me would not benefit you one bit.”

Su Xiu lay out his analysis calmly, “If you kill me, Ah Su would go insane and fight you to the death. She will hunt you to the ends of the earth if it’s the last thing she does, and I’m sure you know better than me just how scary she can be. But if you keep me alive, you can avoid triggering Ah Su and obtain two free helpers.”

“Not only can I get you the Demon Controlling Jade Manual, I can aid you in cementing your position as the new head of the Nethercall Abode as well.”

“Sometimes, the living is far more useful than the dead. Don’t you agree, junior sister?”

There were thirteen abodes in West Kunlun. Some of them were strong, and some of them were weak, but all of them possessed their own unique inheritance and Magias. So long as their inheritance and Magias remained, the thirteen abodes would never die.

Take the Nethercall Abode for example. The Nethercall Abode owned a jade book known as the Demon Controlling Jade Manual. It was a book that only the abode head of the Nethercall Abode was qualified to command and a symbol of their authority.

The Demon Controlling Jade Manual was quite magical in its own right. Anyone who obtained the complete manual would gain the the Nethercall Abode’s complete inheritance, obtain a shortcut that would enable them to enter the Grandmaster stage in just a short time, and know exactly how they should cultivate to become a Sage in the future.

Without exaggeration, the Demon Controlling Jade Manual was one of the main reasons the Nethercall Abode would never go extinct even in the worst case scenario.

Before their master passed away, he had split the Demon Controlling Jade Manual into five copies and bestowed his five disciples—Su Xiu, Ah Su, Greenlake Bai, and two other disciples—a copy each. He promised that any disciple who managed to collect all five copies would become the head of the Nethercall Abode.

It was obvious that the abode head purposely did this to force his disciple into fighting each other to the death for his inheritance, but frankly, it was probably a pointless gesture. They would have killed each other for the Demon Controlling Jade Manual even without his scheming.

After all, the Demon Controlling Jade Manual promised not just the position of abode head, but also a shortcut to become a Grandmaster and a clear path to the Sage stage. This was a temptation no warrior could possibly resist.

This was why Su Xiu was certain that Greenlake Bai wouldn't kill him. She had always been an ambitious woman. If she really wished to obtain the Demon Controlling Jade Manual and become the new master of the Nethercall Abode, then killing him would only achieve the opposite.

A few breaths later, Greenlake Bai finally let out a giggle. "Hahaha... why so nervous, first senior brother? I was just teasing you. I could never kill a childhood friend, much less wound third senior sister's heart."

"Speaking of which, third senior sister is going to return very soon. Allow me to treat your wounds so that third senior sister would not be saddened by the sight of you."

"Thank you, junior sister," Su Xiu said with a gentle smile. He knew that Greenlake Bai was really planning to implant some sort of restriction in him so he wouldn't be able to resist her orders, but he did not struggle. There was simply no point. Besides, it seemed quite short-sighted to provoke a retaliatory response after Greenlake Bai had agreed to his proposal, even if that was what she was planning from the beginning.

In fact, he did not need to reveal his bargaining chips, his trump cards and his plans to her. After all, she was going to let him live no matter what. However, he didn't dare to gamble with his life especially since he was facing a woman. They said that trying to understand a woman's heart was akin to finding a needle at the bottom of the sea. He would have to be insane to gamble his one and only life on the possibility that Greenlake Bai wouldn't suddenly change her mind.

"No! Save me!"

Greenlake Bai was caressing Su Xiu's head and getting ready to implant a "Soul Isolating Curse" to control his Yin God when suddenly, Su Xiu's let out a cry of panic and fear.

"What?"

Greenlake Bai was confused by his sudden reaction when her senior brother abruptly ceased trembling, and his pupils dilated. Then, his head exploded in a shower of brain matter and gore.

Chapter 659: Nethercall Demonic Possession Record

"What in the..."

Greenlake Bai's astral qi prevented the shower of gore from touching a hair on her person, but because of this, her shock and ugly expression were plain to see. At the same time, the blood drained away from her face.

It was because she recognized that she was in trouble.

It was because Su Xiu had died in front of her, and there was no one around him.

She knew she hadn't killed Su Xiu, but who would believe her? She wouldn't believe herself if she was a spectator.

As if on cue, she heard a shrill, mournful cry, "AH XIU!!!"

At the distance, Ah Su was holding a limp Dancer by the neck. Dancer was currently covered in blood and barely breathing.

Ah Su's attention wasn't on Dancer, however. She was staring at the headless Su Xiu with wide eyes and a dazed expression.

It was clear that she had returned just in time to witness the horrific sight.

Bloody tears began sliding down Ah Su's cheeks. Her exposed skin started turning black, smooth, and tough. Demonic patterns appeared around her body and formed a bizarre picture.

In the picture, a demon was looking down on the world from above the Nine Heavens. On the ground, countless demons were bowing their heads to the demon in submission.

BOOM

As soon as the picture took form, the demons in the picture started howling at the top of their lungs, and the ground beneath Ah Su's feet began rippling outward like water. The earth sank inch by inch as if it could not withstand her weight.

In her hand, Dancer exploded into a shower of blood and gore.

"You killed Ah Su. I will kill you."

Ah Su looked at Greenlake Bai with cold, emotionless, and lifeless eyes. Before, Ah Su's blank, indifferent eyes still retained a sliver of warmth and love despite her condition. But now, her humanity had fled her completely. All that was left in her eyes was iciness, indifference, bloodthirst and hatred.

"I didn't kill first senior brother, third senior sister! You have to believe me!"

Greenlake Bai hurriedly defended herself even though she knew how weak and powerless it sounded. She had to try though, because she knew better than most just how scary Ah Su was when she was crazy.

Ah Su's cultivation art was called the "Nethercall Demonic Possession Record". It was one of the strongest and most difficult martial art to cultivate not just in West Kunlun, but the entire world.

In the "Martial Review", there was a remark under the "Nethercall Demonic Possession Record" that went something like this: "This is a martial art that belongs solely to celestials and demons because its power is infinite, and no humans can carry infinity on their shoulders."

The "Nethercall Demonic Possession Record" was a pure body-tempering martial art. To begin, one must tattoo an image of ten thousand demons on their body. During the tattooing process, the ink must seep into the flesh, the intent must seep into the bones, and the practitioner must withstand both the pain of being eaten alive, and the torment of having their mind invaded by countless demons. If the practitioner faltered even a little during the process, all progress would be lost, and their mind would be consumed by the demons. Therefore, an iron will was the minimum requirement one must possess before they could even begin to cultivate the "Nethercall Demonic Possession Record".

This was just the first step, however. After the tattoo was engraved, the practitioner must accept demonic qi into their body so as to purify their blood, renew their marrows, and nurture the tattoo painting. They must suffer pain that was best described as being stabbed by countless needles, or being consumed alive by insects.

On top of that, every time the practitioner successfully nurtured a demon spirit, a heavenly tribulation would appear to smite the practitioner. The more demonic spirits they nurtured, the deadlier the tribulation would become. One misstep, and the practitioner would be annihilated just like that.

In order to master[1] the “Nethercall Demonic Possession Record”, one must nurture ten thousand demonic spirits and suffer ten thousand heavenly tribulations. To say that the journey was perilous would be the biggest understatement of the century.

As if that wasn’t bad enough, the practitioner could not cultivate any other martial art after they began the “Nethercall Demonic Possession Record”, and they couldn’t stop advancing the martial art even after they had reached the adept level. Otherwise, their meridians would self-implode, and their soul would be annihilated.

This was why no one had ever successfully cultivated the “Nethercall Demonic Possession Record” to the adept level to this day, and those who tried either went crazy, lost their soul and transformed into a mindless husk, or died to a heavenly tribulation. Without exaggeration, no one who cultivated this martial art ever had met a good ending.

That said, the power offered by the “Nethercall Demonic Possession Record” was equal to its difficulty. Legend had it that those who managed to master the martial art would become so powerful it was as if they were empowered by ten thousand demons. Through this power, they could transform into a Primordial Heavenly Demon and the sovereign of all demons. They would become eternal and immortal.

Of course, the legend remained a legend to this day since no one had ever managed to cultivate the martial art to the adept stage.

That said, there was once a West Kunlun disciple named Chen Zhanxian who successfully advanced the “Nethercall Demonic Possession Record” past the one thousandth mark. His body was immune to all arts, and his strength rivaled the gods and demons themselves. He was the strongest warrior in the entire world, and he was so powerful he singlehandedly defeated everyone’s greatest champions. Such was his power that the people called him the “Invincible Chen Zhanxian”, the man who could snuff out gods and demons like ants. Thanks to him, West Kunlun was also raised to the top of the world for a time.

Unfortunately, their Golden Age also came to an end because of Chen Zhanxian. While cultivating the “Nethercall Demonic Possession Record”, he attracted a Soul Slaughtering Nether Wind Tribulation that damaged his Three Heavenly Souls. As a result, he became insane and went on a rampage in West Kunlun.

The greatest powers of West Kunlun—the Three Sages, Six Sovereigns, and Thirteen Abode Heads—came together to suppress Chen Zhanxian, but the man proved difficult to kill even in his addled

state. The battle was so great that the sacred peak of Kunlun was snapped in half, and the Demonic Ruins was crushed into smithereens.

In the end, the champions of West Kunlun were able to suppress Chen Zhanxian, but the price they had to pay was one severely injured Sage and the death of two Sovereigns, five Abode Heads, and countless lower disciples. As a result, West Kunlun's strength and fame hit rock bottom, and they were never able to return to their former heights.

It was worth noting that Chen Zhanxian was only suppressed, not killed. Not only that, he was still growing stronger.

Greenlake Bai heard that Chen Zhanxian was currently imprisoned in the Heaven Forsaken Prison at the ninth and bottommost level of West Kunlun.

Ah Su was taught the "Nethercall Demonic Possession Record" by the abode head of Nethercall Abode himself. His intention was to torment her as a matter of course, but Ah Su proved to be more resilient than he thought probably because all the torture she had already suffered in his hands. On top of that, she retained a pure, innocent heart despite her suffering. Ever since she started cultivating the "Nethercall Demonic Possession Record", she had been advancing at a speed that even Chen Zhanxian couldn't match. This was why the abode head made her his third disciple.

Right now, Ah Su bore over a hundred demonic spirits inside her body. That was enough to make her immune to most weapons and strong enough to snap a mountain in half or divide a river via pure strength. If she went all out without a care for her own health, not even an ordinary Grandmaster could endure her wrath.

In terms of pure power, Ah Su was among the best not just in the Nethercall Abode, but the entire West Kunlun. Greenlake Bai did not believe she could handle her at all.

Originally, her plan was to order Ah Su around using Su Xiu as her hostage. However, her plan had backfired in the worst manner possible.

"You killed Ah Xiu... You killed Ah Xiu..."

As expected, Greenlake Bai's explanation failed to convince Ah Su at all. The demons on her body kept howling and howling until finally, Ah Su pushed off the ground with a boom and pounced straight toward Greenlake Bai.

Greenlake Bai did not dare to take her lightly as a matter of course. In one step, she split into three, six, twelve silhouettes before scattering in every direction.

Chapter 660: From Cocoon To Butterfly

*"Thousand Illusions of Clouds and Fog"*

It felt like a meteor had struck the ground when Ah Su descended from the sky and struck the spot where Greenlake Bai was. For a moment, the ground bent inward like someone was pressing a finger against a piece of fabric. Then, it exploded into a million pieces and threw up a massive shockwave.

The shockwave swept through the Greenlake Bais and crushed eleven of them without resistance. The one Greenlake Bai that survived was, of course, her real body. A deafening boom erupted from

the epicenter, followed by a mini earthquake and a rush of wind. Not a moment too soon, Ah Su appeared behind Greenlake Bai as if magic and aimed a palm strike straight at the woman's back.

Maybe it was because she was moving too quickly, or maybe it was because there was that much force behind her palm strike. When Ah Su swung her arm, the motion actually generated sonic booms that threatened the integrity of the space it was traveling through.

At a critical moment, Greenlake Bai summoned her red umbrella and pointed it toward Ah Su. When the umbrella opened, it spun rapidly and created many bloody shadows that took the shape of dharmachakras[1]. Bloody beams shot out of the dharmachakras with enough force to cut metal and break stones like they were paper.

### *“Nethercall Dharmachakra”*

However, the bloody beams bounced off Ah Su's body like a weak rain against a rock, failing to leave even a scratch on her skin, much less impede her advance.

Bang!

Ah Su's palm struck the red umbrella, causing a series of waves to ripple out and shatter the surrounding space inch by inch like a mirror. Such was her strength that both of Greenlake Bai's wrists were dislocated, and her grip was drenched in blood. Her face looked deathly white, and a trickle of blood slithered down the corner of her lips.

It was an opportunity though. Greenlake Bai borrowed the strength of Ah Su's attack to push herself far, far away from the woman. She resumed her run as soon as her feet touched the ground once more.

As for Ah Su, she bent her knees a little when she touched down, and the earth undulated like a wave. She then pushed off the ground and shot toward Greenlake Bai like an arrow.

The deafening noises slowly faded as the duo disappeared. Soon, the ancient city regained its former tranquility, though not its former appearance. The already tattered ruins looked like it had been crushed into fine powder after the battle was over.

A dozen or so breaths later, light suddenly shone out of Su Xiu's body. At first, it was weak, barely visible, and flickering like the wisps of a firefly. But over time, it grew brighter and more colorful like some sort of fantasy.

Through the colorful light, one could see that a dark-shaped, cocoon-like object was squirming inside Su Xiu's body. When the light reached peak intensity, Su Xiu's chest slowly split open from top to bottom, and a single butterfly crawled out of it.

At first, the butterfly moved very, very slowly as if it was struggling to break out of its cocoon. Its wings, antenna-like tentacles, limbs and more also looked semi-transparent and very fragile. However, after the butterfly fully removed itself from Su Xiu's body, and the sticky liquid covering its body began to dry, its body slowly but surely turned solid.

In contrast, Su Xiu's flesh, blood, bones and internal organs vanished into thin air as if something had devoured it all, leaving behind only the skin.



The next moment, the butterfly unfolded its wings and began flying around the corpse. It looked gorgeous, and its dance was fantastic. But because it was flying around a piece of human skin that just moments ago was still an intact corpse, what should've been a beautiful moment felt eerie and horrifying instead.

Ten or so seconds later, the butterfly finally stopped circling the human skin and landed on the ground. Then, it transformed into a human. He was, of course, Dream Master.

Right now, Dream Master looked much weaker and paler than before. Claspings his hands behind his back, he looked down on Su Xiu's skin and shook his head wistfully.

**“All men are greedy, foolish, obsessed. Greed leads to hardships, foolishness leads to peril, and obsession leads to death. Why bother?”**

Dream Master lifted a hand, and Su Xiu's Nature's Shell flew into his palm. When he checked its contents and found Nanke, he finally let out a sigh of relief and allowed a smile to appear on his face.

This had not been an easy fight. In fact, it was easily one of the most dangerous fights he had ever been in.

He was a Deva, and the Devas enjoyed a prominent status among the Eight Legions. Despite this, he was still considered a genius and a leader of the younger generation among his fellow Devas.

The Eight Legions possessed a powerful Strange Artifact called the Eight Stupa capable of hiding one's destiny. It was why anyone below the Grandmaster stage would not appear on the Human Champions Ranking.

Despite not being named on the Human Champions Ranking, Dream Master did not believe that he was inferior to anyone on the list. Even the top ten monsters were so-so in his eyes. After all, he was a monster himself.

But after he left his sect to carry out this mission, he finally learned that there was truth behind the saying, “There are people beyond this person; skies beyond this sky.”

The first battle that enlightened him to the truth was his fight against the seventh warrior on the Human Champions Ranking, Defeated. It was the first time he recognized that no one in the top ten was a small fry. In fact, he wasn't sure he could have defeated the man if Earth Walker, Slaughterer and Dancer hadn't returned in time.

Of course, his fight against Defeated was too short for him to glimpse anything but the tip of the iceberg. His fight against Su Xiu though, this was the fight that enlightened him to the true power that was a top ten warrior of the Human Champions Ranking.

If he hadn't reached the journeyman level of the “Dream Butterfly True Sutra” and grasped the Magia known as “From Cocoon To Butterfly”, he might already be dead.

“From Butterfly to Cocoon” was a resurrection Magia that allowed him to imbue a sliver of his mind, soul and sentience in another person's body when he was near death. The victim would function as his cocoon and feed him energy until he was ready to transform into a butterfly and be reborn.

There were two stages in “From Butterfly to Cocoon”, and they were called “Resurrection Through Blood”, and “Resurrection Through Dream”.

“Resurrection Through Blood” was exactly what it sounded like. The practitioner would be reborn from another’s flesh and blood.

“Resurrection Through Dream” was also exactly what it sounded like. The practitioner would be reborn from another’s dream.

Obviously, “Resurrection Through Dream” was the greater, more advanced type of resurrection between the two. After all, it did not require a physical medium to achieve resurrection. A dream was all one needed to be reborn. In a sense, someone who attained “Resurrection Through Dream” had also attained immortality.

At his current strength, Dream Master could only resurrect through one’s flesh and blood. Right before he was going to die, he had injected a sliver of mind, soul and sentience into Su Xiu’s body.

Yes, he was the one who killed Su Xiu. Normally, the feat would’ve been completely impossible—Su Xiu was a Half-Step Grandmaster after all—but Su Xiu had turned out even weaker than him after using “Devour Demon”, so much so that even an ordinary child had more strength than him. That was why he was able to kill him.

There were two reasons he chose to kill Su Xiu. One, it was to pit Greenlake Bai and Ah Su against each other. Although Su Xiu was injured and exhausted, he was accompanied by the two women. He had fought against them briefly inside his dream, and he could tell that they were both quite strong. That woman named Ah Su in particular intimidated him even more than Su Xiu.

Su Xiu might be incapacitated for the time being, but the two women still stood in his way of reclaiming Nanke. He did not think he could succeed in his current state at all.

Luckily for him, Greenlake Bai and Su Xiu were really hostile toward each other, and the strongest of them all, Ah Su, was mentally disabled. That was why he was ultimately able to kill Su Xiu, pit the two women against each other, and become the final victor of this battle.

Second, there were two ways he could resurrect Su Xiu’s body. One, he could use Su Xiu’s body as a breeding ground and slowly nurture his mind, soul and sentience back to fullness. Over time, he could gradually replace his mind and become Su Xiu. Second, he could kill the man immediately and use his flesh and blood to achieve swift and immediate resurrection.

Both ways had their pros and cons. The first way was longer, but it was also safer. More importantly, he could rob his host of all their potential. Not only would he regain his full strength after he was reborn, he could become even stronger than he was at his peak.

The second way gave him no time to rob his host’s potential. Moreover, he would be severely weakened and need a long time to recover his strength. However, he could resurrect immediately.