

A Snake 511

Chapter 511: There's a Dragon in the Barbarian River

"Plunk," not a splash was seen.

The Taoist who entered the water thought it would reach his ankles, but it engulfed him past his waist.

What's more terrifying is that the water's depth was not as I had gauged, it was much deeper.

It was as if someone had grabbed the Taoist by the ankles, and in an instant, he was dragged down, leaving only his head above the river's surface.

Luckily, he was quick-witted and grabbed hold of the tough reeds.

"Quick, pull him up." There were two bamboo poles on the raft for pushing along, I threw one towards the shore without hesitation.

But as soon as the people on the shore caught the bamboo pole, the Taoist was dragged along with the reeds into the depths of the river.

The white fish still floated by the riverbank.

Its silver scales held a peculiar allure under the daylight.

In the blink of an eye, it transformed into something resembling a dragon.

The Taoists on the bank, as if bewitched, were lured in, "It's said there are dragons in the Barbarian River, it seems true. A dragon's inner core can help one ascend to immortality."

"It must be stranded, luring the junior brother into the water to suck his vitality and replenish its own."

"Let's capture it, then save our junior brother."

They picked up sticks, not to save the man, but to poke around the strange white dragon at the water's edge.

The white dragon was hooked out of the water with a stick, but suddenly seemed to gain a thousand pounds in weight.

The man holding the stick was suddenly pulled along by the force, tumbling into the water.

Again, not a ripple was created; the man went under and simply vanished, not a single hair to be seen.

"The insides were hollowed out." For some reason, my eyes were slightly hot, filled with a sudden rush of Spiritual Power.

The Spiritual Eye could penetrate the riverbed and see what lay beneath the water.

As I spoke,

Thick blood suddenly surfaced on the water, and two skeletal halves rose to the top.

Without a head or organs, only the empty upper body remained.

The three remaining living Taoists all stepped back in shock, their faces ashen like gold paper, "These are water demons raised by Barbarian Villagers because we wanted to enter the island to look for Ginseng. Such barbarians plotted to kill us."

Just then, the High Priest and his party happened to find the man who had gone to relieve himself.

The two parties suddenly met on the narrow path.

"Kill! Avenge our brothers!" The Taoists, on seeing the attire of the High Priest and his party, recognized them instantly as Barbarian Villagers.

Drawing their swords from their waists, each was a sharp flexible sword.

Don't think these Taoists died so easily in the river just now; that was a water demon's fiendish plot, leaving them powerless to fight back.

But in reality, their swordsmanship was extremely adept, and together, the trio swiftly killed two Barbarian villagers.

The High Priest had no fighting skills and couldn't help much, screaming hoarsely, "You Central Plains Taoists come to Barbarian Village under the pretense of looking for Ginseng, and when we don't let you onto the island, you resort to murder?"

It wasn't hard to hear from the High Priest and those Taoists that they had old grudges between them.

Those Taoists must have heard that there was Ginseng in Barbarian Village and requested to visit the island, but were refused by the villagers, leading them to linger near the dock searching for a chance to get on the island.

Wait, Ginseng...?

Weren't we three also here to find Ginseng?

The Ginseng these Taoists were looking for couldn't possibly be the one that escaped from Yu Longting's treasure trove... Could it really be such a coincidence...

Bai Zanhe, trembling all over like chaff, stammered, "Although the Barbarian Villagers raise water demons, how could the demons be so vicious? I can't help but feel... something is amiss here..."

"It's a weasel, a weasel that can swim." Gazing through the rippling water surface, I saw at the bottom a Yellow Immortal with excellent swimming skills, its sharp, long nails easily capable of slashing open a human belly and devouring the organs within.

The creature was shrouded in a sinister Demon Qi, easily with six to seven hundred years of cultivation.

However, it was no match for the Taoists on the bank; it could only deceive them one by one and kill them when they entered the water.

As I finished speaking, the three Taoists' eyes were bloodshot with rage.

They not only took the heads of the High Priest's muscular henchmen but also ran the High Priest through with a sword, gravely injuring him.

Chapter 512: The Snipe and the Clam Grapple

"Pfft."

The Great Sacrificial Rite tore off her mask, spitting out a mouthful of blood. Her tangled hair fell loose from her hood, her face painted with strange totems, and her dark lips curled upwards, "You forced my hand, all of you must die! You've killed so many from Barbarian Village, none of you shall live."

Immediately, she recited a certain incantation under her breath.

It was clearly the language of the Ancient Dian Kingdom, something I had heard in my childhood and still remembered vividly to this day.

"My God, the High Priest is summoning the Three-legged Golden Crow."

As soon as Bai Zanke finished speaking, a dense flock of three-legged crows flew in, numbering at least in the hundreds.

Far more than those that had attacked us last time.

It was like the sky was covered in dark clouds, significantly dimming the daylight.

The crows, brimming with Demon Qi, swooped towards the three Taoists.

The three Taoists wielded flexible swords just as we had before, but they could only kill one crow at a time.

Caught off guard, they suffered wounds from the pecking.

Soon, they were covered in injuries.

"What the heck are these crows? Why do they have three legs?" I was now getting a bit of claustrophobia from these crows.

With such a massive number, they could easily overwhelm an elephant.

If it weren't for the incredible prowess of those three Taoists, if it had been three ordinary people—

The moment the Crow Army swept over, they would probably have been stripped down to bones.

Bai Zanhe whispered, "They're Demon Birds, have been in Barbarian Village for a thousand years. When crows turn into demons, they grow an extra leg."

"Zanhe, the Grass Rings on our hands seem to have...stopped working." I felt the witchcraft on the wristband vanish, and overjoyed, I snapped it off.

Indeed, it was a case of a snipe and a clam fighting, the fisherman reaps the benefits.

The people from Barbarian Village and those unknown Taoists were fighting fiercely and with the High Priest severely injured, her witchcraft had almost entirely failed.

Bai Zanhe also ripped off her wristband, nodding, "Let's escape quickly, we're really lucky this time..."

Before she could finish speaking, her ankle was grabbed by a human hand.

The hand, wet and slippery, reached up from the water, gradually revealing a head emerging as well.

The first thing I saw was an ancient hairstyle, dripping wet, then a deathly pale forehead followed by inviting, fox-like eyes.

"Su Wan, run, I've been caught, don't worry about me." Bai Zanhe pushed me towards the shore forcefully.

At this moment, my entire body was enveloped in the Demon Qi emerging from the river, my knees as heavy as lead, "Do you think I can run? Look at my feet."

Unknown to me, my own ankle had also been grasped by a human hand.

This hand emitted a terrifyingly strong Demon Qi, seeping into my skin from the ankle.

It felt like countless fine needles made of cow hair penetrating deep into my bones.

I was temporarily immobilized and couldn't even muster my Spiritual Power.

The woman climbing out of the river, using our ankles, sloppily boarded the bamboo raft.

This woman looked exceedingly peculiar, almost like a Paper Man drawn on paper.

After being soaked, her face was white as if caked with a pound of powder.

Her entire face was sharply peach-shaped, with overly vibrant pink blush and lips red as blood, giving a chilling smile.

"Are you heading to Barbarian Village? I can take you there~" The woman, dressed in an old-fashioned angled-collared shirt and black skirt, spoke in a high, theatrical tone.

When she smiled, her eyes narrowed into slits.

Luckily, after she stood up, her hands could no longer grasp mine and Bai Zhanhe's ankles.

Even though I had seen plenty of horrifying things, at that moment, my heart nearly stopped with fear, "We...we...aren't going to Barbarian Village, we need to get to shore, sorry...I must go...first."

Enduring the intense pain where my ankle had been grabbed, I spontaneously slapped an Evil-Breaking Talisman on the woman's forehead.

I grabbed Bai Zhanhe and ran, only having taken a few steps when I heard a soft, cunning laugh behind us, "Thinking of leaving? That won't do, Older Sister hasn't eaten human flesh for too long, especially the placenta from a pregnant woman's belly."

Chapter 513: Together to the Yellow Springs in the Blue Sea

Only when I heard Bai Zhanhe, who was behind me, screamed in pain, "Ah... it hurts so much..."

Turning around, I saw something like an iron nail piercing through Bai Zhanhe's wrist.

Moreover, it was the kind that pierced through from front to back, with rust merging into the blood, as bright red drops fell slowly onto the water-soaked bamboo raft, spreading gradually...

In the fight between the snipe and the clam, who were the benefiting fishermen? It was neither Bai Zhanhe nor I.

It was clearly the demonically-charged woman who emerged from the water and likely orchestrated the fight between the Taoists and Barbarian Villagers.

"Think you can hold me? Weigh your own abilities first." I quickly condensed heavenly fire in my palm and attacked the eerie woman.

The eerie woman dodged the attack with a hook of her lip and a beautiful smile, then swiftly drove a nail into my forehead as I tried to use my heavenly fire, "Trying to burn me with heavenly fire? I saw it at the marketplace, quite powerful, specially prepared for you, the Evil Corpse Nail."

"My power is sealed, such heavy Corpse Qi!" The heavenly fire in my palm suddenly doused like a water-soaked musket, going silent.

So, this woman had seen me using heavenly fire against crows at the market; she had seemingly prepared well in advance to deal with me, particularly with what she called the Evil Corpse Nail.

With a tongue red as blood, the eerie woman stretched it out like a frog, slick and smooth, licking my face, "The Evil Corpse Nail was originally used on corpses to deter Corpse Qi and prevent them from acting undead. However, it was later pulled out, naturally carrying the embedded Corpse Qi of hundreds or thousands of years. Specifically to seal the Qi Sea of you... exorcists on the righteous path... I'm truly clever..."

"..." I was almost sickened to death by this woman's tongue, helpless as my skull was pierced by the nail.

Every time I tried to think, my entire head throbbed unbearably.

The pain caused veins on my forehead to burst open, tensing every muscle in my body.

More horrifically, this woman was a monster, and Gu Insects had no effect on her; otherwise, I could have summoned Xiao Honghong to deal with her.

The woman's icy hand, cold as a frozen pig's trotter, touched the spot pierced by the Evil Corpse Nail then her crimson lips approached my neck, her entire body exuding a chilling Demon Qi pressing against me,

"Never thought you'd be a Spirit Eye Girl. I'll devour you first, then your unborn child, and upon entering Barbarian Village, even ginseng. This way, this old lady... might just ascend to the heavens..."

"Yu Longting... where are you? I miss you so much..." I couldn't move at all, and all I yearned for was Yu Longting.

The one I couldn't bear leaving was the Dumpling in my belly, whose fingers I repeatedly, tremulously caressed.

Dumpling, Mommy will perish together with this monster.

When Daddy finds you, he will surely find a way to nurture you and help you grow.

I knew that even if the mother's body declined, with Yu Longting's strength, Dumpling would be fine.

If I didn't resist, both Dumpling and I would lose our lives.

"Mommy, no, don't~ If you die, Dumpling will die with you." Dumpling, sensing my resoluteness, cried out in sorrow.

Hearing Dumpling's cries, my heart remained as firm as a rock; I resolutely ignited the three Life Lamps in my body simultaneously.

A blazingly white heavenly fire surged from my palm, its heat far more ferocious than when it was purple.

It was the Fire of Life that had ignited.

I took advantage of the woman being close to me and pressed my palm against her abdomen.

What should have been a momentary act, however, was thwarted as my wrist was suddenly grasped by someone's strong hand.

That hand was so powerful that it could extinguish all the flames in my palm and repel the Spiritual Power surging toward it through my meridians.

Was this eerie woman so abnormally strong?

"Why!!" Fate has tricked us!

In despair, I roared, forcing the Life Lamp to burn at its fullest, determined to resist to the end.

But in the next second, my body was pulled into a familiar and expansive embrace, with a man tightly holding my slight back, a voice as cold as the abyss of Hell sternly uttering, "Take it back! Su Wan, dare to die and try, and I will chase you down to the Yellow Springs in the blue sea and will never let you go."

Chapter 514: Two Weasels

"Yu... Yu..." Seeing the elegantly dressed man in Hanfu before me, I almost believed he was an illusion created by Demon Qi, my lips trembling as I barely managed to call out his name.

When I was certain he was the one, I plunged into his arms, my entire being shifting from one extreme to another, cooing in a hoarse voice, "Husband, with you here, I don't want to die."

"What did you call me?" Yu Longting's fingers tenderly touched the spot where the nail pierced my forehead, gently stroking a few times, trying to alleviate the pain as he slowly pulled it out.

I groaned in pain, but my heart was filled with joy, "Husband, husband, husband... did you install a tracking sensor in me? You arrived just in time."

At that moment, this form of address seemed to connect with a distant time and space.

Long ago, I seem to have called someone else the same way, relying on them just as I do now.

"Have monsters struck you dumb? You're wearing a cheongsam embroidered with my true body, isn't that better than your so-called tracking sensor?" Yu Longting's tone was light and playful by my ear. I sniffed and couldn't help but look up, expecting to see his irreverent face.

At that moment, his face was clouded with dark clouds, carrying a sweeping demonic charm.

Those captivating dark eyes were terrifying, far more than any devil, as he stared at the pale-faced woman rowing the boat.

The pale-faced woman was bound tightly by Black Snake, unable to move. "Snake Lord, are you this woman's..."

With a casual wave of his long arm, Yu Longting coldly twisted the woman's neck.

What was even more shocking was that his arm plunged into the woman's chest, pulling out a weasel that was flailing wildly.

Then Yu Longting plunged his hand into the woman's skull, pulling out another weasel.

The two weasels, held in Yu Longting's hand, had their bones crushed, squealing in agony.

"Is... is it two weasels, controlling the corpse... creating this...?" I was clearly terrified by Yu Longting's bloody methods, yet I held him tighter.

"Hundreds of years ago, I beat them so their cultivation was set back; they couldn't transform into humans, and could only use these lowly tricks." Yu Longting chuckled lightly and slowly increased the pressure in his palm, torturing the two barely alive weasels, which screamed in excruciating pain.

Yu Longting observed my frightened eyes, full of danger, as if he minded, "Do you think your husband is scary?"

"It is a bit scary." I earnestly nodded, but involuntarily leaned my head against his chest, murmuring, "I might be a bit twisted, but I think you like this... look particularly imposing, even if it seems you've frightened... the girl."

The head of the corpse used by the weasels rolled from the bamboo raft, bobbing aimlessly in the river water.

It seems that the weasels had scooped out everything inside the skull, making it unusually light enough to float on the water surface.

The headless female corpse lay on the raft, her body also hollowed out completely.

Bai Zhanhe was so frightened that she slumped in a corner of the raft, trembling all over.

"What is it to me what others think?" Yu Longting's eyes, filled with malevolence, glanced at Bai Zhanhe.

Already terrified, Bai Zhanhe shook even more violently, "You... what are you going to do..."

"You look too terrifying, tone it down a bit, please help take out the nails from her wrists too." My heart was uneasy, fearing he would say it was none of my business.

Fortunately, Yu Longting never refused my requests.

He walked over calmly, removed the nails from Bai Zhanhe's wrists, and then turned to reproach me, "Why did you suddenly run to Western Hunan?"

"Uh... that's because..."

My inner voice complained it was all because his treasury door was left open, causing all this trouble, but I didn't want to start a fight and ruin the relationship. I wrapped my arms around his neck, "Hey, Yu Longting, do you think I look good in this bridal gown? It's my first time wearing a bridal gown in my life."

Chapter 515: Want to See Me Go on a Killing Spree

"Going without it would look even better." Yu Longting sized me up, his eyebrows slightly raised as he spoke.

"..." The corner of my mouth twitched instantly, wondering where that Evil Corpse Nail had pierced just now.

It clearly had lodged itself into Yu Longting's brain!

Seeing my dark expression, Yu Longting tossed the two weasels, which he had squeezed nearly to death, onto the raft, scooped me up in his arms, and leapt ashore. "What's wrong? Did I say something incorrect?"

From his sleeve, two Black Snakes slid out soundlessly.

They wrapped around the weasels like lightning, their venomous fangs biting into the creatures to prolong their torment.

"No, no, you're absolutely right, haha."

In my heart, I had already beaten Yu Longting a hundred times over.

Yet, being in the wrong myself, I dared not make any disrespectful movements.

The act of burning my Life Lamp to take the weasel down with me must have deeply hurt Yu Longting. I nestled against him like a docile little rabbit. "I'd like to visit Barbarian Village, they say the relentless rain is because Lord Dragon King... is lacking a bride..."

"Now is not the time," Yu Longting said, carrying my drenched self towards a tea pavilion not far off.

Inside the pavilion sat two Taoists who had survived a fight with crows, wounded.

On our arrival, they stiffened with wariness.

Yu Longting seemed as if he hadn't noticed them, setting me down on a long bench and ordering coldly, "Fetch a dry towel."

The old man fanning himself by the tea stove had a flicker in his eyes.

He stood up to flee outside, as if Yu Longting and I were bandits.

In a blink, Yu Longting was in front of the old man, ruthlessly twisting off his head.

There was a crisp "snap" of breaking neck bones.

The two Taoists tensed, gripping the soft swords on the table tightly.

Only when two purple-black weasels burst out from the old man's head and body,

did the weasels, scared out of their wits, fall to the ground kowtowing incessantly, "Snake Lord... spare our lives... "

"Still thinking of running?" Yu Longting asked from above.

The oppressive aura of a superior being poured forth like a landslide, causing the weasels' foreheads to break open. "No more running, we'll fetch the towel right now," they said.

"Wow, you're so mighty," I said, looking up at him with adoration, transforming into a little fangirl.

The sudden snapping of the old man's neck had frightened me so much that my heart nearly stopped.

After all, that old man had hidden his Demon Qi so deeply that I had always thought he was just a regular person. It wasn't until the weasels ran out that I realized this was another body possessed by spirits.

"Give me your hand." Yu Longting dropped the head he was holding, ignoring my flattery, and commanded darkly.

I hid my hands behind me, "I won't."

"Su Wan, if you want to see me go on a killing spree, continue defying me," Yu Longting said with a sinister smile, gripping my chin and slightly tilting it up, his gaze fierce.

I refused to believe he would hurt those close to him just because he was angry with me, and asked defiantly, "Who... who do you plan to kill if you go on a killing spree?"

"Wipe out the entire weasel clan," Yu Longting declared, pausing after each word.

You're ruthless!!

Despite my newfound dislike for weasels after today's events,

exterminating their entire clan feels... too extreme...

I shrunk my neck and offered my hand, trembling, "Um, I've obediently given you my hand to check my pulse, can you please not be harsh to me?"

My Life Lamp had been burned, and previously I was backfired by the heavenly fire, so my current physical condition was a little bit subpar.

Ever since I met Yu Longting, he had always been easy to manage, and I never saw such a dark and terrifying side to him.

No matter how sweetly I spoke, it had no effect at all.

In response to my plea, Yu Longting remained silent, quietly grasping my pulse, his expression growing ever darker, longer than a donkey's face.

"You scare me when you look like that. Aren't you going to... forgive me?" I panicked completely, eyes reddening.

Suddenly, I was pulled tightly into an embrace, my shoulders firmly pressed by the man's chin, as if he were holding a fragile, once lost but now retrieved treasure.

Chapter 516: The Wandering Great Demon King

I was just about to open my mouth when I heard Yu Longting growling through clenched teeth, "You want me to forgive you?"

"That... Of course..." I felt uncertain inside.

I always felt that he would take the opportunity to propose some unreliable conditions.

Yu Longting's suppressed voice even took on the hiss of a snake, "Accept my Life Lamp."

One could imagine how furious I had made him.

"How could I do that? I definitely have to handle the mess I've made myself." I firmly refused.

Yu Longting' narrowed his eyes but surprisingly didn't insist.

His gaze fell on the weasel, carrying a towel with trembling paws, its green snake eyes gloomy.

"Snake Lord... towel..." The two weasels, upon meeting Yu Longting's murderous gaze, knelt down immediately, nearly petrified with fear.

Yu Longting expressionlessly took the towel and wiped the rainwater off my face and hair, then instructed the weasels, "Get the corpses of those Barbarian Villagers onto a bamboo raft."

"Yes, yes, will do right away." The weasels scurried into the rain and busily carried the bodies.

At this moment, Yu Longting stopped talking to me completely, his handsome face shrouded in a coldness as chilly as a layer of frost.

Compared to his previous gentleness, the angry Yu Longting felt terrifyingly unfamiliar to me.

Under Yu Longting's overpowering and terrifying presence, I didn't have the courage to sweet-talk or ask for forgiveness, but instead clung pitifully to a corner of his garment, looking helplessly at him.

How important the Life Lamp was, representing the existence of one's soul.

Once the soul perished, there wouldn't even be a chance for reincarnation, an entirely different level of significance compared to the inner core, cultivation, or Spiritual Power.

How could I possibly agree to his demand to accept his Life Lamp?

The two weasels, after moving the corpses, hurried back to report to Yu Longting.

"Just attach to any corpse and take charge of the raft, to take us to Barbarian Village." Yu Longting's gaze was lowered, the depths of his eyes emanating a cold, inorganic glint.

The weasels shrunk back, not daring to disobey.

I was so immersed in the surprise of reuniting with Yu Longting that I had forgotten about Bai Zhanhe, who had shared hardships with me all night.

It wasn't until we were about to head for Barbarian Village that I remembered her.

I approached Bai Zanhe, who was squatting by the wall, and scratched my head, embarrassed, "Sorry, I was so focused on talking with my boyfriend that I almost forgot about you. We're going to Barbarian Village, do you want to come with us?"

"Can I... not go back to Barbarian Village?" Bai Zanhe asked me weakly.

I was initially surprised by her question, but then I understood, "Of course, you can."

"My grandfather was driven to death by the village chief's family. I now have no... feelings for Barbarian Village..." Bai Zanhe twisted the beautifully embroidered hem of her garment in her hands, her eyes somewhat empty.

This girl struck me as outwardly fragile, yet inwardly determined.

Towards the village where she had grown up, after it had persecuted her,

She had no sentimentality left, nor would she be foolishly loyal.

Without any hesitation, she was someone who knew what was important.

I admired this about Bai Zanhe and bent down to check the wound on her wrist. The injury was quite severe, "It's better this way. When you get back to town, remember to get a tetanus shot within twelve hours."

"What about you? What will you do about your injuries?" Bai Zanhe asked me with concern.

My gaze softened on Yu Longting, "With my man here, he won't let anything happen to me."

"No wonder your little Xiao Bao can talk, it turns out to be the Snake Lord's." A gentle warmth touched Bai Zhanhe's eyes as she couldn't help but chuckle, "Then I'll be going. Take care of yourself."

"You too." I waved goodbye to Bai Zhanhe.

Feeling a familiar coolness approaching from behind, I turned to look at Yu Longting, "Yu Longting..."

"Let's go, to Barbarian Village." Yu Longting didn't even glance at me; he grabbed my wrist and walked on.

It seemed he knew I was about to whine and beg for reconciliation, so he deliberately cut me off with his icy demeanor.

I dejectedly looked at his stern profile, feeling utterly discouraged.

Where had the adoring and indulgent Yu Longting gone?

Can't we just stop this cold war?

Do I really have to agree to his absurd demand to be forgiven?

Just then, the two surviving Taoists suddenly stepped forward to stop Yu Longting and me, one of them with a fierce glint in his eye, "Hold on, Snake Lord."

Chapter 517: The Trick of Killing Three Birds with One Arrow

"Want to die?" Yu Longting glared at the other coldly.

Although I didn't know why the two Taoists blocked our way, it was simply bad luck for them to run into a gun at a time when Yu Longting was in a particularly bad mood.

The Taoist, terrorized by the invisible intimidation, turned noticeably pale, his Gang Qi retracted completely, trembling as he saluted Yu Longting, "I...I am from the Zhang Family Celestial Master Sect, I

simply wanted to... ask what exactly is happening, you seem to be privy to the situation, it's not that I mean to... offend you on purpose."

"Yes, yes, yes, we've lost three brothers all at once; if we don't ascertain the reason, it'll be hard to explain when we return." Another Taoist bowed deeply too, bending almost one hundred and eighty degrees, practically folding in half.

Yu Longting was like a walking Great Demon King, terrifying not only the two weasels to the point of shattering courage but also the two Taoists who had not offended Yu Longting were quivering.

And me, even his confidant.

All of us were afraid of Yu Longting like this, not even having the courage to meet his gaze.

However, to be honest, I was also just guessing about the whole situation and couldn't be completely sure what had happened.

If Yu Longting was privy to the information, I would actually like to hear what exactly happened.

Yu Longting pursed his lips, his gaze sweeping over the two weasels, his brows raising coldly, "Ask them."

The two Taoists and I, six eyes looked towards the weasel.

The weasels with their faces full of black hair suddenly showed immense pressure, and due to Yu Longting's oppression, they dared not remain silent, "Yes, this was all our design, the four of us pretended to be grandparents and grandchildren at the tea stand here lying in wait, just for your Celestial Master Sect people and the Barbarian Villagers to meet, stirring up trouble between you so that we could reap the benefits like a fisherman."

"Grandparents and grandchildren? The female corpse just now, was she pretending to be your granddaughter?" I thought of that woman with peach blossom features, whose makeup was as exotic as a Paper Man.

The cunning weasel, under the gaze of Yu Longting, honestly confessed, "Yes, but her makeup was too exaggerated, easily giving her away, so we made her stay in the water! Once you Taoists saw the water demon, you thought it was raised by the Barbarian Villagers, heh, as if we Yellow Skins can't raise a water demon?"

The weasel, even under Yu Longting's oppressive force.

Couldn't help but reveal their true nature, bragging about their cunning plan, "Who made you too powerful, with the presence of your Celestial Master Sect branch and the Barbarian Villagers, we never stood a chance to get the Ginseng."

It was indeed a bloodbath triggered by a single Ginseng, even this group of weasels came for the Ginseng.

How precious is the Ginseng in Yu Longting's treasure trove??

I couldn't help but frown, these weasels were really vicious and cruel.

They had played a trick as cunning as killing three birds with one stone.

If it weren't for Yu Longting's timely arrival, they really would have succeeded.

Listening to the weasel's malignant and arrogant words, the two Taoists were so angry their eyes turned bloodshot, and they drew their swords, ready to slay the two weasels.

"Snake Lord, save us." The two sinister weasels, taking advantage of the fact that Yu Longting had summoned them, flashed cunning in their eyes, pretending to be scared, hid by Yu Longting's feet.

They even had the audacity to make faces at the two enraged Taoists.

Without a moment's hesitation, Yu Longting kicked the two vile Yellow Skins, launching them away with one foot each.

Both Taoists were stunned, seemingly not expecting Yu Longting to actually not protect the two beasts. Immediately, swords were drawn and swiftly, they decapitated the weasels, their heads rolling off in an instant.

At their moment of death, the weasels' eyes bulged roundly in disbelief as their heads fell from their necks, still incredulous, "Snake Lord, why... why... didn't you save us... "

"With us dead, no one will row the boat for you anymore."

Chapter 518: Do Not Bow to Evil Forces

The major arteries on the necks of the two Yellow Skins were suddenly severed, causing the blood to spurt high due to the blood pressure.

Yu Longting reflexively sidestepped, shielding me in his arms with his back towards the direction of the surging blood, blocking the disgusting weasel blood.

I felt his crisp breath close at hand, and my hands uncontrollably climbed up his waist.

Yu Longting remained silent, and immediately released my body, indifferently pulling my hands from around his waist.

My chest felt a slight sting.

Now, Yu Longting even refused to be touched by me.

"Snake Lord, please call back your snakes and let us slaughter these two hairy beasts to avenge our brothers," the two Taoists were about to charge out and slaughter the two weasels, whose bodies were almost entirely crushed.

Yu Longting found an umbrella in the tea pavilion, opened it over my head, and stood in the rain himself, "These two must be kept alive; you can't kill them."

"But they almost killed your wife," one of the Taoists said, puzzled.

Yu Longting's lips curved, revealing a sinister and terrifying smile, "That's exactly why they must not be killed. If such vile creatures that hurt my wife and child could just be killed off, wouldn't it mean that anyone could harm them as long as they're ready to lose their life? Do you think such cheap actions exist under heaven?"

So, he planned to torture them slowly, huh?

"Ah... no, no, absolutely not, Snake Lord, whatever you say goes," both Taoists said in unison, their eyes twitching and legs trembling as they took a half step back.

Yu Longting, tall and cold, swept past them towards the bamboo raft and softly commanded, "You two, slaughter the weasels that were paddling the boat and come here; take their place as my oarsmen."

Hearing this, my gaze instantly became sheepish.

This move was so typical of Yu Longting!

But from their manner of speaking, these seemed to be Taoists from the Zhang Celestial Master Sect, a group typically very proud and disdainful.

Not only do they look down on ordinary monsters; Zhang Zidao himself barely regards the Snake Lord highly.

How could they possibly obey Yu Longting's orders?

"Yes, Snake Lord!" the two Taoists suddenly answered in unison, incredibly solemn and respectful, "But there is a Poison Barrier near Barbarian Village, and we don't know how to pass through it."

"With me here, the poison won't kill you," Yu Longting's chin lifted proudly, his aura imposing, inspiring an indescribable impulse to worship him.

Under my utterly befuddled gaze, the two Taoists awkwardly jumped onto the bamboo raft, each managing a bamboo pole, "Alright then, great Snake Lord. Heh, what are you and the Madam doing in Barbarian Village? Are you also looking for Ginseng?"

"Trying to probe into my and the Snake Tribe's affairs?" Yu Longting merely asked coldly in return.

The two Taoists were so frightened that they hastily denied it, daring not to ask another word.

Throughout the journey, I was seated comfortably on a stool on the wooden raft, with the umbrella Yu Longting constantly held over my head shielding me from the rain.

Even though he ignored me, he still held the umbrella over me, still protected me at every moment...

I quietly watched the flowing river water beneath the bamboo raft.

My thoughts inexplicably calmed down.

The many unclear thoughts I had just had were now gradually becoming clear.

The question that those two Taoists asked Yu Longting about going to Barbarian Village was now also my question.

How could he possibly be going there to look for Ginseng, especially when he didn't even know I was there for Ginseng and that Elixir taken away by the Ginseng.

Yet, I could sense that his trip to Barbarian Village wasn't entirely for me.

Yu Longting wanted to go to Barbarian Village himself!!

All this time I never doubted why the door to the treasury in the Snake Cave was left open; naturally, I assumed it was just a careless mistake by Yu Longting.

But with Yu Longting's intelligence, his cunning and calculating nature.

Would he make such a basic mistake?

Shouldn't the correct assumption be that he deliberately left the treasury open to achieve some unknown purpose?

Last night I hardly slept, and just now I recklessly lit the Life Lamp; although I stopped it in time, it still used up a lot of energy.

Now, after thinking so much, I am so tired that I can barely keep my eyes open.

If only Yu Longting wasn't mad at me, I could still cuddle up with this beautiful man and sleep for a while.

"Tired?" This was a low, intoxicating voice that sounded by my ear, like finely aged wine, making my ears tingle.

"Yes," I nearly burst into tears with excitement, nodding vigorously.

Is this...his way of forgiving me?

Chapter 519: Trusted a Fake Dragon?

Yu Longting's tone shifted, "If you agree to my request, I'll let you sleep in my arms."

"Get away, I'm not the least bit sleepy, and you're being presumptuous," I said, a flare of irritation rising within me, pushing the approaching Yu Longting away.

I would rather die of exhaustion than submit to evil forces.

In the end, I fell asleep cradling my chin, unknowingly, and when I woke up, I had expected to be shivering with cold, but my body was exceptionally warm.

A robe of ancient design was draped over my shoulders, and someone held me tightly from behind.

To prevent me from rolling off the bamboo raft in my sleep.

The cool breath flowed past my ear, gently caressing it.

My heart slightly moved, creating ripples of emotion, and I held my breath quietly, wishing for these moments to last a little longer.

"Pretending to sleep?" Yu Longting's keen sense picked up on my awakening quickly.

He loosened the arms that were tightly holding me, without lingerance.

Ahead was a mist of green fog.

Guessing, I figured it was likely the Poison Barrier of Barbarian Village; I searched for the herbal pouch Granny Long had made from my bosom, "Is that the Poison Barrier ahead? I have a herbal pouch that wards off poison, if everyone gets closer, it should work."

"There's no need for such trouble." From Yu Longting's sleeve flew out a Crystal Snake, completely transparent, it dove into the river and swam deftly, leading the way.

This Poison Barrier was quite peculiar, likely created by a special Formation.

By following a certain path, one could avoid being harmed by the poison.

I watched as the bamboo raft pushed a waterway open, and the outline of the small island of Barbarian Village became clearer and clearer before my eyes, and I began to worry, "With so many corpses on this raft, how are we going to explain it?"

"That is indeed troublesome," the two Taoists recalled, both furrowing their brows.

Although the Celestial Master Sect and these people of Barbarian Village were pitted against each other by the Yellow Skins' design.

Still, these Barbarian Villagers ultimately died at the hands of the Celestial Master Sect.

The Celestial Master Sect also lost three people, and their bodies could only be temporarily left in that tea pavilion.

I suggested, "It might be best not to mention the skirmish between your sides before we reach the dock; otherwise, I'm afraid the Barbarian Villagers might not accept it even if they know it was a trap set by the Yellow Skins."

"Madam of the Snake Lord is right, but how should we explain it..." the Taoist began, but before he could finish.

At that moment, the raft shook and touched shore.

"Has the High Priest returned?" someone on the shore called out.

I saw a crowd gathering at the riverbank, with Barbarian Villagers braving the rain to await the High Priest's return with the "Dragon King's Bride," creating a rather spectacular scene with buzzing and speculation, "Why does the Dragon King's Wife look so unfamiliar? She's not that girl from the Bai Family."

"But this one is pretty too, probably a better choice selected by the High Priest."

...

In this situation, they were many and powerful.

The two Taoists both gripped the soft swords at their sides, ready for a fight at any moment.

Yu Longting, upon hearing the words Dragon King's Wife, frowned deeply.

Almost enough to squash a fly.

On the shore, an old man with a white beard spotted the proud Yu Longting standing at the forefront of the raft, gasped in an exaggerated whisper, and fell to his knees, "Lord Dragon God!! You are Lord Dragon God!! Ladies and gentlemen, it's... it's Lord Dragon God himself who has come, quickly... quickly... kneel down, and pay your respects to Lord Dragon God."

"Oh, you still recognize me?" Yu Longting took hold of my hand, stepping off the bamboo raft with the grace of an Immortal, spawning lotus flowers with each step, the umbrella in his hand still sheltering my head.

The gazes of dozens of Barbarian Villagers were cast upon me.

Mostly baffled, but some curious.

My mind teemed with doubts; could it be, after all this time, that the one who had forcibly taken the village girls as the Dragon God was none other than Yu Longting himself?

Impossible, Yu Longting wouldn't do such a thing.

What am I thinking?

Yu Longting, already tormented to the brink of death having me, even gave me his Life Lamp.

How would he have the energy to marry again and offer another lamp?

How many lamps could he possibly have to give?

The white-bearded old man, gasping for air, seemed like he could pass out from excitement at any moment, "Dragon... Dragon... Your image has always been venerated in the temple, a place only the village chiefs could gaze upon. Since I became village chief of Barbarian Village, I've worshipped you daily without fail, and I dare not slack off or forget your countenance... I implore Lord Dragon God to take pity and continue to protect our Barbarian Village..."

Chapter 520: True and False Divine Oracle

"Much appreciated." Yu Longting carried himself with an arrogant aura, that of a celestial being above the common fray, appearing truly transcendent and viewing mortals as ants, "Just now on the dock, the High Priest and a few Barbarian Villagers had a conflict with Yellow Immortal, which cost them their lives. Go and claim the bodies."

"What?" The village chief was shocked, then glanced at the bamboo raft, losing his composure and standing frozen in place.

It was a long while before he apologized and instructed someone to check.

As the battered bodies were carried away, a mournful and desolate atmosphere congealed among the crowd.

The two Taoists on the bamboo raft were treated as disciples of Yu Longting, and the Barbarian Villagers respected them greatly, surprisingly never doubting them.

Beyond heartbroken, the village chief noticed two Yellow Skins tied up by Black Snake on the raft and seemed to realize something, "Was it you, Lord Dragon God, who took these two beasts down to avenge our people?"

"Yes, it was a minor affair, and I leave their disposal to you," said Yu Longting casually.

This statement alone made every grieving Barbarian Villager, aside from their resentment towards the Yellow Skins,

flash a genuine reverence in their eyes, starting to chant, "Lord Dragon God is mighty, thank you, Lord Dragon God, for avenging the High Priest and the others."

"Thank you, Lord Dragon God..."

In the pouring rain, the river beside them surged violently.

Accompanied by the uniform shouts, it felt incredibly majestic.

It must be said that Yu Longting truly had remarkable leadership skills, worthy of being the ruler of the Snake Tribe, the Snake Lord.

Even I was moved by the swelling enthusiasm and admired his methods of tormenting enemies, dealing with the two Yellow Skins would require some effort on our part.

If they had fallen into the hands of the Barbarian Villagers, proficient in witchcraft and having a deep-seated hatred for them,

the treatment they would receive... would likely be exponentially more excruciating.

"Prepare a room, my wife and I need to rest," Yu Longting continued with his aloof demeanor, incomparable to his usual unrestrained and wildly brazen attitude.

The village chief nodded repeatedly, tasked the women to prepare the room, then looked at me and asked, "Since you have a wife, is the marriage in a few days... to take a concubine?"

"Are you afraid that if I take someone, the rain won't stop?" Yu Longting shot a piercing glance.

The village chief went pale, nearly unable to stand with his walking stick, hastily explaining, "I meant no offense and I'm not trying to pressure you..."

"Enough, no need to explain. I'm not planning to marry. Someone impersonated me and issued a Divine Oracle; you claim to serve devoutly, yet you can't distinguish between true and false oracles," Yu Longting dismissed coldly, "I only have one wife, and it will always be her, understand?"

"Understood, understood, I did not expect the Divine Oracle to be false; that was my stupidity. Your visit to our village cannot just be about clarifying the false oracle, then... I am truly at fault..." The village chief deeply blamed himself for a few words, then jogged ahead to lead the way, "Lord Dragon God, we have prepared the best room in the village for you and your distinguished wife; I hope it meets your approval."

Yu Longting no longer paid any attention to the village chief, looked down at me, and explained quietly, "The Dragon God they speak of is my father. We look alike, which led to the confusion."

"Yes." Yu Longting finally seemed willing to speak to me of his own accord. The tiny flame inside me that he had extinguished now flared up again, excitedly looking up at him, "That... your father, did he ascend to become a True Dragon?"

"Yes, it's just a pity he died early. Barbarian Village still relies on him for protection, little knowing that the so-called Dragon God could hardly fend for himself," Yu Longting said mockingly.

Thinking that, dead or alive, at least they worshipped a True Dragon, I murmured, "Then... their faith isn't misguided. At first, I thought they had been deceived into believing in a fake dragon."