

Immortal 1341

Chapter 1341: Paradise

"Immortal floor?" Shi Min looked troubled as he replied. "We just lost 300 heaven grade ki stones. I fear..."

Even though that was what he said, he was practically crying with joy inside. He had been wondering how he would drag Zu An's group up there without seeming suspicious, and he had thought that the heaven floor was the highest the princes could bring them to. Who would have thought that this guy would go insane and ask to go to the immortal floor?

You're going to lose your entire family fortune in just a few minutes! Hahaha, forget about your Snake race's mines and poison businesses, even your basic economic lifelines will belong to our Lion race!

Of course, he had heard that the Medusa Queen had just returned, and that the clan's authority was mainly within the hands of Elder White and Elder Blue, but what did that matter? As long as they used the name of the Medusa Queen and leveraged the Lion race's powerful strength, the two Snake race elders were nothing.

Shi Gong and Shi Rong exchanged a look. They really had endless admiration for their third brother. The other group had taken the bait smoothly, as expected.

Yun Jianyue secretly nudged Yan Xuehen. "These little lions are clearly feigning disinterest, and yet they probably have no idea that they're being completely played with by Little An."

Yan Xuehen also found the situation a bit laughable. She now knew why Shi Min had pointed out the rocks that actually had something in them. This little lion flaunts himself as smart, but he doesn't seem to have figured out who's the hunter and who's the prey.

Zu An replied loudly, "The third prince must be making a bad joke. Everyone knows that the Lion race is one of the fiend races' most powerful races. It's just a few hundred heaven-grade ki stones, so how can that be that much for you all?"

Shi Gong and Shi Rong knew he was saying that on purpose to urge them to join. But even then, they still enjoyed the praise.

The others who were standing around all voiced their agreement. They would only watch from the sidelines, so they weren't scared of things getting out of hand at all. If they had a choice, they naturally didn't want to be the only ones going home penniless. It would be even better if such important individuals also suffered similarly.

Only Ban Ka and Heichi Gu advised both sides not to act so impulsively. That was because, if Zu An lost the Boulder Topaz, Hidden Rainbow Stone, and all the other treasures, they really would want to vomit blood. After all, those were things they already viewed as their own!

After all that happened, Shi Min reluctantly said, "Very well. Since you are all in high spirits, we will keep you company for a while longer."

The butler said with a smile, "This way, please!"

Ban Ka and Heichi Gu panicked. Unfortunately, whether it was the Snake race or the Lion race, those weren't people they could stop. They could only watch as the group left.

Heichi Gu asked, "Brother Ban, what should we do now?"

"Of course we should still set up that ambush outside. We can't just lose so many ki stones for nothing!" Ban Ka spat hatefully.

"But from the looks of things, the Snake race will probably be stripped completely clean soon..." Heichi Gu replied. His teeth ached when he thought of Zu An's cocky appearance.

Which true rock betting expert wasn't calm and composed? None of them were like Zu An. This brat had just been freaking lucky! As easily as he had just won, that was how miserably he would lose on the immortal floor later.

A hint of viciousness flickered across Ban Ka's face. Even if the lion princes won, he would still choose to rob them.

In reality, because the Hyena race and the Lion race's territory were close to each other, there had been some friction between them to begin with. In terms of individual experts, the Hyena race was inferior to the Lion race, but their race also had a special talent. When they moved together, their strength became extremely great. In a group battle, they weren't inferior to the Lion race at all.

That was why they had to make a move even if the lion princes emerged from the immortal floor rich. If they won, it wouldn't just be worth a few hundred heaven-grade ki stones, so it would be worth the risk. As such, he didn't stay behind to join in the liveliness, instead leaving ahead of time to make arrangements with his people.

Heichi Gu clenched his teeth, then followed Ban Ka out. However, he just prayed that Zu An and the others wouldn't lose everything. How could he have predicted that Ban Ka would even dare to rob the Lion race?

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Meanwhile, Zu An's group followed the butler out. In order to make sure every single floor's guest had a good experience, and that they didn't disturb each other, none of the rooms were directly connected. Naturally, that was even more so the case for the immortal floor.

After entering through the door, the butler took Zu An and the others to a place that resembled a pavilion. However, unlike a pavilion, there was heavy security there.

"Please enter," the butler said, gesturing with one hand. The guards recognized him and all stepped aside.

Shi Min and the others walked in naturally, as if they were frequent visitors. At the same time, they sized up Zu An with a mocking expression, as if they were waiting for him to make a fool of himself.

When Zu An and the others entered the pavilion, no one could see what the butler had pressed, but a faint blue light suddenly flickered along the ground. Then, the entire pavilion moved upward.

Zu An was stunned, remarking to himself, "An elevator?"

He once again had to admit that there were many things in this world that were similar to things in his previous world; it was just that they made it happen a different way. One side relied on technology, while the other relied on cultivation.

The pavilion elevator's design was quite ingenious. It was just like the sightseeing elevators from his previous world; the surroundings were completely open. Not only could they appreciate the Jade Garden's scenery, they could even view the majestic Fiend King Court.

Yu Yanluo was the clan leader of one of the human race's number one gemstone businesses, as well as the human capital's former number one beauty. What kinds of things hadn't she seen before? As her personal maid, Maid Xing had acquired similar experience.

As for Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen, they were both grandmasters who were experienced in different things. Their mentality and willpower were extraordinary, so why would they be surprised by a mere mechanism?

The lion princes stared for a long time, but the other group was completely composed. It actually made them seem like the bumpkins, so they quickly lost interest.

Meanwhile, the others below could only raise their heads and look at the two groups enviously.

Someone said with a sigh, "I've never ever been to the immortal floor in my life. I wonder what it looks like up there..."

Another person said with a sneer, "You almost lost your pants on the yellow floor, and yet you want to go to the immortal floor? I really don't know where you get your courage from."

The one who had spoken first replied angrily, "In the beginning, the Snake race's people didn't even have as much as me, but aren't they still going up there?"

The onlookers' faces heated up when he said that. All of them turned around to look at the yellow floor.

After the previous event, the yellow floor had gained several times the usual number of guests. Furthermore, every single person chose the cheapest rocks and refused those that were even a bit more expensive. However, that was a story for another time.

Soon afterward, the pavilion stopped. Transparent slabs of stone appeared in front of both groups, leading all the way to the immortal floor on the other side.

With that, even Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue were stunned. The Jade Garden really had gone all out! In order for those floating steps to exist, an excellent rune master had definitely been invited for the design. Furthermore, the ki stones that would be consumed by each use were no laughing matter.

"Distinguished guests, please enter," the butler said. He chose to lead the way this time, as if to ease the guests' nervousness.

The two groups followed behind him and soon arrived outside the immortal floor. They saw several rows of the character for 'immortal', '仙', written on a signboard. They wondered who had written those, because every single stroke seemed to carry mysterious and profound meaning.

"Hm?" Shi Min and the other brothers' cultivation realms weren't high enough and they couldn't see anything, but Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen were both stunned. It was because the one who had written the characters had a higher cultivation rank than them.

Yan Xuehen couldn't help but ask, "Could it be that these were written by the Fiend Emperor?"

The butler said with a smile, "Our guest must be joking. How could we have the honor of having his majesty the Fiend Emperor personally write for us? This board was something we found in a storehouse. We felt that it was appropriate and moved it here."

"Your storehouse?" Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue's expressions turned strange. The Jade Garden actually had that profound a history?

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The party entered through the door. A wave of ki that penetrated deeply into their hearts wafted out. There weren't any sumptuous buildings inside, but rather a soft green meadow with fresh flowers. It was as if a small forest were before their eyes.

How was this still a rock betting place? This was absolutely a hidden paradise!

Even Shi Min and the others were startled. They had only played on the heaven floor before, so it was their first time on the immortal floor too.

Just then, a beautiful voice called out, "So it was you guys!"

Chapter 1342: Reunion

A lovely young lady with a jade-like countenance and bright eyes looked at them with a smile. Her skin was as fair as snow, and her figure was graceful and elegant. When she spoke, a cheerful air of genuine charm surrounded her.

"Princess Suolun!" When the younger lion princes saw her, they both showed her what they thought was their most handsome smile. Which man in this world didn't like a beautiful woman? Princess Suolun's status in the Demon race was great and she was pretty. For such vigorous little lions, she was naturally incredibly attractive. They began to shower her with praises.

Shi Min's display was much calmer. He said with a smile, "I apologize for arriving late, seeing as the princess actually came out personally to receive us."

"Um..." Princess Suolun was actually happier to see Yu Yanluo's group; she had come over for them. However, she reacted quickly as well. She immediately bowed slightly and said, "Greetings, princes..." She also courteously praised them a bit, making them beam widely.

"The Lion race's people really are getting worse with each generation. They have nothing but women on their minds. None of these guys are destined for anything great," someone called out with a loud, clear tone of derision.

Yu Yanluo was quite curious. There was actually someone who could afford to not show the Lion race any face? With their explosive temper, wasn't that tantamount to starting a fight?

Three men dressed in embroidered clothes walked over. They had similar builds to the Lion race's three large and sturdy princes. They had striped patterns on their bodies, and there were yellow and black patterns on their foreheads that vaguely formed the character '王'. They looked down arrogantly on the three princes, and an indescribable air of viciousness surrounded them. Each action they took conveyed the bearing of a king.

The one in the middle seemed a bit more steadfast and mature than the others, while the two on either side were clearly a bit younger. The one on the right, in particular, seemed like a young man around the age of Shi Rong.

With such distinctive traits, anyone could tell who they were without any introductions.

Zu An's expression became a bit strange. He was quite happy to see someone going against the Lion Race. As the saying went, 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend'.

Even so, Tushan Yu had been tacitly acknowledged as the woman of the Tiger race's clan leader Hu Qianxiao, while Zu An had ended up being the first to sleep with her. The Tiger race was destined to become his enemy too, in the end.

Shi Rong was quite young. How could he stand such a provocation? He glared furiously at the other side and retorted, "Hu Yong, can you not speak without being full of shit?"

"You bastard! You dare treat my second brother with disrespect?!" The Tiger race's youngest prince roared angrily. A low growl emerged from his mouth.

"Hu Xin, are you picking a fight? I'll keep you company if you want!" Shi Rong didn't show any weakness and began to roll up his sleeves.

Zu An wondered whether the tattoos or the redheads would win. In his previous world, the discussion of whether lions or tigers would win in a fight had been a heated topic. He hadn't expected to be able to personally witness who was stronger today.

However, to his disappointment, they didn't actually start a fight.

That was because a carefree voice called out from a distance, "Are you all done yet? You're always fighting whenever you meet. If you're really going to fight, have your fill three days later in the arena. Stop disturbing the Jade Garden's peace already."

Zu An was stunned. In the entire Fiend King Court, who else dared to speak like that to the Lion and Tiger races' princes? When he looked over, however, he couldn't help but chuckle inwardly. It was another old acquaintance.

The other person was dressed in black and gold embroidered clothes, sitting comfortably in a distant garden's pavilion. His hair was down, and he had one leg casually propped up on a stool. His confident and carefree bearing made him seem like a bold and relaxed person who didn't sweat the details. He was none other than the Golden Crow clan's Second Imperial Prince, who had held up the Snake race briefly outside the Fiend King Court.

Seated across from him was a golden-robed man who was completely different from him. He had a tall hat, and his hair was meticulously combed. His clothes were well sorted out without a single wrinkle.

The most important part, however, was that he was incredibly handsome. He was definitely the dream lover of countless young ladies.

That person was actually unaffected by the Second Imperial Prince's loftiness, even while sitting across from him. He actually seemed to treat the second prince as an equal.

The two both gave off the impression that they had experienced seas of blood and mountains of corpses. However, rather than the demonic air imparted by unending slaughter, it was more akin to the austere air of the battlefield.

Just then, Maid Xing quietly introduced them, "This golden-robed young man is none other than the Little Golden Peng King."

Zu An suddenly realized what was going on. No wonder that individual could engage with the Second Imperial Prince on equal footing; it turned out it was another one of the fiend races' four young generals, the Little Golden Peng King!

However, according to what Kong Qing had said before, the Great Golden Peng King's death had been surrounded by suspicion. It was very likely to have had something to do with the Fiend Emperor. His heir's appearance here, sharing a drink with the Fiend Emperor's son, was interesting in itself.

When they heard what the Second Imperial Prince said, even though the Lion and Tiger races' princes were still upset, they had to show him respect. They gave each other angry looks, then ended the exchange after a few words of resentment.

Zu An curled his lips into a sneer. That's it? Aren't these guys all bark and no bite?

Just then, another figure rushed out of the pavilion. He arrived right in front of Yu Yanluo, looking around while mumbling to himself, "Where is that damn brat?"

Yu Yanluo was a bit surprised. That person's mouth was massive, almost like that of an ape's. His appearance really was quite special; it was a face one wouldn't forget even after seeing it just once. It was actually the Dragon Race's Chi Wen! She replied, "Who is the ninth prince talking about?"

Shi Min and the others' expressions changed. How were this woman's connections so great? She even had ties with the Dragon Race?

Chi Wen harrumphed and said, "Don't play dumb. It's that human who was following you, that guy called Zu An or whatever."

Zu An's expression turned strange. Why is this guy looking for me? Could it be...

Yu Yanluo didn't let anything slip and asked, "I wonder why the ninth prince is looking for him?"

"It makes me angry just thinking about it. Last time, that guy took so many heaven-grade weapons from me, and in the end, he gave me something called 'Blue Ice From Beyond'. He tricked me and said it was some kind of great treasure, and yet after I soaked it to drink it as tea, in the end, the outside melted..." Chi Wen suddenly stopped. He looked as if he wanted to throw up.

"What happened when it melted?" Yu Yanluo asked in confusion. Forget about her, everyone else was also confused. They were really curious about what had happened afterward.

Chi Wen felt both grief and indignation, but he quickly held it in, saying, "It's nothing. I just wanted to know where he was. I wanted to thank him properly."

When he said the words 'thank him', it was through gritted teeth.

You have successfully trolled Chi Wen for +888 +888 +888...

Zu An had a strange expression. Don't tell me this guy soaked the shit and drank that too?

Sigh, just like in the legends, Chi Wen really is an idiot.

Yu Yanluo wore her usual courteous smile as she replied, "The ninth prince came at a poor time. He already left and returned to the human world not too long ago."

"What? How could he leave just like that?" Chi Wen cried loudly. He paced around back and forth, clearly feeling extremely vexed because he couldn't get revenge on Zu An.

Yu Yanluo gave the distant second prince a look and replied, "He offended the Golden Crow Crown Prince, so how could he dare to come to the Fiend King Court? That was why he left a long time ago."

She reiterated that point in front of many of the races' most important people, to make them subconsciously trust that Zu An had already returned to the human world. That way, they wouldn't associate Zu An with Yan Zu anymore.

The second prince chuckled and remarked, "At least he knows his limits. Otherwise, I would let him have a taste of the Golden Crow royal family's true strength."

Zu An sneered. This guy just implicitly belittled the crown prince again. Looks like he really isn't as powerful and free as he looks.

Chi Wen looked around, but didn't see Zu An. He walked back to the pavilion in disappointment while mumbling, "Little aunt, last time, I was giving you face. But the next time I meet him, I have to properly give him a beating..."

"Little aunt?" Zu An said in alarm. He looked around the pavilion. The second prince and the Little Golden Peng King seemed to be chatting attentively with a woman. Unfortunately, because of the angle, he couldn't see who she was.

A familiar voice said, "Sigh, if I hadn't passed by, you would have already been beaten to death. You still have the nerve to try and get revenge on him?"

The voice's tone was full of helplessness. Even so, it was still like the beautiful trickling of spring water, carrying an unmistakable air of serenity.

Only then did everyone notice the stunning woman in the gazebo. She was dressed in a white dress, wearing no makeup. There was a wine gourd in her hand, and her eyes seemed a little unfocused. If a normal woman were like that, they would definitely give off an air of sloppiness, but those present simply perceived her as relaxed and confident. It was exceptionally enchanting.

Just who was this woman, to actually be able to sit on the same level as the Second Imperial Prince and the Little Golden Peng King?!

Zu An naturally knew she was Shang Liuyu. He instinctively glanced beneath the table. Sure enough, as always, her gentle and beautiful feet were bare, untainted by a speck of dirt.

Shagn Liuyu also glanced curiously. When she saw Zu An, she had a look of puzzlement. She sensed that he was somehow familiar. Then, she saw that he was looking at her feet, his gaze practically tangible. She blushed and instinctively pulled her feet back, even pulling down her dress to cover them. Then, she gave him an annoyed glare, clearly having already recognized who he was.

Chapter 1343: Envy

Still, perhaps because she guessed that Zu An was trying to remain in disguise, she didn't expose him.

Her voice seemed to carry a kind of hidden magical power that made everyone present feel incredibly relaxed and refreshed. Sure enough, Chi Wen was no longer as irascible as before and only mumbled, "The last time doesn't count. I didn't eat enough last time, nor did I sleep enough, so that's why I wasn't at my best. It'll definitely be different next time."

The others could all tell that he was lacking in confidence. They couldn't help but sneer, but in truth, they were quite shocked. Just how high was Zu An's cultivation? He had first defeated the Golden Crow Crown Prince, then defeated the Dragon race's ninth prince? Rumor had it that he had defeated the Lion race's youngest prince, Shi Ling, too. Even if one time was a coincidence, there was definitely no way winning so many times in a row could be fake, right?

Princess Suolun finally found the opportunity to move over to Yu Yanluo's side, saying, "Hello again, big sis Yu~"

This woman had helped the Snake race out of their predicament before, so Yu Yanluo naturally had a good impression of her. She smiled and greeted her. "Hello, little sister princess."

Princess Suolun quietly asked, "Did that person really leave?"

Yu Yanluo suppressed the urge to give Zu An a look. This guy was always flirting with other women. How was she even supposed to feel?

Zu An cried out inwardly in protest. He hadn't flirted with her at all! It was probably just that her impression of me was too deep after what happened, which is why she couldn't forget about me...

Yu Yanluo also recovered her composure and said, "Of course he's already left."

"I heard that the one who tried to assassinate the crown prince recently might have been him, though..." Princess Suolun wasn't willing to give up just like that. Her voice was full of worry.

Yu Yanluo replied, "That's likely just the palace's one-sided story. Think about it, even if he really had gone to the Fiend King Court, why would he go to the imperial palace and try to kill the crown prince? Isn't that just courting death?"

Princess Suolun figured that made sense as well. Even though Zu An had looked powerful in Lord Sui's Tomb, he was still too far off from the Fiend Emperor. Why would he ever run into the Imperial Palace the Fiend Emperor oversaw? Most importantly, he didn't even have a motive!

Upon realizing that Zu An really hadn't come to the Fiend King Court after all, a bleak expression couldn't help but appear on Princess Suolun's face.

"I have long heard of the Medusa Queen's reputation. Now that I have met you myself, I see it was well deserved after all," Hu Yong said, leading his two brothers over. When he saw Yu Yanluo, he looked completely smitten.

"The prince overpraises me. I have also heard of the Tiger race's bravery and valor..." Yu Yanluo excelled in such business exchanges. She quickly exchanged greetings and learned that the three were the Tiger Race's second prince Hu Yong, the fifth prince Hu Cheng, and the ninth prince Hu Xin respectively.

Yun Jianyue secretly nudged Yan Xuehen and remarked, "Stone cold woman, you're normally showered in flattery by bootlickers all around you. Now that you're wearing a mask, no one is interested at all. How does it feel?"

Yan Xuehen said indifferently, "Aren't you a grandmaster too? This kind of thing is not even worth my attention."

Yun Jianyue gritted her teeth in annoyance. Even though her reason told her that such a thing really was pointless, she always felt awful when she saw those damned men surround Yan Xuehen while staying far away from her.

This humblebragger is so annoying!

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Hu Yong and the others learned that Yu Yanluo and the others had arrived to do rock betting with Shi Min. He quickly warned them, "Medusa Queen, you cannot let that Shi Min's gentlemanly demeanor deceive you! That fellow is full of evil plans and loves to scheme against others. He definitely has no good intentions for inviting you all here."

Shi Min's forehead darkened. He retorted, "Hu Yong, slandering others behind their backs is not what a nobleman does."

"Is speaking the truth slander?" Hu Yong replied with a shrug, his face full of disdain.

Shi Min was speechless.

Shi Gong said, "Enough. I won't bicker with you out of respect for the Second Imperial Prince. Don't take advantage of our kindness and go too far."

Hu Yong scowled and said, "Shi Gong, we might have understood it if your big brother had been the one to tell us that, but do you think even someone like you is worthy of that role?"

Seeing that the two sides were about to clash again, the butler quickly stepped forward to smooth things over.

Princess Suolun didn't want to participate in the Lion and Tiger race's dispute. However, she was also worried that they could accidentally injure others if they really fought, so she asked considerately, "I heard several cheers coming from below. Rumor has it that someone opened a heaven-grade gemstone from the yellow floor. Do all of you who came from below know what happened?"

"Oh? There was something interesting like that?" The Little Golden Peng King, who had been watching indifferently the entire time, seemed to have heard something interesting.

Zu An said with a smile, "It was just a fluke. All of that was actually thanks to the Lion race's princes."

Shi Min and the others' faces turned entirely red. They choked so hard, they felt as if they could even develop internal injuries.

"Just what happened?" the Second Imperial Prince asked. Even he was now interested.

Upon hearing the Second Imperial Prince ask about it, the butler gave a summary of what had happened below. The expressions of those present immediately changed greatly.

Hu Yong and his brothers roared with laughter. He exclaimed, "Shi Min, who would have thought that you would get what you deserve like this? I am sure you tried to scam them, but instead ended up helping them."

Shi Min harrumphed. "Rock betting naturally has wins and losses. It is not too surprising for this kind of result to appear. Since we agreed to bet, we must accept losses. We do not have your capricious mule-headedness."

Perhaps because he could tell that Shi Min was furious, Hu Yong didn't get angry and just chuckled, replying, "With my understanding of you, the more you speak like this, the more it indicates you are scheming something. Medusa Queen, you must be careful."

Yu Yanluo smiled, but didn't say anything. How could she not sense the Lion race's malice?

"Stop trying to sow dissension already." Shi Min harrumphed. "There are so many cultivators here; do you really think I can still play any tricks?"

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While the two sides were arguing, Shang Liuyu had already started to walk toward the gathered people. With each step, water appeared to ripple beneath her feet. It really was as if she were walking on water.

Even Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen, two grandmasters who were full of knowledge and experience, were a bit surprised. They both whispered to each other, "There's definitely more to this woman than meets the eye..."

"Zu An seems to have been able to get so many heaven-grade weapons from Chi Wen because of her." Yan Xuehen's face suddenly turned red, because she remembered that one of those heaven-grade weapons was none other than the Wind Fire Wheels. She had been carried on his back as they flew on them...

Yun Jianyue didn't notice her reaction and asked, "Say, do you think this woman is Little An's lover?"

Yan Xuehen frowned and replied, "I do not... think so." However, she didn't sound particularly confident.

Shang Liuyu walked up to Yu Yanluo; even she seemed a little surprised by the other woman's incredible beauty. She said with a smile, "I've heard Zu An mention how stunning you were. Now that I've met you today, you are indeed extraordinarily stunning."

Yu Yanluo's expression became a bit strange. Judging from Shang Liuyu's tone, why did it sound as if the other woman had come first, and that she had joined the harem afterward or something?

She tossed that absurd thought out of her mind and replied with a smile, "I've also heard him mention just how lofty and exceptional Ms. Shang was. Today, I discovered that his description was still a bit lacking."

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Yun Jianyue remarked in annoyance, "What are these two trying to do? It's as if they're jealous rivals or something. That Little An really is screwing around too much with all of these women. Sigh, it's really a pity for my precious disciple. She's doomed to be played with in the palms of these vixens."

Yan Xuehen's expression was also strange. She thought to herself that if not even a girl like Qiu Honglei could win against them, then her own Chuyan, who was as pure as a white sheet of paper, would be even worse off! Even I, as the master, am not too good in this field...

The onlookers' expressions became a bit strange. They had never expected the Medusa Queen's affinity with people to be so great. Looks like we have to reevaluate her again.

Even though so many people had arrived and so many disturbances had happened, the Second Imperial Prince and Little Golden Peng King had remained in place. And yet, when Shang Liuyu walked over, they also got up and followed her.

The Second Imperial Prince laughed and said, "Let me give everyone an introduction. This Miss Shang is the Ocean races' mermaid princess. This time, she has come this time to attend the All Races General Assembly as the representative of the Ocean races!"

Zu An suddenly looked toward Shang Liuyu. Even though he'd had his suspicions, he still couldn't help but feel a bit surprised when he received the confirmation.

No wonder Shang Liuyu had her own swimming pool even though she only had a small courtyard back in Brightmoon Academy; furthermore, even back then, she hadn't liked to wear shoes.

Soon afterward, those present began to greet Shang Liuyu. After all, the Ocean races were extremely mysterious and powerful. As the mermaid princess, her status was definitely great.

A while later, the Little Golden Peng King said with a smile, "I am not particularly interested in how high the cultivation of that Zu An you speak of is, but the fact that he is related to so many exceptional beauties is something I am extremely envious of."

After he took the lead, the others' discussions also shifted onto Zu An.

"Medusa Queen, just what kind of relationship do you have with him?" the Second Imperial Prince asked, looking at Yu Yanluo with sharp eyes.

Chapter 1344: Shocking Bet

Those present turned toward Yu Yanluo when they heard that.

"We just happened to meet in the human world. We can be considered friends," Yu Yanluo replied in a manner that was neither servile nor overbearing.

Shang Liuyu smiled and said, "The Medusa Queen is loyal to your friends, as expected. You are willing to admit that he is your friend even in this kind of situation; truly a model for our generation."

She was worried that the others would make things difficult for Yu Yanluo, so she took the chance to speak out for her. At the same time, she also felt a bit of admiration. That guy Zu An hadn't decided to trust the wrong person.

Hu Yong roared with laughter, saying, "Indeed, our fiend races value righteousness the most. I really admire the Medusa Queen's courage."

The Little Golden Peng King nodded and said, "In the army, what we care about the most is to not sell out your comrades. Even though the Medusa Queen is a woman, you have the heroic spirit of a man from the army."

Shi Min and the others had initially planned to use the situation as a pretext to make a fuss, but who would have thought that so many people would speak up to help Yu Yanluo? That made it so they couldn't make use of public outrage.

The Second Imperial Prince looked around with a smile that was not quite a smile on his face. This Medusa Queen's relationships with people were pretty good. However, he didn't really plan to get revenge for his brother, so he didn't look too deeply into it. He remarked, "As that human did defeat the crown prince in a fair fight, our fiend races would not be so devoted as to get revenge over that matter. However, according to what the crown prince's side has said, the assassination attempt in the palace might be related to that Zu An. So, if the Medusa Queen has any information, please report it. Otherwise, you might end up being caught up in suspicion too."

"Thank you, Second Imperial Prince, for your reminder." Yu Yanluo bowed, courteously expressing her thanks.

Just then, Hu Yong said, "I heard that the assassin managed to approach the crown prince without triggering any alarms, then almost instantly inflicted a serious injury. Then, he was able to escape after trading a blow with a grandmaster without being too affected, and he even managed to hide from the Fiend Emperor's divine senses. The imperial palace's Golden Crow Guards' thorough search didn't produce anything either. Is that Zu An really so strong?"

The others' expressions changed a bit. After all, if they were in the same situation, they wouldn't have been able to accomplish even a single one of those feats.

The Second Imperial Prince nodded and said, "That assassin was indeed a bit mysterious. However, the reason why he was able to seriously injure the crown prince was likely because the crown prince was ambushed." Even though he was speaking up for the crown prince, there was a faint smile on his lips.

Everyone present was a strong cultivator, so they knew that being ambushed wasn't an excuse. It simply meant one had been negligent. After all, in a real conflict, one's enemy definitely wouldn't fight honorably the way one might in an arena.

Then, the Little Golden Peng King looked at Yu Yanluo and said, "I will have to trouble the Medusa Queen to talk about your friend Zu An a bit more, to see why he is so formidable."

Yu Yanluo had a strange expression because she knew that Zu An was actually right next to her. Zu An also felt a bit strange. This was the first time he had been in a group where everyone was actually talking about him.

Yu Yanluo replied, "He was not all that strong when I first met him. Back then, he had just started to cultivate, and he was even chased around by some ordinary bandits." When she remembered how this guy had really overestimated himself and tried to save her outside of Brightmoon City, she couldn't help but smile.

The others were shocked. Shi Gong said with a sneer, "So the Medusa Queen already knew him for a while. I fear that the two of you aren't just normal friends."

"It wasn't that long. It was just two or three years ago," Yu Yanluo replied.

That statement left all the assembled cultivators truly surprised. Even the Second Imperial Prince couldn't help but stand up, asking, "So you are saying that he only started cultivating two or three years ago?"

"Yes. Previously, people all said that his aptitude was poor. That was why he only gained some opportunities and began to cultivate later in life," Yu Yanluo explained. Even though she was downplaying the situation on the surface, however, a hint of pride appeared on her face.

When Yun Jianyue saw that, she cursed inwardly, "This woman is starting to learn from his bad example. She clearly wants to brag about her lover, and yet she's acting as if she's not."

Yan Xuehen's expression was also strange. Actually, Chuyan had told her about that story before, and she had acted the exact same way Yu Yanluo was acting right now. Sigh, he really is evil incarnate...

"To reach such a level of cultivation in just two to three years... Just how ridiculous is that guy's talent?!" The fiend race cultivators were shocked. Even though the Second Imperial Prince and Little Golden Peng King believed themselves to be geniuses, compared to such speed, they might as well have been trash!

Shi Rong couldn't help but ask, "You're exaggerating, right? How could an ordinary person reach his level in just two or three years?"

No one suspected he was only saying that because he bore animosity against the Snake race, because it really was too inconceivable.

Yu Yanluo said indifferently, "Princess Shang also knows him. You can ask her for confirmation."

The others looked at Shang Liuyu. She said with a smile, "What the Medusa Queen said is correct. A few years ago, Zu An was indeed no different from an ordinary person. Back then, the only difference between him and a normal person was that he was truly daring." Inwardly, she thought, I really don't know where that guy got the confidence to ask me for a drink back then.

When they heard Shang Liuyu's confirmation, no one felt any more suspicion. There were even some who began to feel downcast. "Does this mean that the rise of the human race is inevitable? Even an ordinary person was actually able to reach such a ridiculous level in just a few years!"

Princess Suolun's eyes flickered with brilliance. She recalled Zu An's strength in Lord Sui's Tomb. She hadn't expected him to have only cultivated for two to three years! His talent was probably on a never-before-seen scale, right?

The Second Imperial Prince said with a harrumph, "In my opinion, that might not be the case. It might have been some old monster who possessed his body, or perhaps some older figure offered him a lifetime of cultivation. Otherwise, it would be impossible no matter how much of a genius he is. His cultivation has indeed increased quickly, but his upper limits are already set. He is likely destined to never become anyone great."

"What the Second Imperial Prince said is correct. That is indeed most likely the case." The others all nodded. That was the most likely possibility.

Yu Yanluo harrumphed inwardly. Would she really not know if Zu An had been some old monster? Let alone Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen, who were both grandmasters. Even an earth immortal had personally inspected Zu An. If there were a problem, he would have long since been discovered. Of course, she wasn't in the mood to argue about that. Otherwise, it could just end up bringing Zu An even more unwanted attention.

"Let us not talk about someone else anymore. Were you not all going to do some rock betting? Why not help us expand our horizons? I have longed for many of the sealed stones here, but unfortunately, I have never had any confidence in opening them. Today will be a good chance to borrow your insight to see what kind of treasures are inside," the Second Imperial Prince said with a smile.

The Little Golden Peng King also smiled and added, "This is an excellent suggestion. Even I am unwilling to open up many of the stones on this floor. This is a great chance for me to observe the results for myself."

Hu Yong looked at Shi Min and said, "I know you're scheming against the Snake race, but you'd best take care not to end up screwing yourselves over."

Shi Min said with a snort, "That is none of your business. Rock betting is something that cannot be falsified to begin with, so what schemes can there even be?"

The Second Imperial Prince nodded and said, "Indeed. Not even those with higher cultivation can tell what is inside these rocks. It completely depends on one's own experiences and eyesight. However, since we are talking about betting, we have to raise some stakes to make it interesting."

Shi Min thought to himself, That's exactly what I had in mind. He asked with a smile, "May I ask what the Second Imperial Prince feels is a suitable bet?"

The Second Imperial Prince remained silent for a moment, and then said, "In my opinion, this should be fine. We can use the value of the opened rocks as the standard, with the more precious result winning. The losing side will have to hand everything they opened to the other party, and they will also have to pay ten thousand heaven-grade ki stones. What do you think?"

Hu Yong's expression grew grave. Why do I feel as if everything the Second Imperial Prince is doing is partial to Shi Min? Could it be that the Lion race and the Second Imperial Prince already established some kind of relationship I didn't know about?

Princess Suolun's expression changed. She also felt that the Second Imperial Prince was being a bit biased. Did the Snake race offend the Second Imperial Prince somehow?

However, the Second Imperial Prince and the crown prince didn't get along; that was something all of the upper levels of the various clans knew. There was no way he would really do anything to help the crown prince.

Only Shang Liuyu seemed relaxed, seemingly not worried in the slightest.

Shi Min was extremely happy about the turn of events. He hadn't known what to say before, but now that the Second Imperial Prince had spoken, it saved him quite a bit of effort. He replied, "That is naturally not a problem on our side, but I do not know if the Medusa Queen will dare to make this bet with us."

Yu Yanluo frowned slightly. Zu An said, "Your clumsy psychological attack is meaningless. The reason why our clan leader is hesitating is because the stakes are a bit small. How about this? A hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones. If you all dare, bring that amount out."

Yu Yanluo was incredibly shocked, but she chose to trust Zu An. She calmly nodded and said, "Indeed. It now depends on what the Lion race thinks."

The others' expressions changed when they heard that.

Chapter 1345: One of the Greatest Treasures

Forget about Shi Min, even the high-ranked Second Imperial Prince and Little Golden Peng King were startled. A hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones? What kind of concept was that?

A single heaven-grade ki stone was equivalent to a hundred thousand ordinary ki stones. For people like them, they normally only carried a few hundred heaven-grade ki stones at most. A hundred thousand ki stones was enough to form a powerful army out of nothing!

Chi Wen clapped his hands and exclaimed with hearty laughter, "This is so fun! That's how you make things interesting!"

He had grown up with the Dragon Palace's treasury at his fingertips, so he had no concept of value. That was why he didn't care no matter how far things were blown out of proportion.

The expressions of the lion princes changed greatly. Then, Shi Min's expression became overcast as he exclaimed, "Are you all joking right now?"

Yu Yanluo said calmly, "Of course not."

She actually felt a bit of regret at the moment. After all, in rock betting, no one had absolute confidence. She was full of experience, but if the lion princes dared to hold such a bet, they definitely had their own achievements in the field.

In the past, even though a hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones was a large amount, the wealthy Yu clan wouldn't have found it too difficult a matter. However, Xu Yu had exposed her identity as the Medusa Queen and forced her to leave in a hurry. She hadn't had any time to move her assets.

Furthermore, the Snake race was controlled by Elders White and Blue, so as a newcomer, she didn't actually have much real strength, let alone the ability to take out such a sum from the clan.

Still, she agreed without any hesitation because she trusted her lover.

When they received her reply, the lion princes were all alarmed. After all, that was a huge amount! The three brothers didn't have the right to use so much money.

"What's wrong? Weren't you all shouting noisily earlier? Why do you look so terrified right now?" Zu An remarked with an expression of extreme disdain.

Shi Gong and Shi Rong's faces turned entirely red as they cried, "You bastard, why would we feel fear?"

You have successfully trolled Shi Gong for +444 +444 +444...

You have successfully trolled Shi Rong for +444 +444 +444...

They had been trying to use psychological tricks against the other group before, and yet now, they were easily affected by the same strategy. They really were infuriated when they saw his smug expression.

Shi Min was comparatively calmer. He said seriously, "According to what I know, however, you only have a hundred ki stones on you, and you used the rock betting earlier to win a few hundred heaven-grade ki stones. How could you possibly bring out a hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones?"

Yu Yanluo calmly replied, "No matter how much the Snake race has fallen, we are still a great clan. I am the leader of a clan, so a hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones is still doable."

Shi Min frowned deeply when he heard what she said. Even though it had been his plan from the start, he had been wondering how to lure her in. Now, however, Yu Yanluo had agreed so fast that he was caught off guard.

Could it be that she's actually too scared to hold this bet, so she had her subordinate raise a ridiculous price to scare us off, thus avoiding the bet entirely? A smile formed on his face when he thought of that. To think he had almost been fooled by them!

Thus, he replied, "Fine. Since even the Medusa Queen is so willing, how can men like us shrink back? A bet it is!"

"Third brother!" Shi Rong and Shi Gong exclaimed in panic. If they really lost, the price they had to pay would be a bit too great!

Shi Min raised his hand to stop the two of them and secretly explained things to them. When the brothers heard what he said, they sighed in relief. The Snake race really was too crafty!

Zu An's eyes lit up. He said, "Everyone, please serve as witnesses for us. If anyone were to renege on their debt after losing..."

The Little Golden Peng King said with an ambiguous smile, "Worry not. We have at least a bit of influence in the Fiend King Court. If anyone really refuses to admit defeat, they will have no standing left in the Fiend King Court in the future."

The Second Prince also nodded and added, "Indeed. You can compete boldly to your heart's content."

Even Shi Min was starting to sweat a bit. Even though he was usually calm and steady, he still felt tremendous pressure at the moment. Unfortunately, with so many important individuals watching, there was no way he would shrink back halfway.

As such, he continued to convince himself that the Snake race was just acting strong on purpose. Since even they weren't scared, what did he have to be scared for? He gradually calmed down when he thought of that. Thus, he gestured that they could begin.

The butler explained, "Unlike the other floors, every single stone in the immortal floor is extraordinary. All of them have their own unique ki patterns. That is why this floor is like the lower floors where they are placed on a table; instead, they are kept amid the natural environment. Their ki can influence the surrounding environment, and the environment can also nourish them. That way, even if there was nothing in the stones to begin with, as the years pass, they might form some precious things."

Zu An had noticed that the floor contained many strange stones arranged within a large rock garden, creating a rich natural environment. He hadn't expected those rocks to be the stones they were to choose, though.

Yu Yanluo didn't dare to show any negligence. After all, the stakes had climbed to a hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones! She began to slowly walk through the garden in search of stones she liked.

Suddenly, she stopped. She noticed a strange stone in an ornamental fish pond. It resembled a snake wrapped around a giant turtle. The snake had the head of a dragon and the wings of a phoenix, while the giant turtle had qilin scales on its back. Its entire body swirled with an ancient and profound aura.

"Was this sculpted?" Yun Jianyue couldn't help but ask. The snake and the giant tortoise were just too realistic!

The butler shook his head slightly and replied, "That is not the case. This stone's shape was naturally formed, and that is why it is so mystical. This stone is named the Northern Palace Black Tortoise, and it is one of the immortal floor's greatest treasures."

Even the other princes and princesses were shocked when they heard that. If even something naturally formed looked like that, it definitely held an extraordinary treasure inside!

Shi Rong was scared that the other group would steal it first and quickly asked, "How much is this stone? We'll buy it!"

The butler had an ambiguous smile as he said, "A hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones."

Shi Rong and Zu An were equally speechless.

The others were completely dumbstruck. As expected of something that was known as one of this place's greatest treasures! No wonder even though something so amazing was right before their eyes, no one had opened it to see what was inside. It turned out to have been because the item was just too expensive.

After all, there were many top-tier unpolished stones that produced all kinds of special signs, but not every single one of those stones would actually have something inside. Otherwise, why would a business like Jade Garden keep them there to sell? Wouldn't it be better if they just opened it up themselves?

Even for such unpolished stones that had all manner of extraordinary features, comparatively, the probability of having something inside was only somewhat higher than it would be for other stones; there was no guaranteed chance of success. Countless people had staked everything betting on such unpolished stones with amazing signs, and yet ended up losing everything. Furthermore, even if something amazing came out, it wasn't guaranteed to match the price they paid to open it.

If one had a hundred thousand ki stones, why wouldn't they just keep it for themselves? Why would they have to gamble with it? The risk was just way too great.

The butler looked at Shi Rong with a smile, asking, "How does the seventh prince wish to make the payment?"

"Uh... Pretend I didn't say anything," Shi Rong replied, his face completely red.

At any other time, how could he let himself be embarrassed like that? He would just have had to grit his teeth all throughout. However, this was a hundred thousand ki stones! He really couldn't pay that kind of price.

The butler didn't seem all that affected. It clearly wasn't the first time he had seen such a situation over the years.

Yu Yanluo secretly wrinkled her nose. She couldn't afford that thing either, so she could only take a look at the others first.

"Stone cold woman, do you sense anything special from it?" Yun Jianyue asked, staring at the stone. She was quite eager to give it a try, feeling incredibly curious.

"I cannot." Yan Xuehen shook her head slightly and explained, "The natural laws of the world isolate the divine senses of cultivators. Furthermore, those natural signs that have been produced are not so easily seen through."

Suddenly, she thought of something and added, "You are not planning on stealing it, are you?"

Yun Jianyue's expression became a bit unnatural as she replied, "Hmph, am I that kind of violent person? I was just curious as to what exactly was inside, that's all."

"You had better not. You have not fully recovered from your injuries yet, so you are not as strong as you were before. This butler's cultivation is high, and there is someone even more terrifying hidden on this immortal floor. I believe they are the guardian of the Jade Garden," Yan Xuehen quickly warned her.

"Am I someone that hot-headed?" Yun Jianyue retorted, her face heating up. "What, you're actually worried for me?"

"Hah! No way." An annoyed expression appeared on Yan Xuehen's face. She didn't pay Yun Jianyue any more attention.

...

Meanwhile, Zu An was truly puzzled. The Fox Merchant Group's backing was even crazier than he imagined! Just any random rock was a hundred thousand ki stones! Then, how much was the entire immortal floor added up worth?

According to the fiend races' barbaric and unreasonable style of doing things, without enough strength, this place would already have been robbed who knew how many times over. And yet, it still managed to peacefully exist in the Fiend King Court where there were powerful cultivators everywhere.

Who exactly was backing this merchant group, though? He had thought that it was Bluefield Country's business, but now, forget about Bluefield Country, not even adding in the Tiger race would amount to enough power. There was no way it could be the fiend races' royal family, right?

Meanwhile, Shi Min stopped on the other side. As he examined the huge rock in front of him, he was completely stunned.

The rock was like a mountain peak, and it was rugged and steep. Around the enormous rock was a ring of smoke that looked like the multicolored morning glow, but also resembled a kind of mist. The most eye-catching part, however, was a slender stone that protruded outward from the 'peak'. It was as if a slender and elegant young lady were standing there.

The butler quickly walked over and considerably explained, "This stone is named Mount Wu's Goddess..."

Chapter 1346: Chou Clan's Supreme Skill

"Mount Wu's Goddess?" Zu An almost spat out the water he was sipping on. After all, in the world he had transmigrated from, there was a famous area known as 'Mount Wu's Goddess Peaks' that was related to an alluring legend. The term 'rainclouds over Mount Wu' had even become synonymous with a certain intimate form of exercise.

The Second Imperial Prince became interested as well, saying, "This name is quite interesting."

The butler continued to explain, "Apart from the rock at the very peak resembling a beautiful woman, there is another phenomenon, in the form of the surrounding clouds and mist. In the morning, they are like clouds, while in the evening, they are like rain. They can transform on their own."

Those present stared at the rings of mist. All of them marveled at the miraculous nature of the stone. It was actually able to affect the climate around it within a small range!

"What kind of place is the 'Mount Wu' in its name?" Princess Suolun asked curiously.

The butler shook his head and said, "That, I do not know. This unpolished stone has already existed for a very long time. When we obtained it, this name had already followed it into our possession. As for who gave it this name and what kind of a place Mount Wu is, no one knows."

The Little Golden Peng King said, "I have actually heard of a mountain range in the fiend races' territory called Mount Wu, and there is a place on the southern border of the human race's territory that is also called Mount Wu. However, I do not know which of these mountains this name is referring to."

The Little Golden Peng King was one of the fiend races' Four Great Generals. His army had fought on the southern front, so he was naturally more familiar with that place. No one doubted his explanation.

Zu An was a bit surprised. He definitely had to go to those places and take a look once he got the chance, to see whether they were the same as the Mount Wu he knew. After everything he had experienced, he couldn't help but feel that the two worlds had some kind of vague connection.

"How much is this stone?" Shi Rong quickly asked. It was so mysterious, there was definitely something great inside.

The butler smiled and said, "A hundred and fifty thousand heaven-grade ki stones."

Shi Gong was speechless.

The others all suddenly felt a sense of absurdity. After all, they were already the most important figures of the fiend race and were as far away from poverty as could be. And yet, when they came to the immortal floor, they felt that they were poor for the first time.

Shi Min also had a regretful expression, but he was clearly a bit reluctant to leave. He moved around the 'Mount Wu's Goddess' and examined it. He even had the thought that if there really was something incredible inside, even if he were to lose his entire family fortune, he had to purchase the stone. Even though a hundred and fifty thousand heaven-grade ki stones was a big deal, with the Lion race's power, it wasn't something they couldn't purchase.

Unfortunately, even after he studied it for a long time, he couldn't get a clear impression. At times, he felt that there was a mysterious sensation coming from the stone that called out to him, while at other times, he felt that there was absolutely nothing inside, almost as if it were misleading him on purpose.

All kinds of emotions appeared on his face. In the end, he still gave up out of helplessness. The price was just too great. He didn't dare to take the risk.

Then, the group of people began to walk around the garden. They saw some other unpolished rocks that seemed special; none of them were inferior to the prior 'Northern Palace Black Tortoise' or 'Mount Wu's Goddess'. Unfortunately, their prices were similarly ridiculous. Both sides gave up on the thought of touching the greatest treasures of the store.

Yun Jianyue was already starting to drool. She quietly nudged Yan Xuehen and said, "Stone cold woman, this Jade Garden is a freaking fat sheep... Should we find a chance to give it a go...?"

Yan Xuehen's expression remained indifferent as she replied, "You are still injured. Something like that would just be courting death."

"That's why I'm asking you to help me out! If I were at my strongest, then I could do whatever I wanted! Would I still need your help?" Yun Jianyue harrumphed.

"A witch is a witch after all. Your first reaction is to steal other people's things," Yan Xuehen said with a frown. "Why would I follow your bad example?"

"Scaredy-cat!" Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Then if I did steal them, would you really not be curious at all about what's inside?"

"Do not be reckless. I do not care if you die, but if you drag down Zu An with you... Ahem, and Yu Yanluo, as well as the others, I cannot forgive you," Yan Xuehen said, jumping in fright.

"I know that even though you're saying 'Zu An and Yu Yanluo', you're actually worried that something might happen to me, right? It's just that you're too embarrassed to admit it," Yun Jianyue replied, resting her arm on Yan Xuehen's shoulder with a giggle. This stone cold woman was now becoming more and more like a normal human.

Yan Xuehen was speechless. She uncomfortably pried off Yun Jianyue's arm. When did this witch start becoming so nosy and affectionate?

Yun Jianyue didn't mind it at all, saying, "Well, if you don't want it, then forget it. Sooner or later, I'll clean out this entire shop. Just let me know if you're going to come and check out what's inside."

Yan Xuehen was a bit hesitant as she said, "I really am curious as to what is inside, but what you want to do is wrong..."

"Hmph, just false righteousness," Yun Jianyue said, turning up her nose.

...

Meanwhile, Shi Min and Yu Yanluo had already continued to look for unpolished stones. Once they gave up on the greatest treasures, they became much faster. They quickly moved through the garden for fear of the other side finding some treasure first. After all, all of the stones in the garden were expensive. They had to find a treasure with sufficiently great value, but its price had to also be within a controllable degree. That really wasn't easy.

The other princes and princesses were getting excited too. They followed along and looked around. They all wondered whether they should try their luck to see if they could find some treasure in the stones. Unfortunately, all of the unpolished stones cut off their divine sense. Their investigations proved futile. As such, they focused their attention on the players of the bet, to see if they had any special methods.

They saw that Shi Min's rough-looking hand had suddenly become extremely gentle. He gently tapped against the unpolished stones. With each tap, the stones seemed to become like musical instruments, producing all kinds of sounds. Some were dull, while some were sharp and clear. Some even left sounds lingering in the air.

"This technique..." The Little Golden Peng King voiced his surprise. He seemed to have seen it before somewhere.

When he saw the others' shocked expressions, Shi Rong proudly said, "My third brother was a guest of the Chou clan. His talent received the appreciation of their elder, who gave him a few pointers."

Hu Yong was shocked, asking, "You're talking about the Armadillo race ki stone family's Chou clan?"

Shi Rong gave him a look of contempt and replied, "Who else could it be but them? If the Chou clan dared to claim to be number two in their ki stone techniques, no one else among all the fiend races would dare to claim to be number one."

Perhaps because he couldn't stand the other prince's provocations, Hu Yong harrumphed and said, "In the past, the Pangolin Race was above the Chou clan."

"Pangolin race?" Shi Rong sneered. "They kept digging up others' ancestral tombs, becoming the target of hatred. Ever since their old ancestor Chuan Shan went missing a few centuries ago, that race has already vanished without a trace. I didn't expect you to be so ignorant and ill-informed."

Hu Yong was furious. He spat, "Damn brat, you're looking for a fight, aren't you?!"

Seeing that the two seemed to be about to fight again, the butler and the others present all stepped forward to stop them.

Zu An was startled. Ancestor Chuan Shan was probably the corpse they had encountered in Lord Sui's Tomb, right? He had gotten 'One Drop of Heaven's Essence' from the corpse, and judging from the circumstances, it seemed that the ancestor hadn't been able to learn most of the contents.

The fat daoist Wu Liang seemed to be a descendant of the Pangolin race, too. His skills were quite mysterious.

The Little Golden Peng King said, "What he used earlier seems to be the Chou clan's 'Magic Tap'. I didn't expect them to have even passed on that skill to Shi Min."

Shi Min said with a smile, "The Little Golden Peng King's insight is incredible, as expected. In the past, I was fortunate enough to receive the favor of the Chou clan's elder, so he passed on some moves to me. Unfortunately, I was unable to learn their most important skills, as those are skills that the Chou clan only passes down to their descendants."

Even though his words conveyed regret, there was a hint of pride in his voice. After all, he had learned everything other than the three most mysterious techniques. That already made him more formidable than most of the Chou clan's disciples. If it weren't for those skills, why would he dare to compete against Yu Yanluo in rock betting?

He spoke loudly on purpose so Yu Yanluo and the others would hear it too. His intention was to distract her and make it even harder for her to find anything good. After all, he didn't have to worry about them backing down anymore, and as such, he didn't have to keep up the act.

However, Yu Yanluo's expression remained calm, as if she hadn't been affected at all. Instead, she focused on a certain unpolished rock and stared at it. She did nothing, other than looking calmly at the rock.

Shi Gong roared with laughter. "Why are you suddenly forgetting how to choose? Should third brother help you choose a few stones?"

Zu An harrumphed. "You're all becoming this cocky just because you learned a trick from the Chou clan? And you didn't even learn everything. Then do, you know what our clan leader did in the human world?"

Shi Gong frowned and asked, "What did she do?"

Zu An smiled and replied, "She was the leader of the humans' number one gemstone clan. Oh, right, if we think about it, her status was likely a few levels higher than even that Chou clan elder you're talking about."

"What?!" The lion princes were incredibly shaken. How could they have expected something like that to happen? They all looked at Yu Yanluo in shock.

Yu Yanluo was extremely focused and didn't seem to have heard them. Suddenly, a flicker of golden light passed through her beautiful eyes.

“Medusa’s Eye!” The others’ expressions changed. They were from the fiend races as well, so they naturally knew the terror of the Medusa’s Eye. They all went on guard, for fear that they would be completely petrified as a result.

Chapter 1347: True Corpse Bamboo

However, they quickly realized that there was no aura of death around them, nor was there any killing intent coming from Yu Yanluo’s body. The radiance coming from her eyes was completely concentrated on the stone in front of her.

“This is...” They realized that it wasn’t the deadly eye technique they imagined, but rather that she was observing and selecting a stone.

“Who would have thought that the Medusa’s Eye would actually have this kind of use!” Chi Wen exclaimed in surprise. Even though he was from the Ocean races, he had still heard of the power of the Medusa’s Eye before.

The Little Golden Peng King nodded and said, “As expected, the Medusa bloodline’s power is naturally closest to the earth element, and the Medusa’s Eye is an earth element forbidden move. These unpolished stones are also part of the earth element.”

Princess Suolun was happy to hear that, asking, “Then doesn’t that mean she can see through the unpolished stones and see what’s inside?”

Because of their last encounter in Lord Sui’s Tomb, she instinctively felt a bit closer to Yu Yanluo’s side. She had initially thought that Yu Yanluo would lose for sure when she saw how formidable Shi Min was. How could she have expected things to turn around so suddenly?

Shang Liuyu shook her head slightly and said, “The Medusa’s Eye can indeed bring her closer to these unpolished stones, and it might allow her to see some signs that ordinary people can’t see, but there’s no way she can see exactly what’s inside. That limitation is set by the natural laws of the world. Similarly, the Chou clan’s Magic Tap skill is something produced from thousands of years of rock betting experience. These skills have a set principle to them, but they aren’t completely precise. Otherwise, the Chou clan would have already become the world’s number one clan a long time ago.”

The Second Imperial Prince said with a sigh of praise, “The princess truly has penetrating insight. I am in awe.”

The Little Golden Peng King added, “Does the princess perhaps know a bit about rock betting too? Would you like to give this place a try yourself?”

Shang Liuyu said with a faint smile, “I don’t truly understand the subject. I merely heard a senior talk about it in the past.”

“The princess is too humble,” the Second Imperial Prince and Little Golden Peng King both said with a smile.

Chi Wen had a strange expression. These two were always trying to hit on his little aunt. They clearly didn’t have good intentions. He thought, You want to become this one’s uncle? Why don’t you go and eat shit.

...

Meanwhile, Shi Min gathered his concentration. He wasn't an untalented and mediocre person, after all. Soon, all irrelevant thoughts faded from his mind. He then stopped in front of a stone.

This one was long and tall, surrounded by a forest. The surface flickered with layers of green, and it was covered in rings of bamboo-shaped protrusions, almost identical to that of real bamboo. It didn't seem out of place in the bamboo forest at all.

"How much is this one?" he asked seriously, worried that the Jade Garden could change the price later.

"This stone is named Bamboo Noble. The price is set at 2000 heaven-grade ki stones," the butler replied.

Shi Min nodded. He quickly tapped the stone's surface, leaving behind a streak of afterimages as he used his skill.

The sound of rustling emerged from the stone, as if a cool breeze were brushing through the bamboo forest. However, there wasn't any wind blowing through the courtyard.

Suddenly, a sound that resembled a howling ghost tore through the place. The ki-filled bamboo garden seemed almost to have plummeted into the netherworld itself.

"This is..." Those present were shocked. What a powerful dark yin force!

Shi Min's expression also changed. However, he still said, "This is the unpolished stone I will choose." Then, he took out the heaven-grade ki stones he had already prepared ahead of time.

"Very well," the butler said as he handed the ki stones to one of his nearby subordinates. He asked, "Shall we open it now?"

"Wait!" Shi Min looked at Yu Yanluo and the others. "Have you all made your choice yet?"

Yu Yanluo didn't reply. The faint yellow light from her eyes continued to shine onto the rock in front of her. Then, the stone began to produce golden light, and something happened on its surface.

Yellow sand filled the air, and a vast desert extended endlessly into the horizon. Amid the sands, nothing was visible save for a dead, dried-up piece of wood. A sandstorm blew past, gradually covering the wood as well.

Yu Yanluo's eyes returned to normal as she said, "I have also made my choice. We will just select this one."

She had already asked about the price of the stone earlier. Because it looked normal on the outside and hadn't really had many strange signs surrounding it, it was one of the cheaper stones on the immortal floor, only costing 500 heaven-grade ki stones.

The others clicked their tongue in wonder. Her skill was just too shocking! Could it be that the Medusa Queen could really see what was inside the unpolished stone?

Shi Min's expression also changed greatly. Judging from the strange signs that had appeared, the other group's stone was definitely not an ordinary one either. Looks like I underestimated her; she might really have some skill.

Even so, he was like an arrow already drawn all the way back. He had confidence in his own judgment too. The stone he chose could definitely win!

He sneered and said, "Let's begin."

The butler nodded, then began cutting into Shi Min's stone. Meanwhile, the princes and princesses all moved closer to watch.

The butler acted carefully. He didn't cut in broad strokes the way he had on the yellow floor, gently brushing against the outer layer instead. Whenever his hands brushed past, an extremely thin layer of rock fell away; he almost seemed worried that any thicker cuts would end up damaging the treasure within.

The others understood that principle and didn't rush him. They all watched silently, holding their breaths.

Fortunately, the butler was well-seasoned. Even though each layer was extremely thin, his hands moved like blades, gradually revealing the unpolished stone's true appearance.

As he shaved off layer after layer, an ink-black aura gradually emerged. Then, the wails of countless vengeful spirits seemed to fill the air, and ominous winds swept past those present. Even though they all had profound cultivation ranks, they still couldn't help but shiver. It was actually similar to the strange phenomenon they had sensed earlier! However, its strength was now countless times greater.

The butler's entire body trembled too, but his hands remained steady. After several more cuts, the true contents of the stone emerged.

It was a bone that was an inky black through and through. It was curved, but covered in disgusting lumps that separated it into several segments. Those segments made it resemble a piece of bamboo. Even though it looked ugly and disgusting, it was also full of ki that only a heaven-grade item could have.

"That is a True Corpse Bamboo!" the Second Imperial Prince cried out in alarm, recognizing its origins.

The others quickly asked him what a True Corpse Bamboo was. He explained, "These things normally grow in sinister places. Sometimes, such things might appear in battlefield ruins too, because those are places where too many vengeful souls have perished, as well as the bones of fallen warriors. However, their growth conditions are extremely strict. There are many people who look for them, but they are too rare.

"These items are extremely useful for those who cultivate nefarious methods and skills related to departed spirits. If they keep it at their side, their cultivation speed can be doubled.

"Furthermore, they can be used to create the legendary immortal-grade weapon, the 'Soul Summoning Banner'. If such a banner is used, it can overwhelm another's soul and turn a cultivator straight into a walking corpse."

"Immortal-grade weapon?" The others' expressions were strange. Then wasn't this thing's value immeasurable?

The Little Golden Peng King also spoke up and said, "I have heard about these items before, but in the present world, there does not seem to be anyone who can create an immortal-grade weapon. However, someone still created a heaven-grade Soul Summoning Banner in the past."

The Second Imperial Prince nodded and said, "That is indeed the case. Immortal-grade weapons are truly rare to find..."

Even so, Shi Min was already extremely satisfied. He looked at Yu Yanluo with a smile, remarking, "I wonder what kind of item the queen has chosen?"

He looked as if he had already won for certain.

Chapter 1348: Confidence

Yu Yanluo didn't pay him any attention. She gestured for the butler to begin opening the stone she had chosen instead.

The butler had also witnessed the supernatural signs that appeared when she chose her stone. The item inside was most likely extraordinary. He was even starting to tremble inwardly. The Jade Garden really is taking a huge hit today... There are heaven-grade treasures being opened left and right.

However, he quickly readjusted his mindset, deciding to just consider it marketing. In the future, as long as the day's events were properly publicized, they could bring in even more customers. It would simply become a good thing for the Jade Garden.

Besides, he was also curious as to what the stone could produce. He thus focused on cutting away the outer stone layer. It wasn't just him, either; the others were also curious. They all moved closer, holding their breaths as they stared at the stone.

This stone was much smaller than the other one. As such, it was faster to cut through than Shi Min's stone from before. As the butler cut into it, a wave of broiling heat swept outward. At that instant, those present felt as if they had entered a blistering desert.

"Could it be something of the fire element?" the onlookers exclaimed in surprise, craning their necks to look inside.

When the stone was cut open, it revealed a cup of sand. Apart from that, there was nothing else.

Shi Min sighed in relief. Meanwhile, Shi Rong roared with laughter, exclaiming, "Why were we making such a big deal out of this? It was just some sand in the end. My stomach is hurting from laughter!"

Princess Suolun looked at Yu Yanluo worriedly. As one of the most powerful aristocratic clans in the Demon race, she had also tried her hand at rock betting in the past. She knew that many rocks had all kinds of incredible effects happening outside them, and yet didn't contain a single thing inside. That was part of the thrill and charm of rock betting, after all.

Yun Jianyue continuously prodded Yan Xuehen with her finger, muttering, "We're done for, we're done for! Look at that clump of sand! Yu Yanluo is going to end up broke from this bet... How can she bring out that many heaven-grade ki stones right now? Your White Jade Sect has money, right? Why don't you support her a bit?"

Yan Xuehen was made really uncomfortable by her prodding. She shifted her body away unnaturally, retorting, "Why don't you help her out?"

"Our Holy Sect is poor, so what can I do?" Yun Jianyue replied, putting on a pitiful look of poverty.

Yan Xuehen harrumphed. "Let's wait for a bit. Yu Yanluo might not necessarily lose."

"Oh?" Yun Jianyue looked at the clump of yellow sand. She thought to herself, Don't tell me there's something special about this sand?

Meanwhile, Shi Min also walked over. Compared to his little brothers, he had much more restraint. He looked at Yu Yanluo with a smile, remarking, "Medusa Queen, this competition is now decided, no?"

"Not necessarily," Yu Yanluo said calmly.

"Oh? Don't tell me t you are going to say that your sand is more valuable than my True Corpse Bamboo?" Shi Min replied with a sneer. "As a clan leader, causing needless trouble is beneath your dignity, no?"

Shang Liuyu spoke up just then. "This isn't ordinary sand, but rather Exotic Witchsand, a rune ink material of peerless quality. In addition, this ingredient is essential in the creation of some great forbidden formations."

"What?" The others looked at the sand again. Then, they noticed that each and every grain was different from ordinary sand. There was a faint blue radiance emanating from them, just like the radiance that came from runes. It was just that its radiance was too well-hidden, and it couldn't be seen unless one looked at it carefully.

Shi Gong harrumphed. "The princess has friendly relations with the Medusa Queen. Could it be that you are just speaking out for her, and that you made up some story to deceive us?"

The Little Golden Peng King chuckled and said, "I do not believe so. For someone as free-spirited as the princess, she is not someone who would make up a story because of some personal bias."

The Second Imperial Prince nodded and said, "Indeed. I trust the princess' character. I have heard of the Exotic Witchsand too, but I do not know much about runes. I have not personally seen this material before."

Chi Wen cursed inwardly while wrinkling his nose. These two keep fawning on my little aunt. Don't tell me they really do want to become my uncle?

Zu An also sighed in amazement. Shang Liuyu always gave off a free and aloof air. As expected, she was alluring no matter where she went.

The butler spoke up just then, saying, "I have actually seen it before. This is indeed the heaven-grade Exotic Witchsand."

Shi Gong's expression changed when he heard that. He snapped, "You had better not speak out of place!"

The butler calmly replied, "The Jade Garden has its long history and reputation to protect, so how could I speak improperly? I have come into contact with many treasures over the years. I once had the opportunity of seeing Exotic Witchsand, and that is why I recognize it."

Zu An took the chance to say, "Looks like we win, then. Your True Corpse Bamboo can only make a heaven-grade Soul Summoning Banner, and it's only useful for those who cultivate sinister arts, so its uses aren't too widespread. The Exotic Witchsand our clan leader has opened up can not only be used to make a forbidden formation, but also, anyone can use it as well. That clearly makes it more precious."

The butler nodded. That was indeed the case; the Exotic Witchsand was a bit more precious.

"Nonsense!" Shi Gong immediately retorted. "They're both heaven-grade treasures, so how can you say the sand is more precious?"

The Second Imperial Prince nodded and said, "What you say is not entirely without reason. That is why we should ask the Jade Garden. They have come into contact with many treasures. If these two were used for an auction, which one would sell for a higher price?"

The butler was a bit startled. He said respectfully, "Replying to the Second Imperial Prince. That would depend on who participated in the auction. If there were cultivators who practiced skills related to departed spirits present, the True Corpse Bamboo could sell for a high price. On the contrary, if there were more rune masters participating, the Exotic Witchsand could sell for a higher price."

As someone who worked in a place like the Jade Garden, he was naturally experienced in such matters. He didn't sound biased toward anyone. Of course he wouldn't make the foolish decision of saying that the Exotic Witchsand was more precious, but he wouldn't lack any conscience and say that the True Corpse Bamboo was more precious either. That way, he wouldn't offend either side. Regardless, the difference in value wasn't even that high to begin with, so what he said was also the truth in a sense.

The Second Imperial Prince was quite satisfied with the answer. He said with a smile, "In that case, then, this matter will be considered a tie. We can hold another round; what does everyone think?"

The Little Golden Peng King nodded and said, "This is an excellent chance to witness the performance of two rock betting experts. I would be delighted to witness more."

Shang Liuyu frowned slightly. However, she was representing the Ocean races this time, so she couldn't really say anything.

Since the two with the highest status had already spoken, the others wouldn't have any different opinions. They all voiced their agreement.

Zu An frowned. The Second Imperial Prince was clearly being biased in favor of the Lion race. Could it be that the Snake race really had offended him somehow? That shouldn't have been the case! This guy wouldn't really get revenge for the crown prince's sake, right?

"The Second Imperial Prince is wise. In that case, I will continue and select another stone," Shi Min said. He bowed, then continued to look around this garden. After the previous lesson, he didn't dare to show any more carelessness. This time, he was a hundred and twenty percent focused. He had to find an extraordinary treasure to destroy his opponent.

Yu Yanluo was a bit upset inwardly. With the way things were, however, there was nothing else she could do. She could only look around again, or else Shi Min could end up selecting a suitable stone before her.

She secretly told Zu An and the others in a worried tone, "Shi Min's achievements in examining rocks are almost at the same level as my own. Even if my skill is a bit higher, there won't be too great of a difference. Furthermore, there's no guarantee in this kind of activity anyway, which makes the difference even more negligible."

Yun Jianyue added, "That's not all. That second imperial birdman also seems to be partial to the Lion race. If we find something of equal value, he might decide to continue to hold another round, all the way until Shi Min wins against us."

"There is another issue," Yan Xuehen said with a frown, "If we continue like this, we will not have enough heaven-grade ki stones to purchase any more rocks."

The three women were all in agreement, so they all began to lose confidence.

Zu An, on the other hand, had a completely different attitude. He said reassuringly, "Don't worry, you have me here."

"You?" They all looked at him.

Those present were all experts, so they paid close attention to the actions of the two competitors. However, they saw that Yu Yanluo wasn't looking at the stones, and was instead looking at Zu An. They were all startled. This man seemed to be quite important to the Medusa Queen!

Once we return, we'll have to have some people look into this Yan Zu.

Zu An coughed lightly and said, "Trust me. Choose that big rock by the pavilion later!"

Chapter 1349: Trash Stone

Yu Yanluo was surprised. She looked in the direction Zu An indicated, and saw some rocks sitting casually beneath a table in the center of the pavilion. The one who had designed the immortal floor really had excellent taste. Even though the stones were placed somewhat haphazardly, they didn't seem out of place at all. Yu Yanluo walked over and examined the biggest one carefully. Because it was too large, her Medusa's Eye only revealed an endless white expanse. It didn't seem any different from an ordinary stone.

"Ah Zu, are you sure about this stone?" she asked, sounding a bit baffled. She thought that she might have picked the wrong one.

"Yes, that's the one," Zu An confirmed.

Yu Yanluo bit her lip. Under the circumstances, she couldn't ask Zu An in more detail. After some hesitation, however, she still chose to trust him in the end. As such, she asked the butler, "How much is this one?"

The butler was surprised, replying, "That one? That one is not an unpolished stone, but rather an ordinary rock for decoration."

"Yes, this is the one," Yu Yanluo said. She felt extremely nervous. The way things were, she could only brace herself and follow through.

The butler was a bit confused. Could it be that the Jade Garden had made a mistake? He looked at the large stone for a bit. After working there for so long, even though he didn't have x-ray vision, he was still decent at recognizing precious stones. No matter how he looked at it, though, it looked like a normal stone...

As such, he replied, "It is a hundred heaven grade ki stones."

Zu An complained, "Are you trying to rob us? You just said it's just an ordinary stone. Why are you still collecting a hundred heaven-grade ki stones?"

The butler calmly said, "After entering this immortal floor, even an ordinary stone can become extraordinary after absorbing the natural ki here. This is already the cheapest price on the immortal floor. I am already showing you the greatest amount of sincerity."

Yu Yanluo said calmly, "Then let's just go with a hundred heaven-grade ki stones."

She took out the ki stones and handed them to him. She had once been one of the richest individuals in the human world, after all. Even though she had left in a hurry, a hundred heaven-grade ki stones still wasn't too big of a deal.

The butler had a strange expression. Could it be that all of the Jade Garden's experts had ended up misjudging the stone, and that there really was a precious gemstone inside? Still, no matter how he looked at it, the stone couldn't be any more ordinary! Since he had already said what he said, he could only give her the giant stone.

On the other side, someone let out a cry of alarm as Shi Min used his Magic Tap skill to gently tap a disk-shaped stone. It actually produced waves of bright and clear phoenix cries!

"Could this stone's contents have something to do with a phoenix?"

"Have you all noticed? This stone has several rings of patterns around its surface. I thought they were similar to a tree's rings, but they seem to be phoenix patterns!"

"Say, do you all think it might be a phoenix egg?"

"That would be ridiculous! For it to be within one of the immortal floor's stones would mean it was hibernating. If it were properly nurtured, it could produce a real phoenix!"

"The phoenix only exists in legends. I didn't expect I would actually be able to see the return of a legendary creature!"

...

When she heard their discussions, Yu Yanluo's expression changed. Anything related to a phoenix was definitely an incredible object. Meanwhile, even if her choice turned out to be more than just an ordinary rock, anything that emerged from it probably wouldn't be able to compare to that item.

Yun Jianyue was also a bit worried, muttering, "We're done for, we're done for! If they chose a phoenix, how the hell are we supposed to win? To top it off, it was Little An who chose that damn rock!"

Yan Xuehen was also a bit confused, but she still said, "Have some confidence in him. He would not cause trouble in such critical times."

"Huh? Weren't you the one who looked down on him the most? Didn't you want him dead? Why have you kept speaking up for him recently? It's almost as if you're bragging about your man or something," Yun Jianyue said deliberately to annoy her. That wasn't what she really thought, though; it was just something she had made up to rile Yan Xuehen up. She knew Yan Xuehen couldn't stand romantic jokes, especially when it involved her and her disciple's man. So, she really wanted to see what Yan Xuehen would look like when she got angry.

However, Yan Xuehen didn't get angry. Instead, she seemed a bit guilty and bashful. Yun Jianyue thought, Huh? Why do I feel as if she's been acting a bit strange recently?

She was just about to ask something when Shi Min quickly walked over with his stone, asking, "How much is this stone?"

The butler slowly replied with a pained expression, "Five thousand heaven-grade ki stones."

Judging from the signs that had been produced, this stone definitely had some kind of treasure hidden inside. If he could do everything over, he would definitely put away all of these unpolished stones.

However, the stones had been present for so long that many guests had seen them. He couldn't bring them away even if he wanted to; that would damage the Jade Garden's reputation. He would also end up offending the powerful Lion race.

"I do not have enough heaven-grade ki stones on me right now, so I will put it on the Lion Race's tab. I will have them brought over tomorrow," Shi Min said.

The butler was overjoyed. He quickly replied, sounding troubled, "I fear that will be difficult, third prince. Our Jade Garden has never taken on any debt."

Since they couldn't buy it, he would have a pretext to put the stone back into the treasury.

"What? We are the glorious Lion race's princes. Would we cheat you of your five thousand heaven-grade ki stones?" Shi Gong protested, shooting him an angry glare.

The butler shook his head and said, "Princes, please do not be quick to anger. This is not a rule that is directed at you, but rather one that has been set in place for a long time. In a place of gambling, it is easy for things to get out of hand. A single mistake can make an individual completely bankrupt, or a person might perish. In order to guard against such tragedies, the Jade Garden set this rule. Since then, many people have thanked us after calming down, and it has saved many families. That is why I hope the princes do not take any offense."

This time, Hu Yong finally found a chance to mock the lion princes. "You don't even have enough ki stones, and yet you want to play around here? Butler, I'm going to buy this stone!"

The others' expressions became strange. Quite a few among them had similar thoughts. However, fearing the possibility of offending the Lion race, that didn't seem like a good deal. Furthermore, if there turned out to be nothing inside, they would be losing out even more.

However, the Tiger race's princes didn't have such misgivings. On the contrary, pissing off the Lion race was an added benefit.

Shi Min was furious, retorting, "I clearly chose this stone. What are you getting involved for?!"

Hu Yong shrugged and replied, "What, am I not allowed to buy it if you don't buy it? Get out of the way already, and don't touch my stone."

"Who said I cannot buy it?!" Shi Min said through gritted teeth. He took out a golden glove. And said, "This is a heaven-grade weapon. Its value is much higher than five thousand heaven-grade ki stones."

Heaven-grade weapons were divided into strong ones and weak ones. His weapon was of the weaker category, but even then, the weakest ones wouldn't be worth fewer than five thousand heaven-grade ki stones.

Hu Yong roared with laughter and remarked, "You're even putting up household goods for collateral. The Lion race really has fallen!"

Shi Min glowered and ignored Hu Yong.

"This..." The butler was a bit troubled. He asked, "Must the prince do this?"

"Don't tell me this is not enough?" Shi Min said in a low growl.

"It is enough, it is enough," the butler replied. He knew that at this point, refusing further would completely offend the Lion race. He said, "We will keep this glove well for the prince. As long as you deliver five thousand ki stones within three days, we will return it with gratitude."

Shi Min's expression finally became a bit better. It seemed the Jade Garden was still rather tactful.

Purchasing the stone that way left him quite angry. However, when he saw Zu An carrying over a large stone, it immediately made him feel much better. He remarked, "After all of this, that thing is what you ended up with?"

"Is there a problem?" Zu An replied with a harrumph.

"Not at all; why would I have a problem with that?" Shi Min replied, feeling a little better. "I just find it rather funny. You know, in rock betting, bigger is not always better, hahaha..."

"Shut up and open your stone already," Zu An said. He didn't feel like wasting any more words on Shi Min.

"How about opening yours first this time?" Shi Min replied with a sneer. Last time, the other group had opened up something more precious afterward, which really made him feel awful. That was why this time, he wanted to go second.

"You really want us to go first? I'm just scared that after you see what's in ours, you won't have the courage to even open yours anymore," Zu An said calmly.

"Heh, you really know how to shoot your mouth off. You're gonna do that with that shoddy stone of yours?" The lion princes all roared with laughter.

Even the others' expressions were growing strange, because in their opinion, the Snake race's side would lose for sure.

"Then should we make another bet?" Zu An shot back, giving Shi Min a provocative look.

Shi Gong and Shi Rong were easily provoked and immediately fired back, "If you want a bet, then a bet it is. Who is scared of who?"

"Hey, do not act impulsively. We are going to win for sure anyway. There is no need to let side issues keep growing," Shi Min said, quickly stopping them.

For some reason, when he saw how relaxed Zu An was, he remembered what had happened on the yellow floor again. He was worried that Zu An had some other tricks, so he decided he just wouldn't play along with the other side's games.

Shi Rong and Shi Gong had always respected their third brother. As such, they gave Zu An an angry look and said, "Count yourself lucky."

Hu Yong roared with laughter and said mockingly, "Tsk tsks, are you all really from the Lion race? You're too scared to even make another bet? How cowardly! In my opinion, perhaps you're actually from the Mouse race!"

Flames practically seemed about to come out of Shi Gong and Shi Rong's eyes. Perhaps because Shi Rong felt that victory was already in his grasp, he only felt happier and retorted "Even though our Lion race is brave, we aren't ignorant and brash like you guys. It's almost as if you're from the Ox race or something."

"What did you say?!" Hu Yong and his brothers were furious. The sparks between the two sides seemed about to erupt into flames again.

"Stop causing trouble already. We should open up the stones first," the Second Imperial Prince said with a frown; he was clearly a bit unhappy.

The Little Golden Peng King also said calmly, "If you want to fight, do it outside. I am more interested in what is inside these two stones."

Seeing that the other races were unhappy, the Lion and Tiger races couldn't just draw public anger by fighting. As such, they harrumphed and said, "Once this rock betting is finished, we will have a proper chat then."

The butler quickly began to cut Zu An's stone, which looked like a large millstone. Even though he didn't think there was some treasure inside, he was still concerned with the possibility. As such, he started by cutting as carefully as he had before. Unfortunately, even after dozens of cuts, nothing but ash-gray stone revealed itself. It was no different from an ordinary rock.

The butler then increased his speed. At first, it was as if he were cutting a sausage. Later on, he just cut into it chunk by chunk. The millstone-sized stone quickly became smaller and smaller. In the end, it turned into a pile of crushed rocks.

Shi Min sighed in relief. Shi Rong quickly said mockingly, “Hahaha, there was nothing inside after all!”

Yu Yanluo’s expression turned completely white. Even though she had felt that it was just an ordinary rock, she had been willing to trust Zu An. But why had this been the result?

Princess Suolun looked at her worriedly. She thought to herself, This loss is really going to have heavy consequences...

Shang Liuyu looked at Zu An, her beautiful eyes full of puzzlement.

Chapter 1350: Divine Radiance

Zu An replied with a calm expression, “Don’t start celebrating so soon. Let’s cut into your stone and see what’s inside first.”

Shi Rong chuckled and replied, “Do you think the stone third brother chose will be like yours with nothing inside? Keep dreaming!”

Zu An replied indifferently, “If you can’t accept it, why don’t we just bet again? The cockier you are right now, the more miserable your fall will be.”

“You...!” Shi Rong exclaimed furiously.

You have successfully trolled Shi Rong for +588 +588 +588...

He was about to say something when Shi Min stopped him, saying, “Our victory is already certain. Do not create more problems.”

Shi Min didn’t know what Zu An was playing at either. Either way, as long as his stone was good, there was absolutely no way for the other side to make a comeback.

Shi Rong stared at Zu An as he said angrily, “But he clearly has nothing, and yet he looks as if he has everything in his grasp. It really makes me furious.”

You have successfully trolled Shi Rong for +444 +444 +444...

“You do not have to pay any attention to him. He is just a little clown who is already sure to lose. He is just trying to throw in more variables. We just need to ignore him,” Shi Min said, consoling his younger brother.

Shi Rong and Shi Gong seemed to have suddenly realized what was happening. They remarked, “Third brother is wise. That brat is just too cunning.”

Just then, the butler had already begun to cut the stone in response to Shi Min’s gestures. When his blade descended, a streak of light shot out. Soon afterward, a phoenix projection appeared above them, releasing a loud and clear cry. Then, the phoenix flew around Jade Garden. Wherever it passed, people felt a divine aura, as if they had entered one of the world’s most magical places.

Something even happened to the plants inside the Jade Garden. Many sprouts began to grow at a visible rate, and some flower buds even began to bloom. It was winter, and the fiend race territories were extremely cold. In spite of the Jade Garden’s meticulous design, there weren’t too many flowers in the courtyard. However, in an instant, numerous flowers bloomed. It was almost like the revival of spring.

“Is this the aura of the phoenix?” the Second Imperial Prince cried out in alarm. The Golden Crow race and the Phoenix race had some connections, after all, so he seemingly felt a kind of stirring within his very blood.

“A phoenix?” the others exclaimed in shock. At first, it had just been speculation, but now that they had received proof, they all looked expectantly at the stone.

The Little Golden Peng King said, “Shi Min, I will buy this stone. Just give me a price.”

Chi Wen also shouted, “Sell it to me, sell it to me! No one has more money than my dad!”

Shang Liuyu’s forehead darkened. How did big sister end up giving birth to this fool?

The others all voiced their intent to buy it. Only Hu Yong remained quiet. He knew Shi Min could sell it to anyone but him. He felt jealous, thinking, This bastard’s luck really is pretty good.

No matter how calm Shi Min was normally, he couldn't help but feel a bit smug. He replied, “I must apologize. I will not sell this item.”

The others immediately sighed in regret. However, all of them knew there was no way something as precious as that could be sold. If it had been discovered by an ordinary person, others would likely just try to steal the item. However, the Lion race was a powerful clan. The princes weren’t weak, either. Unless absolutely necessary, no one would take such a huge risk.

Yun Jianyue became a bit nervous, muttering, “We’re finished, it’s all over now... We’ve really lost badly this time... Damn brat, didn’t you cultivate the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra? How could you not sense the phoenix’ aura in advance and let them take it instead?”

Yan Xuehen frowned and said, “You are now just blaming others recklessly. Unpolished stones can isolate our perception to begin with. How could he have anticipated this?”

However, she was stunned as soon as she said that. She hadn’t expected she would subconsciously speak out in defense of Zu An. She gave Yun Jianyue a guilty look, fearing that she might have noticed something. Fortunately, Yun Jianyue was too anxious to notice.

Zu An replied, “They’re celebrating a bit too early.”

“What, don’t tell me this isn’t the aura of the phoenix?” Yun Jianyue asked, stunned.

“That is indeed the aura of the phoenix, but it’s a bit different,” Zu An replied. He cultivated the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, so he was naturally familiar with the phoenix’ aura. He had immediately sensed something strange about it.

The women were stunned. They were about to ask something when Shi Min walked over to them with the attitude of a winner, saying, “Medusa Queen, you still lost in the end. May I ask how you intend to pay the hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones?”

He thought to himself that he had to take the chance to fully seize the Snake race’s lifeline. In that case, the entire Snake race would be within his grasp. As for the stunning Medusa Queen, her very life would be at his mercy.

Yu Yanluo's beautiful eyes narrowed and she frowned. In the past, a hundred thousand heaven-grade ki stones would have been a mere trifle. Now, she really couldn't bring such an amount out immediately. However, she didn't reveal any openings. As the master of the Yu clan, she was full of experience in dealing with such matters.

She was just about to reply when Zu An replied, "Who says we lost? You haven't even opened up your stone yet. You can't declare you won just because some flashy colors showed up, right? What if there's nothing inside at all?"

The butler nodded, saying, "Indeed. It is often the case that there are all kinds of supernatural signs, and yet there is nothing inside. For the sake of fairness, let us open this stone fully." Of course, he wasn't saying so for Zu An's sake, but rather because he was curious what was inside the stone.

The Jade Garden really is losing out big this time... There's no way we can take a loss without knowing everything.

The others all spoke up in agreement. They all wanted to see what was inside too.

Shi Min frowned. The reason he had said that to Yu Yanluo was precisely because he hadn't wanted to continue opening it. After all, if it actually contained an incredible treasure, it could lead to a ton of trouble. Still, he couldn't offend everyone, so he could only agree and have the butler continue cutting.

The butler sighed in relief, then continued to cut slowly. Under his skilled technique, paper-thin layers of stone fell apart. In the end, the true appearance of the item inside was revealed.

"This is..." The onlookers were stunned.

It wasn't a slumbering phoenix as they had imagined, or anything resembling a phoenix egg, but rather a flower. No, it couldn't even be considered a complete flower, but rather just some leftover petals. The stamen was surprisingly well-preserved.

The butler's expression was strange. His tone seemed to be a bit regretful, but also carried some relief, as he said, "This item is called a Phoenix Stamen. In ancient times, the phoenix perched in no trees but the parasol tree, drinking no drink but sweet wine. Sometimes, when parasol trees blossomed, because the phoenix was nearby, they would be affected by the phoenix' aura, thus producing these Phoenix Stamens."

The Second Imperial Prince voiced his surprise. "What is the use of this item, then?"

The butler replied, "In ancient recordings, this thing was often used to refine some pills. It was an essential supplementary medicine. However, the method for creating those pills has long been lost..." He began to tell those present about the pill medicines he had read about from ancient texts.

Shi Min was becoming more and more unhappy. He quickly asked, "What is the price of this item?"

The butler replied, "Even though this item has an extraordinary background, it can be found often. It is not too precious. If it is auctioned in our Jade Garden, it should be able to sell for several hundred to a thousand heaven-grade ki stones."

"What?!" Shi Min's expression became ashen. He had spent five thousand heaven-grade ki stones on the unpolished stone, and yet in the end, it was only worth a few hundred heaven-grade ki stones?

The others' expressions changed. Some of them sighed, others felt a bit of regret, while some even rejoiced in his misfortune.

Hu Yong roared with laughter. "Tsk tsk, a man who is never content is like a snake trying to swallow an elephant! There were so many people who wanted to purchase it at a high price, yet you were so dumb that you actually refused them all! Your intestines are probably turning black from regret now, right?"

Even the usually calm and steady Shi Min finally lost his composure, snapping, "No one will think you are mute if you stay silent!"

"Haha, my mouth is mine to use, so I can say anything I want. Why don't you come and do something about it if you can?" Hu Yong had been feeling quite terrible earlier, and now he finally had a chance to retaliate, so he naturally had to fire with everything he had!

Shi Min's face twitched, but he knew Hu Yong's cultivation was high and he had his two little brothers with him, so his party of three could end up unable to get the advantage. As such, he couldn't do anything.

Shi Rong glared at the butler and protested, "Hey, are you guys trying to scam my third brother out of his treasure? Is that why you're making up some Phoenix Stamen story, so you can keep it for yourself?"

Shi Min nodded inwardly, thinking that his seventh brother didn't seem to be that stupid after all, huh? He actually had similar suspicions himself, but he couldn't say it out loud in front of everyone. Letting his younger brother speak was much more suitable.

The butler's face darkened and he said, "Seventh prince, please do not speak such nonsense. How many years has our Jade Garden already existed for? No matter how precious the treasure our guests have opened, we have always allowed them to take it. Everyone knows about our store's sincerity over the years, so why would we ruin our reputation over something like this? If the princes do not believe me, you can bring this item back and find a merchant group to look at it. They can then verify whether it is a Phoenix Stamen or not."

The Little Golden Peng King also spoke up calmly. "This king has remained in the Fiend King Court for many years, so I can vouch for the Jade Garden. They would never do something so shameless and despicable."

The butler immediately bowed in respect, saying, "Thank you, Little Golden Peng King."

When Shi Min saw that, he immediately berated his little brother. "Seventh prince, you spoke too irresponsibly. Why would they be that kind of group?"

Then, he said to the butler and Little Golden Peng King. "I truly apologize. Seventh brother is still young and reckless; I hope that everyone can forgive him."

The power behind the Jade Garden was deep and immeasurable. He had no idea who controlled it from the shadows. Just now, the Little Golden Peng King had spoken up for them, so perhaps he was involved somehow?

The butler obviously wouldn't continue to hold it against them. Thus, after exchanging some words of courtesy, both sides let the matter pass.

However, Shi Min was quite resentful. When he saw that Zu An had just been watching with amusement off to one side, he could no longer hold it in. "Now that the contents have already been revealed, all of you are now convinced, right?"

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"You've only opened up something this shoddy, and yet you want us to admit defeat?" Zu An laughed mockingly.

"Even though our Phoenix Stamen was not as precious as anticipated, its value is still a thousand heaven-grade ki stones. It is still better than your side that has nothing, right? You just picked the largest and cheapest stone. Did you really think you would always have the same luck as you did down in the yellow floor?" Shi Min spat hatefully. He really approved of what his younger brother had said now. This guy clearly had nothing to rely on, and yet he always had that crazy confidence. It really made them feel awful.

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"Sorry, our luck has always been quite good," Zu An said while moving closer to the table. He took a piece from the pile of crushed rocks.

Shi Min laughed and said, "That thing is only as thick as a palm; it is just a layer of rock that was shaved off. Don't tell me you would be so delusional as to think that there is something inside?"

The butler also said, "That is indeed just a normal piece of stone skin. There is no way I would be unable to sense anything if it contained something special."

Zu An smiled and said, "There are always exceptions to everything."

Then, he moved his hand. The rock burst apart, and a streak of divine radiance shot out. All the lights in the Jade Garden seemed to pale in comparison.