

Chapter 361 - Meeting Huang Binghu Again

The surface of the water was so calm that it was like a mirror. Even the raging waterfall was unable to create a single ripple in it.

Li Qingshan lowered his head. The reflection in the mirror suddenly smiled at him, but it was much more flagrant than his own smile.

When he bent over, extended his hand, and touched the surface of the water with the tip of his finger, ripples spread out in all directions. They went from the very centre to the edge of the pool, with no signs of stopping.

The spirit turtle's daemon core constantly flashed as daemon qi surged steadily, rapidly being drained away until it was almost depleted.

Xiao An was drawn away by this sight too. At the centre of the ripples, a real and a fake hand actually held one another.

A hand extended from the surface of the water, followed by a wrist, an arm, and an equally handsome face. Droplets of water rippled down like pearls.

Li Qingshan slowly pulled another Li Qingshan out from the reflection of the water. They seemed exactly the same, without the slightest difference at all.

Xiao An was amazed as well. Her eyes could see through falsehoods, but she was unable to spot anything wrong with him at all. He seemed like Li Qingshan's twin brother.

Innate ability: Watermirror's Image.

This was the name Li Qingshan had given it—an attempt to pluck the flower in the mirror, to scoop the moon in the water.

It was a so-called clone technique. Among the water element techniques, there were so-called water clones, but they were just condensed from a ball of water. They were made to seem like a real person through the use of some water transformations. However, when it came to actual battle, they were not particularly useful at all apart from drawing away the enemy's attention and serving as a sandbag.

However, the Watermirror's Image seemed fake, but it was real, and it was all under Li Qingshan's control.

Li Qingshan felt like his mind had split into two, currently viewing the world from two perspectives. It was quite a strange feeling to be able to see himself, and he was rather unaccustomed to controlling two people at the same time.

Xiao An's expression became even stranger as she watched on. The two Li Qingshans stood in front of one another and extended their hands at the same time, touching "their own" faces. It was like a mirror.

Li Qingshan raised his hand. Every bit of texture seemed so real. He could even feel a beating heart and flowing blood.

This was not a fake person moulded from water or earth, but an actual clone. Everyone said clones lacked power, but his clone truly possessed power. However, he was more willing to call it a mirror image.

However, separating the mirror image from his original body was difficult. He would always treat them as a single body and control them like that, moving forwards or backwards together.

Xiao An hid her smile as she snickered to herself. Where was the power and bearing of a Daemon General?

Li Qingshan ended up shooting a glance at her, so she raised her face and shot a glance back at him.

Li Qingshan was helpless against her. He closed his eyes and tried his best to comprehend the feeling of drawing a circle with his left hand while drawing a square with his right.

Stopping a while later, Li Qingshan circulated his daemon qi, bending his knee and stepping on the water, but only his clone shot off into the air.

He arrived in the sky, overlooking the many mountains and gazing at the clouds in the distance.

On the ground, ridges and peaks rose and fell furiously like waves, giving off a sense of boundlessness.

Suddenly, he saw an insignificantly small hump at the end of the boundlessness, like a crouching ox.

To the side of the crouching ox sat a peaceful little village. Many farmers worked near the village. It was so peaceful and quiet that it seemed like a tiny drawing. All of Li Qingshan's memories suddenly awakened.

So his homeland was not far away at all!

For a moment, he forgot about the difficulties of depending on others. He forgot about the pain from the combination of hunger and cold. Perhaps his memories had beautified everything, or perhaps these matters no longer bothered him anymore. All that was left in his mind was a child playing a reed flute on a large, black ox, walking through the mountain path unhurriedly. Yes, this was his only piece of wealth.

Suddenly, he felt an intense urge to go back and take a look, to have a look at the place he had called home for all these years.

However, he immediately dismissed this thought.

Must you be buried in your place of home? Sufficient are the green mountains overgrown. This was the oath he had sworn to himself!

That place no longer had anything tying him to it.

If there were things he was unable to let go of, then one would be underground, one would be in the academy, and one would be in the heavens.

He gazed at the sky and smiled. A sensation of utmost freedom was imprinted deeply in his heart back on the ground.

On the ground, Li Qingshan walked out of the pool and arrived before Xiao An. He crouched down on one knee and firmly embraced the only person he shared happiness with, his eternal supporter. "Xiao An, do you see? I've become so powerful. From today onwards, no one can just harass us anymore. I'll definitely make them all pay the price if they do."

Xiao An could feel that the current Li Qingshan was slightly different. It was not due to the change in his appearance. Instead, his personality was slightly different too. Compared to when he was in human form, he would always give off a fearless sense of fragrance in daemon form.

She preferred him like this more, as he always seemed a little happier in that state. However, no matter who he was, he was always her Li Qingshan.

A Li Qingshan stood on the ground, embracing the most important person to him.

Another Li Qingshan flew into the blue sky, unfolding his arms at the sky.

I want freedom! Freedom to do anything! Limitless Freedom!

Nine provinces, I'm coming! The Nine Heavens, wait for me!

"Can you wait for me?" Xiao An turned her head and smiled.

Li Qingshan pecked her cheek viciously. "As long as you need!"

From that day onwards, Xiao An entered a state of meditation.

Li Qingshan left behind his mirror image in the pool to watch over her, without taking a single step away.

As for his main body, he travelled around everywhere. He even returned to his human form and completed a few missions, showing his face around just in case people suspected he had gone missing.

After experimenting around, he gained a more realistic understanding over the various abilities of his clone. The existence of the clone would not be affected just because his main body had returned to human form. However, its daemon qi would constantly disperse. It could be maintained through meditating and connecting with the spiritual qi of the world, but when it came to intense battles, it probably could not last too long.

And, creating a clone would deplete all of his daemon qi, and it possessed thirty percent of the battle prowess of the original body. However, this thirty percent could not be underestimated. Due to the three supernatural abilities brother ox had left to him, his strength, speed, and daemon qi had surpassed regular Daemon Generals. Combined into battle prowess, it was even more startling.

According to his estimations, it should not have been too great of a problem for his clone to deal with Foundation Establishment cultivators not suited for battle like Qiu Haitang. And, according to his past experience, the effects of his innate abilities should strengthen with his cultivation. If he could pull out even more clones from the water, just what effect could they achieve?

After completing another mission and obtaining a few more corpses, Li Qingshan used the Glazed Mirror of Invisibility to hide himself, returning to the edge of the Boundless mountains. Xiao An had yet to emerge from secluded cultivation.

With nothing else to do, he crossed his legs and sat down, pulling out the high grade spiritual artifact he had purchased below the Green Vine mountain, the Whale's Ingestion of Water!

He currently lacked a suitable weapon. After becoming a Daemon General, he could refine human spiritual artifacts, which would become known as daemon armaments.

Ebbs of powerful daemon qi poured in. Perhaps because he had already refined this spiritual artifact in the past, but the entire process was surprisingly simple.

Gradually, the Whale's Ingestion of Water changed in shape. It became more like a blade, but this came with a cost—it lost many of its original functions. It could not unleash Gui Water blasts and icicles anymore.

However, these two functions that had originally been very practical were completely useless to Li Qingshan in his current form. There was no need for him to keep them. He only had two requirements for his weapons—sufficient sharpness and toughness.

Li Qingshan's artifact forging abilities might have only been on par with a beginner's, but with his powerful control over water, he could force large quantities of water into the Whale's Ingestion of Water, making the hilt spit out a blade inch by inch.

A few hours later, Li Qingshan raised the blade in his hand in satisfaction. The long, sharp and narrow blade reflected seven different colours under the sunlight. Standing before the pool, he swung it casually, and the waterfall was bisected. He could not help but laugh aloud.

If someone else was present here, they would have seen a naked man standing on the edge of a cliff with an extremely beautiful blade of ice on his shoulder, smiling flagrantly.

Yes, Li Qingshan was not wearing clothes. He was completely naked.

After becoming a Daemon General, he did not find wearing clothes to be particularly comfortable. He was born like this, so why did he have to wear clothes to obscure anything? As a result, he would strip every time he transformed, walking around naked.

At this moment, the smell of blood appeared. It was the smell of human blood, combined with extremely soft war cries.

He immediately looked over. His gaze passed through the forest. Although the many mountains in the distance prevented him from seeing what was going on exactly, it did manage to capture Li Qingshan's curiosity. With a flash, he disappeared from his location, crossing over several mountains. He saw an extremely familiar hamlet, or more accurately, a village.

This was also a place he had visited in the past, the place where hunters resided, Drawn Reins village.

Only now did Li Qingshan remember that the place he cultivated was actually closer to the Drawn Reins village that resided deep within the Boundless Mountains. However, there had been many large mountains serving as obstructions back then with a difficult mountain path to cross, which was why he felt it was so far away.

Currently, Drawn Reins village was surrounded by a great group of soldiers. There were a few martial arts masters among them. If it were not for the protection of the tall walls and the dangers of bows and arrows, the village probably would have fallen already.

Hua Binghu stood on a watchtower with a great bow in his hands. The bow was rounded like the full moon as arrows shot out like comets. Every single arrow would always kill someone, heavily striking down on the enemy's morale. However, he was closed to complete exhaustion. He frowned. Is my Drawn Reins village just going to be destroyed like this?

At this moment, a voice rang out from the sky. It was as relaxed as greeting a neighbour on a stroll after a meal. "Hunting chief Huang, long time no see!"

Huang Binghu just happened to be extremely on edge right now, so he shot an arrow over without any hesitation at all when he heard that. Only then did he find the voice to be somewhat familiar.

At this moment, the battlefield fell quiet. Everyone, both inside and outside the village, raised their heads in a daze. They saw a white cloud descend down.

Li Qingshan had returned to human form, and of course, he was dressed too. He pushed aside the incoming arrow easily and lowered the cloud to the same height as the watchtower. He smiled towards the dumbfounded Huang Binghu. "Is that how you welcome an old friend?"

This was a remote place, nothing like Clear River city where they saw cultivators frequently. Everyone here still found cultivators to be no different from immortals. Li Qingshan's behaviour right now had only confirmed everyone's thoughts even more.

"Y- you're Qingshan!"

Chapter 362 - Hand in Hand

Li Qingshan smiled. "What, it's only been a few years, yet you don't even recognise me anymore?"

Huang Binghu truly struggled to connect this "immortal" who rode on clouds to that farmer boy of the past. He had seen a little more of this world than regular people, but never had he seen anyone fly like that!

It had just been two or three years since he last saw him. His tall stature had completely stretched out now. Wide-chested, his imposing body was brimming with might. As he sat on the cloud, he radiated with pressure. His face had not changed much, but his entire bearing definitely made him seem like a completely different person.

Outside the village, many soldiers had already tossed aside their weapons and lowered their heads to the ground. Although the hunters in the village basically all recognised Li Qingshan, none of them dared to believe their eyes.

Li Qingshan glanced at the dazed martial arts masters outside the village and asked, "What's going on here?"

Huang Binghu smiled bitterly. He placed down his bow and told him the entire story.

As it turned out, soon after Ye Dachuan had left, a new district magistrate arrived. This time, it was not someone who had managed to get his position through nepotism like Ye Dachuan, but a scholar from an academy. In just a mere year or two, he managed to unite the Qingyang district into a monolith under his command, becoming the person who held absolute local power. A stubborn organisation of the “previous era” like the Drawn Reins village, combined with its name that provoked the authority of the government, had become a “holdout” that required heavy reforms.

“Qingshan, you have to help us out this time. You’re technically half a member of the Drawn Reins village too.” Huang Binghu saw how Li Qingshan did not give off the haughtiness of a cultivator and understood that he was still the same inside, so he pleaded.

Only with that did Li Qingshan recall this. He smiled. “When I joined the Drawn Reins village back then, it was like entering the belly of the beast. You’re a first-rate master now, so why have you chosen to remain in the village? I remember you once said that you still wanted to go out and wander around for a bit.”

While the current Huang Binghu was still known as the Sickly Tiger, his face shone with a healthy glow as he brimmed with energy. Clearly, the ginseng alcohol had played quite the role in this. With his arduous cultivation of inner force, he had already become a first-rate master.

Huang Binghu glanced at the village. “The new district magistrate has been so aggressive, so how can I just leave?”

Li Qingshan patted his shoulder. “Got any alcohol?”

Huang Binghu beamed. He turned around and yelled at the village, “Fetch the alcohol!”

Alcohol was delivered over jar after jar. The two of them just began drinking on the watchtower. Sure enough, the new district magistrate received the news before long and rushed over personally. He did not ride, nor did he take a carriage. Instead, he used movement techniques, basically drifting over. In this day and age, scholars were not synonymous with gentleness and fragility. Internal martial arts and swordsmanship were all obligatory subjects to learn.

The new district magistrate was not old either. As soon as he spotted Li Qingshan, his expression changed. Although he was also a first-rate master, his knowledge surpassed Huang Binghu’s. He shivered inside, A high level Qi Practitioner. He immediately humbled himself, and when he heard how he was a Hawkwolf Guard, he became countless times more careful too.

Li Qingshan did not favour Huang Binghu either. He invited the district magistrate up and served as a mediator for the two of them. He made the district magistrate withdraw the troops, and he made Huang Binghu change the troublesome name of the Drawn Reins village. He prevented a series of pointless slaughter.

Where would the two of them find the courage to refuse this? They immediately shook hands peacefully.

After drinking, Li Qingshan patted Huang Binghu’s shoulder. “How can you let an outsider run amok in your own territory? Brother Huang, I think you should take another path in life!” He shoved a pill into his hand.

Huang Binghu glanced at it and exclaimed, "An Innate pill!" Before he could even thank him, the cloud had already crossed over the mountains and vanished.

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As spring arrived, Xiao An stood up in the cavern. She walked towards the daylight, allowing the rumbling lightning to rip apart her clothes and strip her of her flesh.

Her blood instantly began to boil. Most of her Aspect of Heavenly Fragrance and Beauty body had been charred before turning into ash. In the end, all that remained was a set of white bones.

She walked very slowly, but she did not falter. The terrifying heavenly tribulation was unable to make her waver, as he was waiting outside for her! She could not fall behind him! She wanted to be with him forever!

Walking alone with this one will, she finally arrived outside the cavern. Li Qingshan was currently standing on the water, gazing and studying the shape of a cloud. He turned around and smiled. He placed a wild flower he had plucked from somewhere into her boney hand and said, "Let's go!"

The flower withered, and a smile blossomed.

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After over two years of development, the Green Vine mountain had finally recovered some of its past glory.

In a particularly gloomy hall on the top of the Green Vine mountain, the three elders sat together.

The Green Vine elder's eyebrows and beard had mingled together in even more of a mess. However, his two sagacious eyes gave off a sense of worry.

The Lone Grave elder's pale face was slightly blue. The Golden Pheasant elder was dressed just like before, in a set of expensive robes, but he lacked the high-spirited vigour of a rooster now.

The three of them had gathered together for once, as recently, they had all been feeling uneasy. Although they did not know divination, they could still connect with the spiritual qi of the world as Foundation Establishment cultivators. Moreover, their insight had grown with their age, and they had weathered countless storms before. They believed this sense of uneasiness was no coincidence.

After quite a while of silence, the Green Vine elder said, "I'm just afraid it's revenge from underground, so I've already contacted the Daemon Suppression alliance."

The Golden Pheasant elder said, "What? We're so old already, and yet we still have to seek reinforcements from the Daemon Suppression alliance just because we feel something is off? We'll become laughing stocks if this makes it out!"

The Lone Grave elder said for once, "That works." This time, even the Golden Pheasant elder shut up. After a while, he asked, "Have you really sensed something?"

The Lone Grave elder said, "Death."

The hall became terrifyingly quiet. The Green Vine elder said, "Don't worry. I've already covered the Green Vine mountain with formations. Even a fly won't be able to make it in..." His expression changed suddenly.

"What's wrong?"

"Someone has made contact with the formation, but they've been blocked."

After a while of silence, the Green Vine elder let out a sigh of relief. "He seems to have left already."

Before he had even finished speaking, the Golden Pheasant elder turned his ear and listened intently. "Is there some kind of sound?"

The Green Vine elder focused his mind, and sure enough, there was a gentle sound. It was not the cry of a bird, nor was it the buzz of an insect. The three of them sensed around, but they failed to sense the origins of the sound. However, the sound did become significantly louder.

The dust on the ground leapt around happily as the green tea in the cups rippled.

"It's from below!"

The three of them suddenly leapt up and glanced below.

The Green Vine elder said, "That's impossible. The formations have covered it even if it's below. The rocks are as tough as metal. It's impossible for anyone to burrow over from beneath us." Under the doubtful, worried gazes of the two other elders, he added, "Not even daemons!"

The shaking became even more violent and even closer.

A hole suddenly appeared somewhere in the floor. Earth twisted in all directions, as if it was being forced apart by something invisible. A huge, pink millipede crawled out, rattling as it circled around the hole; it was as if it was waiting, yet also urging. When it sensed the auras of the three elders, it directly curled up into a ball.

Their past nightmare seemed to come alive all of a sudden. The Golden Pheasant elder exclaimed, "It's still alive!"

The Green Vine elder's expression was rather ugly too. It was true. While it did become much smaller, it was definitely still the same Daemon General they had trapped and encircled in the past.

Chapter 363 - Fighting the Three Mountains (One)

"What're you afraid of? It's just a mere daemonic beast now," said the Golden Pheasant Elder, but his voice was not particularly calm.

Not only did the Lone Grave Elder's caution linger around, but it even grew heavier. It was impossible for a daemonic beast to burrow through the ground and arrive here.

A powerful daemon qi rushed out from the hole. The Golden Pheasant Elder's expression changed. "A Daemon General!"

“What’re you running so fast for?” The hole spat out a clear voice. It was loud and resonant, echoing through the empty hall.

Milliped immediately loosened up, swaying his body around.

The Lone Grave Elder shut his mouth and corpse qi surged on his body. The Green Vine Elder said, “It’s an enemy. Prepare yourselves.”

A completely naked, handsome man emerged from the cave. His red hair flowed freely as his eyes shone, like charcoal fire burning within the darkness. His eyes swiveled around and looked at the three elders. “Your ground is so tough!”

There was nothing Li Qingshan could do about the many layers of formations either, so he forcefully paved a path through the mountain, making his way up to the very top.

However, this was not a new innate ability, but another use for his old ones. After becoming a Daemon General, his past three innate abilities had become much stronger. The Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell had obviously become tougher, while the Ox Demon Tramples became more refined. He could control the direction and range of the shockwave more effectively now.

The three elders found this to be absurd. In the middle of the night, a naked man had appeared in the main hall of the Green Vine mountain from the most unlikely place possible.

The main hall was the foundation of all the formations, so a gap that could not be covered by formations existed below it. However, the earth below there was even tougher than refined steel!

Li Qingshan said clearly, “I’ve come for revenge today. Prepare to die, you three old coots!”

The Green Vine Elder asked, “Is it just you?”

“Are you blind? Doesn’t he count too? You still remember him, right?” Li Qingshan tapped Milliped with his foot.

Milliped crawled up Li Qingshan happily, draping over his shoulder like a large, pink scarf.

Li Qingshan slapped his forehead. “Sigh, just go. The bit of atmosphere I’ve built up has been completely destroyed by your lack of interest.” Milliped scuttled back into the hole.

The three elders exchanged glances before laughing together. So this was why they had felt uneasy? The daemon qi he gave off was extremely powerful, but that was only compared to regular daemons. They could tell with a single glance that he had only become a Daemon General recently.

What they feared the most was still an attack from the Daemon Commander below, or a large-scale attack for vengeance. One single, mere Daemon General was actually bold enough to come knocking on the door of the Green Vine mountains, trying to cause trouble? There was no reason at all for them to turn down a daemon core delivered right before them.

“Do you know who I am?” Li Qingshan said haughtily. He had never been one to blabber. Villains who blabbered never had a good fate. However, for something like revenge, he had to make it clear to the enemy who he was and where he came from. Otherwise, even if he killed his enemy, it would be tasteless even if he did not show off.

A green vine that rapidly extended over from below his feet was their answer, eagerly bursting out of the ground one after another.

Li Qingshan leapt up, but he heard the cry of a golden pheasant overhead. The Golden Pheasant Elder swung his wings and smashed him to the ground. Immediately, he became entangled by the vines.

“The name of a wretched daemon will only defile my ears.”

Li Qingshan unleashed the Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell, blocking the vicious green vines. In the blink of an eye, he turned into a ball of vines, completely immobilised.

The three elders immediately recalled the black, humanoid daemon that had appeared during the Herb Gathering ceremony. It had given them an extremely deep impression.

Today, it was almost like a repeat of that day.

“So it’s you!” The Green Vine Elder laughed. Originally, he still felt slightly worried as victory seemed to have come just too easily, but now, the final shred of his worries had vanished. This daemon had gotten ahead of itself the moment it overcame the heavenly tribulation, feeling like it was capable of anything. It wanted revenge, but it had no idea about its differences compared to them.

Among the three of them, even the weakest had reached mid Foundation Establishment. There was not the slightest possibility for them to be defeated even if they fought alone.

The Lone Grave Elder did not even get the chance to do anything. He just watched on coldly.

Li Qingshan called out, “That’s impossible! How can I lose to you humans?! I’m going to blow up my daemon core and drag you down with me!”

The three elders immediately became nervous. They could still recall the power unleashed when Milliped blew up his daemon core like it had happened yesterday. The Golden Pheasant Elder retreated backwards involuntarily, while the Lone Grave Elder summoned the Ancient Bronze Corpse General to guard him.

Li Qingshan seemed to have turned into a bomb that could explode at any time.

“Wait! If you’re willing to hand over your daemon core, we’ll let you leave alive,” said the Green Vine Elder in a hurry.

“That’ll be impossible. You humans are all crafty tricksters. I will never believe you!” Li Qingshan gave off powerful daemon qi, like he was about to blow up his daemon core at any time.

The Green Vine Elder could hear how he had begun wavering, so he persuaded him patiently. “We won’t trick you. How about this? I’ll remove the green vines first to express my sincerity so that you can return to the hole!” At the same time, he exchanged glances with the Lone Grave Elder and the Golden Pheasant Elder. The moment this foolish daemon showed the slightest opening, they would move together and kill it. Once they reported this back to the Daemon Suppression alliance, they would be rewarded too.

The dense vines receded from the Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell. To the three elder’s surprise, Li Qingshan turned around and rushed out of the hall.

“Stop him!” The Green Vine Elder took out a staff of green vines and pointed it at Li Qingshan. Vines burst out of the ground, swaying about demonically.

Li Qingshan came to a screeching halt and leapt gently, brushing past a vine that had almost wrapped around his foot before turning quickly. He constantly changed directions without the slightest pattern at all, leaving behind a path of vines that twisted about.

Just when the door was right in front of him, the Ancient Bronze Corpse General descended from above as it surged with black corpse qi, landing in front of the door heavily. It spread its arms and lunged towards Li Qingshan.

Li Qingshan wanted to pull back, but his surroundings had already become filled with green vines. Looking up, the sharp claws of a golden pheasant fell down towards his head.

“Still want to run?” The Lone Grave Elder extended a finger and emitted a streak of pitch-black light. It passed through the cracks between the vines and struck Li Qingshan accurately.

Li Qingshan’s body softened. He had already been enveloped by the claws of the golden pheasant. Resplendent golden light illuminated the gloomy hall. He squinted his eyes, and all he spotted was a sharp beak pecking over viciously.

Just when the Green Vine Elder revealed a smile of relief, the feeling of danger he had experienced over the past few days suddenly reached the maximum. Silently, a long, slender blade of ice pierced his body.

“Humans are all crafty tricksters.” Li Qingshan smiled as he gripped the hilt of the blade, revealing his sharp canine teeth.

Even a lion would use its full strength to catch a rabbit. With Li Qingshan’s personality, why would he become careless and begin to look down on three Foundation Establishment cultivators just because he had undergone the heavenly tribulation?

Right from the very beginning, he had been planning a surprise attack. Originally, he planned on killing the three elders one by one, but he had never expected them to be gathered together. Combined with the formation, he was unable to launch a surprise attack. However, if there was no opportunity, then he would make one. As a result, Li Qingshan used his mirror image to distract the enemies, which would allow him to suddenly strike and kill the most troublesome Green Vine Elder.

The Green Vine Elder lowered his head and looked at the blade before looking at Li Qingshan. Disbelief filled his eyes. Just when he tried to use his spiritual qi, the blade twisted and slashed out behind Li Qingshan. It left behind a streak of light in the air, which blinded the Lone Grave Elder and the Golden Pheasant Elder.

“Green Vine!”

The slender blade kicked up a fierce gale, which swept out in all directions. Everything covered by the thin streak, whether it was the huge pillars that held up the hall or the countless extending green vines, was cut apart.

The Green Vine Elder’s body had already been reduced to two pieces, falling to the ground.

“How dare you actually-” The Lone Grave Elder’s corpse-like expression moved. However, before he could even finish speaking, the fiendishly handsome face appeared right before him, interrupting him with a smile. “How dare I actually what?”

The Lone Grave Elder’s heart sunk completely. The smile came with the familiar scent of death. He seemed no different in appearance, but his strength was worlds apart from his clone. The existence before him was startlingly strong. It was not strength that Daemon Generals who had just emerged from a heavenly tribulation should have possessed.

The ice blade did not stop. With Li Qingshan’s right hand as the centre, it produced a beautiful semicircle.

Corpse qi erupted!

The Lone Grave Elder bellowed out and black corpse qi sprayed out from his sleeves as he retreated to the edge of the hall. He lowered his head in shock to look at the wound on his chest. The blade had cut through his protective corpse qi easily. If it were not for the blast of corpse qi, he would have followed in the Green Vine Elder’s footsteps already.

A ball of corpse qi, as black as mud, lingered around. It came in contact with a pillar, and a portion immediately vanished like it had been ripped away by an invisible beast.

With a series of loud creakings, the top half of the pillar collapsed with a portion of the ceiling. Before it had even reached the ground, the corpse qi had eaten it away. All inanimate objects would suffer this fate. If a living creature became contaminated with a bit of it, it would probably be reduced to a puddle of liquid in the blink of an eye.

With a cry, the golden pheasant unfurled its wings and unleashed several hundred feathers, shooting into the corpse qi as several hundred streaks of golden light.

There was a shining flash, and the corpse qi parted into two. Li Qingshan emerged with the ice blade. He smiled at the Lone Grave Elder. “Nice reactions.”

A ray of moonlight landed on him, adding a tint of silvery-blue to him. His handsome face and perfect body seemed even less alive now. Instead, he seemed like the statue of a god from legends.

From the beginning to the end, he had not given off a single sliver of daemon qi.

Lanterns lit up one by one on the Green Vine mountain. Many disciples of the Green Vine mountain emerged from their residences and looked at the main hall.

“What’s going on?” “Let’s go take a look!”

Yu Shukuang yawned. “It’s so late. What’s going on now?”

Several hundred streaks of golden light rained down towards Li Qingshan as the golden pheasant lunged forward.

“Lone Grave, let’s work together and kill this daemon swiftly!”

With a hurried clang, Li Qingshan swung the ice blade, producing an arc. It landed on every single feather with great precision such that they shot back with even greater speed than when they first came.

The accompanying gust of wind from the swing ripped through the main hall viciously like countless blades and axes, destroying all obstacles.

Li Qingshan raised his head at the pheasant's claw. He did not dodge, nor did he block. All he did was throw a punch.

The disciples of the Green Vine elder saw hundreds of streaks of golden light shoot straight up. A golden pheasant burst through the roof, having been sent flying. Its golden glow had dimmed; it was now in horrible shape.

Chapter 364 - Fighting the Three Mountains (Two)

"It's the Golden Pheasant Elder!"

"What is going on in the main hall?"

The golden light illuminated every single stunned and terrified face of the disciples.

Yu Shukuang felt all of his sleepiness evaporate. He could not help but stagger backwards. An enemy that could send the Golden Pheasant Elder flying was not someone a mere Qi Practitioner like him could deal with.

Looking around, the other disciples were no different from him. The Green Vine mountain surely was not more important than their own lives.

A moment earlier.

Moonlight seeped in from every gap within the holey main hall. The silvery-blue light criss-crossed, turning the dignified hall into a bizarre world. However, all of it was soon purged by golden light.

A golden pheasant descended from above like a golden sun, blinding and glorious.

Compared to it, Li Qingshan's upright figure seemed so insignificant. Under the scorching light, he seemed like a mere silhouette, so let alone the hand he swung out. It was like a thin twig, about to burst into flames at any time.

In that instant, the punch collided with the sun!

The two forces collided. Streaks of light and waves of air flickered and surged.

Not a single complete pillar remained within the grand hall, which tottered about within the intense blades of wind. But at this moment, it had been forcefully propped up by the pressure, quickly swelling outwards.

Li Qingshan's feet were planted deeply into the ground, but an endless power surged out from the lofty Green Vine mountain; it came from the vast earth, entering his body and then his fist before it was directed towards the golden pheasant.

The Golden Pheasant Elder's confident smile vanished!

In the next moment, the punch sent the sun flying!

Li Qingshan drew back his fist and smiled. "It's best if you don't try to contest against my strength when I'm standing on the ground!"

Strength of the Earth!

This was the brand new innate ability that originated from the ox demon. As long as he stood on the ground, he would receive the support of endless strength. Li Qingshan originally thought it was rather useless, but looking at it now, it was quite effective.

His scarlet eyes swiveled, and his gaze landed on the Lone Grave Elder. His pale-white, corpse-like face revealed a clear expression of shock, but it was not because Li Qingshan had sent the Golden Pheasant Elder flying in an open confrontation.

When the Golden Pheasant Elder called for his assistance, he summoned the Ancient Bronze Corpse General to launch a pincer attack from below. However, no matter how he urged the bronze bangle on his hand, the Ancient Bronze Corpse General did not move at all. Suddenly, his connection with it had broken, and only then did he become frightened to death. Without regard for anything else, he rushed towards the Ancient Bronze Corpse General.

The Ancient Bronze Corpse General that stood there silently suddenly raised its head. In that instant, the Lone Grave Elder gained the impression that they were not eyes, but two balls of flames. When he realised this was not just an impression at all, the Ancient Bronze Corpse General had already lunged towards its former master, exposing the small skeleton behind that held a white bone sword.

Since Li Qingshan said he would use his full strength, he really did use it all. Xiao An was the most important component of his strength. She was countless times more powerful than any innate ability he possessed.

The Lone Grave Elder was alarmed. He immediately chose to flee. If he kept fighting, he would end up losing his life here.

Black corpse qi gathered below his feet, lifting him up into the sky like a rocket. He moved alarmingly fast, shaking off the rebelling Ancient Bronze Corpse General in a split second. Just when he was about to burst through the ceiling, four skulls the size of carriage wheels blocked his path, spitting out rolling Blood Flames of Corpse Incineration.

The darkness and moonlight that had just flooded the hall was purged once more by the firelight. The entire hall creaked and trembled, like an old man with a foot in the grave. Unable to bear its own weight anymore, it began to collapse.

At this moment, time seemed to slow down. Every single floating speck of dust seemed incredibly clear in Li Qingshan's eyes. He did not go to assist Xiao An.

After undergoing the heavenly tribulation, her strength had evolved by no less than his. A supernatural ability like the Path of White Bone and Great Beauty made it such that she would become even more powerful than other cultivators with every step forward she took.

He directed his gaze towards the sky again. The Golden Pheasant Elder had been scared out of his wits by Li Qingshan's punch. He was not even bold enough to circle around. He unfurled his wings and flew off into the clouds.

Li Qingshan casually let go of the hilt and shook his hand. He exhaled gently. He leaned backwards by dropping a shoulder as he extended his hand as hard as he could, like a lead ball being thrown into the air. However, his feet showed no intentions of leaving the ground. Instead, they became even more deeply rooted.

Compared to his movements, everything that unfolded in the surroundings seemed like a static frame.

Turbulent daemon qi surged into his arm. Something was released, and his slender hand suddenly turned into the colour of black iron, swelling and extending rapidly.

Three meters, fifteen meters, thirty meters. With his five fingers that were as thick as the hall's pillars spread out, he reached towards the fleeing golden pheasant in the air.

"Where do you think you're going?"

The Golden Pheasant Elder was fear-stricken. He felt a terrifying force crush down on him, almost suffocating him. He fell back towards the hall again. In that instant, the comparison between the two of them seemed to turn back to normal. An arrogant rooster was trapped in the hands of a human, delivered to the kitchen. All that remained was fright.

All the disciples of the Green Vine mountain widened their eyes. All of this was something that would only appear in a nightmare. No one could imagine just what kind of monster was hiding within the hall as they stared at the huge, demonic claws.

The hall was extremely spacious, but it was probably extremely restrictive to the monster!

The golden pheasant was forcefully ripped apart by the huge hand. Li Qingshan's hand had shrunken back to its normal size, gripping the Golden Pheasant Elder's throat. The elder struck the ground heavily, and golden feathers floated around in the surroundings.

Boom! The shockwave expanded in all directions, speeding up the collapse of the hall. The debris and beams fell with a rumble.

The Golden Pheasant Elder called out, "You can't kill me! That'll defy the Treaty of Kings! It'll lead to war! You'll suffer a horrid death too! Release me! We have no particularly great grievances!"

Li Qingshan bent over and whispered into his ear with a smile, "I have another name, Niu Juxia!"

The Golden Pheasant Elder's eyes narrowed. He opened his mouth in an attempt to say something, but he lost that ability forever. Li Qingshan snapped off his neck. Not only had his spine been crushed, but he had been beheaded too. Blood spurted everywhere.

At the same time, Xiao An's bone sword had already penetrated the Lone Grave Elder through the forehead. His deathly-white face was filled with fear, making him seem no different from the many corpses he had seen in the past.

Having lost the Ancient Bronze Corpse General, the Lone Grave Elder became the weakest among the three. He could not even block a single strike from Xiao An. Flames surged out, and he was incinerated instantly.

Rumble! The hall collapsed completely.

The disciples of the Green Vine mountain looked over. A man wielding a blade stood within the ruins atop the mountain. His scarlet hair surged wildly in the wind as the full moon hovered behind him, blurring his appearance and casting a black silhouette, which made him seem even loftier than the Green Vine mountain below his feet.

The only thing they could clearly make out were a scarlet pair of scorching yet cold eyes.

He raised the ice blade high into the air and moonlight poured over the blade. Murderousness filled the air, as if it wanted to dye the moon bright red too.

Chapter 365 - Returning Underground

The disciples of the Green Vine mountain staggered backwards. They all turned around and scattered at the same time.

Yu Shukuang was the first one to flee. The Green Vine mountain was already done for. He had no plans on going down with it, but he felt very despaired inside. Even the three elders could not stop him, so just how long could they flee for?

Standing up high, Li Qingshan looked down over them. No matter how quickly they fled, no matter how far they had fled, killing them would only take a single stroke.

His blade was raised, but he never swung down with it, as he saw a familiar person or two among them. He smiled and placed the blade down.

“He’s vanished.” Xiao An emerged from the ruins.

“Are you certain?” Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow.

“Yep,” Xiao An nodded.

“Fucking hell. He can escape even when he’s bisected. That old bastard must have been playing dead earlier. I have to start defiling corpses in the future!” Li Qingshan cursed.

After the original battle, the Green Vine Elder, who should have been laying on the ground, had actually vanished. Needless to say, he must have used this opportunity to escape.

Now that he thought about it, even regular people would toss around for a bit after they had been bisected. The Green Vine Elder had collapsed like two pieces of wood; he was even better at playing dead than Milliped. Just who was the daemon in this case?

Li Qingshan had used his mirror image to distract the three elders, while the Green Vine Elder had used these two “old friends” of his to distract Li Qingshan.

“Let’s go! We’ll go hunt down that actor!” Li Qingshan sniffed the air and dove back into the hole. According to the smell of blood, the Green Vine Elder had fled through the hole he had created. It would be troublesome if he ran into that simpleton Milliped.

Xiao An tilted her head in thought. What’s an actor?

Within the pitch-black, narrow hole, the Green Vine Elder clutched his abdomen that had been split open completely as he lay on his enlarged vine staff, flying off. The shaking from above gradually grew further away, but he did not relax at all. The terror of the blade was firmly embedded in his heart; he remained shaken.

From the moment Li Qingshan had stabbed the Green Vine Elder with his blade, the Green Vine Elder could feel that it was impossible to emerge victorious from this battle.

This was because he understood something very well; it was not because he was completely unprepared, but because the blade had arrived far too swiftly and viciously. Unless he used a protective technique and called out his protective spiritual artifact beforehand, it would be impossible for him to block it. Dodging would be even less possible.

The unbelievable strength and speed, combined with the extraordinary destructive power, was the bane of cultivators. As a result, he chose to play dead without the slightest hesitation in that moment.

Green vines wrapped around his waist, joining the two parts of his body together. Subsequently, the vines emitted ebbs of green light in an attempt to heal the terrifying wound. However, the residual daemon qi prevented the green light from working. It did not heal after quite a while, but at least his life was no longer in danger anymore.

As the strongest out of the three elders, the Green Vine Elder was not exactly suited for battle, but his recovery ability was probably unmatched. His life force was endless, just like green vines.

Milliped was currently idling around in the hole. When he saw the Green Vine Elder rush over, he immediately lunged over threateningly, spitting out a pink gas.

The Green Vine Elder’s eyes coldened, and he waved the staff in his hand. A Daemon General might be beyond my capabilities, but what about a mere daemonic beast?

At this moment, his heart shuddered. The auras of the Golden Pheasant Elder and the Lone Grave Elder had vanished!

How did it happen so quickly?

Based on his belief, even if two mid Foundation Establishment cultivators could not defeat him, they could still escape, or at worst, they could last a little longer. The situation was much worse than he had imagined it to be. The red-haired Daemon General did not give off any daemon qi at all. He moved around without a trace, like an assassin hidden in the darkness, as if he could appear at any moment and cut him down.

The Green Vine Elder was stricken with fear. He raised his hand and knocked Milliped aside before flying away quickly.

Actually, Li Qingshan had yet to realise he had gone missing back then.

.....

Li Qingshan followed the scent in pursuit. He saw Milliped, who had curled into a ball, and smiled. "You sure are lucky!"

Arriving at the exit at the foot of the mountain, a beautiful scenery of the wilderness unfolded before him with a gentle breeze and a bright moon in the sky.

The enchanting fragrance of flowers filled the air. Spring was the time when mountain flowers bloomed.

Li Qingshan sniffed. The scent had become very faint, and it was not only because of the smell of flowers. The Green Vine Elder must have stabilised his injuries and then used some sort of method to hide his smell.

However, Li Qingshan did manage to find a distinctive scent, the scent of humans. Like a thin stream, its trace led off into the depths of the Boundless mountains.

Li Qingshan leapt up and arrived on a hill before him. However, the scent vanished there. He could not help but frown.

If his gaze could pierce through obstacles, then he would have spotted a nervous, old face hidden within an ancient cypress a hundred paces away.

The Green Vine Elder had used a wood technique to merge into the bark. Although he temporarily managed to avoid Li Qingshan's senses, his nervousness and fear did not lessen at all. Instead, it spread. At the same time, he experienced an indescribable sense of sorrow. He, the mighty sect master of the Green Vine mountain, had actually been forced into such a state by a pursuing Daemon General.

Li Qingshan circled around a few times in the dim forest. Suddenly, he sneered. "I can see you!"

He had learnt this trick from Han Qiongzi, and sure enough, it utterly frightened the Green Vine Elder. He had to hold back the urge to flee.

Li Qingshan casually swung his ice blade, kicking up sharp, violent winds that swept past the towering trees and cut them down. They rolled down the side of the mountain with a rumble. From above, a large swathe of trees had collapsed in a single moment.

However, he failed to find the Green Vine Elder.

Li Qingshan called out, "Green Vine, no matter where you flee to, there will be a day when I kill you!"

Kill you... kill you... kill you...

His voice that sounded like thrumming metal echoed through the mountains.

This made the Green Vine Elder's heart tighten. Pulling his body together tightly, he rolled down in the cut-down trees, only stopping after colliding against a huge boulder in the end. He felt like his back was close to breaking.

The forest fell silent once more, but he did not dare to move. Who knew whether Li Qingshan was hiding in the darkness or not, waiting for him to appear so that he could kill him.

Even when the sun rose, he remained exactly where he was. It was said that people became more afraid of death with age, and he truly verified this with his actions. As long as the slightest possibility of danger continued to exist, he would remain in hiding.

Three days later, he finally emerged from the bark slowly and gradually, only letting out a sigh of relief after confirming that Li Qingshan was indeed gone. Gazing at the mist-shrouded Green Vine mountain in the distance, tears suddenly began to run down his face. If it were not for this wood technique, he almost would have died. He was obviously too afraid to return to the Green Vine mountain now. All he could do was seek assistance from the Daemon Suppression alliance if he wanted a chance for revenge.

Actually, Li Qingshan had directly left after saying that. If he could not kill him today, then he would just kill him in the future. He did not have the patience or motivation to waste time crouching around in the forest.

After this battle, he could feel signs of breaking through to the third layer of the tiger demon. He was looking for some people to cause trouble with so that he could have another battle.

Li Qingshan, Xiao An, and Milliped, the three daemons, moved through the dark underground. The familiar environment made Milliped extremely excited. He scurried away eagerly, heading towards that "huge bed" of his.

Li Qingshan sat on a huge skull that a Skull Prayer Bead had transformed into. He had a set of scarlet robes draped over him and a scarlet band around his waist, covering his crotch conveniently. The ice blade hung from his waist too. He seemed to be in high spirits, brimming with vigour.

He had transformed the cloak from his hair. This was a simple trick for Daemon Generals, and wearing it brought no discomfort either. Finally, he had avoided the predicament of walking around naked.

The hundred treasures pouches of the Lone Grave Elder and the Golden Pheasant Elder had been shoved into his chest. He still had not looked through them yet. If he wanted to look through his spoils, he obviously had to take them out and admire them one by one at home in peace. Only then would it be particularly delightful.

After travelling for a few hours, they had already ventured deep underground.

Home was near!

Xiao An sat in Li Qingshan's arms, refining the corpses of the Lone Grave Elder and the Golden Pheasant Elder. The bodies of Foundation Establishment cultivators were just a few dozen kilograms of flesh, but the life force hidden within even surpassed ten thousand regular people. This was akin to the difference between Qi Gathering pills and Virtue Accumulation pills. It was a difference in quality.

The reason why Xiao An could undergo the heavenly tribulation so soon was closely linked to Wei Zhongyuan's corpse. Very soon, she had refined the two corpses, and she could feel that her cultivation had taken another step forward.

Li Qingshan rubbed her skull. "This time, there's no need for you to fight."

The cavern was right before them. Suddenly, there was a tremor, and a tremendous object burst out of the earth, opening its gaping mouth and lunging towards Milliped. The two pairs of fangs were even longer than swords.

Li Qingshan was completely unfazed. With how obvious the daemon qi was, even if it was hidden within the earth, how could it fool him?

Flying over, he pressed down on the daemon's head. However, the part he touched was as hard as a boulder.

Li Qingshan smiled. I knew this daemon qi seemed familiar. So it's it!

As it turned out, the tremendous object was the huge head of a snake, except it was a rocky grey, which seemed like a stone sculpture no matter how he looked at it. The boulder viper had been an extremely powerful daemon soldier under Li Qingshan's command in the past. It had only yielded when he mentioned Milliped, but it had never truly accepted Li Qingshan as the leader of the daemon soldiers.

But right now, the last thing Li Qingshan was afraid of was rock. He casually emitted a vibration through his hand.

The boulder viper felt a vibration spread from the top of his head to the end of his tail. Its impenetrable rock armour immediately cracked. It felt the world spin as its body grew numb. It was pulled out from the earth helplessly, completely in shock.

Li Qingshan said, "Boulder viper, do you still recognise me?"

The boulder viper shook its head and recovered from its dizziness. It raised its head and met a familiar pair of scarlet pupils before seeing the horns and the scarlet hair. "You're... leader!"

Li Qingshan smiled as he patted its head. "Daemons are still the ones with better insight!"

"Vice leader." The boulder viper then saw Xiao An and finally Milliped. "Great king Milliped!" He had burst out of the earth because of this daemon qi, launching a sneak attack. It had failed to sense Li Qingshan and Xiao An's existence at all.

"Y- you've returned!"

After two years, they had returned underground once more, to take back everything that belonged to them!

Li Qingshan asked in confusion, "Why did you attack us?"

Chapter 366 - Great King Ye Liusu

The boulder viper looked at Li Qingshan fearfully. Even though it had already become the strongest among the daemons, quite a large difference still existed between it and Daemon General. Li Qingshan's action from earlier had completely dismissed any of its thoughts to resist. As such, it obediently answered his question.

"I'm responsible for looking over the dwelling for great king Ye Liusu, to prevent anyone from disturbing the king's rest, or I'll be punished." The boulder python curled up its colossal body powerlessly. It missed

the time when Milliped reigned on top. Back then, he was not restrained by anything. He did not have to listen to anyone's command either.

"Great king Ye Liusu? This daemon has got quite a good naming sense," Li Qingshan muttered to himself, "Then do you know what kind of daemon it is? And what abilities it knows?"

Knowing yourself and the enemy would result in triumph in battle. Li Qingshan never underestimated his opponents.

"This... I don't know. And, king Ye Liusu isn't a daemon."

"Not a daemon?" Li Qingshan's voice rose higher. "Humans are allowed to get a piece of territory underground too?"

"No, no, not a human either."

"Neither a human nor a daemon. Then what?"

The boulder viper gave a description. Unfortunately, the powerful daemons that lived in the dark underground were rather limited in their descriptive vocabulary, which confused Li Qingshan even more. All he knew was that this king Ye Liusu was not a Daemon General from the surroundings, originating from much deeper underground instead.

If he had no idea, then he would personally go and take a look. Li Qingshan was cautious, but he was not afraid of trouble. He made the boulder viper move aside, and he swaggered towards the cavern.

"Leader, king Ye Liusu comes and goes without a trace in an utterly incredible fashion." The boulder viper warned from behind. It did not feel particularly optimistic for Li Qingshan. Li Qingshan had clearly become a Daemon General recently. He probably was not king Ye Liusu's opponent.

He dove into the ground in a hurry. If king Ye Liusu found out it had let them in, then it would be in trouble.

A speck of light suddenly appeared in the darkness ahead. A Blue Butterfly flower gave off dim, blue light within the darkness, and its butterfly wings moved slightly. However, it clearly had not reached maturity yet, unable to break free from the bounds of the stalk and fly through the air.

Milliped scurried over, but Li Qingshan grabbed him by a leg and made him hide somewhere first, just in case this king Ye Liusu sensed him.

Li Qingshan made Xiao An wait at the entrance too and he ventured over alone. Finally, he saw the sea of Blue Butterfly flowers once more. The Blue Butterfly flowers glowed silently, but only a measly one or two of them fluttered about. There would be a long wait before each Blue Butterfly flower would bloom. Li Qingshan had taken away everything accumulated over countless years last time.

But apart from the sea of flowers, Li Qingshan actually found nothing to be familiar anymore.

The coarse, rock walls had been carefully sculpted. Inscriptions and patterns covered them all. The ceiling sparkled with light, having been embedded with countless luminous pearls of various sizes such that it seemed like the night sky. It was majestic, like a black palace filled with illusionary colours and a foreign charm.

At the centre of the palace, Milliped's original bed of spiritual stone had been replaced with a delicate, charming bed of sculpted wood. The drapes around it prevented him from seeing anything inside.

From the decor alone, Li Qingshan could confirm that this king Ye Liusu was indeed not a daemon. Since when would daemons waste time on something like this? Moreover, the aura from within the drapes seemed to confirm this too.

It was not daemon qi, but it was not like spiritual qi either. It seemed to be something between daemon qi and spiritual qi, with similarities and differences. He could already vaguely guess what it was.

However, when he walked over and lifted the heavy drapes, he still could not help but become surprised.

The pair of pointed ears clearly stated the fact that it was not human, and the smooth skin seemed to be dyed by the night sky. It was the colour of the night sky in the middle of summer, a mixture of black and blue, which proved this fact once more.

Not a human, nor a daemon, but otherfolk.

Li Qingshan even managed to recognise the race immediately—the Night Roaming folk.

This was all thanks to the countless dates he had gone on with Han Qiongzhi. As they spoke about everything—even though Li Qingshan was the one listening most of the time—Han Qiongzhi had once told him about the existence of this race.

Their dark blue skin was their most prominent feature. They were completely different from the diurnal humans, being nocturnal instead. They could see through the deepest darkness, but they were blind during daytime.

After the rise of humanity, they had been expelled to remote wildernesses just like the other races of the otherfolk, becoming a mere legend. Li Qingshan never expected to run into them underground.

If this was not enough to surprise Li Qingshan, then the fact that the king Ye Liusu seated within the heavy drapes was a woman would have been enough.

Dark, blue hair draped down from a perfectly oval face strand by strand. Her eyes were firmly shut; she had long eyelashes and a high nose bridge. Her facial features were delicate.

She wore a simple set of black armour that only covered her most important parts. Beautiful patterns like flower branches extended along the large parts of her uncovered skin; the style was similar to the sculptings on the surrounding walls. It seemed to be more natural than a tattoo. It was also the only thing that adorned her body.

If he could ignore her skin tone, she would definitely be a great beauty. Or perhaps, it was exactly her skin tone like the night sky that gave her a mysterious, foreign charm.

Li Qingshan could see her frown. Clearly, she had sensed his existence, but she still did not move. She had probably reached a critical point in her cultivation.

Li Qingshan was rather disappointed, so he just climbed onto the stone bed and sat down in front of her. As he studied her alluring body, he waited for her to awaken.

It was not because he did not want to take advantage of her situation, nor was it because he had lost the will to fight after seeing that she was a woman. It was the exact opposite, as a matter of fact. A certain part of his body stiffed silently. He began to reminisce about the wonderful times he spent with Han Qiongzhi, and he wondered whether she had emerged from seclusion yet. By then, all he had to do was propose, and he would be able to...

The purpose of this trip had never been to kill. Daemons would never slaughter one another; this could be regarded as the first law of the world of daemons. This Ye Liusu might have been otherfolk, but since she could reign over this piece of territory, she must have received the recognition of the Daemon Commander. She could be regarded as a member of the Daemon race.

Killing her was easy, but if he did, there would be no point in him remaining underground anymore. He wanted to use a daemon's method of defeating her in an open confrontation so that he could take back the territory that originally belonged to Milliped.

A droplet of sweat gathered on the tip of Ye Liusu's nose. She was as nervous as she could be. She had just reached a critical point in the Night Demon scripture, which was why she had passed the command to seal off all paths leading to here. Since he could bypass the obstacles and arrive here, it only proved his extraordinary strength.

Yet, she could not move at all right now. If she did, not only would all her efforts go to waste, but she would even suffer a backlash and become heavily injured.

At this moment, she suddenly felt his hand extend towards her. Her body immediately stiffened, but the hand only waved around in front of her face.

Li Qingshan grew bored from the waiting. He yawned and laid down on his side. Suddenly, he saw a sheathed dagger on her waist, curved like the crescent moon. He reached over to grab it.

Ye Liusu suddenly snapped her eyes open. They were as glorious as the stars in the night sky.

A Heavy Author's Note for a Million Characters

What should I say? If I speak my mind too much, the readers will find it boring. I'll try to make it simple then!

Six months, a million characters, a chair and a computer upheld the passage of time. In the eyes of others, this should seem like a very lonesome life, right?

Lonesome? It is. Sometimes, I feel utterly flustered from loneliness, with no idea what to do.

Just admit it! There are no paths that will be smooth sailing all the way.

Sometimes, you just can't avoid staggering along.

Sometimes, all you can do is look up.

Not looking up to others, but up to the you you wish to be.

"I want to become someone like that! I want to write novels like that!"

And then? You'll achieve happiness?

I can never avoid asking myself this question, as I understand that life is not novels. There are no paths that definitely lead to happiness.

You don't have to answer it—you'll only know if you try!

Constant attempts, constant pursuits to see just how that future tastes. I want to write a decent novel, to show myself.

Alright, that's the end of my boring thoughts. Now let's get to the real stuff.

Look, give me votes!

Heh! I call this revealing real intentions at the end.

Why did I drag it out until now to write my author's note for a million characters? That's so I can write one less author's note!

I have far too many boring thoughts, which readers will find annoying too. I hope my novel isn't this boring.

Alright, I admit that this is a little heavy for an author's note asking for votes. It's neither enthusiastic, nor is it touching!

Then, let me add some things.

After a period of arduous cultivation, fellow Li Qingshan has finally become a Daemon General, taking a critical step forward in his life. It's also a critical step for Legend of the Great Sage and a critical step for me.

After the baptism of a million characters, I've become even stronger in all aspects. Everything is about to unfold. I will do my best to write even more fascinating content!

There might be undulations in the plot, fluctuations in emotion. If I'm happy, then I'll make you all happy with me. If I'm unhappy, then I'll still make you happy. If you just can't be happy, just give me a smile!

Finally, taking in a deep breath and roaring out loudly.

Chapter 367 - The Battle for Territory

The other thing that lit up with it was the flash of a blade, shaped like a crescent moon, which swept towards Li Qingshan's throat.

Xiao An guarded the entrance to the cavern. She saw Li Qingshan enter the drapes, but there was neither sounds nor fighting. She had no idea what had happened, and she happened to be bored.

Suddenly, there was a screech. A gust of wind swept up the drapes in the surroundings, and the sharp sound reverberated through the cavern, becoming even resonant.

Ye Liusu now knelt on one knee, leaning forward and placing all her strength into the curved dagger in her hand. The edge was less than an inch away from Li Qingshan's throat, but it was unable to advance any further. It had been blocked by a slender, ice blade.

Li Qingshan remained in the same posture, leaning on his side. He wielded the ice blade in a reverse grip with his left hand, easily receiving all her strength with a single hand. He studied her up and down, appreciating her delicate face now with a pair of star-like eyes. They seemed to complete her, allowing her to spring alive. He smiled. You might have overcome the first heavenly tribulation too, but it's impossible for you to win against me in terms of strength.

Xiao An sat down. They had finally begun fighting, but then she heard movements from deep within the caves.

"What are you doing?" Ye Liusu said coldly. Her voice was as clear as the flash of her dagger. The appearance of the intruder left her slightly amazed. What a handsome man, no, daemon!

Although the Night Roaming folk were known for their beauty, such that both men and women were extremely pretty, there was probably no one who surpassed the person right before her in terms of appearance.

The smile made him seem even more enchanting, but it was not gentle at all. Instead, it seemed more like a reckless provocation. Combined with what his right hand did, it made her killing intent become even colder.

"I wanted to take a look at your dagger," Li Qingshan said. Only then did he discover that her dagger was already in her hands, while his hand was on her buttock. This isn't my fault. Who told you to move around? He pulled his hand back like he had done nothing wrong at all.

"Did you see it?" Ye Liusu said coldly.

"I saw it." Li Qingshan glanced down. The curved dagger shone with the brightest white light, like a crescent moon. He suddenly understood why. Just like how human assassins would paint their weapons black, only light could blind the opponent in this underground world.

Afterwards, his gaze shifted over to the gully on her chest uncontrollably. In this world, there really were far too few women who dressed so boldly.

"Then die!" Ye Liusu called out. With a twist of her dagger, it brushed past the ice blade and swung down. The dagger cut through the darkness, moving even faster and more viciously than the stroke from earlier.

She thought, As a strength type Daemon General, his reaction and speed must be a little slower. Getting so close to me is your greatest miscalculation today! Though, I don't think I've heard of a Daemon General like him under the Spider Queen's command. Don't tell me another Daemon Commander sent him over? If I kill him and get caught, it'll be troublesome. He doesn't seem to have any killing intent either, so I'd better hold back instead!

But very soon, Ye Liusu discovered that her worries were unnecessary. Li Qingshan flew up without even changing his posture, like he was still lying on the stone platform. He rotated and brushed past the blade. He was surprisingly nimble.

Ye Liusu's eyes twinkled. The dagger was like a swooping sparrow, going from a downwards slash to an upwards stroke in an unbelievably beautiful manner. In the narrow space above, it turned into a series of blurs, enveloping every vital point on Li Qingshan's body.

Li Qingshan extended his hand with a smile, grabbing her dagger-wielding right hand with great precision among the flashes and blurs.

Ye Liusu immediately let go of her weapon, turning her hand around and grabbing his arm too, pulling him down. At the same time, she caught the curved dagger with her left hand and went for the throat. It left behind absolutely no trace, a completely unfathomable attack. The killing intent was concealed, dense but hidden.

Even Li Qingshan felt a hint of danger. He tilted his head slightly, and a cold sensation swept past his throat, leaving behind a thin cut. A smile remained on his face. Taking advantage of the overextended attack, he grabbed her left hand too and pushed her down heavily onto the stone platform.

Ye Liusu tried to put up a struggle, but under Li Qingshan's strength, it was obviously useless. She lifted a long leg of hers that wore black shoes and kicked the back of his head.

Li Qingshan lowered himself conveniently, dodging the kick. "Before you attack someone, it's best if you hear why they've come in the first place."

Two pairs of eyes met, and the tips of their noses were almost touching. They could clearly feel each other's breathing, which was rather intimate contact.

Ye Liusu stared into Li Qingshan's eyes without backing down. Her eyes had dimmed slightly, making her dark blue eyes seem like ice in the night.

"Who are you?"

Li Qingshan was taken aback. He was actually unable to come up with an answer immediately. He raised an eyebrow. "Good question!"

He did not have a proper name right now. Xuanyue had once called him Big Blacko, but it was clearly a very horrible name. He had once called himself the Old Daemon of Black Mountain too, but that was even less appropriate, just in case someone connected it with Li Qingshan.

Li Qingshan immediately sank into a dilemma. He had never been good at coming up with names. He had almost forgotten he was lying on top of an absolute beauty.

Ye Liusu took advantage of this opportunity to take note of everything about the enemy. Suddenly, she noticed that something seemed to be carved on the two sharp, protruding horns on his head. She muttered, "North moon."

Li Qingshan's eyes immediately lit up. "Yes, that!"

His memories returned to a few years ago. In the depths of the Boundless mountain, that cute, mischievous cat daemon had forcefully carved this promise into his horns, depositing it deep within his memories. Even the heavenly tribulation was unable to erase it.

On the Ice Sword cliff, he had used his loudest voice to bellow at the heavens, swearing he would obtain the power to send her to the Dragon province. He wondered how she was doing right now.

Ye Liusu squinted slightly and suddenly raised her head, slamming it against his. She sneered inside. Hasn't anyone told you to not become distracted in battle?

With a thunk, Ye Liusu fell back onto the stone bed. It hurt so much that she gasped. So hard!

Li Qingshan returned to his senses. He smiled. "Just call me Northmoon! Hmm? What's wrong with your head?" A lump had appeared on Ye Liusu's smooth forehead.

Xiao An crouched at the entrance as her teeth chattered about. She let out a clattering laughter.

"I'm going to kill you!" Ye Liusu squeezed out a threat from between her teeth.

Li Qingshan said, "You'll have that opportunity later, but let me finish speaking first. Where do I start? Oh right. You know the previous Daemon General in charge of this territory, right?"

"He was a fool called Milliped I think. He was lured away by the humans to be slaughtered. Don't tell me that's you!" Ye Liusu mocked.

"Of course not. He might be a little foolish, but you're not allowed to talk about my friend like that. Anyway, this territory used to belong to him, as well as me. In other words, you're currently living in my home, lying on my bed. I want you to... piss off."

Li Qingshan found this way of wording it to be extremely interesting. He felt like he was talking to his ex-wife after a divorce. He tilted his head slightly. "Are you going to agree or disagree?"

"So what if I agree? And so what if I disagree?" Only now did Ye Liusu understand. As it turned out, this guy was a daemon soldier under Milliped's command. He wanted to take back the territory after going through the heavenly tribulation. However, it led her to an even greater question. How could a daemon that had just emerged from a heavenly tribulation be so powerful? He had completely surpassed her physically!

"It'll be for the best if you agree. If you don't agree, I'll beat you until you agree." Li Qingshan smiled very sincerely. Giving a beauty like her a thorough beating should be quite the sensation!

"Then try it!" Ye Liusu said frostily. The curved dagger began to spin, turning into a round disc that shot towards Li Qingshan.

Li Qingshan raised his body to avoid it and secretly muttered, "Oh no." He felt a gust of wind from behind his head. He reached back and grabbed her round, powerful leg, and Ye Liusu pushed herself up, gripping the hilt of the dagger and stabbing viciously into Li Qingshan's right eye.

Li Qingshan wanted to repeat the same trick and grab her hand, but he grabbed nothing. It was a feint.

On the narrow stone platform, Ye Liusu turned into a shadow, circling around Li Qingshan rapidly. Li Qingshan remained exactly where he was, only swinging his ice blade around, parrying every one of her assassination attempts. Just inches apart, flashes of the weapons filled every gap between the two of them, but there were no sounds of collisions.

Ye Liusu pushed her nimble, mysterious dagger style to the limit, targeting Li Qingshan's vital points with every attack.

Suddenly, the curved dagger spat out a crescent light. It looped around the ice blade along a strange trajectory, arriving behind him and swinging towards his back like a hook.

“Soul Stealer!” Just as the name suggested, who knew how many lives she had stolen with this battle skill. Even those almost as strong as her would die to this attack.

With an elongated clang, the ice blade slanted behind Li Qingshan’s back, blocking the tip of the curved dagger; this demonstrated that their strength was not even close.

Ye Liusu slid to the edge of the bed like a ghost, heaving slightly as she stared at Li Qingshan. He was just too powerful. Not only was his strength completely one-sided, but his reactions actually surpassed her too. Was he really a Daemon General who had just undergone a heavenly tribulation?

“So close!” Li Qingshan checked the ice blade and found a tiny nick. He stroked it with his hand, and the blade recovered.

This battle was not for slaughter or for revenge, so there was no reason for him to kill with a single stroke. Ye Liusu’s abilities were extraordinary. She could assist him in breaking through to the third layer of the tiger demon through battle.

The curved dagger in Ye Liusu’s hand suddenly lit up, and she swung it violently. “Moon Breaker!”

Li Qingshan suddenly looked back. A cold half-moon brushed past his face just a hair’s breadth away, but he spotted a Blue Butterfly flower fluttering around in the trajectory of the half-moon. It was just about to be cut apart.

He immediately leapt up, catching up to the half-moon he had just dodged and destroying it with a swing of his blade.

“That’s my flower. You’d best be careful.”

Li Qingshan stood within the sea of flowers. The Blue Butterfly flower had no idea about the danger it was just in, fluttering over his head.

It was a flower, yet not a flower, a butterfly, yet not a butterfly. It was a flying True Spirit pill.

“That’s mine! Moon Breaker!” Ye Liusu produced an even larger half-moon, which Li Qingshan dodged by moving to the side.

With a boom, the half-moon landed on the rock face behind him, leaving a huge mark on the delicate sculptings.

Li Qingshan glanced backwards and said relaxedly, “Fortunately, the sculptings aren’t mine.”

Ye Liusu was furious, but she became afraid of just swinging her dagger carelessly again. Every single sculpting there had taken her painstaking effort. They would be extremely difficult to repair. Moreover, this guy clearly could not be dealt with using a move like that.

At this moment, daemon qi and the special, gloomy aura of night roamers surged over from everywhere.

PS: Thank you for your encouragement. Never have the monthly votes been so great, actually reaching twelfth place. Of course, I know this is all because the god-level authors haven’t done anything yet, waiting for the double monthly votes, but I still feel very happy. Momentary happiness is still happiness.

I don't have an impressive rate of pumping out words, and to be honest, that's not what I'm going after either. Coming up with novel, interesting content and then carving it out bit by bit is where my interests of writing novels lie.

How do I say this? Although there's just me at home right now, I was in the gloomy underground, watching the battle between Li Qingshan and Ye Liusu with interest just earlier. Chasing after constant joy is just a little too greedy. If reading this part made your loneliness a little easier to bear with, making you anticipate tomorrow just a little more, then it would be my greatest honour.

Oh right. It snowed today. It was very beautiful.

Chapter 368 - Otherfolk and Other Abilities

Li Qingshan found Ye Liusu to be rather admirable. With how reinforcements came flooding over to support her, it only demonstrated her control over this territory. That dimwit Milliped would have never been able to match her.

Daemons that Li Qingshan found extremely familiar appeared at the entrances one by one, shuffling in the shadows. There was also a group of Night Roaming folk guards, composed of both males and females. Their facial features were all delicate. They wore simple armour, wielding bows and arrows and spears.

"Leader?" The daemons all gasped in surprise. Although Li Qingshan's appearance had changed drastically, they could still recognise him with a single glance through his special characteristics.

"King Ye Liusu!" The guards glared at Li Qingshan; they fully drew their bows and raised their spears high. They awaited Ye Liusu's orders.

Ye Liusu did not ease up at all. If he were a regular Daemon General, then she might have been able to control and weaken him with an advantage in numbers, but the one before her right now was clearly not a regular Daemon General. If they interfered, it would only lead to unnecessary losses instead.

She waved her dagger and ordered loudly, "Don't interfere! This is our battle!"

The daemons immediately let out a sigh of relief. Who wanted to fight a Daemon General? Daemons were forbidden from killing one another, but it would be bad if he really became carried away.

"King!" The captain of the guards, Ye Liubo, was confused by this. Why did she have to fight the enemy alone?

She had already fully drawn her bow; the three nocked arrows shone with a dim light, directed right at Li Qingshan's back. Clearly, they had been smeared with poison. From such a close range, even Daemon Generals would struggle to dodge a volley of arrows.

However, the "enemy" ended up turning around at this moment, ignoring her drawn bow and smiling at her. His handsome appearance and dazzling smile made her heart skip a beat, but she kept the bow drawn firmly. If it were the past, he could serve as outstanding company in bed, but they stood as enemies right now.

Li Qingshan studied the night roamers curiously. He felt slightly excited. This was not a sight he could just happen upon. It was just like the legends, where the majority of night roamers were beautiful in

appearance. If one of these night roamer guards were brought outside, any one of them, they could be regarded as handsome or beautiful.

In particular, the "girl" in the lead had an exquisite face that seemed slightly similar to Ye Liusu. Her appearance stood out, only slightly worse than Ye Liusu's. Especially when she drew her bow, the waves on her chest surged.

"Lower your weapons! This is an order!" Ye Liusu said coldly.

Only then did Ye Liubo lower her bow reluctantly. She thought, Has big sister Liusu taken a fancy to this Daemon General? But she's never shown any lust? Looks like she has come to a realisation after seeing this rare, attractive man among daemons. If that's really the case, that's good news. I wonder if she'll let me borrow him for a few days.

"Hmm? What's this?" Ye Liubo suddenly saw Xiao An crouched in a corner. Because she gave off no aura at all, Ye Liubo had mistaken her to be something dead, except she clearly saw the skeleton move earlier. The skull turned towards her; roaring flames burned in the eye sockets.

"Vice leader!" The daemons were all taken aback again.

Ye Liubo pointed at Xiao An. "That's a comrade of the enemy. We'll deal with it. We'll just let the king deal with the other one. Once we're victorious, be sure to let our sisters have some fun too." She glanced at Ye Liusu to check her reaction. The red-haired Daemon General was complete eye candy to her. Seeing how Ye Liusu had no objections, she beamed inside.

The guards of the Night Roaming folk answered loudly. In particular, the female guards all looked at Li Qingshan with shining eyes. Their gazes were like how bandits usually stared at a noble beauty they rarely came across, easily penetrating his robes.

It made Li Qingshan feel slightly unnatural. Suddenly, he remembered that Han Qiongzhi had once told him, "The Night Roaming folk have earned quite a bad name for themselves. They're known to be promiscuous. Men and women sleep around freely. They have no concept of purity, unlike humans. In the past, there was a person who came across villages of Night Roaming folk after becoming lost. Because of his handsome appearance, many female night roamers fought over him, wanting him to stay in their homes overnight. When he returned eventually, he took great delight in talking about it."

Li Qingshan even sighed back then. "Why did a place as great as that just vanish?" He ended up being viciously strangled by Han Qiongzhi, who continued, "It's all just a misunderstanding of regular people, as night roamers practise matriarchy. Their women are not bound to any form of ethics at all. They toy around with men just like how human men toy around with women, as if it's their natural right. If you like it, I'll go find some toy boys for you to befriend too!"

Li Qingshan immediately became excited from this thought. Heaven does exist! He called out, "Even if you're not victorious, I'll still let you sisters have some fun!"

Ye Liubo broke into laughter. "This guy is pretty interesting. I just wonder how he does in bed. King, don't hurt him, particularly below!" It led to a roar of laughter.

Li Qingshan turned back around and said to Ye Liusu, "Looks like your clansmen place great confidence in you!"

Ye Liusu said, "Aren't you worried for your companion at all? Oh wait, I've forgotten. Since when did a concept like that exist among daemons?"

Li Qingshan said without even looking back, "Li'l South, don't harm them."

Xiao An gazed harmlessly at the night roamers who lunged over. Hearing "Li'l South", she was taken aback, but she immediately understood what it meant. The two words "north moon" had come from the scholar wood tablet carved with "south An" in Xiao An's possession. She obviously could not use her original name in a world of daemons.

Ye Liubo did not use any weapons. She directly tried to grab Xiao An. She did not take this tiny skeleton seriously at all. It did not seem like anything powerful no matter how she looked at it. At most, it was probably just a servant or puppet. She could not harm it either, or she would displease this "red-haired hunk", and he would not end up trying in bed later.

Xiao An did not move at all. She did not attack her, she did not dodge, nor did she flee. She just let Ye Liubo grab her.

Before Ye Liubo had even understood what had happened, she had already hit the ground. Her mind was extremely clear. She did not feel any injuries at all, but she could not even raise a single finger. She felt like her body had become possessed.

Since the very beginning of practising the Path of White Bone and Great Beauty, Xiao An already possessed the ability to control flesh and blood. She even opened Li Qingshan's Fengchi acupoint at a critical moment.

After that, she rarely ever used this ability again. After undergoing the heavenly tribulation, this ability had become several times stronger. She was already showing mercy by sparing those who touched her with their bodies from death.

The night roamer guards immediately fell into chaos. Ye Liubo was the strongest among them, and she was close to the heavenly tribulation, yet she had actually collapsed before she could even launch an attack.

"Captain! Captain!" Has she been afflicted with corpse poison?" "Don't touch the skeleton!"

"Liubo!" Ye Liusu called out loudly, but she received no reply. She also became surprised. She stared at Li Qingshan. "What did you do?"

Li Qingshan shrugged as if he was saying, "What'd I say?"

"Don't worry, she won't die. You'd better get your people to just watch the battle obediently instead! What, are you reconsidering my suggestion?"

Ye Liusu said, "If you win, I'll return the territory to you."

Li Qingshan added, "If I lose, then I'll let your sister have some fun. Oh right, you should be in the mix too, right?"

"Don't even think about it! I'll show you the true power of the Night Roaming folk right now!" With her dagger in hand, Ye Liusu walked towards Li Qingshan slowly, but her figure gradually vanished, like a

piece of paper placed in ink. At first, the dense ink dyed the edges, and then it became completely pitch-black in the end. She had merged with the omnipresent darkness.

Even with Li Qingshan's extraordinary senses, he had completely lost all trace of her. He was amazed inside. So this is the real power of the Night Roaming folk.

Han Qiongzhi had once explained to the confused Li Qingshan, "Do you know why night roamers practise matriarchy? That's because their women are much more powerful than their men. Only with power do they receive respect. They're actually no different from us."

"This power is not referring to physical strength, but "other abilities". Just like how Giant Lumberfolk can plant their feet underground to absorb energy and their bodies can constantly grow like trees, Night Roaming folk have their own innate abilities. They can draw energy from the darkness and merge their bodies with the darkness."

"By otherfolk, it's not referring to "other races". Instead, it means "those who possess other talents". It's said that a very, very long time ago, the world was under their reign. Regular people worshipped them as gods."

In the sea of flowers, only Li Qingshan was left. He observed even the slightest movements in the surroundings. Suddenly, he took a step back, but it was already too late. A shiny flash swept past his face, leaving behind a small wound before vanishing into the darkness again. A few strands of red hair floated through the air.

Just what was the dagger made of? Even the Ox Demon Forges its Hide failed to block it.

Ye Liusu was completely taken aback. Her "Hook dagger" was extremely sharp. Combined with the Night Demon's Blade Style of Disaster from the Night Demon scripture, it could cut through anything. However, when it landed on his face, she actually felt like it could not penetrate any deeper.

The female guards all sighed, like they had just watched a perfect creation being destroyed, which made Ye Liusu utterly furious. Just whose side were these people who lost their minds the moment they saw a man on?

The main reason for all this was because the guards placed complete confidence in Ye Liusu's strength, but she just happened to lack this confidence herself.

This Daemon General called Northmoon was simply too powerful. So far, he only seemed like he was toying around with her. He had not unleashed his true strength at all. And, the skeleton called "Li'l South" had managed to subdue Ye Liubo without moving at all. It had probably undergone the heavenly tribulation already too.

This was an unprecedented danger she faced since becoming king. However, she needed to conquer this danger. Only then could the Night Roaming folk prosper.

There was another stroke, this time sweeping towards Li Qingshan's frail throat. He raised his hand in an attempt to catch the dagger, but he only grabbed some scattered light. A gash appeared on his palm this time.

In the blink of an eye, many more wounds appeared on Li Qingshan.

Ye Liubo had been dragged out of Xiao An's range of control by her companions, finally recovering control over her body. Before she could even glare at Xiao An, she pushed herself off the ground and pointed in Li Qingshan's direction, calling out hurriedly,

"King, don't harm his nethers!"

Chapter 369 - The True Form of the Ox Demon Tramples

"It's fine, captain. Daemons can regrow it."

"What would you know? If you end up leaving behind any side effects and it can't stiffen anymore, it won't be pretty."

Ye Liusu was utterly disgusted. She could not be bothered about dealing with them anymore.

She swam around in the darkness like a fish. The world had become completely different in her eyes. Li Qingshan's existence stood out like a white speck on a black curtain. She approached him silently and swung her dagger.

Xiao An grew nervous. She possessed her own perspective, which allowed her to "see" the existence of living beings. Even within the darkness, Ye Liusu struggled to hide her powerful aura of life. Xiao An could see every movement she made.

The swift flash of the dagger rapidly approached the back of Li Qingshan's neck.

He smiled, turned around, and swung out who knew how many times in a single instant. The ice blade was like a flower in full bloom. Blade aura filled every inch of space behind him. As long as Ye Liusu was there, she would definitely become trapped in the interwoven net of swings.

The temperature in the cavern seemed to fall by a few degrees all of a sudden. The incoming chilly wind forced the night roamer guards to stagger back. Ye Liubo shivered, and the cockiness vanished from her face. Now solemn, she grabbed her bow once more. Only then did she feel slightly safer. She could not even block a single stroke of his.

"What a terrifying blade technique. He definitely isn't a regular Daemon General, but it's impossible for the great king to lose. It's impossible if he wants to defeat the king like this!"

The curved blade came and went as a flash, no different from a comet. It was impossible to grasp its movements.

The thousands of blurs overlapped once more into an ice blade and fell down, reflecting a lock of scarlet red hair. The scarlet pupils moved. "Looks like it's not just invisibility, but actually merging into the darkness!"

He could even cut through water with his blade, but he was unable to cut through shadows.

"Admit defeat. You can't see me, nor can you harm me." Ye Liusu's voice rang out from all directions, from every inch of darkness. Combined with the echoing effect, it seemed like hundreds of voices speaking at the same time.

“You can see me, but you can’t harm me either!” Li Qingshan placed the ice blade on his shoulder and said lazily. The tiny nicks on his body had all healed instantly.

“I’m just reluctant to use my killing move. Don’t bite off more than you can chew. It’s pointless even if you keep dragging it out like this.”

“That’s not necessarily true.” Li Qingshan suddenly raised his blade high into the air, which gave off a blue light. Since he could not cut her with his blade, he would cut her with light. However, he failed to discover Ye Liusu’s traces.

“You really think that any old light will work?” Ye Liusu mocked him. “Do you really think you can just light a fire and you’ll be able to get through my Night Roaming?”

“I see. Since you’re night roamers, then you need sunlight for it to work.” Li Qingshan withdrew his daemon qi and rubbed his chin in thought.

“You’re welcome to try it!” Ye Liusu said.

Ye Liubo smiled. “We’re underground. No matter how capable you are, you won’t get any sunlight here.”

“Not necessarily!” Li Qingshan shook his head. He raised his hand, and suddenly, a golden speck of light appeared above him. The speck of light swelled, turning into a golden ball of fire.

“What is that!? It’s blinding!” Ye Liubo shielded her eyes instinctively.

The dazzling light purged the darkness, revealing a black figure in front of the wall to Li Qingshan’s left.

The golden light did not possess any terrifying power to kill, but the dense darkness did end up receding bit by bit, revealing Ye Liusu’s figure. She stared at the golden ball of fire in a daze. “Is that... the sun?”

“That’s right, it’s the sun!” Li Qingshan held the miniature sun he had conjured from his Divine Talisman of Great Creation in his right hand, bringing it before him. He gently touched its golden rays that seemed more like hair; it was scorching but not too hot. As a result, he poured some more power of belief into it so that it could shine even brighter. It was as easy as controlling a large lightbulb.

Of course, even if Li Qingshan poured in all of his power of belief, he would not be able to conjure even a billionth of the real sun. However, it was not fake. It gave off real sunlight.

The tiny, golden ball of fluff had become the bane of the Night Roaming folk’s other ability. They might have been kings of the night, but he had turned this place into daytime.

Ye Liubo tried her best to open her eyes, but Li Qingshan’s figure had been completely swallowed by the light from the sun, blurring him. The weaker guards even began to tear up, turning around and closing their eyes.

Actually, sunlight posed no harm to the Night Roaming folk at all. It was like darkness to regular people, which could only affect their senses. In particular, night roamers who had cultivated before should not have been affected by sunlight, let alone this miniature sun that Li Qingshan had conjured.

However, they had lived underground for far, far too long. Every single night roamer basically spent their entire life completely submerged in darkness from birth to death, which strengthened their other ability but weakened their resistance to sunlight to an unprecedented level.

Ye Liusu did her best to cloak herself in darkness again. Darkness constantly surged around her, but just the slightest interference would prevent her from merging with the darkness perfectly, preventing her from using the ability of Night Roaming.

This was the first time she had experienced this interference in her life. Who would have thought that someone would actually be able to bring the sun underground? Li Qingshan appeared even more unfathomable in her eyes. If this were a part of his abilities, then he would be the bane of all night roamers.

“I just thought of a pretty good move, so let me try it!”

Li Qingshan tossed aside the ice blade and arrived before Ye Liusu with a flash, throwing a punch.

“Sunlight might be able to affect the ability of us night roamers, but you’re dreaming if you think you can hit me with such a direct attack.”

The fist rushed over like a fierce gale, producing booms in the air. Ye Liusu’s shadow hovered about, unable to withstand it. She might not have been as powerful as him, but she was no slower. Giving up on the attack, she dodged as hard as she could. She was like a dark fairy dancing in the wind.

At this moment, Li Qingshan’s fist suddenly unfurled, turning into a palm. It was only an inch away from Ye Liusu now.

Ye Liusu did not take it seriously at all, mocking Li Qingshan for his futile efforts. In that instant, an invisible, terrifying power struck her abdomen viciously before spreading through her body.

All Ye Liubo saw was Li Qingshan launching a palm strike before Ye Liusu was sent flying. She went over the sea of flowers and collided into a wall heavily. The residual power of the attack dispersed through Ye Liusu’s body, immediately covering the wall with web-like cracks. Then, the wall shattered and crumbled.

The noise from the strike was completely drowned out by a sound as loud as thunder. It completely deafened the guards. The sound originated from Li Qingshan’s palm strike.

Waves of air spread out in all directions, lifting up the drapes and pushing down the sea of flowers.

The disturbance his palm strike had caused stunned everyone. They were thrown into a daze before finally responding, “Great king!”

Ye Liubo rubbed her eyes. Just what did he do?

Li Qingshan looked at his hand in surprise and joy. The effects of this attack were even better than he had expected. That’s right, it was his innate ability, the Ox Demon Tramples.

In the past, he had always found the Ox Demon Tramples to be at a completely different level compared to the defensive ability of the Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell. It was useless, especially towards the end. Just how many cultivators would remain on the ground obediently as they fought against him?

After becoming a Daemon General, he managed to put it to some use by burrowing through the ground, basically salvaging the ability. Only now did he discover that the so-called Ox Demon Tramples was just his misunderstanding about the innate ability. Its true ability was to produce “tremors”.

In the past, because his daemon qi was too weak and his cultivation was too low, he could only stamp his feet to strengthen the power of the shockwaves. Otherwise, the tiny shockwave would not possess sufficient destructive power at all, which misled him.

In battles following that, he had never thought about using shockwaves elsewhere either, as there was no need for him to.

If he came across any enemies, all he had to do was tear through their protective true qi at a close range, and they would basically be dead already, so there was no need for him to use any tremors at all. Either that, or he came across enemies he had no chance of defeating like the three elders, so it would be useless even if he did use it.

After becoming a Daemon General, his innate abilities had strengthened drastically, finally exhibiting the powers that they should have possessed.

Earlier, Li Qingshan had used air to transmit a shockwave. Although the effect was nowhere close to using it through earth, it still demonstrated startling power.

Ye Liusu was overcome by both surprise and anger, as well as a hint of fear. The opponent was unimaginably terrifying, and the powers he used were strong and mysterious. The armour she wore basically offered no protection at all before this power. Just how many more trump cards was he still hiding?

However, she could not give up. She had obtained this piece of territory from the Spider Queen after countless hardships. It was the only passageway for the Night Roaming folk to return to the surface. She could not let anyone take it from her.

Returning to her senses, she discovered that she had let out a hysteric roar, and her curved dagger ebbed with light, turning into a huge crescent that illuminated the entire cavern.

She had changed the flexible battle skill, merging with the dagger and charging over to kill with a bearing that could cut through all obstacles!

Li Qingshan was slightly taken aback. He was surprised that such a beautiful female assassin could actually give off such a bearing. His blood began to flow vigorously for the first time in this battle.

“Come!” Li Qingshan threw a punch, and cracks permeated the air.

Ye Liusu shivered inside, but she no longer hesitated. Her dark, blue eyes twinkled like starlight as she stabbed out with the dagger, completely forgetting about death. She struck like the swoop of an eagle.

Ye Liubo seemed to forget to breathe. She looked at Ye Liusu in admiration. Now this was the king they trusted. Her strength definitely could cut through all obstacles, including this wretched Daemon General.

A thunderous boom rang through the cavern, but all Ye Liusu met was a gust of wind, buffeting her long, dark blue hair. She eased up slightly. Looks like the power is limited by distance. I'll show you what's what with this strike!

Li Qingshan looked at his fist helplessly. The shockwave reached a few inches away before weakening and dispersing. With that pause, the flash of the dagger arrived like a bolt of lightning. His forehead pricked slightly.

Ye Liusu had poured all of her strength into this strike. Even the Ox Demon Forges its Hide could not block it.

Chapter 370 - The Journey to Even Greater Depths

Li Qingshan raised his foot in an attempt to dodge, but the darkness below his feet surged like it had come alive. Black hands reached out, grabbing his feet and legs before constantly extending upwards. It was like a thick, intangible pitch.

Before he knew it, Ye Liusu's high-spirited bellow had turned into soft chanting.

The streak-like blade aura stared right at his face. The tip of the dagger was only three inches away from his forehead now.

Li Qingshan caught the blade aura between his hands. Ye Liusu's dark blue pupils crossed over the long blade aura, staring murderously at Li Qingshan. She used all the strength that she had, but she was unable to push her blade another inch forward.

"Tremor!"

Li Qingshan smiled. Immediately, cracks covered the blade aura like lightning, spreading to Ye Liusu's body.

The blade aura shattered, and Ye Liusu felt like every single bone in her body had been violently shaken up, which came with numbing pain. She immediately felt like her body was no longer hers. She saw Li Qingshan pull away rapidly until her back struck the wall behind her heavily.

"Great king!" Ye Liubo cried out.

Li Qingshan grabbed Ye Liusu's slender neck and pressed down slightly. Ye Liusu raised her head with her brows furrowed. She was filled with regret and despair.

"I've already been holding back, but you still couldn't threaten me!" Li Qingshan was rather disappointed. Originally, he wanted to use this battle to break through to the third layer of the tiger demon, but it just turned out to be lacking slightly. Maybe a battle of life or death would have been slightly better!

At this moment, a series of sharp whistles rang out from behind. Seven poisonous arrows shot towards Li Qingshan's back in a V-shape, but they were blocked by a flash of many faint blue hexagons.

Li Qingshan was not even interested in looking back. Instead, he let go of her. "If you want to keep fighting, then feel free to. However, I won't hold back anymore. I'll defeat you in a single strike."

Ye Liusu was astounded. If he had used this defensive technique right from the beginning, all of her attacks would have been useless. Failure was not necessarily unacceptable, but failure where she could not even make her opponent take her seriously was quite despairing.

In the past two years, she had waged war everywhere, not only taking back the territory that she should have possessed, but even expanding it slightly too. Apart from the few who stood beside the Spider Queen, she no longer took Daemon Generals seriously anymore. Only now did she understand that with how vast the world was, there were plenty of powerful beings out there that could not be underestimated.

“Alright, I’ll agree to your demands.”

“Great king!” Ye Liubo’s expression changed. It had taken them quite the effort to obtain this territory.

“Shut up!” Ye Liusu said coldly. Learning to respect the strong was the only way to survive underground.

“I can still let your sisters have some fun,” Li Qingshan smiled. However, all he received were glares of hatred. He shrugged it off.

“However, that’s not something I can decide!” Ye Liusu’s eyes swiveled. Who knew what she was thinking.

“Then who can decide?” Li Qingshan wrapped his arm around Ye Liusu’s. You just said you would give me the territory if you lost, and now you’re saying it’s not up for you to decide. Are you doubting how decisive I can be?

“Ma’am Spider Queen Lolth.” Ye Liusu coldened. Afraid of infuriating him, she added in a hurry, “Ma’am Lolth never interferes when Daemon Generals under her command fight over territory, but if a Daemon General appears out of nowhere and wants a piece of the territory, you’ll have to get her opinion on the matter.”

“That does sound rather reasonable. Then what are you suggesting?”

“I can take you to see ma’am Lolth and pass the territory to you in front of her.”

Li Qingshan was unfazed. “You mean to say that you want to take me deeper underground to the main base of the Night Roaming folk. There, we will see the Daemon Commander who you’re very familiar with but I’m not familiar with at all so that she can decide who the territory belongs to?”

Ye Liusu felt hot breaths of air near her ear and neck, but it did not make her heart throb at all. Instead, she felt like she was trapped within the mouth of a monster that could fly into a rage at any time. She gritted her teeth and said with great difficulty, “Yes.”

Li Qingshan laughed aloud. “Then what are we waiting for? Let’s go!”

Ye Liusu was stunned. She found this handsome and powerful Daemon General to be even more difficult to read. Was he really so confident in his strength that he was bold enough to enter this land of danger under the lead of the enemy? He was rash and arrogant, yet also filled with reckless charm. Compared to those gloomy, constantly uneasy male night roamers, he was basically on the other end of the spectrum.

“But before this, I need to find a suitable place for my friend to settle down. I think this place will do.” Li Qingshan looked around at the cavern. He found the wall sculptures to be quite beautiful. The decoration was highly suitable for a home.

Ye Liusu agreed through gritted teeth.

Li Qingshan stood on the stone platform and gave a speech to the daemons, earning their absolute submission.

Milliped scurried over, returning to his familiar “bed” before curling up comfortably. Xiao An sat on his back.

After going through numerous tests and trials, they had finally returned to their origin, taking back what belonged to them.

Why? Because Li Qingshan had said to Ye Liusu, “You can go first. I’ll follow you along later.” All Ye Liusu could do was take her guards and set off first.

No one said anything along the way. The atmosphere was very oppressive. They gradually left the cavern, arriving at the edge of Milliped’s territory, but they did not even see a single trace of Li Qingshan.

Ye Liubo ventured over. “Great king, is that guy really going to come? Don’t tell me he’s tricking us?”

Ye Liusu contemplated that quietly. All she could do was go home and seek reinforcements, but would that really be enough against him? Maybe there would only be a possibility if Lolth and the ones who stood beside her took action, but how was she supposed to sweet talk her way into getting daemons to kill one another, slaughtering a powerful genius of their own race? Daemons had always held prejudice and been fearful of the Night Roaming folk.

“It’s wrong to doubt someone’s promise.” Li Qingshan appeared alone in the darkness. The group stopped with his appearance. He strode over to the front. “Let’s go. I’ve wanted to take a look underground a long time ago!”

Ye Liusu discovered that his face actually gave off a childish naivety. He was teeming with interest like he was off to watch a show.

Even though Ye Liubo hated him, she still could not help but become interested when she saw his handsome face that was in high spirits.

Li Qingshan stared straight ahead, as if he could see through the layers of earth. His dream of travelling through all corners of the world was slowly coming true.

What would a city of Night Roaming folk be like? Just how would this ma’am Spider Queen Lolth treat him?

Speaking of which, this was rather similar to the human world. If he wanted a territory in the world of daemons, he would have to pay a visit to the top brass first. However, according to the few words that Milliped had exchanged with him, she did not seem to be particularly easy to deal with.

But that was fine. The worst situation would just be falling out and fighting before being finished off by them.

Right now, Li Qingshan and Xiao An sat together on the bed of spiritual stone at the centre of the sea of Blue Butterfly flowers. Li Qingshan took out the hundred treasures pouches from the Golden Pheasant Elder and the Lone Grave Elder, looking through the spoils of his battle relaxedly.

An adventure would definitely be extremely interesting, but if he could go adventuring from the safety of his own home, it would be even more interesting. And, it would not get in the way of his cultivation either.

As he channeled true qi into the Golden Pheasant Elder's hundred treasures pouch, a vast space opened up.

Li Qingshan became stunned before laughing aloud and scooping up Xiao An. "We've struck gold this time!"