

### Chapter 511 - Great Danger

The gentle night breeze made his scarlet hair drift through the air.

Li Qingshan gazed at the stars, and in a daze, he saw Han Qiongzhi's fuming face. He smiled gently and let go of Ye Liusu, standing up. He looked back at the western horizon and saw a streak of light fly over.

Li Qingshan leapt up, arriving in the air and blocking Hua Chengzan's way.

"You've come again."

"We agree to your conditions. We can give you the Watermirror disc, but you have to give us the Lightning Slaughter sword first." Hua Chengzan was slightly surprised before calming down. As soon as he finished, he saw Li Qingshan wave his hand and toss out the Lightning Slaughter wooden sword.

"Aren't you afraid we'll change our minds?"

Li Qingshan said, "Only if you have plans of never leaving the Academy of the Hundred Schools again."

Hua Chengzan sighed gently. This was the confidence that came with absolute strength. Afterwards, he removed the Watermirror disc from his hundred treasures pouch. The Watermirror disc reflected the moonlight in the sky, which seemed like a full moon being held in Hua Chengzan's hands. It radiated with bright and pure light.

Li Qingshan's eyes lit up, and he smiled. "How good is this? Everyone can coexist in peace, taking what we need and cultivating in peace." He accepted the Watermirror disc before turning around and returning to the island.

Hua Chengzan had prepared many things to say, but he actually had no opportunity to say it. However, what Li Qingshan said happened to be his objective. He actually felt rather lost after achieving his objective so easily.

Li Qingshan returned to the island. Ye Liusu saw the Watermirror disc in his hand and asked curiously, "What is that?"

"The treasure of the Academy of the Hundred Schools."

Li Qingshan stared at the Watermirror disc in his hand, and his mind was sucked in involuntarily as if the lover of his dreams was standing right before him, naked. He actually felt like he was unable to shift his gaze.

This had originally been an idea he had come up with on the spot, but looking at it now, it was no longer that simple anymore. As Li Qingshan channeled in his daemon qi, the spirit turtle's daemon core in him suddenly responded, emitting rings of light.

Li Qingshan had refined many arcane artifacts and spiritual artifacts before, but this was the first time the spirit turtle's daemon core had such a violent response.

The Watermirror disc's function definitely was not as simple as surveillance.

Ye Liusu said, "Master, it's far too empty here. I'll go bring some clansmen. They'll definitely be happy."

Hearing the way she referenced him, Li Qingshan was slightly surprised, but he discovered Ye Liusu had already recovered her usual demeanour. However, there was a hint of bitterness in her eyes as if she was blaming him for placing all his focus on the Watermirror disc.

Li Qingshan stowed the Watermirror disc away and pinched her cheek. "I didn't realise, but you sure know jealousy well, Liusu."

Ye Liusu held his hand, and her gaze became tender and full of concern. "Cultivation takes priority. I know, the Spider Queen won't leave the matter be."

"Yeah, fair enough."

Li Qingshan nodded, wanting some intimate contact. He had plenty of time ahead of him. If Lolth defeated him, then there was no point thinking about anything. Ye Liusu's lovely dream would end prematurely too. A failure could only protect his measly life at most. He still had to draw a clear line between his priorities.

Li Qingshan kissed Ye Liusu on the lips gently as a farewell kiss, but she actually pulled him in, kissing him passionately.

It was as if her passion and boldness as a female night roamer had completely erupted after expressing her feelings, but that was not actually the case.

In that instant earlier, she had no idea what Li Qingshan had promised, but with her female instincts, she could feel he was thinking about another woman.

Who was that woman? Ye Liubo? Impossible, because she could feel that was not the affection a master showed to a pet, but the affection of a man to a woman. Moreover, the affection was even deeper than what he showed her.

She found this rather difficult to accept. Although she knew it would be impossible for him to be all hers, she still made up her mind to claim a spot in his heart. She believed that she, Ye Liusu, was no worse than any other woman.

Li Qingshan never would have guessed so many thoughts had already passed through Ye Liusu's head in such a short time frame. All that could be said was once a woman fell in love, their thoughts would become ten times as nimble.

Through the passionate kiss, Li Qingshan's lust had been aroused once more. He fiddled around with her perky, supple bottom with one hand as his other hand landed on her chest. The tough, black armour obviously could not stop him. With a gentle flick, it was shaken apart.

Her perky chest emerged vividly. Although it was nowhere near as full as Ye Liubo's, the naked upper half of her body possessed a sculpturesque beauty.

Just when he was about to do something, Ye Liusu instead pushed him away violently. When their lips parted, Ye Liusu bit down forcefully on his lip as if she was trying to leave behind some kind of mark on him.

With a wave of her hand, the black cloak landed on her body again, covering all of her skin. She bowed. 'Master, this subordinate will be taking her leave. Please focus on cultivation!'

Li Qingshan rubbed his head and saw a feeling of "resentment" from her gaze for the first time. As he watched Ye Liusu vanished into the lake water, he rubbed the mark on his lip and shook his head. It would be best if he ignored the matters weighing on a woman's mind.

He was not Hua Chengzan, an infatuated romantic who placed the word "love" on the highest pedestal.

He had fallen in love with Gu Yanying at first sight, but never had he longed for her constantly, becoming lovesick for her. He felt no regret in being able to express what he felt back then after all these years. As for whether Gu Yanying would actually accept it or not, it was not even important anymore.

Although he had also once considered pursuing something like sincere love, after his entanglement with Han Qiongzhi, he had basically used up all of his feelings for this life.

Right from the beginning, he had never planned on devoting his life to a woman or several women. Romantic relationships were definitely important, probably enough to match his pursuit of power and desire for battle.

However, it still paled in comparison to his dream of beyond the Nine Heavens, his promise to brother ox.

In the eyes of women, men always seemed rather heartless. That was because the world of men always seemed overly vast, but nowhere near as vast as the ambition within them.

The north wind called the warriors, to leave the warmth of their homes to run towards the boundless ocean. Even they were unable to stop themselves.

This was where the meaning of life lay within the endless adventure and pursuit.

Li Qingshan gathered his focus and discarded his other thoughts. He also arrived in Moon Court lake, planning to properly study the Watermirror disc and see whether he could increase his strength again.

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In the depths of the water, Li Qingshan stared at the Watermirror disc. As his daemon qi surged and channeled in, he immediately discovered the residual imprint Liu Zhangqing had left behind.

He had erased it before long, but during the process, he discovered something. It seemed that even Liu Zhangqing had not been able to completely refine the Watermirror disc.

Elsewhere, Zhou Tong basically snatched the Lightning Slaughter wooden sword from Hua Chengzan's hand when he returned to the academy. Zhou Tong caressed the sword like he was caressing his lover that he had not seen in a very long time.

As for Liu Zhangqing, he asked Hua Chengzan while grieving like he had just lost his parents, "You gave him the Watermirror disc?"

"I did."

Liu Zhangqing let out a heavy sigh at first before becoming slightly irritated. "The Watermirror disc is something ancient cultivators left behind. He's dreaming if he thinks he had refine it so easily as a daemon."

"Let's hope so!"

Li Qingshan had already begun refining the Watermirror disc, and he immediately sensed the startling power in there. Was this a legendary arcane treasure? Li Qingshan shook his head. That was impossible. Even Golden Core cultivators rarely possessed arcane treasures.

Perhaps it was because of the spirit turtle, or perhaps Li Qingshan and the Watermirror disc were truly compatible, but he did not encounter any problems like Liu Zhangqing had hoped apart from spending quite a lot of time. He easily refined the Watermirror disc completely, unlocking the other functions that Liu Zhangqing could not use.

"So that's how it is! It really is a great treasure! It's a great treasure!"

Li Qingshan was overjoyed before coming up with another idea. If he used the Watermirror disc to use the Watermirror's Image, would there be any other wondrous effects?

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There was no concept of time to those isolated from the world.

In the blink of an eye, autumn had already passed and winter had arrived. Moon Court lake turned into a gleaming landscape of snow.

Ye Liusu had already migrated some of the night roamers to Moon Court lake, beginning a new life there, while Li Qingshan had never stopped, refining as many water systems as possible. With each river he refined, it would be an additional portion of power and an additional safeguard.

This day, Li Qingshan happened to be traversing through the gloomy depths underground. He followed another underground river and arrived in the territory of another Daemon General. The Daemon General sensed his daemon qi and avoided him from far away, absolutely refusing to see him.

At this moment, Li Qingshan's heart skipped a beat. A snowy-white thread of silk suddenly shot out from underground, piercing towards his neck.

Li Qingshan had already shifted his body, so all it pierced was the blur he left behind.

The spider silk trembled, emitting Lolth's voice, "Northmoon, it's time for you to come and die!"

Li Qingshan smiled. He was just about to agree to her and charge into the lair of the enemy alone again.

The spirit turtle's daemon core suddenly emitted an extremely solemn warning, actually even more intense than last time.

Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow. This was impossible. His current strength was more than ten times greater than when he risked his life last time. He had also gained so many trump cards, and he still had seventy percent of the power of belief left in his Divine Talisman of Great Creation. And, with the speed of his wings of wind, even if he could not win, he would still be able to escape.

Despite all these seemingly-advantageous conditions, such a great danger still actually existed!

However, the spirit turtle's daemon core clearly told him that confronting the Spider Queen this time would be one of the most dangerous situations he would encounter in his life.

"Haha, mother of my child, you're too slow. Let me finish with what I'm doing right now, and I'll definitely come to you."

Li Qingshan intended on waiting for Xiao An to forge the Blood Sea Banner and emerge from secluded cultivation before venturing underground. It would introduce an additional safeguard to this battle.

With his strength right now, it was impossible for him to break through to the fifth layer of the tiger demon, so there was no possibility for him to suddenly become more powerful on the spot. Taking another risk like that had become completely pointless.

"I want you to come right now!"

"Right now? You've made me wait for so long, so you give me some time too!"

"Fine. I'll give you a month." Lolth's voice vanished in that instant.

Li Qingshan instead became even more vigilant. She had chosen to make a concession like this clearly because she was afraid of frightening him away. In other words, she was truly confident she could kill him.

## **Chapter 512 - Seeing the Spider Queen Again**

Xiao An had been very prepared. Pointing at her hundred treasures pouch, the corpse of a night roamer flew out and merged with the Samādhi Flames of White Bone. It was the matriarch of the Bat Shadow clan that Li Qingshan had killed with a single strike, Ye Laixiang.

The fear when she was killed was frozen on her face. As the Samādhi Flames of White Bone roasted her, her face twisted very soon, becoming part of it. The flames burned even more vigorously, only leaving behind a set of white bones, which then became a droplet of bone fluid that merged with the Blood Sea Banner.

Even more corpses followed, flying into the Samādhi Flames of White Bone one by one.

Just like this, she went through who knew how many corpses in who knew how long.

A thick, curved array of bones ran through the entire Blood Sea Banner like a backbone, with over a dozen white bones that were slightly more slender propping up the Blood Sea Banner like ribs. At the top of the spine was a vicious skull that bit down on the Blood Sea Banner with its jaws lined with sharp teeth.

At first glance, it seemed like the skeletal structure of half a person, with their arms spread open and ribs parted, having merged completely with the Blood Sea Banner. The spine extended downwards into Xiao An's hand.

The flagpole was complete, but something still seemed to be missing.

The little finger on Xiao An's right hand suddenly snapped off. Blood, flesh, and bone all merged into the Blood Sea Banner. The flagpole immediately became coated with a translucent cover, and the redness of the banner became even brighter.

The roaring Samādhi Flames of White Bone surged into the skull on the top of the Blood Sea Banner violently. Its two eye sockets suddenly lit up with flames.

Xiao An waved her hand again, spitting out a mist-like figure. It was Bloodshadow's wailing soul. It sank into the surging sea of blood and immediately merged with it.

The Blood Sea Banner was complete!

Xiao An stowed the Blood Sea Banner away and stepped out of the dwelling. She took out the Glazed Mirror of Invisibility and concealed herself before taking off in the direction of Moon Court lake.

The curtain of night descended over Moon Court lake. The fishermen in the lake all reeled in their nets, returning home.

Their lives had not been affected, not even in the slightest. Instead, they discovered that ever since the god of Moon Court lake arrived, the lake had been much more peaceful.

The aquatic monsters that originally made trouble had all vanished. They all developed more and more respect towards the god of Moon Court lake. Many of the fishermen had already begun worshipping the lake god on their boats.

As for the water dwelling of Moon Court in the centre of the lake, it all seemed like they had awakened from a dream.

Night roamers emerged from their residences in groups of threes and twos, both men and women getting along and talking at ease. They could raise their heads to look at the stars from time to time, and their faces would be filled with amazement and enchantment.

The island had an extremely vast area, so housing several tens of thousand night roamers was no trouble at all. After completing the unification, Ye Liusu had been constantly migrating night roamers over.

The shade of death that once enveloped the entire race no longer existed. Ye Liusu established law and order here. They no longer had to cling onto their weapons firmly to protect themselves from the possibility of assassinations and sneak attacks at any time.

"Compared to where I grew up, this place is basically like a dream!"

Two figures stood in a delicate pavilion built into the side of a mountain. As Ye Liubo watched a group of kids have fun, she said to Ye Liusu beside her, "Sister, your dream has finally come true."

The corner of Ye Liusu's lips curled slightly, only to be drowned out by worry immediately. She glanced back at the centre of the island. There was a small inner lake there, which was connected to Moon Court lake underneath.

The surroundings of the small lake was a forbidden zone that no night roamers could set foot in. Even she would not set foot in there unless something urgent came up, as that was where Li Qingshan cultivated.

“Are you worried about master? Don’t worry, master will never lose!” Ye Liubo said with complete confidence.

“You, oh you!” Ye Liusu sighed with a smile. She patted Ye Liubo’s head. “What a great pet of his!”

Ye Liubo refused to play along. “Even you call me that too, sister!”

That’s because I’m being jealous of you! Ye Liusu sighed inside. She was able to entrust everything to him, to believe in him with everything she had, without anything to worry for at all. Yet, Ye Liusu had many more needs, which were difficult to realise like her dream.

At the end of the day, it was still because of the difference in their backgrounds. Ye Liusu’s background was noble and prosperous. She possessed extraordinary talent, which was why she developed dreams that regular night roamers did not have, which was why she could come into contact with human literature, which was why she developed a concept of love that resembled human females.

Ye Liubo, on the other hand, was essentially born in the slums of Blacklustre city. She had climbed her way out of there herself, so her thoughts were much simpler and more realistic. She was already satisfied with the affection she received.

Ye Liusu’s expression suddenly stiffened. She sensed someone touch the formation. Raising her head, she saw a white blur passing through the formation before sailing through the air, rushing past the pavilion and landing in the small lake in the centre of the island.

It moved so quickly that even Ye Liusu had failed to make out what it was. And, it did not give off the slightest aura either, so she could not even tell whether it was a human or a daemon.

Most of the night roamers on the island failed to sense a single thing.

The central control of the formation was obviously in Li Qingshan’s possession, while Ye Liusu and Ye Liubo had been granted partial control. Any other humans or daemons could not pass through the formation so easily.

“In other words, he let in the white figure!”

Ye Liusu leapt off the pavilion. Her elegant, nimble movements made her seem like a leaping carp. She merged with the darkness, leaving behind ripples of black.

Ye Liubo called out, “Sister, didn’t master say that no one should disturb him?”

Ye Liusu completely ignored her. She could not control her desire to learn everything about him.

“And I had thought you wouldn’t make it in time!”

Li Qingshan sat in the centre of the lake with the Watermirror disc in his lap. Suddenly, he felt a response from the formation, and he became slightly delighted. In the blink of an eye, Xiao An had

arrived before him. She had returned to her skeletal form, but she could now switch between the forms of great beauty and white bone freely. There was no longer an issue of having to refine her body again.

Xiao An said nothing. She simply sat in his arms, fiddling around with the tiny Blood Sea Banner in her hand like she was showing off.

How could she not come? Last time when he faced death, she was unable to be by his side, so she had been filled with regret. Didn't she cultivate all this time just so she could remain by his side and assist him in reaching beyond the Nine Heavens? Otherwise, what was the meaning of living?

The moment he saw Xiao An, the omen of warning from the spirit turtle's daemon core in Li Qingshan's body immediately weakened. More importantly, his heart settled down.

From the beginning to now, who knew how many times they had confronted death together. As long as she was watching over him, he was confident he could escape whatever danger he faced.

As a result, when Ye Liusu arrived on the edge of the lake, she saw the flawlessly handsome Northmoon embracing a translucent skeleton in his arms. He revealed comfort and peace she had never seen before, and tender feelings that could not be described with words filled his eyes. This was purely a gaze without any distracting thoughts.

Reflected in the calm waters, this formed a rather eerie sight that gave off a strange atmosphere.

Ye Liusu could not help but develop a feeling that there was nothing in the world that he would cherish more than the skeleton in his arms, and there was no one who could get between them.

"Liusu, why have you come here?"

Li Qingshan raised his head and peered through the bushes along the edge of the lake.

"Ah, nothing. I was just worried for you, master, so I came to take a look."

Ye Liusu emerged from the darkness. The skeleton in his arms turned its head. Its eye sockets burned with pale-white flames that were almost transparent, glancing past her gently.

She shivered inside, immediately lowering her head. She was not a little girl who had not seen the darkness of the world. Who knew how many brutal and horrific sights of the underground world she had witnessed a long time ago already, but the moment her eyes met with the small skeleton's, indescribable terror assaulted her heart. But at the same time, she happened to feel something else, an eerie feeling of holiness.

"Croak, croak! Vice leader!"

Vice leader? Ye Liusu suddenly remembered. Wasn't that the tiny skeleton that had accompanied him the first time he had appeared underground? It was strange that she had not thought of this immediately.

"It's time!"



Li Qingshan said that as he stood up and strode across the calm lake surface. Just like in the past, Xiao An sat on his left shoulder, clinging onto his head with her right arm. This was a rather strange combination, but as he walked, there was also a strange sense of harmony as if it was natural.

“Mind the house. Wait for me to return.”

Li Qingshan smiled. With that, the wings of wind abruptly unfurled behind him, and he vanished from where he was in an instant.

Only a while later did wild gusts of wind arrive, blowing Ye Liusu’s long hair in the air. Looking over, he was already nowhere to be seen.

“Sister, just what was that?” Ye Liubo hurried over, also having spotted Xiao An on Li Qingshan’s shoulder.

“I don’t know either. You should be asking who that is. I only know that it seems to be as important to him as he is to you.” Ye Liusu shook her head gently as her feelings became mixed.

Li Qingshan did not take off. Instead, he moved like a zigzag, making a few turns around the structures and people in his way before plunging into Moon Court lake, heading towards the hidden river.

His control over the wings of wind had strengthened yet again. Part of it was because he had gradually grown accustomed to the fourth layer of the tiger demon’s power, but the most important part was the deepening of his comprehension of the Spirit Turtle Transformation. As his thoughts grew more intricate, all of his innate abilities became more intricate when he used them.

The wings of wind that could allow him to accelerate instantly would definitely become even more practical in the future. They were also one of his decisive trump cards to winning this battle, or the greatest ability for his escape.

Moving through the underground river, he made his way to the end along the channel he had used when he visited Cobweb city the first time. The flow turned into a waterfall.

Li Qingshan spotted Lolth at first glance. She currently stood on the top of Cobweb city, on a pointy tower.

Lolth was no longer dressed in her long, red dress that seemed more like an evening dress. Instead, she wore something that resembled a set of black tights, covering every inch of her body. However, it still clearly outlined every bewitching curve of hers. It was perfect.

Li Qingshan admired her figure once again. Is this the trump card she’s spent over half a year preparing for me? She’s just woven a sexy set of tights?

No, that definitely isn’t everything. No matter how powerful the defences of this garment are, it’s impossible for the spirit turtle to feel so threatened.

There must be something else.

## **Chapter 513 - Bone-eating Venom**

Lolth's scarlet lips had become the same, dark colour as her clothes. Her bearing was just as solemn and noble, but her undisguised, sunken malice had completely vanished. Her expression was calm and cold. Only by peering deeply into her pitch-black eyes would a sense of bloodthirstiness and brutality be noticed.

From meeting her eyes once again, Li Qingshan knew he could not depend on her making any mistakes with her battle tactics anymore. She had already turned back into that natural predator, the being who calmly wove the net.

Strands of spider silk criss-crossed throughout the large cavern. Some were as thick as rope, while others were so thin that they were invisible to the naked eye.

At first glance, it seemed like a disorderly mess, but upon closer examination, each strand balanced and complemented one another, forming a three dimensional net. It possessed a geometric beauty.

At the same time, Lolth also stared at Li Qingshan, studying the greatest prey she had ever met.

Simply by standing there at ease, he gave off an imposing bearing like the unbroken mountains or surging seas. Without a question, he had become even more powerful than before, and he had done so at an unbelievable speed.

To daemons, time should have been something that passed by extremely easily, yet he seemed to seize every second to become stronger. Compared to his current strength, what left her even more stunned was still the rate at which he improved.

If she could not capture him while he was still a fledgling, there would be a day when he would break free from the spider web like a bird and fly off into the sky.

"You've finally come."

Li Qingshan smiled. "Mother of my child, that's quite the attire. I do believe it'll be even more interesting when I rip it off you."

"I'll be waiting for you!" Lolth smiled gorgeously, like a legendary Poisonfeather bird, magnificent yet highly venomous.

"Aren't you worried that we'll tear down this place when we fight later? The night roamers have spent a lot of effort building this for you."

Li Qingshan pointed at Cobweb city behind her. Ever since Ye Liusu unified the night roamers, the colosseum built specially to please the Spider Queen had emptied out. It had become a ghost city.

"That's just a boring toy. Do you want to continue spouting nonsense, Northmoon?"

Lolth had never tried to understand the craftsmanship and sculptures of the night roamers. To her, there was no basic difference between a majestic city of delicate beauty and an empty cave. It only provided her with more places to watch the conflict between the night roamers from above. And, as long as she wanted to, she could get the night roamers to build her another hundred cities for her.

"I've come. I want to fu-"

Li Qingshan sniggered, but he suddenly stopped half-way through. He remembered Xiao An was hidden in the depths. Probably no one would truly treat Xiao An as an ordinary girl after transforming into a skeleton, but he was still reluctant to use foul language in front of her.

However, Li Qingshan would never be stupid enough to walk into the opponent's trap willingly. Lolth had chosen here to fight with him, which was what he would have wanted too because right beneath his feet was the end of an underground river.

As it was simply too close to Cobweb city, and he did not want to provoke Lolth beforehand, he had never refined it. However, seeing how he was making this trip exactly to take her on in battle, that was no longer something that bothered him.

The discharge of the waterfall came to a sudden halt. The surging water constantly roared behind Li Qingshan as the water level rapidly rose until it filled the entire cavern. The pressure from the shapeless water was beyond imagination. The surroundings of the cavern cracked, but not even a droplet of water crossed Li Qingshan's shoulder.

Li Qingshan stood tall with his arms crossed, like a dam. Surging daemon qi permeated the river flow behind him. He tamed the river like he was taming a wild beast.

Lolth also became stern. She knew she could not allow Li Qingshan to build up his strength any further.

The tower beneath her feet collapsed. She had already crossed several thousand meters and arrived in front of Li Qingshan. With a wave of her right hand, a black whip unfolded. It suddenly sprung alive as she channeled her strength and daemon qi into it, like a dancing black dragon as it shot towards Li Qingshan.

She's actually using a weapon!

Li Qingshan frowned, afraid to be careless. The strongest part of daemon cultivators were their bodies. With Spider Queen Lolth's strength, the power behind a casual swipe or bite completely surpassed the power of regular arcane artifacts.

Yet, she was actually giving up the claws and teeth she was born with and the legs she had grown accustomed to. That in itself explained some issues. As it seemed, the whip had also been woven from silk, but that was very normal. Although daemons could use daemon qi to refine human spiritual artifacts and arcane artifacts, they often were not suitable for the way daemons fight, adversely affecting the strength they would unleash.

Daemons of relatively higher intelligence would mostly choose to create a suitable weapon from materials they could produce themselves. But for some reason, the whip was the same as her clothes, all pitch-black. Normally, items woven from spider silk should have been snow-white and translucent.

These thoughts flew through Li Qingshan's head in a flash. He drew out the Dragon Seizing bident and spat out two streams of water, revolving together and catching the whip. He was not seeking to vanquish the enemy with that, just to earn some time.

With the warnings of the spirit turtle, Li Qingshan dared not show the slightest negligence in this battle. Although he had the powerful support of Xiao An, that was more of a safeguard than anything else. He would not let Xiao An interfere unless he was truly about to die.

As a result, he had made up his mind as soon as he arrived in Cobweb City. He wanted to be on the defence first. As long as he could refine the river behind him, he would be able to connect his water systems directly from Moon Court lake to here. As long as he succeeded with that, he would be undefeatable.

As soon as the two streams of water wrapped around the black whip, they were dyed pitch-black. Spiritual qi scattered and receded.

The omen of warning in Li Qingshan's hand intensified. He unleashed the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell instinctively, forming a hemispherical barrier.

Boom! It sounded like a clap of thunder right by his ear.

Basically the moment the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell had assembled, Lolth's whip landed on it heavily.

A long crack immediately appeared on the barrier in front of Li Qingshan.

He was not worried in the beginning. His comprehension of the Spirit Turtle Transformation had deepened, so the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell had become tougher. It could not be shattered so easily. As long as he earned a little more time, he would be able to refine the river. With the endless supply of spiritual qi, it was even possible for him to hold his ground and drag Lolth into a battle of endurance.

However, the crack was clearly black, and it rapidly spread and seeped into the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell like it was alive. In the blink of an eye, it had eaten away a crack, and it continued to expand.

The whip is poisonous! What kind of poison can even eat through the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell?!

Li Qingshan's expression changed. As his strongest defensive innate ability, the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell possessed a special characteristic of being able to block out everything. It had been shattered from overwhelming force in the past, but never had it been eaten away by something before.

He had once personally experienced Lolth's venom, but it definitely was not as potent as that. Otherwise, a slight brush with it would have been enough to eat away half of his body.

"Take a look! Nortmoon, this is my true strength. Do you really think you can defeat me?"

Lolth shrieked as her smile twisted. This was the pleasure of revenge. She did not seem to do anything special, but the poisoned whip writhed and stabbed into the crack in the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell. This was no longer a regular whip, but an extension of her body.

Li Qingshan would never let the whip touch him. Pouring out with daemon qi, the Dragon Seizing bident in his hand that seemed like a two-headed snake immediately sprang alive. Two snake heads opened their mouths and bit down on the poisoned whip.

At the same time, he channelled his daemon qi to repair the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell in an attempt to trap the whip. After all, the arcane artifact had been forged from extremely tough materials and humans thoroughly tempered them. Imbued with his daemon qi, it should have been able to stop the whip for a while at the very least.

However, the black poison spread onto the Dragon Seizing bident mercilessly. The imposing, twin-headed snake from moments earlier immediately began to wither away, losing its power to seize dragons, while Li Qingshan's daemon qi only managed to block the spread of the poison for a moment.

In a single clash, the Dragon Seizing bident had been destroyed.

Like a venomous dragon that had broken free, the whip unleashed a dazzling dance. Blurs enveloped Li Qingshan's surroundings, filled with an aura of death.

Even if he came into contact with a smear of the poison, he would have to pay an extremely horrific price.

Li Qingshan instead calmed down. He spat out the Tiger Demon's Breath which entangled with the whip, but as soon as it made contact, even the wind turned black.

Logically speaking, toxins could only eat away at tangible objects, yet Lolth's bone-eating venom could even eat away spiritual qi and daemon qi.

Fortunately, Li Qingshan's breath was endless. He finally managed to stop the whip's advance slightly, but Lolth had yet to even strike properly.

The Tiger Demon's Breath could stop the whip at most, but the eight legs behind her must have also been smeared with the same venom. How was he supposed to stop them?

The battle had just begun, but Li Qingshan already understood why the spirit turtle's daemon core had given him such a stern warning. There really would be life-threatening danger in this battle.

As a Daemon Commander, Lolth possessed three innate abilities. Li Qingshan had witnessed two of them in the past. One was the gaze that could pierce any obstacles, making it convenient for her to chase down prey. The other was turning silver all over, granting her a powerful defence.

However, there was one more that Li Qingshan had yet to witness. It also happened to be her only offensive innate ability, the Bone-eating Venom.

Indeed, she had injected potent venom into Li Qingshan's body countless times during the clash last time, but the effects had not been satisfactory. However, that was merely an aspect a venomous spider possessed naturally. It was nowhere close to an innate ability.

That was because the innate ability was not the type that could be used on the spot. Instead, it required tremendous amounts of daemon qi and effort to further refine her venom.

Who knew how many years it had already been since she had last met an opponent that could put up a fight, so why would she normally go out of her way to use this innate ability and refine the terrifying Bone-eating Venom?

Without her only offensive innate ability, she was like a toothless, clawless tiger. She still possessed her physical strength, but she was unable to unleash even a hint of lethal power to kill. As a result, she suffered a defeat in Li Qingshan's hands in an extremely frustrating fashion.

Now was her time for revenge.

## Chapter 514 - The Spider Queen's True Strength

Lolth walked over to the cavern, grabbed the edge of the crack in the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, and pulled hard. With a sound that resembled shattering glass, the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell crumbled. She arrived in front of Li Qingshan.

She pulled back her right hand and raised it, straightening out the whip and dispersing the wind around it as a black spear. She turned to her side slightly with the spear right in front of her while bending her slender, right leg slightly and staring at Li Qingshan from the side.

Li Qingshan finally realised he was unable to keep Lolth's whip trapped with the breath alone. The whip could be flexible or rigid. When it was flexible, it could be maneuvered in a thousand different ways, but when it was rigid, it was indestructible. In her hands, it basically felt like it was part of her.

With the majestic Cobweb city as a backdrop, her graceful, pitch-black figure made her seem noble like the queen of the night, possessing an aura of desolation that Li Qingshan had never witnessed before.

A great sense of danger rose up inside, but at the same time, Li Qingshan's excitement began to surge, dancing like the wind and blazing like fire. It was heavier than love, more intense than desire.

He could not help himself as his lips curled into a vicious smile. He let out a wild laugh and exhaled violently. The breath that was originally only as thick as an arm suddenly swelled and whistled over.

Then he reached forward as if he had grabbed something and pulled violently. The rocks in the surroundings began to pulse like skin, hurling violently towards Lolth.

The breath whistled and twisted as it collided against Lolth, blowing her dark, long hair backwards. Creases appeared on her black tight suit, but the wind failed to penetrate or rip through it.

The rock and soil had basically buried Lolth completely, only leaving a single eye exposed, still staring fixedly at Li Qingshan. Her figure suddenly blurred. She was clearly in the same, standing posture, but she had already taken a great stride forward, pushing out with her right hand suddenly.

She crushed the earth around her, reducing it to dust in a single instant. The spear struck like lightning, piercing all obstacles as it headed towards Li Qingshan's head.

It was an unstoppable and unparalleled force.

If this were the past, this attack definitely would have been enough to kill Li Qingshan on the spot. He would have absolutely no chance of escaping alive.

But it was different now. Li Qingshan had already been prepared. Everything he did earlier was just for earning some time. He bellowed out and brought his hands together, "Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell!"

Surging daemon qi condensed around him, conjuring a figure of a spirit turtle. The figure was obviously fake, but the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell on the back of the figure was real.

It was no longer a barrier of light composed of countless hexagons. Instead, it was in the shape of an actual shell—ancient, crude, and sturdy.

As it lay there silently, even falling mountains and flowing seas could not make it budge.

In the instant the black spear and the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell collided, the underground world of eternal darkness suddenly erupted with blinding light.

In the moment they clashed, Li Qingshan's eyes suddenly became as calm as water. He lowered and raised his body cleverly, avoiding the head of the spear and forcing it to glance across the hemispherical turtle shell, leading to a miss.

Sure enough, the turtle shell also became dyed with a layer of black. It would be completely impossible for him to continue to hold his ground with this alone.

However, Li Qingshan had never considered that. At that moment, the figure of the spirit turtle dispersed, and the figure of the tiger demon appeared. The black stripes across its forehead were clearly visible.

Li Qingshan bent over, just like how the tiger demon built up strength before it killed its prey.

He stopped giving off even a single hint of viciousness in that moment. Instead, a certain calmness poured out of his scarlet eyes as he gazed at Lolth right in front of him.

His tall, straight body bent together, like a great bow that had been drawn to full length. Every single tendon, every single muscle in his body was a tightened bowstring. His shoulder blades suddenly rose up on his back, and the wings of wind unfurled.

Roar! There was an earthshaking howl of a tiger!

Lolth sensed heinous malice slam right into her.

In that instant, all emotions had vanished from Li Qingshan's scarlet eyes. All that remained was a red light of bloodthirstiness and battle-hungriness. With two long, tailing streaks of scarlet light, he lunged towards the Spider Queen.

Faced with Lolth's steady advance, Li Qingshan advanced too instead of retreating. In an unavoidable confrontation, the courageous would emerge victoriously!

The poisonous whip became flexible again and swept over, targeting Li Qingshan's neck. She wanted to stop his lunge, but she was one step too slow. Under the instantaneous acceleration of the wings of wind, even Lolth seemed to struggle to react in time.

However, she remained as calm as before. Rings of light flickered through her eyes as she used her innate ability. Despite Li Qingshan's alarming speed, he immediately slowed down in her eyes.

She could clearly make out every strand of floating hair, every change in his expression. The droplets of water from jumping drifted through the air slowly. His body was fully extended in his lunging posture, but it was also filled with a beauty of strength.

The eight long legs unfolded from behind her. Each leg possessed a similar black to the whip and was completely unreflective. They stabbed towards Li Qingshan's eyes, throat, heart, and other vital points.

However, there was still a sliver of clarity in the depths of Li Qingshan's frenzied eyes. With a thought, eight pieces of the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell scattered, hovering in his surroundings and slowing down his legs slightly.

Li Qingshan used this opportunity to form a fist with his claw, hurling it violently at Lolth.

All of this had happened in a split second. Lolth raised her hand to catch his fist firmly, but with the acceleration of the wings of wind, Li Qingshan pushed his strength to the limit.

Even Lolth was unable to oppose this force. She leaned backwards, revealing an opening for an instant.

Li Qingshan's left fist landed on her chest.

Tremors of the Ox Demon!

Boom!

Lolth was sent flying, sailing below the waterfall. Her black tight suit ripped open, revealing her deep cleavage, but it was all a silvery-grey. She had used her defensive innate ability once again.

However, there were still a series of hairline cracks. Li Qingshan had concentrated all the power of tremors into a single point.

She was still in the air, but daemon qi had already surged over and repaired the damage. Her skin became white again too. Threads pulled and wove together over the opening in the tight suit, automatically repairing itself.

He's become even faster and his destructive power has become even stronger. If it were not for this battle suit, my wounds would be much worse.

Lolth stared at Li Qingshan by the side of the cavern. There was no fury in her eyes from being injured and forced back. Instead, they were extremely calm, estimating Li Qingshan's current strength.

From the punch, it seemed like Li Qingshan's full strength could only injure her slightly, nothing for her to be too concerned about. But this time, she would not become careless because of anything.

She still gripped the black whip firmly in her right hand, which she raised gently.

The moment Li Qingshan had completely unleashed the force of his lunge, when he thought he had forced back the enemy, his mind was still tense, but a slight physical opening was unavoidable, and her eyes allowed her to grasp all openings.

Li Qingshan felt his wrist tighten. The whip reached towards him, trying to drag him off the cliff.

Li Qingshan stomped down, and the rock cracked. The Strength of the Earth endowed him with unbelievable physical strength, immediately stabilising his figure.

Suddenly, a numb feeling rapidly spread through his fist. The same feeling also began to spread through his hands and many other parts of his body.

I'm clearly not injured! This venom is vicious! She purposefully allowed me to hit her with that punch just so the whip had an opportunity to get me.

The eight legs had managed to pierce the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, but just how fast was Li Qingshan with his lunge? In the end, they only managed to brush past his body. They had even failed to penetrate the Ox Demon Forges its hide, so they could not be regarded as wounds at all.



But now, the eight marks rapidly expanded and deepened, eating away at his flesh silently. In the blink of an eye, they turned into eight horrific wounds.

As for his fist that had come into contact with Lolth's tight suit, a layer of skin vanished in the blink of an eye, revealing his bones that possessed a metallic lustre. The toxins actually seeped into his bones wildly.

The Spirit Turtle Suppresses the Seas, suppress the venom!

Daemon qi surged through Li Qingshan's body, suppressing the spread of the venom for now. He wanted to purge it from the body, but the venom stuck to his body hard and fast. At the same time, the whip below his feet continued to release toxins endlessly.

It was different from being poisoned last time. Currently, he felt absolutely no pain. His foot just shrunk silently, and it continued to shrink.

The difference in the venom was like Lolth right now. She had ceased her wild profanity and sharp curses. Instead, she simply sapped away his life force silently and quietly.

Li Qingshan wielded his hand like a knife, swinging down viciously at the whip.

However, the resilient daemon qi inside made his hand rebound away.

The toughness of the whip itself had already exceeded his imaginations. This was the result of patiently weaving for over half a year. Every single thread she spat out was even stronger than steel.

And, the whip was composed of a hundred thousand threads, woven together in an extremely clever fashion before being further refined into a single object.

Under the control of Lolth's will, the whip extended like a snake and slithered up his body, wrapping around his thigh, wrapping around his waist, wrapping and wrapping!

Li Qingshan did not even feel like he was being bound, as wherever the whip passed by, his body began to numb. There was no pain, only nothingness.

Lolth did not use this opportunity to rush over. Instead, she maintained her distance from Li Qingshan and watched quietly, seizing every second to recover her daemon qi and physical strength.

When prey fell into their web, spiders would not strike immediately. Instead, they would wait until they used up all their strength struggling and became completely non-threatening before enjoying themselves slowly.

So I still underestimated her!

Li Qingshan originally heard she was relatively strong among Daemon Commanders, so he thought there was nothing particularly impressive about being a Daemon Commander at all. In hindsight, he had been far too conceited.

She had personally shown him the terrors of a carapaced Daemon Commander. Her innate abilities might not have been so dazzling and complicated, but with the simplest coordination, they completely transformed her into a machine of slaughter.

The spirit turtle's daemon qi let out a shrill warning. Death was pressing closer. Thinking he could escape at any time just because he possessed the wings of wind was merely a hilarious fantasy.

The slightest carelessness would lead to certain death.

Interesting!

### **Chapter 515 - The Secret of the Watermirror Disc**

Li Qingshan's figure suddenly swelled, turning into his ferocious, ox-horned, iron-hooved, tiger-clawed, and tiger-tailed daemon form. He growled viciously, which smashed against the cave walls and echoed endlessly.

Stalagmites fell down from above, landing in the channels of magma and creating red-hot splashes.

Li Qingshan had sealed up the river, so the red-hot magma had already taken over the entire interwoven network.

Lolth laughed. The more the prey struggled, the faster they would die. Her poisonous whip was not something that could be broken out of with brute strength, but in consideration for Li Qingshan's constant, miraculous performance, she gripped the whip firmly and channeled in daemon qi endlessly to subdue Li Qingshan's struggle.

In the blink of an eye, Li Qingshan had already risen to over three meters tall, but not only did he fail to snap the whip, but the whip dug into his body deeply instead. His bones were exposed as the toxins ate away his body. He had been thinned to the bones.

He bore no resemblance to a human at all anymore. Instead, he was a vicious, wound-ridden monster putting up a desperate fight.

Even at a time like this, the vicious sneer across his face did not vanish. The pain from the invading venom only riled up his fighting spirit. He used his large hands that had been reduced to bones to grip the whip firmly before wrenching it like a tug-of-war.

"Get over here!"

Lolth responded immediately. She pushed against a thread of spider silk as thick as a wrist that stretched across the entire cavern.

The thread bent like a bowstring, contending with Li Qingshan's strength.

She would not strike rashly. She would only deliver a final blow the moment the venom had sapped all the life from his body.

Li Qingshan sniggered and suddenly let go. Lolth felt her hand slacken as she was set flying by the long thread of spider silk. She thought, Oh no!

Taking advantage of the moment when she lost her balance, Li Qingshan's figure suddenly shrunk, turning back to human size. He unfurled his wings of wind, and with a swish, he flew upwards.

The whip twisted about below like a venomous snake.

Loth was not overly disappointed by how Li Qingshan had managed to break free, as he had already sustained extremely severe injuries. If he did not use his daemon qi to suppress the venom, death would be certain for him, but how would he ever earn that opportunity before her?

Fortunately, I'm not unprepared! Li Qingshan understood that too and exhaled gently.

Under Loth's gaze of disbelief, the horrific wounds on his body actually recovered at a visible rate, and not even a shred of daemon qi on him had been depleted.

"That's impossible!"

Loth cried out involuntarily. Let alone a Daemon General, even a Daemon Commander could not recover from her venom so easily.

"Nothing's impossible. You can never kill me. No matter how sharp your claws and teeth are, no matter how potent the venom you refine is, none of it can kill me, while I will grow stronger and stronger. There will be a day when you bow down before my whatchamacallit. Hahaha!"

Li Qingshan laughed wildly. The venom in his body had vanished into thin air, and the remaining wounds obviously recovered in the blink of an eye without the interference of the venom.

However, he thought inside, I never thought I'd be forced to use my first trump card so quickly. If it weren't for this, all I can do right now is make a strategic retreat. The mirror clone can't last much longer either!

At the bottom of the smaller lake on the island in the centre of Moon Court lake, Li Qingshan's mirror clone sat with his legs crossed. He placed the Warmirror disc that rippled with light on his knees, reflecting his appearance.

Suddenly, horrific wounds appeared on his body one by one, along with pitch-black poison, as if an invisible beast was mauling away at his body viciously. When the mauling stopped, his mirror clone was on the brink of shattering. The mirror clone seemed like it would collapse completely very soon under the invasion of the toxins.

Li Qingshan seemed like he had been prepared a long time ago. He had prepared many items like recovery medicines and detoxification pills in his mirror clone's hundred treasures pouch. He grabbed handfuls of them and shoved them into his mouth violently. Only then did he barely manage to keep the venom at bay.

Li Qingshan used the hint of divine nature from the spirit turtle to unlock an ability in the Watermirror disc that even Liu Zhangqing had failed to discover.

Apart from surveillance, the Watermirror disc had another function, which was "reflection". It could store the user's reflection in the Watermirror disc, and when the original body was injured, they would be directly reflected in the water's "reflection".

Although the amount of damage it could sustain was extremely limited, it was enough to save lives at certain crucial moments. All that could be said was the Watermirror disc truly lived up to its reputation as an arcane artifact ancient cultivators forged. The ability was truly powerful and strange.

Originally, probably two lashings from Lolth's poisonous whip would have been enough to reach the limit of the reflection. However, Li Qingshan also happened to possess the ability of the Watermirror's Image, which was a match made in heaven with the Watermirror disc.

When Li Qingshan used the Watermirror disc to conjure his mirror clone, his mirror clone would become his "reflection", while the mirror clone that possessed a portion of Li Qingshan's original daemon qi could probably endure more than a hundred times more than the regular reflection.

As a result, Li Qingshan moved all of his poisoned wounds to his mirror clone in a single breath, which was why this strange sight of self-recovery had occurred. He basically had an extra life.

Of course, he did not mind using this to cut down on Lolth's confidence, but he had never expected Lolth's offences to be so great. Li Qingshan's original plan had been even better than this.

Originally, his plan was to reflect all of the injuries the Spider Queen inflicted onto his mirror clone, and then use daemon qi for his mirror clone to recover while replenishing daemon qi with the Water God Seal. This would form a perfect cycle and essentially turn him into something unkillable. He would have definitely been able to battle Lolth until she reached despair, kneeling over and basically asking to be conquered.

But now, while the pills did have some effect, they were unable to heal him completely. They could only make him last a little longer at most and help Li Qingshan endure a few more wounds.

However, Lolth had no idea what was going on. The feeling that she experienced when she clashed with Li Qingshan last time appeared once again, as if he could stand up again no matter how many times he was knocked down, dragging it out and whittling her down until she was utterly exhausted.

She shook her head and discarded this thought. She stared at Li Qingshan coldly. "I will never lose this battle!"

The whip began dancing wildly like a venomous dragon, whistling and roaring as it struck.

While Li Qingshan did manage to win one round and cut down Lolth's confidence, she was still a tough nut to crack. He had no idea how to defeat her. If she struck him, he would be poisoned. If he struck her, he would also be poisoned. If he were poisoned a few more times, the mirror clone would definitely collapse. Something as common as poison had become a trump card that could be used for both attack and defence in her hands.

And, once the whip entangled him again, breaking free would not be so easy.

As a result, the choice that Li Qingshan made was to retreat! He retreated without the slightest hesitation, directly backing into the surging water behind.

When the frenzy of the tiger demon and the endurance of the ox demon were useless, he required the spirit turtle's patience.

Li Qingshan crossed his legs in the water and sat like a meditating monk. The spirit turtle's figure appeared around him once again.

Like a venomous dragon squirming, the whip lashed, pierced, wrapped, and surged in thousands of different ways, attempting to enter through any hole available. It was like a black storm. It tore apart and pushed back the river, landing directly on the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell.

Rumble! The entire world seemed to shake, but Li Qingshan's eyes were extremely tranquil. He thought to himself, Seventeen!

The black venom constantly spread and ate away at the shield, but whenever it was about to eat its way through, Li Qingshan would condense another layer of the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell.

Without a doubt, this depleted his daemon qi rapidly. Fighting until now, he had already used up around thirty or forty percent of his daemon qi, while Lolth had placed great emphasis on conserving her physical strength and daemon qi with the experience of her battle with Li Qingshan last time.

With how she caught her breath several times, she had not even used up ten percent so far. As long as she had a bit of time, she would be able to make a full recovery again very quickly.

Thirteen. Li Qingshan continued to count down. The Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell was being stripped layer by layer as the whip approached his body very quickly.

Lolth flicked her hand, and the whip wrapped around the thin, final layer of the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell around Li Qingshan. Once she tore through that, the whip would wrap around him again, but this time, she would never give him the opportunity to escape.

When Li Qingshan had only counted down to seven, the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell cracked and the whip came for him. Lolth arrived before him with a single step and reached viciously towards the top of his head with one hand.

Fucking hell, this isn't how the script goes!

Li Qingshan grumbled inside. He raised his left hand and blocked Lolth's arm while grabbing the arm that stabbed towards his chest with his other hand. He felt his body tighten; the whip had entangled him again. And, it did not coil around him in a snake-like fashion like last time. Instead, it tied itself into knots and banded Li Qingshan, containing all of his strength.

Lolth opened her mouth and spat out a strand of silk that shot straight towards Li Qingshan's head.

Li Qingshan also opened his mouth and exhaled, knocking away the silk.

The Tiger Demon's Breath was useless against the whip, but it was still very effective against this move.

However, Lolth seemed like she was completely ignorant of that fact. She spat out silk endlessly as her eight legs began to dance. They did not stab at Li Qingshan, instead weaving the scattered silk together and wrapping it around Li Qingshan.

The highly-adhesive spider silk wrapped around Li Qingshan layer upon layer, turning him into something like a cocoon.

Meanwhile, the whip continued to tighten, injecting him with venom.

The mirror clone in Moon Court lake shattered loudly, having reached its limit. The Watermirror disc sank to the bottom of the lake.

From that moment onwards, Li Qingshan was forced to endure these wounds alone.

In the blink of an eye, Li Qingshan had become completely immobilised, like an insect that had accidentally walked into a spider's web, like it was his end.

Seeing how the prey had finally landed in her web, Lolth's heart eased up, but she refused to pause with what she was doing. She constantly increased the thickness of the web in an extremely patient manner.

However, just when Li Qingshan had been immobilised, losing all ability to resist, his eyes had already become filled with calmness and confidence, which Lolth found highly unpleasant. She plunged two fingers towards his eyes.

In a daze, the scene gave him a feeling of déjà vu again.

"I'm going to blow up my daemon core! I'll take you down with me!"

Li Qingshan roared furiously as he opened his mouth, and the daemon core shaped like a turtle shell flew out. It turned into a streak of blue light and arrived before Lolth, dyeing her face azure, which then rapidly became a silvery-grey. She raised her defences to brace for the possibility.

"I'm just saying. Huu, it's finally made it in time!"

The Water God Seal in Li Qingshan's body suddenly lit up and gained the pattern of another water flow. Li Qingshan had finally extended his control over the waters to Lolth's Cobweb city.

Surging waves crashed over from the river behind Li Qingshan like a roaring dragon of fury.

### **Chapter 516 - The Bones Stand and the Tiger Lives**

From that moment onwards, Li Qingshan could freely use the spiritual energy from Moon Court lake and the countless rivers and lakes from here.

He felt like his mind was being extended indefinitely, finally connecting with the territory he had tended to for a very long time.

His thought processes became vast and boundless with it. He was still trapped in the web, but his gaze towards Lolth seemed like he was looking down on her from above.

The river that Li Qingshan had blocked and oppressed the entire time seemed like it could not help itself any longer. It roared and surged with desire as it burst forth.

Li Qingshan's vision emptied out and lit up, entering a mental state of intricacy. He pushed the Water God Seal and poured all of its power into a single point, which was the spirit turtle's daemon core!

The daemon core suddenly accelerated, twisting and turning sharply. Powered by the surging water, it was like a whistling cannonball being fired from a cannon.

Lolth managed to grasp these changes with the innate ability of her eyes. She was not particularly surprised, as if she had been expecting everything.

However, as she watched the spirit turtle's daemon core shoot over, she actually felt like she was unable to respond in time. All she could do was grip her whip and retreat rapidly. Even at a time like this, she did not forget to take Li Qingshan with her. As long as he left the region of water, he would be completely at her whim.

She raised her other hand to block the trajectory of the spirit turtle's daemon core. She only needed to block it slightly, and it would provide her with the force to pull even further away.

By then, no matter what Li Qingshan was capable of as a water god, it would all be useless. She had countless different ways to kill an utterly-vulnerable opponent.

Loth had truly responded to these changes quickly. Just the thought process alone demonstrated she had completely recovered her powerful instincts as a hunter.

However, none of this was destined to develop like what she had been expecting.

First of all, she had underestimated the power behind the daemon core.

Like how dripping water could wear through rock, the spirit turtle's daemon core was like a droplet of water, but behind it was the water from boundless rivers and lakes. All of their power had been concentrated on this droplet of water.

The moment it struck her hand, it paused slightly before passing right through, striking her in the chest.

Disbelief filled Loth's eyes. The black tight suit over her chest ripped apart as her silvery-grey skin caved in deeply. Blood splattered.

Boom!

Loth was thrown far away like a kicked ball.

Cling! Clang! Clung! Clang!

The spider threads that criss-crossed through the cavern snapped like zither strings as she smashed through them.

Despite the threads slowing her down, she still rammed heavily into Cobweb city. She smashed a building to pieces first, but that was not enough to stop her. Only after taking down over a dozen walls and a thick pillar did she land heavily. As soon as the pain appeared, she began to cough up blood violently.

Li Qingshan found it to be quite the pity. If he had managed to directly strike her body, he definitely would have caused quite the damage, or even pierce her all the way through. However, piercing through her hand was equivalent to piercing two layers of the poison suit. Another layer still remained when it struck her chest in the end. The attack had been worn down layer by layer, minimising her injuries.

The daemon core bounced back, and Li Qingshan swallowed it conveniently, but he discovered the daemon core had also been contaminated with a layer of black venom. However, with a flash, the toxins had been purged. Her venom could eat away the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, but it was not particularly effective against the spirit turtle's daemon core.

Li Qingshan had still been pulled along by the poisonous whip, so he was obviously dragged into Cobweb city against his will. Looking around, he discovered he was in her chambers. The large, obsidian bed draped with curtains was nearby.

Li Qingshan sniggered. "Mother of my child, you can say we're revisiting this old place."

Loth straightened herself out. The tight suit over her chest constantly twisted and tangled in an attempt to repair itself, but clearly, it would not be so simple. After quite a long time, it had only pulled together barely. It struggled to hide her voluptuous chest.

All human emotions ceased to exist in her eyes. Her pupils had constricted to points that resembled the tips of needles as she stared at Li Qingshan closely. Then she asked in a hoarse voice that sounded like dragging nails across a chalkboard.

"How are you still alive?" The venom she had injected him with was enough to slaughter a hundred cities, yet he was still able to laugh.

"Haha, I still want to witness the birth of our child!"

Under the layers and layers of webbing, Li Qingshan had already gripped the Blade of the Drinking Poisonfeather. He had plunged the hilt shaped like a Poisonfeather bird's beak into the whip, sucking away the poison.

However, after absorbing the venom, even the blade itself turned back. The spiritual qi and inscriptions it had been imbued with was rapidly eaten away, following the footsteps of the Dragon Seizing bident, but it did temporarily deal with the urgent issue Li Qingshan was facing.

Loth sensed that something was wrong and drew back the whip. She discovered a part of the whip had already recovered the translucent white of normal spider silk, which made her frown. Who knew how much effort and time went into refining every drop of venom. She originally thought that casually unleashing it on him would make him suffer, but she never expected him to be so difficult to deal with.

"Listen. This place is almost going to be flooded with water. If you have any killing moves, you better use them quickly, or I'm going to come for you."

At this moment, the sound of surging waves rolled over from all directions. The river rampaged and poured into the huge cavern where Cobweb city resided. Hissing white steam rose up the moment it made contact with the magma.

Loth suddenly straightened out her whip with a flick and made a move that Li Qingshan was extremely familiar with, targeting his head.

"I'll send you off to see the king of hell right now!"

She took a step forward, and the spear suddenly thrust out, shooting towards the immobilised Li Qingshan as a straight, black streak.

"Keep dreaming!"



Fierce gales surged, and the wings of wind unfurled freely. They were not real wings, but condensed from daemon qi. He was unable to break out of the silk with physical strength, but it was unable to prevent him from using daemon qi to unleash abilities.

Li Qingshan resembled a huge egg that had grown a pair of wings. With a swish, he took off into the air, avoiding the thrust of the spear and flying backwards.

But why would Lolth let him slip through her fingers? He had only flown to the entrance when he felt his speed suddenly reduce. Before he knew it, a thread of silk had caught him.

Li Qingshan flapped his wings as he tried to fly away desperately. He sounded very arrogant, but having been caught by the whip again, the potent venom caused him quite the trouble. Having used his daemon qi for the wings of wind just now, the venom immediately showed signs of spreading again.

Lolth sneered and tugged hard while he was mid-air, so he had nothing he could push off of or hold onto. Despite his extraordinary physical strength, he was unable to use it, so he was dragged back again.

Li Qingshan looked over and discovered Lolth had let go of the whip, unfurling her arms and extending her eight legs with her lips slightly parted, like she wanted to give him a great big hug followed by a deep kiss.

Oh no! Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell!

Under Lolth's passionate hug, the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell produced a painful groan and became riddled with cracks. However, the most terrifying part was still the toxins from her poisonous suit that tried to eat through and penetrate anything it touched.

The Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell only lasted for a few seconds before shattering loudly. In that moment, Li Qingshan's expression became rather strange, while Lolth's face was twisted with hatred. She hugged her firmly before kissing him deeply on the lips. She kissed him so seriously and in such a cherishable manner.

Li Qingshan felt his lips sting before losing all sensation. He knew what had happened without even checking. His lips were probably gone already, but this was just the beginning...

Which part of her was most venomous? It was not the whip, nor her clothes, but her venomous fangs. She had injected the most primitive and purest Bone-eating Venom into his body.

The venom was so potent that it could not be compared to catching a splash on the skin. Even Daemon Commanders would probably be poisoned to death by that bite.

The venom flowed into his lungs through his throat. Wherever it flowed to, he lost sensation.

In the blink of an eye, all of his organs had vanished. He had been eaten away inside out, only leaving behind his thin bones.

Li Qingshan could only feel a bloody fluid sloshing around in his belly before all flowing away. The sensation was absolutely horrible.

But even then, he did not waver. He did not even plan on calling Xiao An to save him.

The water level rapidly rose up around Cobweb city.

This place had already become his region of water!

Suddenly, the Water God Seal in Li Qingshan's body erupted with light. Endless spiritual qi surged into Li Qingshan's body. His daemon qi recovered rapidly like the rising tide; it seemed gradual, but in the blink of an eye, it would claim the lengthy coastline—it was unstoppable. It fended off the venom in his body desperately.

However, the venom continued to maliciously rob Li Qingshan of his flesh and blood. The water and venom constantly clashed in a stalemate, wasting away the venom.

Within Li Qingshan's body, his flesh and blood would suddenly vanish from the invading venom, before regrowing under the nourishment of the water spiritual energy.

It was an extremely strange sight and the sensation could not exactly be described with words either.

“Go die!” Lolth plunged her hands into Li Qingshan's eyes madly.

In that instant, his vision blackened. Li Qingshan had been blinded!

Even more viciously, she plunged them into his brain and stirred it into a mess.

If he had been a regular Daemon General, death would be certain once his organs and brain were destroyed, no matter how tenacious his life force was.

However, Li Qingshan did not stop resisting because of this. He had been through many trials too. After breaking through to the fourth layer of the tiger demon, his body no longer possessed these evident vital points.

Even if he had been stripped of his flesh and blood, he could still remain standing proudly as long as his tiger bones remained. The daemon core continued to shine. He would not be knocked down. The slight pain from that basically seemed like a game compared to the strange sensation he was experiencing with his body.

“Why won't you die!?”

Lolth grabbed Li Qingshan's skull viciously with her ten fingers, producing an ear-piercing screech and making sparks fly, but she only managed to leave behind ten shallow marks. She poured the skull with venom, leading to swathes of white smoke and charring it black, but that was it.

It was Bone-eating Venom, but it was unable to eat away his tiger bones. As long as the bones stood, the tiger lived.

She was about to lose her mind from anger. She was clearly much more powerful than him, she could clearly overwhelm him with ease, yet he was able to put up a struggle again and again!

Li Qingshan opened his jaws on his face that had virtually been reduced to a skull and wind whistled through his hollow throat, producing a strange, sinister laughter.

**Chapter 517 - An Insect in a Web**

In the underground palace of endless gloom, two clusters of daemon qi constantly surged. One was powerful and invasive, while the other was weak but endless.

Two faces met one another. One possessed absolute beauty, filled with vengefulness and fury, while the other was filled with viciousness and malice, laughing weirdly like it was mocking the futility of her hatred.

With all of his flesh and blood stripped from his body, Li Qingshan was left with only the lower layer, the skeleton. It remained standing, glistening with a metallic lustre. However, it rapidly dimmed under the invasion of the venom.

Li Qingshan knew even if his bones were tougher than arcane artifacts, he would not be able to last very long if he simply allowed the venom to eat at it. However, after connecting with the underground river, he came up with a countermeasure.

Resplendent blue light burst forth from Li Qingshan's body.

If the five elements were ranked according to how suited they were for healing and recovery, wood would definitely take first place. Water could only claim second. However, when it came to purging poison, water would definitely rank at the top.

The venom was vicious, but under the surging daemon qi, it was diluted and purified bit by bit. The metallic lustre of the bones gradually recovered as fibres of flesh extended from them like willow branches sprouting in spring, wanting to grow a new body.

With the support of the Water God Seal, he basically did not have to worry about his consumption of daemon qi at all. Although the venom that had been most threatening to him would continue to affect his movements, it was not a deadly issue anymore.

He managed to infer her venom should have required special refinement to produce. If that were the case, he would simply waste it away! He refused to believe the venom she had refined was infinite.

Why would Lolth wait for Li Qingshan to recover? She clenched her fists and barraged his skull violently, producing hollow booms that shook up the entire city.

Under the terrifying force, his skull began to change shape slightly. A few small cracks appeared. At the end of the day, the Tiger Demon Forges its Bones was not indestructible.

"I'll definitely kill you!"

Lolth declared coldly. Suddenly, she sensed danger and retreated backwards.

Rip! Li Qingshan's glistening, bone claws pierced through the web and wrapped around Lolth's waist, pulling her into his arms firmly as if he was still unsatisfied with the kiss from earlier. His mouth riddled with teeth pressed against her lips and fierce wind passed through his hollow chest, speaking with a raspy voice.

"Mother of my child, it's my turn!"

Lolth's face changed. She felt a stream of air rush into her mouth like a condensed tornado, but the power had not diminished at all. It was even more terrifying than a real tornado.

It was Li Qingshan's innate ability, the Tiger Demon's Breath.

Like a high-speed turbine stirring up her innards viciously, her face twisted from pain. She pressed her hands against Li Qingshan's face and pushed hard, flying away in retreat. She landed on one knee and spat out a mouthful of blood viciously, which contained fragments of her organs.

With the poison suit equipped combined with her powerful defensive innate ability, even a full-powered strike from Li Qingshan would struggle to deal a lethal wound, but her innards were still relatively weak.

Back to Li Qingshan, there were two more rips, and his legs that had been reduced to bones broke free from the great cocoon. They stomped on the ground loudly, causing it to crack and sink and sending rock fragments flying everywhere.

The silk that Lolth had spun on the spot obviously could not be as tough as the poisonous whip.

And, ever since he had become trapped, he had never stopped using the Tremors of the Ox Demon to destroy the structure of the silk. The damage had constantly accumulated until now.

He swung his extremely-sharp bone claws at his body wildly, finally breaking free from the restraints of the web and regaining his freedom.

A savage, robust skeleton that seemed to be forged from metal stood proudly.

Li Qingshan thought, I sure match Xiao An right now!

However, Xiao An's white bones seemed relatively slender, even giving off a sense of holiness, while Li Qingshan's bones had their edge on full display, radiating with malice.

At this moment, Lolth suddenly let out a sharp burst of laughter containing twisted pleasure. Her laughter came to a halt.

"I never thought you could force me to this point. Northmoon, looks like I still underestimated you, but from the moment you set foot in Cobweb city, your fate had been determined, which was death!"

Suddenly, Li Qingshan felt like sharp killing intent had surrounded him as if he had entered an encirclement with ambushes all around him.

Actually, Li Qingshan had been confused the entire time too. From the beginning till now, he had encountered many dangers, but they were completely disproportionate to the initial warning from the spirit turtle's daemon core.

Now, the answer was about to be known.

The foot that Li Qingshan had lifted to take a step forward suddenly froze in the air. He could not move it at all. This time, he had become truly immobilised. He could not even move his finger. Even his daemon qi felt like it had become restricted, unable to unleash it as he wished.

"What's going on!? There's clearly not a single thread on me, yet I feel like I'm bound by thousands of threads?!"

Lolth spread her arms. The threads that criss-crossed the cavern suddenly flashed and began to tremble.

In that instant, it sounded like thousands of zither strings had been plucked. With the sharp thrum, Cobweb city was carved into pieces silently and collapsed, falling into the surging water and kicking up huge waves.

The chambers shattered as well. Li Qingshan no longer stood on anything, but he remained frozen in the air, like he was stuck in a huge, invisible web.

The criss-crossing threads with geometric beauty finally revealed their true purpose in that moment. They formed a huge trap that resembled the formations of humans.

Formations were not an original creation of humans. Instead, they were replications of the omnipresent principles of nature that humans had discovered and studied through the use of tools like spiritual stones and formation banners. However, daemons were usually accustomed to using their own powers. Rarely did they use any foreign objects, just like how tigers and wolves were accustomed to fighting with their teeth and claws and not with weapons.

However, Lolth was an exception. When she was still a tiny spider, her primary tool of survival was her web. Even the significance of venom paled slightly in comparison to that.

Very clearly, when she climbed to the throne of Daemon Commander step by step, she did not give up on this unique skill of hers. Instead, she learnt how to weave larger and better webs.

Unfortunately, Li Qingshan had become an insect within a web. He thought, So this is her trump card!

Lolth exhaled gently, and a hint of exhaustion appeared on her face for once. Clearly, activating the web took her quite the effort. She stared at Li Qingshan viciously, but she was in no hurry to attack him, as when she smashed into Cobweb city earlier, she had snapped a few threads. She began to repair them one by one.

Li Qingshan became filled with dismay. Originally, he could still sense the spiritual qi of the world as well as his vast region of water, but as the web was repaired strand by strand, it felt like a great door being gradually closed.

Once he lost his connection to the spiritual qi of the world and the support of the Water God Seal, he would become a body of water without a source. Once Lolth returned to finish him off, all he could do would be wait for his death. Even if he managed to erupt with strength on the spot somehow, it would be impossible for him to break free from the web she had weaved meticulously.

Suddenly, a dragon's roar filled the entire cavern.

By now, the water had already flooded almost half of the cavern, and the water level continued to climb rapidly. A huge dragon's head suddenly protruded from the surface. A water dragon lunged towards Lolth as she meticulously added to the web. The dragon consisted of thousands of tonnes of water, like it was rising up into the sky.

Lolth sneered in disdain. She did not even look at it.

The water dragon passed through the web and was carved into pieces by the threads, failing to affect Lolth at all.

The lethality of flowing water had always been limited unless he concentrated all of its power onto his daemon core like right at the beginning, and only then would it be possible to injure her. Li Qingshan was bold enough to use this move again, but it would only achieve those effects in a surprise attack. If she were prepared, he would not even have enough time to cry if she directly caught the daemon core.

As for directly controlling the water to attack her, the effects would be truly feeble. In Lolth's eyes, this was clearly his final struggle. As long as she repaired the final strand, she would be able to do whatever she wanted with him.

Boom!

The water dragon had been carved into pieces, but thousands of tonnes of water still collided violently against the ceiling of the cavern with great force.

This was Li Qingshan's true target.

After Cobweb city had been carved into pieces, the unbelievably large cavern had lost its most important pillar of support. If it were not for the night roamers who constantly reinforced the walls in the past millennium, the entire cavern would have collapsed from its own weight a long time ago.

The collision this time was like the final straw on the camel's back.

Rumble! As if the earth was roaring furiously, a huge crack spread out like lightning, yes also weaving together like a spider web.

Thousands of tonnes of earth collapsed.

"Do you think you can avoid death like this?" Lolth casually waved her hand, and the poisonous whip shattered a few boulders falling towards her. The other boulders were easily carved into pieces by the fine threads just like the water dragon.

And, her threads were an entity of their own. The destruction of the surrounding walls did not affect them. The web was her absolute domain.

Li Qingshan paid no attention to her. He produced a bellow that revelled in joy, cheering for this natural sight of earth crumbling.

The rock and soil fell down, and the water level rose rapidly, swallowing Li Qingshan in the blink of an eye.

The cheering vanished. The spirit turtle's figure appeared around Li Qingshan in the water, but it had never been so clear before.

The water was his world.

The spirit turtle suppressed, sinking to the bottom.

All of the threads pulled downwards with him, moaning from almost ripping.

Lolth's face changed drastically. She never thought he would still be able to put up a struggle even at a time like this. She only required one thread to seal him off for good, but looking at the situation, the other threads would rip before she could fix the last thread.

However, if she returned now to subdue him, it would take quite the time before she could make his death absolute. As long as there was a hole in the web, he would continue to struggle.

Faced with a dilemma, Lolth's face twisted viciously as she ordered, "Dragonsnail, stop him!"

### **Chapter 518 - You've Offended Me and You Still Want to Leave**

An invisible domain expanded, and immediately, Li Qingshan's struggle slowed down. If it were not for his experience with Dragonsnail's ambush, he would have been stumped for a moment as to what had happened.

This was not merely an issue of speed. When his thought process slowed down, he struggled to enter a state of mental intricacy, which prevented him from unleashing the limits of his strength. As the circulation of his daemon qi slowed down, the Spirit Turtle Suppresses the Seas lost the pressure from before. Although he could still maintain it, the spider web gradually recovered its original shape, no longer sagging downwards anymore.

Lolth followed the principle of doing everything she could to kill her prey. There was no concept of a fair battle. Right from the beginning, she had gotten Dragonsnail to hide in the surroundings so that he could strike at any time, to prevent Li Qingshan from fleeing with the wings of wind if he refused to enter the web.

Li Qingshan immediately understood why the spirit turtle's daemon core warned him of such great danger. Dragonsnail's innate ability was truly strange and powerful. A clash between the powerful could be decided in a single moment. If his speed suddenly decreased by thirty percent, he would become a sitting duck.

"Let's see what other moves you have!"

Lolth stared at Li Qingshan viciously, only to discover he had become overjoyed instead of surprised, breaking into great laughter.

"What are you laughing for?" Lolth asked in bewilderment, but she did not slow down at all as she repaired the net.

"I'm laughing at you for bringing about your own doom. If you hadn't called someone else, I'd really be quite embarrassed!"

As soon as Li Qingshan finished speaking, there were several rumbles, and the earth flew into the air. Twenty-one Skull Prayer Beads emerged together from all directions of the cavern, turning into huge, vicious Skeleton Demons in the air. Their sharp teeth chattered together like eerie laughter as their eye sockets all burned with pure-white flames. They ignored everything else, directly tearing at the web.

Lolth's expression changed. She could not sense the presence of the Skeleton Demons, but a dangerous, terrifying aura clearly enveloped her.

With a flash, she had already arrived behind a Skeleton Demon. She raised her leg and swept it violently, directly sending the Skeleton Demon flying and crashing into the wall loudly.

In that instant, her figure appeared at various locations of the web, like over a dozen clones had appeared. The whip moved with her, dancing like a venomous dragon.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Like a string of thunder, the huge Skeleton Demons were sent flying by her as if they could not pose a threat to her at all.

However, the Skeleton Demon she had kicked away first had already emerged from the wall, persevering with the destruction of the web without the slightest injury.

The Skeleton Demons that the whip had sent flying all climbed up as well. They were riddled with dark marks, but the marks actually seemed like they were unable to seep any deeper. Singed by the Samādhi Flames of White Bone, the toxins had been purged.

“What are these!?”

Lolth’s expression became uglier and uglier. These were the skeleton monsters under the influence of Dragonsnail’s ability. They had already become much more sluggish. If they managed to recover their original speed, how vicious would they be?

The Skeleton Demons climbed up tirelessly, destroying the web. Lolth darted around and not a single Skeleton Demon could withstand a strike from her.

However, she rapidly depleted her daemon qi. She began showing signs of exhaustion before long, and her breathing became rather ragged.

Cling! Clang! Clung! Cling! The threads snapped one by one.

Li Qingshan could move his arms now. Lolth suddenly looked back, and her gaze burned with spite.

“Do you think just summoning these monsters will let you escape?”

She actually stopped worrying about the web entirely. The poisonous whip extended over. The power of the net still subdued him, and under the influence of Dragonsnail’s ability, he obviously could not react in time. The whip wrapped around him firmly.

Li Qingshan let out a sigh. There sure was a lot of binding and tying in this battle, all kinds of S&M play!

As long as I break out of the encirclement of these bone monsters and take him out of this region of water, I’ll still have the upper hand! Lolth dragged Li Qingshan away with this thought in mind.

Boom!

A huge snail shell smashed through the rock and fell into the cavern. There were markings that corresponded to a large swathe of cracks on the side of the snail shell, having been smashed in forcefully.

“Dragonsnail!” Lolth suddenly raised her head.

“Save me, ma’am Spider Queen!” Dragonsnail was fear-stricken. He had completely lost his usual calmness and composure. He had hid so well, so he never expected to still be discovered. However, he was not afraid of being discovered. He was afraid of the enemy’s strength.

A white figure appeared with a flash. A crystalline skeleton chased after Dragonsnail, stepping on his shell and thrusting the white bone sword deeply into the crack before surging out with Samādhi Flames of White Bone and setting him ablaze in a glorious manner.



As soon as Dragonsnail began howling, he seemed to be frozen, unable to produce another sound again.

Xiao An raised her right hand, and the twenty-one Skeleton Demons turned back into twenty-one Skull Prayer Beads.

Lolth could see that the situation was unfavourable, so she wanted to flee with Li Qingshan, but having been slowed down, the Skull Prayer Beads shot towards her. They were like planets among the galaxies that travelled along their own trajectories, yet conforming to an unchanging rule.

Eighteen of the Skull Prayer Beads were already enough for a formation. Xiao An originally planned to use it against Bloodshadow, but she never got around to it. Now, she finally used it on Lolth, and there were twenty-one beads this time, making them even more powerful.

The Skull Prayer Beads changed in shape again, turning into cartwheels-sized skulls that sprayed out the Samādhi Flames of White Bone.

Lolth felt like she was in great danger. She used her daemon qi to block the Samādhi Flames of White Bone and advanced boldly, swinging her hand to knock a skull away. If she had not moved, then so be it, but now that she did, all of the Skull Prayer Beads began to revolve rapidly.

Immediately, two skulls blocked her path and three skulls slammed towards her viciously, as if an invisible thread strung all the Skull Prayer Beads together, setting off a chain reaction.

Lolth was fast, but she was unable to break free so easily. Her pupils coldened and eight rings appeared. Through her eyes, the Skull Prayer Beads immediately slowed down, allowing her to see through them.

Her eight legs danced wildly, where each strike possessed alarming power. She knocked away the incoming skulls one by one and forcefully carved out a path, breaking out of the formation.

The Skeleton Demon Formation was powerful and basically guaranteed victory against any Daemon General, but against a Daemon Commander, and a carapaced Daemon Commander with a tough body at that, it still seemed a little insufficient.

Suddenly, Lolth felt her hand sink. Li Qingshan abruptly became dozens of times heavier, pulling her downwards.

Having broken free from the web and without Dragonsnail's interference, his daemon qi recovered in the blink of an eye. He immediately unleashed the Spirit Turtle Suppresses the Sea before opening his mouth and unleashing a breath. The breath entangled with Lolth, unable to harm her but enough to interfere with her movements.

As Lolth gazed at Li Qingshan who glistened with a metallic lustre, she felt like she had entered a nightmare filled with bones and skeletons.

She gritted her teeth and abandoned Li Qingshan in an extremely resolute manner.

She knew that if this continued, not only would she fail to kill Li Qingshan, but her situation would become worse and worse, or maybe even become as bad as last time.

Lolth managed to free up one hand. The twenty-one Skull Prayer Beads were unable to stop her anymore. If a Daemon Commander wanted to flee, no one could stop her unless a Daemon King intervened.

There was a flash of white, and Xiao An blocked her path. There was no sword aura or sword qi, just a lethal sword intent enveloping and locking onto her before stabbing over like a streak of white light.

The Skull Prayer Beads scattered once again. As long as she obstructed Lolth, she would fall into the Skeleton Demon Formation again.

There was a blood-red flash, and a horrific slash appeared on Lolth's chest. She had not actually dodged, directly receiving the attack to force her way out! She could clearly sense that the tiny skeleton before her was in control of the twenty-one skeleton monsters and possessed terrifying strength no less than Northmoon's.

At this moment, she sensed that something was amiss. Lowering her head, she saw white flames spread through her wound, devouring her flesh and blood and burning even brighter. Her skin suddenly became a silvery-grey, but the flames burned even deeper along the wound. It was even more potent than her venom.

This time was unlike last time. She still had around half of her daemon qi remaining, so she managed to circulate her daemon qi and purge the Samādhi Flames of White Bone with quite some difficulty. Still shaken, she tossed out a threat.

"Northmoon, I'll definitely kill you!"

"You've offended me, and you still want to leave!? Use the ultimate move!" Li Qingshan called out.

Xiao An opened her mouth and spat out a palm-sized banner, pinching it between her fingers and waving it. The Blood Sea Banner fluttered through the air.

Lolth glanced at the deep, blood-red colour and felt indescribable coldness creep up through her heart. She became even more afraid to linger around any longer, directly diving into the depths of the walls.

In that moment, the world became blood-red.

Lolth looked around. There was no longer any rocks or water, only an endless, surging sea of blood. The heavy smell of blood did not assault her nose alone, but every single pore of her body.

A feeling of feebleness and powerlessness rose through her heart. This was the deepest despair.

The sea of blood was endless. She could neither return to where she had come from, nor venture to the other side.

White bones floated through the sea of blood. With a single glance, Lolth had a feeling that her fate in the end would be the same as the white bones. She would become a member of the sea of blood.

The sea of blood surged violently. Boney hands reached towards the sky one by one as if they were pleading to the heavens for a ray of hope. However, hope did not exist in this hellish scenery, only a bone-deep hatred for the living. Thousands of skeletons turned their skulls over, gazing at Lolth with their empty eye sockets.

It made even the malicious Lolth blank out. She felt a chilling coldness.

The waves of blood surged as the skeletons broke out of the sea of blood, lunging over together.

“Petty tricks!” Lolth sneered. Her whip swung around her, and she smashed apart hundreds of skeletons in a single stroke, all falling into the sea of blood.

The space around her immediately emptied out, only to be filled with even more skeletons. They had no fear or hesitation. They did not even roar or howl. They merely used everything they had in an attempt to grab Lolth with their boney claws and drag her to the depths of the sea of blood.

In a short while, even Lolth lost count of the number of skeletons she had smashed through, but the skeletons seemed endless. There were no signs of them lessening.

“I can’t sense the existence of the spiritual qi of the world here at all, so I can’t recover my daemon qi. I need to find a way to break free. How despicable, Northmoon!”

Lolth suddenly stopped swinging her whip and closed her eyes. The skeletons immediately swallowed her as a bone mountain piled on top of her.

#### **Chapter 519 - Welcome to Try, Welcome to Try Again**

Bone claws grabbed Lolth one by one. However, they were unable to harm her, and the pulling force from each skeleton was nowhere near enough to move a Daemon Commander.

“The Blood Sea Banner sure is high-handed. Probably even that bastard Fu Qingjin’s Green Ruins Illusion pales in comparison!”

Li Qingshan could clearly see Lolth being swallowed up on the Blood Sea Banner that rippled like the ocean. Fu Qingjin’s Green Ruins sword only managed to generate a Green Ruins Illusion, while Xiao An’s Blood Sea Banner created its own space.

Actually, the Green Ruins sword was still superior, but as a successor, Fu Qingjin was unable to unleash the Green Ruins sword’s strength, while Xiao An had personally forged the Blood Sea Banner. As such, it obviously appeared slightly stronger.

And, the current Blood Sea Banner was the same as the Skull Prayer Beads. It was only a basic form, still extremely far away from true completion. Once it truly reached that stage, it would be well beyond something a measly Green Ruins sword could rival.

There was a great boom in the sea of blood, and the mountain of bones scattered. The skeletons shattered and landed in the sea of blood.

The surface of the sea finally settled down, but it rapidly gathered and produced new skeletons.

Xiao An pointed out with a finger. Lolth suddenly turned around and was met with a roaring wave composed of blood sweeping towards her.

It was boundless, stretching towards the sky. It could not be avoided. It could not be dodged.

The vigour alone was enough to make people shiver.

The colossal wave arrived right before her. Lolth's figure became as tiny as an ant's.

In the moment the wave slammed down, ringed patterns appeared in her pupils in a strange and mysterious fashion. Suddenly, her eyes lit up, emitting two streaks of light as she peered through the wave before her. She no longer saw the boundless sea of blood, but the underground landscape. She immediately took off.

The two streaks of light directly shot out of the Blood Sea banner. Lolth's most inconspicuous innate ability came into wondrous effect. It was actually the nemesis of all formations and illusions.

Xiao An needed to manage the Blood Sea Banner, so she was unable to enter the banner and fight. With a wave of her hand, the Skull Prayer Beads flew in.

Lolth's eyes narrowed as twenty-one Skull Prayer Beads shot straight towards her. She gritted her teeth and twisted her body, allowing them to hit her. Her speed was virtually unaffected. Right when she was about to break out, she saw Li Qingshan's wretched face again.

"Let me do it!"

Through the Water God Seal, Li Qingshan had replenished all of his daemon qi. Even half of his wounds had recovered, now covered with layers of flesh and blood, which did make him seem even more terrifying than when he was only a skeleton.

He nodded at Xiao An and dove head-first into the Blood Sea Banner, unleashing a tiger's roar and shaking up the entire sea of blood.

Li Qingshan unfurled his wings of wind and lunged at Lolth. "Mother of my child, don't be in such a hurry to leave!"

Lolth was furious and filled with resentment. The poisonous whip flogged Li Qingshan's body viciously. His flesh and blood spattered everywhere. His lunge had been stopped, but he had completely cut off her path of retreat.

When his flesh and blood landed in the sea of blood, it immediately kicked up a surge; the blood devoured it and converted it into part of the sea.

Li Qingshan was fearless. He accelerated rapidly with the wings of wind and slammed heavily into Lolth, spreading his arms and laughing strangely as he embraced her firmly. They plunged into the sea of blood together.

The sea of blood was unable to distinguish between friend or foe. It was hostile to the living, devouring all flesh and blood.

Even as the master of the Blood Sea Banner, Xiao An required all her strength to prevent the blood from attacking Li Qingshan, but in the blink of an eye, he was reduced to a tall skeleton again.

However, as the target of the attacks of the Blood Sea Banner, Lolth's condition was even worse. She was forced to use her daemon qi to fend off the corrosion of the blood. Her poison suit became blood-red in the blink of an eye.

Vicious poison dyed the region black, but it was nothing compared to the boundless sea.

Li Qingshan grabbed Lolth by the neck and wrapped his legs around her waist, riding firmly on top of her. He laughed loudly as he hurled punch after punch at her body while she put up a desperate struggle. They bobbed up and down in the sea of blood, kicking up huge waves.

Unable to break free from Li Qingshan, Lolth tossed aside her whip and gripped Li Qingshan's cervical vertebrae madly with both hands. Under the terrifying force, the vertebrae crackled, becoming riddled with cracks very soon. Li Qingshan's life force was tenacious, but only death would be waiting for him if his neck were broken.

Li Qingshan tried to break free from her grip, but he actually failed to. Having lost his flesh and blood, his strength had plummeted.

This was how a single counterattack from a Daemon Commander could be life-threatening even if they were in the most disadvantageous position.

But how could Xiao An simply watch Li Qingshan be injured? Taking advantage of their stalemate, the Skull Prayer Beads flew over and wrapped around Lolth's wrist, turning back into a string of beads.

The twenty-one Skeleton Demons tugged together, forcefully prying Lolth's hand away and pressing it against her back while gnawing at her wrist constantly. If it were not for her innate ability that had turned her skin into an indestructible silvery-grey, her bones probably would have been stripped bare in the blink of an eye.

Suddenly, Li Qingshan clenched his hands together and raised them high into the air, smashing down heavily like a hammer.

Lolth felt like a hill had crashed into her. There was a great boom, followed by powerful tremors that shook through her entire body.

Wherever the shockwave reached, her poison suit that the sea of blood had eaten away ripped and tore apart. Her silvery-grey body directly sank into the depths of the sea of blood.

Water filled the entire cavern, instead holding up the rapidly-collapsing ceiling. Xiao An held the Blood Sea Banner as she stood in the water silently. The flames in her eye sockets flickered as she stared at the Blood Sea Banner closely.

Before long, Li Qingshan leapt out of the Blood Sea Banner. "Haha, I finally got her!"

Li Qingshan also learned just how great of a difference existed between defeating a Daemon Commander and subduing or killing one. Without the assistance from Xiao An's Blood Sea Banner, he would have never been able to prevent her from escaping. As a matter of fact, if he were careless, it was even possible for him to die from a counterattack.

In the end, while he did manage to subdue her, stripped bare like last time, he obviously could not do anything that would be a bad influence on children in front of Xiao An.

And, he had been reduced to bones. He was in no shape to even if he wanted to do something.

In the Blood Sea Banner, Lolth lay among the blood sea. Her daemon qi had already been completely depleted, and her skin returned to its original, snowy-white colour. Her physical strength was close to being completely drained too.

She could neither see the surface of the sea, nor could she see the bottom, as if she was floating in the centre. The blood constantly ate away at her life force.

If she were a normal Daemon General, she would be reduced to a puddle of bloody fluid before long, merging with the sea of blood and increasing the Blood Sea Banner's power.

But as a Daemon Commander, her body was extremely tough, but she could only last a little longer at most. With her connection to the outside world severed, she could not even recover her daemon qi. All she could do was inch closer to death like this.

The unprecedented feeling of fear and death enveloped her. This was a sensation she had not experienced in a very long time.

Stuck in the sea of blood, not only did it injure her body, but her mind was heavily affected as well. This was the deep despair of helplessness, boundless like the sea of blood.

She used her remaining strength to wail out.

"Sir Golden Cicada!"

Xiao An asked, "Do we want to kill her?"

Li Qingshan rubbed his chin, and his eyes flashed. "It's not like we can't!" A familiar voice immediately rang out by his ear. "Please hold on. Spare her life."

"Oh, it's you. So you're called Golden Cicada. What do you have to say?" Li Qingshan's objective was to make the voice speak up. He thought, Sure enough, he has quite the connection to Lolth to cultivate in this underground region.

"So you still found out my name, but it's best if you don't let anyone know about it." Golden Cicada's tone sounded slightly like a warning. "If you kill her, the Dragon King of Ink Sea won't just let this matter be."

"Fine then. I won't kill her." Li Qingshan was extremely straightward with his reply to Golden Cicada's surprise.

"Let's go!" Li Qingshan called towards Xiao An.

"Wait, are you going to leave like this?" Golden Cicada asked.

"I never said I'd let her go! I've already spared her once, but she still sticks to me like a limpet. Surely I can't just let her make attempts at my life for nothing and destroy my weapon for nothing."

Li Qingshan spoke like it was common sense. Since killing her would cause problems, then he would keep her suppressed in the Blood Sea Banner forever, but very clearly, as the blood constantly ate away at her, her cultivation would definitely regress drastically. It was even possible that she would not be able to maintain her cultivation at Daemon Commander anymore.

His thought process was very straightforward. Since you want to protect her, then you need to cough up something, for example, the phoenix's feather.

Golden Cicada fell silent.

“Since we are travellers on the same path, we should assist one another. I’ve promised you that I will definitely do everything I can to obtain the Chant of Deva-Nāga for you. Actually, after we parted last time, I came across a nice opportunity. If I were to go back on my word, wouldn’t killing me be a piece of cake with your strength?”

Li Qingshan took a step further and expressed with great sincerity.

“Fine then. I’ll give you what you want.”

After discovering Xiao An, who stood by Li Qingshan’s side, Golden Cicada’s profound sliver of perception of the heavenly secrets became more and more intense. He could basically confirm the Chant of Deva-Nāga would appear on Li Qingshan.

And, Li Qingshan’s words at the end managed to reach his heart. He remained underground to avoid trouble and unnecessary ties with other people so that he could focus on cultivation and take that final step, but it did not mean a Daemon General could toy with him.

“Release her!” Li Qingshan was overjoyed inside and nodded towards Xiao An. With how generous Golden Cicada was, he did not come off as too cheap.

With a flap of the Blood Sea Banner, Xiao An tossed out Lolth. She gazed at Li Qingshan resentfully, and when she saw Xiao An, her gaze became filled with hostility, as well as a smear of deep fear. Having been suppressed in the sea of blood, although it had only been a short period of time, it felt as lengthy as a century to her. It caused her lingering despair.

Her gaze was resentful, but it no longer possessed a sense of condescension like she was above Li Qingshan.

If it were last time, then she would still be filled with great unwillingness to accept her defeat. But this time, under the trap she had cast down, Li Qingshan had forcefully carved out a path of survival, forcing her to find a helper to subdue him. Yet, in comparison, the helper Li Qingshan had found was so powerful.

A huge chasm existed between Daemon Commander and Daemon General, but Li Qingshan used various methods to make up for this chasm, earnestly proving he was not a weakling completely at her whim.

“I-” “You’re welcome to try, you’re welcome to try again!”

Right when Lolth wanted to spit out a threat, Li Qingshan directly interrupted her.

### **Chapter 520 - Obtaining the Phoenix Feather**

With the phoenix feather promised to him, Li Qingshan was in an extremely good mood. He smiled at Lolth. “Lolth, whether you admit it or not, I possess the strength to rival you. I’ll spare you once again for the sake of fellow Golden Cicada. I welcome you to challenge me again.”

Lolth was unable to hear Li Qingshan and Golden Cicada’s conversation. When she heard Li Qingshan mention “fellow Golden Cicada”, she could not help but become surprised. “What did you call sir Golden Cicada?”

“Even if you don’t challenge me, I’ll be challenging you!” Li Qingshan studied Lolth’s enticing body again and laughed aloud.

“The phoenix feather is right here. You and that... friend beside you, come and take it!”

Golden Cicada sank into silent thought. Through his observations of the battle, he clearly knew Li Qingshan had received powerful reinforcements, but he was unable to see Xiao An, and he was unable to detect her aura either with his senses. Even he found this to be extremely strange, developing a hint of curiosity.

If Li Qingshan used the Spirit Turtle Suppresses the Seas to hide his aura, then Xiao An’s would be the “nothingness” between life and death. She had no aura to hide in the first place.

“Why?” Li Qingshan asked vigilantly.

“She’s very special. Don’t worry, I have no ill intentions towards you. Perhaps I might even be able to assist her.”

“Alright.”

With benefits up for grabs, Li Qingshan agreed very happily. This did not necessarily mean he had dropped his guard. Golden Cicada’s behaviour had always been relatively gentle, and he still needed him to retrieve the Chant of Deva-Nāga, so there was no reason to turn against him.

If there really was life-threatening danger, the spirit turtle’s daemon core would definitely warn him. So far, he had not developed the ability to divine and predict various random things, but it was enough as long as it was effective in this aspect.

Under Lolth’s surprised and doubtful gaze, Li Qingshan unfurled his wings of wind and flew downwards into the earth with Xiao An. Wherever he passed by, the rock and soil would automatically part and create a tunnel. Even though he would run into large pieces of ores that he could not shift so easily, he only needed to produce a breath and sparks would fly, forming a tunnel in the blink of an eye.

This continued until he arrived at the depths underground, before the lake of magma.

Just when Li Qingshan had caught his footing, a golden-red feather floating on the lake of fire immediately drew his attention away. He was unable to shift his gaze after that.

The slender feather was around a foot long, extending into a gradual curve. The patterning on the end was like a huge eye, constantly producing a bright and gentle glow.

The boundless essence of earthen fire gathered in it. Whenever it swayed, it would cause the lake of fire to surge.

Li Qingshan needed no explanation. He knew this was definitely a feather of the legendary phoenix. Nothing about it could be wrong.

Like how it was possible to learn about a leopard from a single spot, he seemed to be able to imagine the pure and noble bearing of a phoenix unfurling its wings from seeing this one feather.



Li Qingshan immediately strode across the lake of fire and extended his hand towards the phoenix feather. Right when he was about to touch it, he could not help but shy back, like a mortal reaching towards glowing charcoal with their bare hands, afraid of getting burnt.

However, when the tip of his finger touched the phoenix feather, it did not feel scorching at all. Instead, there was an indescribable warmth. The wonderful, graceful sensation was unable to be described through language.

After that, he sensed a powerful aura of life.

The heart of a phoenix was pure and noble, but not arrogant. The fire of a phoenix was scorching hot, but not wounding.

Li Qingshan held the phoenix feather between his fingers, admiring it in complete amazement. He imagined how beautiful a real phoenix would be.

At the same time, Golden Cicada was also observing Li Qingshan. They had carried out their conversation last time from a great distance apart after all, and no one could ignore the interference from the underground magnetic field.

As a result, while they did have a conversation, his impression of Li Qingshan was still the same as last time when Li Qingshan ventured deep underground and demonstrated a hint of the phoenix's aura.

However, now that Golden Cicada saw him again, he could not help but be taken aback.

That was because the aura of the phoenix on Li Qingshan was extremely feeble, almost non-existent. However, there were three other tremendous auras.

One was as heavy as a mountain, one was as fierce as the wind, and one was as tranquil as the sea.

Each aura represented a bloodline legacy from a powerful lifeform, yet it happened to be that none of them paled in comparison to the phoenix.

Loth well and truly deserved her defeat. She did not even know what she was up against!

This was utterly unheard of for Golden Cicada. It was impossible for him to be born like this. Merely obtaining one of these powerful bloodlines would have required extremely great luck.

He definitely carried a huge secret on him. He was a mere daemon who did not even know what the Nine Heavens were, yet he earnestly said he wanted to venture beyond the Nine Heavens. As it seemed, it definitely did not arise from conceit.

Golden Cicada did not know about the existence of the black ox, but he could vaguely sense a lofty figure standing behind Li Qingshan.

Afterwards, Golden Cicada directed his focus to Xiao An and immediately became stunned. The feeling of shock was much more intense than when Li Qingshan saw the phoenix feather. He murmured to himself, "Neither living or dead, formless and non-self."

Golden Cicada had an extremely deep connection with buddhism, which was why he had requested Li Qingshan to retrieve the Chant of Deva-Nāga for him. Now that he saw the successor of the White Bone Bodhisattva, how could he not be surprised and shocked?

Sure, Li Qingshan and Xiao An were still very weak, but they were like tiny seeds. Some seeds could only grow into grass, while others had the potential to become towering trees.

Golden Cicada originally wanted to investigate the origins of their legacies out of curiosity, but now, he had instead given up on that.

The person who could plant these two seeds was definitely well beyond what his current level of cultivation could fathom. If it were not for the fact that he had already arrived on the edge of the well and could catch a glimpse of the world outside, he would not even be able to understand what they represented.

In particular, Xiao An possessed a strange and erroneous buddhist truth about her, completely divergent from all of his understanding of buddhism and even defying it. However, it also conformed to it perfectly, making it impossible to pick out anything wrong.

He absolutely refused to think too much about it. It would bring absolutely no benefit to his cultivation, but be detrimental instead.

To the other side, Li Qingshan held the phoenix feather, but he was unable to draw out the power inside. He tried using the Phoenix's Scripture of Nirvāṇa. In his sea of consciousness, the figure of the phoenix spread its wings and produced a long cry.

In that instant, the phoenix feather exploded with light, enveloping Li Qingshan.

A powerful life force poured into Li Qingshan's body endlessly. His flesh and blood rapidly grew and merged together at a visible rate.

In the blink of an eye, Li Qingshan had made a full recovery. His scarlet hair draped down as he clenched his fists. Never had he felt so at ease before.

Whether it were the hidden wounds from Lolth or the residue from consuming pills, all of it had been wiped clean.

The phoenix feather in his hand had only dimmed slightly. Let alone the other uses, even if he only treated it as life-saving medicine, he would basically gain a few extra lives.

"You really have gained the phoenix feather's recognition." Golden Cicada sighed. In other words, that was four bloodlines, four different powers. All of them were the most powerful legacies.

Earning the "recognition" seemed extremely easy to Li Qingshan, but if regular people rashly used the power in the phoenix feather, they would face the risk of being incinerated to death.

Perhaps because it was for healing, or perhaps because the power in the phoenix feather was relatively mild, the spirit turtle had not reacted intensely, which made Li Qingshan overjoyed. He felt like he had found a door right when he had been driven into a corner. As long as he pushed through the door, he would arrive in a brand new world.

Li Qingshan was greedy. "There's... just this one?"

"Hopefully you uphold your word soon! This is for your little friend."

With that, Golden Cicada fell silent. A *ṛāra* glistening with golden light flew out of the magma lake, landing in Xiao An's hand.

Li Qingshan breathed out deeply. "Don't worry, I hate owing people favours!"

Li Qingshan and Xiao An returned to the flooded Cobweb city. Lolth had already vanished, but she had been heavily injured and the web, poison suit, and poisonous whip she had gone to such great lengths to weave had all been destroyed.

It was probably impossible for her to make any trouble for now, and by the time she recovered, Li Qingshan would have climbed to somewhere higher already.

Xiao An took out a snail shell.

"This is Dragonsnail's shell!"

Li Qingshan was surprised inside. In his eyes, Dragonsnail had already been relatively mysterious. Naturally, he seemed relatively powerful too, so Li Qingshan never expected Xiao An to kill him so easily.

Dragonsnail was powerful among Daemon Generals, but Xiao An's strength approached Li Qingshan's. Actually, if Li Qingshan wanted to kill Dragonsnail, it would not take him much effort either.

Moreover, Xiao An's Samādhi Flames of White Bone had a crushing advantage in terms of destructive power over weaker opponents. Once the flames contaminated them, they would be done for unless they were Daemon Commanders like Lolth who could use their powerful and pure daemon qi to forcefully purge it.

Dragonsnail obviously did not have the necessary strength, so the Samādhi Flames of White Bone had frozen his soul, and his flesh and blood had been set alight. He did not last very long before dying.

In the end, he only left behind this snail shell and a daemon core.

Just like that, all three powerful Daemon Generals under Lolth's command had died at Xiao An's hands.

Xiao An placed the snail shell in Li Qingshan's palm. Li Qingshan shoved it into his hundred treasures pouch casually, but he discovered he was unable to shove it in. Only after a close inspection did he discover the snail shell possessed its own space. It was like a large hundred treasures pouch with many items stored inside.

After Bloodshadow and Strongboulder had died, Dragonsnail took over, especially ambushing and killing powerful human cultivators. The spoils of the battles had been rather abundant, with many precious spiritual herbs obtained. Clearly, it was all because of Dragonsnail's relatively greater intelligence, allowing him to plan and scheme very far into the future, but now, Li Qingshan benefited from it instead.

Dragonsnail might have been a wiser one among the daemons, but he could neither disobey Lolth's orders, nor was he Xiao An's opponent. Before absolute strength, resourcefulness often seemed useless.

“The snail shell should be a good material for forging artifacts.”

Having dealt with a great problem bothering him and obtaining the phoenix feather he had been yearning the entire time, Li Qingshan was completely satisfied. Now, he needed to find a way to completely refine the phoenix feather and merge with it so that he could reach the first layer of the Phoenix Transformation.

He also had to continue expanding his water territory. If it were not for the Water God Seal today, he would have never been able to deal with Lolth even if he worked with Xiao An. As a matter of fact, he would have faced the danger of running out of daemon qi and being killed instead.

Li Qingshan and Xiao An followed the underground river and travelled upstream, arriving in Moon Court lake, only to discover his dwelling was currently under attack.