

Refining 1271

Chapter 1271 – Fantasy Spider

Qin Yu also discovered another horrifying thing. Ever since he arrived at the mountain, he had felt like he had been circling around the same place. It was not that he encountered a similar scene, but he felt a sense of déjà vu.

He looked up at the trees again. Vines grew on the ground and sharp thorns clustered to form spikes. Everything appeared different but still felt the same.

After a second thought, Qin Yu prepared to leave a mark here. Just then, Old Turtle anxiously called, “Master, leave it to me. I will do it.”

“Be careful. Something is off here. Anything can happen at any moment.”

Old Turtle patted his own chest confidently, “Master, rest assured. As long as I am here, I will definitely make sure you are safe.”

Qin Yu shifted his gaze and said, “Stone Pagoda, did you hear that? Learn from him. As long as I am alive, I will help you seek your revenge.”

Stone Pagoda replied with a calm voice, “Yes, Master.”

Qin Yu carefully took a few steps forward. Suddenly, he stopped and frowned as he looked ahead.

Old Turtle asked in confusion, “Master, why did you stop?”

Qin Yu answered, “I don’t understand when I was plotted against. It seems to be some really complicated scheme.”

“A scheme? I will kill whoever is plotting against you!” Old Turtle exclaimed in enthusiasm, showcasing his loyalty.

Qin Yu said, “I am not sure who it is, but I think the both of you should know very well.” He hesitated for a moment. His eyes grew cold, “Actually, both of your acting is really good. I didn’t even think anything was amiss. But Old Turtle, you are so afraid of death; you would not have just said what you did. Also, I am not too clear about Stone Pagoda’s past. For one, I am afraid he is not willing to say it. Secondly, I don’t want more trouble for myself even if I feel that it cannot be avoided. Anyway, I am not sure what his issue is, so how am I going to seek revenge for him?” There was silence. Then, Old Turtle laughed lightly, “You are really smart. I didn’t expect that you would find out so quickly. You did not even allow the two of us to rejoice.”

His voice deepened and he continued, “Aren’t you afraid that we will force you after you directly exposed us? After all, you are like a turtle without its shell; we can cut you and take your meat at any point.”

Stone Pagoda lightly said, “Don’t bother nagging at him. We wanted to conserve some energy. Since we have been discovered, let’s do it.”

There was some silence again.

After a while, Qin Yu said, "I expected this. You guys are trying to waste time by talking with me. If you could kill me, you would not have done this."

Qin Yu looked around him as he rubbed his temples. "I don't think you guys are aware, but I learnt some tricks about World Inspection before. The person who taught me was outstanding. I only scratched the surface of his wisdom but these skills were very useful. This world appears perfect on the surface, but there are problems. "For one, it is not big enough. That is why I felt as if I was walking in circles. How much impact can this small maze world, or should I say a world within a picture, take? That's right, I can't find a way out. But since there isn't a way out, I will just force it open."

Qin Yu balled his hand into a fist as he smirked, "Also, I said so much to waste time as well. After all, World Inspection has its costs. It consumes a lot of energy. If I had been influenced by the two of you, I would not have been able to execute it."

Two angry shouts filled the air at the same time, "I will eat you. I must eat you!"

Qin Yu remained expressionless as he remarked, "If only you guys had strong mouths and some teeth." He punched down without hesitation and raised his hand for a second blow.

The world in front of him did not shift or vibrate at all from the impact.

It was as if the blow from Qin Yu's fist had been sucked into a vacuum.

"Hahaha! Just give up. You can't escape from our illusionary world!" A sinister laughter filled his ears.

"Little by little, I will crush your bones and suck out all the bone marrow from within. It must be tasty." Qin Yu's resolve did not weaken and he punched his third, fourth and fifth blow. The two screams grew more and more high-pitched and mad. They rang in his ear, trying to make his concentration falter.

The fifth blow!

Boom!

Shockwaves formed from where his fist landed and spread out in all directions. The two voices in his head stopped momentarily before erupting into screams again. Cracks appeared before him and suddenly, his vision went black. When Qin Yu opened his eyes again, his eyes were shining brightly.

Old Turtle wept happy tears as he cried, "Master, my beloved master, you are finally awake. I was so scared!"

Stone Pagoda warned, "Master, be careful!"

A ripping sound cut through the air and he slashed down.

Qin Yu grunted; the silk mesh around him tore apart and floated down onto the ground.

Qin Yu realized he was in a large stone cave, and its massive rock walls were lined with a mass of spider webs. Layers upon layers of animal bones piled up into a mountain below him. These were animals that fell prey to their hunters.

The predators moved quickly across the spider webs, their few dozen tiny eyes staring menacingly at Qin Yu. They were two spiders that were as large as elephants.

One of them was black while the other had a red-colored body that looked like it had been drenched in blood.

“He he, I didn’t expect that you would wake up so quickly. What a pity.” The black spider made a weird noise but Qin Yu could understand it.

He had been under its illusion previously. Its eight legs stretched out across the web, each of them sparkling with some golden color.

From the voice, Qin Yu could tell the spider was a male.

The blood spider had a cold but calm voice, “Why are you wasting your words on him? Kill him, we will have his flesh and blood!”

Surprisingly, it was a male voice too.

Qin Yu frowned. These two large spiders had lived for a long time but they were unexpectedly two males living together. He could not help wondering about their sexual orientation.

Click click, it would be hard!

As if it had been stung by Qin Yu’s gaze, the red spider screeched as it bolted at Qin Yu. He threw a punch that forced the red spider backwards. Qin Yu also retreated. At the same time, his body armor tore apart and a familiar pain rushed through him.

Qin Yu frowned lightly. Although he had already gotten used to being injured, the Rule System body breaking apart sent waves of pain through him.

This was related to the blood red robe that he was wearing.

Although it looked like any other long robe, Qin Yu’s robe was different. It was a protective armor that was formed from the Purpleback Bluewing Ants. Furthermore it was connected to Qin Yu’s mind.

Previously, every time Qin Yu suffered an injury and he bled, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants would devour the blood after Qin Yu allowed them to. However, this time, the robe had sucked the blood dry before Qin Yu instructed it to.

Shoosh!

A sharp sound penetrated the air as the black spider jumped forward. Qin Yu took a deep breath in as he threw another punch. His wounds tore apart again and blood gushed out. Like before, it was directly sucked in by the Purpleback Bluewing Ant robe.

“Fire!”

Qin Yu muttered to himself. As he took a step, his fingers were set ablaze. Looking carefully, the fire on his fingers formed a burning furnace that constantly shrunk and folded inwards. A strange dark spot began to form in the middle of the fire.

It was the Rule System Fire!

This was what Qin Yu devoured before he ate the Spiritual Snake's flesh when he was in a coma in the underground magma pool. It was also why the Purpleback Bluewing Ants transformed.

The Rule System Fire in his hands burned intensely. Yet there was no reaction from the blood red long robe.

This was not normal.

Although Qin Yu felt suspicious, he had a lot of experience and he regained his composure quickly. He sighed unconsciously.

Both Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda had warned him about the dangers of this place. Even now, Qin Yu still had no idea what the actual terrain was.

He had not had a clear look at the mountain.

Admittedly, this was something that unsettled him.

After a long sigh, Qin Yu pointed his fingers forward and released the Rule System Fire. The mess of spider webs were lit ablaze and in an instant, the cave turned into a sea of fire.

The black and red spider shrieked in anger as they bolted for Qin Yu. Again, they were forced back by his blows.

During the entire process, Qin Yu's blood red robe observed the cave and constantly made adjustments to its devouring as the fire burned.

The Rule System body was under an onslaught of attacks and it broke apart continuously. This gradually caused Qin Yu's internal state to enter a state of chaos. He frowned but his eyes remained focused. He had to remain calm in danger, and panicking would just worsen things.

Nonetheless, Qin Yu had grasped an important point.

With a pale face, he suddenly stopped retreating backwards a few moments later.

Qin Yu disregarded the flames and tore through the spider web. Then he flew to an inner wall of the stone cave that had been scorched by the flames, raised a hand, and threw a blow.

Bang bang bang!

The stone wall broke apart and debris flew all around. With his fist at the center, a small hole was slowly drilled through the walls.

Light from the outside world shone through the small hole.

The two spiders screamed and jumped at Qin Yu recklessly. At the same time, they spat mucus out from their mouths and attempted to seal the hole in the rock wall.

"I hope I won't..." As he spoke, Qin Yu stepped out and disappeared through the hole.

Shoosh!

Qin Yu opened his eyes once he was out.

“Master, my beloved master, you are finally awake. I was so scared!” Old Turtle cried.

Qin Yu’s lips twitched. Old Turtle’s words were the exact same. Was this happening again? He sucked in a cold breath of air and formed a thought in his mind. Old Turtle instantly screamed, “Master, what did I do wrong? Why are you doing this to me?”

Qin Yu had absorbed some of Old Turtle’s power. After hearing Old Turtle’s reaction, he was at ease. The aura from him was similar to what Qin Yu was familiar with.

Ignoring Old Turtle’s screams, Qin Yu asked, “Stone Pagoda.”

“Yes, Master.”

“Do you have anything to say to me?”

Stone Pagoda was silent for a while before he said, “Master, your luck is amazing and you are really awake this time.”

“I am not sure how many dream states you have experienced before, but I will teach you a way to find out what is real. For example, you can call the same Sun Moon illusion you did when you killed the Spiritual Snake.”

Without hesitation, Qin Yu formed a thought in his head. A mirage appeared on top of his head.

However, this time was different from before. The moment the mirage appeared, Qin Yu felt his heart clench and he unconsciously shrunk inwardly. In the next instant, the Sun Moon illusion disappeared.

Weird, why did he feel so guilty just now? It felt as though he was about to get scolded by his parents after doing something wrong?

He was not going to call that woman anymore, at least not for now. He suddenly felt familiar with the woman. Yet, she was just a shadow that he had never seen before.

Qin Yu rubbed his forehead; he felt as though he had forgotten something. No matter what he did, he could not put his finger on what he was missing.

At least he was fully awake this time. There was no way an illusionary artist could mimic the woman’s shadow.

...Why did he feel this way? He felt as though the woman was very strong. Yet, he had never seen her.

Forget it, the more he thought about it, the more his head hurt!

However, Qin Yu did not choose to trust so easily. After connecting to the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, the Rule System Fire suddenly started to rage violently. It shrouded Qin Yu in flames.

The flames dispelled the darkness and lit up the entire stone cave. A clutter of thick spider webs appeared before him.

Most of them had been burnt apart. Among the heap of bones in the middle of the cave were two very eye-catching skeletons.

If he had not seen them before, he would not be sure of what they were. However, Qin Yu immediately recognized that those bones belonged to the black and red spiders.

This cave was also similar to what he had seen before. He sighed and extinguished the Rule System Fire. Once the fire was put out, Qin Yu said, "Stone Pagoda, tell me what you know."

"Yes, Master." Stone Pagoda sounded as though he had already prepared for this. He continued, "In the ancient times, a terrifying Fantasy Spider existed in the Vast Brightness World. It was the worst nightmare of every living creature in the world and it was one of the most powerful ancient creatures. No one dared to interact with it.

"There is little known of the Fantasy Spider and I am not too sure about it. However, there is one thing that can be confirmed: the Fantasy Spider has an internal fantasy energy that can instantly pull all living creatures into an illusionary world. It was rumored that there were eighteen levels in the illusionary world. One would have to break through all of the levels to fully regain his memory.

"However, before its prey could break through all levels and regain its mind, it would have become the Fantasy Spider's food. Occasionally, there were some powerful creatures who were able to break through all levels and regain their minds. Yet, they ended up losing their sanity and self-destructing because they could not tell the real world from the fake."

Qin Yu's expression changed slightly.

Eighteen levels!

He had only experienced two levels before and he had already started suspecting whether the world in front of him was real or not.

He wondered if he would lose his mind too if he went through eighteen levels.

"Master, you really have good luck. These two Fantasy Spiders have been dead for a very long time and the fantasy energy is almost gone. Otherwise..." Stone Pagoda did not finish, but it was clear what he was implying.

Qin Yu sighed deeply as he looked at the stone cave. He had been in danger the moment he stepped into the mountain. Furthermore, it was a stone cave that contained the corpses of two Fantasy Spiders that had died a long time ago.

It was truly dangerous. Whatever happened in the illusionary world was also reflected in the real world.

If Qin Yu had not discovered the illusionary world as quickly as he did, the Rule System body might have been destroyed.

What exactly was this mountain?

Qin Yu also had another issue he was puzzled about.

Were the two spiders in this stone cave really two male Fantasy Spiders that lived together?

Chapter 1272A – Let Me Finish Absorbing First

According to Stone Pagoda, the skeletal remains of the Fantasy Spiders were the highest quality ingredients used to create the Fantasy Formation. Their value could not be simply described as 'precious'.

Although Qin Yu did not know how much longer he could survive for, he acted as he always did. He did not waste any time taking them. If he did not manage to use them, he could always exchange them with the Spring Master for several more valuable items after he exited the Lost Garden.

He looked through the entire area. After he was certain that there was nothing else left other than these two skeletons, he left.

For the time being, it looked like this place was very safe. Perhaps it was because the fantasy energy from the skeletons of the Fantasy Spiders had not dissipated and this deterred other ancient creatures from approaching.

However, Qin Yu's current condition did not allow him to hide here. He had to quickly find a source of life or similar items to continue maintaining his Rule System body.

Using his divine sense, he tried to sense the area. He did not sense anything unusual. However, Qin Yu did not dare to be careless on this mountain. He thought about it, "Shadow, can you sense the area. Is there anything unusual?"

Old Turtle was silent.

Qin Yu frowned, "Hmm?"

"...Master, after we entered the mountain, my sensing abilities were blocked." He sounded extremely disheartened.

Stone Pagoda has performed once again!

Damn, he actually knew about the Fantasy Spider. Just when he needed to perform to solidify his position, this happened. Old Turtle felt as if his fate was too miserable.

Qin Yu's face immediately turned serious. The reason why his journey in the Lost Garden had been so smooth was not because the ancient creatures were welcoming. It was because of Old Turtle's extraordinary sensing abilities that allowed him to plan how to avoid trouble in advance.

But now, this was no longer possible.

Qin Yu's first thought was that the Lost Garden had detected his way of cheating and had now prevented this.

He was already used to Old Turtle guiding him. Now he had to blindly lead, and who knew what he would encounter. Moreover, it was in this terrifying mountain!

This was really testing him!

"Is there no way to break through?"

Old Turtle laughed bitterly, "I have tried. There is no way. The more I try, the stronger the resistance. I can't do anything."

Stone Pagoda said, "I have felt this resistance as well. It comes from the foot of the mountain...there must be some secret there!"

Qin Yu rubbed his eyebrows as he thought. He really could not be bothered about whether there was a secret or not. The most important thing was how he was going to survive.

His brain was in a huge mess. After a few moments, he tapped his eyebrow. With each tap, he started to calm down.

His mind had indeed been confused.

Old Turtle was indeed sharp. However, Qin Yu only obtained his help after getting out of the Abyss. Before Old Turtle was here to help him, didn't he survive on his own as well?

Ultimately, people had to count on themselves. Qin Yu knew this, and today he merely confirmed it. He could not be overly reliant on their help. From now on, he had to remind himself of this.

He took a deep breath and glanced back at the exit. He used his divine sense to sweep the area once more and confirmed that he felt nothing amiss.

He grabbed onto a bone from some unknown animal. No one knew how many years this skeleton had laid here for, but over time it had turned completely white. The bone still felt real and heavy in his hands.

He threw the bone outwards. It seemed to knock into something, causing a 'pa' sound. It bounced back and fell onto the ground. The air was filled with silence. After ten breaths, nothing else happened.

Qin Yu did not hesitate anymore as he stepped forwards. A 'boom' could be heard as he shot towards the top.

Damn, he used too much energy!

As he shot up into the air, he had to cover his head and face as he broke through numerous branches. Qin Yu suddenly recalled all that he had experienced in the fantasy world. His expression changed as he reached out to grab onto a branch. After breaking through a few more, he finally managed to slow down.

At this moment, he could clearly feel a confinement force. It was slightly soft, like a huge rubber net covering the entire mountain. The harder it was hit, the stronger the rebound.

Hoooooo —

Above him, there was a huge shadow. A frightening bird whistled past. Its wings stirred up a violent wind that caused numerous huge branches on the tree to shake.

Qin Yu quickly hid. However, in the eyes of this bird, he was equivalent to a weird-looking worm. Even if the bird had seen him, it would not be interested.

Soon, the bird flew past and disappeared out of sight. But this did not mean that the bird had left the mountain. It was because the mountain was simply too big. Even with the size and speed of this bird, it may not successfully cross the mountain.

Phew —

Qin Yu exhaled in relief as he reached out with his hand to test the probability of tearing through the confinement force. But he quickly gave up that idea.

In order to assess his journey when he returned to the ground, Qin Yu first turned to assess the area...he froze on the spot.

With Old Turtle's help, ever since he entered the Lost Garden, Qin Yu had seen numerous small and large sources of life. Of which, there was also the high quality purple source of life that he had stolen from Xu Shi.

He had definitely seen a lot, but yet, he was stunned by what he saw in front of him. As he took a deep breath, he paused.

Sniff —

Finally, Qin Yu let out a long breath before sucking in another sharp breath. His weak Rule System body immediately reacted. A few more cracks split open and fresh blood flowed out.

But this time, Qin Yu did not react at all. One reason was because he was already used to it. However, more importantly, it was the sight in front of him that caused him to freeze. He was in a daze.

Before him was an area of land that resembled a basin. The cave entrance was in the middle and the ancient tree reached up to the heavens.

Beneath the tree were many different-sized broken rocks put together to form perimeter walls.

Today, these perimeter walls had fallen and exposed what was hidden inside.

Source of life!

Wherever there was a perimeter wall, there was a source of life. In this area, there were at least twelve perimeter walls. A quick glance showed that they were of extremely high quality. There were two that were even purple in color!

A surprise, a pleasant surprise!

The bone that Qin Yu had thrown was now lying near one of the purple sources of life. If not for the fact that the bone had a unique shape and Qin Yu had just held onto it, he would never have recognized it.

Because other than this bone, there were numerous bones all around. From how they looked, they must have died a long time ago and the rest of the bodies had completely decomposed. They seemed as if they would disintegrate with the lightest touch. However, there were some that still had a slight reddish-brown color, showing that they had just recently appeared.

Qin Yu even saw a body that had yet to completely decompose. It was an ancient creature similar to a wolf. Its body was as big as a yak. It had fallen and died on the spot, with no visible signs of a struggle.

Qin Yu immediately realized. These dead ancient creatures were most likely killed by the fantasy energy left behind by the two dead Fantasy Spiders. They were unable to escape from the fantasy world and were trapped forever. Slowly, they grew weaker and died.

Chapter 1272B – Let Me Finish Absorbing First

Suddenly, Qin Yu's heart turned cold as his body froze and his face paled. He suddenly realized. After the Fantasy Spiders died, the ancient creatures would have coveted the twelve high level sources of life. These skeletal remains were the answer!

Plus this body that had yet to decompose...it meant that Qin Yu, who had just appeared, may be being watched by those hiding in the dark.

It was only that he had yet to sense them. On the other hand, the creatures that were aware of him may still be slightly confused as to how a tiny thing like him could come flying out of the Fantasy Spiders' cave.

That's not right. They must have seen when Qin Yu was sucked in. They were most likely wondering how he could come out alive!

But this was not important. What was important was that they would not be confused for long. Since even he was safe, didn't that mean...that the frightening fantasy energy left behind by the Fantasy Spiders was gone?

In a moment of excitement, auras were emitted into the air. Qin Yu finally realized something was off as he suddenly felt as if his whole body had been dumped into cold water.

Alas, his every movement was being watched and there were many eyes observing him.

What was even more scary was that each and every owner of these pairs of eyes was putting a lot of pressure on Qin Yu, causing his expression to change.

Luck and misfortune were always close together. Just a moment ago, Qin Yu had been pleasantly surprised. Now, his happiness was turning into a nightmare.

He could probably deal with one or two ancient creatures. But now there were over ten that were looking at him. Qin Yu knew very well he could not defeat them, and as for running...he most likely would not be able to escape!

It was because these creatures were all dispersed across the area. No matter which way he ran, he would not be able to escape them.

As for whether these ancient creatures would let him go...Qin Yu shook the thought away as soon as it appeared.

Nonsense. It was simple. These ancient creatures were not fools. Qin Yu managed to escape from the Fantasy Spiders and no one would believe that he had gained nothing from it.

From another perspective, it would not be difficult to guess what the ancient creatures were thinking. Hence, when he felt the aura shift, Qin Yu did not hesitate as he dashed to the nearest purple source of life.

He had a previous experience. As long as Qin Yu rushed into the middle of the source of life, the high quality source of life would automatically put up a defense around itself and start to move.

The distance was short and Qin Yu could finish absorbing it by breathing. But just as Qin Yu was about to move, a loud roar erupted. Rumbles resembling thunder filled the air. Qin Yu vomited blood as a few more cracks immediately appeared on his body.

The air in front of him twisted and a half-transparent skull appeared with its mouth wide open. It was ready to bite.

Power of space!

An ancient creature could control the power of space. Nowadays, cultivators took having the power of space as a benchmark of power.

It was too scary!

Qin Yu gritted his teeth and put a finger out. 'Bam', his finger exploded. The half-transparent skull grumbled as it distorted and dissipated.

Qin Yu successfully overcame his first obstacle. Unfortunately, he was not dealing with just one ancient creature.

As soon as the skull had disappeared, a low muffled sound could be heard above his head. In the next moment, an immense and horrifying force pressed down onto him. It felt like the weight of several mountains were pushing down on him. It had yet to completely descend and yet there were already numerous cracks in the ground.

Qin Yu sighed internally. The flesh and bones within him were exploding with pitter-patter sounds. Blood gushed out of his mouth and nose. At this moment, he just had a few more steps to go to reach the purple source of life. But these few steps felt insurmountable.

Whoosh —

Whoosh —

In the air, more than ten extremely powerful auras were approaching at a frightening speed.

After they attacked Qin Yu, they did not suffer any backlash from the fantasy energy. They were now certain that the energy from the two Fantasy Spiders was completely gone.

Then what reason was there to hesitate? Get rid of this worm and share the source of life in this area!

The eyes of the ancient creatures were either icy cold or filled with intense heat. They all had murderous intents. They did not realize that although Qin Yu's entire body was covered with gashes and there was blood pouring out of his mouth and nose, under the red robe his expression was completely still.

In the midst of danger, he needed to be calm...then how about between life and death? He needed to be even more calm. He was currently in an indifferent state. It was as if he was disconnected from what was happening around him. The things around him had nothing to do with him, hence they would not be able to affect him.

Whoosh —

A wave erupted from within Qin Yu and the miserable cries of Old Turtle and the bitter groaning of Stone Pagoda filled the air.

All of a sudden, the red robe Qin Yu was wearing was dyed a fresh bright red. It looked as if it was glowing. The suppressing force that had been approaching him paused for a moment. Without waiting for the ancient creatures to realize what was going on, Qin Yu moved at an incredible speed and plopped into the source of life.

Crack —

Crack —

The purple ice formed in a flash. In Qin Yu's vague consciousness, he could hear the angry shouts from the ancient creatures.

It was as if someone had taken the chance to enter their nest and kidnapped their wives and children while they were away...was that necessary? It was just a source of life. Even if it was a purple source of life, wasn't there another one? And there were another ten sources of life.

It was a pity. If not for these bastards, all these sources of life would be his. Maybe he would have been able to solve the problem with his Rule System body.

But thinking about it, these ancient creatures had been eyeing these sources of life for years and so many of them had died trying to get them. Yet, an outsider had beaten them to it.

As considered this, many dissatisfied thoughts filled his head. However, he pushed half of them away. After all, he was still alive...goodbye you bastards!

Qin Yu was in a daze as he activated his Rule System body to absorb the energy of the source of life. This time, the energy from the source of life was a lot more than he had expected.

Previously, with Xu Shi's source of life, he absorbed all the energy pretty quickly.

Could it be because this was the nest of the Fantasy Spiders so the quality of the source of life was also higher?

This was just a guess. However, regardless of the reason, it was not important...even though he knew he was 'drinking poison to quench his thirst', Qin Yu still needed this energy. The more the better.

Because, as long as he had enough energy to facilitate the change, Qin Yu's Rule System body had a chance of regenerating and eventually healing completely.

This was the outcome that Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda both came up with after a lot of thinking. There was a high chance.

Moreover, what if this outcome was not going to happen? In his current state, if he did not want to die he had better suck up all the energy!

Hmm? The quality was really very high. It was still not gone and instead felt as if there was still a lot more.

Qin Yu could vaguely sense that something was not quite right. But at this moment, there was no need to hesitate.

Whatever! He would think about it after he finished absorbing it!

Chapter 1273 – Escaping into the Crack

When the Fantasy Spiders were still alive, none of the other creatures dared to do anything. Now that the Fantasy Spiders were dead and there were twelve available sources of life, the sources of life were like twelve pieces of pork belly placed on a table. Saliva drooled down from the mouths of the ancient creatures.

The Fantasy Spiders were definitely one of the most terrifying kinds of animal. Even if they were dead, they were not easy to deal with. The best proof was the skeleton remains around the sources of life. So for a long time, although they knew that there were twelve high quality sources of life and they could see them, none of the ancient creatures dared to step closer.

They waited and waited, and over time the fantasy energy from the Fantasy Spiders slowly dissipated. When the ancient creatures guessed that most of the fantasy energy was gone, they started to look greedily at it.

It was not a secret that there were twelve sources of life outside of the Fantasy Spiders' nest. Almost all the ancient creatures knew about this, and it meant a bitter competition. Three months ago, Black Cloud Wolf King had been defeated and lost the right to stay here. However, he was extremely dissatisfied with gaining nothing after waiting for all these years. He barged into the Fantasy Spiders' nest and was eventually killed.

The one that took his place was someone called Mighty Bear King. He was extremely strong and caused many ancient creatures to fear him. They all silently agreed that he deserved a place.

Today, after they had fought and waited so long for the fantasy energy to dissipate, it was finally time for the twelve ancient creatures to enjoy the fruits of their labor. However, some insignificant human had suddenly popped out of nowhere and taken all their rewards, making a fool out of them. How could they accept it?

That's right. It was not just one source of life. Everything that the ancient creatures had been guarding was completely useless.

When Qin Yu had stepped into the nearest purple source of life, something appeared...no one had expected this. Not even the twelve ancient creatures. The twelve sources of life were actually connected!

There were links between each of them.

Maybe it was this fact that made the two male Fantasy Spiders decide to stay together back then. They were waiting for the sources of life to completely transform into purple sources of life before consuming them.

The twelve sources of life satisfied them enough to stay. Unfortunately, for an unknown reason, the two strong Fantasy Spiders died.

Under normal circumstances, the many years should have been sufficient for the sources of life to turn purple. Perhaps it was because they were all interconnected, causing their total energy to increase slowly and so only two of the sources had completed the transformation.

But more importantly, after Qin Yu entered the purple source of life, the other eleven sources of life froze.

They froze!

Just like that, they were completely sealed and behaved as if there was already someone in each of them. As the twelve ancient creatures saw this, they burst out in anger. They wanted to skin Qin Yu alive. This was why they started shouting at him!

The only thing that slightly appeased them was that after the two purple sources of life were shaken, they did not shift. If they had to watch Qin Yu take the twelve sources of life away right in front of their very eyes, they might go crazy.

Now...

Wait. They could only wait here for the person who stole their sources of life to come out. They were going to grind him into dust!

However, this horrifying thought was just still in their minds. Because there was a high possibility that this small human would burst from consuming so much.

No one has ever heard of twelve sources of life being connected to each other, and no one could tell how much energy it contained. It was definitely a horrifying amount that was difficult to imagine. How could that one tiny person swallow it all?

If he could not absorb it all, then he would just die from eating too much!

The ancient creatures did not care whether Qin Yu survived or died. They only cared about the twelve sources of life. Under normal circumstances, if the person or creature that entered the source of life was not able to take it all, all the energy would gather together and form a 'seed' that would be reborn.

The important point was that according to the rules of the Lost Garden, this seed would be sent away and no one would be able to guess where it would land. This meant that if Qin Yu were to explode, the twelve sources of life would also be ruined and have nothing left to do with them.

If Qin Yu died, they would not even get a chance to vent their anger at him...just thinking about it made the ancient creatures go crazy!

Amongst them, the two that looked the angriest were Thunder Lion King and the newly arrived Mighty Bear King. The purple source of life that Qin Yu had entered was the one that they had been nearest to. According to the agreement amongst the twelve ancient creatures, they were in charge of stopping him.

But what was the result? Even after the two creatures worked together, they were not able to stop the small human and could only watch as he barged into and ruined the twelve sources of life. If it was not for the fact that they were now suffering from the same loss as everyone else and that they were both extremely strong, an internal battle would have erupted.

Especially Mighty Bear King. As the newest creature from the outside, he had stolen Black Cloud Wolf King's position and was already not very well-liked. Now, Qin Yu had made a fool out of him. The other ancient creatures would not be able to help but think that if Black Cloud was still alive, maybe this would not have happened. After all, Black Cloud moved the fastest amongst all the creatures and would have been able to stop Qin Yu.

Even if they could not change anything, that did not stop them from expressing their discontent towards Mighty Bear King.

This displeasure almost caused Mighty Bear King to break a tooth from gritting his teeth. However, he could only tolerate it. He was strong but he would not be able to defeat all of them if they ganged up on him. He would lose if he lost his temper.

In the end, all of his anger was directed at Qin Yu. It was all because of this stupid small worm!

If not for him, things would not have ended up like this. With his abilities, he would have been able to take the first source of life and all these would have been his.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. Mighty Bear King's eyes reddened as he started to fume, a low grumble erupting from his chest. It resembled a thunder cloud approaching.

Don't die. You better not die. I will let you experience terror and despair!

.....

Of course, Qin Yu did not die. His condition even improved drastically. The energy from the seemingly never ending source of life had successfully suppressed all signs of his Rule System body breaking apart.

It was as if Qin Yu was being wrapped in huge plaster holding him together.

Although the energy from the sources of life continued to flow into his body, Qin Yu knew that just this energy wasn't enough.

It was not that there wasn't enough. The energy this purple source of life contained was beyond Qin Yu's expectations. It was as if he had opened up another exit in a mighty river and it was pouring into him endlessly.

It was the quality that was not enough!

The quality of the source of life was not enough for Qin Yu to completely heal and transform his broken Rule System body. He needed something stronger.

Back then, the Spring Master said that the sources of life here were of a better quality than usual sources of life. Yet, it was not enough.

When Qin Yu thought of this, he could not help but grimace. He was even more clear on his situation now.

However, although the source of life was not able to solve his problem completely, it was able to temporarily help.

It allowed Qin Yu to function as a normal person for a longer period of time, and he would no longer start bleeding randomly.

He should not be greedy. This was already a pretty good result. Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda had said that this mountain has a huge secret. Maybe this secret would enable him to find a way to resolve the defect in his Rule System body. After he has absorbed all the energy from the sources of life, he would check it out.

But the problem was, when would he finish sucking everything up? Would the river not stop flowing after he opened the exit? With the strength and capacity of the Rule System body, it was highly unlikely that he would explode from absorbing too much. But the Lost Garden could close at any time.

Qin Yu did not wish to walk out of here, only to realize that he was the only cultivator left in this forgotten ancient world with these ancient creatures.

Luckily, Qin Yu's worries were unfounded. Because even if he had created a hole in a massive river, as long as he had the appetite and ability to eat, he would finish everything. Moreover, the energy from the twelve sources of life was not endless.

The fact that they had been existing here for a long time and were all connected gave him the misconception that it was endless.

Crack —

Crack —

The ice layer was cracking. This meant that the protection over the person in the source of life was ending.

Rustle —

Qin Yu opened his eyes. From beneath his blood red robe, a faint glow could be seen. It was time for him to leave. Hopefully, his luck would be better this time and he would not drop straight into a trap before he could see anything.

He jumped out of the hole. Suddenly, the entire area was filled with silence.

Qin Yu blinked and confirmed what he was seeing. After he realized that what he was witnessing was true, he felt his body stiffen!

Why? Why did the purple source of life not move away? He was faced with the twelve ancient creatures once more!

His thought about having better luck flashed into his mind once more. How could he be so unlucky? He would rather have dropped into a trap than to meet twelve pairs of eyes containing evil looks.

Dear heavens...I love you. Thank you for dropping this worm in front of us once more...

Similar thoughts probably ran through the heads of all twelve ancient creatures. To be able to make twelve vicious creatures sigh with jealousy was sufficient to show how much damage Qin Yu caused them.

But it was okay, they finally got their chance to get everything back...spit out what you took from me, give it back...then after that, I will slowly pull your skin off, break your bones and tear apart your entire body!

Mighty Bear King smirked, He stood on his thick back legs and clapped his front paws together. 'Clap, clap', the sound was explosive as he clapped. His paws contained extremely sharp claws, and together with his laugh, he looked extremely horrifying.

This place was too dangerous. Qin Yu knew that he could not stay here any longer.

Escape. He had to escape right now!

"Fantasy Spider!"

As he shouted, he retrieved a bone and threw it.

Boom!

The sound was extremely loud and the bone exploded. The small amount of fantasy energy remaining was released and formed a mirage of one Fantasy Spider with its mouth open.

The twelve ancient creatures that had started to charge towards him jumped back in fright. They all shuffled backwards...they could not help it. The Fantasy Spiders were simply too scary. They may not be the strongest, but the fantasy energy they had was an unexplainable existence. Anyone that came into contact with it would die!

But the fantasy energy from one bone was only enough to create a shape, make a sound, and disappear. The ancient creatures who had backed away in fright still existed. They immediately grew furious and their eyes reddened.

Bastard. Just wait, after I catch you I will make you regret stepping foot into this world!

Chase him. Kill him!

Boom —

Boom —

The twelve creatures attacked at the same time and their imposing manner caused the entire place to shake. They drew out the power of the world. Their power rolled unrestrainedly and Qin Yu was in a perilous situation.

Qin Yu felt his scalp tingle as his heart stilled. He was confused as to why they had such a reaction to him taking one source of life...eh? He did not notice earlier, but it looked as if all the sources of life in this area were gone.

He suddenly had an extremely bad feeling. Although Qin Yu did not know the sources of life were connected as one body, he felt his throat go dry as he thought of the source of life he just took. It had confused him and even made him slightly worried as to why the energy had seemed endless.

If all of this had been caused by him, then this time, he might have created quite some trouble. No wonder the ancient creatures looked at him in that manner.

Escape, he had to escape!

As he gritted his teeth, Qin Yu reached back and threw another bone out. At the same time, he shouted, "Fantasy Spider, respond to my summon. Come out!"

Boom —

The bone exploded and another mirage of a Fantasy Spider appeared. Although they had just been fooled earlier, after hearing Qin Yu shout and seeing the Fantasy Spider suddenly appear, the fierce creatures froze.

Soon, the mirage disappeared.

They had been fooled again. In a short span of time, they had been fooled twice by this small being using the same trick.

Ah ah ah ah! Despicable! You rotten bastard, I have to kill you!

Feeling the deathly glares on him, Qin Yu's scalp tingled even more. With his head lowered, he ran as fast as he could.

Close, close!

Swoosh —

Qin Yu jumped into the entrance of the cave. From the start, this had been his goal. If he could only run away, then with his speed, he would never have been able to escape.

Amongst the twelve ancient creatures, there was one that looked like a monkey. Although it was huge, with one look Qin Yu knew he would lose out in speed. If he were to be held back, he would easily be surrounded by the other ancient creatures in a matter of time. He would then be like a chunk of meat on a chopping board.

Of course, Qin Yu was not stupid enough to choose to run and die. He ran into the cave because back when he was dismantling the skeletons of the Fantasy Spiders, he had seen a crack. It was very very deep and the inside of it looked very complex. Even with Qin Yu's divine sense, he was not able to investigate thoroughly.

So at that time Qin Yu did not hesitate to ignore his curiosity. But now...he had no choice. This was the only way for him to survive. Even at this moment, Qin Yu did not know where this crack, which had been hidden under the Fantasy Spiders' skeletons, led to.

The cave of the Fantasy Spiders...this small person just dashed into it. Was there nothing wrong with that place?

As this thought filled the minds of the twelve ancient creatures, they halted. This time, any lingering thoughts of letting Qin Yu live disappeared completely. When they dashed into the cave, it was just in time to see Qin Yu slip into the crack and disappear from their sight.

Shouts of fury could be heard. A loud rumbling sound could be heard and the entire crack trembled.

Qin Yu turned back and cursed. The ancient creatures had different body sizes. Some were big while some were smaller. Now, they had all transformed and turned into smaller versions of themselves.

The whole group of them entered. The good thing was that there was a limit to how small they could become. There were some areas within the cracks that were extremely narrow and were sufficient to slow them down.

Rumble —

A crashing sound resounded endlessly in the ground, making his head hurt. Qin Yu gritted his teeth. Like a fish escaping, he went wherever the cracks were narrower.

Hopefully this squashes you!

Chapter 1274 – Mutant Iron Earth Beetles

Being persistently chased by a group of ancient creatures was definitely not something anyone would be happy about. However, when this was related to his life and death, Qin Yu could not be bothered to think too much about his feelings.

Qin Yu wished he had extra legs to allow him to run faster. The twelve ancient creatures were enraged at him and chased after him relentlessly. They looked like they were determined to reduce him to ashes.

Thankfully, the mountain was strong and the cracks in the ground were narrow. This allowed Qin Yu to keep his distance from the ancient creatures.

The path he took was curved and winding. Furthermore, Qin Yu only cared about advancing forward. He had long since lost his direction and he just went deeper and deeper down.

The group of ancient creatures still refused to give up!

Qin Yu sighed in exasperation. He turned his head to look back and his speed slowed. Suddenly, a piercing sound tore through the air and a cold aura swept past his nose.

Qin Yu's hair rose and his expression grew stiff. He stopped suddenly and looked into a crack in the ground.

He could see through the darkness and it even helped him to take a clearer look. He discovered that there was the shell of a beetle that had camouflaged nicely into the ground. If not for the brief instance where it was exposed, the beetle would have just remained stationary like a rock on the ground.

This was why Qin Yu had almost missed it. As for the thing that swept past his nose...Qin Yu glanced at the two sharp forelimbs of the beetle and he scowled.

If he had not turned his head back and lowered his speed, the cold aura from the beetle would have gone for his head.

The two front limbs of the beetle were thin and it was deceiving to think that they were like two fingers that pressed together. However, Qin Yu felt shivers down his spine when he took a closer look. They were sharp knives, and Qin Yu was very lucky that his head had not been snapped off just now.

With such a close shave, Qin Yu's fear was like a tidal wave that swept through him. Once again, he felt the dangers of this mountain. If he was not careful he would lose his life to a mere insect.

Having been discovered, the eyes of the beetle stared at Qin Yu with deadly intent. Its eyes were hidden within its shell and with a cry, it pounced at him. The small creature was bold. Qin Yu had been careless previously. But did it think that it would have its way so easily?

As anger tore through him, Qin Yu reached forward. Darkness wrapped around the beetle and it cried and struggled. Its front limbs closed quickly and it cut through the darkness.

It was very sharp indeed!

However, darkness did not have a physical body and even after it was sliced through, it closed up easily again. Layer after layer, darkness stacked together and bound the beetle.

With a thought, Qin Yu mobilized the darkness to contract and strangle the beetle. Suddenly, Qin Yu snorted and surprise crossed his face. The beetle had a very hard shell and it was impossible for him to break through it quickly.

"Master, wait!" Stone Pagoda suddenly cried.

Old Turtle's heart clenched. His first thought was that Stone Pagoda was going to gain some points again. He was right!

Stone Pagoda said, "If I am not wrong, this is the Iron Earth Beetle. It has very strong attacking and defensive capabilities and it is one of the favorite prey of the Fantasy Spider."

A glimmer crossed Qin Yu's face. This explained things. The cracks in the stone cave of the Fantasy Spiders were meant to trap Iron Earth Beetles. However, why would the two powerful Fantasy Spiders die at the same time? They were creatures at the top of the food chain.

There was no time to consider this. Qin Yu asked, "Are you saying that we can make use of the Iron Earth Beetle?"

Stone Pagoda confirmed, "Yes, Master. The Fantasy Spider is the natural enemy of the Iron Earth Beetle. A little aura is enough to scare them away. If we can find their lair, we can lure the twelve ancient creatures over and they can fight it out."

A good idea!

Qin Yu's eyes sparkled but he quickly frowned again. "The insides of the cracks are hard to navigate. How are we going to find the lair of the Iron Earth Beetles?"

Old Turtle's heart jumped again. Damn it, Stone Pagoda is going to gain more points. If Stone Pagoda thought of this idea, he definitely had a way to solve this problem. Otherwise, Stone Pagoda was slapping himself!

As expected, Old Turtle was right.

Stone Pagoda lightly answered, "Aside from being strong in attack and defense, the Iron Earth Beetle is also known to hold grudges and run away. As long as Master lets go of this Iron Earth Beetle, you can find its lair if you follow after it."

Stone Pagoda briefly paused and then continued, "However, Master, you need to be wary of the timing. It would be best if you can find the lair in one go, otherwise the Iron Earth Beetles will learn of your plan."

The corners of Qin Yu's mouth raised slightly and he agreed, "You are right." He shifted his gaze and stared at the captured Iron Earth Beetle. He muttered, "Little guy, I will be counting on you."

With a thought, the darkness around the Iron Earth Beetle dispersed. It cried as it glared at Qin Yu before turning around and escaping. It was as though the Iron Earth Beetle was saying, "If you are not a coward, don't leave. I will call my family here and take care of you!"

Qin Yu smiled in satisfaction, having set up the scheme. He was not only going to stay here, he would personally head over to the beetle's home to apologize. He would even bring twelve gifts to them for the beetle family to have a good feast.

Nonetheless, as Stone Pagoda mentioned, he had to be careful with the timing. Putting careful consideration into this scheme would allow it to be executed to perfection!

Qin Yu followed behind the Iron Earth Beetle. His eyes were bright and alert and his smile deepened. This was what he would do. If he impeded them little by little and continued to tease them, he could take advantage of their rage. The Beast Kings would be so consumed by anger that they would not have time to think.

He pressed a hand behind him and shifted the darkness with his mind. Instantly, layers upon layers of darkness fell where he ran.

After a while, loud crashing sounds could be heard continuously from behind as the ancient creatures roared in anger. This was a blatant act of provocation. He was being chased by twelve creatures but he dared to provoke them further!

The layers formed by the darkness were not enough to stop the twelve Beast Kings nor injure them. At the very most, it slowed them down slightly.

Although this was the outcome, the Beast Kings had rammed into the invisible darkness layers like idiots. They could not tolerate such humiliation.

They had to capture him even if they had to run across the entire world. The twelve Beast Kings boiled with rage and they ran faster.

Qin Yu lightly coughed as he rubbed his forehead. He was really good at this; a little play had resulted in such huge reactions from the twelve creatures. He could cause trouble and also solve problems. These beasts had better hurry, the Iron Earth Beetles would not wait much longer.

In the end, Qin Yu was the first to arrive.

The Iron Earth Beetle that Qin Yu had been following made an ear-piercing screech that seemed to release all the anger within its heart! Arrogance. This weird guy was so arrogant. How could he chase the Iron Earth Beetle all the way to its lair?

However, it was time for his arrogance to end. No matter who he was, no matter how strong he was, once he came to the Iron Earth Beetles' lair, he would be finished.

Buzz buzz buzz –

Suddenly, numerous Iron Earth Beetles appeared from the stone cave. It was impossible to keep count of how many there were and the beetles were everywhere.

To be honest, Qin Yu was shocked by what he saw even though he had been mentally prepared. If the aura from the Fantasy Spiders was useless and Stone Pagoda was wrong, he would probably lose his life then.

Without time to think, Qin Yu flipped over his palm and the head of one of the Fantasy Spiders appeared. Qin Yu channeled energy into the Fantasy Spider's head, causing the remaining Fantasy Energy in the bones to gush out. All of a sudden, Fantasy Energy filled the air.

Qin Yu could sense a sudden gasp from the Iron Earth Beetles. They were petrified as they stood rooted to their spots. Fear filled their eyes instantly.

A predator on top of them in the food chain caused fear to fill their souls. There was a crushing silence in the air.

It was effective!

Qin Yu sighed deeply and he gritted his teeth as he stepped forward. The petrified Iron Earth Beetles retreated backward in a wave. They were completely vulnerable before the Fantasy Energy as they stared at Qin Yu with quivering eyes. They parted ways for Qin Yu while he walked through the swarm of beetles.

Bam bam bam –

The explosive sounds grew closer and closer, signifying how near the twelve ancient creatures were. They had sensed Qin Yu's sudden decrease in speed and their first thought was that he had run into trouble.

What a chance...where can this idiot run to?

The sudden change of momentum from the ancient creatures had been felt by Qin Yu. Similarly, the crashing sounds were getting louder. Qin Yu smirked, "Enjoy. I wish you all the best."

Before he turned and left, he purposely left a bit of his aura behind to further infuriate the ancient creatures. Once again, their roars grew louder.

Bang –

A large rock was instantly shattered as the first ancient creature dashed towards him. It was the Mighty Bear King that had been determined to catch Qin Yu and use his blood to wash away its shame. It caught sight of Qin Yu leaving. Qin Yu even waved his arm to bid farewell to it.

This bastard, he must die...The bear's eyes bulged wide from anger and it was just about to roar when it spotted the mass of Iron Earth Beetles around it. It immediately swallowed its roar and its heart jumped in fright.

The other eleven Beast Kings also had a similar reaction when they saw the army of Iron Earth Beetles. Each one of them fell into a state of shock.

They had been tricked!

There was no doubt about that. However, they had no time to feel more enraged and their only thought was – should they run?

Nonsense, of course they should run!

The Mighty Bear King was the first to whip around and flee. Right at that moment, the army of beetles started to screech.

They were being bullied!

As the tyrant of the underground world, the Iron Earth Beetles hated to be taken advantage of because they had strength in numbers. They had always been the ones to prey on others and they were never forced to a corner. However, this time, they had backed away voluntarily and made a path for their enemy to walk through.

This was utter shame and humiliation!

However, the aura from the Fantasy Spider was too terrifying. None of them dared to fight it and hence they directed all their anger from the humiliation at the twelve ancient creatures.

These land creatures actually dared to invade their nest and they must be killed. Otherwise the reputation of the Iron Earth Beetles would be ruined!

Boom!

The swarm of Iron Earth Beetles rushed forward as the ancient creatures ran for their lives. Deafening yowls and roars filled the air.

Qin Yu stopped to listen. He shook his head in disappointment. The twelve ancient creatures did not even dare to fight back, how shameful. After he thought about it again, he realized he was in the same shoes. He had used the Fantasy Spider's head. Hehe...forget it. He should not laugh at others.

Rubbing his chin, Qin Yu smiled in satisfaction at the ugly Fantasy Spider's head in his arms. If he had not stolen these bones previously, he would not have been able to get rid of the twelve ancient creatures this easily.

Good, what a good haul!

He continued grinning and he decided that for his own safety, he ought to walk further away first before putting the Fantasy Spider's head away. It would be a disaster if those narrow-minded Iron Earth Beetles turned for him.

Qin Yu was in high spirits as he left. Unfortunately, as the swarm of Iron Earth Beetles chased after the twelve Beast Kings, a cave that had been sealed away for many years started to move. Cracking sounds appeared as the seal weakened.

Following which, numerous sets of green eyes flew open in the darkness. A few dozen red, ancient Iron Earth Beetles crawled out from the cave. Their noses shifted simultaneously as they surveyed their surroundings. All of a sudden, they screamed and their red shells opened to reveal their wings. Their wings beat the air at lightning speed and they flew towards Qin Yu.

Every species needed to evolve to sustain their own kind. They had to put in the effort to make up for their own shortcomings and survive in this cruel world.

The Iron Earth Beetles were no exception.

For many years, the Iron Earth Beetles had been trying to break through the bad dream state from the Fantasy Spiders' Fantasy World. They had gone through many trials and errors and finally, a mutant species called Anti-hunter Iron Earth Beetles were developed.

They were the biggest-kept secret in the Iron Earth Beetles swarm and would only be released if they faced the Fantasy Spiders. However, the Fantasy Spiders disappeared a long time ago and these Anti-hunter Iron Earth Beetles were slowly forgotten.

Most of these mutant Iron Earth Beetles had already died, but there were a few that survived till this day in hibernation.

Now, with the appearance of the aura from a Fantasy Spider, they could finally wake up again!

.....

Qin Yu was exhausted. He did not know where these crimson red beetles with glowing eyes came from. They were a weird form of the Iron Earth Beetles and they did not fear the aura from the Fantasy Spider. Instead, they had rushed towards him excitedly after he revealed the head of the Fantasy Spider.

Compared to the normal Iron Earth Beetles, they were larger, stronger, and faster. At the same time, their crimson red shell increased their defensive capabilities.

Thankfully, there were only a few dozen of them. If they had the same numbers as the swarm from before, Qin Yu would be frozen from fear.

Despite that, it was very hard to run away from the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles. Not only were they very fast, they had evolved to have wings. As their wings beat, the crimson red beetles flew even faster!

Stone Pagoda was depressed. This was supposed to be a chance for him to solidify his position in Qin Yu's heart. Yet, just as he was about to succeed, this unexpected incident happened.

The Iron Earth Beetles...these guys actually had mutants that were resistant to the Fantasy Spider!

Old Turtle's joy only lasted a moment before he realized that he was not going to benefit if Qin Yu was in danger. If Qin Yu died, Stone Pagoda would fall into a deep slumber in the worst case scenario. However, Old Turtle would perish with Qin Yu.

How could he be happy?

Chapter 1275 – A Root with Control Over Space Rules

“Darn Stone Pagoda. You raised this idea, hurry and think of a way to solve it. If anything happens to Master, I will definitely make sure you are buried with us!” Old Turtle's aura cried.

He was truly panicking.

The Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were terrifying. The blood red robe that Qin Yu wore was somewhat formed from Rule Blaze. However, it was not able to withstand the attacks and it was easily torn apart.

Although the robe could be healed in the blink of an eye, the beetles had strength in numbers. Their onslaught of bites could detonate the Rule System body that was suppressed under the robe.

Furthermore, it was very evident that these Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were becoming stronger as time went on. Their attacks were growing sharper and more decisive. It was as though they were slowly getting used to this world.

On the other hand, while Qin Yu could blast away the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles, their defensive skills were otherworldly and it was impossible to kill them.

Stone Pagoda laughed bitterly, “If I had another idea, I would have acted upon it immediately. The confinement force from this mountain has long since bound both you and me. If we dared to resist it, we would have been crushed...Master, you are on your own this time. Don't engage in battle with these Mutant Iron Earth Beetles. Find a way to get rid of them. Otherwise, it will only be a matter of time before you are dragged down!”

Qin Yu sighed deeply. He did not blame Stone Pagoda. He could not have anticipated the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles. Things changed quickly. Not long ago, he was still rejoicing at his wise choice to bring the Fantasy Spiders' heads.

In the end? The Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were chasing after him. No one could predict what was going to happen in this world!

Qin Yu clenched his fist. Waves of darkness interchanged with one another and gathered in his palm continuously.

The Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were surrounded by the layers of darkness as they circled around each other. The beetles were trapped in the darkness seal.

Bam bam bam –

Hollow sounds came from within the seal of darkness. Sharp knives sliced through thick layers of darkness. It was difficult to stop their advancement.

Qin Yu closed his eyes and grunted, "Light up!" In the next second, thousands of light rays shot out from the deepest portion of the earth that had been shrouded in darkness for numerous years. As the light rays traveled through the air, they instantly tore through anything in their path.

Darkness and light were two sides of a coin and they could interact with each other. Qin Yu had comprehended light, and although he could not reverse Yin and Yang, he could transfer daylight into this place.

The effects of this move exceeded his expectations.

The Iron Earth Beetles lived underground and did not see much light for many years. When bright light shone on them, they grew so weak they were like fragile eggshells. Even the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles had not adapted to survive under light. In an instant, piercing screeches filled the air as the Iron Earth Beetles scrambled to protect their eyes that had turned a bloodshot red color. Their tiny blood vessels expanded and bulged. All of a sudden, they burst with a bang!

Qin Yu had illuminated the dark underground cave and the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles that had been chasing him were blinded. Yet, while the eyes of the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were vital for them, their sense of smell was also sharp. With their sensing abilities, they could still locate Qin Yu. The Mutant Iron Earth Beetles withstood the throbbing pain in their eyes and continued to chase after him.

Qin Yu tried to split up the group of Mutant Iron Earth Beetles by throwing the Fantasy Spiders' bones in different directions. However, the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were locked onto Qin Yu's smell, having been enraged by him. They knew their target and did not fall for his trick.

Qin Yu felt helpless.

The blinded Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were still a trouble for him. Furthermore, he was afraid that these agitated beetles were going mad. He was not overthinking. Instead, he could already feel a different intensity of killing intent from the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles.

Fleeing from the Iron Earth Beetles was a mindless run. Qin Yu had long lost any understanding of where he was, but he did not care about being lost. The problem was that these terrifying beetles lived underground and it was possible that there would be other creatures here. If he met another creature, he would be in deep trouble!

He could not get rid of the beetles nor kill them; Qin Yu frowned deeply and he could only laugh bitterly. Because he had almost been assassinated by the first Iron Earth Beetle previously, he was being extremely careful. He was extra sensitive as he entered the darkness.

As such, when a pair of glowing silver roots appeared in the distance, Qin Yu immediately caught sight of it. To be honest, it was a common sight to see roots underground. After all, roots were always within the ground.

But this was different.

Qin Yu felt his heart clench the moment he caught sight of the silver roots. Fear swept through him quickly and at the same time, he felt a strong sense of disgust. The desire to destroy it drove Qin Yu to take action.

However, his fear suppressed his other thoughts and Qin Yu halted to a stop. He tried to retreat to another crack in the earth, but he was too late. The Mutant Iron Earth Beetles had blocked his way.

While they could not see Qin Yu, their sensitive noses could pinpoint where he was. The Mutant Iron Earth Beetles shrieked as they flew towards him in a frenzy.

They were completely agitated after their eyes were blown apart from the sudden bright light. Once the Iron Earth Beetles closed in on Qin Yu, a powerful shock wave started to form in their bodies.

A flicker passed through Qin Yu's face and he sighed inwardly. These Mutant Iron Earth Beetles wanted to self-destruct themselves and take him along with them. There was no way for him to avoid the explosion, and he could only brace himself for the impact.

Right at that moment, a flash of silver shot past him and a shriek filled the air. Qin Yu's eyes narrowed. The Mutant Iron Earth Beetle that was the leader of the swamp had its body pierced through by a silver-colored root. This root looked extremely familiar.

Thump thump –

Qin Yu's heart beat fiercely against his chest and he gulped. Another flash passed right beside him and his expression grew solemn. What...the root in front of him must have comprehended space rules...It was really possible for a root to comprehend space rules!

The silver-colored root that Qin Yu saw was now taut but the tip of its head was gone. The piercing tip of the root had appeared right in front of an unlucky Mutant Iron Earth Beetle. Without hesitation, the tip of the root directly sliced through the Mutant Iron Earth Beetle's body.

The shrills of the beetle came to an abrupt stop as its body grew limp. Like a balloon that had been poked, it went limp and slowly turned into dust.

However, this was not the end but the beginning of the massacre. The silver root did not stop and it disappeared again. A second Mutant Iron Earth Beetle's body was pierced and it fell dead just like the first one.

After becoming blinded through a plot, the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles that had been chasing Qin Yu relentlessly now became vulnerable victims to the silver root. In an instant, the silver root took out all the beetles in front of it.

Once the last Mutant Iron Earth Beetle had been killed, the silver root appeared slightly brighter than before. There was no other noticeable change. It was as though the Mutant Iron Earth Beetles were an appetizer for it.

This thing had a really good appetite...

Qin Yu quickly withdrew the aura of his sword. After the silver root killed the beetles, it did not return to where it came from. Instead, it surveyed its surroundings carefully to seek out other prey. At this point, the only other prey it had here was Qin Yu.

The silver root floated in the air calmly. Small roots on the side of its body gently swayed from side to side, appearing innocent and harmless. The brilliant silver tint on its roots also made the entire thing seem like a cute, furry tail.

As someone who personally witnessed the silver root kill a few dozen Mutant Iron Earth Beetles in an instant, Qin Yu wanted to slap himself. That terrifying thing could pierce through him in an instant but he had thought that it was cute. He must have gone mad.

It can't find me, it can't find me!

The heavens could not hear Qin Yu's prayer. The silver root suddenly disappeared and Qin Yu froze.

A tiny silver root had appeared behind him and it was slowly wrapping itself around him.

Qin Yu had never been someone who would stay still and do nothing. His first thought was to resist. However, he soon realized he could not move at all.

Just as the silver root was about to bind him, it suddenly jumped alive. A terrifying seal crushed Qin Yu and he could not even move a finger.

A wave of coldness surrounded him. Through his exposed skin, Qin Yu could feel how icy but soft the silver root was as it wrapped around his neck. It was like a venomous snake. No, it was obvious that the silver root was much more terrifying than a venomous snake.

Small silver roots wrapped around Qin Yu's neck and appeared in front of him. The roots intertwined together to form the shape of an eye. Despite the eye being made of just roots, it seemed to be mocking its target.

The roots seemed to speak, "I knew you were here all along. But I just felt it would be fun to let you live a little longer. Do you feel fearful and hopeless now? That's good. That's exactly what I want, the taste that I crave!"

The eye that was formed from roots moved closer to Qin Yu until it was only inches away. Qin Yu could sense the change of intensity in the eye.

This was bad. It was going to kill him!

In the next instant, the silver eye in front of Qin Yu started to slowly disintegrate as the roots moved towards his eyes instead. Only the pupil of the eye was left, as though it wanted to see and enjoy Qin Yu's miserable death.

Chapter 1276 – Meeting Cang Zhu Again

Just as the tip of the root was about to pierce through Qin Yu's eye, the pupil suddenly disintegrated, losing all form of consciousness.

The seal around him disappeared and Qin Yu regained mobility of his body. Without hesitation, he grabbed the silver root and forcefully pushed it away. Then he retreated backward as fast as he could.

After he was out of the crack in the earth, he dashed in another direction. There was no form of hesitation and he moved at lightning speed.

Despite not knowing why the silver root suddenly lost consciousness, there was no disputing that he should run.

Terrifying, that was way too scary!

What was that silver root? Not only did it comprehend space rules, it also had a powerful sealing ability. After Qin Yu had been sealed by the silver root, he could not move at all.

There was silence behind him and he did not hear anything. However, his heart thumped loudly against his chest, beating so fast it threatened to jump out. There was an unsettling feeling in his heart.

This feeling...the best explanation for it was that Qin Yu had not completely escaped from danger yet. It was highly probable that the silver root was still chasing after him.

With this thought, the unsettling feeling grew stronger and Qin Yu's expression turned stiff. He gritted his teeth tightly. This would cause him some harm and increase the burden on the Rule System body. It might even push the Rule System body to the edge of breaking apart again. However, Qin Yu could not worry about this much anymore. If the silver root caught up to him, he would definitely die.

Run!

Thankfully, the road ahead was smooth and he did not run into any other trouble. Otherwise he might really start to cry.

After a long time of winding through the cracks in the earth, the unsettling feeling he had finally disappeared.

Qin Yu's heart gradually calmed down, but he dared not to let his guard down. He continued to run for a while more before he finally stopped to catch his breath.

Ptoey –

Qin Yu used his sleeve to cover his mouth as he spat out fresh blood. The Purpleback Bluewing Ants sucked the blood dry and carefully wiped away the bloodstain on his mouth. Qin Yu stood up straight.

The rocks through the cracks in the earth had transformed dramatically. Darkness from the earth seemed to have stained it and layers upon layers of pure black dyed the rocks.

Qin Yu scanned his surroundings quickly and confirmed his safety. Then he sat on top of a rock to rest.

He only wanted to rest for a short while, and he didn't dare to stay here for too long. He had to hurry. However, he did not know where he was going next!

Sighing deeply, Qin Yu frowned. Out of danger now, he could finally think through his next moves.

He was completely lost. After being chased for so long, he had no idea where he was.

Walk back? Qin Yu looked up and observed the crack in the earth above him, wondering if the silver root was still there. Even if he had completely gotten rid of it, he was not sure he would be able to find his way back through the complicated winding paths in the cracks.

He could not return but could only continue forward through the deepest depths of the earth. Furthermore, he had a vague idea.

Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda had both said that this mountain contained a deep secret. Qin Yu was confident that this secret was within the area and that if he continued to head down, there were things that he could gain.

This determination to head down was not driven by greed after escaping danger. In actuality, Qin Yu had only suppressed the problem of his Rule System body breaking down and he had not completely solved the issue yet. The secret of this mountain could possibly be beneficial for the Rule System body.

While this was only a possibility, it was hope for Qin Yu in such a desperate situation and it helped him to feel a little better.

Let's continue heading down!

.....

The Lost Garden was a small world formed forcefully by ancient creatures. It was considered small compared to the Vast Brightness World.

In actuality, it covered a large area. After so many years, the cultivators who arrived here had only explored the outskirts of the small world.

When 'Zhang Zhongshi' died, he released a divine sense that attracted many cultivators to that area. His plan was very successful and almost every cultivator decided to head deeper into the Lost Garden.

However, there was an issue. The deeper the cultivators went, the more dangerous it was. Soon, they came to the point where they could no longer handle the dangers.

Strong cultivators could continue onward after paying a small price. However, weaker cultivators got injured easily and some even died, becoming some of the ancient creatures' meals.

The road leading to the depths of the Lost Garden was like a huge tsunami that swept across the sand, burying many and frightening away others. In the end, less than twenty percent of the original group of people made it.

Those who managed to make it here either had hidden cards or were extremely powerful.

Elder apprentice brother looked up at the tall mountain before him. He frowned slightly and his eyes were filled with a mixture of surprise and wonder. The mountain gave him an unsettling feeling, and his hunches were always right.

He was in amazement staring at the mountain because it was huge. He had accompanied the Spring Master to many places before and he could not even think of another mountain that could compare to this one in size.

Hm...maybe that clan's living place, the grand peak could compare to this. However, the feeling he had from this mountain was much stronger.

Lei Xiaoyu stood behind elder apprentice brother. Her eyes were narrowed as she scanned her surroundings occasionally. She was both excited and a little nervous. She was very different now compared to when she was with elder apprentice brother before. If Qin Yu saw this, he would definitely scream, 'I knew there was something wrong with Lei Xiaoyu. The Spring Master definitely wants revenge!'

Nine Heads was nearby. Similarly, Nether Ye Xing wore a cold expression as he followed the two.

The Prince of Heavenly Palace stood together with a few other cultivators from Heavenly Palace. He wore a slight frown but did not step forward to greet them.

“Elder apprentice brother. What did you do to Ye Xing? Why is he looking at you like that? And why is the Prince of Heavenly Palace avoiding you too? I’m scared!” Lei Xiaoyu asked in a soft voice.

Elder apprentice brother frowned as he wore a helpless expression. He whispered, “Junior sister, you said you are scared but can you wipe the saliva that is drooping from the corners of your mouth?”

Lei Xiaoyu was taken aback and she exclaimed, “Is it that obvious?”

Elder apprentice brother laughed bitterly, “Don’t act rashly. The Nether Saint looks highly upon Ye Xing. If you do anything to him, you will end up in deep trouble.”

“Will Master be afraid?”

“Of course not...” Elder apprentice brother sucked in a breath of air, “Anyway, don’t attract his attention. At the very most, beat him up. You can not kill him.”

Lei Xiaoyu lowered her head to hide her bored expression. She could not even touch him when he voluntarily sought them out. How boring.

As the two from Peach Garden conversed quietly, the others did not stop. Instead, some were trying to reach agreements among themselves and others were trying to find a way to enter the mountain.

That was right. The reason why everyone was talking to each other outside the mountain despite having risked so much to get there was that they could not enter the mountain.

However, there were a few who were calmer. They reasoned that a strong and mysterious cultivator had lured them here with their divine sense and hence, the cultivator would have made plans for them to enter. Regardless of his motive, it was guaranteed that they would enter the mountain eventually.

Therefore, they only needed to wait!

Only Nine Heads from the Western Mountain had his head slightly lowered. Hidden behind his frown was his worry and helplessness. He was the only one who knew a part of the truth. The consciousness from his master in the Lost Garden was broken and there were no further plans for them.

Waiting here was pretty much useless and there would be nothing gained from this. But what else could he do?

The mountain was right in front of them but they could not enter. Barging in was the simplest and most effective way, but Nine Heads did not dare to do it.

Yes, although his name literally meant that he had nine lives, he was scared and worried now. He did not know what the mountain in front of him hid and he could not even notice any abnormal aura.

However, Nine Heads was afraid and he could not take a step forward. This worry of his was not unique to him but was shared by everyone before the mountain. Even elder apprentice brother was too scared to make the first move.

As such, they could never have imagined that a fellow cultivator had already traveled into the depths of the mountain. They were all just staring at the scary mountain in front of them. But by this point, that cultivator was about to reach the deepest point of this mountain.

However, that cultivator was now in trouble and he had to stop.

It was getting foggy in the cracks of the earth!

This was not some earth that was drenched by the rain nor the outskirts of fields. It was unimaginable that there would be fog so deep into the earth. Qin Yu instantly knew something was amiss.

Regardless, the fog was blocking his way now and if he wanted to continue digging deeper, he needed to force his way through it. Qin Yu had already tried some other methods. He had retreated back and dug another way down but the outcome was the same. No matter how many alternative routes he tried, the route in front of him was blocked by fog.

He had no other choice.

He hesitated for a long while as he stood before the blanket of fog, debating whether he should advance or retreat. In the end, he gave up on returning back to the surface.

This fog did not appear very dangerous and he would give it a shot. After all, he was very close to the deepest point in the mountain!

Gritting his teeth, Qin Yu stepped out and flew through the blanket of fog.

.....

Cang Zhu curled her body as fog surrounded her. Her eyes were wide open and it showed her dissatisfaction and pain.

If she knew that this would be the outcome, she would not have come this way. At least, she would not be buried together with Tan Hai.

Old Ancestor would definitely be able to sense her death and he would come flying here in a rage. Tan Hai's family members would be dragged in too. She knew what her Old Ancestor was like and she knew he did not hesitate to kill.

As such, these people would be dragged down by her.

She was really sorry. She did not want this to happen and she prayed that they would be able to forgive her.

As she wallowed in misery, her eyes filled with pain. However, there was now a flush across her face and her breaths were sharp and urgent, as though she was withstanding some pain.

All of a sudden, Cang Zhu could hear a hushed sound. Her eyes opened wide and fear crossed her face. She desperately struggled to get out of the earth but she was too weak and she failed every time she tried.

Worst still, her movements alerted the other party and the hushed sound grew closer. It was someone's footsteps.

Cang Zhu shut her eyes for a while. Suddenly, she opened them with new determination. She had decided to give her life. There were too many mistakes and this thing could never happen.

Whoosh –

The fog quickly moved aside as a gust blew it away. A figure slowly appeared, the outline of the person becoming clear. Cang Zhu was stunned as she looked at the person with bulging eyes.

It was not Tan Hai. Who was the person in the blood red robe? There was another person here!

The man under the blood red robe coughed lightly and shifted his hood aside. The face of the man that had popped up many times in her mind appeared before Cang Zhu.

Him? It was actually him? How was this possible? Didn't he die in the black tornado previously? Am I hallucinating? I guess I still cannot forget him because my heart longs for him. I can't believe he is in my hallucination even after his death.

Cang Zhu laughed bitterly at herself while Qin Yu frowned. Did this unlucky girl become an idiot from all the demon energy around her?

He originally wanted to clarify some things with her.

After all, the mysterious Cang Zhu had suddenly appeared here in the deepest depths of the mountain. He would not believe it if she said that she had walked over here. There was definitely something wrong.

Hm? What is she doing? She is reaching forward...is she trying to touch my face? Hey! Although you are pretty, you have a slight blush on your face now and your clothing is disheveled. It is very presumptuous but I am a gentleman. Please respect me!

He stepped back and avoided her hand. Qin Yu asked in a deep voice, "Miss Cang Zhu, are you okay?"

He could speak, he was not an illusion...Cang Zhu's hand froze midair and astonishment filled her eyes. As she thought about her actions, she desperately wanted to dig through an earth crack and hide herself from the embarrassment. However, she forgot that she and Qin Yu were the only ones here.

Thankfully, she was not from a small family and she was aware of how she should act. Furthermore, Qin Yu had taken a step back. She took a few breaths to calm herself down. Withdrawing her hand, she explained, "Sorry, the demon energy clouded my judgment. Please forgive me, Brother Qin."

After a brief pause, she continued, "Also, I owe you another apology. Back in the black wind storm, you helped me many times. After what happened, I tried to find you but I did not manage to, and I thought you...thankfully, you are safe and well. I can be at peace."

Qin Yu's expression did not change and he still had his suspicions about Cang Zhu. He took a step back and stared at her, "Let's not bother about the past. If you really want to thank me, please explain to me why you are here."

Chapter 1277 – The Incomplete Crucial Step

Cang Zhu was a very smart lady. As she looked at Qin Yu, she did not hesitate and gave the answer he wanted to hear, "I am here because I am looking for something. Brother Qin, if you want to know, I can tell you."

Ignoring how she paused after saying that, Qin Yu directly said, "Since that is the case then thank you Miss Cang Zhu, please tell me." This was not what Cang Zhu had expected. She was feeling slightly sluggish and suffocated. Looking into his calm eyes, she had no choice but to stop acting aloof.

She took a deep breath and spoke, "I owe you my life and should not ask for anything more. However, in order to save me, Tan Hai has lost his mind from being attacked by demon energy. I have to save him."

Qin Yu frowned, "Losing his mind because of demon energy..." He looked at Cang Zhu and shook his head slowly and determinedly, "I am sorry, I can't save him."

Cang Zhu was desperate, "Brother Qin, you are strong, you can definitely save him. Tan Hai..." Qin Yu cut her off, saying in a deep voice, "Miss Cang Zhu, you and I are also now within the range of demon energy. You know how horrifying it can be. After losing your mind, you will start to attack anyone and everyone. There is no chance of being saved."

Seeing how Cang Zhu refused to give up, Qin Yu thought about it and continued, "I can feel how strong Brother Tan Hai is. If even he is unable to withstand the onslaught from the demon energy, he must be in an area with highly concentrated demon energy. Even if I go in, I cannot guarantee that I will be able to come out sane."

This was the truth. After entering the fog, one would slowly notice that once the concentration of demon energy exceeded a certain limit, it would interfere with one's will and judgement. It could completely engulf one's consciousness. One would then become a puppet controlled by the demon energy.

Qin Yu had once come across a creature that had lost its mind to the demon energy. He also knew how horrifying it can be to be in a place where the demon energy was concentrated. He did not want to risk it. Of course, the other reason as to why he rejected her was not that nice. With the present situation, Cang Zhu did not have any other choice if she wanted to live.

Cang Zhu fell silent as she also understood this. She lowered her head, hiding her expression. Just when Qin Yu believed that she had given up, she suddenly lifted her head and stared straight at him, saying, "I am a descendant of a human and a shell woman. I have the power of my mother's tribe. She was from the East Sea's purest shell women tribe."

Qin Yu frowned slightly. What was this lady trying to say? Is she trying to use her bloodline to pressure me? She can't be that stupid!

"East Sea's shell woman..." Stone Pagoda spoke.

Old Turtle pursed his lips but did not react. He was already numb to it all. If Stone Pagoda wanted to show off, he could do it. They didn't even know if they would be able to survive. What was the point of it all?

Qin Yu asked, "You know something?"

Stone Pagoda coughed lightly, "After living for so long, I ought to know more than others. If this woman is really part of the East Sea's shell women, maybe you should help her."

Stone Pagoda only said half of the story. It was not that he did not want to explain, but he knew Cang Zhu was about to say it. If he said it first, the shock and attraction would not be as great. To be honest, he was hoping Qin Yu would agree.

With Qin Yu's strong will, a little bit of demon energy would not pose much of a problem. He just did not want to take the risk and go through the trouble later on.

Cang Zhu's face was red as she opened her mouth. However, she stared bravely into Qin Yu's eyes and said slowly, "I am also a virgin and the first man I am with can gain the pearl energy within me. It will greatly help with cultivation. But this can only happen if the shell woman is willing. If not, the pearl will break and disappear forever."

Even though Qin Yu remained expressionless, he was actually stunned. He never expected that this was what she was going to say, and this storyline was beyond conventional.

Oh...Cang Zhu was definitely beautiful and she looked exquisite. Now, she was suppressing her embarrassment and staring bravely at him. She was definitely made for seducing others.

Even though Qin Yu did not harbor even the slightest wrong thought, he could not help but be slightly shaken. This was not embarrassing at all because if it were you, you would most likely be shaken as well.

He was being seduced by someone like Cang Zhu, who seemed perfect in all ways. He had to spend quite a bit of effort to hold himself back.

Qin Yu coughed lightly and was prepared to reject her, informing her that he would not give in to temptation for things like this. As for the energy of the pearl, it was not needed. He had absorbed twelve sources of life and two of them were purple.

"Master, you need..." Stone Pagoda spoke in a soft and warm manner, "The pearl within a shell woman has been in them since they were conceived. A huge part of the energy they contain is a pure, high quality source of life. If you want to completely recover from your Rule System body, you need this kind of pure and strong source of life."

Stone Pagoda would not dare to joke about this. That meant what he said was true...I need the pearl...if I need the pearl...I have to agree...the means to get it were straightforward. But this entire thing was too difficult!

Hmm? What am I thinking? Why am I thinking this? Hurry get out of my head!

Qin Yu did not realize that Cang Zhu had already noticed the silence after his cough. It was sufficient for her. He was hesitating because although he had been moved, it was too dangerous.

She bit her lip and said, "I also know a secret regarding the mountain. If this secret is true, it would mean endless opportunities and chances. Brother Qin, if you agree, I will tell you this secret."

Qin Yu's heart jumped. Somehow, when he heard Cang Zhu mention that she knew a secret, he recalled the silver root. It was as if her secret had something to do with it. This had a huge impact on Qin Yu.

“What secret?”

Cang Zhu shook her head, “I can’t tell you now, but as soon as you rescue Tan Hai, I will fulfil my promise!”

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes and spoke indifferently, “I can’t risk my life just based on what you said. You have no evidence. You have to give me some kind of evidence to show that you are not lying to me.”

This bastard. You already accepted my terms but now you are saying you cannot do it based on what I said? What am I to you?

Cang Zhu was slightly annoyed but dared not show it. She only glanced at Qin Yu...this bastard. Although he is quite good-looking...what am I thinking. I should be angry now, angry!

But what he said made sense. If he was going in to save someone...she should give him some confidence.

Attractive and righteous!

Cang Zhu found a reason for Qin Yu. She breathed deeply before taking out a shard, “Brother Qin, I will give this to you first. This has a strong connection to this mountain. You will know after touching it.”

Qin Yu took it and felt a scorching sensation. He looked at Cang Zhu. She had lifted her head slightly. Alas, she wanted to see him get burned. It was a pity that as soon as Qin Yu saw the shard, he already guessed what it was and was mentally prepared.

The shard that Cang Zhu gave Qin Yu was exactly the same as the one he got from Xu Wei. But this shard was slightly bigger.

Qin Yu could not confirm what this shard had to do with the mountain but he had seen its power before. At that time it easily destroyed the puppet of a True Saint. Just one hit had such explosive power!

Just as Qin Yu thought of this, a voice sounded within him, “Is protection needed?”

This voice was too familiar!

He immediately rejected; Qin Yu could deal with this small situation. He could not use this precious shard. Even if he did not know what this shard was and where this voice had come from, this shard was Qin Yu’s greatest card now. It was the strongest guarantee that he would be able to survive in this mountain.

Perhaps to it, killing the True Saint’s puppet was as easy as killing a mosquito. No one knew what this shard represented and the horrifying energy that it contained.

He suppressed the excitement within him. The only thing Qin Yu did not understand was how Cang Zhu ended up in this state if she had this shard. Could she not hear its voice?

It didn’t matter. He was going to keep this thing well. He put it away and looked at Cang Zhu, “Fine, I will help you save him.” Since he took her offering, he would keep his side of the promise. Just this shard was worth the risk.

Moreover, Stone Pagoda was right. Although demon energy was problematic and unable to be avoided, his imperfect Rule System body was still a Rule System body. Along with his strong will, he just had to be careful and there would not be a huge problem.

Cang Zhu cursed him for being shameless. Just a moment ago, asking him to help was like asking him to die. Now, with a few benefits he had agreed. But soon, her face hardened. Since Qin Yu agreed, according to their agreement, it meant that she had to...what if he wanted to do it now? How can I reject? If I reject, what if he gets angry and goes back on his word? Should I just agree?

Thankfully, Qin Yu did not make things difficult for Cang Zhu. As he saw her overcast expression, he simply thought that she was regretting giving away the shard and pretended not to notice. He said, "Just stay here and don't move. Tell me the direction and I will find him."

Cang Zhu lifted her hand. With a swoosh, Qin Yu got moving immediately. Her first thought was that he was going to run after taking her item. But there were still some things that he had not gotten; was he just going to leave?

She wanted to call out to him but he was already gone. Cang Zhu covered her face with her hands as she thought to herself. I am normally smart. Did my brain also get sealed along with my cultivation? How can I always be so stupid when dealing with him.

Speaking of which, Qin Yu was actually very handsome...how can I be thinking of this now? I am hopeless! Just a while back, he was just average!

Now he was gone and didn't leave anything behind. He is not worried about me at all. Is he really gone?

Just as Cang Zhu started to let her thoughts run wild, the sound of something cutting through the wind filled the air. 'Pom', someone was thrown on the ground in front of her. It was Tan Hai. His eyes were bloodshot as he struggled against the restraints.

As he landed near Cang Zhu, it was as if he could sense her aura and he struggled even more. He stared at her and growled in a low voice.

Qin Yu shook his hand and there was a teeth mark that had yet to fade, "Was this guy born in the year of the dog? He actually bit me. If I knew he was going to do it, I would have left him to die."

Was he saying this on purpose? With Tan Hai's current behavior, it was indeed a bit awkward.

Cang Zhu let out a breath and said, "Thank you Brother Qin." After thanking him, she suddenly realized that it barely took him any time to rescue Tan Hai. This included the time he needed to look for Tan Hai. This meant that rescuing him was no big deal to Qin Yu.

Despicable!

It was such an easy thing yet he had forced her to give up everything. This man was evil.

Qin Yu glanced at Cang Zhu, "Why are you glaring at me? I saved him and our agreement is done. If there is nothing else, then goodbye!"

Although nothing happened when he met Cang Zhu this time, he still wanted to put some distance between him and this 'jinx'.

Every man must have thought of playing the hero and saving a lady. However, Qin Yu really did not have any such thoughts. Although it seemed like he was safe for now, this mountain was horrifying and he had experienced it before. He could not be careless.

It was not easy to survive, if he were to bring this 'jinx' and Tan Hai, a crazy burden, he would be seeking his own death.

Qin Yu was quick to turn and leave. Cang Zhu was stunned. As she saw that he was about to leave, she shouted, "No, our deal is not over!"

The fog shifted and Qin Yu could no longer be seen. Cang Zhu bit her lip and looked at Tan Hai, who was struggling. She was hesitant.

Cang Zhu thought about it for a long time and suddenly started crying. She looked at Tan Hai, who had bloodshot eyes and was growling, "Sorry senior, I have no way of saving you. Instead of letting you live like this, I would rather help you end this. Don't worry, I will pay back whatever I owe you in our next life...Senior, this is all my fault. I caused you to become like this..."

Her eyes fell as she grabbed Tan Hai's neck.

The sound of footsteps filled the air, Qin Yu frowned and looked impatient, "What are you looking at? If you don't even have the determination for this, I would not have appeared and let you both die."

When he agreed to Cang Zhu's request, Qin Yu already knew what would happen. He made a bet with himself. If Cang Zhu can do it, I will help her. After all, the shard he got from her was extremely precious and he knew it.

It was okay to feel slightly guilty, but if his guilt was too big, he would be uncomfortable.

He walked over and hit Tan Hai, knocking him unconscious. Qin Yu picked him up with one hand and threw him into one of the cracks. He turned and looked at Cang Zhu, "I have limited abilities and can only take one person with me. If you don't want to follow, you can stay here with him."

Cang Zhu bit his lip and looked at the unconscious Tan Hai. She turned to Qin Yu, "I will come back to bring him out of here."

"Nothing to do with me."

"You are the one who knocked him unconscious..."

"Go back if you don't want to leave!"

Cang Zhu immediately shut her mouth and turned around to look at the fog. She muttered, "Senior, rest assured, I promise that he will come back to save you. Because the crucial last step of our deal is incomplete."

Chapter 1278A – Enthusiastic Hosts

Qin Yu had long ago realized that the demon energy that was concentrated in the cracks was clever. It was able to understand a person's essence. If one was unable to block the attack from the demon energy, then there was nothing left to say. It would completely defeat you and turn you into a mindless puppet.

But if you were able to block it, the demon energy would change its method and appear warm towards you, not putting pressure on you. It would at most add a little interest in your life – for example, digging into your heart for your deepest wish, making you become unknowingly rash and more easily influenced.

Hence, Qin Yu soon realized that bringing Cang Zhu along with him may not be the wisest choice. The sound of her deep breaths and the smell of her had all turned into challenges for him. He had to spend quite a bit of effort suppressing his feelings.

Moreover, the thing that annoyed Qin Yu the most was that as they went deeper, there were no signs of the crack ending and the air became thicker. For the time being, Qin Yu would still be able to hold onto his consciousness. However, Cang Zhu was starting to behave weirdly. Her breathing became more urgent, the hand that was grabbing Qin Yu was drenched in sweat, and her grip on him was subconsciously tightening and loosening repeatedly.

A beautiful face like a flower drenched in sweat could more or less be used to describe Cang Zhu now. It was as if the bones in her body were slowly being removed and her weak body was now half leaning on Qin Yu. This...was really testing his tolerance.

Qin Yu felt his nose itch and hoped that it was not bleeding. If it started bleeding, he would be utterly embarrassed. As he struggled to think of other things to distract himself, Cang Zhu looked up at him, "Brother Qin, I am struggling to stay conscious right now; please don't touch me, otherwise it may destroy the pearl."

To make a proud woman say something as embarrassing and shameful as this meant that she was about to burst. Cang Zhu bit her lips and struggled to maintain an expressionless face. However, she did not know that the way she looked right now, as she struggled to maintain her will, was even more alluring to a man.

Qin Yu cursed and struggled to remain expressionless, "Don't worry, I am not interested in women who have big breasts and long legs."

...Was this a compliment? Despite their current situation, Cang Zhu could not help but feel slightly happy. However, a thought emerged in her head. Since their agreement was not complete, why didn't she take the chance...no, Cang Zhu, you have to be calm. All men are bastards, the easier things are, the more they won't cherish it.

Resist, resist! The more you resist now, the better he will treat you in the future. This is the only way for their relationship to be on the right track. If not, it was obvious what their future was going to be like since they started off in a contract.

"Mmhm," Cang Zhu lowered her head. She was actually quite pleased with Qin Yu's current performance. Although he was slightly crafty and evil, he was not someone who took advantage of others when they were vulnerable. He let things take their natural course.

Four hours later, Cang Zhu had been heavily affected by the demon energy and she was completely pressed onto Qin Yu. She was like a snake, moving and rubbing against him. Her eyes were half closed as she exhaled through her mouth. Her breath was fragrant.

This...was simply too hard to resist!

Qin Yu could sense the shame and embarrassment she felt and how she struggled to keep a clear mind. However, it was not enough to suppress the urge in her.

Cang Zhu knew very clearly that if Qin Yu were to do something now, both her mind and her body would not be able to resist. As much as she would not like to admit, a small part of her was even looking forward to it.

This was too shameful! Will he notice this and take action? Should I pretend not to react or follow his lead? Will this be uncomfortable? Every time I asked my sisters back in the tribe, they all had weird expressions.

Qin Yu closed and then opened his eyes. He suddenly reached out and touched Cang Zhu's pink neck. When he touched her, Cang Zhu let out an "Mmhhh," sound...

But it only went to here. He then grabbed her and extended his hand as if he was catching a naughty rabbit. She was floating in mid-air.

"If you can't keep conscious then go to sleep. It will help your body." Hearing this was like a slap to Cang Zhu and the dark thoughts in her mind immediately fell silent.

Finally, silence!

Qin Yu let out a long breath and gritted his teeth. It was definitely a mistake to bring this woman with him. It was not like there was no way to fix this. He could just leave her behind to fend for herself. But doing this kind of unfaithful thing was too tasteless for him. Moreover, Cang Zhu had yet to tell Qin Yu the secret.

Cang Zhu did not forget about it, she was smart. She knew that the secret was the biggest guarantee for her safety. Qin Yu understood this and had initially wanted to find a chance to get her to talk. But who would have known that this woman would not be able to resist against the lure of the demon energy. She had almost...brought him down as well!

Taking a deep breath, Qin Yu felt that with his personal experience, he should say something on behalf of men. Sometimes when they made mistakes, they should not be the ones to carry all the blame; the little goblins outside were really too attractive and as soon as they didn't pay attention, they would go down the wrong path. Luckily, I am stable!

Ohhh —

He glanced at Cang Zhu and saw how her clothes were disheveled. The feeling of how soft she was when she rubbed against him filled his mind. Qin Yu's heartbeat sped up...no, get rid of it...did you ask me why I am looking up? I just want to investigate the direction of cracks in the ceiling. Can't I do that? Why am I covering my nose? Hehe, in such a deep crack, the air is stale and I cannot stand it. Can't I do that? You really care about many things!

Finally, he managed to stabilize his emotions. Qin Yu thought for a moment and then rummaged through his treasure storage. He found a few pieces of clothing and threw them over Cang Zhu. He put many layers on her and even wrapped her entire head, leaving only a small hole for her to breathe.

This was much better.

He was not guilty as he was merely fulfilling the promise he made to her. On the other hand, this woman was too fickle. A while back she was telling him not to touch her, and in the next moment she was almost throwing herself at him.

Hehe, women cannot be trusted!

He reached out to carry her and was satisfied with how it felt. Qin Yu nodded as he carried her like he was carrying a huge birdcage and walked deeper in.

They had already gone so deep in they should have reached their destination. Did it really want him to spend the new year here? As if it had sensed the ridicule within Qin Yu, half a day later, a huge cave appeared in front of him.

It was very sudden. Just a moment ago, it was completely filled with dense fog. It was so dense that you would not be able to see your fingertips if you extended your hands out in front of you. But in a single step, it was as if he stepped into a separate 'new world' without any warning.

The mountain was big and all the caves in the mountain were big as well. It was simple logic.

But the truth was it was really really really very big. It was so big it resembled a limitless plain within a mountain. The demon energy fog was gone and the air was crisp and clear. Light shone down and there were large green trees as well as an endless meadow. There were all sorts of living things.

Qin Yu even saw some farmers in the field and at this moment he was staring at them.

There were no accidents or clashes. All the living creatures here were friendly and living harmoniously. They were also extremely enthusiastic. After their initial shock when they saw Qin Yu carrying an unconscious lady, they were extremely warm and greeted them with smiles.

Chapter 1278B – Enthusiastic Hosts

The village head warmly invited Qin Yu to be a guest at his house. His wife was an attractive middle-aged woman and they had three beautiful daughters. Although they were all wearing dull and rough clothes, it was hard to cover their beauty. They had huge eyes with long eyelashes and as they looked around, they were extremely attractive.

As they served food and wine, they snuck glances at Qin Yu. They would then blush and run back in without saying anything. That youthful energy and their soft and full lips were extremely alluring.

The village head was filled with smiles, "These girls are from the village and don't know better manners. Please don't mind them." He then hesitated for a bit before pointing at the cloth sack beside Qin Yu's leg. "If you don't mind, you can let this guest out as well. My wife and daughters can help her wash up before eating."

Qin Yu was observing him slowly and he could not find any hidden motives. The village head was completely sincere. But of course, he did not agree. It was painfully obvious that there was something wrong with this place.

“Cough! My sister’s body is not great and she cannot be exposed to too much light. It is fine to leave her in there.”

“Oh, if that is the case then pardon me for talking too much. Please help yourself, these are just some simple dishes from the village. I hope you don’t mind them.” The village head smiled brightly.

Qin Yu silently muttered to himself. With his current condition now, it was most likely that he would not be poisoned. He then agreed and picked up his chopsticks.

A cultivator’s body would not be affected by the alcohol even after eating and drinking for a long time, but the village head’s complexion was already red and he was starting to drift off. Seeing this, Qin Yu smiled slightly and made him drink another cup. He said, “Village head, why is this village located here? Is there no connection to the outside world?”

The village head hiccuped before looking apologetic as he spoke, “Our village has been living here for many years and no one has gone out for a long time. This is a rule of the village. In the past, we had some descendants who believed they were tough and disregarded our warning not to leave. In the end, they never returned.”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed, “Village head, to tell you the truth, me and my sister ran away from home in order to find a powerful teacher to learn from. We don’t know how we ended up here. Village head, do you know an expert?”

The village head waved his hands, “What expert? Here, we only have people skilled in specific trades. You must not believe rumors. This time, the two of you were lucky enough to make it here from the outside world. But you must not dare to try and go out. Just stay in our village. As long as we work hard, we have enough to survive.”

When he was speaking, he was still somewhat awake. However, as soon as he finished, he fell onto the table and started snoring.

It was obvious that his wife knew her husband’s alcohol tolerance very well. Or maybe, she had been waiting outside all along. As soon as she heard the sound, she walked in apologetically, “My apologies, he is already so old but keeps on thinking he can drink like he used to...let me bring him back first. Please wait here for a moment, I will return and arrange a place for you and your female guest.”

She bent down to help the drunk village head. Her shirt rode up and exposed her round, soft and white waist. It happened so quickly but left a long impression on Qin Yu. She got up and smiled apologetically at him before helping her drunk husband out.

Alas, it was very fast. In a few moments, she was back. It seemed like she had spent quite some effort as her face was slightly blushing, “Did you eat well?”

As she saw Qin Yu nod, she smiled in satisfaction, “I have prepared the items for you to wash up; please follow me. This is where you two can stay.”

The village head’s house was big. Although it was not extravagantly decorated, it made people feel comfortable and everything felt as if that was the way it should be.

As they pushed open the door to the eastern house, it revealed a place with a living room and a bedroom. Behind the bamboo screen, there was hot air rising. It looked like someone had prepared hot water for their bath.

The woman smiled, "The female guest is still sleeping. Why don't you wash up first and let her continue resting on the bed."

Qin Yu thought about it and replied, "Okay." He unravelled the clothes and placed Cang Zhu on the bed. He wanted to find out what exactly was going on. Maybe if he used her as bait, he could find something out.

The woman breathed in and her face was slightly red as she said, "Dear guest, please follow me to wash up."

Qin Yu looked at her and nodded.

Now, he was doing as she said to see what they were up to.

After taking off his belt and outer clothes, he was left with his inner white clothes. He stepped into the bath tub. "This is fine."

The woman made a sound of agreement and started to pour water on him. Her face was still blushing. Just as he thought there was nothing more to this, the sound of a belt being taken off could be heard. Qin Yu looked back and immediately turned back around. What was going on? This scene was progressing too quickly!

Ah!

"Wait, what are you doing?"

"Ah?" The lady of the house was stunned as she muttered, "I am coming in to help you wash up..."

She spoke in a way as if this was to be expected and she looked slightly puzzled, as if wondering why he was asking this. She almost made Qin Yu feel like he was the one who was not normal.

There was no way this could continue. Just as Qin Yu was wondering whether to push her away, the lady of the house put her clothes back on and looked slightly bitter. She looked at Qin Yu and spoke softly, "I am old and broken. I do not deserve to serve such an honorable guest like yourself. Let me call my three daughters over; although they are not so skilled, they are somewhat pretty."

Qin Yu thought, if she described her daughters only as somewhat pretty, he wondered what her definition of beauty was. He heard movement from outside and waved his hand, "No need, we don't have this kind of practice at home. You can go."

The woman turned to leave.

Qin Yu got out of the tub and with just a thought, his clothes dried and his long robe appeared. He then walked out.

"If you are awake then get up; you are so bad at pretending to be asleep."

Cang Zhu opened her eyes and looked at him as she spoke, "I was afraid that if I said something, I would ruin your beautiful moment."

Qin Yu lifted his hand to massage his eyebrows, "Stop talking nonsense. Let me tell you what is going on right now."

After Cang Zhu heard what he had to say, she looked serious as she said, "There must be something going on!"

Qin Yu was speechless. As if he needed her to confirm that. Even my knee can tell you that there is something going on. He immediately gave up on Cang Zhu, what insightful opinions would she be able to give anyway.

At least until now, Qin Yu had yet to find anything amiss. Other than the scare the lady of the house gave him when she took off her belt. The whole thing could even be said to be the perfect example of how hosting guests should look like.

The lack of problems was the biggest problem. Qin Yu thought this whole village was strange. Maybe he should go out to look around. That's right, Qin Yu got up, "I am going out for a walk, do you want to come?"

Cang Zhu immediately nodded.

He greeted the lady of the house in the garden and brought Cang Zhu out, under the bitter gazes of the three daughters.

As soon as they stepped out of the gate, Cang Zhu spoke, "They are very pretty. Brother Qin, are you sure you are not moved?"

Qin Yu could not be bothered to answer. They didn't even know what situation they were in, how could he be moved?

Moreover, this woman seemed to be underestimating him. I was able to hold back even when you threw yourself at me. Why would I care about these three ladies?

Hmm...he could not say this. Women were strange. It was best if you praised them occasionally, but praising them too often would lose all effect.

Chapter 1279 – Losing All Cultivation

The village was not big and in a short time, Qin Yu and Cang Zhu had walked around the entirety of it. Everyone they met had been friendly and answered their questions openly, but all the answers were more or less the same.

In summary, it was because of something that happened many years back. It was something incredibly shocking. In order to hide, their founding ancestors moved to this place and set an order to restrict all their descendants from leaving this village. This allowed the village to continue to exist.

Other than that, the entire village seemed ordinary and there was nothing unusual. Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda gave similar answers.

This was even more scary. Even though they knew something was off, everything looked normal. It seemed like they had no choice other than to pick a fight.

To be honest, this was not the first time this thought had come up in Qin Yu's mind. But he felt uneasy just thinking about it. It was as if something very frightening would happen.

Upon asking Cang Zhu, she said that she had a similar feeling, and this made a chill run down Qin Yu's back. They did not dare to act rashly. He could not help but think that these people had ancestors that lived in the ancient era. Back then, when they realized that there were abnormalities in the ancient creatures, they did this to protect their descendants.

But if this was the case then why was everyone here just regular people? Why did they not have the power of cultivators?

Giving the excuse of not feeling well, Qin Yu and Cang Zhu thanked the lady of the house for her invitation to dinner and went back to their room. They made their decision – tomorrow, they would take their leave with the excuse of going home. They were going to leave this strange village in the cave.

Perhaps because they had made up their mind, they felt their worries lift and were extremely exhausted. Cang Zhu was the first to enter into dreamworld. Qin Yu resisted for a while before giving in to the wave of exhaustion that was overcoming him. Closing his eyes, he fell asleep on the table.

After a dreamless night, it was as if all the stress they were carrying left their bodies. When they woke up they felt exceptionally relaxed.

Qin Yu opened his eyes and his gaze fell on Cang Zhu, who was still sleeping. Nothing happened throughout the night. But why were they not alarmed at all and could even sleep so well?

Something was definitely not right. Qin Yu took a deep breath and went to wake Cang Zhu. Regardless of what this place was, they could not stay any longer. They had to leave.

But as Qin Yu stood up, his expression changed. Perhaps it was because he had slept on the table, but both his legs were extremely numb. He managed to grab onto the table as he stumbled and stopped himself from falling to the ground. The commotion woke Cang Zhu and she turned to ask him what happened.

At this moment, Qin Yu could not answer her question. His eyes widened in disbelief.

It was normal for someone's legs to become numb after sleeping on a table all night. But this only happened to normal people. This should have no impact on a cultivator.

But this happened to Qin Yu. His first thought was that things were not good. He quickly assessed his internal body condition and froze.

At this very moment, Qin Yu realized that he had become a normal person. All his power was completely gone. He could no longer feel the divine sense that he could usually activate easily.

Was he hallucinating or was he still in dreamland? His heart started pounding in his chest. Fear and unease overcame Qin Yu.

Just a day ago, he was an extremely powerful cultivator that could do a lot of things on a whim. After a night's rest, all his powers were stripped off him. He was like a cleaned whiteboard. How could anyone accept this?

After losing the powers that he counted on, fear and helplessness filled him. It was extremely difficult for Qin Yu to calm down and think, but he managed it.

"Brother Qin, what happened?" Cang Zhu asked carefully.

Qin Yu's expression was so dark it looked like he was about to swallow a person. It was so apparent; she must have been blind to be able to miss it.

Her voice jolted him and he refocused. He ignored the fact that his legs were hurting from the numbness and quickly walked to the bed and grabbed Cang Zhu, "Is your cultivation still there?"

Cang Zhu had been startled, she thought that Qin Yu was going to pounce on her. After a moment of disappointment, her face changed to neutral before turning pale.

Looking at her, there was no need to ask further. Qin Yu lifted his hand to massage his head. He was not able to understand what was going on.

Cang Zhu was about to cry as her voice trembled, "Brother Qin?" She looked carefully out of the window.

Qin Yu understood what she meant to tell him. After he had calmed down, he had already thought of this – how would the people in the village treat them after they lost their powers overnight?

At this moment, there was a knock on their door. The warm voice of the lady of the house floated in, "Dear guests, are you both awake? It is time for breakfast."

Whether it was fortune or misfortune, they would not be able to hide!

Qin Yu took a deep breath and turned to open the door. Cang Zhu held him back and shook her head.

"We have to face it sooner or later." He pulled Cang Zhu's hand off and walked to the door. He paused for a while before opening it.

On the other side of the door, the village head's wife seemed to be shocked by his serious expression, "Sorry, I must have disturbed you from your rest. If it is not convenient now, you can have your breakfast later."

It seemed like nothing had changed.

Qin Yu felt slightly relieved but he did not dare to be careless. He forced a smile, "No, it is okay. I didn't rest well last night. Please go ahead, we will follow shortly."

After the woman left, Qin Yu walked back quickly, "Pretend that nothing has happened, let's see what happens. Maybe things are not as bad as we think."

Qin Yu was right. When he brought Cang Zhu to the dining table, the village head immediately apologized to them for drinking too much the previous night and embarrassing himself. He was still smiling.

His three daughters were eating with their heads bowed, occasionally sneaking a glance at Qin Yu before lowering their heads once again. Their white and soft ears had a tinge of red. Soon they said they were full, and after bidding farewell to Qin Yu and Cang Zhu, they picked up their farming equipment and rushed out of the house.

After the meal, the village head said that he had to go and work in the fields and asked the two of them to rest in the house. He then packed up and left.

Soon, only the attractive middle-aged woman was left. She started to tidy the inside and outside of the house. Sitting in the garden, both Qin Yu and Cang Zhu let out a sigh of relief.

Maybe it was really not that big of a deal. It seemed like the village head and his family did not notice that the two of them had lost their cultivation.

So, what should they do next?

Cang Zhu looked at Qin Yu. As a woman who had lost her powers, she felt incredibly vulnerable and looked to Qin Yu as her only support.

Qin Yu was in no mood to bask in the feeling of being counted on by a woman. He continued to try and connect with Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda.

In the end, he got nothing.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Yu got up, "I have to try and see if we can leave here."

Cang Zhu shouted, "I'll go with you!" She did not want to be left behind.

Qin Yu nodded without saying anything. Walking one behind the other, they left the house. There was an old man sunbathing outside. Seeing new faces, he smiled and greeted them.

Nodding in greeting, Qin Yu turned to walk away from the village. The air was fresh and the fields were beautiful. There was no sun above them but light still shone. Butterflies were flying around and rabbits hopped out of their burrows with their ears upright. They looked at Qin Yu in alarm before turning and disappearing into the meadows.

This whole scenery was tranquil. It had been a long time since Qin Yu felt this kind of peace. But at this moment, he did not have time to think about this. He continued on his way.

Hooo –

Hooo –

His heart sped up and his breathing became more rapid. Both his legs felt tired...this was something he had not felt in a long time. Qin Yu chuckled bitterly. He never thought that a day would come when he would feel the exhaustion that normal people felt again.

The village was in a cave and if they wanted to leave, they had to climb a hill. It was easy when they were coming down, but going out was so much more difficult.

The fields were scattered and cut into sections of the hill that were flat. The farmers who were working hard all stopped what they were doing and greeted Qin Yu and Cang Zhu happily whenever they walked past.

No one asked them where they were going and nothing out of the ordinary happened to stop them from leaving. It looked as if there were no restrictions to this place. They could come and go without a problem.

Qin Yu felt like he could continue a while more but the footsteps of Cang Zhu, who was behind him, started to soften. He looked back only to see that she was quite far away from him. Her face was pale and her hair was drenched in sweat and stuck to her forehead. She gritted her teeth and did not complain.

Qin Yu looked up to see that they had only completed half the journey and had another half to go. He found a stone to sit and rest.

Cang Zhu walked over and leaned on the stone without saying another word. "Heave, ho, heave, ho," she panted. On one hand, she was strong, on the other hand, she was afraid that Qin Yu would abandon her if he got irritated.

In their current situation, who would be able to care about others?

Qin Yu could sense it but did not care to say anything. He closed his eyes slightly to rest.

After a short while, he opened his eyes, "Let's go."

Cang Zhu was not done resting but she did not say anything. She clenched her teeth and nodded.

As they continued to climb, the wind became stronger and dried out her sweat-drenched hair. It was a refreshing feeling. But at this moment, Qin Yu suddenly stopped. Along with the wind, there was a scent.

Despite having his powers wiped out, he still had some of his innate abilities.

For example, Qin Yu had stronger five senses than most people and they allowed him to detect the smell in the wind as well as the lighter footsteps.

As if realizing that their prey had noticed them, the grass was pulled apart and two wolves appeared.

Looking at their bodies, it was likely that one was male and one was female. Their green eyes fell on Qin Yu and Cang Zhu. Saliva dripped from their tongues and onto the ground. They looked cold and cruel.

Without hesitating, they let out a low growl and the two wolves attacked. They coordinated very well as the male wolf attacked Qin Yu, opening his mouth to reveal sharp, razor-like teeth, glistening from the light.

Chapter 1280A – So I am Qin Yu

With brilliant archery skills, the village head shot two arrows which sliced the wind and pierced the eyes of the two wolves. Their miserable cries filled the air as they died.

Other than suffering a bite on her arm, Cang Zhu was doing okay as she hid behind Qin Yu. On the other hand, Qin Yu's robe was drenched in blood.

I almost died because of two wolves...Qin Yu's heart clenched as he fainted into Cang Zhu's arms.

When he woke up, three days had passed. The village head told Qin Yu that he was brave for bringing his fiancée to the mountains to play just before they were going to get married. Luckily, the village head was passing by, if not, they would have been eaten by the wolves.

Cang Zhu cried tears of joy as she repeatedly thanked the village head. She then looked at Qin Yu worriedly, as if afraid that he would faint again.

Maybe it was because he had been running a high fever for the past three days, but when Qin Yu woke up today, his head hurt and felt like it was filled with paste. Everything in front of him looked blurry and he felt like puking.

The village head stood up, "He is awake now and there shouldn't be a problem. However, he will need to rest to recover. Luck was shining down on you. Don't try to fool around anymore. After you recover, we will arrange for the both of you to get married and tame your wild side."

Although his head was pounding, Qin Yu heard this very clearly and his eyes flashed. Memories flashed through his head all at once and he fainted once more.

.....

My name is Zhao Quanfu and I am an orphan. When I was young, my parents died in an accident and the elders in the village brought me up. I have a fiancée called Ah Zhu. She is an orphan like me. The people in the village brought us together.

I am happy because I finally have a family and don't have to be alone.

Before our marriage, maybe because I was too excited, I did something stupid. I brought Ah Zhu into the hills to play. I wanted to pluck some wild flowers for her for our wedding.

We ran into wild wolves, but thankfully the village head saved us. I behaved as a man should and protected Ah Zhu with my life. This made those that were initially unhappy that Ah Zhu was marrying a scoundrel like me shut up. It was a pleasant surprise.

Of course, what I am most happy about is that I have finally recovered and we have set our marriage date! Although I have a scar on my face, Ah Zhu said that this is the image of a brave man. Every time she looks at the scar, she will remember how I looked as I protected her.

Ah Zhu is a wonderful woman. I promise to forever treat her well.

But...one thing I don't understand is that since I woke up, I often have dreams at night. However, when I wake up in the morning, I can never remember what I dreamt of.

.....

Their marriage was simple as the both of them were orphans. The village head was voted by everyone to take the place of the elder and accept a bow from the newlyweds. He was smiling so happily at them and said that their parents were smiling at them from wherever they were.

On their wedding night, Zhao Quanfu dreamt again. As he dreamt, he gritted his teeth and clenched his fists. His whole body trembled as he broke out in a sweat.

“Ahh!”

He shouted and sat up abruptly. Ah Zhu was awoken by him and immediately hugged him to comfort him, “Brother Quan, it's just a dream. Don't worry.”

Zhao Quanfu panted as he slowly calmed down in his wife's embrace. However, his eyes were filled with alarm.

“Qin Yu? Who is Qin Yu? Why must I remember this name? And who was the woman in my dream?”

Although it was still a blur, this was something more.

In a blink of an eye, three months had passed. The newly built house was peaceful and everyone in the village praised them for being so loving.

Zhao Quanfu was hardworking and good at farming and hunting. Ah Zhu was nimble and her embroidery was recognized by all the women in the village. Their days were filled with signs of prosperity.

But every night, Zhao Quanfu was awoken by his dreams. Ah Zhu tried her best to console him but it was of no use.

Once again, Zhao Quanfu awoke in the middle of the night. Lying on the bed, one hand grabbed his head while the other hit his chest.

When he was finally awake, he told his wife the truth. There was always a voice in his dream calling the name ‘Qin Yu’. There was also a woman that he had never seen before who kept appearing in his dreams.

He grabbed onto Ah Zhu's hands and looked anxious, “Ah Zhu, I swear that I have never done anything to let you down. I have no impression of this name and this woman at all. But I don't know why, the voice that calls out in my dreams as well as the shape of this woman is starting to become blurry. I feel extremely uncomfortable, as if my chest is about to split open.”

Ah Zhu hugged him and tried her best to fill her gaze with tenderness, “I believe you, of course I believe you...Brother Quan, if forgetting this name and this woman makes you feel horrible then try and prevent yourself from forgetting. Maybe it can help you get rid of the nightmares.”

When they woke up the next day, Zhao Quanfu, who had always been hardworking, did not take his farming tools and set off to work as he had always done. Instead, he went to the village head, Old Wang's house. He asked to learn carpentry.

From that day, Zhao Quanfu became the second person in the village to know how to carve. He was serious in his studies and improved quickly. When Old Wang passed away two years later, he smiled and told Zhao Quanfu that he was as good as him and could become a master now.

After finishing his duties in the fields and returning to eat dinner with Ah Zhu, as the sky had not yet turned dark, Zhao Quanfu placed his chopsticks down and headed into the back garden.

Behind him, as Ah Zhu watched him work, a torn look filled her eyes before she smiled and shook her head. Goodness. How could she be jealous of a statue. Thankfully, she did not show it in front of Brother Quan, otherwise it would make things difficult for him.

If he wanted to carve, he could. After all, that person in his imagination would not appear here in this isolated and deep village in the mountains. She would treat it as a remedy for him to clear his mind.

At this moment, Zhao Quanfu was holding onto a piece of wood as he sat in front of a table. He thought for a while before taking action.

His carving tools were given to him by Old Wang. Even though they had been used for many years, they were still highly effective in Zhao Quanfu's hands. As he moved, pieces of wood and shavings fell to the ground. Very soon, a woman's face appeared.

Although it was still rough and the features were not yet distinct, the face brought about a magnificent feeling.

As time passed, the statue in Zhao Quanfu's hands became about as big as a hand and was of a very realistic beauty.

The corners of her mouth were tilted up as her plump lips brought out a warm smile. Along with her carefully carved dark eyes, it made it look as if she was smiling at you.

Zhao Quanfu was stunned for a moment before he took a deep breath and closed his eyes. When he was finally calm, he then turned and opened the door to the new wooden room in their back garden.

At this moment, the light was coming from the west and starting to fade. Numerous statues were sitting on the wooden shelves in the room. The shelves were now half-filled. Putting the piece he was holding onto a shelf, Zhao Quanfu spoke softly, "Qin Yu, is this your name? Although I don't know why I can hear your voice, you most likely want me to help you to remember this woman.

"Don't worry, I make a statue every day. Even if my memory is foggy on the second day, as soon as I close my eyes, I can make a statue identical to her. In this manner, I will never forget her. So, if this is your goal, you have already achieved it. Can you stop bothering me?"

That night, the nightmare that had been constantly bothering Zhao Quanfu finally disappeared.

It was from that day that Ah Zhu no longer wanted Zhao Quanfu to stop carving.

In a blink of an eye, the two had been married for ten years.

Their days were getting better. After the village head passed away, there were some people who even suggested that Zhao Quanfu take over. However, he rejected. But this seemingly perfect family also made the elders in the village sigh. Because after so long, they still did not have any children.

Some said that ultimately, Zhao Quanfu could not have a family. After the two of them passed away, their bloodline would end and it was the fate of their household.

Ah Zhu cried at night and the next day, Zhao Quanfu went to confront those that said it, which was something he hardly ever did. After that, no one brought this up ever again.

Chapter 1280B – So I am Qin Yu

Another five years passed.

Ah Zhu said that she was willing to divorce. With Zhao Quanfu's reputation, there would be other ladies willing to marry him and give him children.

It was the first time that Zhao Quanfu got angry and said that she was the only woman for him and there would never be another.

Ah Zhu was so touched that she cried in his arms. Zhao Quanfu had always been honest and kind, but at that moment, his body froze and guilt filled his eyes. He felt as if he had lied to his wife even if he had never done anything wrong to her.

But...perhaps he had really fallen slightly in love with the statues he carved. There were times when he stayed in that wooden room, which had now expanded, and did not want to leave.

But eventually, he resisted.

Zhao Quanfu tried to stop carving. But it was as if this was something imprinted in his bones; he found that he could not stop.

Ten years, ten years, another ten years.

A few batches of elderly people in the village had gone. Looking at his reflection in a washbasin, Zhao Quanfu found that he had turned into someone with white hair and wrinkles all over.

The children in the village all enjoyed being with this old couple. Not only because the old granny made delicious sweets, but also because the small animals carved by Grandpa Fu delighted them.

"Grandpa Fu! Grandpa Fu!"

"Granny! Granny!"

After school, a bunch of monkeys dashed into their yards. They were startled by what they saw and fell silent. It was because today, many parents and grandparents were gathered in their yard.

Hearing the commotion, Zhao Quanfu came out of his house. He handed the sweets to the children as his voice trembled, "Granny is sick, I don't have time to make toys for you today. I will do so in a few days."

Two days later, it was in the middle of the night when the granny's illness took a turn for the worse. The only physician in the village looked extremely guilty as he clasped his hands together, "Old mister, old miss does not have much time left."

He was one generation younger than them and had gotten sweets and wooden play toys from them in the past. Towards this childless couple, who still treated everyone kindly and loved all of them, he was filled with utter respect.

Zhao Quanfu fell silent for a while before speaking softly, "It's alright. In the past she always said that she would not pass on later. She never told anyone, but she is actually someone who is afraid of the dark. Back when we first married, I always startled her in the middle of the night, she must have suffered quite a few shocks..." As he said this, his voice started to tremble.

He controlled his emotions as he cupped his hands respectfully to the people in the room, "We don't have any children and I am afraid that I will have to ask for your help tomorrow. Before she passes on, I have a few things that I want to say to her alone. Please wait outside."

Everyone got up and nodded, leaving silently. Zhao Quanfu moved to the bedside as he held his partner's hand, "You always said that you were afraid of us being lonely when we grew old and worried about what would happen if we fell sick or had an accident. Now, there is no need to worry. You are leaving so early and will suffer a lot less. Moreover, I am here to send you off. There is nothing to be afraid of."

As if she could hear his voice, the granny opened her eyes after a few seconds, "I was not afraid of myself but worried for you. Today, you are sending me off, but who will send you off?" As she said this, tears rolled down from her eyes.

Zhao Quanfu smiles, "I am still healthy and will live for many more years. I will think about this in the future. Don't worry about it."

The granny's face started to redden, and seeing this, his eyes reddened as well.

"Don't cry..."

"I am not crying; my eyes are just tired from staying up. Everyone will experience this. You are leaving first, but I will reunite with you very soon." Zhao Quanfu hesitated before speaking softly, "There is something that I have felt guilty about for my entire life; if I don't tell you, I will not be able to be at peace."

Looking into the granny's eyes he said, "A long time ago, I started to like the statues I carved. Although they are just statues, it still felt wrong. I was afraid that you would not let me continue to make them and never dared to tell you. Will you forgive me?"

The granny nodded, "I knew it a long time ago. The way you look at your statues is obvious...but she is just a statue, and I am the one who stayed beside you for your life. I am magnanimous and will not fight with her for your heart..."

Zhao Quanfu trembled as fear and shame filled his eyes. He did not know that the deepest secret that he had been hiding had already been known a long time ago.

"Ah Zhu, I have wronged you, I..."

The granny smiled, "I said I won't blame you. I don't regret being able to spend my life with you...it's just that I am slightly regretful about not being able to know who this woman is..."

"Old man, my time is up, don't be upset and take care of yourself."

The granny passed on. Although there were tears in the corners of her eyes, she looked serene.

Zhao Quanfu held her hand until the sky lit up. He then walked out and requested help with handling the funeral.

After that, his days alone were dull. Thankfully the children from the village would occasionally come to ask him for toys, and this helped Zhao Quanfu to adjust.

He no longer needed to farm or hunt. The villagers were willing to serve him as he grew old. Zhao Quanfu could finally stay in the wooden room all day and accompany his statues.

“When Ah Zhu died, she said she had some regrets. Even I feel regretful. Who are you? Where are you? In this life, I think I will never get a chance to meet you. Actually, I don’t have anything I want, I just want to ask you who exactly is Qin Yu?”

The wooden room had expanded even more throughout the years and now occupied almost the entire back garden. All that was left was an old man murmuring to himself.

Finally, there was someone in the village who was willing to learn to be a craftsman. He was an eight-year-old boy called Mu Sheng. He kowtowed respectfully to Zhao Quanfu.

It was like Mu Sheng was born to learn the craft. He learned extremely fast and was skilled in the craft after just two months. Zhao Quanfu handed over the wooden tools next to him. However, the enormous wooden room in his backyard was out of bounds to Mu Sheng.

Children were often curious and mischievous. After resisting for very long, Mu Sheng found an opportunity to enter the wooden room. He saw numerous statues of the same woman, and they were all extremely beautiful.

Because of this, Zhao Quanfu grew furious at him and slapped him. But even though he was crying because of the pain, Mu Sheng still wiped his eyes and looked up to ask, “Grandpa Fu, who is this beautiful woman?”

This question made Mu Sheng suffer a few more hits before he was chased out. Zhao Quanfu looked around the wooden room.

Even he did not know the answer to that question.

Mu Sheng was very obedient and did not tell anyone about the statues. It became a secret between them.

Spring came and autumn passed. Another three years passed.

This year’s winter was extremely cold. Zhao Quanfu coughed as he looked at the snow falling outside. He suddenly had a realization: his days were coming to an end.

He was not afraid, nor was he indignant. In his heart, there was even an unexplainable release.

The sound of someone walking through the snow could be heard. Mu Sheng appeared at his door. “Grandpa Fu, I am here with food for you. The dumplings my mother made are very delicious and they were just cooked. I rushed over for you. You should eat before they go cold.”

Zhao Quanfu smiled and nodded, "Thank you. It is snowing heavily and about to turn dark, so you should hurry home for dinner."

Mu Sheng looked at him, "Grandpa Fu, I ate before coming over. I will be spending the night with you."

Zhao Quanfu was determined to chase him away. Mu Sheng hesitated before telling him to ring the bell if he needed anything. He said that his ears were very sharp and would definitely be able to hear.

After receiving Zhao Quanfu's acknowledgment, he then turned to leave.

Zhao Quanfu looked at the bell hanging on a string beside the door. He then got up to open the thick cloth. Hot steaming dumplings appeared in front of him. They were delicious.

It was a pity that as he grew older, his appetite was not as great. There were still five dumplings left and he already felt full. He placed his chopsticks down.

He was going to stop here and leave the last five.

As he returned to lie on his bed, his life flashed through his mind. With a feeling of longing, he fell into the sweet darkness – the lady who had occupied his mind for his entire life. Who was Qin Yu? I am about to die, can't I know this?

The snow fell heavily in the dark night. With the question that had filled his mind for his entire life still unanswered, the old man eventually stopped breathing.

.....

Who am I? Where am I? Why is it so dark?

Crack –

Where is that sound from? That light is so blinding!

As he lifted his hand in front of him, his consciousness vaguely returned...I am Zhao Quanfu, I am dead...when I died, I had a question...that question was...

His arm suddenly froze.

After a while, a sigh could be heard.

So, I am Qin Yu!