

Apocalypse 1091

Chapter 1091

The lady Fairy of Time stood within the sea of sand, raised the Omni Stone in her hands, and softly muttered:

“In the past, in order to make sure that the Dusty World would not be disturbed, the four Pillar Gods established the pledge to strip all living beings of their power”

“At the time of the pledge’s completion, I happened to peer into and observe time”

“I saw something leaving from the Dusty World which hid itself within the secret passage for countless years, and was only activated after confirming that its surroundings were safe”

“——the Samsara Divine Armament, one of the two rulers of the Wraith realm, the Weapon Spirit Devil, Heavenly King Mara”

“Souls and non-living things would not disturb the Dusty World, so while the pledge of the four Pillar Gods had stripped away the power of all living beings, it was unable to affect Heavenly King Mara, a Samsara Divine Armament”

“Heavenly King Mara then killed off all life forms within the secret passage—— other than the pixies who were experts at hiding”

“After a hundred million years, Reneedol’s curse would soon be dispelled”

“Taking the opportunity of when the seal was at its weakest, Heavenly King Mara broke open a gap in the secret passage, through which it called out to people with the same way of thinking within the infinite worlds”

“Once the curse was fully dispelled, Heavenly King Mara welcomed a group of guests, the powers of which he borrowed to completely eradicate the pixies”

“As it is already a hundred million years in the future, I could only see sporadic fragments and wasn’t able to infer what exactly was the Heavenly King Mara after; but I hope that both you and the pixies are able to survive”

The Omni Stone slowly burned.

The Fairy of Time, shifted her eyes and finally looked at Gu Qing Shan.

She stared closely at Gu Qing Shan with an expression of grieve.

“Stranger from the future, I cannot dispel the pledge of the four Pillar Gods, only aid you in what little way I can”

“Now, place your hand upon the Omni Stone and it shall release two of your abilities”

“I do not know if this will be helpful at all, but it is the most that I am able to do”

“I hope that you are able to change both yours and the pixies’ future”

As she finished, the Fairy of Time turned into grains of sand and vanished.

Only the burning Omni Stone remained in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Staring at the Omni Stone, Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

Two abilities.

I'll have to fight against the cultivators from the Huang Quan realm, perhaps even the Heavenly King Mara with just two more unsealed abilities?

What really is 'little'.

However, as this was something that happened over a hundred millions years in the past, the fact that the Fairy of Time can even perform such a feat is already extraordinary.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and sighed.

If I still have Soul Points that I can use, [Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon] and [Earth's Choice] would surely be the abilities I choose.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at his remaining amount of Soul Points.

[Remaining Soul Points: 0/600]

— — *I have literally no Soul Points right now.*

Even if I can infuse Soul Points into my abilities, I've already used up almost all the Soul Points I had when comprehending the Asura Divine Skill. I only have around 10,000 Soul Points left in total, not even enough for [Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon] and [Earth's Choice] to start up.

Tch...

What should I choose now?

Do I actually have two abilities that can actually turn this situation around?

The enemies are Combatants from the Huang Quan realm and Wraith realm, there is simply no way to win this war with the strength of one person.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

After he returned to human form, he could no longer see the pixies.

Everyone came closer.

"How did things go with the pixies?" Guyan asked.

"The monsters who pursued us before had found help and would soon return to look for us" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"What!?"

Everyone exclaimed in shock.

Hazeden turned behind: "Men, use divination to check the situation"

"Yes sir!"

One of his subordinates walked forward and handed a blank Card to each person.

After everyone had a blank Card in their hand, the man abruptly shouted: "Divination!"

Following his words, every blank Card turned jet-black.

"Your majesty, our side will be completely wiped out" the man reported.

Hazeden exchanged glances with Guyan and Sha Qiang.

Guyan pointed behind himself.

One of his subordinates stepped out.

He tossed a mass of flames into the air, then waited for the flame to slowly expand before chanting an incantation.

Figures of people started to manifest within the flame.

A group of masked cultivators was flying at full speed through the darkness.

Behind them were innumerable monsters.

The group recognized over a dozen Black Flame Venerables——— and they didn't seem to be the strongest among the horde of monsters.

This was an impossible fight!

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The subordinate reported: "My Lord, they are a bit over 2000 miles from our location and are quickly approaching!"

Guyan spoke in a heavy voice: "I understand"

『 Wait a minute, weren't there pixies in this place? Our abilities are currently being suppressed, but maybe the pixies have a way to win against these guys? 』 Sha Qiang asked.

"They don't, the pixies are actually relying on us to help them" Gu Qing Shan replied.

His brain was working at maximum capacity.

"There's no time" Gu Qing Shan turned to Su Xue Er: "You have the star chart, check to see if there are any locations that can provide us with refuge or shelter"

Su Xue Er recalled the star chart and replied: "There was an empty area at the very end of the star chart, it was marked to be a hidden war base for the Empire. The star chart said that unless I went there, no one would be able to discover that place"

"Very well, then that's where we're heading" Gu Qing Shan nodded and turned back into a black cat.

He spoke to the long-bearded old man in Cat: “The enemy is coming; you need to evacuate along with us”

“No problem” the old man replied.

Gu Qing Shan observed him, then at the sea of light behind him.

Those were the countless souls of pixies.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “How is... your fighting capabilities?”

The old man glared at him and replied: “Don’t look down on us, other than the strongest wraith, we aren’t afraid of the other monsters!”

Gu Qing Shan said right away: “Then that’s good, quickly summon your people and follow our ship, we’re leaving now”

The old man asked: “How do we maintain communication?”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Do you have any way for us to see you?”

The old man pulled out a slingshot made from leaves and replied: “Although we’re currently souls, we can hold our magic staves like this, it should be enough for you to tell where we are”

“...That is a magic staff?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Of course, this is the reinforced version of the Bifurcation Magic Staff!”

The long-bearded old man raised the slingshot up high for Gu Qing Shan to observe it more clearly.

“Ah, ok, let’s retreat first” Gu Qing Shan said.

He then returned to human form and told everyone:

“Go! Let’s go! Everyone, board the ship”

The group hurriedly went on board.

Oom— — —

The ship abruptly took flight, shot out from the cave, and continued traveling through the darkness.

The Cave of Bones regained its silence.

Not too long later, a group of masked cultivators appeared in this place.

Around them, innumerable monsters also showed up.

“Those pixies like to hide in this place?” the leading cultivator asked.

A Black Flame Venerable answered: 『 Not only that, the insects that followed you in here were also intermingling with the pixies 』

The leading cultivator paused slightly, then spoke in an inexplicable, unpredictable tone: “If that’s the case, we’d better deal with them all at once”

The Black Flame Venerable asked: 『 Your Excellency, you mean...』

The cultivator replied: “The Heavenly King enjoys eating these souls, so I’ll capture them all as offering to the Heavenly King; as for those insects, they will be handed to you as food”

Seeing him spell it out so openly, the Black Flame Venerable spoke with joy: 『 Thank you, your excellency 』

Another monster sighed: 『 How unimaginable for our guests to be able to achieve such a feat... it had always been tough for us to even discover their tracks 』

The leading cultivator reached his hand out from his sleeves and began to form a hand seal.

He casually replied: “By borrowing the power of the Devil King of Huang Quan, we can naturally bind all souls of the dead. In our world, this is common sense”

While he spoke, he infused spirit energy into the hand seal and completed the technique.

——Huang Quan Borrowing Technique, Bindings of the Warden Devil King!

The cultivator shouted: “Go!”

After a short while, a faint light began to emanate from the cultivators’ body and quickly spread through the entire cave.

Silence.

Absolute silence.

Nothing appeared.

『 Erm... your excellency, where are the pixie souls? 』 the Black Flame Venerable asked in confusion.

The masked cultivator remained silent for a while.

And then.

He dispelled his technique, replying in a grim voice: “There are no pixie souls here, not even a single one”

『 There aren’t? 』 the Black Flame Venerable was surprised.

It couldn’t tell if the other party was lying or not.

All of a sudden, a small skeletal bird flew in from outside the cave, speaking in human language: 「 Report—— the pixies have escaped! The pixies have escaped! 」

The Black Flame Venerable immediately questioned: 『 Did you see where they ran off to? 』

The skeletal bird replied: 「 Do not worry sir, my brothers have already begun to tail them from behind 」

The Black Flame Venerable turned to the masked cultivator.

The masked cultivator said: "What are you waiting for? Let's quickly pursue them, today I shall definitely capture those souls and offer them to the Heavenly King!"

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The Starlight ship quickly flew through the darkness.

Sparks of glittering sprites were following the ship.

Within the darkness of the void, the ship and the sprites practically fused with one another, speeding like a runaway comet.

The people in the ship stared at the glittering sprites.

"So these are all light emanating from the pixie's magic staves?" Hazeden asked.

"That's right, they're coming with us because if they stay behind, they will die" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He and Su Xue Er were piloting the ship together, heading towards the furthest point of the star chart.

The ship's high-pitched alarms abruptly started to ring.

Gu Qing Shan operated the dashboard, quickly displaying the source.

A group of skeletal birds were following far behind them.

We've been tailed.

Everyone's hearts sank.

Su Xue Er didn't say anything and entered a long series of commands on the screen.

Her dashboard split open to reveal a black helmet hidden below.

Su Xue Er took the helmet and put it on.

The ship's wings suddenly shifted at a slight angle.

As the ship started twirling in the air, hundreds of blinding light shot from the back of the ship into the darkness behind it.

The trailing skeletal birds were struck by the light and turned into clusters of boney fireworks.

No skeletal birds remained on the screen.

But the alarms didn't stop.

『 My god, what is that...』 Sha Qiang blankly exclaimed.

A humongous skeletal hand abruptly reached out from below the ship in an attempt to grab it.

This skeletal hand looked a lot similar to the one that was stuck in the secret passage from before, but was significantly larger.

Even the entire Starlight ship could fit squarely within this skeletal hand's grasp.

Hundreds of arcs of light shot through the darkness and struck the humongous skeletal hand directly. But despite that, the hand did not slow down a single bit.

“Let me!” Guyan shouted.

He pressed his hand against the floor of the ship and activated his only ability.

A brilliant fire phoenix manifested below the ship.

The fire phoenix seemed extremely life-like flapping its wings as it flew towards the skeletal hand.

Boom!!

As the phoenix crashed into the hand, a resounding sound of impact could be heard.

The skeletal hand seemed to have been stunned on the screen.

As soon as everyone was about to sigh in relief, the alarm of the ship started sounding even louder.

Because another humongous skeletal hand had appeared on the screen!

This skeletal hand was waiting directly in front of the ship, waiting for them to enter into its grasp.

Guyan told everyone: “It’s ok, leave it to me!”

He used his ability again.

This time, two phoenixes manifested at the same time!

The phoenixes flapped their wings and soared towards the terrifying skeletal hand.

Another explosion resounded through the void, this time even the ship trembled a bit from the shockwaves.

The skeletal hand was forced away by the explosion.

The ship took that chance to fly through.

Hazeden grimly said: “That’s not enough, if we can’t destroy it, that skeletal hand will keep on coming!”

Gu Qing Shan swiftly operated the dashboard in front of him.

The ship sped up again but didn’t fly any higher.

— they were already flying as high as they could, the only thing above them was an endless wall.

They managed to distance themselves from the pair of skeletal hands, but everyone only felt their hearts tighten.

Gu Qing Shan was the same.

This time, even without looking at the screen, he understood that the time of life and death was close.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly shouted: “Old man, your turn!”

The sprites all around them suddenly converged and unleashed a beautiful purple pillar of light right in front of the ship.

At the location of the attack, a skull filled with bugs and maggots had just appeared.

The skull opened its mouth and chomped down on the ship.

It was the owner of the previous pair of skeletal hands!

At the moment of life and death, the pixies banded together to unleash an attack.

The purple pillar of light struck the skull and turned it incorporeal.

The ship and the sprites of light around it went straight through the mouth of the skull and headed through the hole.

It was only after they had gotten far away that the skull regained its tangibility.

The ship opened fire from every cannon it had, striking the wall above.

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A series of explosions and impact resounded through the void.

Large boulders broke off from above, falling onto the giant skull.

Then came a group of cawing bloody birds that soared towards them from ahead.

Su Xue Er had the ship unleashed an invisible shockwave that caused the birds to lose their sense of direction and all fell into the darkness below.

Another skeletal hand appeared from the darkness in front of them.

Another giant monster.

The pixies acted again.

The mystical purple pillar of light struck the hand and turned it incorporeal.

The ship flew through it.

But no one on the ship had an expression of relief.

“We can’t keep this up” Hazeden said with a heavy tone: “There are too many monsters, we won’t be able to shake them off, try using a teleportation spell!”

One of the guards behind him took out a Card, carefully examined it, and reported: “Your majesty, some sort of power seemed to have sealed this place off, we cannot teleport away!”

Guyan turned to his subordinates.

One of them dejectedly shook his head as well.

Sha Qiang was still occupied with the combat exchange earlier and gritted his teeth: 『Damn it, they're sticking to us like hunting hounds. From a hunting perspective, they're stalling for time in order for the real heavy-hitters to arrive 』

Gu Qing Shan's eyes became sharp, quickly walked up to the window of the ship and loudly asked the pixies: "There are so many of you, so why are you all using a positional shifting technique? Where are your serious combat techniques?"

The sprites of light paused slightly before turning into a sea of light, manifesting as the long-bearded old man's face and spoke:

"Trapped—— for—— 100 million—— years. No—— spell—— casting—— components—— left"

The people on the ship went quiet.

Pixies are a very powerful race, very few people within the entirety of the 900 million World Layers would actually try to offend them.

But in this secret passage, the long period of 100 million years had expended all of their supplies, leaving them only with the ability to cast basic spells.

No wonder they had to avoid the monsters.

Because they could no longer use their powerful spells to attack the enemy.

What now?

They can't shake the enemy off at all.

Guyan abruptly said: "Investigate"

"Yes, Lord"

One of his subordinates replied, tossed a mass of flames into the air, and chanted the incantation.

In the mass of flames, the masked cultivators and numerous monsters were quickly approaching them.

It wouldn't be much time until they catch up with the ship!

『It's all over, we're going to die here 』 Sha Qiang dejectedly said.

Hazeden sighed, but said nothing.

Guyan begrudgingly gritted his teeth: "Even if we die, we're going to take as many of them down with us as possible!"

His subordinates loudly responded.

Gu Qing Shan took a step back to take a look at everyone.

He saw despair.

He then turned to look at Su Xue Er.

Su Xue Er had already taken off her helmet, still working tirelessly to pilot the ship.

She responded to his gaze with an expression of unease.

There was no fear, only concern.

Gu Qing Shan felt his mind calming down.

He took out the Omni Stone, walked up to Su Xue Er, and whispered to her: "There's something I want to entrust to you"

"What is it?" Su Xue Er asked.

"I'll trouble you to take care of me. Before I return, I want you to carry me with you" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Hearing their conversation, everyone turned to look at Gu Qing Shan.

『 Do you have a way to escape? 』 Sha Qiang asked.

"I don't" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He raised his voice and addressed everyone: "The pixies gave me an incantation that unsealed this rock in my hand. Right now, this rock will allow me to release two of my abilities"

Everyone's eyes turned grim.

What can two measly abilities achieve?

Both the number and power of the enemy is enough to raise an inter-world war many times over!

Gu Qing Shan continued: "In truth, I came here in search of a certain weapon. I've witnessed the power of that weapon, capable of killing Deities and fiends alike, and I came here this time in order to make it whole again, becoming even stronger than before"

"But you have no way to leave by yourself right now" Hazeden pointed that out.

『 That's right, once you leave the ship, you'll be killed and devoured by the monsters before you even reach the ground 』 Sha Qiang added.

Gu Qing Shan calmly replied: "Do not give up, give everything you've got and resist against the enemy. Trust me, I will definitely return with that weapon to save everyone"

After saying so, he suddenly crushed the Omni Stone.

Immediately, the two abilities he had chosen were unsealed!

[Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift, you will enter a state of death not unlike that of any other dead person in the world]

[Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes, after you die, your soul can enter and leave Huang Quan as you pleased]

These were the complementary techniques of Xie Dao Ling's Huang Quan Divine Skill!

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Death was no small matter.

But Gu Qing Shan had discovered a secret regarding death.

Ever since the first time they met the Black Flame Venerable and discovered that it was a Soul Manifestation, Gu Qing Shan had been silently pondering something.

—-the pledge of the four Pillar Gods stripped all powers from living beings, and yet the Black Flame Venerable still retained its power, completely unrestrained.

Why?

Gu Qing Shan had kept this question in mind until he met the pixies and unsealed the Omni Stone.

The Fairy of Time appeared and explained to him that the pledge that the four Pillar Gods established was one that would strip the power of all living beings within the secret passage.

—-but souls and non-living things were not considered 'living beings'.

Being the spirit of a weapon, the Heavenly King Mara was both of these entities, so it retained all of its powers.

The Dark Flame Venerable was also a Soul Manifestation thus its powers weren't stripped away either.

After a hundred million years, the pixies had all lost their lives and turned into souls.

—-they weren't able to perform offensive techniques because they had no spell casting components, but they've been constantly using other spells that didn't require spell casting components.

They could tamper with the Omni Stone to bestow Gu Qing Shan the ability to turn into a cat, as well as turn the monster incorporeal, allowing the ship to pass through.

Everything made sense.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall how he travelled alone to Huang Quan and how he fought within Huang Quan.

At the time, he was only a soul, but he could still fight without issues.

Now that he carefully thought about, Gu Qing Shan was shocked to realize just now unimaginable those Skills that his Shifu taught him actually were.

—-even in a state of death, my soul is still able to utilize all of the body's power, practically made for the sake of fighting as a soul.

If the Black Flame Venerables were Soul Manifestation forms, Shifu's two Skills must have produced an even more advanced state of soul-body in comparison.

Because under the effects of these two Skills, a soul is able to wander as it pleases in the Human realm or travel to Huang Quan without issues.

With the above information in mind, Gu Qing Shan finally chose to keep the two Secret Arts that he learnt from his Shifu.

——*if I can return, I really need to ask Shifu about her Huang Quan Divine Skill.*

At this moment, Gu Qing Shan dispelled all unnecessary thoughts in his mind and activated the two Skills.

Secret Art, [Sealed Body Yin Shift]!

Secret Art, [Soul Comes Soul Goes]!

Under the effect of the two Skills, Gu Qing Shan's body instantly turned limp.

His soul was ejected from his body.

His soul silently hovered in the air, watching his body collapse.

Su Xue Er exclaimed in shock and hurriedly caught his body.

Everyone also appeared shocked and swiftly surrounded him.

Hazeden immediately called for his subordinates to try and heal Gu Qing Shan.

Guyan cautiously looked around with a flame prepared in his hand.

——he seems to have assumed that an unseen entity had ambushed Gu Qing Shan.

Sha Qiang stood completely still, unable to process what was going on.

——no one could see Gu Qing Shan's soul.

A line of glowing text appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes:

[With the Secret Art: Seal Body Yin Shift, you've entered the state of death]

[With the Secret Art: Soul Come Soul Goes, you've entered the state of soul body] (TN: There's a difference between this soul state and other dead people like Xuan Ya from Calming Soul Country, as normal dead people are unable to access their powers when they were still alive)

[The pledge of the four Pillar Gods does not restrain souls]

[Your powers that were sealed by the pledge have been fully released]

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his chin.

Just as I thought, huh?

As he stood there, the Earth sword and Chao Yin sword both manifested from the void of space.

The Chao Yin sword excitedly circled around him.

The Earth sword blew a whistle.

「 So you've regained the power of a Paragon realm cultivator 」 the Earth sword commented.

In the Age of Old, only the Divinities had this level of strength.

But none of the Divinities were Gu Qing Shan's match as long as they were on the same level, let alone now that his swordsmanship had reached Convergence realm and gained a terrifying level of combative strength!

Gu Qing Shan wielded the two swords and silently muttered: "Now that I've entered the soul-body state, there's still one natural shortcoming of this technique: If the body is destroyed, the soul would not be able to revive"

The long-bearded old man suddenly appeared in front of him and opened his eyes wide: "You haven't even lived for ten thousand years; how did you suddenly die?"

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "This is the ability that the Omni Stone helped me recover"

Saying so, he recalled something and took out a wanted poster from the Inventory Bag inside his Thought Sea.

"This was a bounty I obtained from the pixies outside of this secret passage. I once tried to open it slightly and comprehended the mystical powers of the pixies, benefitting much from it, but I've never fully opened it"

He then wiped his nose with the wanted poster.

—since he was currently a soul, Gu Qing Shan wasn't sure if this would be useful, but this thing could only be activated by wiping his nose with it.

Poof!

The wanted poster gave off some white smoke.

It actually did activate!

A wooden statue the size of his arm appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan and the long-bearded old man.

This statue depicted a female pixie, her eyes were spirited and lively, seemingly smiling.

Her voice also emerged: "Thank you for carrying out this bounty, this princess shall reward you with her statue"

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As the voice finished, the statue became still.

Gu Qing Shan regretfully said: "Seems like it isn't something you'll be able to use"

While the long-bearded old man was trembling, his mouth opened wide without regaining his composure for a long while.

Around him, a large number of pixies instantly appeared, all staring incessantly at the wooden statue without moving.

"Are you ok?" Gu Qing Shan asked in confusion.

The long-bearded old man abruptly leapt forward, hugging the wooden statue: “This is precious Quip Wood! Don’t you understand what that means? The most advanced Quipcrafts can only be performed through this type of wood!”

Numerous pixies broke out into tears, kneeling down in front of the statue.

Gu Qing Shan now noticed that the magic staves of these pixies were already rotten to the point of crumbling.

These staves had been used constantly for the past hundred million years without being maintained, so it was natural for them to end up this way.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “It’s yours now, take it with you. Remain with our group and protect my body until I return”

“Don’t worry, we will fight together until the last moment!” the long-bearded old man shouted enthusiastically.

He grabbed the statue and vanished with the other pixies.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan looked down.

Everyone was still busy with his body.

Quite a few were using their healing technique to try and resuscitate him.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight in order to confirm the situation outside of the ship.

Without Su Xue Er’s input, the ship had entered auto-pilot mode, not only did it slow down, the various attacks it unleashed had also stopped.

Huge flocks of skeletal birds were pursuing them.

A huge skeleton approached them from afar, quickly catching up to the ship.

Seems like my sudden ‘death’ affected the group quite a bit.

Gu Qing Shan was silent for a bit.

He unleashed various unfading sword phantoms with his sword.

『 Look! 』 Sha Qiang exclaimed in fright.

Everyone turned to see that two swords were slashing through the air, leaving words behind:

[I’ll deal with the monsters outside]

[Flee quickly, wait until I return]

The slashes gradually manifested into sword phantoms that hung in the air, emanating Gu Qing Shan’s sharp sword will.

Hazeden couldn’t help but mutter: “What exactly is going on?”

Su Xue Er’s eyes lit up.

He had heard Ye Fei Li and Liao Xing telling the story of the battle in Huang Quan many times, so she understood.

“He turned into a soul form in order to fight”

Su Xue Er loudly shouted to the air: “Qing Shan, do your best!”

The two swords paused a bit in the air before drawing two arcs in the air, forming the shape of a heart.

Huh?

So, that metal blockhead actually knows to tell me such a thing?

Su Xue Er thought, half-surprised, half-delighted.

She tightly hugged Gu Qing Shan’s body.

In the air, Gu Qing Shan’s soul body muttered to himself: “There, seems like she understood what I wanted to say”

The Earth sword couldn’t help but send its voice through his inner sight: 「 What exactly did these two arcs of yours mean? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Isn’t it obvious? I’m signaling her to be on constant guard on her left and right in case the enemy ambushes them”

The Earth sword replied: 「 ...I’ve lived with you humans for quite a few years, that shape you drew... doesn’t seem to mean that at all 」

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “You think I drew a heart? Do I seem like such a shallow person?”

The Earth sword went silent for a long while before agreeing: 「 Now that I think about it, I was wrong, there a distance of several billion light-years between you and the word ‘shallow’ 」

The Chao Yin sword let out a low ‘oong’, the intention of which seemed unclear.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t want to waste any more time so he wielded the two swords and said: “Come, we’re setting off, time to fight”

He and the two swords vanished from inside the ship.

At the very next split second.

A bright gleam ripped through the darkness, manifesting as a full moon that brightly illuminated the horde of monsters in the darkness like daylight.

Silver stars descended like rain.

The skeletal birds were struck down in troves.

The full moon suddenly disappeared, followed by the blooming of millions of sword shadow flowers within the darkness.

The darkness almost seemed like it was dyed red.

Countless of the pursuing monsters were chopped into pieces by the flickering slashes of the swords, then finely diced up before completely blended into a bloody pulp.

As the sword flowers withered, the torrent of sword slashes surged upwards, turning into an intense tsunami that clashed against all the pursuing monsters.

A resounding roar of monsters echoed across the entire secret passage.

As the wind howled, even the sounds of the giant skeletons were obscured.

Everything returned to silence.

The ship flew far away.

Only Sha Qiang's confused exclamation faintly resounded through the darkness:

『 Wasn't dancing supposed to be this guy's expertise? 』

The sound continued echoing through the darkness until it thoroughly faded away.

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The only person who remained in the silent darkness was Gu Qing Shan.

The ship had already sailed far away.

The surveillance monster had all been killed.

Only he remained in mid-air, silently pondering.

"Something is... still off" Gu Qing Shan said.

「 What is? 」 the Earth sword asked.

"I remember when we arrived, you said that you only kept [Sanctuary], while your other abilities can't be used at all" Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 I did 」 the Earth sword answered.

"Aren't you a weapon spirit? Shouldn't you be unrestrained like the Heavenly King Mara?" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

The Earth sword replied nonchalantly: 「 [Earth's Choice] needs Soul Points to be unleashed; if I had told you that you can still use [Earth's Choice] as long as you can give me Soul Points while you have 0 Soul Points, what kind of image would you have of me? 」

Gu Qing Shan froze.

The Earth sword continued: 「 I'm a weapon spirit that cares about image, thank you very much 」

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a while before silently telling the War God UI: "Take a look and see"

The War God UI remained silent for a while before popping up a huge wall of notifications.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked and hurriedly reviewed each one.

[Following combat synopsis, all obtained Soul Points released:]

[You've killed the Antimagic Great Elephant, obtaining 100 Soul Points]

[You've killed the elephant's summoner, obtaining 300 Soul Points]

[You've killed a bunch of malicious entities, these entities are much weaker compared to yourself, no Soul Points obtained]

[You've killed the Man-faced Claw Leaping Wraith, obtaining 13,961 Soul Points]

[Through the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, you've killed the following monsters...]

[...]

[Your current remaining Soul Points: 75,613/600]

Over 75,000 Soul Points!

I thought I wasn't able to obtain any Soul Points from the previous battles, but the War God UI had actually stored them for me.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised and smiled: "Thank you, I shouldn't have berated you just now"

A small line of text appeared on the War God UI: [So you admit that you were wrong?]

"Ah, yeah, I was wrong" Gu Qing Shan replied.

A notification then popped up on the War God UI: [The responsibility for this time's emotional wounds have been recognized, deducting 613 Soul Points from Gu Qing Shan as compensation for the War God system's emotional wounds]

[Ting]!

The Soul Points value on the War God UI changed, leaving Gu Qing Shan with the number [75,000/600]

Gu Qing Shan froze.

A few moments later.

He asked: "Did you purposely leave me with a rounded number?"

The War God UI replied: [You're free to think what you like. In reality, you should immediately set off to find Abaddon, not staying here to stop the pursuers]

Gu Qing Shan sighed and didn't answer.

He stood in the darkness, silently waiting.

——it didn't actually take a lot of time.

Around 7-8 minutes later, the sound of howling wind could be heard from far away.

Countless monsters, as well as the masked cultivators, appeared from the darkness.

They immediately noticed a single soul hovering in the air.

One of the monsters smirked: 『 Look, there's a stray here 』

“Halt!” a masked cultivator declared.

The monsters and cultivators all stopped.

The leading cultivator brought with him two guards and flew a bit forward.

They arrived in front of Gu Qing Shan.

“It's you again” the leading cultivator commented.

He was observing this cultivator's soul who wielded two swords.

“I'm sorry, I don't really understand what you mean” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The leading cultivator spoke: “It was you who noticed the disguise I made in the secret passage and found the entrance”

This time, Gu Qing Shan understood.

The cultivator continued: “At the entrance of the secret passage, it was also you who killed the wraiths from the Wraith realm, allowing those insects to survive”

“How strange, you clearly weren't there at the time, how did you know that?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

The cultivator didn't answer him, only silently thought for a short while before continuing: “It seems that you're already dead, then I'll give you a chance?”

“What kind of chance?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The cultivator said: “That dance of yours is strange, but had incredible power—— I'll make you an offer, hand it over, and I won't kill you”

“Kill me? But I'm already dead, take a look, I'm already a soul” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

The leading cultivator didn't answer, but his guard scoffed: “Ignorant fool, a soul can also die, and it would be even more painful”

The other guard spoke in disdain: “Don't tell him that, those who don't know anything about Huang Quan are just inferior insects”

The leading cultivator shook his head and continued: “Never mind that, simply put, hand over the secret of that dance, or I will show you what true hell looks like”

What true hell looks like...

Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit nostalgic.

He suddenly changed his tone and said very seriously: “If you're willing to learn, I'd actually be willing to show you the Dance”

He readied his stance for the beginning of the Dance and waited——

No music.

The cultivators watched him curiously.

Gu Qing Shan complained to the void: “Oi, this is clearly a grand occasion, there are so many people, these masked dance partners as well as a bunch of huge monsters, isn’t that suitable for a Dance?”

He perked out his butt, looked up, and even puffed out his chest to make sure the stance was perfect.

Silence.

No music appeared at all.

A gust of wind blew past.

The horde of monsters as well as the masked cultivators all stared coldly at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan undid his dancing stance and cleared his throat: “It seems my condition is a bit off today; I’ll teach you some other time”

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The cultivator went silent briefly before his voice became malicious: “Are you making a fool out of me?”

Gu Qing Shan dejectedly sighed.

If I was able to dance, how easy would it be to deal with these people here?

Regretfully, the Dance refuses to show up.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hands dismissively: “Don’t misunderstand, I haven’t had the intention to make a fool out of you from the very beginning, nor do I have the ability to do so”

“But it’s fine” he moved his body around a bit and wielded his swords tightly: “In truth, in the end...”

“I just want to kill you all, gentlemen”

Everything went silent for a brief moment before the sound of laughter echoed through the darkness.

The monsters’ mocking and sarcastic laughter resounded.

『 Just him——』

『 He wanted to kill us 』

『 Ahaha, kill all of us, he probably doesn’t know how to write the word ‘death’ 』

『 What a pitiful fool, he’s gone insane 』

『 It’s fine, I’ll just devour his soul whole 』

Despite their attitude, they abruptly attacked without any warnings!

Hundreds of spells and techniques flew past the masked cultivators' leader and shot towards Gu Qing Shan.

His sword moved.

Divine Skill, [Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon]

First strike, Sword of Extinguishing Flame, [Parting Fire]!

Gu Qing Shan wielded the Earth sword and pointed forward.

Countless sword phantoms surged forward from the sword, emanating billions of tiny noises.

These razor-thin sword phantoms did not attack the enemy, but instead attacked one another a hundred thousand times!

Clang clang clang clang cla——

Fwoom!!!

The world turned into a sea of fire.

Gu Qing Shan slashed a single time from afar.

In that instant, all the offensive techniques of the monsters were dispelled within the fire.

The slash of flames, named [Parting Fire] was the first strike of the Divine Skill!

The monsters howled and screeched within the fire, but every technique or spell they unleashed was extinguished right in their hands, unable to even reach Gu Qing Shan.

The leading cultivator was no longer as calm as he was before.

He shouted: "Oh no! This level of swordsmanship, that is definitely a Divine Skill from the Asura realm, hurry! Hurry! Hurry! We need to stop him!"

All the cultivators leapt forward and collectively formed the hand seals.

The leading cultivator gritted his teeth: "You're not the only one with a Divine Skill!"

The group's hand seals were rapid, finishing the combination Divine Skill in just the blink of an eye.

"Sir, done!" one of the cultivators reported.

"My turn!"

The leading cultivator clasped his hands together, about to trigger the Divine Skill.

He abruptly stopped.

"Sir!"

The cultivators behind urged him.

The leading cultivator was sweating bullets, but did not trigger the Divine Skill.

His hands had not clasped together.

In truth, his hands were barely half a centimeter away from touching.

As soon as this half a centimeter distance was overcome, the combination Divine Skill would be completed!

Regretfully, no matter how hard he tried to push his body, spirit energy, will, and even inner sight, he could not finish the final step of the Divine Skill.

A faint white mist appeared between his hands that slowly expanded to his entire body.

In the air, Gu Qing Shan had just pulled the Chao Yin sword back.

The second strike of the Divine Skill, [Freezing Frost], Sword of Destroying Frost.

—-[Freezing Frost] locks the form, solidifying the body of living beings and stops them from moving, that was the essence of the Sword of Destroying Frost!

Layers of white mist gradually expanded from the leading cultivator, then enveloped all the cultivators, then to every monster within this passage.

None of them could move even a single bit.

As [Parting Fire] and [Freezing Frost] were unleashed, the ultimate strike of the Divine Skill, [Sun Moon Eclipse] then became vivid.

Gu Qing Shan let go of his swords and suddenly sighed.

He muttered: “[Sun Moon Eclipse] was hailed as the Sword of Traceless Heaven and Earth; I had been confused about what that actually meant, until today when I finally understand”

The Earth sword’s heavy voice resounded: 「 Let’s not discuss the technique just yet, we’re still in the middle of battle, so why did you let go of both myself and Chao Yin? 」

The Chao Yin sword also let out a doubtful ‘wu wu’ sound.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Because neither the Heaven, Earth, Sun nor Moon can see this strike, it does not require a sword, but it is a sword strike that would always hit”

「 Would always hit? Can the target not ever avoid it? 」 the Earth sword asked.

Gu Qing Shan answered with a single word: “Indeed”

As soon as he declared so, something seemed to have passed through the entirety of the secret passage.

The cultivators and monsters completely melted away like residue snow beneath the scorching sun, disappearing without a trace.

Silence.

Earth sword suddenly spoke up: 「 This is a Mind Sword 」

Gu Qing Shan continued: “[Parting Fire] and [Freezing Frost] are first unleashed, followed by a Mind Sword, in other words——”

「Whoever you think of, that person will die」 the Earth sword replied.

“They cannot understand this strike, and thus they cannot avoid it”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze towards the void of space.

Lines of glowing text appeared in front of his eyes:

[You’ve utilized the Soul Points usage method: Offering. The Soul Points cost of the ability you unleashed was halved]

[You expended 75,000 Soul Points to unleash the Asura Divine Skill: Rahu’s Eclipse of Sun and Moon]

His Soul Points value instantly became 0.

And at the very next moment, it began to skyrocket!

Chapter 1095

Two lines of glowing text swiftly appeared on the War God UI:

[Your Divine Skill: Rahu’s Eclipse of Sun and Moon killed a total of 13 cultivators and 761 wraiths]

[This battle was a combat where the few triumphed over the many, you obtained a total of 930,000 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief, feeling emotional from the harvest.

As long as he had Soul Points, he was confident.

However, was it a coincidence that the number of Soul Points I obtained from this battle was a round number...?

Gu Qing Shan paused for a few moments and decided not to think about it any longer.

——if he tried questioning the War God UI, it would even charge him a fee for it.

Damn miser.

Gu Qing Shan silently complained.

The Earth sword’s heavy voice resounded from next to him: 「With this Mind Sword, from this point on, regardless if an enemy is on the same or higher level, you would most likely always be at an advantage」

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “My will, spirit, stamina, Soul Points, and swordsmanship must perfectly fuse with each other to perform the [Sun Moon Eclipse] strike”

“Because of that, I’m currently feeling extremely drained and would require some time to slowly recover, it isn’t a Divine Skill that can be unleashed without pause as long as I have Soul Points”

The Earth sword commented: 「 In other words, this Mind Sword can't be used arbitrarily, each use would greatly drain you and might affect the follow-up combats 」

“Indeed” Gu Qing Shan replied.

A line of glowing text then appeared on the War God UI:

[You've successfully performed Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon, thus accomplishing the first step in grasping this Sword Divine Skill]

[You will need to practice and get used to this Divine Skill more to slowly grasp the idea behind this Divine Skill, thus unleashing its true power]

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

Using the sword this way would make it so that every attack becomes impossible to parry or evade unless they understand the mystery behind it.

I've only just come into contact with the Mind Sword, yet I already obtained an unprecedented level of understanding of swordsmanship.

This technique in particular will greatly benefit the growth of my swordsmanship.

But this sword technique is too draining to perform, I would most likely need to become much stronger in order to leisurely perform it.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

There's no need to think too much about that right now, the most urgent thing right now is to search for the 7-colored spear as soon as I can.

He took out the 7-colored fragment and held it tightly in his hand.

A faint, almost unintelligible whispering voice came from the faraway void, ringing in his ears.

「 Come... quickly... here...」

Gu Qing Shan turned toward a certain direction.

Over there?

But that direction isn't the deepest chamber of the secret passage, instead, it is in a completely unknown direction.

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan felt cautious.

There's too little information right now.

Gu Qing Shan hesitated, took out his Inventory Bag from his Thought Sea, and removed the colorful rooster from within.

As he pulled the comb of the rooster, it came to life.

It rubbed its sleepy eyes and muttered: “Wah, it’s still so dark out— what do you want, waking up a rooster in the middle of the night?”

“...Sorry for disturbing your sleep, but the situation is a bit urgent, so I need some information” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The rooster stretched its back and scoffed: “You need some information? Pardon me from being frank, but a guy like you is: 1, not a god; 2, not a messiah; 3, not a ghost; 4, not a scientist; 5, not an actor; 6, not working a graveyard shift; and 7, not a nocturnal creature like a cat— you’re still working over-time in the goddamn middle of night, is it really necessary to be this desperate?”

Gu Qing Shan thought seriously about those words, then helplessly replied: “That’s just how life is. Sometimes, for the sake of survival, you just have to work”

The rooster stared at him for a long while before saying: “Hah, poor over-timer, give me the Soul Points”

Gu Qing Shan was now swimming in Soul Points, and since he woke the other party up in the middle of the night, he generously transferred 10,000 Soul Points over.

Being eased by the Soul Points, the rooster appeared ecstatic before finally telling him: “Listen very clearly, whatever it is you’re trying to do, quickly seize the time, because the news of death regarding the people you just killed had just been transmitted, more powerful pursuers are coming soon”

After saying so, the colorful rooster turned back into a motionless statue.

Gu Qing Shan no longer hesitated.

Regardless of what’s in that direction, I don’t have time to be delayed.

He put the rooster statue away, turned into a streak of light, and quickly flew towards a certain direction

...

At the same time.

The Heavenly King Mara’s location.

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Two masked cultivators silently stood in the air, waiting for their leader to return.

All of a sudden, one of them tapped their Inventory Bag and took out something.

It was a black jade badge that cracked and broke as soon as it was taken out.

“Oh no, it’s the leader’s Soul Token!”

The cultivator turned pale and exclaimed.

It could be inferred from their voice that this was a female cultivator.

The other person immediately took out a purple talisman as they saw the broken badge.

“It can’t be helped; I’ll make the report” another female voice came from behind the mask.

—this was also a female cultivator.

She prepared to activate the Communication talisman in her hand.

The first female cultivator stopped her and shook her head: "This is a very serious matter, using a talisman is too slow, we need to ask for orders through the ranks"

As soon as she said so, the broken jade badge fixed itself and began to emanate immense spirit energy.

An old voice sounded from the jade badge:

[There is no need, the Wraith Envoy's soul had returned, we have also received the corresponding information]

The two female cultivators immediately knelt and lowered their heads: "Understood"

The old voice sighed and continued: [For a sword technique like Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon to come to light, this had truly gone beyond our expectations. But the matter between us and the Heavenly King cannot and will not be stopped by a single excellent Asura swordsman]

One of the cultivators asked: "Sir, what should we do next?"

The old voice pondered briefly before replying: [We have dispatched more powerful hands, they should arrive where you are very soon, before that... each of you should have received a secret black box before you set out, it is now time to take it out]

"Understood, sir"

The two female cultivators tapped their Inventory Bag to take out a completely sealed black box, raising it in their hands.

[Open it] the old voice ordered.

The two cultivators opened the boxes.

Immediately, a black talisman flew out from each box and attached themselves onto their masks.

Both female cultivators went completely pale, one of them muttered in fear: "This is... the Deity Inv..."

The other person couldn't even say anything as her body started convulsing.

A few moments later.

The black talisman was fully absorbed into the mask.

[Of course, it is the Divine Invitation Talisman] the old voice resounded in broken bits, [That Asura killed so many of our people, they would naturally not be weak. I would naturally want to kill him regardless of the price if only to prevent him from ruining our business]

While he spoke, the two masks that originally depicted yakshas slowly turned into a black snake and a white snake.

The two girls' auras changed.

A boundless air of darkness drifted around one of them, manifesting as a black cloak.

While the other was enveloped in a white mist before it manifested as a white cloak that she donned.

The originally silent Heavenly King Mara sensed it and displayed an ever-so-slightly cautious expression.

“For what reason did you summon us?” one of the girls coldly questioned.

The old voice became respectful and carefully explained: [Someone is massacring our people; I beseech the Deities to take their life]

A vision of light was displayed on the black jade badge, depicting how Gu Qing Shan killed the cultivators.

“Where is the offering?” the other girl asked.

[Do not worry, we have properly prepared everything for our Deities] the old voice devoutly answered.

The black-cloaked girl reached her hand out to grab a jade-green fishing rod.

While the white-cloaked girl raised an azure glazed lamp in her hand.

——Black cloak reels in the soul, White cloak returns life!

“Very well, then we shall make the trip once” the black-cloaked girl declared.

The two girls leapt up and flew away, soon out of sight.

After they left, the old voice from the black jade badge resounded again:

[Heavenly King, the matter of the pixies was a bit rocky, I hope that you can forgive us]

The Heavenly King Mara turned his closed eyes away before his voice answered from the void: 『 It is no matter, that person is truly hard to deal with, all of my subordinates had been killed as well 』

The old voice continued: [Heavenly King, our men had already gone on their way. This time, it would not be an envoy who deals with official matters, but rather true Combatants, please do not worry, Heavenly King]

『 Very well, once your men arrive, I will also dispatch the truly powerful wraiths on my side 』

The Heavenly King Mara raised its voice: 『 Existences the likes of pixies, I will make sure they go extinct without fail! 』

Chapter 1096

In the boundless darkness, Gu Qing Shan was flying at full speed.

Occasionally, to speed himself up, he would use [Ground Shrink] to travel through a large distance.

——but he didn't use it too much.

Earlier, when he unleashed the three strikes of the Asura Divine Skill, both his body and spirit were greatly drained, and hadn't been fully recovered.

Everything ahead was unknown, and there was a very real danger of running into monsters, so Gu Qing Shan was trying to conserve his strength.

In the darkness, he kept his inner sight released at all times but still couldn't feel anything apart from the huge wall on top, whose border he couldn't fathom.

After a bit of thought, Gu Qing Shan decided to fly close to the ceiling.

Occasionally, he would leave marks on the ceiling with his sword as well as arranging some warp formations.

This was done in order to leave bread crumbs for him to find his way back whenever necessary.

—-if all things went well, these preparations would naturally be useless.

But in case of an abrupt situation, with these warp formations, he would be able to easily handle them.

About an hour of flying later, Gu Qing Shan felt that he was not too far away from reaching the 7-colored spear.

He summoned his two swords and had them hover around him to keep watch.

All of a sudden, he sensed it.

Something was pursuing him.

Gu Qing Shan stopped moving forward.

He stood still, silently waiting.

His pursuers entered the range of his inner sight immediately.

Two girls.

One with a black cloak, one with a white cloak, both wearing masks.

A few moments later.

They arrived in front of Gu Qing Shan.

"The twin snakes of black and white..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The black-cloaked girl displayed clear killing intent and shouted in question: "How strange, you are not a person of our world, how did you know of us?"

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

I met these two girls at the Death God's site of inheritance.

We had even greeted one another.

But now they claim that they don't know me.

One of them is carrying a jade-green fishing rod, while the other carries an azure glazed lamp, these are too unique to mistake.

The black-cloaked masked girl took out a piece of intact black jade and coldly asked: “Is this the target you wish to eliminate?”

An old voice replied from the black jade piece: [Indeed, this person might be an Asura, he has a Sword Divine Skill, please be careful, my Deities]

The black-cloaked masked girl indifferently declared: “It is no matter, just watch this Deity take away his soul”

She randomly tossed the piece of jade in the air and let it hover.

The white-cloaked masked girl lightly utilized her azure glazed lamp and shouted: “Soul Guide of Huang Quan!”

The azure glazed lamp then gave off a bright light, summoning hundreds of azure locks of hair that scattered in all directions, slithering through the air like a swarm of snakes.

These azure locks of hair were too rapid and had made their way in front of Gu Qing Shan with just the blink of an eye, coiling around his body.

Gu Qing Shan swung his swords without leaving any gaps, drawing a flower of swords that bloomed in mid-air, slicing all the attacking hair apart.

All of a sudden, the black-cloaked girl raised her hand, causing the black hook of her fishing rod to vanish.

It was already hooked onto Gu Qing Shan’s left shoulder!

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

—-*who would’ve thought, ‘reeling soul’ was an unblockable technique.*

An unprecedented sense of danger encroached on him.

In that split second, he turned the Earth sword and abruptly stabbed his own shoulder.

Kih!

As the black-cloaked girl tried to reel him in, the black hook was perfectly sent flying off his shoulder by the Earth sword.

Gu Qing Shan clutched his bleeding shoulder and took distance from the two girls in a flash.

The two pursued him without end.

The black-cloaked masked girl coldly commented: “Asura? He can’t even perform his Divine Skill, only a fake”

“No need to waste your words, just reel his soul in, he’ll be making a trip to Huang Quan” the white-cloaked girl’s emotionless voice followed.

She used her azure glazed lamp again.

A split second later.

Another million locks of azure hair were released, completely occupying the void as they made their way towards Gu Qing Shan.

The black fishing hook couldn't be seen among the torrent of hair.

The two girls had coordinated their attacks!

From a combat perspective, this would surely be the most dangerous moment of Gu Qing Shan's life.

He focused his mind and abruptly swung his sword.

Countless razor-thin sword phantoms erupted from the Earth sword, clashing against one another millions of times in a single split second.

Fwoom!

A boundless sea of fire was born!

——Sword of Extinguishing Flames, [Parting Fire]!

This strike of the Divine Skill doesn't kill people, it kills their technique.

The countless locks of hair were immediately dispelled with very little remaining, even the black fishing hook was sent flying.

This attack seemed to have angered the two girls as their aura rose again.

However, at the next moment, a layer of white frost had manifested over their hands and gradually spread to their entire bodies.

Sword of Destroying Frost, [Freezing Frost]!

The two girls were covered in frost, unable to move.

Very strangely, Gu Qing Shan wielded the Earth sword but didn't perform the final strike, the Mind Sword – [Sun Moon Eclipse]

As [Parting Fire] was unleashed, the Chao Yin sword had already disappeared without a trace.

When [Freezing Frost] began to lock the figure of the two girls, Chao Yin sword had made it through the distance between them to appear behind the piece of black jade.

Just as the old voice from the piece of black jade hurriedly spoke: [My Deities, be careful of the third strike——]

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The sword gave off a sharp sword phantom and slashed with all its might.

Crack!

The piece of black jade was chopped to dust, destroyed!

The old voice abruptly vanished.

The Chao Yin sword let out a 'wu wu' sound before returning to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

He looked in front of him.

The white-cloaked and black-cloaked girls continued to be frozen until they were two blocks of ice.

Their bodies remained still within the ice without moving.

Gu Qing Shan let go of the Earth sword and clasped his hand: "Sorry if I offended you, can we talk now?"

Crack!

Crack!

With a curt noise, the two girls emerged from the ice.

They stood still.

After a short moment, two unmasked girls flew out from their bodies.

They were indeed the black-cloaked and white-cloaked girls that Gu Qing Shan met before.

The white-cloaked girl stretched her back and said: "Now we can talk, we've already sealed these two's souls, they won't know anything for now"

The black-cloaked girl turned to Gu Qing Shan and smiled: "When did you notice?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I knew right as you tossed that piece of black jade out, then you reminded me to use the Asura Divine Skill and that you wanted to take me to Huang Quan, so I knew that you hadn't forgotten what happened"

The white-cloaked girl was a bit uneasy: "Were we that obvious?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Not at all, the person who monitored you still reminded you to be careful at the very last moment"

The black-cloaked girl sincerely replied: "When we attacked you, we didn't hold back a lot, and only the Asura Divine Skill could have stopped us a bit, so how could that old fogey have noticed anything?"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist again, sincerely asking them: "Please, I truly do not understand what the situation is, can you help me by explaining?"

The two of them exchanged glances.

The white-cloaked girl sighed and replied: "Finally, there's no one that can listen in"

The black-cloaked girl flew forward and grabbed Gu Qing Shan's left hand.

The white-cloaked girl also came and grabbed Gu Qing Shan's right hand.

The black-cloaked girl said sternly: "Devil King, what you performed just now was the Asura three-strike swordsmanship, if you only unleashed the first and second strike while withholding the final Mind Sword, the Mind Sword will recoil and injure your soul vessel"

The white-cloaked girl also spoke very seriously: “Yes, yes, yes. You can’t withhold it, just unleash the final strike now, once you’ve recovered a bit, we’ll talk”

Gu Qing Shan indeed felt the Mind Sword slowly accumulating power to its maximum within his soul body.

He pondered a bit and answered honestly: “...But I’ve already used this technique once before, if I use it again, I’ll be so drained that I won’t be able to deal with any upcoming battles”

The black-cloaked girl replied: “It’s ok, aren’t we here to supply you with mental power?”

The white-cloaked girl continued, speaking in a slightly spoiled tone: “That’s right, as long as you don’t use that strike to attack us, we’ll be able to help you recover all of your strength”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan carefully focused his mind on experiencing the last strike, the Mind Sword.

Sha—

The void in front of Gu Qing Shan was cut apart, revealing countless silent stars.

It then quickly closed back up.

The two girls held Gu Qing Shan’s hand tightly and uttered a small heave as they transferred their power into Gu Qing Shan’s soul.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised to find that all of his fatigue was gone.

He had never felt this level of clarity and spirit before.

“What kind of power is this?” Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The white-cloaked girl answered: “This is the pure essence refined from the World Origin and power of the soul, it can recover any type of expenditure, so we wouldn’t arbitrarily use it”

The two girls let go of his hands.

The black-cloaked girl said: “There, now we can talk”

The white-cloaked girl pursed her lips a bit before softly speaking: “She’s Gou Hun, I’m Duo Ming, two minor Deities of Huang Quan, also hailed by humanity as the twin snakes of black and white”¹

Gu Qing Shan hesitantly asked: “The two of you are real Deities?”

The two girls nodded.

The black-cloaked girl continued: “The two of us are actually the two Deities with the closest relationship to you because the dead people that we reel in would all become your subordinates after going through the karmic evaluation, so you’ll always reward us”

The white-cloaked girl followed up: “That’s why we’re actually the closest friends and siblings you’ll ever have”

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

—-even before I understand the situation of the parallel world, I've already gotten a couple of siblings.

Gu Qing Shan then asked: "The Devil King Warden Rod's artifact spirit was already dead, so it instinctively chose a Devil King among the dead people of Huang Quan. I had to go through a test and triumphed against all the other dead people to become the Devil King, how did you obtain your Godhood?"

The black-cloaked girl raised her jade-green fishing rod.

The white-cloaked girl raised her azure glazed lamp.

"Then, it was our Divine Armaments that chose us?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Not quite, you can't really say it was the Divine Armaments since they're the manifestation of the Quang Quan's will, it should be Huang Quan that chose us" the black-cloaked girl corrected him.

Gu Qing Shan thought of something and continued: "But my Samsara was only an imitation, it's probably different from your world"

The two girls listened to him with understanding expressions.

"Devil King, you must remember this clearly, a Samsara that can give birth to a Huang Quan Divine Armament is surely not fake" the black-cloaked girl explained.

"Even if it was an imitation, it must have used a fragment of the real Samsara to stimulate a complete Samsara" the white-cloaked girl added.

The black-cloaked girl followed up: "Because of that, your Samsara must have used a real fragment of Huang Quan as its [Origin] in order to create an entire Samsara"

The white-cloaked girl then continued: "In other places, there are also various Samsara created from fragments of the Heavenly realm, Wraith realm, Human realm, Asura realm, so on and so forth— there are actually quite a few of them"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

It makes sense.

The Grand Tie Wei Mountain was indeed not fake, as not even Abaddon managed to leave a dent on it.

Dr.LockWhen the Soul Shrieker tried to warp to Huang Quan, I also used the Devil King Warden Rod to prevent its course

With such power, how could it be fake?

He couldn't help but ask again: "Then, are there other Huang Quan Devil Kings within the other Huang Quan fragments?"

"How is that possible?" the black-cloaked girl giggled: "The Deities within every fragment of Huang Quan are different, only by combining them all could a complete Huang Quan be formed"

The white-cloaked girl explained: "In our fragment of Huang Quan, there are only a few techniques and spells within the Devil King's knowledge inheritance, but not your actual self; similarly, I believe that us two Deities wouldn't exist within your fragment of Huang Quan either"

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At this point, the two girls were startled.

The black-cloaked girl said: "Ah, oh no, the power that supports us being in this world is about to run out"

The white-cloaked girl hurriedly told him: "Devil King, you need to be careful"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Careful of what?"

"The situation is very complicated; we can't explain it very well" the black-cloaked girl spoke sternly.

The white-cloaked girl glared at her, then continued: "In truth, we don't really know what the situation is either"

The black-cloaked girl glared back at her and said: "Both me and my little sister don't really hold any ambitions, I like to play cards, while she likes to cook, in short, both of us only hope to maintain a peaceful life. But these cultivators clearly have something else in mind, not to mention the other Deities of Huang Quan as well. Once they learn of you being the Huang Quan Devil King, someone would surely try to get rid of you"

"Why must they get rid of me?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The two girls looked at him full of implications.

The black-cloaked girl worriedly answered: "Just think about it, all of the dead people from the 18 layers of hell are under your command. How do you think the Deities from Hell's Gate Pass, Bridge of Life and Death, Forgetting River Banks, and Reincarnation Hall¹ would feel about that?"

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

The white-cloaked girl added: "We have a relationship of mutual benefit with you, basically of the same family, so we're on your side, but the others won't necessarily be the same"

Their bodies slowly turned faint and incorporeal.

They turned around, each grabbing the soul of the female cultivator that they took over before waving to Gu Qing Shan and started fading away.

Before disappearing completely, the white-cloaked girl turned to him and softly spoke: "You might believe that there is only one parallel world descending, but that's not the case"

The black-cloaked girl added: "There are actually a total of 908 parallel worlds undergoing destruction at once, their combined powers broke through the restraints of the Laws of Infinite worlds, thus entering this space vortex and falling into the Eternal Abyss"

The white-cloaked girl followed up: “The Fate Corrosion created by these destroyed worlds cannot be stopped by anyone, so it shouldn’t be too long before the Eternal Abyss is completely defeated”

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

908 parallel worlds... all undergoing destruction.

With that level of power, no wonder the Earth Creator was erased in just a moment of carelessness.

Who exactly is behind this?

—why do they insist on destroying the Eternal Abyss?

The black-cloaked girl spoke up again: “Devil king, this is the war between parallel worlds and the Eternal Abyss, a true apocalyptic war that would affect countless living beings and countless worlds, you must conceal yourself and flee as far as possible”

The white-cloaked girl also said: “Take care, I hope that the Devil King will grow stronger and eventually escape from this Apocalypse”

The two girls slightly bowed, melted into the void, and completely vanished.

Gu Qing Shan just stood there for a while, stunned.

The truth was beyond anything he could imagine.

This wasn’t something that a single person could handle.

This was a war of extinction!

After a long while, Gu Qing Shan sighed and forced himself to stop thinking about it.

A faint fluctuation emerged from his Inventory Bag.

Gu Qing Shan looked down to find that it was actually the ring that Boss gave him.

The Abyssal ring.

At the same time, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[The Eternal Abyss is striving to collect all information related to the parallel world and Fate Corrosion]

[Your Abyssal ring had recognized your contact with visitors from a parallel world]

[It wishes for your information]

[You may expend 1 Soul Points to activate the ring’s power, helping it send information of the truth to the Eternal Abyss]

Gu Qing Shan asked: “What if I don’t want to tell it?”

A new line of glowing text appeared:

[The System shall erase the consciousness of the ring, it will no longer be able to sense the Eternal Abyss— naturally, this will require Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan paused slightly.

— he recalled something.

When I returned from the God of Death's site of inheritance to Calming Soul Country, I discussed something with Boss.

At the time, I said:

...

"Because I carry the [Demon King Order], the Soul Shrieker will surely come to kill me"

"What do you want to do?" Boss asked.

"I need the Card fragments in the four Deities' hands, I want to resurrect an [Order] to fight against it"

Boss thought briefly, then said: "Then, I'll help you with this matter. After that, you will help me fight against the Apocalypse"

"That's fine" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"So, we have a deal?"

"We have a deal"

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...

I've already allied myself with the Abyss...

How could I change my mind now?

Gu Qing Shan put the ring into his hand and infused it with Soul Points.

He then formed a hand seal with the other hand to record everything that happened just now into the ring.

"Go, tell the Abyss that its enemies might be even stronger than it had assumed!"

Gu Qing Shan shouted.

A cluster of light manifested from the ring then broke through the void of space and flew away.

Since that was over, Gu Qing Shan no longer lingered here.

— in truth, if the twin snakes of black and white didn't come to visit, he would have already reached the 7-colored spear.

Gu Qing Shan continued flying forward, arriving at the location he sensed from the fragment around 15 minutes later.

This place...

Gu Qing Shan looked up; a bit confused.

Right above him was an endlessly outstretched wall made of a material that his inner sight couldn't penetrate.

"Could it be inside the wall?"

Gu Qing Shan tried touching the wall.

As soon as he did, the sound of consecutive rumbling resounded.

A number of stones moved away from their positions to reveal a gloomy stone staircase.

There really was something here!

Gu Qing Shan trembled.

Who would've thought that there was another secret path hidden right on this endless wall?

Gu Qing Shan jumped in and was soon out of sight.

The stones gave off rumbling noises that closed up once more, ensuring that no one would be able to notice anything.

...

At another location.

The void darkness.

Heavenly King Mara's humongous body stood still without moving.

All of a sudden, streaks of light arrived from the faraway darkness stopping one after another.

Like a meteor shower, countless cultivators appeared in this darkness.

Heavenly King Mara kept its eyes closed as its expression moved slightly.

700... 900... 1200... 2700... 3000.

A total of 3000 cultivators.

Including a {Yama King} realm peak stage cultivator.

This is a talent that could reach {Mahesvara King} realm, how rare.

Cheh—

So these people from Huang Quan were really prepared for a great battle.

It seems those pixie souls would finally be eliminated without fail.

Heavenly King Mara was a bit pleased.

As the cultivators settled themselves, a cultivator stepped out from among the group, clasping his fist towards the Heavenly King Mara: “Heavenly King, leave this time’s matter to us, we will surely give you an appropriate answer”

Heavenly King Mara observed and found that it was indeed the {Yama King} realm peak stage cultivator.

The Heavenly King casually spoke: 『 However, those ones had most likely fled far away. We’ve already lost their trail, and the entire secret passage is much too deep, it shall take quite a bit of time 』

That cultivator clapped his hands.

Two cultivators immediately stepped out, jointly forming a hand seal.

“We shall tell the Heavenly King. Before our men died, they had actually unleashed a tracking Divine Skill that struck those insects’ flying implement, even if they ran to the ends of Reality, we would still be able to trace them”

As he explained, the two cultivators had finished using the tracking technique.

A mass of light formed a screen that expanded to form a scene in the darkness.

On that screen, the Starlight ship was slowly making its descent.

Su Xue Er, Hazeden’s group, even the pixies’ souls were clearly displayed in the picture.

The leading cultivator spoke: “Please take a look, Heavenly King, we have found the target”

The Heavenly King Mara replied: 『 Indeed. I can see that you’ve brought quite a few people with you, what do you intend to do now? 』

The cultivator clasped his fist and coldly replied: “They dared kill our men, so I will kill every last one of them, bring their souls back, and offer them all to the Heavenly King!”

Heavenly King Mara laughed:

『 Ahaha, very well! I love consuming suffering souls such as these. You may leave, I shall be waiting here for your triumphant return! 』

Chapter 1098

The trembling sound resounding through the void slowly calmed down in a gradual manner.

The ship landed on the flat top of a base.

—there was a landing pad here, specifically made to accommodate aircrafts from the outside.

“What kind of place is this?” Hazeden asked.

Su Xue Er replied: “I’m not sure either. I have a star chart where this place was the final location marked out, the description of which says that this was a war base”

She stared down at the screen, quickly operated the dashboard, inputting orders to perform a short check on the ship.

Finally, the overall evaluation was displayed:

[Overall integrity: Normal]

[Spare components: Plenty in supply, performing maintenance on damaged compartments]

[Estimated required time: 17 minutes 59 seconds]

Su Xue Er sighed in relief.

This ship would serve as the final layer of defense for protecting Gu Qing Shan's body, so nothing must go wrong with it.

Sha Qiang asked with interest: 『 If this is a war base, we should be able to find some Technological-type weapons 』

Guyan coldly questioned: “Do you know how to use Technological-type weapons?”

Sha Qiang froze, then laughed: 『 That's true, I don't have the patience to be using such complicated things! 』

Su Xue Er thought briefly and nodded: “Technological artifacts from the Starlight Empire are quite powerful, I'll try to see if I can establish communication with the base”

Hazeden shrugged: “As far as I know, Technological-type weapons are the type that require frequent maintenance— after 100 million years, even if there are any weapons here, it should have already been ruined”

Su Xue Er insisted: “We should still give it a try, just in case there is anything usable, we'd get an extra layer of protection”

She turned on the communicator, trying to tap into the war base's communication frequency.

Everyone else exchanged glances, a bit surprised.

While Gu Qing Shan was here, this girl normally wouldn't even participate in battle and only stayed behind him.

But as soon as she was separated from Gu Qing Shan, she became so resolute.

Su Xue Er quickly operated the controls.

A few moments later.

A faint signal was displayed on the screen.

Followed by a cold mechanical voice:

[This is the final war base. Visitors, please clearly state your ident...]

“I am the heir of the Starlight Empire, Su Xue Er”

[Su Xue Er, The Explorer Assault Mech Armor has been received, please put your hand on the screen for the base center to confirm your identity]

A flash of light appeared on the screen that continued to scroll down.

Su Xue Er pressed her hand on it.

The light scanned through her palm.

[Identity confirmed, Su Xue Er, you are the heir of the Starlight Empire]

[Now, please enter the Empire's inherited secret password]

Su Xue Er froze.

The Empire's inherited secret password?

I've never heard of something like that before.

In the past, the Starlight Empire was split into countless factions.

Perhaps the 9 Lords obtained the Starlight Cloaks, while another faction obtained the secret password.

That wouldn't be strange at all.

"I don't have the Empire's inherited secret password" Su Xue Er shook her head.

[Without the Empire's inherited secret password, the war base shall not activate] the voice coldly replied.

Su Xue Er hurriedly asked: "Can we rest here?"

[You are the heir of the Starlight Empire; you may rest here]

Su Xue Er nodded.

She turned to the others: "It seems like I can't activate this base, and we won't be able to enter— however, there's finally a place for us to rest"

Everyone looked out the window.

The top of the base was completely barren and flat as if it consisted of countless main squares being put together.

There were also numerous metal bunkers all over the gigantic square.

There were countless sprites of lights moving about within a certain bunker.

It was the pixies.

They were constantly moving in circles around a wooden statue.

No one understood what they were doing.

No one had ever been able to understand what a pixie was doing unless they were part of it.

— in short, this was very convenient place, enough for everyone to rest in.

『 That's great 』 Sha Qiang excitedly said: 『 The outside of this damn ship looked so big, but the inside was so narrow, I want to go outside to get some fresh air 』

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Never mind anything else, the smell of evil creatures was extremely unpleasant.

—-of course, there were some who liked this smell, but they were the outliers.

And the evil creatures themselves weren't very comfortable on the ship either.

Guyan group's flames and the evil creatures' flames kept getting intermingled with one another as well.

Neither side was comfortable with that.

Su Xue Er explained: "It's so narrow inside because the majority of the interior was fashioned for the sake of combat"

She opened the door of the ship.

Everyone quickly made their way down.

Hazeden turned around and asked: "What about you? Aren't you going to leave as well?"

Su Xue Er shook her head: "I'll keep watch here, just in case"

Hazeden nodded and left with his subordinates.

Su Xue Er then closed the cabin door, blankly staring at the main screen.

There was still a bit of time until the ship was fully repaired.

As for keeping watch, the ship's defensive system had been constantly turned on.

So there were no problems at the moment.

Su Xue Er stood up and walked to the innermost room of the ship's control area.

Gu Qing Shan was lying here with both eyes closed, almost like he was asleep.

Su Xue Er sat down next to Gu Qing Shan.

As she stared closely at Gu Qing Shan, her eyes turned gentle.

It was completely silent.

She simply sat there, watching over him.

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...

Gu Qing Shan's soul body was walking through the inside of the cliff.

There was only a single path that led to who-knows-where.

He basically had no choice but to continue following the staircase.

After about 2 hours of this, the path gradually became a bit wider.

Huge clusters of clouds drifted over the walled path, making sure that no one could see where they were heading.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight.

His inner sight couldn't penetrate the clouds.

There was no way to check what was hidden inside the path covered by the cloud.

As he turned around, he saw that the path leading here was extremely long and that it was impossible to see the end.

Since I'm already here, I might as well not waste my efforts.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, took both swords in his hands and flew into the cloud.

Continue.

And kept continuing forward.

Another hour passed.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan was already feeling uneasy.

I killed so many of the Heavenly King Mara's subordinates and cultivators from the Huang Quan fragment world, both sides must have surely gotten furious.

If they rally forces to try and pursue them for the sake of revenge, Su Xue Er's group would be in danger.

I can only hope that they can't find Su Xue Er's group.

— but Gu Qing Shan had a feeling that was only wishful thinking.

The secret passage is Heavenly King Mara's turf, even if those cultivators can't find Su Xue Er's group, Heavenly King Mara would be able to somehow— and conversely, even if Heavenly King Mara can't find the pixies, those cultivators from the Huang Quan fragment would be able to locate the pixies one way or another.

I need to hurry up.

With his unease and sense of urgency, Gu Qing Shan sped up.

The journey forward was long.

Another half an hour passed.

Just as Gu Qing Shan was about to lose his patience, the clouds that covered the path ahead abruptly dissipated.

He had gotten out from the clouds!

This was such a sudden occurrence that Gu Qing Shan became wary, propping both swords in front of his chest to prevent an ambush.

But soon, he put them down.

“What exactly... is this place?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered and looked around.

He was standing on top of a flight of stairs— which was also the very last step of the previous stair.

Everything in front of him was covered in clouds.

The sea of clouds started from his feet and reached endlessly far in all directions.

Above the sea of clouds, there was literally nothing. Aside from Gu Qing Shan himself, there was nothing to be seen.

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

——there really was nothing here, even the wall above his head had disappeared.

Could it be, this place is outside of the wall?

But then, why is there nothing here?

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the stair, falling into thought.

He took a step forward.

If someone had made the effort to create such a long flight of stairs, there must have been a purpose.

There is no way that this flight of stairs is meaningless.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and shouted: “ANY ——BODY ——HEREEEE?”

Any- body- here?

Body- here?

Body- here?

Here here here ere re e——

The echo continued for a long while before it was gone.

No response.

Standing on top of the clouds, his inner sight was unobstructed, so he tried releasing it all around.

Still nothing.

Gu Qing Shan just stood still for a long while.

All of a sudden, the sea of clouds a bit further from where he stood started to form a gigantic maelstrom.

A large head poked out from inside the maelstrom.

Followed by a pair of tattooed arms.

The two arms propped themselves on top of the cloud, pulling the torso upwards.

Once his torso was above the clouds, that entity stopped.

He breathed heavily as he observed Gu Qing Shan.

It couldn't be helped, his body wasn't small, just the torso alone was several dozen stories tall.

Gu Qing Shan was also observing him.

One eye.

One horn.

A huge mouth.

His torso was filled with tattoos, exuding the fluctuations of a storm.

This was a giant that he had never seen ever before.

Why would there be a giant here?

Wasn't every lifeform in the secret passage already killed by Heavenly King Mara, leaving the pixies the only ones remaining?

Gu Qing Shan was full of questions.

At this point, the one-eyed, one-horned giant started to speak, his booming voice echoed through this vast, boundless space:

「 Be it an insect or a Deity, every being that makes their way here has their own fate to fulfill, and I have prepared your fate 」

「 However, following the order of things, you are supposed to be the second, as such you shall wait with me for the first person to fulfill their fate to arrive 」

After declaring so, the giant stopped looking at Gu Qing Shan and turned in another direction.

He actually started to wait.

As Gu Qing Shan was about to ask something, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've met the Giant of Beginning, the first giant to be created within the infinite parallel worlds]

[The Giant of Beginning is immune to all magical attacks, ignores all physical attacks, it has the authority of granting passage within the layer of clouds. It can be traded with, cannot be defeated]

[Attention: You must communicate with it in the most cautious manner possible]

Chapter 1099

It had been a very long time since the War God UI acted so cautiously.

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through the notifications and became cautious as well.

The Giant of Beginning...

I wonder how long it had lived for—

No, rather than that, it would be more accurate to say that the concept of 'time' itself had lost its meaning to him.

Gu Qing Shan shut his mouth and decided not to say anything, simply waiting with him.

After all, the Giant had declared that there was another person in the queue in front of him.

A while later.

The person who was supposed to be first still hadn't appeared.

The Giant had also gotten a bit bored and complained: 「 Could they be a fearful fellow who doesn't want to face their fate? I really hate tardy fellows like this one 」

Saying so, he glanced down at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, nodded in agreement, and said nothing else.

The Giant no longer paid any attention to him.

Gu Qing Shan turned his thoughts to recall the declaration of the Giant as he appeared.

...

「 Be it an insect or a Deity, every being that makes their way here has their own fate to fulfill, and I have prepared your fate 」

...

'Fate' referred to a definite occurrence in the future.

But the fate of living beings and all things as it was normally understood had always been undetermined as well as constantly changing; only one kind of future would truly be considered 'fate'.

Cause and Effect – Causality.

The Laws of Causality cannot be broken, even through the endlessly distant space and time, a Cause will always end with its Effect.

In other words, the Giant will bring about a certain result – the Effect – to those who make their way here.

Gu Qing Shan continued this train of thought.

—what is 'result'?

The conclusion of an occurrence is a result.

The end of a life is also a result.

A reminder, a statement, an item.

As long as they represent some sort of result, they would fit.

This isn't easy to guess...

But Gu Qing Shan slowly calmed down.

Because he had confidence in the Effect that would follow all the Causes that he had ever created.

At this point, a person abruptly appeared next to the Giant.

The man donned a suit of armor with a colorful glow, wielding a greatsword.

The presence he gave off affected even the layer of clouds, causing it to drift away from him, but soon drifted back towards him.

As soon as the person appeared, he saw the Giant.

He glanced at the Giant, then at Gu Qing Shan, then at the boundless sea of clouds around himself.

——quite obviously, he was the same as Gu Qing Shan, unable to comprehend his current situation.

「 Very well, you have finally made it here 」

The Giant of Beginning spoke in his resounding voice.

His voice was so loud that the void of space itself started to tremble.

The armored man froze, then put his greatsword in front of himself as a guard and cautiously questioned: “Who are you? Why are you here?”

「 Me? I am Giant, hm, the greatest Giant 」 the Giant of Beginning introduced himself.

“Giant, huh... I ask you; you seem like you were waiting here for me, is that correct?” the other person asked.

The Giant of Beginning nodded: 「 You are correct. I have been waiting for a while. In truth, all beings who make their way to this place have their own fate to face... 」

The Giant took out an incredibly tattered notebook, flipped through it, and searched until he found the marks that he had made.

He scowled, then muttered in a broken manner:

「 Parallel world #998, Infinite World Deific King, hm, you are indeed the correct person 」

「 The day is today, that is correct as well 」

「 The Infinite World Deific King massacred countless worlds and obtained the only opportunity to arrive in the layer of clouds, thus standing in front of me. The fate waiting for him is—— 」

「 Death 」

Before he even finished, Gu Qing Shan felt his vision turning blurred.

Without realizing what was going on, he saw the armored person being grabbed and put into the Giant's mouth.

Ca-rak ca-rak ca-rak!

Crack!

Followed by the sound of chewing.

While eating, the Giant muttered to itself: 「 How great, this armor is truly tough, but I've always loved eating these crunchy things 」

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He then wiped the blood dripping out from his lip with his finger, using that as ink to cross out something from the notebook.

「 Very nice, today's first transaction is finished—— and I even gained a bit of profit 」

Saying so, the Giant spat out a mass of colorful glowing things.

——it was the armor that the Infinite World Deific King was wearing just now!

The Giant of Beginning took a look at it, then happily tossed it below the clouds.

After he was done, he turned to face Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's expression was indifferent.

「 What an interesting one... you had more than enough time to flee, what you didn't try to? 」 the Giant asked with his booming voice.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Since it is fate, there is no harm taking a look"

The Giant paused.

「 Did you see that person's fate just now? 」 he asked.

"I saw" Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Are you not afraid? 」

"I assume that won't be my fate"

The Giant was surprised: 「 Why not? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Because fate comes from Causality, and after a bit of thought, I have done nothing that would cause me to die here"

The Giant asked: 「 Are you not afraid of having a nemesis? You should know, I'm a businessman, what if I had taken an order to kill you here? 」

Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied: "I've always been a person of kindness and love, never the one to perform any evil deeds, so I'm not afraid"

The Giant appeared unconvinced and asked: 「 Have you never killed anyone? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I've killed a lot of people"

「 Then—— 」

"I've always made sure to clean up everything thoroughly, they won't have the chance to come here and ask you to kill me"

The Giant checked his notebook a bit, then lost interest: 「 Smart people really are so loathsome 」

Gu Qing Shan then recalled something and added: "Right, I forgot to tell you—— those who've done business with me have always gotten rich beyond their imagination"

「 Ah? Really now? 」 the Giant was interested.

"When it comes to livelihood, how could I make random claims? Not to mention, I normally don't deceive people" Gu Qing Shan sternly replied.

The Giant sharply asked: 「 So, when do you deceive people? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "When they don't want to talk business and insist on killing me"

The Giant thought briefly, then nodded: 「 Those people are truly loathsome 」

His expression relaxed a bit before taking a jade tag from behind, giving it to Gu Qing Shan.

「 This is the 'fate' that the you of the past left in my hands, now I shall pass it on to you 」

Me of the past?

Gu Qing Shan looked at the jade tag, his expression became serious: "I don't really understand, can you please explain it a bit more carefully, I'd be very grateful"

The Giant patiently explained: 「 This piece of jade belonged to another 'you', who came from an extremely powerful parallel world. That 'you' was around several dozen times stronger than you are, but that parallel world is already destroyed, and that 'you' is already dead, my apologies 」

「 As for why he wanted to leave this little piece of jade for you, I didn't care, I only worked for payment 」

「 Hand this piece of jade to a 'me' who could make it here—— these are the original words that 'you' said 」

This time, Gu Qing Shan understood.

He immediately asked: "In the infinite parallel worlds, is this place unique?"

The Giant of Beginning looked at him and praised: 「 Indeed, this is the path of clouds that leads into 'that place', of course, it is unique 」

He then sighed: 「 He was a very smart man, and very powerful, so why did he have to seek death? I really don't understand. But that doesn't matter, we only had a business relationship 」

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything.

After all, it was a bit strange to hear about your own death.

He received the jade tag and used his inner sight to activate it.

A voice was projected from the jade tag into his Thought Sea.

It was his own.

"I once left a shadow of myself in the homeworld, so you should already know about the Samsara"

"Overall, I did not make any mistakes from beginning to end"

"The only thing I shouldn't have done is to give up on the status of Devil King of Huang Quan"

"Absolutely do not give up your status within the Samsara, otherwise, you won't even live to regret it"

"Other than that, I do not have anything else I can tell you, because if I did, you will die"

"Keep in mind, although the Samsara is broken, you cannot give up on the Samsara..."

Gu Qing Shan silently listened to the end before crushing the jade tag into dust.

"Thank you, I've received his 'fate'" he clasped his fist towards the Giant.

The Giant stared closely at him and asked curiously: 「 Are you not afraid when you hear news of your own death? Or rather, aren't you sad or scared of the death of the other 'you? 」

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: "There is no need to do such a thing, as death is only another kind of beginning. He must have taken some other forms, trying his best to strive for his goal. As long as he still draws breath, he would definitely not give up, I believe the other 'me' can definitely achieve such a thing"

Chapter 1100

While Gu Qing Shan was talking with the Giant of Beginning, his mind wandered somewhere else.

I did indeed meet that shadow in my homeworld.

What did the shadow say at the time?

...

[I came from the Age of Immemorial, once the shadow of a certain person...]

...

—-from the Age of Immemorial.

That was at least over a hundred million years ago, around the time of the Inner Plane's destruction.

In other words, the 'Gu Qing Shan' who advised that I shouldn't give up my status as the Huang Quan Devil King had already set everything up over a hundred million years ago.

At the time, he was already the Huang Quan Devil King, but for one reason or another, he gave up on the status of Devil King.

Which ended in his regret.

— — — so he left a word of caution for me from the extremely distant Age of Immemorial.

Over a hundred million years, that is a very long time, would those monsters in the River of Time let him pass?

Those monsters do not do anything, their only meaning of existence is to observe the infinite worlds and see if there are any holes within the River of Time, coordinating an attack as soon as they discover one.

For them, this is their life and their enjoyment.

...so how did that 'Gu Qing Shan' manage to return so far? Still with the power of the coins?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

— — — small matters like that are no longer important.

The important thing now is that I've gotten the message, I cannot give up on my status in the Samsara.

The Giant's booming voice declared: 「 Very well, today's business is done, you can return from the way you came, if you want me to teleport you back, that'll cost an extra fee 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at the Giant's expectant gaze and couldn't help but ask: "How much?"

「 Depends on what you have 」 the Giant replied.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at him again.

The Giant was still clearly expectant.

— — — this Giant is very, very interested in doing business and transactions.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes briefly.

The 7-colored fragment was giving off very faint fluctuation, pointing at the Giant of Beginning.

Seems like when I tossed Abaddon away during the battle of Huang Quan, it was this Giant who caught it later on.

How should I take Abaddon back from him?

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and replied: "— — — I'll be frank, other than being teleported back, I also want a useful weapon, do you have any weapons for sale here?"

The Giant's eyes glowed.

One teleportation and one weapon, my earnings should be quite decent.

What a true customer.

「 Weapons huh? What kind of weapon do you want? 」 the Giant of Beginning tried asking.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “A cold weapon, preferably long-handled”

The Giant fell into thought briefly.

Numerous lances, pikes, halberds, spears, and javelins appeared between Gu Qing Shan and the Giant.

These weapons carried different types of power, some related to the element; some required willpower to use; some even had their own weapon spirit and sentience.

The weapons all gave off a powerful aura.

Gu Qing Shan glanced through them all and shook his head: “Not good enough”

The Giant replied: 「 All of these are very nice artifacts already, if you want even better weapons, I want to see what kind of thing you have 」

Gu Qing Shan asked: “What do you want?”

The Giant appeared a bit pressed and replied: 「 Things from the outside world, anything valuable will be fine, as long as it's unrelated to combat. My stock of combative items is already a bit too much to maintain 」

Unrelated to combat huh?

Gu Qing Shan randomly took out a Dragon's Tear Flower.

This was a flower from the cultivation world that was beneficial to the soul.

The Giant glanced at it and casually stated: 「 Flower-type items are certainly rare, but that isn't even enough to exchange for one of these weapons, let alone better things 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at the flower in his hand, then at the weapons.

— all of those weapons were certainly decent, even in the 900 million World Layers, they could be considered rare artifacts.

The Giant's expression was calm.

But Gu Qing Shan had different thoughts.

This guy's calm expression is very unnatural!

—-if there's nothing to care about, then why bother keeping up that terrible poker face?

Maybe...

This Giant can only remain here without leaving?

With that thought in mind, Gu Qing Shan took out the pot of the flower.

“This is dirt from a Cultivation-type world, capable of nurturing the majority of plants” he introduced it. The Giant appeared a bit tempted.

He reached one finger down, lightly touched just a little bit of dirt, and carefully tasted it in his mouth.

「 Hmmm... indeed, this is high-quality dirt, but still far from enough to exchange for a weapon 」

“Alright, let me take a closer look”

Gu Qing Shan searched through his Inventory Bag once.

Qin Xiao Lou’s spirit cooking.

Xiu Xiu’s flower and plant seeds.

Cultivation books that Qing Rou and Wan Er gave him.

Several HDDs that belonged to Liao Xing—— although Gu Qing Shan hasn’t looked through them, according to Ye Fei Li, they just contained teaching materials regarding romance. He looked through them, picked out some that were ‘plain trashy and would need to be destroyed after one look’, then left the rest for Gu Qing Shan.

A set of documents named [The matter of self-care for a performing actor], and a novel named [This hitman isn’t as cold as I thought], both from Zhang Ying Hao.

The rest were daily items.

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Ah, right, there were also the coins from the Strife Zones—— Gu Qing Shan only kept the octopus coin that could summon a fridge that was currently packed full of drinks to himself.

In short, Gu Qing Shan took out everything that he could take out.

He decided not to try any tricks.

The other party was the very first Giant in the infinite parallel worlds, he had probably lived for hundreds of millions of years and witnessed countless things; he could easily summon anybody he wanted to meet through using Causality.

If one really tried to use petty tricks against such a mythical being, one would probably be dead before they even realized it.

The Giant saw how many items Gu Qing Shan took out and doubtfully asked: “How come you took out so many things?”

Gu Qing Shan carefully explained: “When doing business, trust must be respected above all else—— from the perspective of value, I think these things are still far from enough—— because these are very common items, but what I want is an actual good weapon”

After a short pause, the Giant chuckled: 「 And here I thought you’d be the kind to act sly...」

He glanced at the weapons.

All of them immediately turned into rusty, ruined trash.

「 Since you mentioned trust, my reputation had always been good, as long as others are truly willing to conduct a transaction with me 」

The Giant thought briefly, then continued: 「 These items that you presented, I want them all 」

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Then, about the weapon...”

The Giant retrieved all the tattered trashy weapons hovering in the air, and took out another group of long-handled weapons.

As soon as they appeared, they started giving off a faint aura of power, the breeze that drifted around them was more than enough to explain what they actually were.

Soul Artifacts.

They were all uniquely powerful Soul Artifacts, another of them would be enough to rouse the greed and envy of Combatants everywhere.

Gu Qing Shan quickly glanced through them all.

—*Abaddon isn't among them.*

Of course, these weapons were definitely powerful, but compared to a weapon of Abaddon's level, they were still one grade lower.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and shook his head: “These are not what I want”

The Giant wasn't angry and simply replied with his booming voice: 「 If you wish to exchange for even more powerful weapons, a bit of dirt and mundane outside world items aren't going to cut it— even if you had offered more, I wouldn't exchange them 」

“Why not?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Giant appeared nostalgic and slowly replied: 「 You are a smart person, so you've probably realized, I'm unwilling to leave this place— because in the outside world, no matter how powerful an entity is, there would come a day where they face their end 」

“Seems like you've lost quite a lot” Gu Qing Shan commented.

The Giant sighed and continued: 「 The past need not be mentioned again, let us return to our transaction— if others find out that I traded legendary artifacts for what are essentially the most mundane items in the outside world, I would become the subject of ridicule for all, my reputation would also be ruined 」

Gu Qing Shan insisted: “But I truly do need better weapons”

The Giant opened its single eye widely to observe Gu Qing Shan, then slowly said: 「 That... is not impossible. Other than the things you have here, there are other more precious things to you that you may exchange 」

“More precious things to me? That is... do you want my soul?” Gu Qing Shan cautiously asked.

The Giant’s face became grim: 「 I am NOT an evil creature 」

“My apologies, may I ask what it is that you want exactly?” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

The Giant pointed a finger at Gu Qing Shan and asked: 「 In the infinite worlds, what is most crucial? 」

“What is it?”

「 Talented individuals with unique abilities! 」

“...” Gu Qing Shan.

The Giant continued: 「 There used to be a huge scorpion who had the strongest poisonous stinger in existence, while also impervious to all magic. It was capable of destroying countless worlds, an unrivalled entity in every meaning of the word—— but it couldn’t perform hygienic maintenance on its own poison stinger 」

「 The huge scorpion once tried to wash its own poison stinger, but ended almost poisoning itself to death 」

「 From that point on, it no longer tried to try washing itself 」

「 Those who were captured and forced to wash its poison sting were dead long before they could even touch its stinger 」

「 Every time that huge scorpion went out, the foul stench it gave off was enough to cause the people of an entire world to faint 」

「 It had no girlfriend 」

“And then?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

The Giant continued: 「 Many years later, it found a certain person. That person had basically no strength to speak of, but he had awakened a unique ability that allowed him to ignore the poison stinger to directly wash away all the grime and contamination on its body 」

“So potent? What kind of ability was it?” Gu Qing Shan found that a bit unimaginable.

The Giant sternly replied: 「 That is a secret, I am not clear about that either. According to legends, that ability was called [Washes, Cuts, and Blows] 」

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “What a vivid picture”

The Giant clenched his fist tightly and spoke very seriously: 「 Even great VIPs who have unrivalled power and strength cannot be omnipotent entities, they would surely have one or two issues of this type that they want resolved. And so, within the infinite worlds, the most precious resource are talented individuals with unique and rare abilities! 」

He clapped his hands.

A letter of entrustment appeared in the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan received it, took a look at it, then immediately shook his head: “This isn’t my area of expertise, I’ll be honest, I’ve only just barely begun my studies on this subject”

The Giant showed a doubtful expression and asked: 「 Didn’t you say you wanted a peerless artifact? 」

He clapped his hands again.

Poof poof poof poof poof!

Clouds of smoke erupted one after another.

Weapons of extreme aura and pressure slowly appeared, hovering in the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan immediately saw the 7-colored spear.

The 7-colored spear gave off a clear ringing noise.

The Giant looked at the spear, then at Gu Qing Shan.

He thought briefly.

「 I understand, so you were actually after this Abyssal Saint Armament from the very start 」 the Giant said.

“Yes, actually, from a while ago, with this weapon——” Gu Qing Shan casually admitted.

But the Giant had already begun talking to itself: 「 In reality, this weapon didn’t really cost me anything, since it was tossed away by some fellow who liked to litter. At the time, I was having an afternoon nap, but thankfully I reacted in time, otherwise, it would definitely have hit me on the head 」

「 What an uneducated fellow, littering into the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation in this day and age 」

「 If I knew who they were, I’d definitely devour them whole! 」

After saying so, the Giant turned to Gu Qing Shan and asked: 「 ——ah right, what did you say just now? 」

“I... feel like the weather is quite nice today...”

Gu Qing Shan barely managed to squeeze out the words.

Chapter 1101

「 The weather is nice today? 」

The Giant looked up at the sky in surprise.

There was nothing above the sea of clouds.

Nothing but a pure stretch of white that expanded in all directions, making it impossible to fathom its end.

「 Once you're used to seeing it, this kind of weather becomes boring 」 the Giant turned his gaze back down at Gu Qing Shan: 「 Alright, time is money, so now it's your turn to make the choice 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at the letter of entrustment in his hand with a troubled expression.

「 So? Afraid? 」 the one-eyed Giant asked.

“Not really” Gu Qing Shan sighed, “I'm fine with fighting and combat, but this entrustment seemed to have existed for a very long time, so many people have tried it and failed; I'm not even an expert at this, so I'm not confident in being able to finish it”

「 It hasn't been that long; this entrustment had only been issued for around 190 million years 」

While saying that, he grabbed the 7-colored spear between his two fingers and showed it to Gu Qing Shan.

The Giant continued: 「 The weapon is right here, it's your choice whether or not you'll accept the entrustment 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at the 7-colored spear.

「 Help... help... me... 」

A voice faintly resounded.

—it was the 7-colored spear itself.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

It's the key to defeating the Soul Shrieker, how could I give up here?

“Alright, I'll accept the entrustment, but I can't guarantee that I'll be able to complete it” Gu Qing Shan said.

The Giant didn't move, but a pen manifested in front of Gu Qing Shan.

「 Sign 」 the Giant told him.

Gu Qing Shan then signed his name at the bottom of the letter of entrustment.

The Giant narrowed his eyes and watched until Gu Qing Shan finished signing, then explained to him in a dignified manner: 「 190 million years ago, the strongest Seraph of the Holy Heaven, the most beloved daughter of the Heavenly Father, the Mistress of all Sounds, the Sacred Chant Angel – Frost, once made her way into the Dusty World by herself 」

「 She and I are different— I am merely hiding in the layer of clouds to avoid the Worlds Apocalypse, but she went in search for more power in order to retaliate against that Apocalypse 」

「 The layer of clouds isn't a place where one can pass simply by being strong, but she miraculously made it through and smoothly reached the Dusty World 」

「 And then... 」

「 She was cursed 」

「 Indeed, she had obtained unparalleled power unlike ever before, but once she returned to the Holy Heaven, her entire body was petrified by the curse, leaving only her head relatively intact 」

「 Even on her dying breaths, the Heavenly Father was helpless to resolve her curse, so he had no choice but to remove the period of time where she still had her final breaths from the River of Time, then made other arrangements 」

“A Temporal Oasis?” Gu Qing Shan cut in and asked.

The Giant glanced at him in surprise, then continued: 「 Indeed, from that point on, the Sacred Chant Angel would forever exist in that moment of time. That Temporal Oasis would only disappear if and only if someone manages to dispel her curse 」

Gu Qing Shan checked the letter of entrustment again and asked: “So my job is... to make the Sacred Chant Angel laugh?”

「 Indeed. Although everyone was helpless with regards to forcefully removing the curse of the Dusty World, the Heavenly Father couldn't bear to see his beloved daughter lose her life, so he took the great effort of asking a prophet to make a prophecy on how to dispel that curse 」

「 And the result of that prophecy was this: she needed to display her sincere laughter—— as long as she can truly laugh from the bottom of her heart, the curse would be dispelled 」

The giant then lowered his voice: 「 As everyone pondered the true meaning of this prophecy, they came up with the same conclusion. In the words of you humans, that is they would have to woo her 」

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought and muttered: “I've actually heard of a story about a certain sleeping beauty”

The Giant immediately poked Gu Qing Shan's chest with his finger, warning him: 「 You can only flatter her, do not hold any ulterior motives—— if you dare to kiss her before dispelling her curse, I guarantee that you won't be able to face the consequences even in your death, while I will have no choice but to go to war against the Heavenly Father 」

“I'm not that kind of person, I'm just saying that this sounds similar” Gu Qing Shan explained.

The Giant continued: 「 Remember, only by fulfilling such a tough entrustment would I obtain some money from the Heavenly Father, after which you'll get that colorful stick 」

「 So, be on your way, to that moment from 190 million years ago, you must accomplish it! 」

The Giant chanted an incantation.

Gu Qing Shan's letter of entrustment burnt up in his hand.

The flame then enveloped him and took him away from the spot.

The Giant went silent briefly before muttering: 「 It felt like the power of Occultism... pitting the power of the Dusty World against the power of the Dusty World...」

「 I hope I didn't make a mistake...」

At this point, the Giant felt goosebumps all over his back and was unable to help himself trembling.

...

At another location.

190 million years ago.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing in front of a bridge floating in the sky.

The bridge was being locked by a metal gate, which disallowed all entry.

On the other side of the bridge was an enormous and dignified cathedral.

Several people were already standing outside the gate.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan appeared, these people turned to look at him but swiftly turned their gazes away.

Before they even said anything, a voice resounded in the sky.

“This group should be enough, close the Oasis”

“Understood”

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

Only to see a man clad in a pure-white cloak with his face hidden below the hood standing in the sky.

Millions of rays of light radiated from his back to form a pair of wings that exuded an untold sense of dignity.

The man had a stack of letters of entrustment in his hand, muttering a name as he read from one of them: “First-person, Holy Lord Mountain, the Holy Son, Sen”

The man called Sen stepped out from the group.

——this was a young man with profound facial features and a handsome face.

“Lord Heavenly Father, please be assured, I have found a treasure that can save Frost” the man claimed.

“I hope that is so, if it is, I shall reward your family well. Go head” the man in the sky declared.

The gate in front of the floating bridge suddenly opened.

The entire bridge was floating by itself in the sky, leading straight to the enormous cathedral, while the only thing below the bridge was a bottomless abyss.

The gate of the cathedral slowly opened.

The group looked in from the front gate only to see a stone statue being held in the middle of countless glittering lights at the center of the cathedral's hall.

—however, it wasn't simply a statue, as the head was still one of flesh.

And it could be faintly recognized as a woman.

"I'm here to save you"

Saying so, the man stepped onto the bridge.

After taking 7-8 steps, the man's armor and clothes all abruptly vanished.

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Followed by his flesh.

Finally, when only his skeleton remained, he was still making his way forward.

Everyone couldn't help exclaiming in shock.

The skeleton turned around to glare at everyone.

"Can you all keep quiet? I'm trying to cure sister Frost's disease. If any of you bother her, I won't even need to tell you the consequences"

The skeleton spoke in a self-justified tone.

A gust of wind blew past.

Coincidentally, it was right as the skeleton turned around and was about to make his way forward again.

As the wind blew past, the skeleton's bones rattled and collapsed to the ground.

Everyone waited.

But the pile of bones no longer moved.

It turns out that he was already dead.

The Heavenly Father spoke from above:

"The length of the bridge is also the effective range of the Sacred Chant Angel's curse after she was sealed in this place"

"You must first think of a way to cross the bridge and arrive in front of her before you can talk to her and try to get her to laugh"

After saying so, the Heavenly Father picked up the second letter of entrustment and muttered: "Flying Spirit race, Racial King, Teng Ye"

A masculine man stepped out from the group.

He coldly scoffed: "Not even a little bit of brain, what good is just having a treasure?"

Saying so, his figure flashed and instantly crossed the entire bridge.

As soon as he landed, the group watched as his body was stripped to the bone, then crumbled into dust.

Only the, did his next words sounded in the air:

“Look, haven’t I already arrived?”

Silence.

Some people gritted their teeth simply disappearing from within the crowd.

The Heavenly Father remained still and curtly declared: “Moving too quickly would cause the power of the curse to overlap, then explosively exert itself”

He picked up the third letter of entrustment and muttered: “Samsara Asura, Hou Duo Luo”

The third person stepped out.

This Asura called Hou Duo Luo carried all sorts of weapons on his back.

His expression became stern as he stepped onto the floating bridge.

“Fight!”

The Asura uttered a loud battle cry, drew his weapons, and began to exert himself.

Both his power and skills had reached a certain peak, causing numerous powerful forces to descend and attach themselves to him.

These forces contained an air of vicissitudes, occasionally uttering some sort of chant which resounded from an age long passed.

Under the protection of these forces, the Asura walked across the floating bridge.

He succeeded!

Everyone was surprised.

The Asura soon made his way into the cathedral and arrived in front of the Sacred Chant Angel.

He desperately continued to perform his techniques and spoke: “O’ Sacred Chant Angel, please laugh”

The Sacred Chant Angel glanced at him and coldly asked: “Why should I laugh?”

Her voice was cold, but it was still chiming and clear as if emerging from a dream, the kind that one would never forget.

The Asura flew around the air of the cathedral, still performing his techniques non-stop as he replied: “Only by smiling would you be able to dispel your curse!”

The Sacred Chant Angel answered him with disappointment: “You do not understand, I cannot laugh by myself”

The Asura was sweating profusely, now unleashing some of his strongest techniques, but they simply disappeared as they reached the walls of the cathedral.

Taking the gap between his techniques, he used several curse-dispelling techniques on the Sacred Chant Angel.

They were the strongest dispelling techniques he knew.

But they were useless.

At the end of his rope, the Asura could only shout: "One last attempt, I will tell you a joke!"

The Sacred Chant Angel replied: "Speak"

The Asura spoke: "One day, after I finished training, I told a joke to my wife on our bed, but my wife didn't laugh and instead stared at me nervously, can you guess why?"

The Sacred Chant Angel coldly replied: "A man's voice was laughing under the bed"

The Asura froze and asked in his unwillingness to accept defeat: "How did you know?"

The Sacred Chant Angel tearfully said: "I've heard every joke, every one-shot gag, every skit in the infinite worlds, but no matter how funny a joke is, I could only know it by heart without being able to laugh, do you understand this suffering?"

The Asura trembled in shock, completely defeated.

"How is that possible, I've even learnt 300 jokes specifically for this, damn it!"

The group: "..."

Dead silence.

Gu Qing Shan saw the Heavenly Father in the sky also losing his balance a bit.

The Sacred Chant Angel was supposed to be the wielder of all holy arias, praised by the Heavenly Father to be one capable of using her words and voice to triumph against all adversaries, a pure and perfect Archangel of great power.

But now, for the sake of dispelling her curse, she had become the grand encyclopedia of skits and gags.

And then there was Reneedol, after obtaining a treasure from the Dusty World, even though she became unbelievably strong, she betrayed and killed the myriad Gods of the Inner Plane.

— is the Dusty World truly that terrifying?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

In the cathedral, as the Asura lost his rhythm, there was a gap in his technique.

At the very next moment, he performed another technique but didn't see any forces descending from above to protect him.

"Oh no!"

The Asura shouted.

His body was instantly turned to bones, then into dust, vanishing without a trace.

Failure meant death.

The Heavenly Father sighed, shook his head, then randomly picked up the next letter of entrustment.

“Next is— hm?”

The Heavenly Father appeared surprised and muttered:

“...From the layer of clouds, mercenary of the Giant of Beginning, Gu Qing Shan”

Chapter 1102

Gu Qing Shan stepped out from the crowd.

“What do you think?” he asked through his inner sight.

The Earth sword replied: 「 That curse is a type of sentient power, once it approaches you, it will surely manifest as nearly invisible entities 」

Gu Qing Shan continued: “In other words, you can slay them”

The Earth sword replied: 「 Right, I can probably make sure that it won't get close to you, but this will need Soul Points and your swordsmanship— you must perform a sword technique without any gaps 」

Gu Qing Shan continued walking towards the gate in front of the bridge and pondered: “What if I combine [Earth's Choice] and [Parting Fire]? Would I be able to perform better?”

The Earth sword replied: 「 You'll have to give it a try— hah, my expertise is in killing, not defending. If it was the Six Paths Great Mountain sword, it would be much better, since her expertise is cutting through all Laws, perhaps she would be able to get rid of this curse entirely 」

— Shannu was currently acting as Gu Qing Shan and was travelling with Boss' group to the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

He quickly thought through all of his means in his head.

I don't have much information about this curse from the Dusty World, there's no choice but to deal with it as I go.

Gu Qing Shan pushed the gate open.

“Let's go” he whispered.

「 Got it 」 the Earth sword replied.

Gu Qing Shan took a step forward onto the floating bridge.

A breeze softly blew.

Some sort of malicious power suddenly manifested out of thin air, converging towards him from every direction.

Gu Qing Shan's eyes turned sharp as he wielded his sword.

In a brief moment, countless razor-thin sword phantoms surged forward from his sword, striking one another numerous times.

Sword of Extinguishing Flames, cutting through all techniques, [Parting Fire]!

The Earth sword's Thaumaturgy, [Earth's Choice]!

The power of his sword overlapped with the Asura Divine Skill to manifest a single technique.

Gu Qing Shan raised his sword.

Flames abruptly manifested with a slash that cut through the void.

Dozens of screams suddenly resounded.

The Heavenly Father cast his watchful gaze down from above.

Everyone who was watching from the side also appeared attentive.

This strike seemed to have struck something!

The ones before him could only make sure that the curse didn't corrode them, but now, he had managed to achieve the next step and actively retaliated against the curse itself!

"A good chance—"

Gu Qing Shan muttered as blue arcs of lightning appeared from his body.

"Whatever malicious spirits are interfering, show yourselves!" Gu Qing Shan shouted in fury.

The lightning erupted all over him, manifesting as numerous clusters of light that circled around his sword.

At the very next moment.

The numerous lightning snakes all converged to form a blooming blue lotus!

This was his Lightning Thaumaturgy [Dreamjolt] and Secret Art, [Drawn Shadow] combined with each other, a new combination Skill that Gu Qing Shan had only just come up with after he had a grasp of the Asura Deific King's swordsmanship.

Secret Art, [Lightning Shadow]

The blooming lights dispersed as soon as they appeared, scattering further into the void of space.

Numerous invisible entities were struck by the lightning sword phantoms and became stunned, unable to move.

『 Chee—- 』

『... Ah... hateful...』

『 Life...』

『 Death! 』

Countless malicious voices mumbled senseless things in the air.

Quite obviously, Gu Qing Shan's sword technique didn't manage to injure them, only the power of [Dreamjolt] made it so that they temporarily couldn't move.

The Earth sword's mountainous heavy voice sounded: 「 While the curse isn't dispelled, they can't all be killed, attacking is meaningless 」

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

He could see clearly that these things originated from the curse, so killing one or two of them held no meaning.

—-fortunately, the twin snakes of black and white helped me regain my expended strength before I got here.

It wouldn't take too much effort to make it past these things.

But while the curse persists, I won't be able to keep fending them off for too long, let alone save the Sacred Chant Angel.

Gu Qing Shan turned his train of thought.

As long as I can make the Sacred Chant Angel laugh, the curse will be dispelled.

...

...That's not right.

Gu Qing Shan changed his perspective and continued to think.

Before I arrived, countless people must have already arrived in his Temporal Oasis in order to save the Sacred Chant Angel.

But none of them managed to make her laugh.

Including the Sacred Chant Angel herself, who had tried everything she could but still couldn't force herself to laugh.

How could I make her laugh?

I'm not Ye Fei Li, I have no experience with things like making a girl laugh or enjoy herself.

Then, let's think about this from another angle.

The reason why the Sacred Chant Angel can't laugh is because she was struck by a curse from the Dusty World.

—-I don't need to care about whether or not she laughs, I just need to focus my effort on dispelling the curse itself for her to recover.

This matter can be resolved that way and would not depend on whether or not she laughed!

However, dispelling the curse is easy to say, but not even the Heavenly Father could do such a thing.

Entities like the Giant of Beginning must have already been invited to take a look at the Sacred Chant Angel, but still couldn't come up with a solution.

So many powerful entities had been helpless to dispel this curse.

And the Earth sword itself had claimed that it can't kill them all.

Time quickly passed.

Five seconds was up.

The invisible entities in the void of space regained their freedom and once again went back into hiding.

Gu Qing Shan continued forward.

He swung his sword, killing these invisible creatures one after another.

The Asura only avoided these monsters, while he killed them.

This immediately stimulated the curse and caused it to unleash even more power.

More and more invisible monsters gathered where he was until they fully encompassed the space around Gu Qing Shan, not leaving him a single gap.

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Gu Qing Shan turned his hand to grab the Chao Yin sword, wielding both swords at once!

Layers upon layers of sword phantoms overlapped with one another, each swing slaying several of the invisible monsters.

However, the monsters were endless, and the monsters that emerged afterwards were gradually becoming more and more powerful.

By the time he reached the center of the bridge, there were too many invisible monsters in the void of space to count.

The monsters uttered ear-piercing screeches and screams, but were still completely unseen, causing many to feel fear from the bottom of their hearts.

While continuously performing his sword dance, Gu Qing Shan quickly thought of possible countermeasures.

Damn it, how exactly should I dispel this curse?

At some point, he couldn't help but mutter: "Dispel..."

For some reason, a voice suddenly resounded in his ears.

It was a dry, hoarse female voice that seemed a bit disappointed that muttered: 「 Too little power... it is fine... I shall unleash your power 」

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

It took him one breath's worth of time to realize what just happened.

A split second later, his body shot backwards, still retaliating against the invisible monsters while retreating from the floating bridge, and landed right outside the gate.

As he had left the floating bridge, the power of the curse couldn't reach him.

They were not able to affect things outside of their range.

The Heavenly Father's voice resounded from above: "Do you wish to give up?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his hands and loudly asked: "Wait a moment, I've just thought of a new solution. I'd like to try again, is it possible?"

The Heavenly Father froze briefly before answering with a joyful tone: "Of course you can. As long as you're confident with your solution"

"Thank you"

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan stood right outside the gate of the bridge and silently readjusted his breathing.

——he had understood what just happened.

Lines of glowing text appeared on War God UI:

[Through your previous hard work and training, your Sacrificial Dance has accumulated a bit of power]

[This is a curse from the Dusty World. Its intense attacks of you and your wish to dispel this curse has successfully attracted the attention of a certain entity related to the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, who had casted their attention onto you from a distant world]

[This entity had ignited the power of the Sacrificial Dance that you had accumulated before leaving]

[As you are the Huang Quan Devil King of the Samsara, you have the property of 'earth']

[As you are the Earth Pillar of the void, you have the property of 'earth']

[Now, you may perform a formal Dance of the Earth God]

[Attention, this is not a training session!]

[Attention, this is not a training session!]

[Attention, this is not a training session!]

[This is a formal performance of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance]

[Dance of the Earth God]

[Begin]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through everything.

He seemed to have understood something from the distant unknown.

At the same time, the heaven, earth, sun, and moon all turned dim.

A sandstorm began to manifest from the void.

The entire world seemed to have entered a gloomy state.

A gentle faint glow seemed to have appeared on Gu Qing Shan's body, which made him seem almost like an Apocalyptic Deity.

He took a deep breath, felt the power of the dance, and lightly took a step forward.

Dong!

The bang of a drum.

Unlike the previous festive drumming, this was a resounding and heavy bang of a battle drum.

Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong!

The sound of the drum was gradual but rhythmic.

—other than the sound of the drum, there was no other music, only the sound of the fluctuating howling sand storm that drifted about the air.

Dignified, solemn.

Gu Qing Shan took another step forward.

Wielding his sword, he pointed it forward.

"Awaken" he muttered in a low voice.

Dum dum dum dum dum dum dum!

The drumming started to become rapid as if urging something.

At another location in the Holy Heaven, where Archangels from countless hundred millions years ago who died in battle were laid to rest, a faint light that reached all the way to the sky erupted from below.

A skeletal angel who still donned their armor climbed out from their grave.

After a moment of silence, the angel reached their hand into the ground to pull out a greatsword buried in the vicissitudes of time, fapped their skeletal wings and took to the sky.

The skeletal angel looked towards Gu Qing Shan's direction.

Dong dong dong! Dong dong dong!

The sound of the drum became even more rapid!

The second skeletal angel emerged from their grave, wielding a half-moon curved blade as they took to the sky.

The third armored skeleton pushed open their grave, propped a heavy mace on their shoulder and also took to the sky.

The fourth...

The fifth...

A total of 12 Archangel skeletons.

They were the 12 most battle-worn and heroic Archangels of war in the history of the Holy Heaven.

Gu Qing Shan took another step forward, once again entering setting foot onto the floating bridge.

In front of him, the invisible monsters within the range of the bridge converged all at once, manifesting as a giant visible face.

It observed Gu Qing Shan, then spoke in a low voice: 「 That body, I want. Wielder of the Earth, you cannot foil my plan! 」

As the face spoke, the world itself began to tremble.

All living beings were forced to the ground, their powers stripped away.

Even the Heavenly Father was forced out of the sky, only by exerting all of his holy power was he able to stop himself from falling.

Gu Qing Shan didn't reply.

He grabbed the Chao Yin sword and the Earth sword in his hands, then softly danced.

A sword dance!

Among the sound of the drum, his voice resounded: "This is a battle from the past of the Dusty World, where you and I stand on different fronts!"

12 faint streaks of light flew across the sky before landing behind Gu Qing Shan.

The Archangels of war had shown themselves.

Chapter 1103

The Sacrificial Dance officially began.

From the distant void, a wondrous sensation permeated Gu Qing Shan's thoughts.

He suddenly understood that this was a chance.

The Sacrificial Dance's most direct, most primitive, most unhindered power helped him understand a lot of things.

The drumbeat quickened.

Gu Qing Shan reached his first enlightenment.

Deities were entities who converged and wielded Laws.

When a certain Law was converged to a strong enough degree, one would be able to control all things related to the said Law.

For example—

The first Law within the Huang Quan Devil King's grasp was 'control over the dead'.

While the first Law within the Earth God's grasp was 'order all things hidden below the earth'.

The combination of these two Laws had formed a Divine Skill unique to Gu Qing Shan alone.

—Sacrificial Dance – [Summon From Slumber].

At this point, the 12 Archangels of war had gathered behind him, ready for battle.

The truth of the world unveiled itself in front of Gu Qing Shan.

“Go!”

Gu Qing Shan pointed his sword forward.

The 12 Archangels rushed forward, unleashing their most powerful attacks to wrestle against the invisible curse on the floating bridge.

They were the most powerful, as their every gesture would destroy huge numbers of invisible monsters.

Gu Qing Shan glanced through and muttered while shaking his head: “Not enough”

He began to perform a sword dance.

The faint glow on Gu Qing Shan's body extended to his swords, drawing an elegant arc of light through the air.

All the killing intent on his sword had vanished, as they now instead exuded a sense of sorrow and heaviness.

“Come, all”

He muttered.

Every angel that had ever been buried within the Holy Heaven leapt out from their graves, then took to the sky.

These skeletal angels quickly made their way through the sky and landed on the floating bridge.

They drew their weapons and clashed against the army of invisible monsters.

Rumble rumble!

The world itself couldn't handle this degree of combat, and so it started to tremble.

A moment later.

A distant mountain began to break apart.

The ground started to sink.

The sky was falling.

The world was about to collapse.

Gu Qing Shan wielded his swords, lightly moving forward as his dancing drew numerous elegant sword phantoms.

A new enlightenment suddenly came to him.

—-for living beings, the ground was the 'Earth'.

For a soul, the body of living beings was the 'Earth'.

The 'Earth' does not simply refer to the ground, it was also the body, a place of dependence, the manifestation of all origins.

The concept of 'Earth' had been expanded.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and glanced at the floating bridge.

12 invisible monsters were fighting against the 12 Archangels, the void of space itself was being broken apart by their battle.

The power of the curse had been exerted to its maximum, the Archangels could no longer push the monsters back, the bodies of a few of them had already started to crumble and break.

"The 'Earth' is the body, the body is the Law" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

His swords dance through the air, drawing arcs of light across it.

—-Sacrificial Dance – [Resurrection].

The bodies of the 12 Archangels were instantly recovered to their original states, their auras greatly erupted.

A holy radiance emanated from their skeletal bodies, as if they had returned to their peak state in the past.

The Archangels rushed forward and continued to battle against the invisible monsters.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and returned to immersing himself within the Sacrificial Dance.

Boom—-

As both sides continued to fight, the Holy Heaven began to collapse.

All the living people fell together with the debris of the world into the space vortex.

Only the floating bridge and the cathedral remained intact.

An impatient and anxious voice abruptly shouted on top of the floating bridge:

「 Power of the Earth, do not dance, we can talk! 」

All the invisible monster immediately gathered and uttered a unified screech: 『 Winds of Chaotic Tribulation! 』

An intense storm appeared.

This was the wind capable of destroying all things.

The 12 Archangels tried to stop the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation, but their bodies were slowly shaved away within the wind.

Gu Qing Shan kept his eyes closed.

Everything was born from the Sacrificial Dance.

Come, let me see the truth of the Sacrificial Dance.

Tell me, to whom was this Dance offered?

And where did this Dance come from?

Gu Qing Shan abruptly let go of the Earth sword and lightly flicked the tip of the sword with his finger.

Kih!

A clear chime resounded from the sword and started to spread into the space vortex.

Sacrificial Dance – [Summon From Slumber]!

As his understanding of the Law had improved, this time, he no longer summoned only the skeletons of angels.

In a million mile radius of the space vortex, all dead bodies without a soul opened their eyes.

A monster as gigantic as a star.

An insect as small as a speck of dust.

Drifting carcasses of unknown origin.

Everything was heading towards the Holy Heaven.

They circled around in orbit, hurriedly moving about as if waiting for something.

The 12 Archangels continued to exert themselves to stop the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation.

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Very gradually, they were losing.

At this time, strange and unusual entities started to show themselves from the void of space.

These entities of unknown background and origin had never once appeared in the history of the 900 million World Layers.

No one knew what they were, nor where they came from.

All the entities gathered in the void, silently watching Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan continued to keep his eyes closed.

—until the very last moment.

He opened his eyes and formed a strange hand seal.

The 12 Archangels no longer tried to stop the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation and instead returned behind him.

Gu Qing Shan whispered: “Sacrifice”

The 12 Archangels shouted in unison: 「 Sacrifice! 」

The countless entities within the space vortex loudly declared at once: 『 Sacrifice! 』

The shouts resonated like notes of a song that fluctuated, forming a rhythm by itself that seemed to be filled with nothing but sorrow.

At this point, the curse on top of the floating bridge appeared to be quite an eyesore.

All the entities in the void of space turned their gazes towards the floating bridge.

The invisible curse uttered an ear-piercing screech.

『 A Sacrifice of the World... detestable...』

『 Run...』

The storm winds picked up.

Fwooo—

A huge, invisible something had fled from the floating bridge.

It left the world of Holy Heaven, disappearing somewhere unknown.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes, a bit regretful.

He took a step back and put strength into his step.

This was the void, but he had clearly stepped on top of solid ground.

—-the entire world of Holy Heaven had returned to normal.

All of its structures, mountains, and rivers had regrown, the earth softly lifted Gu Qing Shan’s feet.

Where the Earth God stands, there would be ‘Earth’.

“I’ve finally understood”

Gu Qing Shan uttered a soft sigh and whispered: “The Dance of the Earth God will create worlds from nothing, but it is an offering to the spirits of all the worlds ever destroyed by the Apocalypse”

He looked up at the countless strange and unusual entities in the void.

Their bodies were gigantic, their appearance similar to humans, their limbs were like claws and had no facial features.

But they were all staring closely at Gu Qing Shan, seemingly waiting for something.

—these are all destroyed worlds, the remnant souls of entire worlds.

Indeed, the remnant will of the world inside my eye is also moaning.

With a complicated look in his eyes, Gu Qing Shan lightly took a step forward.

This time.

I am still too weak, unable to complete this dance of offering¹.

I don't even know what would occur if the Offering Dance is successfully completed.

—but I want them to understand a certain thing.

There exists such a person in this Reality, there exists such a hope, that he would one day finish his offering and console them.

Yes, surely one day, I will be able to do it.

Gu Qing Shan uttered a long hum and danced with his sword.

His movements were extremely slow, which emphasized just how heavy each step was.

Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong!

The sorrowful drumming was deafening, but unexpectedly roused a sense of relief within the hearts of people.

Gu Qing Shan now wielded both swords as he slowly continued dancing.

Faint clusters of light continuously manifested around him, like stars that drifted and flickered with his every step.

From slow to fast, his body seemed like a vortex of light that gradually became deeper as he danced.

All of a sudden, he declared: “The destroyed worlds of the past!”

The 12 Archangels shouted with him: 「 Destroyed worlds! 」

Countless entities in the space vortex uttered a single sorrowful declaration: 『 Destroyed! 』

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, leapt to the air then shouted again: “The Apocalypse is coming again, will you fight, or will you not!”

The void of space went silent for a brief moment.

Almost as if their collective repressed emotions had erupted all at once, the remaining spirits of the world shouted in unison: 『 Fight! 』

Gu Qing Shan stood in the void, breathing heavily.

He had completely drained all of his powers in order to reach this point of the dance.

He was now completely exhausted, not even half a bit of spirit energy left to maintain his flight, unable to help himself descending from above.

——this was a Dance meant as an offering to all destroyed worlds of the past, but he was merely a Paragon realm cultivator, so he didn't have the strength to continue dancing.

A dry, hoarse female voice suddenly resounded through the void: 「 The Earth God will guard this offering. When the Dance is complete, he shall offer it to you again! 」

The drumming stopped.

The void, the world, all living beings, all things, everything returned to normal.

With the declaration of that female voice, the entities in the void reluctantly lingered a bit but eventually scattered away.

They soon vanished without a trace, no one saw where they came from nor where they went.

A few moments later.

All supernatural phenomena returned to normal.

Gu Qing Shan dejectedly sat there, clearly unwilling to accept this result.

Although he had chased that curse away, he was feeling more and more unwilling to put this down.

Damn it, why can't I even comfort them?

He raised his hands.

Both his hands were trembling, now helpless to even hold his swords.

From the very beginning of the Dance, all of his powers had been siphoned and spent. At this moment, he could barely sit up.

The dry, hoarse female voice resounded:

「 You are the final inheritor of the Sacrificial Dance, I ask you, do you want to finish this Offering Dance? 」

Gu Qing Shan bit down on his teeth: “Yes!”

「 Immature God, you are still too weak, quickly become stronger 」

The female voice slowly faded and eventually disappeared without a trace.

Chapter 1104

Everything came to an end.

Gu Qing Shan was soaked in sweat

Soul Points, spirit energy, stamina, spirit, everything he had, was spent without leaving anything behind.

He leaned back on the bridge, sitting on the ground, breathing heavily.

A line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've obtained the recognition of the Sacrificial Dance]

[From this moment onwards, when you practice the Dance, you will absorb a certain amount of Soul Points from all things in existence]

[Not only that, as you have received recognition from the spirits of numerous worlds of the past, you've obtained a unique blessing: Blessing of the past worlds]

[In the next period of time, all of your powers will enter a period of rapid growth]

[The remaining power of the Demon Dragon on you will be thoroughly absorbed in 3 days]

[Your cultivation, Card level, and understanding of swordsmanship will also be improved]

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Although he gained a lot, having been through that Sacrificial Dance earlier, he couldn't feel happy.

He was now drained, completely exhausted, and his mind was now plagued with a feeling of discomfort that couldn't be eased.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit at a loss.

All of a sudden, an elusive charming female voice gently sang:

"At the moment of the world's collapse, I had once sought out the reason for it all"

"The price I paid was the fleeting life, of which I had decided to expend"

"Offering to the past, moving rivers, mountains, sun, and moon, you have brought me a new life"

"Soar high, shine upon infinite worlds, bravely moving forward without fear"

"I shall once again move forward through time and the future, experience all pain and suffering for the sake of all living beings"

"And all of this was possible from your aid"

"I have seen your fatigue"

"Come, please receive my power, as it belongs to me because of you"

Everyone turned their gazes towards the cathedral.

Only to see Sacred Chant Angel standing where she was, her expression solemn as her hands were clasped together, singing an aria for Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan then felt endless power converging from every direction, being infused into his body.

A faint light gently lifted him, helping him stand up once more.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes in surprise, silently sensing the changes in his body.

In one breath's worth of time, his stamina was completely replenished.

The second breath, his spirit peaked.

The third breath, his spirit energy overflowing.

—-unfortunately, the Soul Points that he expended weren't replenished.

However, the dejection in his heart was gone.

His fighting spirit had been lit once more.

At this point, the Sacred Chant Angel's song slowly came to a stop.

"Thank you" Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist.

"No, it should be me who thanked you, and also—-"

The Sacred Chant Angel said as she pointed to her body.

The upper half of her body had recovered, but her lower half was still petrified in stone.

"Come, although the curse had been lifted from me, I still need one final push in order to completely dispel its effects"

"What should I do?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Make me laugh" the Sacred Chant Angel replied.

Gu Qing Shan appeared troubled.

So I still can't avoid this.

Making the Sacred Chant Angel laugh is going to be very difficult; I'd rather have Ye Fei Li do it while I go save a few other worlds instead.

Seeing how hard he was scowling, the Sacred Chant Angel encouraged him: "Don't worry, after the curse is gone, I can laugh again—- but I will need some stimulation from the outside"

"Really?"

"Hm"

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief and made his way across the floating bridge, quickly arriving at the cathedral.

...

In the sky, the Heavenly Father silently watched this occur.

"Who would've thought, the one you brought managed to dispel my daughter's curse" he muttered.

From the void of space, the Giant of Beginning's voice quietly resounded: 「 Although the process was unimaginable, the entrustment was still fulfilled, so you need to pay 」

The Heavenly Father looked down at the cathedral and lowered his voice: “The fee is no issue, but after everything is done with, I want you to take this youngster away as soon as possible”

「 What are you afraid of? 」 the Giant of Beginning sounded a bit confused.

He couldn't help but follow the Heavenly Father's gaze.

Only to see the Sacred Chant Angel's gentle gaze staring at Gu Qing Shan as if other than him, there was nothing else in this world.

The Giant of Beginning was about to smirk but quickly controlled his expression.

He continued with a serious tone: 「 After being saved, she would naturally feel grateful to the one who saved her, that is completely normal. I really don't understand what you're worried about 」

The Heavenly Father replied: “I am her father, I've spared no effort to create this Temporal Oasis, then searched high and low for people to help dispel her curse, but she hasn't looked at me even once since a while ago”

The Giant of Beginning rolled his eye and consoled: 「 I'll just say, this youngster might be able to reach unimaginable heights in the future, but you're so cruel as to not allow your daughter to become acquainted with such a person? 」

The Heavenly Father froze.

The Giant of Beginning continued: 「 Just take a look at how strange his powers were, those skeletal angels had all returned to their graves. Not only did they fix their graves up, but they've also even thoroughly cleaned the surroundings before going back into slumber 」

「 ——with such power, your world is going to be so much cleaner from now on 」

Hearing that, the Heavenly Father's eyebrows twitched and glared: “I don't need a bunch of dead people to do the cleaning for me, take that youngster away as soon as he's finished!”

「 Alright, alright, suit yourself. Once he removes the last bit of the curse, I'll lead him away—— seriously though, I've never seen such a worrywart of a father like you before 」

While they were talking, they still kept their eyes on the cathedral.

Gu Qing Shan had arrived in front of the Sacred Chant Angel.

He looked at her.

Half angel, half stone.

“...So I need to make you laugh, right?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Indeed, you need to make me laugh” the Sacred Chant Angel replied.

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Gu Qing Shan scowled for a bit before talking: “There used to be a hide-and-seek association...”

The Sacred Chant Angel continued: “Even now, their chairman hasn’t been found”

Gu Qing Shan stopped and looked at her.

The Sacred Chant Angel told him: “This is not that funny, how about you try again?”

Gu Qing Shan tried thinking for a long while before trying again: “There used to be 12 animals who drifted on a boat during a flood, but the boat couldn’t handle the weight of them all, so everyone decided to each tell a joke, if someone can’t tell a joke that makes everyone laughed, they’ll be tossed off the boat. Then—”

The Sacred Chant Angel continued: “The pig was the last to laugh”

Gu Qing Shan froze and looked at her again.

The Sacred Chant Angel shook her head a bit before staring straight into his eyes: “I assume that you’re only trying to tell a joke without implying that I’m the pig, correct?”

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly nodded.

—this lady knows every single joke and one-shot gag in existence.

This won’t do, I have to try something else.

He crossed his arms in contemplation before his eyes suddenly glowed and said: “I’ve thought of a solution”

“Ah? Tell me then” the Sacred Chant Angel felt interested.

Gu Qing Shan put up a finger and slowly explained: “From a scientific standpoint, the body has a certain defensive mechanism: Whenever it is touched, the body would react in various ways such as becoming tense, prepare to defend itself, retaliate, or simply endure. But when a touch isn’t meant with harmful intentions, or when it carries only playful intentions, the body would shift from the previous tense state to a relaxed and unguarded state, which would then result in a bodily reaction— in the form of laughter”

The Sacred Chant Angel was completely stunned by his explanation.

“Then, have you thought of a way to make me laugh?” she couldn’t help but ask.

“Yes, according to science, this should work without issues”

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the Earth sword from the void of space and spoke with a stern expression: “Don’t worry, I won’t touch your body”

He held the blade of the Earth sword and pointed the hilt towards the Sacred Chant Angel.

Under everyone’s watchful gazes, Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and nervously said: “I’m going to begin now”

The Sacred Chant Angel also became nervous and couldn’t help herself asking: “What exactly are you planning to do?”

Gu Qing Shan glanced at her and asked in confusion: "Didn't I explain it just now?"

"You didn't say it very clearly" the Sacred Chant Angel replied.

"Ah, I'm about to try and tickle you" Gu Qing Shan answered very seriously.

The world became silent.

He—

Wanted to give the Sacred Chant Angel—

A tickle.

The Heavenly Father: "..."

The Giant of Beginning: "..."

The watching bystanders: "..."

The Sacred Chant Angel also froze up like a real statue.

She then looked straight at Gu Qing Shan and abruptly asked: "Do you have a partner? In the words of you humans, that should be something equivalent to a girlfriend?"

"Why do you ask? I've never been in a relationship before" Gu Qing Shan casually answered.

The Sacred Chant Angel slowly nodded.

—*that's very obvious.*

Everyone couldn't help but think of the same thing.

The Sacred Chant Angel looked at his honest expression while holding his sword tried suggesting: "Don't poke me with that, how about you try telling me something easy to hear, a compliment, maybe I'll laugh from that"

Gu Qing Shan tried thinking, then said: "You were very brave, making your way alone to that world"

The Sacred Chant Angel: "Try something else"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "You are a clever warrior"

The Sacred Chant Angel: "Try again"

Gu Qing Shan: "You're powerful"

The Sacred Chant Angel stared intently at him, then couldn't help but remind him: "I'm a girl, do you understand? Do you know how to give people compliments? A girl likes compliments, you— hah— I really don't know what to say"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and expressed his reception of her complaints.

He pondered for a bit and sincerely spoke: "I feel that, among all the girls I've ever met, you are the most special"

“How am I special?”

The Sacred Chant Angel couldn't wait to hear the rest.

Gu Qing Shan: “You are the bravest, the cleverest in battle, and the most powerful girl I've ever met”

A cold breeze blew past.

The world was dead silent.

Everyone was speechless.

The Heavenly Father pondered: “This youngster seems to be quite safe”

「 So, you're not chasing him away? 」 the Giant of Beginning asked.

“No, once this is over, take him away as soon as possible”

「 But why? 」

“I have a bad feeling”

「 ...You worrywart of a father, I really have nothing else to say to you 」

In the cathedral, Gu Qing Shan frowned and carefully observed the Sacred Chant Angel's expression.

Strange.

Why doesn't she seem like she's about to smile at all? Instead, it looks like she wants to cry?

Alright, let's not follow her suggestion.

Gu Qing Shan had made up his mind.

——he was such a person, once he had made up his mind about something, he would try everything in his power to complete it—— even the Earth sword couldn't help but sigh helplessly.

He nudged the hilt of the Earth sword towards the Sacred Chant Angel's armpit and lightly moved it about.

The Sacred Chant Angel started trembling, recalling everything that happened just now, she finally couldn't hold it in and abruptly burst into laughter:

“Bahahaha, stop tickling me! Ahaha, how shameful, I am the, hahaha, Sacred Chant, haha, Angel; later on all the worlds will, ahahahaha... laugh... about...”

Crack!

Crack!

Layer after layer of rock started to peel off her body.

The Sacred Chant Angel finally landed on the ground, a holy radiance enveloped her body as it continuously flickered brighter and brighter.

— the power of the curse had finally been dispelled!

Chapter 1105

The clear chiming laugh resounded throughout the cathedral.

Gu Qing Shan lowered his gaze to look at the layer of scattered rocks.

They broke into uneven pieces, briefly displaying the inside that had turned a grey, dried-up color before crumbling into sand before disappearing.

The Sacred Chant Angel finally stopped laughing.

She softly sighed: “Thank you for helping me thoroughly remove my curse. Just a thought but, is it that hard to give someone else a compliment?”

Gu Qing Shan sincerely answered her: “I’ve done my best, and I was telling the truth— from an efficiency point of view, science seems to be more trustworthy after all”

He pulled the Earth sword back, lightly flipped it around, and grabbed the hilt.

His job was done.

The Sacred Chant Angel still wanted to say something else, but a voice suddenly resounded in the air.

“Go!”

With that, Gu Qing Shan vanished in front of her eyes.

The Sacred Chant Angel was stunned.

She slowly looked up at the sky.

“Saint Father...”

The Heavenly Father landed and spoke in a joyful tone: “My daughter, your body has only just recovered, you should rest for a while”

The Sacred Chant Angel hurriedly said: “That man just now, the Giant of Beginning—”

“That youngster came from 190 million years in the future, and he has returned to his time” the Heavenly Father replied.

The Sacred Chant Angel went silently briefly before suddenly speaking: “He had only just grasped a bit of Occultism, it seems that even after 190 million years, the Dusty World still hasn’t been conquered?”

“Indeed, not everyone can have the same opportunities you did, my daughter”

The Heavenly Father replied.

The Sacred Chant Angel displayed a wonderful smile towards her father.

The Heavenly Father told her: “Let’s go, I will now lead you out from this Temporal Oasis back to normal time”

“At which period will I appear?” the Sacred Chant Angel asked.

“90 million years in the future. In that place, I’ve constructed a closed-off world for you to stay in, I hope you can understand, my daughter”

“I understand, father, for the next 190 million years, I cannot interact with or affect anything...”

The Sacred Chant Angel thought briefly, then asked: “Then how about I appear in the future of that person just now? I would be able to avoid affecting the timeline and history, at the same time, I won’t need to live in a closed-off world for a hundred million years”

The Heavenly Father helplessly told her: “However my daughter, my powers have been all but spent to maintain this Temporal Oasis, the most I can do is send you 90 million years into the future. This is the range that I can assure your safety and would not be discovered by the monsters of the River of Time”

The Sacred Chant Angel smiled at her father: “It is fine, Father won’t need to trouble yourself with this matter, I can do it myself”

A miraculous power started to exude from her body.

“As the curse has been lifted, the power I obtained from the Dusty World shall be enough...”

...

The layer of clouds.

The Giant of Beginning had returned first.

He cleared his throat, took out his notebook and acted like he was flipping through it.

Sha—

Gu Qing Shan abruptly appeared from the void, landing on the stairs leading into the layer of clouds.

「 Youngster, well done 」 the Giant praised him.

“Did you suddenly bring me back?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Of course! I would naturally have to oversee such an important transaction personally, and I was afraid that you might mess things up 」

The Giant reached his hand below the layer of clouds, silently putting a rare coin away.

This was the Heavenly Father’s personal fee that he paid for the request of taking Gu Qing Shan away.

「 What, did you regret not being able to talk more with the beautiful angel? 」 the Giant then teased him.

Surprisingly, Gu Qing Shan instead sighed in relief.

“No, I’m very grateful”

He appeared a lot more relaxed now.

Seeing him like that, the Giant also felt assured.

He reached out two fingers to pick up the letter of entrustment.

Klak klak!

Glowing gemstones of every color fell out from the letter of entrustment, which was then caught by the Giant in an uncharacteristically rapid speed.

The Giant laid out the gemstones on his palm, carefully checking each one with the tip of this finger.

「 Hm, very decent specimens, Heavenly Father really wasn't stingy this time around 」

He then lightly tapped the void of space.

A 7-colored glow filled the entire layer of clouds.

Abaddon.

It has once again appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

「 This spear is now yours— I'm very pleased with this transaction, and I trust that you are the same 」 the Giant said.

Gu Qing Shan happily nodded and looked at the 7-colored spear.

For some reason, he suddenly recalled the Earth Creator's words from before.

...

「 Take it, it will lead you towards the location of the spear— I do not know why, but I can sense that this spear might be a crucial turning point in fighting against the Soul Shrieker 」

...

Gu Qing Shan remained silent.

Finally, this moment has come.

—whether or not this spear can be used against the Soul Shrieker, will finally become clear.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the 7-colored fragment.

Lines of glowing text immediately appeared on the War God UI:

[A fragment of Abaddon]

[So long as you hold it in your hand, you would be able to sense the location of the spear]

[Return this fragment to Abaddon, its impression of you will change]

Gu Qing Shan lightly flicked the fragment away, allowing it to fly towards the 7-colored spear.

The 7-colored spear lightly vibrated and actively went forward by itself.

The fragment seamlessly fused with the spear like a drop of water that had returned to the sea.

After a brief moment, the 7-colored glow of the spear completely vanished.

It flew in front of Gu Qing Shan and started to madly tremble with a pained buzzing noise.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

Don't tell me that just adding a single fragment broke this weapon?

「 Fool, hurry up and grab it! 」 the Giant spoke up.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly grabbed the spear.

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Some information appeared in his mind.

At the same time, the War God UI also displayed new lines of glowing text:

[One of the seven Abyssal Saint Armaments, Abaddon. From its conception, it had always been in the hands of the Soul Shrieker without anyone knowing of its true value]

[This weapon has now accepted you as its everything, officially becoming your weapon or defensive gear]

[When this weapon accepts a new master, there would be two forms for its master to choose]

[Firstly: Abaddon, the spear]

[Secondly: Svalinn, the shield]

[The sharpest spear? Or the sturdiest shield?]

[That is the eternal question]

[You must make a choice between one of these two forms]

[Attention, this choice is irreversible, please decide carefully]

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly before informing the spear in his hand: "I choose the shield"

Indeed, he had once witnessed the Soul Shrieker wielding this spear in battle in the Age of Old; as well as fighting against the spear itself in the Huang Quan realm.

Gu Qing Shan was extremely familiar with both the Soul Shrieker and the spear Abaddon.

So if the Soul Shrieker had been hiding something, it must be this Saint Armament's shield form.

—the shield form that had never appeared.

Hearing Gu Qing Shan's choice, the spear lightly vibrated in his hand before jumping into the air.

A bright light then erupted from the spear into their surroundings.

The spear slowly became shorter, turned slimmer, its shape became a rectangle with smooth edges.

It had turned into a 7-colored shield.

The shield slowly fell down and returned to Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Oong—

The shield started buzzing, as if telling him something.

The War God UI reacted accordingly:

[As a Divine Armament, Svalinn is informing you its abilities]

[One of the Abyssal Saint Armaments, the Grand Shield of the Abyss, Divine Armament, Svalinn]

[Svalinn has the following abilities:]

[Descent of Protection: This shield will stay hidden in the void, undetectable by anyone, only when you're faced with an attack that cannot be resisted would this shield manifest from the void, just in time to block that attack]

[Abyssal Pact: Whenever this shield successfully blocks an attack, it would randomly summon an entity from the Abyss to fight for you]

[The following is a special note:]

[This shield contains one of the seven greatest powers of the Eternal Abyss: Soul Protection]

[Barrier of Soul Protection: Both you and the people you wish to protect are unaffected by soul-type techniques]

[—The body might shift, but the soul is forever, such is the true meaning of the Abyss]

Gu Qing Shan continued to feel tense until he read the final line of text, thus heaving a heavy sigh of relief.

The Earth Creator's intuition wasn't wrong, sure enough.

No wonder the Soul Shrieker took this weapon for itself ever since the weapon's conception, because this weapon is its worst adversary.

All because of this [Barrier of Soul Protection]!

It can allow anyone and everyone to no longer fear the Soul Shrieker's strongest ability—soul absorption!

Gu Qing Shan was glad and about to bid the Giant of Beginning goodbye, but Svalinn suddenly bumped against his chest.

The 7-colored glow erupted.

The [Barrier of Soul Protection] was instantly activated!

Klink—kli—

Under the repulsion of the barrier, a flickering object was ejected from Gu Qing Shan's body.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed, immediately grabbed the Earth sword and held that object at the tip of his sword.

An earring.

A diamond earring.

「 Ah? A weapon that could turn into a shield, and it could even detect this thing? 」 the Giant of Beginning chuckled.

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly and said: "This is the power that the Sacred Chant Angel placed in my body"

The Giant of Beginning replied: 「 Indeed, it can continuously replenish any expenditures of your power, while also allowing that Sacred Chant girl to sense where you are. She probably wants to go look for you 」

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "No wonder, at the time I felt——"

He went silent and flicked his sword.

The diamond earring was tossed away, landing in the Giant of Beginning's hand.

「 You're giving it up? This is a very good item that can be sold for quite a bit 」 the Giant was surprised.

"Hm, then please take it, I'm giving it to you for free" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Giant said: 「 Then I'll thank you—— but then, that's too strange, why don't you want it? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "She's vastly more powerful than anyone by my side, and similarly vastly more powerful than me. For now, I don't want her to know about me, or anyone that might be related to me in anyway—— regardless, with good preparation, any unnecessary issues will naturally resolve themselves"

The Giant looked at him with praise.

「 Very well, I'll be able to sell this for a bit of money, then in exchange, I'll send you away from here—— the furthest I can take you is the entrance, any further will be within the range of the four Pillar God's pledge—— it's too annoying, so I don't want to get involved 」

"Thank you, then please be quick"

「 Are you in a hurry? 」

"Yes, my companions are most likely in danger, so I have no time to lose"

The Giant then released a cluster of light from his hand to envelop Gu Qing Shan.

As they were about to part, the Giant couldn't help but ask: 「 You seem to hold some sort of prejudice against the Sacred Saint Angel, don't you? 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at the Giant a bit before finally answering him: "In reality, when the Sacrificial Dance was completed, her curse had already been completely dispelled"

After saying so, he was brought away by the light, returning the same way he came.

The Giant of Beginning was silent for a few moments.

The curse was already dispelled, but the Sacred Chant Angel still insisted that he appear in front of her.

The situation seemed to have gotten a lot more sensitive.

「 After 190 million years since the Sacred Chant Angel obtained power from the Dusty World and returned, the curse was finally removed from her body...」

The Giant muttered to himself.

「 She would eventually become an unimaginably powerful entity, perhaps one day surpassing me and reach that of the legendary Reneedol 」

「 ——But the Sacred Chant Angel would forever remember, the curse that plagued her for countless years, the curse that she was helpless to resolve, was dispelled by a human male 」

「 This human male has obtained a true power of Occultism, and garnered the attention of entities from the worlds of the past! 」

The Giant's one eyeball suddenly opened wide, then quickly narrowed into a thin slit.

「 She... has already become wary of this youngster? 」

「 Tch, this youngster...」

「 ...Really is too cautious...」

Chapter 1105

The clear chiming laugh resounded throughout the cathedral.

Gu Qing Shan lowered his gaze to look at the layer of scattered rocks.

They broke into uneven pieces, briefly displaying the inside that had turned a grey, dried-up color before crumbling into sand before disappearing.

The Sacred Chant Angel finally stopped laughing.

She softly sighed: "Thank you for helping me thoroughly remove my curse. Just a thought but, is it that hard to give someone else a compliment?"

Gu Qing Shan sincerely answered her: "I've done my best, and I was telling the truth—— from an efficiency point of view, science seems to be more trustworthy after all"

He pulled the Earth sword back, lightly flipped it around, and grabbed the hilt.

His job was done.

The Sacred Chant Angel still wanted to say something else, but a voice suddenly resounded in the air.

"Go!"

With that, Gu Qing Shan vanished in front of her eyes.

The Sacred Chant Angel was stunned.

She slowly looked up at the sky.

“Saint Father...”

The Heavenly Father landed and spoke in a joyful tone: “My daughter, your body has only just recovered, you should rest for a while”

The Sacred Chant Angel hurriedly said: “That man just now, the Giant of Beginning——”

“That youngster came from 190 million years in the future, and he has returned to his time” the Heavenly Father replied.

The Sacred Chant Angel went silently briefly before suddenly speaking: “He had only just grasped a bit of Occultism, it seems that even after 190 million years, the Dusty World still hasn’t been conquered?”

“Indeed, not everyone can have the same opportunities you did, my daughter”

The Heavenly Father replied.

The Sacred Chant Angel displayed a wonderful smile towards her father.

The Heavenly Father told her: “Let’s go, I will now lead you out from this Temporal Oasis back to normal time”

“At which period will I appear?” the Sacred Chant Angel asked.

“90 million years in the future. In that place, I’ve constructed a closed-off world for you to stay in, I hope you can understand, my daughter”

“I understand, father, for the next 190 million years, I cannot interact with or affect anything...”

The Sacred Chant Angel thought briefly, then asked: “Then how about I appear in the future of that person just now? I would be able to avoid affecting the timeline and history, at the same time, I won’t need to live in a closed-off world for a hundred million years”

The Heavenly Father helplessly told her: “However my daughter, my powers have been all but spent to maintain this Temporal Oasis, the most I can do is send you 90 million years into the future. This is the range that I can assure your safety and would not be discovered by the monsters of the River of Time”

The Sacred Chant Angel smiled at her father: “It is fine, Father won’t need to trouble yourself with this matter, I can do it myself”

A miraculous power started to exude from her body.

“As the curse has been lifted, the power I obtained from the Dusty World shall be enough...”

...

The layer of clouds.

The Giant of Beginning had returned first.

He cleared his throat, took out his notebook and acted like he was flipping through it.

Sha—

Gu Qing Shan abruptly appeared from the void, landing on the stairs leading into the layer of clouds.

「 Youngster, well done 」 the Giant praised him.

“Did you suddenly bring me back?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Of course! I would naturally have to oversee such an important transaction personally, and I was afraid that you might mess things up 」

The Giant reached his hand below the layer of clouds, silently putting a rare coin away.

This was the Heavenly Father’s personal fee that he paid for the request of taking Gu Qing Shan away.

「 What, did you regret not being able to talk more with the beautiful angel? 」 the Giant then teased him.

Surprisingly, Gu Qing Shan instead sighed in relief.

“No, I’m very grateful”

He appeared a lot more relaxed now.

Seeing him like that, the Giant also felt assured.

He reached out two fingers to pick up the letter of entrustment.

Klak klak!

Glowing gemstones of every color fell out from the letter of entrustment, which was then caught by the Giant in an uncharacteristically rapid speed.

The Giant laid out the gemstones on his palm, carefully checking each one with the tip of this finger.

「 Hm, very decent specimens, Heavenly Father really wasn’t stingy this time around 」

He then lightly tapped the void of space.

A 7-colored glow filled the entire layer of clouds.

Abaddon.

It has once again appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

「 This spear is now yours— I’m very pleased with this transaction, and I trust that you are the same 」 the Giant said.

Gu Qing Shan happily nodded and looked at the 7-colored spear.

For some reason, he suddenly recalled the Earth Creator’s words from before.

...

「Take it, it will lead you towards the location of the spear— I do not know why, but I can sense that this spear might be a crucial turning point in fighting against the Soul Shrieker 」

...

Gu Qing Shan remained silent.

Finally, this moment has come.

—whether or not this spear can be used against the Soul Shrieker, will finally become clear.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the 7-colored fragment.

Lines of glowing text immediately appeared on the War God UI:

[A fragment of Abaddon]

[So long as you hold it in your hand, you would be able to sense the location of the spear]

[Return this fragment to Abaddon, its impression of you will change]

Gu Qing Shan lightly flicked the fragment away, allowing it to fly towards the 7-colored spear.

The 7-colored spear lightly vibrated and actively went forward by itself.

The fragment seamlessly fused with the spear like a drop of water that had returned to the sea.

After a brief moment, the 7-colored glow of the spear completely vanished.

It flew in front of Gu Qing Shan and started to madly tremble with a pained buzzing noise.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

Don't tell me that just adding a single fragment broke this weapon?

「Fool, hurry up and grab it! 」 the Giant spoke up.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly grabbed the spear.

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Some information appeared in his mind.

At the same time, the War God UI also displayed new lines of glowing text:

[One of the seven Abyssal Saint Armaments, Abaddon. From its conception, it had always been in the hands of the Soul Shrieker without anyone knowing of its true value]

[This weapon has now accepted you as its everything, officially becoming your weapon or defensive gear]

[When this weapon accepts a new master, there would be two forms for its master to choose]

[Firstly: Abaddon, the spear]

[Secondly: Svalinn, the shield]

[The sharpest spear? Or the sturdiest shield?]

[That is the eternal question]

[You must make a choice between one of these two forms]

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「 She... has already become wary of this youngster? 」

「 Tch, this youngster...」

「 ...Really is too cautious...」

Chapter 1106

This place was the centermost location of the entire ship.

Whether this ship turned into a train, a Mech armor, or if the ship was facing imminent destruction, this place was equipped with a unique life-sustaining system that would guarantee the safety of its pilot to the highest degree.

— and it was quite narrow.

After securing Gu Qing Shan here, Su Xue Er could only sit on the floor.

“Why haven’t you come back yet?”

She anxiously whispered.

After waiting for a bit longer, Su Xue Er couldn’t help but glance at Gu Qing Shan again.

Gu Qing Shan still had his eyes closed, no reactions.

Su Xue Er sighed, feeling a bit more anxious in her heart.

Suddenly, the light on the control tower outside abruptly turned bright red, followed by a loud alarm.

[Attention please, 3000 life forms have been detected, brainwave signature confirmed to be similar]

[These life forms are approaching rapidly]

[Initial assessment: Enemies]

[Estimated time of arrival: 5 minutes]

Su Xue Er instantly stood up, walked up to the dashboard outside, and turned on the screen.

Numerous little dots appeared on the screen, displayed to be heading towards this base rapidly.

“Perform super-distance graph analysis of the targets”

[Running analysis]

[Analysis complete, the targets are confirmed to be Cultivation-type soldiers, brainwaves detected to match brainwave patterns similar to hostile intent, 81.639% probability of them launching an attack against our side]

“Display the situation outside of the base” Su Xue Er ordered.

The scene on the screen changed.

Hazeden, Guyan, and Sha Qiang could be seen with their subordinates, stationed at various points outside the base.

The pixies were somewhere else entirely.

As they were currently souls, Su Xue Er could only see the glowing staves in their hands without actually understanding what the pixies were doing.

Su Xue Er turned on the ship's radio system and quickly announced: "Attention please, the ship had just detected enemies approaching us, estimated time of arrival is 5 minutes!"

Sha Qiang loudly asked: 『 How many of them? 』

"3000 cultivators!"

Hazeden, Guyan, and Sha Qiang exchanged glances.

"Seems like it'll be a desperate fight" Hazeden commented.

Guyan also agreed: "Fortunately, I'm very experienced with this, our fire-type abilities are nothing but destructive"

Sha Qiang suggested: 『 What if I try to scare them off— never mind, it's 3000 people, I'll probably not be able to scare them, so it's best to retain my strength to fight 』

A few hundred flickering sprites of light flew over from the pixie's side, displaying a line of text:

[We are currently using the Quipwood that Gu Qing Shan left behind to forge a Quipcraft Divine Artifact]

After they finished reading, this line of text changed again.

[So we won't be able to help you with anything for now, and instead need your help to buy a bit more time]

The text changed again:

[But don't feel dejected, the spell casting components we've accumulated after all these years can still be used one last time. This would have been our final trump card, now used to help you]

The sprites of light returned.

They then all gathered in the same place, forming the visage of the long-bearded old man.

The old man blew a long whistle that almost sounded like a long incantation:

"Bopidi bopido boo! Come and have afternoon tea!"

The void of space split open.

A gigantic black figure gently skidded through, silently flew over the base, and hovered above it.

Everyone was stunned to see this.

The old man then said: "It will help you fight while we try to hasten the production of our Divine Artifact, please buy as much time as possible"

He then blinked a few times as the gigantic figure, then scattered back into countless sprites of light that returned to their forging.

『 This is... from the legends...』 Sha Qiang looked at the gigantic figure, a bit uncertain.

"That's right, it's exactly that, the steed of the pixie's Great Ancestor, I never thought I'd actually be able to see it" Guyan exclaimed in shock.

Hazeden stared closely at it for a long time before sighing: "The Magic Big Cuttlefish, a creature of legend, the consecration Deity of the pixies. So these pixies had been able to survive all this time within the secret passage thanks to having such means"

From the ship, Su Xue Er was staring carefully at the screen.

"Collect the data, begin the assessment of strength, then make a comparison against the enemy"

[Understood]

Lines of data quickly scrolled through the screen at a ridiculously fast speed which continued for almost a full minute.

[Due to the lack of spell casting component, the Magic Big Cuttlefish did not completely manifest]

[Conducting comparison analysis with historical records]

[In its current incarnation, the Magic Big Cuttlefish only has 9.3% of its full power]

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[Thus, the following conclusion has been drawn:]

[The enemy will completely destroy our side in 7 minutes and 19 seconds]

[Results: total casualty on our side]

Su Xue Er was stunned.

That's the end.

[Indeed, that is the end]

An electronic voice suddenly resounded.

"WHO!?" Su Xue Er shouted.

She turned around, only to find that the voice was coming from Gu Qing Shan's body.

Su Xue Er became tense and sternly questioned: "What exactly are you? Why are you inside Gu Qing Shan's body?"

A silver cube slowly leaked out from Gu Qing Shan's arm.

The electronic voice continued: [I am the Impartial Goddess' Super Dimensional weapon, sent here to support his excellency Gu Qing Shan in combat]

Su Xue Er relaxed a bit.

Gu Qing Shan had already informed her about this thing, and Gu Qing Shan's temporary facial alterations were also done by it.

Arcs of lightning were slowly diffusing from the silver cube, giving off a faint 'zi zi' noise.

The electronic voice told her: [Su Xue Er, I will now officially tell you: the results of this battle is certain, you must run away]

"Run away?" Su Xue Er doubtfully asked.

[Indeed, his excellency Gu Qing Shan will definitely not want you to see you die here, as such I will now fulfill the responsibility of your protection in his stead]

The electronic voice continued: [The curse that enveloped the secret passage has already faded, I will now activate super-distance spatial warp to bring you away from danger]

Su Xue Er immediately asked: "Then what about Gu Qing Shan?"

The electronic voice paused before continuing: [Unfortunately, the amount of power that this device brought along will only allow for one final random spatial warp. His excellency Gu Qing Shan is currently in a state of death, so a random spatial warp would put him in danger all the same. As such, the only chance will be reserved for you]

[Su Xue Er, you only need to worry about your own safety, his excellency Gu Qing Shan will continue to be protected inside the ship's life-sustaining system until his soul returns]

Su Xue Er suddenly shook her head: "No, we have no idea what kind of power the enemy holds, I need to stay here to watch over him"

[You will be killed in action here] the electronic voice replied.

Su Xue Er turned to the screen and ordered: "Please calculate the chances of victory for both sides if I also participate in combat"

Data scrolled across the screen again before a notification came out:

[Calculations complete, if the Card user Su Xue Er participates in combat, this battle would still end in total casualty on our side as the result, but the duration of combat will be lengthened by 45 seconds]

Su Xue Er fell silent.

The silver cube once again spoke in its electronic voice: [Su Xue Er, you must leave this place right away, otherwise, you will perish here]

Su Xue Er shook her head and replied: "I will definitely not leave Qing Shan here and flee by myself"

"Furthermore, these calculations were only done based on the power fluctuation of each life forms— in a war, the most important thing besides power is tactics"

She then started operating the dashboard of the ship.

[Ambush tactic established]

[All systems will enter concealment mode, preparing to fire at their strongest output in an ambush attack]

The screen then issued a warning: [Attention: This ambush has been set up to overclock all firing systems in exchange for stronger output, once the ambush is accomplished, all firing systems will enter a cooldown period]

“Do it!” Su Xue Er resolutely ordered.

[Understood]

Following Su Xue Er’s order, the entire ship slowly faded away from the outside of the base, no longer visible.

She had made the same choice as the Magic Big Cuttlefish.

Conceal.

Ambush.

Once that was done, Su Xue Er returned to the room where Gu Qing Shan was in.

She slowly stepped forward, stroking Gu Qing Shan’s face.

“Qing Shan, don’t worry, I’ll be sure to protect you”

Saying so, she sat down next to Gu Qing Shan, closed her eyes, and started to mumble something.

——she was reciting the martial scripture that Gu Qing Shan had taught her.

Gu Qing Shan said that by continuously reciting this martial scripture, one would constantly find a greater sense of understanding.

Su Xue Er believed that he wouldn’t deceive her.

Time slowly passed.

From the silent darkness, a loud, abruptly voice suddenly declared:

“Thieves and trespassers, those who offended the Heavenly King shall not exist in this world”

“Go, kill them all! Leave no one alive!”

Boom———

A violent sound of explosion resounded.

The flare of war had been sparked!

Chapter 1107

This was a secluded barren corner of the secret passage.

The final war base of the Starlight Empire silently sat in the darkness, still and unreactive.

After a hundred million years, it was now covered in dust, completely blending in with the rubble and rocks all around it.

Several thousand people were hovering in the sky.

They were looking down below.

Hazeden, Guyan, and Sha Qiang were standing on top of the base, their sparse numbers were only just enough to total a bit over 100.

While there were at least 3000 cultivators in the sky.

From just numbers alone, this would be a battle of 100 against 3000.

The pixies were fully focused on speeding up the construction of their Divine Artifact, seemingly uninterested in joining the battle.

“Report—— Sir Cui, we didn’t detect any ambushes in the surroundings”

“Sir, the technological base shows no signs of having been activated, according to the records of the wraiths and our observation, access to this place had been sealed off without any way to enter”

Two cultivators flew up to report to the {Yama King} realm cultivator.

Sir Cui was a man who wore a full suit of cultivator armor, clad in radiant light.

He glanced at their ship.

The ship seemed to have crashed landed on the side of the base, broken into pieces.

——from the looks of it, these people wouldn’t be able to escape.

“Go, kill them all, then we will capture the souls of the pixies”

Sir Cui curtly ordered.

“Sir, yes sir”

The cultivators then appeared from the darkness, fully clad in armor as they headed towards the giant base.

Without a single sound, the darkness became thicker.

The cultivators who entered the darkness didn’t get any closer to the base but instead disappeared inside it.

All of a sudden, dozens of desperate screams resounded.

“Not good, there’s something beyond our range of cognition!”

Sir Cui shouted.

With a swing of his hand, 20 cultivators behind him formed a set of hand seals together.

Combination Skill: [Inner Sight Elongation]!

This was a technique to focus the inner sight of every cultivator in it in order to detect things that normally couldn't be seen.

"Sir, I can see it, it is a giant cuttlefish!" a cultivator loudly reported.

"Is that so, no wonder it could kill over a dozen of our people all at once!"

Sir Cui gritted his teeth briefly before taking out a talisman and tossing it out.

His hands quickly formed a hand seal.

Huang Quan Borrowing Technique, [Pray For Deity's Descent]!

Hoh—

The talisman was instantly ignited, burning the void of space in front of him.

The mystical runes on the talisman circled around itself, broke through the void, then reformed with a resounding impact.

A God summoning talisman was used!

...

At another location.

The Huang Quan fragment world.

The black-cloaked girl smashed the pot of liquor to the ground, making a loud chattering noise.

"I'll spell it out today, the Deities of our Hell faction are forbidden to respond to the prayers or go to that secret passage"

The white-cloaked girl followed up: "That's right, that's right. If any of you dare to go, don't blame us sisters for disregarding old bonds"

Across from the two girls, 7-8 Daemons with different forms sat on either side of the table, exchanging glances.

「 But big sisters, even if we won't go, the other Daemons would still go 」 one of the Daemons helplessly tried to refute.

"Then let them, the bottom line is that our faction does not get involved"

The black-cloaked raised her eyebrows and replied.

「 But you should at least tell us the reason 」 another Daemon complained.

The black-cloaked girl walked up and poked at his chest with her nail: "Tell you my ass, with that damn mouth of yours, what can you actually keep secret?"

All of a sudden, everyone's expressions twitched.

「 Ah... someone responded to a prayer 」

「 It's the Deities from the Demon Gates faction, I think it was the two who were experts at combat 」

「 Those two huh? Cruel fellows they are. Seems like things are about to get bloody 」

The Daemons commented one after another.

The black-cloaked and white-cloaked girl exchanged looks of worry.

Devil King... this is already the extent of what we can do...

...

Above the war base.

The void of space itself split open.

Two figures slowly revealed themselves within the faint glow.

A tall lanky man.

And a bulky man with two horns.

“What offerings do you have prepared to greet us?” the lanky man asked in a languid manner.

Sir Cui respectfully replied: “Please be assured, we will follow only the highest standard”

The lanky man and bulky man both appeared pleased.

Seeing that, Sir Cui quickly pointed at the darkness below and explained the situation to them.

The two men looked down at the darkness.

They were carefully observing something—— as if they are able to see that monster through the darkness.

“Looks like a monster from the age of myths, but it doesn't hold much power, and it's only an avatar” the lanky man commented.

“Hm, seems like an oceanic Magic-type monster, I'll leave it to you” the bulky man crossed his arms and said.

“Then what about you?”

The lanky man took out a horse-headed blade and casually asked.

The bulky man smirked: “To save time, I'll be escorting those weak beings below into the Demon Gates”

“Their souls——” the lanky man said.

“Do you want a complete soul, or for me to rip them all in half before we split it?” the bulky man asked very seriously.

“Either is fine, your choice”

Saying so, the lanky man wielded his blade and tilted downwards, abruptly vanishing without a trace.

At the next moment, a dim light exploded to dispel the darkness, dispelling the giant cuttlefish’s camouflage.

『 Uuuu——- 』

The giant cuttlefish let out a low, painful cry.

It seemed to have been hurt from that attack.

It reached its tentacles into the void, unleashing various elemental spells to attack the lanky man.

The lanky man continued to avoid it while unleashing dimly glowing slashes with his blade.

The bulky man only glanced over him once before losing interest.

His body drew a long arc, swiftly made his way through the combatting man and cuttlefish to land directly on top of the war base like a cannonball.

As he stood up, his figure grew to become a giant of several dozen meters tall.

The pair of horns on his head suddenly gave off a buzzing noise.

While Hazeden’s group didn’t expect such an attack as they had prepared themselves to face the enemy.

“Damn it! I can’t move!” Guyan loudly shouted.

“I can’t move either!” Hazeden also said.

Sha Qiang was already unconscious.

“A bunch of insects, let me take a headcount”

The bulky man counted each person, then glanced at the wreck of the ship and muttered: “There are also two more over there, and a corpse...”

“Very well, once I slowly draw your souls from your bodies, you will have time to savor the terror of being stuck between life and death” the bulky man muttered.

As soon as he said so, the long horns on his head began buzzing louder, the sound soon enveloped the entire base.

Even the pixies were prevented from being able to move.

The bulky man walked forward step by step, grabbed an evil creature, and bit his head off. He then spat the head out and turned the headless body upside down into his head.

Blood flowed.

A dimly glowing object also flowed from the body into his mouth.

The bulky man slowly chewed.

“Ah— a soul desperately trying to survive, each of your struggles only serves to stimulate my tastebuds further”

A few moments later.

The bulky man stopped chewing as his throat lightly moved.

In front of him, everyone was still unable to move a single step.

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Everyone felt a deep sense of fear.

— they couldn't even fight back; they were stuck here waiting to be eaten!

In the sky, the cultivator named Cui thought briefly before waving his hand to signal a retreat.

“Sir?” his subordinate doubtfully asked.

“Fool, can't you see that the Deity is eating? Deities cannot be reasoned with, if our men came down there, he might use them as food as well” Sir Cui muttered.

On top of the base, the bulky man had picked up the second person to put into his mouth.

That person was desperately fearful but was helpless to move.

All of a sudden, a brilliant pillar of light flashed through the darkness.

The bulky man was sent flying and crashed into the wall in the sky.

“We're saved!”

Everyone sighed in relief and hurriedly turned around.

It was from the Starlight ship.

All of its broken components had been repaired, its camouflage undid to reveal a completely new ship.

Su Xue Er's hands were quickly operating the dashboard.

An electronic voice resounded behind her:

[Su Xue Er, the enemy has recognized Gu Qing Shan's body, this will not be easy. You must keep him busy; I will quickly resolve the issue of his buzzing equipment!]

The silver cube was now attached to the ship's processing chip, utilizing the processor to control two mechanical hands, quickly modifying a few tools.

“Understood” Su Xue Er replied in a hurry.

A bright-red color appeared on the screen.

Su Xue Er shouted: “Maximum output!”

All firing systems on the ship opened up to unleash their strongest attacks.

Puu puu puu puu puu!

Boom!

As soon as the bulky man flew back down, he was forced back by the ship's firing systems once again.

"Garbage Technological artifacts... doesn't even tickle" the bulky man scoffed.

On the ship, Su Xue Er loudly shouted: "I can only buy a little bit of time, can you really dispel his buzzing?"

The electronic voice replied from the silver cube: [Naturally, but I will need supplementary components, give me two more minutes!]

The two mechanical arms were now moving at maximum speed, so much that Su Xue Er couldn't even see what they were doing.

At this time, the bright-red light appeared on the screen again.

——the bulky man was rushing downwards once again!

Su Xue Er gritted her teeth, opened a hidden compartment on the dashboard, and heavily pulled on it.

"Alright, since you came from Impartial Goddess, I will believe in you this once!"

A warning appeared on the pilot's dashboard:

[All firing systems had been overclocked and will become irreversibly damaged in 7 seconds]

"Do it!" Su Xue Er shouted.

Sparks filled the sky.

Against the intense firepower, the bulky man tried to land several times but was forced back every time.

One,

Two,

Three,

...

Seven seconds.

The bulky man came down again.

Su Xue Er flicked her hand to send out a blood-colored card.

Right outside the ship, a bloody mace suddenly manifested, ready to receive the bulky man as he approached.

The bulky man's expression changed.

“Fuc——”

Bam!

He was smacked away by the sudden mace.

“Ahahaha, Bull Head, how come you can’t even beat an insect today?” the lanky man loudly mocked him.

But he wasn’t worried at all.

The bulky man stabilized himself in mid-air.

He reached towards his nose.

Blood?

I’m bleeding?

“I don’t care who you are, I will make sure you die in the most miserable way possible right here, right now!” the bulky man roared as he rushed down once again.

He faced the now-transformed bloody great sword, sending it flying deep into the wall with a single punch.

The bloody great sword flickers for a brief moment before turning back into a Card and vanishing.

“Oh no!” Su Xue Er desperately exclaimed.

This Card’s only weakness was that it couldn’t get 500 meters away from her position, otherwise, it would instantly lose its effects.

The bulky man hovered in the sky, then slowly descended.

Bam!

The entire war base trembled intensely.

That dozen-meter tall figure simply stood on top of the base like a demon god.

The bulky man shouted: “Come! Show me what else you’ve got, trash!”

Oong——

His horns once again started buzzing.

“Hahhh? So you can’t move?”

He revealed a cruel smile.

“I’ve thought of dozens of ways to make damn sure that even the smallest shred of your soul won’t remain”

The bulky man slowly stepped towards the ship.

...

Su Xue Er was standing in the control room of the ship, unable to move.

Lines of text were displayed on the dashboard screen:

[All firing systems have been irreversibly damaged]

[The system suggests the pilot immediately flee right away!]

Su Xue Er looked down at her hand.

—her Card still hadn't returned.

At this point, she had lost everything she relied on.

"How much longer?" she turned to ask the silver cube.

An excited female voice suddenly replied from the silver cube: [Alright! I can resist against it, now you can use it too. Tch, with my standards—]

Su Xue Er was stunned.

The female voice reacted in time and returned to the dry electronic voice:

[Su Xue Er, you are Gu Qing Shan's final hope, you must stop his monster and wait for Gu Qing Shan's return!]

The silver cube retrieved the small components on the table, then hovered in the air before transforming into a silver hairband.

The hairband landed in Su Xue Er's hand.

She was now able to move again.

"I only have to put this on?" Su Xue Er asked.

[Correct, I can now protect your brain from being affected by that buzzing— but do you have confidence in the following battle?] the electronic voice asked.

"Not at all. I can only guarantee a single thing"

[What is it?]

Su Xue Er paused briefly before answering: "So long as I live, I will not let anyone touch Qing Shan"

She then tied her hair into a high ponytail with the silver hairband and took a deep breath.

"I'm up!"

She shouted.

...

Outside the ship.

The bulky man seemed to have noticed something as he abruptly stopped.

The Starlight ship quickly shrank, transforming into a metal giant that was over a dozen meters in high that slowly stood straight up.

Compared to him, this metal giant wasn't lacking in the slightest.

As soon as the metal giant stood up, it uttered a heavy, long scream:

[Come—-- fight—--!]

The giant swiftly rushed straight towards the bulky man!

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After a few exchanges, the metal giant had completely closed the distance between them and leapt forward.

For a giant mechanical armor, using the term 'leapt forward' might seem a bit inappropriate in describing its movements.

But the truth was that the metal giant took one step back, then a giant step forward at an unimaginable speed while putting all of its weight forward while throwing two punches.

Bam!

The bulky man was sent flying, rolling several times on the ground before he finally managed to stabilize himself.

"Tch, such weak power, and you intend to hurt a Deity like myself?" the bulky man staggered a bit while standing up.

He then saw a foot.

A large metal foot.

As he looked up, the pair of cold metal fists were slowly becoming larger in his eyes.

"Scatter!"

The bulky man quickly shouted.

A dim glow erupted from his two horns.

The metal giant was subsequently sent flying.

But that power was obviously not enough to damage the metal giant.

It nimbly did a flip in mid-air before landing on the empty ground a bit further away.

The metal giant stood up, formed a martial stance while remaining completely intact.

On the contrary, the bulky man was panting heavily after he used this technique.

"What kind of secret martial arts is that?" he asked in a low voice.

[It is no such mysterious thing] Su Xue Er's voice resounded from inside the metal giant, [It is nothing but the simplest close-combat tactics]

All of a sudden, a sharp gleam appeared behind the metal giant.

The metal giant hurriedly leaned over to dodge, but it was too late.

One of its large metal arms was cut off, curtly falling to the ground.

When the metal giant retaliated with its other arm, the ambusher had already left.

The bulky man looked up and said: "Thanks!"

The lanky man nodded, pulled his blade back, and returned to battling against the cuttlefish.

The bulky man shifted his gaze towards the metal giant.

He appeared boastful and said: "You're done for now. I'd like to see how you're going to try anything again"

The metal giant went silent.

Su Xue Er then spoke up again:

[Now I'm finally relieved]

The bulky man scowled: "What do you mean?"

[Such despicable fellows like yourself who only knows to ambush people from behind without even the most basic level of martial arts spirit can't possibly be real Deities]

The metal giant changed its stance, holding its only arm forward with an open palm.

Martial arts, Crane Strike.

The bulky man's expression turned grim.

"When I devour you, you'll know what a Deity really is!"

He rushed straight at the metal giant.

Half-way through, a faint glow had filled the bulky man's hands.

His arms grew more muscular, becoming almost as large as half of his bulky body.

Su Xue Er didn't say anything else.

She was silently reciting the martial scripture, entering a state of unprecedented immersion.

The distance between the two giant entities quickly shrank.

The metal giant moved its foot to avoid the bulky man's first punch, only to be struck by the second one.

At the same time, the metal giant's metallic palm suddenly manifested the graceful shape of a crane and struck the bulky man right in the middle of his chest.

Bam!

An intense sound of impact resounded through the void of space.

The bulky man was sent flying again, but a large chunk of the metal giant's armored chest had also been beaten in.

Many of the circuits that connected to the control room were thoroughly destroyed.

Su Xue Er clenched her teeth tightly and controlled the metal giant to slowly lie down.

—Qing Shan is still within the life-support system at the back of the giant, I can't let him experience any blunt force trauma.

As the giant finally laid flat to the ground, Su Xue Er sighed in relief.

As she sat in the broken control room, tears couldn't help but flow from her eyes.

"It hurts a lot..."

She whispered and looked down to her left.

Her arm was crushed by the collapsed metal from the impact earlier, completely gone.

The electronic voice urged her: [Quickly run away, Su Xue Er, there really is no other chance, the only way I can help you now is to use the super-distance spatial warp, this way at least you will survive]

A few hundred meters away, the bulky man was slowly standing back up.

Su Xue Er went silent for a brief moment before replying: "No need, let me die here"

[Fool, you've already risked so much and tried so hard] the electronic voice seemed a bit angry, [Even if Gu Qing Shan knew about this, he wouldn't blame you]

"Risked so much? Tried hard?" Su Xue Er repeated that and couldn't help but shake her head.

She wiped the blood at the corner of her mouth with her remaining hand and muttered: "There are many things in this world that can't be achieved by simply trying hard"

"I haven't slept a wink for a very long time, using the Divine Arts of the Holy Church every day to recover my stamina and spirit. Every waking moment, I've spent to train myself, to improve myself; but in the end, I'm still just a normal girl, I'm still inferior to naturally talented people like Ning Yue Chan"

"I hope to give Gu Qing Shan the best in the world, but I'm not the best"

"Then let me die here in battle"

"At least, I will die to protect him"

"This way, I would have no regrets"

Saying so, Su Xue Er stood up from the collapsed control room and looked at her opponent from not too far away.

The bulky man was looking down, evaluating her.

“So you were a little girl” he said in surprise, “What impressive strength you have displayed earlier”

The more the bulky man looked down at Su Xue Er, the more his mouth couldn't help but water.

Su Xue Er calmly glanced at him, stiffly moved her body, and took a stance.

“Very nice, very nice” the bulky man stared closely at her while slowly approaching, grinning as he spoke: “Although you're missing an arm, from my experience, the souls of mortals with a firm will like yourself would surely be delectable”

His movements became slow until it finally stopped.

Su Xue Er could see the malice in his eyes, the cruel grin on his face, even the drool he was leaking through his teeth could be clearly seen.

——he was frozen.

Su Xue Er looked around, only to see that everything had turned silent.

In the sky, the blade-wielding man stayed completely still in the sky, about to swing his weapon to stop two tentacles.

He was frozen.

The tentacles were frozen as well.

“Is this possibly... [Time Stanch]?” Su Xue Er doubtfully asked.

An electronic voice replied: [No, all the power I've accumulated are being applied on you, so from a technical standpoint, this should be called Time Suspension¹]

“That's perfect, I need to take this opportunity to kill him!”

Su Xue Er looked around her weapons, but unfortunately, other than the wreckage of the metal giant, she couldn't find anything that she could use.

[Su Xue Er, do not be impatient]

The electronic voice continued: [This equipment was a Super Dimensional weapon created for his excellency Gu Qing Shan, but during the long travels through the 900 million World Layers with spatial warp, the weapon form was forced into its hibernation form. It was only after being received by his excellency Gu Qing Shan that the weapon form was reactivated; but due to the complicated and intricate nature of the weapon, the activation time was a bit too long, leading to his excellency Gu Qing Shan losing his opportunity to be equipped with this weapon]

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The silver hairband turned into liquid, flew in front of Su Xue Er, and transformed into a hand.

The hand opened to display a black handgun in front of Su Xue Er.

[Please equip this weapon] the electronic voice told her.

A handgun?

Although it seemed unassuming, the fact that Impartial Goddess took the effort to deliver it from our faraway homeworld means that it is definitely not as simple as it seems.

While thinking that, Su Xue Er hesitated: “This belongs to Gu Qing Shan...”

The electronic voice became gentle: [Take it, protect Gu Qing Shan]

Su Xue Er stopped hesitating.

She reached her hand out to take the handgun.

The handgun immediately vanished and was absorbed into her arm.

The electronic voice continued: [The Super Dimensional weapon has the following functions:]

[First: Spatial warp-type offensive capabilities that ignore all suppression of power]

[A special note, there was originally a function that his excellency Gu Qing Shan couldn't use, but as you are a female user, the Super Dimensional weapon has unlocked the following function as well:]

[Second: Feminine body evolution— this ability will continuously optimize your body, in accordance to the base female form, to allow evolution into a more advanced lifeform]

[First phase, logical thinking evolution and strength evolution has coordinately begun]

Following the explanation of the electronic voice, Su Xue Er found that her thinking speed had been doubled.

She immediately understood everything that she was told.

“Spatial warp means that it can directly hit the enemy?” she asked.

[Correct] the electronic voice confirmed.

It then urged her: [Reserved energy is about to run out, Time Suspension will soon end, please immediately adopt your new mean of attack and eliminate the enemy]

“I know”

Su Xue Er opened her palm.

The black handgun appeared in her hand again.

[This is Impartial Goddess' greatest masterpiece, capable of ignoring all suppression of power. As you continuously evolve, its power would summarily grow stronger as well] the electronic voice told her.

Su Xue Er held the handgun tightly and pointed it at the bulky man.

[Time Suspension is about to end]

[3]

[2]

[1]

Su Xue Er pulled the trigger.

Bang!

A silver bullet abruptly manifested in front of the bulky man's forehead and went directly inside.

Time returned to normal.

The bulky man fell to his knee and collapsed.

Su Xue Er looked over his body.

I really can't believe it; a handgun was able to kill a Deity.

Su Xue Er was startled.

No...

He still hasn't died completely.

The pair of horns on his head gave off a buzzing sound.

The bulky man then stood back up, doubtfully asking:

"Just now, how did—"

Bang!

He fell again.

The horns buzzed again.

The bulky man propped both hands on the ground, angrily speaking: "You bit—"

Bang!

He fell again.

The horn kept buzzing.

Su Xue Er scowled.

She found that after her thinking speed had been improved, she was able to understand a lot of things much more easily.

—without any movement, she pulled the gun back into her arm, randomly picked up a long piece of broken metal on the ground and walked up to the bulky man.

The bulky man's eyelids twitched.

Su Xue Er tossed the long piece of metal on the ground, manifested the handgun again and put another bullet into the bulky man's forehead.

Bang!

The bulky man died again.

Su Xue Er quickly put her handgun away, picked up the piece of metal on the ground and pressed the sharp end into the bullet hole on the bulky man's forehead.

"I... seemed to have become stronger"

She whispered before stabbing the long piece of metal straight in with her full might.

Blood splattered everywhere.

The bulky man's head was pierced straight through.

The horns on his head continued buzzing for a while, but were unable to do anything about such a wound.

Thud!

The horns fell to the ground.

The bulky man's body quickly shrank and returned to normal.

Su Xue Er heaved a long sigh.

Finally, I've dealt with this guy.

She looked down at her amputated arm and felt a bit sorrowful.

Now that I've lost an arm, it will take a lot of effort to recover.

I can't let Gu Qing Shan see me in this state.

While she was thinking, the horns abruptly flew up, hovering in front of her.

Coong coong coong ooong—

It continuously buzzed towards her.

For some reason, Su Xue Er managed to understand what it was trying to say.

"You said that— if I wear you, I'll become an entity that can control divine power?" Su Xue Er asked in surprise.

Oong!

The horns gave an affirmative answer.

Su Xue Er observed the curved pair of sharp horns for a bit before shaking her head: "I'm not wearing you"

The horns froze.

— — — as a Divine Armament of Huang Quan, never before had it been rejected while actively trying to accept a new master.

Oong oong oong

(But why?)

The horns doubtfully asked.

Su Xue Er answered without hesitation: "You're ugly"

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Having been rejected, the horn simply floated next to Su Xue Er, apparently unsure of what to do.

A silver drop of liquid dripped from Su Xue Er's hand into the bulky man's head.

[I will read his memories. Be careful, the handgun only has two shots left today] the electronic voice resounded in Su Xue Er's heart.

"Got it" Su Xue Er replied.

She wiped the cold sweat from her forehead.

Evolution brought her a lot of benefits, as not just her thinking and strength was improved, but the bleeding on her amputated arm had also stopped.

But it still hurts a lot.

Su Xue Er suddenly sensed something and pulled the trigger.

The lanky man from before abruptly showed up next to her.

A faint gleam of his blade flashed, aimed straight at Su Xue Er's neck.

At the next split second, the lanky man felt a heavy impact before being sent flying with great force.

Having resolved that dangerous situation, Su Xue Er lightly sighed.

She suddenly realized just how impressive this handgun was.

I clearly aimed forward, but the bullet appeared on the side to hit the lanky man.

The lanky man clutched his chest, cautiously looking at Su Xue Er.

"Peh!"

He spat out some blood and begrudgingly said: "You're only relying on the power of that thing, if you're so—"

Bang!

The lanky man collapsed.

Su Xue Er put the gun away, broke off another long piece of metal from the wreckage of the mech, and dragged it in front of the lanky man.

Oong---

The long horse-headed blade in the lanky man's hand started to vibrate.

Without hesitation, Su Xue Er swung the sharp piece of metal down with all her might at the lanky man's neck.

His head was severed from his body.

The horse-headed blade vibrated even more intensely, full of fighting spirit.

The blade started to give off a golden glow and levitated by itself!

The lanky man's body started twitching.

"Dream on!"

Su Xue Er clenched her teeth and swung the piece of metal forward along the ground.

Bam!

The lanky man's head was sent flying far into the darkness, disappearing without a trace.

The horse-headed blade froze.

Su Xue Er stared down at it.

Coong coong coong oong oong!

The golden glow of the horse-headed blade slowly retracted, then it started to buzz flatteringly at Su Xue Er.

Everyone watching fell silent.

Sha Qiang muttered in a low voice: 『 Such strength... keep in mind, all of my subordinates are forbidden to offend this woman even once in their entire lives 』

『 Yes, boss 』 the evil creatures hurriedly replied.

Su Xue Er looked up at the sky.

A dark figure had once again covered the sky, protecting everyone under it.

The Magic Big Cuttlefish had resumed its protection.

The cultivators in the sky couldn't help but retreat a few hundred meters.

"Sir, what do we do now?" a cultivator wiped his cold sweat and asked in a whisper.

Sir Cui indifferently replied: "What else can we do? This place is too unique, with two Huang Quan Divine Armament fallen here, we will have to risk our lives to take them back, otherwise, we'd be executed when we return either way"

He tapped his Inventory Bag and took out several black talismans.

"Relay my orders, funnel everyone's spirit energy to me, I will summon the Demon Gates himself!"

...

The silver drop of liquid emerged from the bulky man's forehead and once again floated in front of Su Xue Er.

The electronic voice slowly spoke:

[Su Xue Er, I've found that you are not an average person after all]

"What do you mean?" Su Xue Er asked.

The electronic voice replied without answering her: [The majority of their powers was actually sealed away, after all, this place is still under the pledge of the four Pillar Gods and numerous other powerful entities]

Su Xue Er quickly understood and followed up: "You mean that both of them had only been using one type of power?"

[Indeed, this pair of horns and blade actually had various powerful Thaumaturgies, but they could only be exerted in the hands of their wielders; and since their wielders were being restrained by the pledge—
-]

"The handgun was able to kill them"

[Correct. Under normal circumstances, with just five rounds of bullets, you wouldn't have been able to kill them] the electronic voice replied.

"Who exactly are these two, were they really Deities?" Su Xue Er couldn't help but ask.

The electronic voice explained: [Not at all, they were actually dead people from their worlds whose souls were recognized by these Divine Armaments of Huang Quan, from which point they obtained divine power and became the subject of worship by cultivators who would pay heavy prices in order to call upon them]

[They named themselves according to some legends, but these names are not based on any basis, nor are they fitting with any mythology]

Su Xue Er pondered: "In other words, we can't treat them like the figures of legend"

[That is exactly correct]

"Then what about Gu Qing Shan, I remember that he——"

The electronic voice explained: [Gu Qing Shan is even more of an outlier, even in these people's worlds, there had never been any rumors or tales of living people who entered Huang Quan and obtain the recognition of any Huang Quan Divine Armaments]

[Furthermore, all Divine Armaments of Huang Quan had their own artifact spirit, but the Devil King Warden Rod alone does not have one, a completely unique situation]

[A living person who triumphed over all the dead people of the 18 hells, took a Divine Armament without an artifact spirit for themselves, then became the Devil King of Huang Quan...]

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[That is simply unprecedented]

Su Xue Er nodded, expressing her understanding.

It was obvious that Gu Qing Shan only managed to enter Huang Quan as a living person, as well as directly ejecting his soul from his body earlier, through the use of a mysterious technique.

Where exactly did he learn this technique?

Was it that world I witnessed from the forked road of destiny?

With a technique like that, wouldn't it mean one had the ability to travel between the world of living and dead as they wished?

Who exactly was it that held such a technique? That person... surely has some other secrets that they do not want others to find out.

Su Xue Er shook her head and collected her thoughts.

My thinking capabilities after evolution truly is incomparable to before, I've never been able to think so deeply from a few sentences before.

She suddenly sensed something and abruptly looked up.

The giant cuttlefish had fallen from the sky, crashing into the outside of the war base.

The cuttlefish's body slowly became faint and disappeared.

——it had been defeated!

In the sky, countless cultivators stood around a large gate.

This gate was painted in red, both sides attached with a bust of a malicious-looking wraith.

The giant gate emanated an eerie light that shined upon the bodies of the cultivators.

The cultivators had indifferent expressions, coldly staring down at Su Xue Er.

They opened their mouths to speak at once: "Was it you who dared to massacre two Deities?"

Su Xue Er couldn't help but retreat.

The evolution of her senses had made her sense of fear grow stronger as well.

——these people were too eerie, it was as if something else was using their eyes to observe her.

Hazeden's voice sounded from afar:

"Su Xue Er, dodge quickly!"

Su Xue Er abruptly tilted her body.

Something flashed briefly in the void of space.

She then felt an intense prickling pain.

“Aaaa...”

Su Xue Er fell down.

A sharp bone spike had struck her shoulder.

Su Xue Er immediately pulled the bone spike out without hesitation and tossed it away.

The bone spike rolled on the ground a bit before flying back to the sky.

Above them, the cultivators coldly snorted: “Your reaction time is decent, but your end is decided”

“Woman, you will die the most terrible death right here and now, your soul will be used as offering to the two dead Deities of Huang Quan”

As soon as they finished, numerous bone spikes manifested all over the sky, raining down on the people below.

Su Xue Er was trembling all over her body, helpless to stand back up.

She bit her lip, then finally muttered: “Qing... Shan...”

Clang!!!

A deafening sound of impact resounded.

A 7-colored light descended from above, shielding them.

The blinding light illuminated the darkness and sent all the bone spikes flying back.

Shu shu shu shu shu!

Followed by the gigantic monsters that abruptly manifested out of nowhere.

“Abyssal monsters!” someone exclaimed.

“Look, that’s the Abyssal Bone Stealer, as well as the Life Devouring Great Bug, the Abyssal Cold Touch, the Desolate Demon Snake, the Nightwalker Blade Demon— why did so many Abyssal monsters suddenly appear!?”

These monsters stood around Su Xue Er, carefully protecting her.

Su Xue Er was then lifted up by an invisible force.

A 7-colored shield appeared in front of her.

Seeing this shield, Su Xue Er no longer cared about the pain from her body and started giggling from joy.

I’ve never seen such a powerful artifact ever before, but who else in this world would suddenly appear at this point in time and use such power to protect me?

There is only Gu Qing Shan.

Yes, this must be Qing Shan.

“You’re back”

She softly spoke to the void of space.

As soon as she did, Su Xue Er felt an armor protecting her.

This armor gave off an immense fluctuation of power.

——it would easily protect Su Xue Er from all harm!

A sword lightly hovered next to her, carefully protecting her.

And then, the entire world started to tremble.

Sha sha sha sha sha!!

The sharp killing intent carved out numerous uneven marks all over the outside of the war base.

Oong——

Another sword shot to the sky.

While it was still in flight, a blinding sword phantom manifested from it like the brightest sun that shone upon the world.

This time, he was truly angry!

Chapter 1110

Countless blades of sword will, each as thin as a strand of hair, weaved together throughout this space, forming an inescapable net.

—Secret Art, [Silver Star]!

A huge gust of wind appeared within this darkness.

The net of light spread in the wind, decimating everything within its reach.

Severed limbs, heads, torso, and innards scattered all over the sky.

The stiffly standing cultivators were being erased in troves.

However, the remaining cultivators remained still without any reactions.

They coldly stood there, staring at the flying sword in the sky with a strange expression.

“So it is you, the missing Devil King of Huang Quan!” they spoke in unison.

——it was as if some entity was borrowing the mouths of these cultivators to talk to Gu Qing Shan.

A second later.

All the severed flesh and blood flew back into the sky, falling into the red gate as they were being silently sucked in.

An eerie red glow then manifested on the gate.

Kiee—

The gates slowly opened.

Frigid wind filled the space.

Hundreds of armored skeletons wielding various weapons flew out from the gate.

The skeletons were clad in wisp-like flames, all rushing straight towards Gu Qing Shan.

Ghost soldiers of Huang Quan!

The cultivators who were killed by Gu Qing Shan immediately reincarnated into Huang Quan ghost soldiers as they went through the red gate!

The other cultivators displayed eerier grins as they spoke in unison:

“Legend has it that the Devil King of Huang Quan is able to control all dead people. But that sounds like nothing but horse shit to me. Come, let me see just how much of legend can actually be trusted”

Gu Qing Shan completely ignored those words and unleashed a gigantic crescent-shaped white slash.

The ghost soldiers shrieked all at once without dodging and faced the slash head on.

Clank clank clank clank clank clink clink clink clink!

As the white slash struck their bodies, it gave off countless noises of clashing weapons.

The ghost soldiers were stopped by the slash, so they started to exude some Yin aura.

After a short moment, they turned into shadows as the giant white slash passed through bodies and flew away.

The remaining cultivators gloated: “Ghost soldiers can naturally go through all things in this world, I’d like to see how you’re going to deal with that”

As soon as they declared so, Gu Qing Shan as well as the sword in his hand vanished without a trace.

He had reappeared in the middle of all of the cultivators.

“You’re courting death!” the cultivators shouted.

“Aaarggggh!!!!” Gu Qing Shan suddenly uttered a resounding scream.

Intense gusts of wind erupted from his body, turning into visible dark wind that instantly spread into his surroundings.

The power of the Demon Dragon’s blood!

In the past, to prevent this violent power from infecting other people, Gu Qing Shan had always worn the Silent Dusk Cloak to obscure his aura.

However, after he saw the wounds that Su Xue Er suffered, Gu Qing Shan had become truly angry, no longer caring about such matters.

Ever since he performed the World Offering Dance, he had completely gotten the Demon Dragon power under his control, thoroughly turning it into his own.

— which meant that Gu Qing Shan could now utilize this power at will!

The masses of black wind went into the cultivators around him, causing their bodies to tremble uncontrollably.

The various spells and techniques in their hands were instantly interrupted.

The violent power of the Demon Dragon had corroded them, modified them.

This was the greatest strength of the Demon Dragon!

This was the power of the most powerful Soul Artifact from the Bygone Era humans!

Neither Gu Qing Shan nor the strongest human Combatant of the Bygone Era were capable of getting rid of this power, their only solution was to rely on the Living Being Sacrificial Dance to slowly dispel it.

So how could these parallel world cultivators possibly know how to deal with it?

Their eyes quickly regained their original clarity, but soon started screaming in pain as they couldn't endure this power.

Perhaps, after a while of this suffering, they would obtain a seed of the Demon Dragon's power, massively increasing their cultivation speed, allowing them to unlock new abilities, their overall power increasing at a rapid pace—

But they won't have any future.

“Die!”

Gu Qing Shan spat out a single word.

A blinding flower of light bloomed in the air, countless images of swords flashing into existence like sideways arcs of lightning.

Over a thousand of the remaining cultivators were massacred in a single moment!

Countless figures turned into tiny drops of water that swiftly returned to Gu Qing Shan before being absorbed into Gu Qing Shan's body.

“Aarrhhh—”

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes, unable to keep his screams of pain in check.

As soon as those cultivators were turned into Demon Dragon bloodkins, they were immediately massacred, so their spirit energy, Soul Points, blood power, etc. everything that belonged to them had been completely absorbed and turned into Gu Qing Shan's power.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've killed 1968 cultivators]

[As you used the corrosive power of the Demon Dragon blood, according to Law of the Soul Artifact Demon Dragon, all of their powers have become your own]

[You obtained 800,000 Soul Points]

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[Their other types of power will be consumed by the Demon Dragon's power and continue to strengthen you in the next few days]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through everything and looked back.

The Huang Quan ghost soldiers were hurriedly rushing towards him.

But compared to [Ground Shrink], they were too slow.

「 NO! All of them were my power! 」

A furious voice resounded from the red gate.

From Gu Qing Shan's observation, he found that it needed to absorb everything of the cultivators in order to convert them into ghost soldiers.

After a single probing attack, Gu Qing Shan immediately used the Demon Dragon's power in order to corrode the remaining cultivators and turned them into his own.

His tactic changed so quickly that the red gate couldn't even react.

And now, the red gate could no longer obtain those powers.

「 Souls, return to Huang Quan! 」

A buzzing noise echoed from the red gate.

——the only thing left in the area were the souls of those cultivators.

Thousands of souls hurriedly fled towards the red gate.

They couldn't even tell how they were killed just now, so they naturally wanted to escape as far as possible from Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched this and muttered:

“Since you dared to harm my people, you are not needed in Huang Quan”

He summoned the Devil King Warden Rod.

All the souls froze in the void of space, unable to move a single step.

Dead people must obey the Devil King of Huang Quan, otherwise, their souls will be completely destroyed.

The red gate uttered a resounding roar: 「 Devil King, you dare to act so boastfully! I, the Demon Gate Deity, will ensure you die today! 」

The void of space trembled intensely.

The scenery of the secret passage was slowly becoming transparent and illusory.

——the entire world was becoming illusory.

While another world was slowly manifesting itself.

Divine Skill, [Circulation of Life and Death]!

The sky became gloomy, miasma filled the air, a walled passage made of grotesque jagged rock stood atop a transparent river.

The red gate was situated right in the middle of this walled pass, exuding a piercing red light.

「 Come! All shall enter Huang Quan! Devil King, both you and your people will be trapped here, never to leave ever again! 」

From afar, countless Deities and monsters were taking to the sky.

When Gu Qing Shan looked down, he saw that Su Xue Er and Hazeden's group had also been pulled into this projected world.

The Earth sword suddenly spoke up: 「 Gu Qing Shan, quickly think of something, this technique is overlapping a projection of that world with this one. Once the technique is completed, the projected world will become real, and we'll also be forced to remain here for good 」

Gu Qing Shan answered without changing his expression: “I can see that, but I just want to say——”

“This thing actually has the courage to return me to Huang Quan...”

The single-horned skull on top of his scepter started to exude a fearful red glow from its sockets.

Gu Qing Shan shouted: “Regardless of who you are, you shall all wake up right at this moment! Our war is upon us!”

——[Dead Essence]!

With this power, the Huang Quan Devil King could communicate with every dead person in hell regardless of where they were, and also allow the slumbering dead to instantly wake up.

Instantly, every dead person resting in slumber within the 18 layers of hell of this fragment of Huang Quan opened their eyes.

They immediately understood what was happening.

After countless years, the true Ruler of hell had finally shown himself!

Gu Qing Shan swung the Devil King Warden Rod forward and shouted:

“Come, regardless of who used to rule over you and what sins you’ve committed, from this moment on, hell is under MY control!”

——[Breaking Cells]!

This was the divine power to unlock the 18 great prisons – the 18 layers of hell.

Countless dead people manifested all over Huang Quan.

By the power of the Devil King Warden Rod, they had been released from the collapsed hell!

“If someone tries to stop me...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The scepter gave off an endless red light, causing the entire world of Huang Quan to tremble.

Right next to the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, the banks of the Forgetting River started to rumble and quake.

———[Samsara Conquest]!

Hell itself began to detach from Huang Quan!

Rumble rumble rumble———

All 18 layers of hell slowly rose up from the depths of Huang Quan.

Quintillions of dead people uttered the same resounding roar.

“Long live the Devil King!”

“No one can stop the King of Hell!”

At the same time.

Countless fearful voices of Deities resounded at once:

「 Quickly, dispel the [Circulation of Life and Death] technique! 」

Chapter 1112

The group had been reunited.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the pair of horns and blade next to Su Xue Er and asked: “What’s going on over there?”

Su Xue Er explained what happened earlier.

Gu Qing Shan pondered: “Why didn’t you use them in the desperate situation earlier?”

Su Xue Er appeared cautious and explained: “They’ve only just faced a battle of life and death against me, but as soon as their masters were killed, they tried to accept me as their new master”

Gu Qing Shan looked at her and gestured for her to continue.

Su Xue Er continued: “If they were acting, I definitely shouldn’t use them; if they weren’t acting, then their attitude towards their masters was too heartless, they might have something else in mind, so I wouldn’t dare use them”

Gu Qing Shan relaxed his expression: “Xue Er, you’ve really grown”

Sha!

With a curt sound of a slash, Gu Qing Shan’s hand and sword disappeared for a brief moment before they reappeared.

A cold flash of light swept through both, the horns and the horse-headed blade.

How fast!

Everyone had the same thought.

Two desperate screams resounded at once.

They were struck by the Earth sword, completely slain.

“Huh? Weren’t they artifacts of Huang Quan? What’s going on?” Su Xue Er asked.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “When I killed that demonic gate just now, I discovered their secret—— the true Divine Armaments of Huang Quan had already returned to their respective worlds right as they were defeated, these two were fakes”

『 What were they exactly? 』 Sha Qiang couldn’t help but cut in.

“They were the two who were killed by Su Xue Er, right before they completely died, apparently they were able to perform a technique turning them into the Divine Armaments in order to deceive other people for their survival”

As he explained this, Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized.

Right.

That’s very similar to [Mystery of All Beings Equal]

What kind of technique is this?

——three different people all have the same secret technique that’s similar to [Mystery of All Beings Equal], could it be this Mystery is common in the Huang Quan realm fragment?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and stopped thinking about this matter.

This isn’t the time for that.

He called out: “Can a pixie come here?”

A pixie then flew over to him with their glowing magic staff.

Gu Qing Shan spoke to the sprite of light: “The battle is over, so you don’t have to be in so much hurry with your Divine Artifact anymore, get someone to help me heal the wounded first”

——all of Laura’s most precious healing serums were created by the pixies, but their healing spells and techniques were even more potent.

Unfortunately, normal people wouldn’t even be able to see a pixie, let alone ask them for healing.

But now, Gu Qing Shan had become an ally of the pixies and even gifted them the Quipwood, as well as repelling all of the enemies for them, so his request was naturally heeded by the pixies.

Several sprites of light wrote something in the air:

[Please wait a moment, we will be able to activate the Divine Artifact soon]

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask: “What kind of Divine Artifact is it?”

[A Spatial Divine Artifact]

The sprites of light returned to the pixies.

A few moments later, all the sprites of light parted ways.

The darkness itself receded to both sides like a pair of curtains.

The appearance of another world was displayed in front of everyone.

——a luxurious palace, numerous floating structures, a sea of trees rich with greenery, and numerous strange and unusual creatures.

“The Kingdom of Pixies!” Hazeden exclaimed in excitement.

This was an extremely rare sight, very few people had ever witnessed the true kingdom of pixies.

A pixie who donned a crown and a wonderful small moustache flew out from inside.

Numerous pixies followed behind him, all of them donning luxurious formal clothes and a short club in their hands.

This pixie cleared his throat and loudly declared: “All of those who fought by our pixie ancestor’s side, you will have the eternal friendship of us pixies!”

Hazeden, Guyan, and Sha Qiang all smiled.

A normal person wouldn’t be able to even see a pixie, nor would they dare to offend them.

Their treasures might be worth an astronomical amount, but their friendship was even more priceless.

Because as long as this friendship existed, they would be able to contact and trade with them at any time!

This was the kind of treatment that every country, kingdom, and race dreamed of.

After that declaration, the pixie looked around and asked in confusion:

“Then, my father’s father’s father’s father’s father, may I ask where you are?”

There was no answer, only sprites of flames flickered in and out of existence.

A small pixie whispered to him: “Your majesty, they’re currently souls”

The king tapped his head before swinging the short club in his hand: “The most precious materials are still being kept by the dragons, so our ancestors, please bear with some wooden bodies for now, we shall resolve this issue immediately after this!”

“—go go, puppet bodies!”

With a series of consecutive tiny noises, the long-bearded old man and the countless pixies who followed him appeared.

They now all had wooden bodies.

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The long-bearded old man signaled his descendants not to say anything yet.

He grabbed the pixie king’s short club and chanted an incantation towards Su Xue Er:

“Kadabra bradaka”

“Your arm will grow longer and longer, enough to grab a broom to beat a mouse”

“Your body will be stronger and stronger, like a big boar of the forest!”

Poof!

A puff of white smoke exploded around Su Xue Er.

Su Xue Er was surprised to find that her amputated arm had already returned, all of her wounds were also fully healed.

The long-bearded old man slightly lowered himself, bowing to her:

“Miss, your arm has been imbued with anti-magic properties and new vitality, if you ever run into a bad guy, you can use it to hit your enemy directly— by the way, you were truly very brave just now, such bravery that touches the heart of us all, would you be willing to become a pixie?”

Su Xue Er knew that the thought process of pixies and humans were completely different, so she didn’t say much else, only thanking him and replying: “It’s ok, I still want to remain a human, thank you very much for healing my wounds”

The long-bearded old man slightly nodded before flying in front of Gu Qing Shan.

“Young man, if it weren’t for your efforts, us pixies would have had no hope at all, helplessly eaten by the Heavenly King Mara”

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “There’s no need to be so formal, it was because we mutually helped one another that we managed to achieve such a feat”

The long-bearded old man sighed, then continued: “Would you be willing to take a princess of the pixie as your wife?”

Gu Qing Shan’s smile froze.

Su Xue Er secretly pinched his hip with the hand that she just regrew.

“That won’t be necessary” Gu Qing Shan silently clenched his fists and replied with a stern expression: “I’m a human, so I prefer female humans”

The long-bearded old man appeared regretful and said: “That’s ok, we can talk about this more later on”

His expression suddenly turned cruel.

“Bok-a-bok! Bok-a-bok! Heavenly King Mara, get over here!”

He swung his short club towards the void.

— —but nothing happened.

“Strange? Is it no longer in this world?” the long-bearded old man was confused.

Since his enemy had escaped, the long-bearded old man couldn’t really do anything else but return to chat with his descendants.

Su Xue Er handed a handgun over to Gu Qing Shan.

“This is the weapon Impartial Goddess created for you, I borrowed it just now”

Gu Qing Shan pushed the gun back to her and replied: “Use it for your own protection”

“Then what about you?” Su Xue Er asked.

“When I’m unwilling to, no one can ever get close to me even if they tried” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Xue Er was glad but still insisted on putting the gun into Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

However, as soon as she let go, the handgun flew back straight into her hand.

The electronic voice then explained:

[This gun has synchronized itself with Su Xue Er’s gene and brainwave signature, currently helping the promotion of Su Xue Er’s genetic evolution, it cannot be used by anyone else]

Su Xue Er no longer declined and put the gun away.

“Qing Shan, what do you plan to do now?” Su Xue Er asked.

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

— —it was finally time for this.

The final battle against the Deity of [Chaos], the Soul Shrieker would soon occur.

This shall be the beginning of a great storm.

I’ve obtained Svalinn, so the next course of action is to save Lady Darksea.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I need to return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom right away and summon everyone, then return to the past in order to fight against the Soul Shrieker”

Su Xue Er held his hand tightly and spoke with conviction: "I'll be coming with you"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The electronic voice spoke up again: [That is not possible, Su Xue Er, you are currently undergoing a crucial point of your evolution, so taking unnecessary risks is ill-advised. Furthermore, you and I have a much more important mission to accomplish]

"What do you mean?" Su Xue Er asked, a bit displeased.

The electronic voice continued: [Right below our feet is the final war base, a collection of the strongest technological advances of the past Starlight Empire]

"But I can't access this base— its central protocol password is most likely with the heir of the empire" Su Xue Er replied.

The electronic voice refuted her: [You are the last remaining heir of the empire, while I have inherited the greatest computational power from Impartial Goddess and have access to all of the empire's encryption algorithms]

"Then, you mean..."

[You and I will be able to enter the base, with your status and my prowess, we will be able to unlock all of this war base's power— then utilize them in the war!]

"That's a good idea" Su Xue Er's eyes lit up.

She turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "There won't be any danger, right?"

The electronic voice replied: [There will not, I am used to such matters. It will only require a bit of time]

"How long?" Gu Qing Shan pursued the question.

The electronic voice replied: [It will be 1-2 days at the fastest and 3-4 days at the latest— you can return first to gather the necessary personnel; we will then catch up]

"Alright, I'll leave these Abyssal monsters here. There's no need to be afraid of them, as the Abyss is currently our ally" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Hm, please be assured] the electronic voice replied.

Chapter 1113

A ship was quickly making its way through the space vortex.

Thanks to the pixie's Spatial Divine Artifact, he was transported directly to the vicinity of the Eternal Abyss.

He was currently heading back to his starting point, the final destination being the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

[... zzt... Gu Qing Shan, can you hear me?] Laura's voice sounded from the ship's intercom.

“I can hear you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Has everything gone well?] Laura asked.

“It has, when I return, we can immediately declare war”

[Perfect, I’ll make the preparations]

The conversation ended.

Gu Qing Shan leaned back on the large sofa in the control room, snacking on a spirit energy replenishment pill.

He was alone on the ship.

——Su Xue Er remained in the secret passage.

She and Impartial Goddess’ Super Dimensional weapon were currently breaking into the Starlight Empire war base database to collect their leftover materials and weaponry.

Hazeden, Guyan, and Sha Qiang brought their subordinates with them to visit the kingdom of pixie as guests.

...

When they parted, the pixies had also invited Gu Qing Shan and Su Xue Er to their kingdom as guests, but Gu Qing Shan naturally declined, saying that he needed to return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom immediately.

The long-bearded old man once again asked Gu Qing Shan to marry a pixie princess.

Su Xue Er was immediately wary of him.

——*why are the pixies so insistent on this?*

I can’t let Gu Qing Shan remain here for too long!

She pushed Gu Qing Shan and urged him: “Hurry up and go, you have to do what you have to do right? I’ll catch up with you later”

So Gu Qing Shan left.

——he directly used the pixie’s Spatial Divine Artifact to leave.

“Why does he seem like he’s running away?” the pixie king asked in surprise.

Su Xue Er glared at the pixies and explained to them in a frigid voice: “He won’t be marrying a pixie; I’ll tell you that much. He’s a human, get it? A human can only be with a human——”

The long-bearded old man cut her off.

He waved his hand dismissively and spoke with regret: “Young miss, I highly valued your willpower and bravery in battle, so I originally wanted to have you accept the blessing of the pixie royal family, becoming a pixie princess who can use Quipcraft before marrying you to him”

The pixie king also nodded in agreement: “That’s exactly right, today was a perfect day, we would have been able to host a grand marriage ceremony for the two of you”

Silence.

Su Xue Er froze completely, standing motionlessly for a long while.

An electronic voice sounded from her arm: [Su Xue Er, let us start decoding the base’s passwords]

For some reason, this electronic voice sounded both happy and pleased.

...

——naturally, since Gu Qing Shan had already left, he didn’t know anything about this.

He sat on the ship and entered a meditative state.

Having absorbed the power of almost 2000 cultivators, combined with the Demon Dragon’s original power, he was currently experiencing an abrupt spurt of growth in his power.

Gu Qing Shan could feel himself becoming stronger every second.

At a certain point.

A line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Your personal strength has reached the threshold of {Yama King} realm]

[You can trigger the Tribulation at any moment]

Gu Qing Shan didn’t feel too surprised.

He could sense that the Demon Dragon’s power still sleeping in his body wouldn’t only help him reach {Yama King} realm, but advance even further.

However, since he was inside of the ship, it wasn’t quite suitable for facing a Tribulation.

So...

“Adorable” Gu Qing Shan called out.

A squeak quickly replied to him from the void of space:

Xiu?

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Is it because you borrowed someone’s ability that you had been hiding without saying a word?”

The jade gourd pendant Adorable immediately showed itself and started circling around Gu Qing Shan.

Xiu xiu xiu wu wu!

It appeared quite excited.

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan gave it a thumbs up.

“Well done!” he praised.

—since Adorable had been able to steal that ability, I’ll be able to sneak into that world and collect a bit more information.

After all, I stand on the side of [Order] and the Abyss, which is at war with [Chaos] and the parallel world.

The Eternal Abyss had also displayed its sincerity.

—originally, the Aegis could only summon random Abyssal monsters with a random level of power, and only one at a time

But as the Eternal Abyss felt the summoning of this Saint Armament, it sent all of the most powerful Abyssal monsters over.

It was only after the battle was over that those Abyssal monsters slowly returned.

Gu Qing Shan understood this quite clearly.

After pondering for a bit, he activated the ship’s camouflage function and docked it at an unassuming ruined location in the void.

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Gu Qing Shan set up all the necessary defensive barriers, then summoned the Aegis.

After everything was prepared, he began to form the necessary hand seals.

Secret Art, [Sealed Body Yin Shift]!

Secret Art, [Soul Comes Soul Goes]!

With the two techniques, his soul was once again ejected from his body.

He released his inner sight and checked the surrounding several thousand miles of space.

Everything seemed ordinary.

—this was a random ruin in the space vortex that he just happened to see, so there shouldn’t be anyone who notices his presence.

Coupled with the Aegis and Adorable, Gu Qing Shan was confident that his safety was somewhat assured.

After a bit of thought, Gu Qing Shan took out a wide-brimmed hat that could obscure his presence.

This was an item from the Suspended world that he had specifically kept since a while ago.

*—*as for the Elemental Fairy King’s armor, he left it for Su Xue Er.

Since he had both the Aegis and Adorable, he didn’t need it quite as much, while he would feel much more assured with the armor protecting Su Xue Er.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan was wearing the Silent Dusk Cloak, a wide-brimmed hat over his head, as well as a sword hidden at his waist, which made it impossible to discover his identity at a glance.

With everything prepared, Gu Qing Shan said: “Adorable, use that technique on me—— you just need to maintain it with Soul Points, no need to fully complete it, then come take a look with me”

Xiu!

Adorable replied.

It then used that technique on Gu Qing Shan.

Divine Skill, [Circulation of Life and Death]!

——this was the Divine Skill that the red main gate had used.

Instantly, Gu Qing Shan found everything around himself becoming illusory.

Another world suddenly manifested in front of him.

The Huang Quan realm fragment world!

Just like when the red main gate performed this technique, as it was related to the overlapping of two worlds, it couldn't be completed in a short while.

Gu Qing Shan landed on a piece of rock, only to realize that he was standing at a corner of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

——he had entered the Huang Quan realm fragment world.

Gu Qing Shan carefully concealed his presence and hid in a location away from the wind.

In the sky, several sprites of light that carried faint and solemn presences were flying back and forth.

A loud noise could be heard from afar.

Several Deities were working together to shove Hell back into the crack between the Grand Tie Wei Mountain and Forgetting River from where it had emerged.

——this world was still in chaos, apparently not recovered from the influence of the Devil King's rage.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes and released his inner sight to carefully check.

All of a sudden, he noticed an acquaintance.

She seemed to have just finished something and was quickly running in a certain direction.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate for a single moment and vanished.

“It's me”

He directly appeared behind the white-cloaked girl and gently sent his voice.

The white-cloaked girl paused slightly before speaking to the void of space: “Big sis, go back first and wait for me, I'm about to make dinner”

A spark of flame escaped from her mouth before flying out of sight in a few moments.

The white-cloaked girl then turned in another direction.

“Don’t fly, don’t run, don’t greet anyone, just slowly follow me” the white-cloaked girl sent her voice.

Gu Qing Shan understood and closely followed her.

The white-cloaked girl led him away, making sure not to speak or greet anyone at all, simply heading forward.

As time went by, more and more ghost soldiers and ghost generals gathered, together with a few Deities as well.

“Hurry! Hurry! Someone is silently using a world-overlapping technique”

“Relay the superior’s orders, quickly locate any suspicious people!”

“Split up, report immediately if you find anything out of the ordinary”

“Sir, yes sir!”

“Hurry, a Deity discovered that the origin of the technique was on top of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain”

“Advance in formation, prepare for combat!”

They hurriedly made their way forward while shouting order after order.

The atmosphere of Huang Quan turned tense.

The white-cloaked girl lowered her head and picked up her pace, quickly bringing Gu Qing Shan to a house next to the banks of the Forgetting River.

She unlocked the door, took Gu Qing Shan inside, and hurriedly closed the door.

“There, this is our place, should be safe” the white-cloaked girl sighed in relief.

The black-cloaked girl was already waiting for the two of them here.

“You’re a real piece of work, you know that!?”

The black-cloaked girl glared at Gu Qing Shan and quickly said.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the void of space.

It replied with a series of ‘xiu xiu xiu’ noises.

Gu Qing Shan said right way: “This technique can persist for 30 more seconds; we need to make this swift”

Chapter 1114

“This technique can only persist for another 30 seconds; we need to make this quick”

As soon as Gu Qing Shan said so, the sound of commotion could be heard from outside.

Various noises sounded from both far and near.

“The power fluctuation of the technique is pointing here!” someone suddenly shouted.

Various powerful waves of fluctuation swept towards the small house like wind storms.

The black-cloaked girl had a complicated expression on her face, seemingly struggling to make some sort of choice.

“But I don’t know how to tell you”

She shook her head.

At this point, if it was anyone else, they would understand that she was referring to the fact that 30 seconds seemed too little to actually talk about anything.

But Gu Qing Shan was an experienced person who had seen and been through a lot of things, so he understood the hidden implications behind her words almost immediately.

In this short moment, he felt the other party taking distance from him.

She was physically standing in front of him, but she was also avoiding him.

——as if she was having a sort of rejection and hesitation.

What exactly caused her attitude to change?

Under this situation, it would most likely be something that’s related to their safety.

Gu Qing Shan quickly returned from his thoughts and said: “You decided to help me earlier, and now you should believe in your decisions”

The two girls looked at him.

Gu Qing Shan put emphasis on his voice: “You weren’t wrong to think of me as your ally, since I will never let comrades who had fought by my side down”

The black-cloaked girl looked at him and stayed silent.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a moment.

A short moment suddenly felt like an eternity, one full of danger.

The commotion outside was growing louder and louder.

Various immense sources of power were approaching.

Xiu——

The fluctuations of the technique suggested that it was about to end.

The white-cloaked girl whispered a shout: “Big sis, hurry up and decide!”

“I’m going to leave very soon, it might be very tough for us to meet again, later on, give me a chance to help you!” Gu Qing Shan followed up.

Hearing that, the black-cloaked girl seemed to have given in and clenched her teeth: “Damn it, I’ve been very unlucky lately, but I’m going to gamble it all just once!”

With that declaration, Gu Qing Shan felt like she had returned from a distance, no longer hesitant or unsure.

The black-cloaked girl took out a jade tag and quickly formed a hand seal towards it.

“There’s too little time, I can only tell you so much” she said with a very stern tone: “But I need to tell you this before anything else: It’ll be up to you whether or not you read this jade tag. Once you see it, you will no longer be able to live your life as calmly as before, you will surely be drowned in untold despair and confusion”

Saying so, the black-cloaked girl secretly slipped the jade tag to him as she abruptly pushed him away.

Gu Qing Shan fell backward and found himself sitting on the floor of his ship.

The illusory Huang Quan realm had disappeared.

She had pushed him out of the Huang Quan realm fragment world— or rather, the technique would have run out of time soon, either way.

He had returned.

A faint gentle light illuminated the cabin of the ship.

Gu Qing Shan sat still.

He stayed like that for a while, reviewing each and every statement she uttered.

It was only after he felt that he had understood what she meant did he slowly stand up.

He turned around, saw his body still sitting on the large sofa with both eyes closed and a calm expression on his face.

Silence, all around.

The sound of wind could be heard outside the ship.

It was the wind of the space vortex, a never-ending storm.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the jade tag in his hand.

—-the jade tag gave off the faint fluctuation of a destruction technique.

Gu Qing Shan had already seen such jade tags before.

This jade tag would self-destruct after someone took a look at it once.

What kind of matter would require such a level of secrecy?

Within those few seconds, what kind of information did the black-cloaked girl infuse in here?

Even without reading it, Gu Qing Shan could already sense an eerie and strange truth being hidden inside.

This truth was like a poisonous snake hiding in the darkness, causing cold sweat to emerge just by staring at it.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and returned to his body.

He opened his eyes.

The jade tag was right in his hand.

Should I or should I not take a look?

Gu Qing Shan recalled what she told him in the end:

...

"It'll be up to you whether or not you read this jade tag. Once you see it, you will no longer be able to live your life as calmly as before, you will surely be drowned in untold despair and confusion"

...

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Live my life calmly—

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and sighed.

As a living being in the age of the Worlds' Apocalypse, who could truly live calmly and peacefully?

Unless they're like the Giant of Beginning who lives by hiding away in the layer of clouds.

But the act of living for hundreds of million years by oneself within the layer of clouds itself also requires extraordinary determination and courage; otherwise, you would sooner take your life from going insane.

Gu Qing Shan likely stroked the jade tag in his hand.

After a bit of pause, he slowly infused his spirit energy into it.

The jade tag exuded strand after strand of light that slowly floated into the air, manifesting as a scenery.

The scenery began moving.

...

Under a gloomy grey sky, human cultivators were being lined up for over a thousand meters in a row, their hands tied behind their backs, unable to move.

"Execution!" someone shouted.

The heads of thousands fell at once.

There was nothing around these corpses except a vast desert.

The originally empty desert was now filled with the corpses of cultivators.

A man in a yaksha mask descended from above, asking: "Are they all dead?"

“Reporting, sir, the final group had been executed just now, please confirm our work”

“Hm, I shall”

The man slowly flew above the desert.

At some point, he stopped, picked up a head from the ground, and stared closely at it.

“Junior brother, you were too foolish”

He spoke to the head.

“But now that you are dead, no one shall ever object our ideology ever again”

“We shall turn into wraiths and survive within this Apocalypse, replenish the entire Wraith realm, eventually the entire Samsara, becoming the ruler of all worlds!”

Saying so, he tossed the head to the ground, clasped his hands behind his back, and left.

...

The scenery scattered and reformed itself.

The scene had changed.

A black figure was hovering in the sky.

Around him, countless men in yaksha masks were performing various techniques at the same time.

Someone spoke up: “The Bygone Era humans had forged a powerful Soul Artifact right next to the Eternal Abyss, calling it the sleeping Demon Dragon. We shall create an opportunity for you to reincarnate within that Soul Artifact”

“Understood” the black figure responded.

“Remember well, from this moment on, you are the Demon Dragon, you must ruin their efforts, bring our divine artifacts into the worlds that they created, and chase them away!”

“Please be assured, sirs, I will surely accomplish my mission” the black figure replied.

...

The scene changed again.

A man in a yaksha mask showed up.

He was giving a speech to numerous other comrades of his who were also wearing yaksha masks.

“We shall destroy 908 parallel worlds, using this power to break through the Law of the Void, thus descending into the Eternal Abyss”

“This shall create an unparalleled Fate Corrosion targeting the Eternal Abyss, perhaps even destroying it completely, thus granting us victory in this campaign”

The scene was becoming unstable.

The man's voice became more excited:

"Just like the fragments of the Samsara that had been conquered and the numerous parallel worlds before that, the Eternal Abyss and the 900 million World Layers shall become our dependent"

"All of their living beings shall be our slaves, worked to the bones while they are alive, their bodies fed as food after their deaths, while their souls reincarnate just to be enslaved again"

"Now, let's wage our war on the space vortex!"

Everyone resounded with vigor: "Fight!"

...

The scene ended.

Bang— —

The jade tag broke apart and crumbled.

In the short period of 10 seconds, the black-cloaked girl infused a total of three scenes into the jade tag.

Gu Qing Shan went silent without saying a single word.

The ship returned to silence.

Time slowly passed.

Gu Qing Shan finally muttered:

"I had thought it was only a small matter, who could've imagined, both the Huang Quan realm and Human realm were actually taking orders from the Wraith realm..."

He took out a ring.

— —the Abyssal ring that Boss gave him.

Gu Qing Shan activated this ring, once again sending the information he obtained to the Eternal Abyss.

Chapter 1115

The Abyssal ring gave off a cluster of light flickering briefly in the void of space before jetting through the darkness.

— —the Eternal Abyss would soon obtain this information.

Gu Qing Shan put the ring away, then sat calmly on the sofa collecting his thoughts.

...

"We shall become wraiths and survive within this Apocalypse"

"... we shall replenish the entire Wraith realm..."

...

Recalling those words, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but scowl.

There was a Wraith realm in my homeworld as well, but it was easily dealt with by just Kitty and myself.

The only realm in my homeworld with Divine Armaments was the Huang Quan realm, so the Samsara there was most likely created with the help of a fragment from Huang Quan as its foundation.

Combined with what I learnt just now; the parallel world waging war against the Eternal Abyss seems to have been a Wraith realm fragment world.

Replenish...

The more powerful the world is, the more powerful the living beings within that world would become.

This principle is most likely the same even among the worlds of the Samsara.

I wonder how many fragments had that Wraith realm managed to replenish, and how powerful it had actually become.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, but then noticed something.

He tapped his Inventory Bag.

A cold light flew out from within, manifesting as a sword which was hovering upright.

"You're awake?" Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked.

"Hm, from a very long nap"

A lazy female voice sounded from the Heaven sword.

Following that, a beautiful girl appeared from the Heaven sword, casually taking a seat across from Gu Qing Shan.

Luo Bing Li.

"What happened recently?" she asked.

"I got to know a few new friends, and even danced together" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Luo Bing Li recalled how Gu Qing Shan danced, then giggled while covering her mouth: "Then seems like I missed quite a few interesting matters, do you mind recounting them for me?"

Gu Qing Shan told her what had transpired.

Luo Bing Li's expression slowly turned serious.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "I'm preparing to break through to the next realm, can you participate in combat?"

Luo Bing Li sensed the spirit energy fluctuations he gave off and smiled: "{Yama King} realm?"

"Hm" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Luo Bing Li then advised him: "You should be careful, a cultivator who's always fighting like yourself might not be able to return once you've calmed down and relieved yourself from battles"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "On my path so far, I've killed so many people that my karma is probably ruined, the Yama Heavenly realm is probably going to kick me out really fast"

Luo Bing Li glanced at him, then suddenly lowered her head: "Now that you mention combat, I've actually had some time to ponder during my half-asleep, half-awake state"

"Ponder?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Luo Bing Li slowly explained: "Perhaps it was because I've disguised myself as a cultivator for too long during the Age of Old that I've become immersed with the mortal world— as the spirit of a sword, the meaning of my existence should be to fight and kill"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "That's not necessarily the case, there should always be the time for rest between work, a bit of time to let loose; only a mix of hard work and relaxation can truly allow one to exert their maximum potential"

Luo Bing Li gave him a sidelong glance, then relaxed a bit: "I've never seen you rest"

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He tapped his Inventory Bag, took out a bottle of spirit liquor, and poured each of them one shot.

The two of them cheered and downed the entire shot in one gulp.

"Strong liquor?" Luo Bing Li frowned a bit.

"If you're not used to it, I can give you some spirit fruit punch instead" Gu Qing Shan offered.

"No need"

Luo Bing Li took the entire bottle and poured another shot for Gu Qing Shan.

"Actually, while sleeping, I was studying the Elemental Sound techniques that I've learnt" she told him.

Elemental Sound techniques?

Gu Qing Shan focused his thoughts.

In reality, as a cultivator, Luo Bing Li was only slightly weaker compared to Xie Gu Hong from the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace.

If only continuous attacks were considered, she could actually be proclaimed as the strongest.

It was for that reason that Xie Gu Hong consulted her when there was an issue on the frontlines.

Taking another sip, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall the time when he had just joined Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, where Luo Bing Li's flute dispelled the demons from on top of the mountain.

He softly recited: "Remember when I was drinking on top of the bridge; Those who sat in were named heroes"

Luo Bing Li also poured herself a shot and continued: "The moon drifting in the watery sunset; Among the sparse flowers of autumn, a single flute resounding through the night¹"

After saying so, she drank the entire shot at once.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at her lonely expression and pondered: “I have a technique that allows you to turn into a human, are you willing to learn it?”

Luo Bing Li asked: “Was it that technique Shannu always used to turn into a human?”

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

Luo Bing Li pondered for a long while, seemingly hesitant about something.

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After a bit, her brows finally unknitted themselves.

Luo Bing Li put the shot glass down and clasped her fist: “This technique will be very useful, please teach me”

Gu Qing Shan then proceeded into explaining to her the fundamentals of [Mystery of All Beings Equal], carefully breaking down the various key points and confusing parts, making it easier for her to understand.

After listening to his explanation, Luo Bing Li fell into thought.

“I will most likely need a bit of time to study this technique” she said.

“That’s fine, slowly learn it, one day you will be able to turn back into a cultivator and walk the infinite worlds” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Luo Bing Li paused for a moment, then suddenly asked: “I’ve always complained because you use [Chaotic Flow] too much and even protested against using it, aren’t you afraid that after learning this Mystery, I will run away?”

Gu Qing Shan put his shot glass down and replied sincerely: “A cultivator chooses their sword as much as a sword chooses their cultivator, this is a commonly recognized principle between swords and sword cultivators— if you and I really aren’t fit for each other, there’s no need to hesitate, you can leave to find the sword wielder you wish for, I definitely won’t refuse”

Luo Bing Li lowered her head, poured herself another shot of liquor, and slowly sipped on it, no longer bothering to say anything.

“The time for rest is over, I’ll begin my breakthrough now”

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded to Luo Bing Li and closed his eyes.

——he began to break through his current realm triggering Heaven’s Tribulation.

Luo Bing Li took the last sip of liquor from her shot glass before returning to the Heaven sword.

The Heaven sword fell behind Gu Qing Shan and disappeared into the void of space, standing by the Earth sword and Chao Yin sword.

The Earth sword sent its voice: 「 Have you thought of a solution? 」

Luo Bing Li sent her voice back: “Hm, with this Mystery, I’m even more assured”

The Earth sword asked again: 「 What about our remaining components? 」

Luo Bing Li replied: “They’re all currently with me”

The Earth sword continued: 「 You’re the main artifact spirit, so I’ll have to trouble you 」

Luo Bing Li told it: “It’s not the time for that yet, no need to mention it”

The two swords then stopped sending their voices back and forth.

They silently watched over Gu Qing Shan.

Time slowly passed.

At a certain point, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and formed a hand seal.

This was a hand seal to circulate all of a cultivator’s spirit energy to strike the Dantian as well as the numerous acupoints around their bodies, created for the sake of displaying all of a cultivator’s power.

With this hand seal, Gu Qing Shan’s presence skyrocketed, allowing the Laws of Reality to sense him from the void.

Lines of glowing text appear one after another:

[Your strength has far surpassed the limit of Paragon realm, while still steadily increasing without stopping]

[You are currently breaking through to {Yama King} realm]

[In 5 seconds, the {Yama King} Tribulation shall begin]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[The {Yama King} Tribulation has officially begun]

An invisible Law descended on Gu Qing Shan from the void.

Gu Qing Shan immediately vanished from the ship.

...

A sea of clouds.

Another sea of clouds.

Gu Qing Shan lightly drifted along the wind, landing in front of a pavilion above the clouds.

He looked around, not hiding his surprise.

Unlike the layer of clouds where the Giant of Beginning was located, this sea of clouds seemed different.

Lotus heads growing in bunches, the clouds drifting faintly like mist, the sound of faint singing echoing across numerous heavenly buildings.

All sorts of strange and precious resources ripe for harvesting were scattered all over the mountains.

Spirit water springs were surging and flowing as clear as crystal.

Numerous boats and ships floating above the clouds, cultivators arriving and leaving as they pleased.

This was essentially the sight of heaven spoken of in legends.

—the Yama Heavenly realm was rumored to be the greatest realm of the Heaven realm, a world where those without great karma could never set foot

As cultivators begin their path from the Qi Training realm, they must undergo countless hardships and tribulations, only when they reach {Yama King} realm would the Heaven's Tribulation change to be in their favor.

This Tribulation was a karmic reward.

Gu Qing Shan was pondering the situation of this Tribulation, so he stood still for a while.

He appeared from the sea of clouds above, a sudden appearance.

But the cultivators who passed by the lone pavilion would either take a single glance and nod at him before flying away or not bother to look at him at all.

Several cultivators had formed groups, taken a cloud for themselves, and arranged banquets where they welcomed even more guests.

Some male and female cultivators went together as a couple, playfully chasing one another while picking the precious resources from inside the sea of clouds, happily frolicking until they eventually went far away.

A cultivator who was alone randomly swung his hand to summon numerous heavenly girls of unrivaled beauty from the void of space to accompany him.

After observing for a while, Gu Qing Shan sighed and praised: "The Yama Heavenly realm truly lives up to its reputation"

Chapter 1116

Gu Qing Shan simply stood there on the lone pavilion.

Time slowly passed.

Still, no one paid any attention to him.

Every cultivator who passed by him was busy enjoying the scenic beauty of their surroundings, not caring a single bit about him.

This caused Gu Qing Shan to feel a lot more assured.

He stopped hesitating and quickly walked out of the pavilion.

As soon as he did, lotus flowers manifested beneath Gu Qing Shan's feet to lift him up.

A total of sixteen beautiful heavenly girls appeared from the void of space and bowed to him.

"Welcome, Heavenly master"

It was at this point that the passing-by cultivators looked at him in surprise.

But they soon returned to enjoying themselves and left him be.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist in return: "This humble one is Gu Qing Shan, is there a reason why you addressed me as Heavenly master?"

The heavenly girls giggled: "Each person who can arrive at this Yama Heavenly realm is a Yama Heavenly master"

Gu Qing Shan nodded with understanding.

The most beautiful girl among the heavenly girls stepped forward and looked straight at Gu Qing Shan: "Heavenly master Gu, from today onwards, us sixteen heavenly girls will be your servants; everything from your daily spending, food enjoyment, sight-seeing travels, and so forth will be dealt with by us"

"Naturally, if one day you find yourself bored of us, you need only say so, for new sisters shall come to replace us"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "My apologies, but I don't have any money"

The heavenly girl smiled and told him: "The Yama Heavenly realm does not require any money, as everything here is the manifestation of the Heavenly master's previous karmic virtues, it is the enjoyment that you have earned"

Gu Qing Shan pondered: "In other words, once my Merit is used up, I will be able to return"

The heavenly girl nodded: "That is indeed the case"

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief: "Then, where can I see my own Merit?"

The heavenly girl replied: "There is a Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtues & Fire in this Heavenly realm, it can measure the good and bad karma of all Heavenly masters"

"It can measure karma as well?"

"Indeed. If you please, Heavenly master, first follow us to the Heavenly Fragrance Divine Spring"

"What for?"

"We shall aid the Heavenly master in changing his clothes, then guide the Heavenly master through the wonderful sights of the Yama Heavenly realm; tomorrow, we shall measure the Heavenly master's karmic virtues"

The sixteen heavenly girls walked two circles around Gu Qing Shan before kneeling at once, offering various items with their hands.

Gu Qing Shan looked at each one.

They were offering various types of clothing, gem ornaments, belts, and shoes, all of which gave off a faint gentle glow, naturally not ordinary items.

Gu Qing Shan glanced down at himself.

Since he had given his personal armor to Su Xue Er, the only thing he had on right now was normal cultivator garb.

He asked: "Can I not change clothes?"

"Naturally, all things in the Yama Heavenly realm will follow the Heavenly master's will" the heavenly girl replied.

"Then how should we go to the Heavenly Fragrance Divine Spring?"

"Heavenly master Gu, you need only to chant its name"

Gu Qing Shan tried chanting it.

The scenery around him flashed by.

He found that he had arrived next to a hot spring.

Faint water vapor drifted above the water, flowers were blooming and birds were chirping.

With a gentle gust of wind, the sound of the hot spring sounded very pleasant to the ears.

The sixteen heavenly girls had followed him here.

"Why can't I see any other person?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The heavenly girl replied: "This spring is split off into countless branches, each pond is a branch that only allows entry to a single Heavenly master and their servants.

Saying so, these girls began to undo the sashes of their clothing.

"What are you all doing?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The heavenly girls giggled again.

One of them replied: "We are preparing to serve the Heavenly master, as we shall fulfill all the desires in your heart"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "I'm not very used to bathing with so many people"

Another heavenly girl spoke up: "Please be assured, Heavenly master, all of us are maidens created from your karmic virtues, as such we are perfectly pure, but also have the perfect understanding of how to please you"

After a while of staying silent, Gu Qing Shan replied: "Let's us skip bathing, please take me to see the world of the Yama Heavenly realm"

"Yes" the heavenly girls replied.

The hot spring suddenly disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan found himself now standing above a cluster of clouds.

The sky was endlessly vast, the closer one was to the sea of clouds, the clearer the sky appeared to be.

However, far above the sky was clouded in complete darkness.

As Gu Qing Shan looked up, he only saw a few brief flashes of fluctuation before they vanished.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the sky and asked: "Why is it dark above us? What's up there?"

A heavenly girl replied: "Heavenly master, above us lies the Yama layer, our current position is known as the Cloud Sea layer; the two of them together comprise the Yama Heavenly realm"

Another heavenly girl followed up: "After you measure your good and bad karma, you can choose to remain in the Heavenly realm to enjoy the wonders of your karmic virtues; or head into the Yama layer to receive the suffering fueled by your karmic fire"

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "If that's the case, who would be willing to enter the Yama layer?"

The heavenly girl slowly explained: "This is how the Yama Heavenly realm was originally created, regardless if there are those willing to go or not, it is the same— just like the Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtues & Fire, which can measure both good and bad karma"

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Gu Qing Shan nodded to express his understanding.

He gazed towards the sea of clouds.

Clusters of clouds were constantly drifting about, occasionally, getting closer, occasionally moving further away.

Each cloud housed a manor of some kind.

Some of these manors were small, some slightly bigger, the biggest was the size of a small city, while the smallest was a 4-roomed single floor house.

The heavenly girls saw how closely he was observing them, so one of them explained with her chiming, rousing voice: "These are the manors of the other Heavenly masters, the size and shapes of which were all determined according to their karmic virtues"

"The more karmic virtue they accrued, the bigger their manor"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and muttered: "So that's how it is, what an eye-opening experience"

He turned around, only to see that there was nothing on his cloud except himself and the sixteen heavenly girls.

One of them explained: “Heavenly master Gu, you need to chant [Mine Residence] for your living space to manifest itself”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Will that be ok? I still haven’t measured my Merit at the Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtues & Fire”

A heavenly girl explained: “Although you haven’t measured it, your karma is still yours, you can first stay here and measure it tomorrow”

So Gu Qing Shan tried chanting.

The clouds around started surging, gathering towards him from all directions.

It was expanding so quickly that the other clouds had to move away in order to make space.

The clouds continued to expand for several dozen seconds before it stopped.

Gu Qing Shan scanned it with his inner sight to find that the cloud was over 1300 kilometers squared in size.

Before he could retract his inner sight, a castle town suddenly manifested on top of the cloud.

It was truly a castle town, the entire area was over 1200 kilometers squared, it was situated against a tall cliff with a river flowing in its vicinity, the inside of which were a series of golden glowing structures, magnificently decorated buildings and intricately carved pillars of wood and marble.

There was also a performance stage for recitals, jade-green bridges, gardens of hundred flowers, a martial arts field, a cultivation temple, and various other buildings.

As well as numerous treasures; spirit herbs and flowers; weapons and secret scriptures; armors and shields; all of which gave off blinding light.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

One of the heavenly girls spoke emotionally: “No wonder the sixteen of us were summoned to serve the Heavenly master as soon as you arrived in this world, it turns out that Heavenly master Gu is the owner of untold karmic virtues”

At this point, a golden carriage approached them from inside the castle city.

The carriage stopped in front of them and opened up.

Twenty maids of decent appearance each carrying a food container arrived in front of Gu Qing Shan, bowing to greet him:

“Heavenly master”

They each knelt in front of Gu Qing Shan before unveiling the contents of their containers.

Inside the twenty food containers were eighty varieties of well-made snacks, together with 15 types each of tea and warm liquor.

One of the maids said: “Heavenly master, this is your afternoon tea, please enjoy it first, as your dinner would soon be prepared as well”

Gu Qing Shan looked through each one and exclaimed: “This workmanship is even better than mine”

Another maid told him: “Heavenly master, if you wish to learn cooking, we can teach you all 8 billion dishes of the Heavenly realm”

Gu Qing Shan observed the castle town, then at the flock of beautiful ladies by his side, and remained temporarily silent.

A clever heavenly girl explained: “Heavenly master, if you feel awkward that we are all women, you can also get to know the other Heavenly masters and become their friends”

“If you wish to befriend or enter an intimate relationship with female Heavenly masters, all of us can immediately disappear, or only remain as normal maids who do not share your bed— everything shall be as you will”

Gu Qing Shan said: “Actually, I only have one question”

“Please go ahead”

“Earlier, you said that you’ll take me to the Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtues & Fire tomorrow?”

“Yes”

“Is it closed today?”

“That is not so, we simply wish to allow you to get used to the cloud layer first”

“Very well, then I want to measure my Merit right now”

...

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan arrived where the Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtues & Fire was.

The so-called Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtues & Fire seemed to be a giant lotus head.

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of it and asked: “So, I only need to stand here and wait?”

“Yes” a heavenly girl smiled and replied: “After a brief moment of waiting, the Heavenly master will be informed of your karmic virtue”

“Alright, I understand” Gu Qing Shan replied.

I received a very clear answer earlier, everything that can be done on this Cloud Sea layer requires karmic virtue – or Merit.

— and I’ll be able to return as soon as I spend all of it.

This is simple.

Just like earning money and using money.

It's very hard to earn money, but using money is extremely easy.

However, it would be best to know how much Merit I have exactly before spending it.

Gu Qing Shan honestly stood on top of the lotus head.

After a moment of waiting.

A lotus seed popped out from the lotus head.

Poof!

The lotus seed broke open.

Followed by a dignified voice:

[This person's karmic virtue is immeasurable; he may forever enjoy his blessings in the Cloud Sea layer]

Chapter 1117

As the dignified voice resounded from above, a white lotus that gave off resounding white light descended in front of Gu Qing Shan.

A heavenly girl said: "Heavenly master, quickly take the white lotus, with it, you will be able to stay at the Cloud Sea layer"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the white lotus and trembled a bit.

Immeasurable Merit?

What now?

Another heavenly girl explained: "This lotus is the fruit of karma, used to calculate the good karma of the Heavenly masters— of course since Heavenly master Gu's karmic virtue is immeasurable, it will only serve to prove that you are a Heavenly master of the Cloud Sea layer"

The other heavenly girls all giggled.

But Gu Qing Shan still hadn't reached his hand to take the white lotus.

He stood still on the big lotus head beneath his feet and said: "Then... please help me measure my bad karma"

A crimson light exuded from the Cleansing Lotus Flower of Karmic Virtue & Fire that circulated around him.

The heavenly girls appeared worried.

"Please be careful, Heavenly master, karmic fire is a very powerful thing, do not let it hurt you" a heavenly girl advised him.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied: "Don't worry, I treasure my life a lot"

A few moments later.

A black lotus seed popped out from the lotus head and broke open with a 'poof'.

The dignified voice from earlier resounded again:

[This person had killed billions of living beings, driving many to the point of extinction, his bad karma is immeasurable]

The heavenly girls were all shocked.

This Heavenly master is truly strange, how is it that both his good and bad karma are immeasurable?

What exactly had he done?

Gu Qing Shan, on the other hand, calmly nodded.

A few moments later.

A black lotus descended from above, hovering in front of him.

Both the black and white lotus floated in the air, remaining silently still.

The heavenly girls glanced at Gu Qing Shan and noticed his hesitation.

A heavenly girl suddenly burst into tears and knelt on the ground: "Heavenly master, you are one with unparalleled karmic virtue, please do not place yourself in danger"

Gu Qing Shan asked with an indifferent voice: "I want to know, has anyone ever gone to the Yama layer?"

The heavenly girls all shook their heads.

Only one of them replied: "Among the heavenly girls, I am the oldest, so I had once saw a person take their black lotus before making their way into the Yama layer"

"And then?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"On the very next day, pieces of his severed body were tossed down from the Yama realm, the other Heavenly masters tried to put him back together for an entire day, but still couldn't do so completely" the heavenly girl replied.

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

The heavenly girl then walked up to Gu Qing Shan and knelt down, softly persuading him: "The Cloud Sea layer is filled with deserved enjoyment, while the Yama layer delivers only the suffering of karma, there is no need for the Heavenly master to act foolish, right?"

"All of us are rare beauties unseen in the human realm, but are willing to follow the Heavenly master's every desires, always ready to serve and ensure that the Heavenly master will enjoy nothing but the very best"

The group of heavenly girls then knelt in front of Gu Qing Shan, cried out and pleaded to him: "Please, Heavenly master, be kind to yourself and remain in the Cloud Sea"

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the dark sky above and suddenly chuckled.

“My apologies” he looked at the girls and spoke apologetically: “Someone is waiting for my return”

The Earth sword appeared from the void of space wielded by Gu Qing Shan.

He no longer cared about the two black and white lotuses nor any of the girls, and suddenly took flight, heading straight up.

Half-way there, something reacted from the dark sky above.

A resounding shout echoed from all directions:

「 To head into the Yama layer, you need the lotus of karmic fire! 」

Gu Qing Shan stopped and loudly asked: “You mean that black lotus?”

The resounding shout replied: 「 Indeed 」

“What if I forgot?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Return for it! 」 the resounding shout replied.

“Then, can you wait for me a bit?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Hurry up and go! 」 the resounding shout replied.

“After I return, I want to take a bath and eat something, can you wait that long?”

「 Go! 」

“Wouldn’t you feel impatient waiting for me like that?”

「 You can only pass after you take the black lotus! 」

“I’ll go and get it, then bring you something to eat as well, what do you want?”

「 Bring the black lotus! 」

“Alright then!”

Gu Qing Shan’s figure flashed.

He had bypassed a large distance and immediately appeared at the top of the darkness.

A blinding crescent-shaped sword phantom surged forward from the Earth sword as it was swung upward!

Sha!

He slashed the sky in half.

The darkness quickly receded.

Boundless light shone itself on Gu Qing Shan, illuminating him like a heavenly being.

“How dumb, I actually spend so much time talking to a damn technique” Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

He flew straight into the sky.

Everything was gloomy around him.

The boundless clusters of clouds had obscured everything.

Gu Qing Shan continued flying upward until he went above the layer of clouds.

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It was completely empty except for a small black dot at the end of his vision.

It was a highly ruined lonely pavilion.

A man stood inside the pavilion with his hands clasped behind his back, observing the sea of clouds below.

When Gu Qing Shan appeared, he loudly clapped and laughed: "As expected of the Huang Quan Devil King, making it here so easily.

As Gu Qing Shan scanned through the other party, his expression turned serious.

He was wearing a mask.

A yaksha mask.

The man took out a small table, two cushions, and a tea set.

He sat down first and skillfully brewed some tea.

"I had thought that the Cloud Sea layer would be able to trap the Devil King, so I was a bit cold with my reception, how shameful. Please wait a moment while I brew some tea for the Devil King, since we don't have any liquor here"

Gu Qing Shan slowly flew over and landed in the pavilion.

He sat down on the other cushion and clasped his fist in greeting: "Thank you for the reception, might I ask why you're waiting for me here?"

The other person continued to brew tea while casually replying: "My master ordered me to come here"

"Your master?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Hm, the Huang Quan realm fragment had always been used as a place to imprison villainous characters without any issues for a long while, but then the Devil King broke Hell and released the countless prisoners inside. This wasn't a big issue, but the responsibility still fell to my master, so he lost a bit of face"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "I didn't really want to enter the Huang Quan world at all, but someone insisted on transporting me over there. For the sake of my life, I had no choice but to find a few helpers, hope you can forgive that much"

The other person went silent briefly before smiling: "I'm quite curious, how did the Devil King notice that the Sea Cloud layer was an illusion?"

He pushed a cup of tea in front of Gu Qing Shan and said: "Please teach me, as it would be beneficial for our improvement"

"May I ask, this Cloud Sea illusion——" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The man nodded: "It's my master's private farm, a small bit of passive income"

Gu Qing Shan sincerely replied: "I did not notice that it was an illusion, I simply wanted to return"

The man asked: "Because someone is waiting for you?"

"Indeed" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The man questioned further: "To return, you would even ignore such wondrous sights?"

"You call it wondrous sights, but it's more like shackles"

"Why?"

"Cultivation is the process of improving oneself, always moving against the flow, searching for the truth of the world, creating one's own destiny with one's will; it is definitely not the act of falling into pleasure and remaining stagnant"

Gu Qing Shan emphasized: "When a cultivator decides to stagnate themselves in the Cloud Sea layer, they will have failed themselves as a cultivator"

The masked man paused for a long while before waving his hand.

The clouds outside the pavilion scattered.

Countless cultivators were hovering in the sky, their bodies full of spikes and vines.

Shi shi—— plish——

The sound of dripping blood was tiny and soft, but when the sound of so much blood dripping overlapped, it made for a terrifying noise.

Eerily, the cultivators here had more or less an expression of enjoyment on their faces, as if they were immersed in some wonderful dream.

The masked man then explained: "The Yama Heavenly realm had been in tatters for a very long time, the only thing that remained of it is the pavilion where you and I are sitting"

"My master used a few methods to modify this place, giving the cultivators who arrive here to face their Tribulation a sensation of home"

"Naturally, by staying here, they would need to use their flesh, blood, spirit energy, and soul to pay for rent"

"With these vines, this payment will become a long process where everything they pay will be utilized to its limits"

Gu Qing Shan's eyes flickered and asked: "The white lotus? The fruit of karma?"

“The Devil King is correct. The so-called fruit of karma was indeed the illusory form of these Wraith Spider Vine Seeds” the man praised him.

While they talked, one of the cultivators was thoroughly drained into a dried-up husk.

The vines then let go of him, allowing this corpse to fall from the layer of clouds.

Gu Qing Shan used the Devil King Warden Rod from inside his Thought Sea to examine the dried-up husk.

—-there was nothing.

Even his soul had been drained.

“Take a look, this venerable Heavenly master had enjoyed the last of his karmic virtue and returned to his world”

The masked man sighed and continued:

“The other Heavenly masters who are of his same mind had even hosted a 3-day banquet to send him off”

“What a perfect life he led, one could even say that it was something he was graced with due to his karmic virtues”

He waved his hand.

The sea of clouds quickly closed back up.

“Devil King, now let us get to business” the man’s tone became stern.

“Please go ahead” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The man spoke: “Your abilities are quite unique; you are able to govern the entirety of Hell by yourself. which would save us a lot of manpower”

A mask appeared on the table.

This mask was etched fully with carvings of complicated runes and gave off powerful fluctuations, unlike the yaksha masks that Gu Qing Shan had seen.

“My master had said that if you are able to pass the Cloud Sea layer, you can be considered to have some ability and can be used”

The man continued: “Wear this mask, become a servant of my master, and the matter of Huang Quan’s chaos can be glossed over”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the mask and doubtfully asked: “Why is this mask drawn with runes and not a yaksha face?”

The man smiled: “A servant would naturally be restrained, how could they be treated the same as their master—- look, I know that you’re a smart person, don’t pass on this chance for survival”

The man pushed the mask towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan seemed to reach for the mask but suddenly stopped.

He pulled his hand back, evaluated the other person a bit, then asked: “You said that you were the servant of your master?”

The man nodded: “Indeed”

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fists and sincerely said: “There is one thing that I have never done before, and I doubt that I will ever do, so I don’t really know the specifics of it. I’ve really been wondering about this for a while, so I would be very grateful if you would teach me”

The man was startled and asked: “What is it?”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “This humble one would like to ask; how does it feel to be a dog?”

Chapter 1118

“How does it feel to be a dog?”

Gu Qing Shan nodded and silently stared at him.

Faint fog drifted about the two of them as steam rose from the teapot into the air.

The man clenched his fist tightly.

When the atmosphere became frozen to its limit, he suddenly let go.

“The Devil King is surely a man of character, unfortunately, that character is coupled with the shallow vision of an ignorant man” the man regretfully shook his head, talking to him like a man standing from a higher point.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised but silently took him more seriously.

This fearless attitude...

Does he have a treasure tool that can assure his victory?

Gu Qing Shan relaxed his sword seals, leaned back on his chair, and crossed one leg over the other.

He turned to the sea of clouds, considering the measures he could take while displaying a regretful expression.

“Truthfully, this humble one isn’t ignorant of the situation, it is simply that the mask contains too many runes, I can’t possibly wear such a thing”

——the mask on the table was carved with so many runes that Gu Qing Shan simply used spirit energy to push it back to the other party without touching it.

The man went silent shortly before tapping his finger on the mask.

The Devil King’s words were a bit surprising to him.

His killing intent faded slightly, but still curious and couldn't help himself asking: "Why would the Devil King not be able to wear it when it's full of runes? Are there some problems that you cannot put into words?"

"Indeed" Gu Qing Shan admitted.

The man pondered, his killing intent faded a bit more, and continued: "Would the Devil King care to share it with me?"

Gu Qing Shan answered very sincerely: "I am claustrophobic"

The man froze.

Violent killing intent erupted from his body, sweeping into their surroundings like the wind of a storm.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "It is the truth—-- if you instead offer your mask to me, I would seriously consider your proposition"

The man's mask was completely void of any runes, it was a plain mask drawn over with deep red ink, depicting a pair of terrifying fangs, a ring over his nose, and a pair of droopy eye features—-- although the eye sockets were left empty to display a pair of blank, dirty irises.

The man placed his hand on the table and slowly spoke: "When any Deity of Huang Quan is killed, the Divine Armaments of Huang Quan would go and search for new masters by themselves, this is a Law of Huang Quan that even we cannot violate, an extremely troublesome thing"

He then slammed the table: "But if I don't kill you today, it would tarnish my master's name, and as his servant, I would also feel irritated"

Gu Qing Shan smiled and casually said: "Then come"

The man also smirked: "Come"

The two of them locked eyes.

A layer of bloody glow suddenly appeared all over Gu Qing Shan's body.

Strand after strand of the bloody glow detached from his body, gathering behind the man to manifest a surging sphere of blood.

Gu Qing Shan sensed his blood being siphoned away and wielded his sword to perform a single forward thrust.

Convergence realm!

This strike had converged all of Gu Qing Shan's power, the strongest attack he could perform.

The pavilion shattered from the shockwaves.

The man sat still, but a pair of golden chopsticks appeared in his hand.

As the violent sword phantom approached him, it suddenly stopped.

His sword was stopped.

Gu Qing Shan's strike was perfectly caught by this pair of chopsticks.

Gu Qing Shan tried pulling his sword back, but it wouldn't budge no matter what.

A curt 'wu wu' resounded.

Another sword appeared from the void of space to slash at the man's head.

Just as the sword was about to cut through his mask, another pair of golden chopsticks caught it.

——it was a projection of the golden chopsticks.

Gu Qing Shan turned his mind and summoned the Chao Yin sword.

This time, even before a sword phantom could manifest, it was already caught, unable to move.

Gu Qing Shan lost control of three of his swords, unable to use his swordsmanship.

"Devil King, you are dead"

The man calmly replied.

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the table with a confused expression.

His blood was continuously being siphoned from his body, gathering into the sphere behind the man.

This battle was over.

Gu Qing Shan staggered a bit and sat down on the table, sighing dejectedly: "My inner sight is constantly watching around my body, how did you suddenly start siphoning my blood when I couldn't find you making any moves?"

The man chuckled: "Every yaksha mask contains an unblockable Guise Hex, all of them are different. This mask of mine was bestowed by my master, which can siphon blood from afar—— there, you should be content in your death"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Since you are able to arrive at the Yama Heavenly realm, your cultivation shouldn't be too much higher than mine. Those three attacks just now were already performed with my full power, so how did you stop them with only a pair of chopsticks?"

The man remained silent for a while, only until Gu Qing Shan started leaning on the table from losing too much blood that he chuckled with a low voice.

"The strength of the Wraith realm's Soul Artifacts lies in them containing Causality Laws—— this pair of chopsticks were made from pure gold, housing a single Causality Law. This was also bestowed to me by my master"

"When these chopsticks are used, no matter what kind of attack you use, it will definitely prevent three attacks without fail"

While explaining, the man was closely observing Gu Qing Shan.

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The bloody glow around Gu Qing Shan's body was madly surging forward, being drained together with the blood from his body, causing him to tremble, unable to even hold his sword properly.

"Using pure gold to make a pair of chopsticks, how luxuriously wasteful" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

The man checked the progress of his draining blood and boasted: "Earlier, the Devil King asked me how it felt to be a dog? I'll tell the Devil King now, this mask and chopsticks are my answers"

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "What a good answer"

The man felt triumphant and started boasting even more: "Although we are servants, besides having to heed the master's orders, our daily lives are not too inferior compared to the Yama Heavenly realm being depicted here; after all, we've conquered countless parallel worlds"

"That's right, not only did you destroy those worlds, you've even pushed them into the Eternal Abyss, causing us to lose so much sleep every day" Gu Qing Shan followed up.

The man grinned even more.

He then spoke with a pretentious unfortunate tone: "How regretful, how very regretful, the Devil King will have to die now, you can't even choose to be a dog, tell me, how does that feel?"

Gu Qing Shan pondered and muttered to himself: "An artifact with an Unblockable Guise Hex, Soul Artifacts with Causality Laws— this is already powerful beyond any sense of the imagination, I assume that your world has already fused with quite a few Wraith realm fragments"

The man scoffed: "We have fused over 70% of the Wraith realm fragments— Devil King, let me send you on your way!"

He reached his hand out, manifesting a sharp ghostly claw and swiped towards Gu Qing Shan.

—this swipe would directly rip Gu Qing Shan's body apart.

Hoh!

The force of the strike scattered into the wind.

The ghostly claw couldn't catch anything.

Gu Qing Shan had vanished.

The man froze, muttering: "Strange, he was already at death's door, how did he have the strength to evade that?"

The next split second.

Heaven and earth turned over itself.

The small table, the tattered pavilion, the sea of clouds, everything suddenly stretched endlessly far.

Then they immediately returned.

The man found himself sitting still.

The small table was still there.

Steam slowly rose from the teapot.

Everything was as it was.

The Huang Quan Devil King was still sitting in front of him, silently staring at him.

The man paused for a brief moment and asked: "An illusion?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

The man waited for a bit longer but found that Gu Qing Shan remained silent without saying a word.

He slowly spoke: "The Devil King's abilities truly are beyond expectations, but when you deserve to die, you will not escape death!"

Gu Qing Shan was once again enveloped in a bloody glow.

———Guise Hex – Blood Siphon!

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan abruptly wielded the Earth sword and stabbed forward.

The man took out a pair of golden chopsticks again.

Regardless of how the sword changed its course, it still struck the golden chopsticks without fail.

The blinding light of the sword phantom on the sword scattered, perfectly caught by the golden chopsticks.

"Tch, the Devil King truly is stupi——"

Before he could finish his words, a blinding arc of lightning appeared from the sword.

Lightning Thaumaturgy, [Dreamjolt]!

The man was instantly frozen, unable to move.

Five seconds.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze became tense.

From the void, another sword abruptly appeared from the void and stabbed straight into the man's chest.

——the Heaven sword!

Before the sword even got close, two projections appeared from the golden chopsticks to receive the sword.

——this was the power of Causality, capable of stopping any attack regardless of what it was!

Unfortunately.

Gu Qing Shan's sword went through the projections of the golden chopsticks without issue and stabbed into the man's chest.

Another sword then appeared, also stabbing through his chest from behind.

Secret Art, [Swallow Returns]

"Im...possible" the man was in complete disbelief, struggling to speak: "This is the master's golden chopsticks, nothing could pass through it..."

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: "You only know that your master's chopsticks are powerful, but fail to realize that gold has the third highest electric conductivity among metals, losing to bronze but is better than aluminum"

The man opened his eyes wide, speechless, then pointed at the sword in his chest.

The chopsticks were able to block three attacks without fail.

He really couldn't understand why the golden chopsticks lost their effect this time around.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "I'm not going to tell you"

The man coughed up blood but was stopped by his mask and flowed down his neck.

His head went limp, he died.

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As the man went limp and blood flowed from his neck, the yaksha mask instantly turned into countless sprites of light that were scattered into the wind.

He had a very unassuming appearance with a clear scar on his face.

—without this scar, he would have been completely mundane without any special features.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, put the Earth sword, and summoned the Devil King Warden Rod.

The scepter was immediately stabbed into the man's chest.

[Soul Dispersion], activate!

Very faintly, the sound of chewing resounded from the Devil King Warden Rod.

Gu Qing Shan felt assured.

—earlier, because of what was shown earlier, he couldn't help but become cautious and use the [Parallel Dream] technique, creating a parallel world to draw the other party in.

Everything that happened in that parallel world didn't actually happen in reality.

Gu Qing Shan then used the Lightning Thaumaturgy [Dreamjolt], as well as the Heaven sword's [Heaven's Choice].

[Dreamjolt] was used to restrain him, and [Heaven's Choice]—

[Heaven's Choice: At the moment that you score a hit on any entity, you may immediately perform the same attack 3, 6, or 9 times in a row]

Since the golden chopsticks could only prevent three attacks, it was naturally resolved.

It was only after he had destroyed the other party's soul could Gu Qing Shan truly confirm that he had won.

...That incorrect, there's still something else that's missing.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly turned his head to look at the pair of golden chopsticks.

The golden chopsticks obediently flew in front of him and hovered there.

Gu Qing Shan furrowed his brows.

"You are—— trying to take me as your master?" he asked.

The golden chopsticks moved up and down to express confirmation.

Gu Qing Shan pondered: "Very well, you're a very powerful weapon that houses a Causality Law, I would naturally be willing to accept you"

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan swung his sword without hesitation.

——the golden chopsticks had already flown up to receive the blow.

Kih!

A resounding chime that echoed far.

But that was the end of it.

Silence.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the golden chopsticks.

It was holding his sword in place.

It was a mere pair of chopsticks, yet it was even more impressive compared to the man just now, capable of crossing blows with a sword cultivator at Gu Qing Shan's caliber.

What a good treasure tool it is!

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze towards the War God UI to read the combat synopsis:

[To kill his item with Earth's Choice, you will need 3 million Soul Points]

...I can't afford that.

Even if I had 3 million Soul Points, I wouldn't use it to kill this thing, that's a waste.

Gu Qing Shan wielded his sword in one hand and pointed at the chopsticks with the other than, questioning: "You call this the attitude of accepting a new master?"

The golden chopsticks angrily protested.

Chi chichi, chichi chi chi!

Gu Qing Shan couldn't say anything to that.

The chopsticks claimed that he attacked first, it was only defending itself.

In fact, both sides acted at almost the same time, there was no such thing as first or second.

But if the chopsticks were being insistent, Gu Qing Shan didn't really have a way to prove it wrong.

He didn't have a habit of bringing recording equipment while fighting.

Maybe... I should prepare one just in case...

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then asked sternly: "Chopsticks, are you truly willing to become my weapon, whether in rags or riches, whether in sickness or health, whether in hardship or smooth sailing, when I need you the most, will you promise not to leave me and remain until the end of time?"

The chopsticks trembled, seemingly unsure of what to say.

Finally, it moved its tail a bit and gave off a chime:

Chi!

This was affirmation.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and said: "Come, close your eyes, we'll make a vow at the same time——"

Kih!

The sword and chopsticks struck again.

This time, the strike was very heavy, Gu Qing Shan had to muster all his strength with the Earth sword in order to block it.

Chi chi chichi!

The chopsticks loudly protested.

"Bullshit, you clearly acted first this time" Gu Qing Shan also protested loudly: "I know you can block things very well, but if you want to become my weapon, you have to let me cut off all of the damn techniques and random junk on your body"

The golden chopsticks paused a bit, seemingly hesitant.

Gu Qing Shan kept a close eye on it.

——*according to the man just now, this pair of chopsticks was something his master bestowed him.*

A Soul Artifact from the Wraith realm would surely contain numerous countermeasures, including those that Gu Qing Shan doesn't even understand.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't let his guard down towards it for even a moment

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He focused his inner sight and summoned the Heaven sword from the void of space.

While holding the chopsticks back, Gu Qing Shan spoke: “Whenever a weapon goes through a master acceptance ceremony in my place, they would always go through the same ritual. Come, let me slash you just once with my sword, I guarantee it won’t hurt”

Saying so, the Heaven sword manifested a frigid sword phantom and struck the chopsticks from behind with full power!

This time, the golden chopsticks couldn’t defend themselves.

In the end, it was an item without a wielder, how could it go against a person and his two swords?

Instantly, the chopsticks dipped into the void of space with a ‘pah’ and disappeared without a trace.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

He muttered: “Even a pair of chopsticks is so devious... the fierceness of this Wraith realm world could be inferred somewhat. I really don’t want to get involved with them...”

After a bit of rest.

Gu Qing Shan flew out from the tattered pavilion and hovered above the sea of clouds.

At this point, almost the entire Yama Heavenly realm had already been destroyed, how am I supposed to pass this Tribulation now?

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and glanced at the tattered pavilion below.

—this is the final structure of the Yama Heavenly realm.

If I destroy it, would the Heaven’s Tribulation end?

Gu Qing Shan raised his sword, about to swing at the tattered pavilion, but stopped.

He heard a begging call by his ears.

After listening for a while, Gu Qing Shan understood.

This tattered pavilion is truly the final remaining structure of the Yama Heavenly realm.

The remaining will of the Yama Heavenly realm is currently residing here.

And that was the remaining will of the Yama Heavenly realm that begged me just now.

If Gu Qing Shan destroyed his tattered pavilion, this world would truly be destroyed, causing what little remaining of the world’s will to also disappear.

That was why it had to beg him.

Gu Qing Shan silently listened.

After performing the World Offering Dance, he seemed to have obtained a certain ability.

That was the natural ability to communicate with the various worlds and win their friendship.

This allowed him to recognize that it was indeed the remaining will of this world.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit before speaking: "I don't intend to leave this world as is for the wraiths. Either you come with me, or think of other ways to leave"

The voice in his ear hurriedly replied.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Very well, there is a world inside my left eye, as well as the remaining will of another world, the two of you can befriend one another"

His gaze fell onto the tattered pavilion and activated his Iris Technique.

In a flash, the tattered pavilion vanished without a trace.

——as the catalyst for the world's will, it had taken refuge in Gu Qing Shan's Iris Technique.

A line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Your World Technique was created by the Laws of the Inner Plane; the power of Primal Chaos; the pillar Elements of Fire, Water, Wind, Earth; your Iris Sword technique; reinforced with the Origin Power of a world; and now, the Origin Power of your own had been further complemented]

[The world created by your Iris Technique will become more realistic and stable]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "What would happen if it becomes more realistic and stable?"

[Under observation, unknown for now] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan then noticed his remaining Soul Points value changing, 200 Soul Points was deducted.

A few more lines of glowing text appeared:

[As you've obtained what remained of the Yama Heavenly realm, your {Yama King} realm Tribulation has ended]

[You can complete this Tribulation at any time]

[The UI will help you return to your previous location]

[When you return to your previous location, you will have officially become a {Yama King} realm cultivator]

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to begrudgingly gloss over the 200 Soul Points that were deducted earlier.

Isn't it normal to return after a Tribulation was over?

Doesn't the Laws of Reality usually transport a cultivator back anyways?

But Gu Qing Shan didn't ask.

If he did, he might lose Soul Points again.

Fine, let's return first before worrying about anything else.

Gu Qing Shan made up his mind and was about to move on, but then recalled something.

He looked down at the vast sea of clouds below.

Countless cultivators were being restrained by the vines inside the clouds, immersed in their eternal dream of bliss.

—according to the man just now, this place is the 'farm' of his master, used for passive income.

In other words, these cultivators are his master's 'farmland'.

A prized investment.

Gu Qing Shan paused for a bit before sighing: "This is nothing but the results of your own actions, you are pitiable, but also hateful"

"Furthermore, they say that ruining one's livelihood is the same as killing their parents, so I shouldn't help you"

"But for any living being, regardless of how grave a mistake they make, even if they enter the deepest depths of the 18 layers of hell, there would eventually be a day where they return, and yet not even your souls would survive this ordeal"

"Very well, I shall help you just once, I hope that you can resolve yourselves from now on"

With a strong gust of wind, the sea of clouds scattered away.

All the vines turned into dust within the sword-infused wind.

Without waiting for those cultivators to regain consciousness, Gu Qing Shan simply focused his mind and vanished from this place.

Chapter 1120

Night.

Barren land.

A meteor descended from the sky, crashed into the ground, and formed a huge crater.

A few moments later.

A pair of pure gold chopsticks flew out from the crater and broke through the void of space again.

It flew across various destroyed worlds as well as worlds with living beings and continued to fly.

Numerous worlds later.

After an unknown amount of time, it finally arrived in front of its master.

The golden chopsticks trembled and silently landed on the table.

It understood that its master wasn't in a good mood, so it didn't say anything and silently laid there.

A few moments later.

Its master's voice finally sounded.

"Someone actually had the gall to kill one of my men, how interesting"

Silence.

On top of a snowy peak, the numerous wraiths and servants remained still without answering him.

The master's voice resounded again: "Someone summon his soul; I want to ask him what that Huang Quan Devil King actually said"

One of his servants began to form hand seals to summon his soul.

Time slowly passed.

This servant was sweating bullets, but continuously used the various soul summoning techniques, and was still unable to summon the soul of the dead subordinates.

Even after 53 techniques, he still couldn't produce any results, when he was about to try a 54th technique, he found that his body had gone missing.

There was a pile of bones on the floor where he stood, while the only thing that remained of him was his soul.

All of a sudden, a long tongue reached out from the void of space, coiled around the soul, and pulled him somewhere.

Silence.

The entire world remained silent; everyone held their breaths in fear of it drawing the master's attention.

The master's voice resounded again:

"How useless, someone else do it"

None of his servants dared to move, while a relatively muscular wraith stepped out and began forming a hand seal.

He tried three techniques in a row but still had no effects.

After a bit of thought, he knelt down and reported:

「 Sir, this subordinate has tried, there really is no way to summon his soul 」

"Hahh?"

The master put some emphasis on the question.

Surprisingly, the master didn't seem to be angry, on the contrary, he was feeling a bit intrigued instead.

"So, not even you could summon his soul?"

「 Yes 」

“Interesting, how very interesting, let me give it a try”

The Laws of Heaven and Earth gathered on top of the mountain but soon scattered.

“A failed summoning”

The master curtly stated without anger or joy.

A split second later.

The world started to change as countless stars descended from above, falling onto the peak.

“Found it”

With this declaration, the supernatural phenomena from earlier vanished, as if they never happened at all.

The world returned to darkness.

Only a small, faint glow remained.

“How extraordinary...”

“No wonder you couldn’t summon his soul, because his soul itself had been destroyed, leaving only the very last spark floating within Primal Chaos”

“I would have to use a Space-Time reversal technique, a soul growth technique, as well as a body reconstruction technique to have him return”

The wraith remained kneeling on the ground, silently listened as the master stated and finally clasped his fist: 「 You have boundless greatness, sir, this subordinate truly admires you 」

“There is no need for such admiration... because I won’t be doing that”

The wraith tried asking: 「 Why not? 」

A hand reached out to crush that faint glow.

This time, that soul would thoroughly return to Primal Chaos without any means of being resurrected.

The master’s voice resounded again:

“It’s merely a dog, there is no need for me to spend such effort”

“If I want to know what happened, I simply need my chopsticks to use Image Reconstruction”

The golden chopsticks were still laying on the table when it heard its master’s words, it understood that now was its turn.

It flew up and projected an image with light.

The conversation between Gu Qing Shan and the servant was displayed, slowly revealing every detail.

Followed by the battle.

A sword clad in lightning struck the golden chopsticks and immediately caused the servant to become restrained.

And then the Huang Quan Devil King spoke: "You only know that your master's chopsticks are powerful, but fail to realize that gold has the third highest electric conductivity among metals, losing to bronze but is better than aluminum"

The Wraith realm master was constantly tapping the table with his finger, but abruptly paused when he heard this.

The wraiths also went silent.

Everyone's gazes were focused on the golden chopsticks.

Electric conductivity?

This pair of golden chopsticks was a first-rate treasure, whenever it was bestowed to a subordinate, they would always have the initiative in combat, never once losing.

Who would've thought... these chopsticks can conduct electricity...

The wraiths continued watching the projected image.

The servant then doubtfully pointed at the sword sticking out from his chest.

The Huang Quan Devil King then shook his head: "I'm not going to tell you"

After that was the scene of the Devil King and golden chopsticks trying to ambush one another, ending in the chopsticks escaping.

At this point, the projection slowly faded.

The Wraith realm master pondered for a bit and slowly stated: "This Devil King understands the relation and composition of matters, using electricity to break through my golden chopsticks' Causality Laws, what a strange way of thinking"

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"Furthermore, the Huang Quan Devil King's power is quite decent indeed, more than capable of suppressing the unruly prisoners in Hell, then push them to work when necessary"

"Then... let's send another to recruit..."

He didn't continue.

Because a flare had flown in from the void of space, hovering in front of the Wraith realm master.

He received the flare and inspected the content.

The atmosphere instantly changed.

Intense, boundless rage manifested out of thin air, enveloping every wraith in the vicinity and caused them to be unable to stand up straight.

The master had suddenly become angry!

Plap plap— — —

Everyone immediately prostrated to the ground and held their breaths.

The master's spoke in a heavy voice:

"They say that ruining one's livelihood is as serious as killing their parents"

"I thought this Devil King was a smart one, but he did some very unnecessary things and ruined my private farm"

The wraiths quickly understood what they needed to do.

"This subordinate is lacking, but willing to work for you, sir"

"Master, please send me, I will surely cut him into a thousand pieces!"

「 Sir, I will ensure that he receives nothing but the worst tortures imaginable, then consume him whole
」

They all volunteered one after another.

The Wrath realm master stopped them all: "Silence"

All the voices stopped.

"I want to kill him and make sure that everyone can see his suffering!"

"Azure Dragon— — -"

"Go and kill that Devil King, extract his soul and parade him over the Huang Quan world, that will show those Deities who's above them"

With that declaration, a dragon roar resounded from deep above the sky.

An azure glow boiled like an aurora, moving randomly above the night sky.

A few moments later.

The gigantic, perfect body descended from above, circling once around the mountain.

Followed by lightning, thunder, strong wind, and frigid rain.

The wraiths couldn't help but remain as close to the ground as possible in order to marginally prevent themselves from being blown away.

「 Under— — stood— — - 」

A resounding heavy voice echoed, causing the ground itself to tremble.

...

At another location.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes in his ship.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've reached the {Yama King} realm]

[From this point on, you are a {Yama King} realm cultivator]

[Your spirit energy had been increased by 70%]

Gu Qing Shan stood up and checked himself.

Indeed, his spirit energy had grown by a large margin.

In normal combat, the more spirit energy a cultivator had, the more powerful their attacks would be.

A cultivator's total spirit energy reserve would also determine how long a cultivator could fight continuously.

For that reason, spirit energy was very important to a cultivator— but it wasn't a total deciding factor.

Because on the battlefield, a cultivator's ability to improvise, the potency of their equipment, the cultivator's sense of determination and will, not to mention tactics and ambushes, etc. would all contribute to either victory or defeat.

Why are people so afraid of sword cultivators?

Because sword cultivators were always ready to risk their life, and they were experts at killing.

Gu Qing Shan paced around the ship; a bit hesitant.

—should I continue breaking through or not?

After reaching {Yama King} realm, he could feel himself absorbing the Demon Dragon's power more efficiently.

The Demon Dragon was the most powerful Soul Artifact of the Bygone Era humans, but it was unfortunately taken over by the soul of a wraith, which led to the Bygone Era humans discarding it.

How could the power contained within only be equivalent to a single {Yama King} realm cultivator?

From Gu Qing Shan's estimation, without the reinforcement of the Dance of the Earth God and the Blessing of Past Worlds, he would have needed a lot longer to fully absorb the power of the Demon Dragon.

So this is actually quite a rare opportunity—

Should I continue breaking through?

Or return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom first to meet up with everyone and prepare for war?

While Gu Qing Shan was considering that, a few more lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Special note, you must continue to breakthrough in order to fully absorb the power of the Demon Dragon]

[Once you've fully absorbed the Demon Dragon's power, you will obtain a new Thaumaturgy]

Gu Qing Shan knew that the War God UI purposely stopped here to wait for him.

200 Soul Points... isn't that much.

He then said: "Fine, I'll give you the Soul Points, tell me, what is that Thaumaturgy?"

Instantly, he was deducted 300 Soul Points.

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched and asked: "Why did you just take an extra 100?"

The War God UI deducted another 200 Soul Points and replied: [Because the answer is worth it]

Gu Qing Shan helplessly replied: "Fine, tell me, what is that Thaumaturgy?"

He was deducted another 300 Soul Points.

Gu Qing Shan was irritated.

It's the same question, why did you charge another fee?

However, this time he knew to remain silent without saying a single word.

Seeing him remain silent, the War God UI tried leading him on:

[Once you've thoroughly absorbed the power of the Demon Dragon, you will obtain a Thaumaturgy—]

Gu Qing Shan kept his mouth shut.

Completely shut, refusing to say a single thing.

The War God UI waited for a short while before it had no choice but to continue: [Demon Dragon Transformation]