

Apocalypse 1251

Chapter 1251

At this point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly thought of something.

“When I was in the Eastern Desolate Grotto, I sensed a drifting evil spirit in the School of Fei Yu clan meeting room with my spirit sense”

“At the time, I believed it to be the School of Fei Yu’s secret weapon, and with the presence it gave off, it should have been able to directly eliminate me”

“But now, if my guess is correct...”

“The Patriarch of the School of Fei Yu is already no longer his original self”

As he said that Gu Qing Shan himself felt fearful.

Inheritance.

Inheritance from the Samsara.

In these years of Apocalypses, how tempting would this be?

Spirit Linked Martial Artists, Weapon Wielders, Bone Masters.

All of them rely on inheritances in order to fight against the Apocalypse!

I wonder just how many people within the Tomb of Myriad Beasts as a whole have already been replaced.

The War God UI fell into a long silence.

After a while.

The War God UI spoke up: [Inheritances are of the same nature as cultivation knowledge bestowal, following to existing rules, I would not reject them right away]

[In accordance with your conjecture, the system had now altered the corresponding rules:]

[From now on, if any inheritance wishes to enter your body, it must first obtain your approval or be rejected]

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

A few moments later, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've successfully resonated and become a Spirit Linked Martial Artist]

[If you spend 10,000 Soul Points, the system will erase this inheritance from you]

[Would you like to spend the Soul Points to finish this erasure?]

Gu Qing Shan was about to say yes, but then he paused with his mouth open, not answering.

Wait.

His gaze turned, then started walking within the destroyed world of darkness.

Time slowly passed.

The lines of glowing text continued to remain in front of Gu Qing Shan's vision, but he still didn't give the order.

[It isn't a difficult task to remove the inheritance, why haven't you confirmed the order yet?] the War God UI asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Everything I've said is only a conjecture, I don't have solid proof to confirm this"

[Safety over all else] the War God UI replied.

"Let me think about it a bit more"

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought again.

He climbed a long metal pole in the middle of the ruined structure, watching over the widespread scene of carnage with a complicated expression.

[What are you still hesitant for? It should be known that if your conjecture is correct, every second wasted means you're one step closer to danger] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan pondered: "A conjecture can never be taken as truth beyond any doubts. I need to see the truth with my own eyes to confirm"

"Furthermore, if that human-headed snake is attempting something against me, I should at least retaliate, otherwise it would think I'm someone easy to bully"

The War God UI replied: [The system can help you erase its inheritance]

"Not enough" Gu Qing Shan spat out those words.

He lightly waved his hands.

Two swords appeared from behind his back.

"I remember you explaining just now that inheritances are a kind of unique magic, similar to cultivation knowledge bestowal?"

[Correct] the War God UI confirmed.

Gu Qing Shan pondered and slowly spoke: "If I use [Night Cruiser], my consciousness would surely be moved into my clone and taken away, even if I left Shannu here by herself, she wouldn't necessarily be able to defeat it"

Recalling that human-headed snake entity, Gu Qing Shan felt his heart beating faster for no reason.

It managed to put me into complete stasis simply by looking at me.

If it's so strong, how would I fight against it?

Gu Qing Shan thought about it for a while longer, finally muttering:

“Then... I'll simply not give it the chance to act...”

He held the Six Paths Great Mountain sword in one hand and the Earth sword in the other, abruptly stabbing both into his own chest.

“Gongzi!”

「 Gu Qing Shan! 」

Both sword spirits called out in horror.

His blood spilled.

Gu Qing Shan knitted his eyebrows, enduring the pain and said: “Don't worry, for a cultivator of my caliber, as long as you don't exert your powers, I won't die so easily”

「 What exactly are you doing? 」 the Earth sword questioned in a heavy voice.

The Chao Yin sword also appeared from the void of space, anxiously circling around Gu Qing Shan while vibrating in fear.

“I suspect that when I use [Night Cruiser] to make a clone of myself, something else will emerge to enter my main body”

“After I sleep and leave my body as a clone, do not move and remain right here in my chest”

“Shannu, continue to dispel any spells or techniques; Earth sword, I’ll allow you to use all of my Soul Points; since both of you are already thrust into my chest, the other party will have no margin to resist...”

Gu Qing Shan endured the pain, took a deep breath, then continued:

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“If anything tries to take control of my body, kill it”

The three swords silently listened and finally understood his intent.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly smiled and said: “Make sure to choose the right target, especially the Earth sword, don’t use [Earth’s Choice] on my body—— you need to act at the exact moment when it enters my body, you can definitely detect it!”

「 If we truly did that, it would be extremely dangerous 」 the Earth sword spoke with a heavy tone.

“You can do it” Gu Qing Shan resolutely said.

As his blood continued to drip out, Shannu’s near-sobbing voice came from the sword: “Gongzi, I’m afraid that I might carelessly hurt you”

“It will be fine. After I fall asleep, my body wouldn’t perform any techniques, you can simply thrust yourself into that guy trying to enter my body with all your strength—— I know you can cut apart all magic and techniques, it won’t be able to stop you”

He smiled at them in encouragement: “You are my swords, I trust you”

Hearing him, the two swords knew that he was determined, so they didn’t say another word and silently prepared themselves.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and began preparing to activate [Night Cruiser].

Although there was a constant pain radiating from his chest, cultivators were the kind of people that could keep their minds completely still under extremely harsh states; so controlling his body so that he would fall asleep wasn't that tough of a task.

Gu Qing Shan had already gotten used to [Night Cruiser], so when he was about half-delirious, he immediately triggered this cloning technique.

Hoh—

His consciousness carried the Chao Yin sword to traverse through countless obstacles and once again headed towards the sky above.

Through the dark night sky, he continuously headed upwards, and further upwards.

Darkness scattered; the sky was blue.

Through the ocean, through the clouds, locating the entrance to the cave among the countless upside-down mountains above, then silently went in.

Now that he thought about it, these mountains must have originally been a part of the world's underside, which means they just happened to be the underground portion of that great tomb.

—the two swords were waiting for that monster to fall into the trap by itself.

Taking this time, Gu Qing Shan planned to use [Night Cruiser] one last time to enter the great tomb and search for where that wraith's corpse was.

The further into the cave he went, the more people there were.

Everyone was busily moving along.

Gu Qing Shan could now recognize who was a Bone Master, who was a Spirit Linked Martial Artist, and who was a Weapon Wielder.

His consciousness followed the flow of people towards a certain direction.

A few moments later.

He saw a pool of red-hot lava, which was connected to a vast sea of lava without borders.

Everyone was standing around the edge of the sea of lava

There was something inside, bobbing up and down.

Is that the wraith's corpse?

Gu Qing Shan was thinking that when he abruptly felt something.

A great force was pulling at him from behind, which yanked him backward in an instant.

Wind howled by his ears.

His speed had reached some sort of limit, going through the entire length of the cave, mountain, sky, and sea in an instant, returning him to the destroyed world of darkness.

He opened his eyes.

Pftt!

He abruptly spat up blood.

“Gongzi, your orders were successfully carried out”

This was Shannu’s voice.

「Hurry and treat your wounds!」 the Earth sword swiftly followed.

Gu Qing Shan stood up.

I didn’t even manage to manifest the clone---

He looked down to see the two swords still stabbed into his chest, wave after wave of unbearable aching pain being transmitted from the wounds.

His body became incredibly weakened.

But something else had appeared within this world of darkness.

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

In front of him, a set of skeletons several hundred meters in size laid on the ground, completely lifeless.

---it was indeed that human-headed snake.

On the War God UI, lines of glowing text appeared:

[Your conjecture was correct]

[All of your Soul Points had been used to activate Earth’s Choice, furthermore, 100 million Soul Points in the system’s personal storage had also been fully consumed]

[Through leaving your sword in your body, you made sure that the other party could not prevent this attack]

[You had accomplished an impossible slaying— this was equivalent to a tiny dust mite exterminating a dragon]

[You killed the monster summoned by spirit linking: Samsara Chief War Shaman (specific name and identity unclear)]

[By killing this monster, you have surpassed all restraints and definitions of weak and strong]

[The number of Soul Points obtained through kill this was unbelievable, the UI is still performing calculations]

[Please wait...]

Chapter 1252

Seeing that the War God UI wanted to calculate the obtained Soul Points, Gu Qing Shan silently waited for a while.

Not too long after that, about a few minutes, the results came out.

A few lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[During this combat, you moved to another location as a clone]

[The system had to spend great effort to remain at your main body's location, using arduous effort and indomitable spirit to display great willpower worthy that of the 'War God' name, finally expending all 100 million personally stored Soul Points in combination with your prepared two swords to accomplish this slaying]

Reading up to this point, Gu Qing Shan had a bad feeling.

The following lines of text continued to appear:

[To replenish the system's expenditures, maintaining regular UI operation, while also acting as the host Gu Qing Shan's excellent butler, in the spirit of non-wasteful un-flashiness, the system had ultimately decided:]

[You've obtained 100 million Soul Points]

First, Gu Qing Shan instinctively sighed in relief.

—-having 100 million Soul Points in reserve meant that he had laid the foundation for any follow-up combats.

At the very next moment, he noticed something wasn't right.

“Oi... I know that you need Soul Points to maintain operation, but the two of us spent almost 200 million Soul Points altogether, isn't 100 million too little to give me for this kill?” Gu Qing Shan complained.

The War God UI replied: [During this combat, the system had to spend great efforts—-]

“Stop!” Gu Qing Shan cut it off: “You spend great efforts? I had two swords stuck through my chest. Furthermore, you mentioned earlier that I was essentially a dust mite that killed a dragon, if it was truly a kill that transcended so many levels, the monster itself must've contained a lot more than just 100 million—- no, I'm sure it contained at least 200 million!”

The War God UI replied: [200 million? You're greatly underestimating this—- actually, that's true, it was around 200 million]

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched.

Before he could react, this remaining Soul Points value was deducted by 2000.

—-since it answered two of Gu Qing Shan's questions just now, it took the fees for it.

Gu Qing Shan furiously complained: “Don't you think you're looking down on me a bit too much with that attitude?”

The War God UI replied with a line of glowing text: [I've always been nowhere but right in front of your eyes]

The line of text sparkled a bit.

He lost another 1000 Soul Points.

Gu Qing Shan now had 99,997,000 Soul Points.

The more he asked.

The few it would become.

“Hah——” Gu Qing Shan kept his mouth open for a while, only to utter a long sigh.

Fine.

It handed more than 100 million Soul Points over just now, so I'll just leave it to its devices for the time being.

Next time...

I'll look for another monster that needs it to hand over Soul Points to kill...

Gu Qing Shan silently told himself.

Now that he said nothing else, it was the War God UI's turn to ask:

[This combat has been completed; do you still have any questions?]

Gu Qing Shan quickly shook his head, then quickly nodded again.

——he just recalled something.

“Earth sword”

「 I’m here 」

“When you used [Earth’s Choice] to kill that monster, did you slay its soul completely?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Earth sword replied: 「 Thanks to Shannu cutting all of its techniques, I was able to directly eliminate it—— I can confirm that its soul had been slain completely 」

Gu Qing Shan observed the hundred-meter set of skeletons in front of him.

A breeze blew past.

All the bones shattered into fine dust, disappearing into the wind until they completely disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

———since the Earth sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword had done their job so well, I can now confirm my next conjecture.

“War God UI, this isn’t a question, I want you to display the inheritance I obtained”

He continued: “After I killed his Samsara Chief War Shaman, its inheritance shouldn’t be able to help it switch bodies any longer, I want you to scan over and see if there are any changes in the inheritance”

The War God UI remained empty.

One breath.

Two breaths.

All of a sudden, long lines of glowing text were displayed in front of Gu Qing Shan.

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[Currently scanning secret inheritance: unknown Spirit Linked fist technique]

[Discovered corresponding change]

[The Spirit Linked fist technique you obtained had changed from unique magic into pure fist technique knowledge, now contained within your Thought Sea]

[The corresponding changes are currently being displayed, please wait a moment]

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Is the fist technique knowledge still related to the magic?"

The War God UI replied: [Do not worry, knowledge is 100% clean]

After a few moments, lines of text appeared on the War God UI:

[An inheritance hidden by spirit linking is like precious treasures fallen into dirt and mud. After the War Shaman was eliminated, it is currently revealing its admirable brilliance]

[To accomplish this work, the system had spent untold efforts, using indomitable willpower to trespass layers upon layers of the inheritance and traps to discern the true knowledge. Discarding all illusions while keeping the truth, undergoing hardship to recompile, recollect, reconsider, and repeated testing...]

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

It has only been a few seconds since you last displayed the previous message, why do you make it sound like it was several hundred years of hard work?

He skipped through these self-advertising nonsense messages and read the latter notifications.

[You've obtained knowledge of the Samsara Mystery: Ethereal]

[Ethereal, a Samsara Mystery fist technique, grants instant mastery at the moment of learning, but requires a Samsara Deific Authority in order to exert the corresponding power]

Gu Qing Shan asked: “What’s a Samsara Deific Authority? And what’s the corresponding power?”

The War God UI deducted 1000 Soul Points without a second thought and answered: [If you use the identity of Huang Quan Devil King to perform this Mystery fist technique, you will be able to trigger the power of the Samsara to exert the Huang Quan Devil King’s might]

[If you were a different Deity of the Samsara, you’d be able to use this technique to borrow the power of the Samsara and exert power corresponding to your Deific Authority]

Gu Qing Shan was shocked and couldn’t help asking: “If that’s the case, wouldn’t that mean anyone would be able to perform this set of fist techniques, and the power exerted from it would also be different?”

[Indeed, the prerequisite being the one performing the fist technique must be a Samsara Deity]

Gu Qing Shan carefully pondered for a while, realizing that he had never come across such a fist technique before.

He praised: “As expected of a Mystery-level fist technique”

Knock knock knock!

At this point, the sound of knocking could be heard.

From the void of darkness, a door opened.

The practical combat class teacher and Banishing Sword Saint were both standing at the door.

“Class is over, Li San Lang” the practical combat class teacher called out.

“Ah, yes”

Gu Qing Shan temporarily halted his current train of thought, hurriedly replied, and quickly walked towards the two.

He seemed very relaxed.

But his swords were completely tense.

“Be careful gongzi, they might have already been replaced” Shannu spoke heavily.

「 That’s right, we should stay on our guard and prepare to fight 」 the Earth sword replied.

Gu Qing Shan continued to maintain a weak smile on his face while silently replying to the swords in this mind: “It’ll be fine”

Wang Shun stared closely at Gu Qing Shan and muttered: “Why do I have a bad feeling...”

He kept one hand on his sword.

Gu Qing Shan halted briefly, then sent his voice to his swords: “All of you relax, don’t let him sense your hostility, there’s actually nothing to fear right now”

「 Why not? We’ve clearly confirmed that those monsters are currently replacing the people of this world, they might have already been notified of what had happened just now 」 the Earth sword said.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “When I performed [Night Cruiser] in front of Shan Hai Qi Xia and the rest, they did not recognize this cloning technique”

“Furthermore, when I tried using [Inch Desolation] for the first time, I noticed that it wasn’t after I performed the strike that they saw how powerful it was and Shan Hai Qi Xia decide for Li Qiu Yu to take care of me”

“It could be seen that they do not know who this fist technique originated from”

“This means that even though they are all within the great tomb, not all of these monsters recognize one another”

“After all, considering how large the Samsara is and how the monsters are being separated by Apocalypse, none of them would brave the risk of the Apocalypse to probe the location and status of the others”

“I suspect that they wouldn’t establish mutual communications until after they’ve accomplished their substitution”

“In other words, they only know that I’ve conducted spirit linking with a powerful entity, but not that I’ve killed the other party”

“—After all, how could a mere teenager resist against such a terrifying entity?”

“That’s why, I’m very safe right now”

While sending his voice, he continued to walk towards the practical combat class teacher and Banishing Sword Saint – Wang Shun.

“Let’s go, big brother Wang, we’re going to have dinner”

Gu Qing Shan smiled and said.

Wang Shun’s eyebrows twitched and asked: “Have you always been cooking at home?”

“I have. Li Qiu Yu only eats premade food” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Ah...”

They closed the door into the destroyed world of darkness and headed back together.

An uneventful trip.

Chapter 1253

“I’m back!” Gu Qing Shan called out.

“Hm, quickly wash your hands and go make dinner” Li Qiu Yu greeted him.

“Why is it not ‘wash your hand and eat dinner’ instead?” Gu Qing Shan complained.

Li Qiu Yu glanced at him and casually said: “You have the courage to eat what I make?”

Gu Qing Shan then went to the kitchen without any further complaints.

Today, Zhao Qiong wasn't here.

The one who offered to help him was Banishing Sword Saint – Wang Shun.

Gu Qing Shan appeared shocked, as if his entire perception was flipped over its head.

“Big brother Wang... there's no need for someone like you to do something as mundane as cooking” he hurriedly rejected his help.

“It's fine, I usually do this myself when I'm at home anyways”

While saying that, Wang Shun put on an apron and began to prepare the vegetables.

His movements were fluid and skillful, clearly, someone experienced.

“A Sword Saint... making food, why do I feel like that's wrong somehow” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

「 “Take a good look at yourself in the mirror!” 」

His three swords spoke up in unison in his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned.

In truth, he hadn't mentioned the true reason for his confusion.

If a Sword Saint knew how to cook, that was understandable.

But if some great entity who managed to survive the breaking of the Samsara, then endure the ravages of Apocalypses, ultimately escaping through taking over someone else's body, now standing next to him preparing vegetables to eat, Gu Qing Shan would definitely feel like something was wrong.

Is Wang Shun still himself?

"Alright, the ingredients are all cleaned, I heard that your skills are quite something, so I'll be waiting for it today" Wang Shan washed his hands and stood on one side, arms crossed, preparing to observe Gu Qing Shan's cooking.

Gu Qing Shan didn't put too much more thought into it, focused his mind, and began making a bigger feast.

After all, Li Chun Dao was also going to return soon, coupled with Wang Shun, and Gu Qing Shan himself, a meal with three men needed to be a bit substantial.

"Ah, Qiu Shan, I can see that meat was done quite well, but how exactly did you mix the soy sauce?" Wang Shun asked after watching for a while.

Gu Qing Shan paused.

So this guy stayed here to help in order to learn in secret.

—this braised meat I'm making only needs to be cleaned properly and taken care of not to be done too well.

The true essence of the meal lies within the soy sauce.

Only with proper soy sauce would this dish have a soul.

“If big brother Wang likes to learn, I’ll write the recipe after we’re done eating” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright, since you’re practicing fist techniques, I’ll give you a pair of gauntlets tonight” Wang Shun lightly smiled and said.

Gu Qing Shan looked back down, continuing to make the feast.

At this point, Li Chun Dao had just returned and went straight into the kitchen.

“Ah? This is some good meat!”

He scanned around, then picked up just the plate of meat and sauce before leaving.

From outside, Li Qiu Yu’s voice resounded: “Brother, I’m going to have the first bite”

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

These people...

If they had truly been trapped somewhere for eternity, enduring the ravages of the Apocalypse, they would surely not have this kind of spirit.

Are they acting?

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a while.

He finished stir-frying the last dish and carried it out.

“Pour a full glass for Qiu Shan, the food today suits my tastes so much” Li Chun Dao declared.

Li Qiu Yu glared at him and rejected: “Definitely not! He’s still a child, he can’t drink alcohol!”

“Then how about fruit juice, I have a few relatively sweet ones here, it should be to his taste” Wang Shun suggested.

Knock knock knock!

The sound of knocking came from the door.

Zhao Qiong then came in smiling: “Excuse me, I’m here to join you for dinner”

She was already used to it at this point and no longer became flushed.

—after all, I came to eat San Lang’s cooking, things like reputation and such can be worried about later.

However, since she had been promoted to Head of the Bookkeepers, handling the management of the School’s wealth of knowledge, she had a not inconsiderable position. Furthermore, since she was a girl, Li Chun Dao and Wang Shun would naturally not try to make it difficult for her regarding something as simple as a meal.

“Senior Zhao, come in, the food I prepared today are quite nice y’know, I spent a lot of effort in making them” Gu Qing Shan called out.

Zhao Qiong smiled, then walked up and gave him a bone slab.

“What is it?”

Gu Qing Shan was now very cautious, so he didn’t receive it right away.

“The rankings of the Western Sea Grotto’s experts of the most recent hundred years, as well as their life’s story— I heard that children your age all like to read things like this” Zhao Qiong replied.

— — — *I’m not eating San Lang’s cooking for free; I have my own way of repaying him.*

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

So it was this kind of knowledge.

...doesn’t hurt to take a look, I guess.

“Thank you, senior Zhao” he received the bone slab and put it into his bracelet.

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The meal was happy for both guests and the host.

After the meal, Zhao Qiong left without any hesitation.

Wang Shun took over Li Chun Dao’s shift to guard the School, and it was Li Chun Dao’s turn to guard Li Qiu Shan.

Taking the time when his sister was washing her face, Li Chun Dao silently snuck a bottle of alcohol for Gu Qing Shan.

“Put it away for yourself, drink slowly” he winked.

Gu Qing Shan turned his hand around and instantly put it away into his bracelet.

He stood up to stretch, then yawned: “So sleepy, so sleepy, I’m going to bed”

Chak!

The door closed behind him.

All of Gu Qing Shan's earlier facial expressions disappeared.

He silently took out the bottle from earlier, opened the cap, and took a whiff.

This is decent alcohol.

It's not very strong either, just enough to taste good.

Gu Qing Shan put the bottle away, then sat blankly on the edge of the bed by himself.

Wang Shun wanted to give me a gauntlet.

Zhao Qiong gave me a bone slab that contained the stories of experts few knew about.

Li Chun Dao wasn't too bad either, preparing a bottle of alcohol for me by himself.

Li Qiu Yu had also been taking very good care of me.

These people.

If they haven't been replaced, then it's a good thing.

But if they had been replaced, what should I do?

Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit at a loss.

He took out Zhao Qiong's bone slab, examined it a bit, then scanned it with his inner sight to read all of the contents.

Suddenly, he noticed something interesting.

Whether it was a Spirit Linked Martial Artist, a Weapon Wielder, or a Bone Master, each of them needed to go through at least four stages.

Initial Awakening, Fusing Refinement, Thorough Grasp, Divine Reflection.

These four stages weren't related to one's strength, merely the progress of one's fusion with the inheritance.

One must reach Divine Reflection in order to be considered having fully awakened the inheritance.

Many people were stuck at this stage, requiring a lot of time in order to fully promote themselves.

Those who were true experts were usually summoned by the bigshots of the Schools just as they reached the Divine Reflection stage, after which they were promoted to become pillars of their Schools.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled Shan Hai Qi Xia's arrangements before she left.

Old Man Embracing Bones and Extinguishing Saintly Hands were brought along with her, quite obviously her trusted supporters.

While Banishing Sword Saint – Wang Shun, and Blade Venerate – Li Chun Dao, were both ordered to remain and protect the School.

Perhaps...

After some pondering, Gu Qing Shan finally made his decision to take a risk just once.

...

The shroud of night fell deep.

Wang Shun brought several of his subordinates to patrol some relatively secluded locations.

"Watch out!"

Wang Shun abruptly stepped out with his sword, shielding the rest.

With a heavy metallic 'kih', a figure appeared in front of them all.

Wang Shun shouted: "You actually had the courage to show up again!"

He didn't attack right away, instead crushing a piece of bone in his hand.

After three breaths' worth of time, Li Chun Dao will arrive.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched him crush the piece of bone, then suddenly said: "Wang Shun, your swordsmanship is flawed"

Wang Shun coldly responded: "That's not important, what's important is that you're going to die right here today"

"Ah? You're that confident in being able to keep me here?" Gu Qing Shan asked, apparently intrigued.

A second later, Blade Venerate – Li Chun Dao arrived from above.

Gu Qing Shan didn't attack and simply glanced at him, saying: "Li Chun Dao, I'm calling your name, you dare answer me?"

"The fuck are you calling me for? You damned bastard who won't even hold back on a child, this great one is going to chop you up!" Li Chun Dao angrily shouted.

He and Wang Shun both charged at Gu Qing Shan in unison.

Bam!!!

An invisible wall seemed to have manifested right in front of them, preventing them from moving forward.

They stood completely still, unable to move forward to fight.

—it wasn't just forward, they found that they were completely trapped where they stand.

“What kind of wicked magic!?”

Wang Shun held his sword and slashed forward.

The powerful sword phantom flew through the sky but didn't hit anything.

Li Chun Dao was the same.

Watching their shocked expressions, Gu Qing Shan relaxed and sighed in relief.

“Calm down, I just came to call you out”

He waved his hand dismissively.

Chapter 1254

In front of Gu Qing Shan's vision, a row of numbers were constantly moving.

It was his remaining Soul Points value, being reduced by at a rate of a few dozen points per second.

Whenever Li Chun Dao and Wang Shun attempted to struggle with a lot of strength, the number would jump at an even faster rate.

So Azure Dragon Origin Hex – Binding consumes Soul Points to use.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

Origin power of the soul and world's origin power, these were the two most advanced types of power.

The Dragon Hex used 'replying to being called' as the basis of the Causality Law, which then consumed the most advanced type of power in order to accomplish this Causality restraint, truly impressive.

When they travelled to the era of the Awaitings' creation of [Order], the Thousand Dragon Ancestor must have suspected that something of considerable significance was occurring in the future, otherwise Lady Fusi wouldn't have returned to the distant past despite the great costs.

For that reason, he used a secret technique to observe Gu Qing Shan's way of combat, then granted him the Azure Dragon Origin Hex as a trump card to aid his and Fusi's battle.

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly turned, moving his gaze away from the War God UI, he looked at the two in front of him.

No need to continue wasting Soul Points.

Since I've confirmed that these two are the original, not yet replaced.

Even with their status in the School of Shan Hai, they still haven't reached that point...

It seems only the strongest people in the entirety of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts had been replaced so far.

Having confirmed his thoughts, without any intentions of wasting his hard-earned Soul Points any longer, Gu Qing Shan spoke: "Gentlemen, I came here to tell you that I'm heading to the Wraith realm"

"Farewell"

He abruptly stopped just as he was about to leave.

—wait.

These two have already reached a considerable level of spirit linking.

If they actually manage to reach that highest level of spirit linking in the near future, wouldn't that mean they'd be replaced by monsters from the great tomb?

Gu Qing Shan reached his hands out and swiped at the void of space.

He wielded the twin swords Heaven and Earth.

—after 10 days of slumber, the Heaven sword had awoken.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the two of them with an apologetic expression.

“I'm very sorry, I truly didn't want to do this”

Before he finished, his swords had already flashed.

Without hesitation, he performed the Asura Deific King's sword technique—

[Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon]

Boundless flames and frost struck their bodies.

They were unable to dodge, having no choice but to bear the brunt of the two Divine Skills [Parting Fire] and [Freezing Frost] head-on.

Gu Qing Shan had already fought against Wang Shun once before, so he briefly assumed the limits of their endurance before releasing the Azure Dragon Hex and triggering the final Divine Skill.

Mind Sword, [Sun Moon Eclipse]!

After his countless hardships and combat, his swordsmanship had already reached the peak of Convergence realm, which could break through at any moment.

Because of that, this [Sun Moon Eclipse] was accompanied by some unprecedented supernatural phenomena.

——the flames and frost abruptly surrounded the two people, manifesting as a scorching brilliant sun and a chilling luminous moon.

Some sort of unspeakable power erupted from Gu Qing Shan's body, then washed over the two shining celestial bodies.

In an instant.

The sun and the moon both faded, the world fell to darkness.

Boom!!!

The two people were sent flying.

“What kind of swordsmanship is this! How could it possess such power!” Wang Shun spat out some blood, unable to accept this result.

Both of his arms were trembling, unable to even hold his sword.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at him, then at Li Chun Dao, confirming that they had merely sustained intermediate-level injuries.

——for the short foreseeable future, they would need to recuperate, unable to conduct spirit linking.

“This is a sword technique of the Asura. In fact, with my current level of swordsmanship, I’m still far from being able to exert its true power”

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then continued: “The Apocalypses are endless, the great tomb is eerie, all of you have much to ponder”

“What are you trying to say?” Li Chun Dao scowled and asked.

He was quite a bit stronger than Wang Shun, so he was able to sense that the other party was holding back.

—Gu Qing Shan did not kill us, in fact, his attacks were devoid of any real killing intent.

This person, what is he trying to do?

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan’s eyes lit up slightly.

—who would’ve thought, this seemingly reckless man was such an attentive person, capable of recognizing the hints in my words.

But with what I’m about to do, I can’t tell them.

“Go ahead and recuperate, just know that I’m not your enemy—- perhaps you’ll understand in the future”

Gu Qing Shan replied.

—not our enemy?

That’s probably true since you clearly have the ability to kill us right now.

Then, what exactly is going on?

Li Chun Dao was confused.

His lips twitched a bit, then said: “Gu Qing Shan, an Apocalypse will soon attack the Western Sea Grotto”

“Apocalypse?” Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

“That’s right, an Apocalypse that cannot be destroyed. Once every 12 days, it will reappear in the Western Sea Grotto”

“If Wang Shun and I were in our normal states, we would have been able to resist it just fine, but as we currently are, we can’t do anything about it”

Li Chun Dao observed Gu Qing Shan closely without mentioning his next words.

—-what exactly is your attitude towards our School?

—if you truly hold no hostility and instead have a secret that you can’t tell us, then, can you act against this Apocalypse?

Gu Qing Shan was able to recognize his intentions through his eyes

“How regretful... I’m going to leave the Western Sea Grotto; you’ll have to take care of your issues by yourselves”

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan activated [Ground Shrink] and disappeared from their visions.

“Bastard!”

Li Chun Dao angrily roared and unleashed a slash towards the sky to vent his anger.

This action immediately broke his wounds to open, causing him to lay completely motionless on the ground, unable to move for the next while.

...

Knock knock knock!

Bam!

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After a few knocks, the door was flung open.

Li Sang Lang sat up on his bed, sleepily asking: “Li Chun Dao, why did you immediately rush in?”

Li Qiu Yu’s expression was pale, quickly walked up to his bed and grabbed his hand: “Are you ok?”

Li San Lang was confused: “Why would I not be ok?”

Li Qiu Yu examined him from top to bottom, silently sighed in relief, then forced a smile: “There’ll be some trouble for the next few days, you can’t sleep by yourself again, I’ll be here to watch over you”

The window was then opened from the outside.

Two Bone Masters were hovering outside and reported to Li Qiu Yu: “Your excellency, Painted Bones Serenity, all defensive measures have been properly implemented”

“Hm, continue to keep watch” Li Qiu Yu replied.

The two of them affirmed and left.

Gu Qing Shan scanned their surroundings with his inner sight, only to find the dwellings were completely encircled with guards, three layers on the outside and three on the inside, leaving no gaps whatsoever.

He naturally acted like he didn’t know anything and doubtfully asked: “Li Qiu Yu, what exactly is going on?”

Li Qiu Yu didn’t have time to make up an excuse before someone flew in from the window.

It was Zhao Qiong.

“They’re both fine, it’s only some flesh wounds, but since they need to immediately fight again without any time to recover, they’ll need longer to fully recuperate” Zhao Qiong quickly said.

Li Qiu Yu’s tears started flowing.

She then casually wiped the tears off her face before calmly speaking: “As long as they aren’t dead. Now that the Dean isn’t here, and both the Sword Saint as well as my brother are injured, I’ll be fully responsible for protecting San Lang”

“You alone won’t be enough” Zhao Qiong said.

She walked up to Li Qiu Shan, touched his immature face, then said: “I’m going to help you”

Li Qiu Yu didn’t obstinately refuse this time and only replied: “Very well, you’re much more skilled with utilizing Bone Techniques compared to me, you’re just not used to fighting. If we need to participate in combat later on, it would be best for you to support my techniques”

“Hm, I’m used to doing that” Zhao Qiong replied.

Li Qiu Shan looked at Zhao Qiong, then at Li Qiu Yu and couldn’t help but ask: “Did Gu Qing Shan come again?”

The two women nodded.

Unless they locked Li Qiu Shan up in his room, they would definitely not be able to deceive him about this matter.

The commotion earlier was so great that the entire School had been notified of this.

Li Qiu Shan then immediately jumped down from his bed and headed outside, shouting:

“I’m a disaster! I’d be better off leaving instead of staying here, otherwise Gu Qing Shan would hurt you all!”

The two women hurriedly pulled him back.

“Qiu Shan, Gu Qing Shan wants to take you to the great tomb! That’s nothing but a death trap, there are Apocalypses in there that no human can ever fight again!” Zhao Qiong shouted.

Li Qiu Yu simply stated: “I forbid you from going, so long as this Li Qiu Yu still breaths, I won’t let other people bully you!”

Gu Qing Shan turned back to look at the two women.

Their expressions were full of anxiety, fear, nervousness, but above all else, determination.

Zhao Qiong lowered her voice, then said: “An Apocalypse is approaching us, you really can’t go running around”

“Apocalypse?” Li Qiu Shan asked.

Li Qiu Yu solemnly replied: “That’s right, it’s an Apocalypse that only those at the level of my brother and the Sword Saint can stop. Other than them, anyone would only die if they leave right now! That’s why listen to me and stay right here in your room”

Gu Qing Shan was then pulled back and forced to sit on his bed.

— in truth, reality had always operated under natural selection, and during this Age of Apocalypses, those who could better survive were those allowed to live on.

Those monsters fled the great tomb in order to escape from the Apocalypse and survive.

The humans of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts also did everything they could in order to survive.

Tigers hunt deers, termites eat wood.

Everything was for survival.

Who could blame them?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

It's not exactly a good chance right now, and I shouldn't do anything that I'm not expected to do.

If possible, I should be hiding behind the scenes, working in the background where no one will take any notice.

This way, the price I'd have to pay would be incredibly low for very high efficiency.

If I truly wanted to hide, using my countless years of experience, the jade gourd pendant Adorable, my Sumeru Thaumaturgy: [Orange Sovereign], and [Mystery of All Beings Equal], I can ensure that no one will ever find me.

The enemy wouldn't even know who their opponent was.

But the situation is a bit different now...

He lowered his head, lightly clenching his fist.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

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

[You've obtained the knowledge: Samsara Mystery fist technique]

[Are you willing to spend 10 million Soul Points to fully comprehend Samsara Mystery fist technique: Ethereal?]

"Do it" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Currently comprehending the fist technique, please wait]

The two women saw that Li San Lang was silently sitting by his bed without saying anything, so they were worried.

Li Qiu Yu stroked his head, telling him: "Don't be scared, maybe the Dean and the others will return very soon"

Zhao Qiong also said: "San Lang, you should go back to rest, with me and your sister here, nothing will happen"

The young man suddenly looked up and smiled at the two of them.

He slowly said: "Senior Zhao, I was reading the piece of bone you gave me earlier. Whenever someone reaches the Divine Reflection stage of spirit linking, some sort of sign would appear, is that right?"

Zhao Qiong lightly nodded, answering him: "You learnt of this a bit late, this is actually common knowledge among everyone. Those Combatants would radiate a kind of unique aura—— the aura of Samsara Derivative power, which cannot be faked"

Suddenly——

She and Li Qiu Yu both paused, their gazes slowly focused on the same place.

Wind.

A breeze that had manifested from somewhere unknown was casually sweeping through the room.

A faint yellow aura radiated from the young man's body, illuminating the entire room.

"Like this?"

The young man asked with a light tone.

Chapter 1255

Gu Qing Shan had just been pulled back into his room, sitting on his bed.

He stared at the War God UI, then used [War God Skills] to activate the Samsara Mystery fist technique: Ethereal.

But he didn't expect the follow-up notification:

[You've fully comprehended his Mystery fist technique]

[Please choose the Deific Authority you wish to use]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed over it, then realized.

The War God UI had said that this Mystery-grade fist technique needed to be performed by a Samsara Deity.

A different Deific Authority will result in a different fist technique.

It was quite miraculous!

Gu Qing Shan hesitated for a moment and decided against using his Huang Quan Devil King identity.

——the fact that he was the Huang Quan Devil King was known to quite a few people.

If the manifested fist technique corresponded to that Deific Authority, somebody might be able to recognize him through it in the future.

It was a tiny chance, but he needed to take it into consideration.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned to his other Deific Authority.

The wielder of a Huang Quan Divine Weapon is a Deity of Huang Quan, so aside from the Huang Quan Devil King identity, I have another Deific Authority:

Samsara Mountain God.

This was a secret.

Other than the people closest to me, no one knows Shannu's background.

In other words...

"I choose Samsara Mountain God" Gu Qing Shan silently stated in his mind.

Suddenly, the entire world moved away from him.

He found himself in a place without any people.

There wasn't anything around him, only a vast expanse of ground in every direction.

Gu Qing Shan stood still.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword appeared and flew into his hand, which he tightly grasped.

Countless words and whispers seem to be resounding by his ears, softly explaining something to him.

Gu Qing Shan understood what was happening.

Other entities had once made their way here in the past.

This space was the place for all Samsara Deities to awaken their Mystery techniques.

But then, where is this place?

Gu Qing Shan remained motionless.

He could sense that he was understanding something.

But whenever he tried to think about it, he found that he couldn't remember at all.

What exactly is it?

Gu Qing Shan felt this sensation to be extremely uncomfortable.

At the very next instant.

He abruptly left this world.

He had returned, still sitting blankly on the side of his bed, listening to Li Qiu Yu and Zhao Qiong's persuasion.

Time---

Apparently, only the blink of an eye had gone by.

All of a sudden, knowledge and understandings of the Mystery exploded in his mind, forming a full set of fist techniques one by one that felt almost like innate power that he had grasped since birth.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've grasped the Mystery fist technique: Ethereal – Mountain fist]

[This Mystery fist technique is divided into four strikes, which are respectively: Grand Mountain, No Pardon, Myriad Shadows, and Null Tribulation]

Since the two women were still with him, he didn't have time to read their descriptions fully and only skim through.

How interestingly, these four strikes seemed to correspond to the four Thaumaturgies of the Six Paths Great Mountain sword: [Protector], [Law Breaker], [Living's Wisdom], and [Invincible].

When he read up to that point, more lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've fully grasped the Samsara Mystery fist technique: Ethereal]

[At this point, you've killed the Samsara Chief War Shaman and fully comprehend its inheritance]

[You are now one of the Samsara Lords of War, qualified to participate in the new age's Samsara Clash For Supremacy]

[Your inherited fist technique is the identification of your status within the war]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit stunned.

I'm the new Shaman?

Then, I've completely replaced that human-headed snake entity and obtained its identity?

That Chief War Shaman originally wanted to take over a new body, using that to escape the Apocalypses within the great tomb.

—most likely, such a thing had never failed ever before.

After all, to the entities within the tomb, the humans of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts are nothing but insects.

Who would've thought it would be killed by the original owner of the body it attempted to take over and was replaced by them instead?

Gu Qing Shan's mind tossed and turned, pondering over numerous measures.

At this point, Li Qiu Yu stroked his head and consoled: "Don't be scared, perhaps the Dean and the others will return soon"

Zhao Qiong also said gently: "San Lang, you should go back to rest, with me and your sister here, nothing will happen"

Gu Qing Shan heard them.

He stayed silent for a few moments, then suddenly smiled.

"Senior Zhao, I was reading the piece of bone you gave me earlier. Whenever someone reaches the Divine Reflection stage of spirit linking, some sort of sign would appear, is that right?"

As he asked Zhao Qiong, he also lightly clenched his fist.

A faint yellow aura radiated from the young man's body, illuminating the entire room.

Zhao Qiong and Li Qiu Yu were both stunned.

Zhao Qiong blankly muttered: "No... that's impossible, your spirit linking progress was so fast, almost like..."

She didn't finish her words, as if afraid that this was nothing but a dream.

“Like a once-in-a-life-time powerhouse”

Li Qiu Yu finished her words.

Her gaze was clear as water, observing Gu Qing Shan: “This is Samsara Derivative power, I can clearly sense it”

Zhao Qiong then said: “But I’ve heard that once someone reaches the Divine Reflection stage, they would suddenly become vivified, recalling matters of their past lives and awaken certain wisdoms, Li San Lang, you—”

This time, it was Gu Qing Shan’s turn to be stunned.

What a bald-faced lie.

This explanation perfectly explains the changes in the replaced people’s personality and actions.

No wonder no one had ever suspected this even after so many years.

Suddenly, the entire city began to tremble.

Ooooooooo!!!

A violent howl of anger resounded from far within the world.

“Oh no, that Apocalypse is about to activate!” Zhao Qiong said.

Li Qiu Yu was worried about her brother, so she hurriedly tried to go out and said: “San Lang, you should stay here and hide for now. I’ll go take a quick look before returning to protect you”

She was held back.

The one who did so was Li San Lang.

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“What’s the matter?” Li Qiu Yu asked.

“Right now, I think the person at the highest spirit linked stage should be me” Gu Qing Shan stated.

He walked past Li Qiu Yu, his body leapt up and vanished.

The city wall.

On the city wall, Thousand Saints Blade Venerate – Li Chun Dao and Banishing Sword Saint – Wang Shun both stood motionlessly, staring intently at the horizon.

Each of them were surrounded by 7-8 Bone Masters, each using their bones to heal their bones.

Gu Qing Shan’s sword strike was perfectly done so that they were wounded just enough, forced to recuperate for a while before regaining their strength.

These temporary remedies wouldn’t be able to instantly heal them.

Naturally, if Shan Hai Qi Xia and other Combatants of her level were to act, they might be able to heal them very quickly.

But they weren’t here.

Ooooooooo!

Another deafening howl resounded from the far horizon.

As time passed, an enormous figure appeared in their visions.

Its body was so large that it could almost shoulder the sky itself, every step it took, it traversed through countless rivers and mountains, visibly approaching the School of Shan Hai at an incredible pace.

Approaching.

Closer and closer.

If one took a close look, they'd find that this was a humanoid monster clad in tattered armor, dragging chains and shackles behind its back.

Its armor as well as the chains and shackles were created from the souls of living beings.

The souls were closely bound by some sort of unknown magic to form the shape of each piece of armor, all of which were howling in extreme pain and suffering.

When it first appeared, this monster was invisible and incorporeal.

The souls of living beings killed by it would not experience release, they would instead be turned into its weapon and armor, helping it become increasingly stronger, eventually reaching a point where it would destroy the entire world.

"Regretfully, unless one can deal damage over a certain degree, they wouldn't be able to harm it; only you and I would be able to affect it at all, the others are helpless" Li Chun Dao sighed.

Wang Shun nodded without replying.

Li Chun Dao glanced at him.

Only to see Wang Shun was still trembling, barely retaining his balance thanks to his sword.

“Oi, can you actually attack?” Li Chun Dao doubtfully asked.

Wang Shun propped himself up with his sword and replied with a calm expression: “Don’t be ridiculous, in my current state, the fact that I can stand here stably at all is already impressive. What about you?”

Li Chun Dao replied: “Me huh? In the end, I’m still a bit stronger than you, so I’m not only able to stand stably, I can also walk a few steps by myself”

After a bit of silence, Wang Shun praised: “You’re a few years older than I am, that sure made quite the difference”

The ground continued to tremble.

The monster was approaching closer and closer.

Its howling had become extremely clear.

——the sound of howling actually came from the countless souls all around its body.

Wang Shun took a deep breath, then put one foot a bit further from his other foot to stabilize his body.

He struggled a bit to raise his sword, then said in a heavy tone: “Chun Dao, you’re up first”

Ten Blades appeared around Li Chun Dao.

Li Chun Dao randomly grabbed one of them, then asked; “What about you?”

“I’m going to accumulate strength, if things go south, I’ll risk my life and unleash a single strike” Wang Shun replied.

Li Chun Dao frowned, clenched his Blade tightly and suddenly laughed: “What a joke, this great one is still here, you’re not getting a chance——”

The two of them froze.

They exchanged shocked glances.

The surrounding Bone Masters turned around with them to look at the sky behind them.

A faint yellow glowing light was hovering, slowly flying towards them.

Behind that glow was Li Qiu Yu, Zhao Qiong, as well as countless soldiers.

“I think my eyes are playing tricks on me” Wang Shun said, full of doubt.

“No, you’re still fine, I think I’m just dreaming” Li Chun Dao uttered blankly.

The yellow glow slowly descended from the sky, standing in front of them.

“Li San Lang, what are you...”

Wang Shun heard himself speaking.

But he couldn’t ask any further.

Samsara derivative power had clearly manifested into a yellow glow that drifted around Li San Lang’s thin body.

“Big brother Wang, you still owe me a pair of gauntlets” Li San Lang smiled.

Wang Shun said nothing else, flipped his hand to take out a pair of bright red beast hide gloves, and gave them to the young man in front of him.

“Flame gauntlets, top-of-the-line, I originally wanted to give them to you on your birthday” Wang Shun said.

Li San Lang caught the pair of gloves, started putting them on while asking: “You know my birthday?”

...what a strange feeling.

Someone actually thought about celebrating my birthday?

This is only a fake birthday, but why did someone think about celebrating my birthday?

Li San Lang silently put the gloves on tightly, after which it started glowing with Elemental Fire.

“Li Qiu Yu found out, then told us” Wang Shun replied honestly.

Li San Lang turned around to look at Li Qiu Yu.

She was full of worry.

Worry?

Gu Qing Shan then realized.

—--simply having reached the Divine Reflection stage doesn't necessarily mean I'll be able to deal with the current Apocalypse.

Divine Reflection stage only means that my spirit linking has finished, as for the strength, that's still to be confirmed.

Li San Lang is only a 13-year-old child, if he truly can't manage it, who is going to rescue him?

Gu Qing Shan understood Li Qiu Yu's thoughts.

He then smiled at Li Qiu Yu, then waved his hand at Zhao Qiong and said: "Senior Zhao, I didn't gain any wisdom at all, I just need this"

He raised his fist.

A cluster of flame erupted from the gloves, illuminating his immature facial features.

"Yah!"

Li San Lang leapt upwards and flew out from the city wall with the drowning shout of everyone.

A lone faint yellow glow flew across the sky like a firefly in the middle of the night.

The faint yellow glow flew straight towards the mountainous enormous apocalyptic monster.

Suddenly, it vanished.

"Ethereal!"

Li San Lang's resounding battle cry echoed among heaven and earth.

Chapter 1256

Gu Qing Shan grunted as he attacked.

The faint yellow glow of Samsara derivative power vanished from his body.

The burning flames on the beast hide gloves seemed to have been stimulated by something as they abruptly receded into an intense light.

At this point, the apocalyptic monster was still a few hundred meters away.

From afar, Gu Qing Shan unleashed his attack.

— he simply threw a punch with all his power, striking the void of space.

In an instant, the sound of billions of howling souls abruptly halted.

Several hundred meters away, the apocalyptic monster maintained its forward-moving posture without actually being able to move forward.

It was frozen in place.

The souls all over its body also fell into a blank state.

One breath's worth of time passed.

The monster that carried the mission to destroy all things remained completely still.

Only the sound of howling wind could be heard in this world.

Gu Qing Shan pulled his fist back, hovering in mid-air.

— this was the first strike of [Ethereal – Mountain fist], [Grand Mountain].

[Grand Mountain: Thought-destroying fist, an attack that ignores spatial distance, those struck by it would have their thoughts destroyed, their minds becoming blank]

[Unless damaged, this state will persist for 10 breaths' worth of time. After 10 breaths, those affected will feel as if they've just snapped out of a dream]

A single punch was able to destroy the thought of the apocalyptic monster as well as billions of its imprisoned souls.

This first strike alone was already enough for Gu Qing Shan to see what kind of power a so-called Samsara Mystery fist technique held!

Everyone on the city wall behind him had just realized what happened.

The sound of cheering erupted.

Li Qiu Yu was anxious and nervous, so she loudly called out: "Hurry, seize this moment and quickly attack it, San Lang!"

Li Chun Dao put his Blade away, then whistled loudly.

Zhao Qiong was originally an introverted person, so she simply covered her mouth with her hands along with tears streaming down her face, unable to utter a single word.

Wang Shun propped his sword on the ground to barely stand, shouting with all his strength: "Li San Lang! Kill it!"

Following this shout, everyone's voice on the city wall gradually became unified.

They all erupted into the same cheer:

“Li San Lang! Kill it!”

“Li San Lang! Kill it!”

“Li San Lang! Kill it!”

Gu Qing Shan hovered in the air, listening to the urging voices of those behind him, and couldn't help but take a deep breath.

Seven breaths' worth of time left.

Easily enough!

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tightly, then flew up high.

He continued flying upwards all the way until he reached the head of the apocalyptic monster.

From afar, everyone could only see the small, grain-like figure standing in front of the monster's head that was as big as a city as he unleashed a single punch.

As they were standing too far away, this punch seemed extremely mundane, to the point that it didn't make a sound.

However, as soon as Li San Lang unleashed his strike, he immediately turned around and started flying back.

Everyone looked at him, then at the monster.

——the monster maintained its previous posture, still motionless.

It didn't seem to have received any injuries.

Was that... it?

Suddenly, Li Chun Dao's eyebrows twitch and furiously shout: "San Lang, be careful behind you!"

Everyone turned their gazes to see that the monster abruptly started moving behind Li San Lang.

It took a step forward, waving the chain of souls on its hand to catch Li San Lang.

「 Your fate is... destruction... 」

The monster's low voice resounded throughout the world.

"Run away!"

"Quickly avoid it!"

"Dodge!"

Everyone shouted anxiously.

However, Li San Lang continued flying through the sky at a stable pace, not too fast, not too slow.

Although it might feel slow, it was actually very fast, the apocalyptic monster's chains wrapped around Li San Lang!

— but Li San Lang wasn't encumbered at all, continuing to fly forward.

As the chain of souls passed through Li San Lang's body, it scattered into countless sprites of light and faded into the void of space.

Following that, the apocalyptic monster's body also started to scatter into billions of tiny blue orbs of light.

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「 No... 」

With a resounding low shout, the apocalyptic monster collapsed to its knee.

Propping both hands on the ground to hold itself up, its entire body started collapsing and disappearing.

The billions of light orbs turned into a torrent of blue light that danced in the sky before descending in front of Li San Lang.

It circled for a long time around Li San Lang without disappearing.

Li San Lang remained in mid-air.

The countless souls within the torrent of blue light appeared one by one, whether they were male or female, old or young, each of them smiled, nodded, and bid him farewell.

The souls had been released.

Li San Lang declared: “Go, go to where you should be”

The souls all nodded, then once again rejoined the torrent of blue light.

A few moments later, the blue torrent of souls slowly broke through the void of space and left this world.

Li San Lang uttered a short sigh.

That attack just now was the second strike of the Mystery fist technique, [Ethereal – No Pardon]

[No Pardon: This strike can break all magic, all tangible, incorporeal, illusory, real, all things, and all living beings. Everything shall shatter and return to Primal Chaos]

[Before activating 'No Pardon', you must first score a hit on your opponent]

[Attention: if your opponent is at least twice as strong as you are, the power of this strike will be gradually weakened, unable to completely destroy your enemy]

Gu Qing Shan thought to himself.

That apocalyptic monster just now could have been stopped by Li Chun Dao and Wang Shun at their peak states.

So any sword strike I could unleash would be enough to stop that monster as well.

However, since I currently need a proper identity, I used this chance to unleash this strike as Li San Lang.

The results were about the same as expected.

I didn't even need to use [Ethereal – Myriad Shadows] and [Ethereal – Null Tribulation], only the first two strikes were already more than enough to completely decimate this apocalyptic monster.

There was also an advantage to [No Pardon], that it was incredibly similar to [Inch Desolation].

— but it was significantly stronger than [Inch Desolation].

If that's the case, that Samsara Chief War Shaman's fist technique was weaker compared to mine.

Meaning, the Deific Authority it corresponded to should have been weaker than mine as well.

After all, [Ethereal] required a Samsara Deific Authority to determine the power of the fist technique.

But that's a bit strange...

I'm merely a Deity of Huang Quan, while that human-headed snake entity managed to obtain a Chief War Shaman position in the Samsara as a whole, shouldn't its Deific Authority have been higher than mine?

Unless—

Gu Qing Shan silently asked in his mind: "Shannu, I have a question, was the Samsara Mountain God's authority even higher than the Huang Quan Devil King's authority?"

Shannu replied:

“Gongzi, as you know, the Grand Tie Wei Mountain was the divine mountain that protected the entire Samsara, blocking out the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation as well as everything else, otherwise the living beings of the Samsara would be destroyed by the outer calamities”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

That really is the case.

Just like during my journey to the secret passage to the Dusty World, there was a region full of Winds of Chaotic Tribulation, devoid of all living beings. I had no choice but to go around it.

But the Grand Tie Wei Mountain is able to completely block out this wind of all-destruction.

Thinking back even further, during the battle of Huang Quan, the Abyssal Saint Armament, Abaddon, was able to destroy every entity in Huang Quan, only helpless to do anything against the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

During that battle, the Grand Tie Wei Mountain was a crucial part of our victory.

If that's the case...

“Shannu, perhaps the Grand Tie Wei Mountain didn't exist only for Huang Quan... perhaps the Samsara Mountain God is a Deific Authority that protects the entire cycle of reincarnation?” Gu Qing Shan asked

“That should be the case, but I don't really know for sure either. After all, in the distant past when I reawakened, I only knew the Devil King Warden Rod and the Forgetting River Soul Flaying Hook. At the time, we only knew about what happened in Huang Quan” Shannu replied.

Gu Qing Shan slightly nodded.

He continued flying back, quickly landing on the city wall, and stood in front of Li Chun Dao and the rest.

Seeing him, everyone smiled.

“What kind of fist technique was that?” Wang Shun asked first.

“A Mystery-grade fist technique of the Samsara” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Samsara? Mystery-grade fist technique?” the bigshots turned to Zhao Qiong.

She was the Head Bookkeeper, her knowledge far surpassed anyone else, whether it be related to the Samsara or not.

Not to mention, with so many Combatants reaching the Divine Reflection stage in the past, everyone had already researched the appropriate knowledge and made many recordings of it.

This wasn't a very big secret.

Zhao Qiong replied: “To be called a ‘Mystery’, it should be among the strongest of those that reach the Divine Reflection stage”

“No wonder you didn't even bother turning around, but did you think you could get away scot-free after worrying us like that?” Li Chun Dao said.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, sensing some trouble ahead.

“Hey, what are you trying to do?”

A second later.

Li Chun Dao waved his hand.

Everyone around rushed forward, lifted Li San Lang into the air, and tossed him up.

“Yeaahhhh——”

“We have a new powerhouse!”

“Ahahaha!”

“A single person defeated an apocalyptic monster!”

“Well done!”

Everyone cheered.

Gu Qing Shan was tossed several more times but only smiled helplessly during the process.

Chapter 1257

No matter how long the fun lasts, there must eventually be an end.

Li San Lang faced the apocalyptic monster head-on, rescuing the School of Shan Hai from imminent danger.

The celebration afterward continued for around half a day.

While everyone was drinking and cheering in joy for the appearance of another powerhouse in the School, Li San Lang had silently disappeared among the crowd.

In the city.

A black pagoda tower structure.

—the Bookkeeping Ward.

All ‘Secrets’ and ‘Mysteries’ collected since the appearance of the great tomb were recorded and kept here.

Li Chun Dao brought Li San Lang towards the highest floor of the Bookkeeping Ward.

“San Lang, be careful during your talk, make sure not to offend the Grand Elder” Li Chun Dao whispered.

Li San Lang curiously asked: “If he’s so powerful, why didn’t he join the Dean on the great tomb expedition? Or tried to act earlier?”

Li Chun Dao lowered his voice: “The Grand Elder is currently injured, so he had been in seclusion all this time. Nevertheless, the Dean had never underestimated him, and even while he was injured, his authority——”

“He is responsible for appraising every Spirit Linked Combatant who reached the ‘Divine Reflection’ stage, as well as possess the authority to mobilize and halt the majority of our School’s operations”

After explaining, he looked at Li San Lang.

Li San Lang nodded, expressing his understanding of this meeting.

——I didn’t imagine that Shan Hai Qi Xia still had a card hidden away, leaving a Grand Elder that ‘can’t act’ in the School.

This bunch of monsters sure are crafty.

He silently said to himself.

The two of them finally reached the highest floor.

Knock knock knock!

Li Chun Dao knocked on the door, then respectfully spoke: “Grand Elder, I’ve brought him”

After a few moments.

“Come in”

An old voice called out.

Li Chun Dao glanced at Li San Lang again, reminding him again not to offend the Grand Elder.

Li San Lang could only nod again.

Li Chun Dao then pushed the door open.

The room behind the door had almost no walls, only a single layer of transparent glass. Furthermore, since this was the highest room of the tallest structure, anyone could easily observe the scenery of the city and surrounding wilderness from this place.

— in other words, even if the Grand Elder had been in seclusion, my entire battle against the apocalyptic monster could be clearly observed from this room.

An extremely thin and boney old man stood on top of a luxurious carpet closely keeping his eyes on Li San Lang.

His gaze was full of scrutiny.

“I’ve seen your battle earlier, it was certainly excellent, as expected of a Divine Reflection stage Spirit Linked Combatant” the old man praised.

“We greet the Grand Elder”

Li San Lang and Li Chun Dao both bowed to him.

And then.

Their gazes met.

The Grand Elder smiled, then asked first: "Child, have you recalled your previous life? Or perhaps awaken extraordinary wisdom?"

Li San Lang's expression seemed a bit curious and naïve, answering him with a confused tone: "I don't know of any past lives, nor have I awoken any wisdom"

—because this was what he told Zhao Qiong before, if he changed his words now, that would certainly draw his suspicion.

Following this answer, the Grand Elder's smile seemed to contain a bit of wonder as well.

"Li Chun Dao, you may return first, find some Bone Masters to heal your wounds. I'll talk to our newborn powerhouse alone, teaching him how to awaken his wisdom" he gently said.

"Understood" Li Chun Dao replied.

He left and closed the door.

The Grand Elder waved his hand, summoning a piece of glass from thin air.

Li Chun Dao's figure appeared on the piece of glass.

He stood blankly in front of the door for a few moments, later slowly headed down the stairs and left this black pagoda tower.

"An excellent human, but only that much in the end"

Saying so, the Grand Elder put the piece of glass away and observed Li San Lang with a gloomy expression.

“Li San Lang, you said that you hadn’t awoken any wisdom?”

His voice sounded a bit sharp.

At this point, the naivety of Li San Lang’s expression had completely disappeared.

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His presence completely changed.

Li San Lang then scoffed towards the ground with an expression of disdain: “Insect, what qualifies you to ask of this great one’s matters?”

The Grand Elder froze.

What’s going on?

He tried probing: “You and I both came from the cycle; it was out of fortune that—”

Half-way through this question, Li San Lang suddenly threw a punch at him from afar.

In an instant, the Grand Elder couldn’t even use any means of retaliation before he felt his mind becoming blank and his thoughts all disappeared.

By the time he regained his senses, he found the young man from before hovering in mid-air, while he was being held at the neck like a stray dog, completely at his mercy.

The young man’s gaze towards him was completely frigid, like that of a deity above the clouds observing mortals on the ground.

“The era of the Samsara Clash For Supremacy is coming, and I am more noble than you could ever imagine, yet you dare accept my bow”

Saying so, the young man slowly raised his fist.

His voice sounded almost like a chant, or a judgement from a high Deity.

“Die, turn to ash, then return to Primal Chaos, this shall be your final end——”

[Ethereal – No Pardon]!

A yellow glow appeared over his fist.

As soon as this strike was readied, countless lights were triggered all over the Grand Elder’s body, but quickly became gloomy.

The Grand Elder’s heart was already trembling, how could he not realize that he was literally standing at death’s door?

Before, it was [Inch Desolation], which I observed from afar.

[Inch Desolation] could only destroy all defenses, but now that this terrifying entity had awoken, he was able to utilize that strike to destroy the apocalyptic monster itself!

Such power...

I won’t even have the slightest room to resist.

It had been a very long time since I saw such power.

Exactly what level of entity would hold such power?

He spoke of the Samsara Clash For Supremacy, which means that he knows the entire truth.

Could it be, he is———

The Grand Elder suddenly realized, then madly begged: “Sir! Please spare my life, sir! I beg you!”

The young man coldly looked at him, then suddenly smirked.

An entirely different sensation of cruelty could be seen from his smirk.

“A piece of garbage like you, even if you found another body and escaped from the Apocalypse, you’d be merely prolonging your last breaths. You’re completely useless in the Samsara Clash For Supremacy of the new era” the young man calmly stated.

His fist was raised higher, his voice slowly became filled with overwhelming killing intent:

“For me right now, you have absolutely no value...”

As his fist was about to fall——

The Grand Elder shouted in panic: “Sir! Your grace! Your grace had only just arrived in this world, there is still a lot your grace isn’t clear about, your grace will need me to explain it all!”

“Ah? What exactly do I need to know?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“The substitution method—— the substitution method that allowed us to escape from the Apocalypse! Your grace shouldn’t know just who it was that spread it in the great tomb!”

“And also, we discovered the corpse of a wraith from the previous era on the outside of the great tomb! It is the only entity who managed to escape the shattering of the Samsara!”

“And also also, your grace must have noticed, your grace’s strength had been greatly weakened, unable to perform your complete fist technique”

Gu Qing Shan scowled, raising his voice: “Hm? Was there such a thing?”

He changed his fist stance.

Sure enough, [Myriad Shadows] and [Null Tribulation] could not be fully performed with the power of the Samsara.

If I truly wanted to unleash them, it wasn't impossible, but their power would be greatly reduced.

How strange.

Why can the two first strikes be used, but the two stronger latter strikes cannot fully resonate with and be filled with the Samsara derivative power?

This time, Gu Qing Shan truly had no clue.

The Grand Elder observed his gaze, then slightly relaxed himself.

The chance for survival is right here!

The Grand Elder spilled everything like a broken dam: "Your grace, the Samsara had been completely shattered, its derivative powers also greatly weakened. Your grace was also affected by this, which resulted in the current situation, all of us were the same"

Gu Qing Shan relaxed his fist, then said with an unchanged expression: "Continue"

The Grand Elder then flashed a flattering smile, explaining: "Your grace, we both know that one hand cannot make a clap— naturally, your grace doesn't have such an issue, but your grace will need a few subordinates to help your grace collect information, resolve minor issues, and perhaps even collect fragments of the Samsara"

Gu Qing Shan observed him, slowly released his grip on his neck, then lightly patted his face, chuckling: "A mere thing like yourself is disillusioned with becoming my subordinate?"

The Grand Elder continued: "Your grace, this humble one is useless, but I do have a crucial matter to report to your grace"

"Speak"

“Outside the great tomb, a change had occurred with that wraith’s corpse. It might awaken at any moment, and no one could predict what would occur, this humble one believes your grace would like to examine it yourself”

“...Hm, this certainly is quite interesting indeed” Gu Qing Shan pondered.

He glanced at the Grand Elder.

The Grand Elder immediately volunteered: “Your grace, I will take you there!”

Chapter 1258

“Your grace, let me take you there” the Grand Elder looked at Gu Qing Shan, practically begging him with his eyes.

Looking over him, Gu Qing Shan held an expression of disdain, as well as hesitation.

——after all, he had acted so high and mighty that if he suddenly agreed so readily now, that would instead cause the other party to be suspicious.

He simply narrowed his eyes, giving the old man an evaluating gaze, apparently considering something.

This attitude caused the Grand Elder to feel even more panicked.

“Your grace, please do not worry, in truth, when we escaped the Apocalypse to enter this world, there would ultimately be all sorts of issues”

“Especially when that Wraith’s corpse seems to be waking up”

“At this crucial point in time, some people attempted to cooperate with the wraith’s successors; some wished to take the secrets all for themselves, and even the leftover True Tombs within the great tomb; some wished to look into the events just before the Samsara’s shattering—— all in all, with so many factions and sides, there would be countless skirmishes, your grace will surely need some support”

Gu Qing Shan acted like he was pondering.

I didn't think these monsters would also stand on different sides.

But that wasn't surprising, as there would be benefits and strife wherever there were living beings, never before had there been an exception to this.

For now, both the Tomb of Myriad Beasts and the Wraith realm have their eyes set on that Wraith's corpse.

There is possibly an unprecedented secret to be discovered from the Wraith's corpse.

Then, the monsters who wish to cooperate with the Wraith realm would naturally be my enemies.

— all in all, I seemed to have been caught up in a crucial historical event.

Gu Qing Shan's heart felt heavy.

This event that could possibly alter everything in existence, occurred in a tomb of the Samsara.

Gu Qing Shan could almost guarantee that this would be related to the entire Samsara— or perhaps, not only just the Samsara.

How many individuals have been preparing for this?

What exactly would that Wraith's corpse bring into this reality?

In this era, at this crucial historical moment, how many are hiding behind the scenes, plotting and planning for secrets that I can't even fathom?

Those who could participate in such an affair could not possibly be foolish.

Perhaps their clash right now would determine the future of the infinite worlds.

Regretfully, there is too little information.

These people had been making their preparations for countless years, while I've only just arrived.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt a heavy sense of helplessness.

But he soon regained his senses and said:

“Then I ask you, what does your group in his location focus on doing?”

A female voice suddenly replied:

“We focus on researching the secret of the Samsara’s shattering in the past”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t turn around.

This was Shan Hai Qi Xia’s voice.

She had personally returned from the great tomb.

The Grand Elder hurriedly shouted: “Why did you come back? Without you at the lead, our people there would surely be at a disadvantage”

“It is fine, all of us have returned” Shan Hai Qi Xia stared closely at Gu Qing Shan and slowly spoke.

Half a dozen individuals with different attires and age spread out from behind her, quickly surrounding the room.

Old Man Embracing Bones and Extinguishing Saintly Hands were also among them.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t react much.

This place had been completely sealed off; I can’t afford to display any weakness.

His gaze scanned through these people.

“Who are you?”

He looked at Shan Hai Qi Xia, speaking with the tone of a superior.

Shan Hai Qi Xia smiled, then made a gesture.

The others quickly followed her signal to chant an incantation and release an isolation barrier, cutting off the highest floor of this black tower from the rest of the world.

From this moment, no one from the outside would be able to scry any information from here.

Shan Hai Qi Xia walked up to him, then knelt on one knee and spoke: "As soon as [Ethereal] was unleashed, I was able to sense its unique fluctuations. I did not think your grace the Shaman would awaken even earlier than I had expected"

She seemed a bit eager, and continued: "When this child unleashed [Inch Desolation] earlier, I immediately knew it was your grace"

Gu Qing Shan paused for a brief moment.

He curtly said: "So it was you"

—these monsters should have been separated from one another by the Apocalypses in the great tomb.

Then, what's going on here?

These thoughts quickly flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

"Indeed" Shan Hai Qi Xia looked up, her eyes practically glowing as she looked at Gu Qing Shan: "Your grace, I did not think that you would specifically choose a person of my sect to reconvene with me"

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at her, then muttered: "That was a coincidence, I had actually chosen this person due to his background..."

He acted like he just recalled something and stopped speaking.

—this woman suddenly came closer, acting like we're acquainted, but I don't know anything at all, so how am I supposed to continue?

Even as experienced as he was, Gu Qing Shan couldn't predict that things would progress in this manner.

The only thing I can do now is to make sure the conversation is limited to what I know.

Otherwise, if I'm exposed, everything would be a waste.

Sure enough, Gu Qing Shan's words managed to rouse their curiosity.

The 8 people all turned to Gu Qing Shan, but none dared to ask.

Asking meant courting death.

After all, this matter was the Shaman's personal business, related to his power.

Only Shan Hai Qi Xia cautiously asked: "Has your grace's fist technique advanced further?"

Gu Qing Shan curtly nodded, then replied:

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"My fist techniques have grown stronger, but limited by the lack of Samsara derivative power, so I am unable to exert my full power"

Merely from a power perspective, [No Pardon] was a more advanced power compared to [Inch Desolation]

No one would be able to fault his choice.

Everyone appeared glad.

—Who would not hope that the one they followed was strong?

If that strong personage could become even stronger, that was naturally a good thing.

“However... to give up the authority of the Primordial Shaman Deity... is it regretful...” Shan Hai Qi Xia said.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

So that monster’s original Deific Authority was that of the Primordial Shaman.

And I killed it.

If it truly managed to replace me and take over my body, it would naturally meet up with Shan Hai Qi Xia.

What was its plan?

Does it have adversaries?

What would those adversaries think?

Seeing Shan Hai Qi Xia about to say something else, Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively and said: “Tell me about the current situation, I’ll tell you more about the Deific Authority later tonight”

Since he had ordered so, Shan Hai Qi Xia could only swallow her questioning words and explained: “The situation is very complicated. Like the Desolate Black Simian Deity had said, the others all have their own schemes. A few of them have reached a consensus with the people of the Wraith realm, while some others have banded together in preparation to kill them all— they would not hold back, as they wish to obtain everything for themselves”

Gu Qing Shan silently chuckled, then repeated: “Would not hold back, huh?”

His gaze passed through everyone in the room.

One, two, three... not counting the Grand Elder and myself, there were eight of them in total.

One person returning is no issue, but eight...

That's too huge of a commotion.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Did all of you return, or did you leave someone there?"

"Leaving one or two of us there would have been too dangerous, so all of us returned" Shan Hai Qi Xia continued: "Of course, if we truly fought, all of us would not hold back, your grace sir——"

Gu Qing Shan cut her off: "Listen, I've only just awakened, while you have been managing this place for a while, so I need to know how you've been operating. Believe me, this is very crucial"

While saying so, he focused some attention on his left eye.

——both the [Parallel Dream], and [Time Recollection] techniques cannot be used right now.

Otherwise, I'd be able to obtain a lot more information, not resorting to cutting someone else off to prevent them from asking things I would not be able to answer.

Seeing how serious he was about it, Shan Hai Qi Xia somberly replied: "While your grace wasn't here, we had consistently remained observers without making any reckless moves"

"Although I do not know what happened to the corpse, it is incorrect to continue being observers in the current situation" Gu Qing Shan immediately replied.

Everyone looked at him in confusion.

Shan Hai Qi Xia patiently said: "Your grace, you've only just awakened, so perhaps you do not know the specific situation"

—indeed, everyone knew that he had only just awakened, having no clue about this matter.

Among the matters that the Grand Elder mentioned earlier that he didn't know about, the Wraith's corpse was one of them.

Because of that, regardless of how Gu Qing Shan spoke regarding the Wraith corpse, he would not expose himself.

He would be able to borrow this matter to mention one of his worries.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Do not take others for fools. When two tigers fight, they would never allow someone else to stand on the sideline and reap the profits"

"If you tried to retreat and wait for those two groups to slaughter one another, they might just join forces temporarily to get rid of you all before proceeding to their final clash"

Everyone stayed silent.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

If I had been their core combative strength and never once revealed myself, then their decision to hide their strength to silently observe the situation would have been a practical tactic.

But this Wraith's corpse had already started changing, and the struggle for benefits had already reached a point where true mettle must be shown.

In this situation where everything is hanging by a thread, the more one remains unresponsive, the more issues they would prove themselves to have.

Gu Qing Shan then thought of something and said: "I can tell you, the reason why I had changed my Deific Authority, other than the fact that my fist techniques would become stronger, there was another crucial reason"

"Your grace, what reason is that?" Shan Hai Qi Xia asked.

In truth, she had been quite confused about this but hadn't fully considered where the issue might lie.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Because of the current situation— unless my assumptions are incorrect, the others should have already followed you here"

Before he finished his words, he abruptly unleashed countless shadowy fists.

[Ethereal – Grand Mountain]!

Shan Hai Qi Xia felt strong gusts of wind blowing throughout the entire room.

Boom!

The ceiling was blown open, exposing dozens of black figures in front of them all.

These figures were not weaker than any of the people here.

They could be seen to be humans.

— all of them were tomb monsters who had substituted their bodies.

Suddenly, a resounding voice echoed in the air:

"War Shaman, so you've actually gotten smarter through the torture of the Apocalypse"

A figure revealed itself.

Shan Hai Qi Xia uttered in shock: "Desolate Beast King God!"

Gu Qing Shan observed that figure, silently complaining in his mind.

This is only the beginning.

The vortex of the era had only just started to swirl.

The true monster bigshots had only just prepared themselves for a brutal struggle of life and death.

The direction of history will slowly be decided within the foul stench of blood and calculations.

And now.

I've been caught up in that vortex.

Chapter 1259

In the sky, a child silently looked down from above.

Although he appeared even younger than Li San Lang, his gestures and facial expressions were completely unlike that of a 10-ish years old child.

——the Desolate Beast King God was residing in this body.

His voice was not at all immature, instead resounding and strong:

“Shaman, I've always believed you to be an expert in combat, but greatly lacking when it came to strategic thinking. Who would have thought you've changed?”

Hearing the other party's highly probing words, Gu Qing Shan casually responded: “If your body and soul gets continuously eaten away by the endless apocalyptic insects for an endless amount of time, you will also change”

The Desolate Beast King God paused for a bit; his gaze frozen.

Not only him, the others all appeared full of emotions.

They all felt sympathetic

Who among them hadn't been struggling in the seal of the Apocalypse, only managing to escape the torturous Apocalypse by switching bodies with humans in the Tomb of Myriad Beasts?

That sensation, even thinking about it now, caused them to feel nothing but dread.

Gu Qing Shan didn't wait for the other party to speak, instead found a chair for himself to sit down.

He leaned back, casually relaxing on the backrest of the chair and told Shan Hai Qi Xia's group: "Console the others, tell them not to be alarmed"

——the ceiling of the tower had just been blown open, drawing the attention of many people in the School.

Li Chun Dao and the others were all rushing here.

Shan Hai Qi Xia observed Gu Qing Shan, then the child in the sky.

Their group of over dozens of people had already surrounded their group of 8, which allows them to attack at a moment's notice.

Even if they let us leave, wouldn't that mean his grace the Shaman alone would be surrounded by them?

Shan Hai Qi Xia strongly insisted: "We'll remain here to protect——"

"Hurry up" Gu Qing Shan raised his voice.

Shan Hai Qi Xia faced Gu Qing Shan's gaze head on, sensing his determination.

She gritted her teeth and led the others away.

The surrounding group remained where they were, completely motionless as they left.

At this point, on top of the black tower, only a few dozen substituted humans remained with the child in the sky.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the chair across from his own and said: "Come take a seat, let us have a nice and slow chat"

Seeing him act this way, the child spoke in a cold voice: "Shaman, are you so sure that I wouldn't kill you?"

Gu Qing Shan curtly replied: "I'm no longer myself from the past, if you want to kill me, you'd better be prepared to die as well"

The child wanted to mock, but Gu Qing Shan continued: "The Wraith's corpse is about to awaken, if we were to fight ourselves to death in this place, wouldn't that mean those guys get to laugh themselves silly?"

The child opened his mouth, unable to mock that.

Gu Qing Shan observed him, then said: "Now that I've awakened, there's no need for you to bully my subordinates, if there's anything you need, we can always slowly talk it out"

These three statements went from high to low, firstly stating that he wasn't afraid to fight, then mentioned that there might be others observing from a secret place, and finally gave the other party some stairs to step down on---

In the situation where both his eyes were practically blind, Gu Qing Shan had already utilized the art of word manipulation to its limits.

Unless the other party intended to fight to the death, they would surely choose to go down and talk first.

And that wasn't all, Gu Qing Shan then appeared to ponder before continuing: "I've actually just obtained a few pieces of information I'd like to exchange with you"

Information!

The child's eyes twitched.

In this most crucial moment, the other party said that he had information he wanted to exchange.

The War Shaman is an entity whose identity was comparable to myself; he would definitely not lie about this.

The child stared closely at Gu Qing Shan for a while, then suddenly waved his hand with a smile.

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The dozens of black figures in the sky disappeared without a trace.

The child descended and sat down across from Gu Qing Shan.

"What kind of information do you have?" the child said.

Gu Qing Shan leaned back on his chair, shrugging: "That will depend on what you can offer in exchange. However, it's best we first discuss the matter of the Wraith"

"That's quite simple. I want everything belonging to that Wraith, if there's a method to enter the True Samsara Tomb, that belongs to me as well" the child replied.

"And me?" Gu Qing Shan curtly asked.

"You? You crave nothing but the secrets of it all, I can consider telling you the secret of the True Samsara Tomb after everything is over, as for those Samsara Delimitation Artifacts, don't even think about it"

Samsara Delimitation Artifacts?

What are those?

While Gu Qing Shan was confused, he didn't let it show in his expression and stated: "For this matter, I've specifically made some preparations. I'm sure that without me, your journey isn't going to quite as smooth as you think it will be"

"What kind of preparations?" the child asked.

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand and clenched tightly to form a fist.

A faint yellow glow appeared from his fist.

The child casually glanced through, about to say something when the yellow glow abruptly changed.

All the light suddenly disappeared, instead a dreadful presence started to emanate from the fist.

Although the presence only existed for a brief moment, it was more than enough for the child to feel greatly threatened.

He abruptly stood up and shouted: "What kind of power is that!?"

Gu Qing Shan curtly replied: "Null Tribulation"

The child's expression changed.

He stared closely at Gu Qing Shan's clenched fist and spoke in a heavy tone: "That's impossible, such power couldn't possibly have come from the Samsara. Your fist technique was [Ethereal]— — — what kind of new Deific Authority did you actually obtain?"

Gu Qing Shan remained silent without mentioning another word.

This level of secret was more than enough to deter the other party from acting recklessly before discerning everything.

In truth, Gu Qing Shan had already noticed a certain thing when the fist technique fully awakened

[Grand Mountain], [No Pardon], [Myriad Shadows], and [Null Tribulation] each corresponded to one of the Six Paths Great Mountain sword's Thaumaturgies, respectively:

[Protector], [Law Breaker], [Living's Wisdom], and [Invincible].

[Protector] was able to manipulate the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, while [Grand Mountain] was able to strip other people's thoughts, causing the target from being unable to control their mind and body.

[Law Breaker] was able to let the divine sword's attacks to ignore the influence of all Laws, which corresponds to [No Pardon]---

[No Pardon] was able to destroy all magic and techniques, then, by extension, all things and all living beings.

As for [Invincible]---

[Invincible: No force within the infinite world is able to harm this sword's body in any way]

Which corresponds to [Null Tribulation].

[Ethereal – Null Tribulation: When your 'Grand Mountain', 'No Pardon', and 'Myriad Shadows' all strike the enemy, you will be able to draw upon the power of Null Tribulation from within the fragments of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain to attack your enemy]

[The power of Null Tribulation: This is the great cataclysmic power that broke the Grand Tie Wei Mountain and broke through the power of 'Invincible', as well as one of the true culprits behind the Samsara's shattering. The residual fluctuations of this power remains upon the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, recording the tough past of the Samsara]

This description once caused Gu Qing Shan to open his eyes wide as well.

After all, even the Blessed One of the Inner Plane, Grand Empress of the Pantheon, Renedol only managed to destroy fragments of the Samsara.

The true and complete Samsara shouldn't have been something she was capable of destroying.

Then, where did the Null Tribulation come from?

The secret of the Null Tribulation lies within this fist technique!

Chapter 1260

The child stared at Gu Qing Shan's fist for a while, then tried probing: "After the Samsara shattered, all of our powers cannot be exerted to their utmost; you should also not be able to utilize this power of yours, meaning it has no real value"

Gu Qing Shan admitted: "You're right, I can't exert this power"

He then leaned forward, staring straight into the other party's eyes: "Whether or not to search for the secret behind this power with me, that's your own decision to make. If you aren't interested in such a thing, then never mind"

—-*the power of Null Tribulation.*

This was a power that managed to shatter the Samsara.

Where did it come from? Can it be controlled for a long time?

These are both secrets at the deepest depths of the Samsara.

What kind of Deific Authority did the War Shaman obtain to be able to mobilize such power?

No one would be able to arbitrarily brush it off and leave in front of such a matter!

“Go ahead!”

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand, expressing that the other party was free to leave.

The child took a deep breath, then coldly scoffed: “You’re trying to look into the secret of the Samsara’s shattering with only yourself, what impudence”

While saying that, he continued sitting still without moving.

Gu Qing Shan appeared to be pondering for a while, then finally spoke up: “Two of my men had already entered the True Samsara Tomb”

The child’s expression immediately changed, then abruptly looked up: “That’s impossible! There are countless Apocalypses within the Tomb River, no one would be able to traverse the entire Tomb River alive and reach the True Tomb!”

Gu Qing Shan casually said: “You can choose not to believe me, I don’t care. But I want you to know that only after we’ve formed a proper cooperation would I tell you more detailed information”

—this was also a crucial bargaining chip.

While everyone was still competing against one another, the War Shaman’s subordinates had already entered the True Samsara Tomb.

The child stood up and started pacing around the room.

At this point, they were the only two existences within this room, everyone else had already been forbidden from approaching this place.

It was so silent that the only thing that could be heard were the child’s footsteps.

He was pondering.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan remained completely silent without mentioning a word.

Time itself became extremely elongated.

Suddenly, the child turned to Gu Qing Shan and asked: "Shaman, why have you constantly kept up your Samsara derivative power? Keeping yourself prepared to fight me?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

I spent almost 200 million Soul Points in order to kill that Shaman.

This person in front of me is an entity of the same level, one that has been awoken for much longer than I can imagine, he's not someone I can simply match in strength.

Only by cladding myself with Samsara derivative power would I be able to prevent them from sensing the depths of my power.

But that's naturally not something I can tell them.

"I'm not keeping myself prepared to fight you, I simply want to stay cautious" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Cautious?" the child wanted to mock him, only to hear him continue:

"I can sense it, the matter this time is one of extreme danger. No one can guarantee that they'd be able to survive, so I must constantly maintain my combative state at all time"

The child's smile gradually faded.

How could an entity of his caliber not know the severity of their current situation?

Without hesitating much longer, the child stopped pacing around.

“Shaman, what exactly do you want?” he finally asked.

This was him signaling that he was willing to cooperate.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression remained unchanged, seemingly falling into thought.

Using his meagre strength, he stopped the enemy’s encirclement from ambushing, lured the other party into a negotiation table, then drove the conversation to one of cooperation, Gu Qing Shan was already doing everything he could.

But it was at this time that he needed to be even more cautious.

Thinking back to when he met his two other selves during the [Night Cruiser] state, Gu Qing Shan recalled the words of one of his ‘other self’:

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...

[Finally, I discovered traces of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts’ explorations of this river. The furthest they’ve reached is the island outside of the great tomb, they essentially have no idea how to enter the actual tomb]

...

Gu Qing Shan paused a bit before answering: “How about we first exchange information?”

“Very well” the child agreed.

Exchanging information was something beneficial for both sides, and both sides could take that chance to probe the other party’s actual depths.

“Then I’ll go first” Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit, then said: “In the Tomb River, towards the direction of the Huang Quan burial grounds, there is an Apocalypse from outside the Reality Gate”

The child asked: “What is it like?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “It does not exist within Space-Time, manifesting as a skull with a long cheek. Any entity seen by it would find the Laws of Space and Time separating from their bodies. Living beings would find themselves existing in eternal emptiness unless they die”

The child nodded: “A tough Apocalypse from outside the Reality Gate, very good, I shall accept this information”

Gu Qing Shan turned to the child.

The child cleared his throat, then said: “At the depths of the Tomb River, the True Samsara Tomb is hidden among the six burial grounds of the Heaven, Human, Asura, Wraith, Beast King, and Huang Quan realms. but I don’t know for sure which one it is hiding in”

Gu Qing Shan was also pleased with his piece of information, so he continued:

“In the Tomb River, time is chaotic, and so is space. For that reason, those who traverse the Tomb River would run into the remains of many void monsters. They have no way of leaving, nor could they enter any of the Samsara burial grounds, so they continue to avoid the Apocalypses as much as possible while attempting to make sure that all who travel the Tomb River would end up in a horrible state”

The child looked at him in surprise.

— to be able to obtain this kind of information, one or more of the Shaman’s subordinates must truly have entered the Tomb River.

That can’t be right!

He stood up straight, walked right in front of Gu Qing Shan and observed him closely.

“All of us know, even though we have escaped the great tomb through the substitution method, none of us could enter the tomb again, otherwise the Apocalypses that imprisoned us would immediately sense

our souls, then manifest themselves from the various locations of the great tomb to try and take back our souls”

“Then—— my question is, War Shaman, how did you send anyone inside?”

Gu Qing Shan answered without a thought: “Naturally, I used people who had yet to enter the great tomb”

The child’s voice raised high: “That’s impossible! The entire Tomb of Myriad Beasts is under our surveillance, no one could have entered the great tomb without our knowledge!”

He started exuding killing intent.

“If you keep on being that high-strung, I won’t bother to cooperate with you any longer, as that would just implicate me”

Gu Qing Shan acted like he didn’t care about it and simply continued: “My subordinates came from a parallel world, original inhabitants of other Samsara fragments”

———these were referring to the other two ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

And they had indeed entered the great tomb.

This was the truth.

The child couldn’t imagine such an answer, so he was stunned.

Gu Qing Shan: “Your vision is too narrow, always limited to a single Tomb of Myriad Beasts”

The child’s presence from earlier became scattered, followed by a sigh: “Shaman, your plotting and vision truly goes further than I can imagine. You have my admiration”

Gu Qing Shan pointed back at the seat behind the child, asking:

“Then, shall our exchange of information continue?”

“Naturally”

The child sat down again, thought for a bit, then said: “Periodically, the Wraith’s corpse would travel back into the depths of the Tomb River following the flow of the lava, then travel back outside. I suspect that the path it travels does not contain the terrifying Apocalypse like you had described, a relatively safe path, we have prepared to——”

“Let’s not talk about that Wraith for now, I want to know the extent to which you’ve researched the True Samsara Tomb—— this time, you’re up first” Gu Qing Shan cut him off, then asked another question.

The child hesitated, then recalled how he was impulsive enough to almost attack, which was highly unbecoming.

Very unusually, he decided to compromise.

“Very well, then I’ll tell you. In truth, among the six tombs of inheritance, five of them are fake, only one of them was real. The real tomb contained a Samsara Delimitation Artifact...”

“A Samsara Delimitation Artifact? Which one?” Gu Qing Shan pursued the question.

“It was a sword...”

Chapter 1261

“A sword...”

Gu Qing Shan practically chewed on these two words, his gaze becoming dim.

The child furrowed his eyebrows, asking in surprise: “What happened to you? Is there some sort of issue with this information? Why do I feel like you’ve completely changed?”

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and answered: "It's nothing, I just didn't think there would be a sword that belonged to the Samsara here— go on"

Seeing his expression return to normal, the child continued:

"This sword is the Divine Artifact that allows the entire tomb to operate as normal. Without it, the Apocalypses of the great tomb would have already poured out— naturally, no one had ever actually seen this sword, everything we've heard are only rumors"

After he finished, the child pointed at Gu Qing Shan with his chin.

—now it's your turn to talk

However, Gu Qing Shan no longer had any secrets to tell.

Against such an ancient monster, he hadn't even considered telling fake information.

Because the other party had already reached an unusually high level of power, even the slightest inappropriateness could result in the other party noticing.

It seems I'll have to tell a real secret after all...

But since the entire Tomb of Myriad Beasts had been under his control and surveillance, every secret there is to be discovered should have already been discovered.

I've only just arrived, so anything I know about the Tomb of Myriad Beasts would pale in comparison compared to him.

Then, what exactly should I say next?

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a long while before he continued: "I will inform you the existence of a certain person who had entered the great tomb, if you run into him, you must be careful"

"Who?" the child asked.

“Gu Qing Shan” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The child found that surprising: “You call that a secret? I’ve obtained information about him, I know that he wields the twin swords Heaven and Earth, but as long as I’m not struck by these two swords, there wouldn’t be any issues, the easiest solution is to simply kill him on sight”

“I’m not referring to the twin swords, but rather something else” Gu Qing Shan said mysteriously.

“Does he carry some sort of other secret?” the child doubtfully asked.

“Indeed. In truth, he came from the future” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The child froze, temporarily unable to digest this information.

After a long while of silence, he spoke again: “Although the twin swords Heaven and Earth are the most advanced Soul Artifacts of the Eternal Abyss, they should not hold the power to travel through time...”

“Gu Qing Shan was able to triumph against the Soul Shrieker, Demon Dragon, and Immortal Giant, taking the two swords for himself at the moment of their conception, he surely has his own secrets”

“Combined with the fact that he was able to travel through time and return to this moment from the past, he must have had quite an extraordinary background”

“That isn’t the case” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“It isn’t because of his background?” the child doubtfully asked.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and told him with a serious expression: “He has those three coins”

The child appeared shaken with a shocked expression, replying: “So it was because of the Explorer of Countless Mysteries, Distorter of History, Key of the Past, Fragment of the Traveler’s Proof? It’s quite a wonder that he managed to obtain such a thing”

Apparently recalling something, the child swiftly scoffed and muttered: "However, there are too many counterfeits of those things. I assume he might have gotten a fake. The Laws of Fate, Time, and Space of the infinite worlds would not easily allow the genuine things to reveal themselves, let alone give it to a mortal"

His expression turned a bit easier.

This time, it was Gu Qing Shan's turn to be stunned.

This monster from the great tomb seems to know something about the secret of the three coins.

Individuals who knew about the secrets of artifacts at the level of the three coins within the vast infinite worlds were almost as rare as the artifacts themselves.

Now that he finally ran into one of them, how could Gu Qing Shan let go of this chance?

"No, according to the information I obtained, the coins in Gu Qing Shan's possession are not counterfeits, but rather genuine articles" Gu Qing Shan refuted him.

The child tilted his head a bit: "That's not possible. Those things are highly valued by the three great Laws inside the Reality Gate, the only fragment of the Traveler's Proof to appear in reality. Those who own them must all undergo a series of trials, but never had there been anyone who managed to endure or complete all of those trials"

The child continued with a knowing tone: "Because of that, the Coins of Time are not something a mortal like him can touch"

He then nodded to Gu Qing Shan and said: "This secret is highly valuable, and I could tell that you've told nothing but the truth from the very beginning up to now"

"Since you've been so generous, I can also tell you an even more important secret"

"Relating to what?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The child swiped the void of space to take out a dark purple scale.

He lightly tossed the scale forward but said nothing.

The piece of scale hovered in the air, slowly moving towards Gu Qing Shan.

—*probing?*

Gu Qing Shan's heart started beating faster.

He caught the piece of scale, then took a careful look at it in his hand.

After a few moments, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Mermaid scale from the River of Calamity]

[This is a type of apocalyptic monster from outside the Reality Gate, at the moment of its death, its scales will peel off into individual pieces]

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[The scale of this monster is filled with an apocalyptic aura. If someone holds this monster's scale in their mouths, they would be able to escape detection from any Apocalypse for one full day]

[Precious item]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through the text and asked: "This scale seems to have the ability to avoid the Apocalypse, where did you find it?"

While saying so, he put the scale away.

The child opened his mouth wide, wanting to ask for that piece of scale back, but Gu Qing Shan's next words stopped him.

“If you sincerely wish to cooperate with me, then giving me a piece of scale to let me travel with you into the great tomb would be natural, don’t you think?” Gu Qing Shan smirked and asked.

The child froze, opening and closing his mouth several times without being able to say anything.

Don’t be ridiculous, with the Shaman’s personality, you’d be daydreaming if you think you can take back something he already took.

The child said with an irritated expression: “This was a beneficial item I found at the bottom of the Tomb River, as long as one holds this scale in their mouth, they’d be able to avoid the pursuit of any Apocalypse, allowing them to safely enter and return from the great tomb”

“Beneficial indeed” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The two of them simply stared at one another.

The child appeared regretful of taking it out.

While Gu Qing Shan appeared triumphant for being able to take advantage of him.

In truth, Gu Qing Shan was highly vigilant.

— the other party did not mention one very crucial detail.

This thing was actually a consumable item, which would expire after one day of use.

Tch.

No wonder he didn’t try to cause a commotion and insist on retrieving the piece of scale, so he wanted to lay down a trap for me.

If I was still relying on this thing after one day, my outcome would needless to be said.

However...

No matter how well this guy’s preparations were, I’m not the actual War Shaman.

Gu Qing Shan turned his thought and stood up: "I don't have anything else I can tell you. Now that the Wraith's corpse has shown changes, I feel that we shouldn't delay things any longer. We need to get over there and confirm the situation"

The child appeared surprised, but also stood up: "That's true, then we shall form a temporarily alliance"

"Very well"

"When do we leave?"

"Right now"

...

15 minutes later.

An underground passage that led into the great tomb.

Over half of this place was covered in lava, with only a few molten rocks floating above the lava to serve as footstools.

Several dozen figures were quickly moving along, then stopped on top of the molten rocks.

Gu Qing Shan and the child seemed like a pair of suns being orbited by numerous planets.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the lava and asked: "Where's the Wraith's corpse?"

"I already told you. It moves consistently on a determined path, most likely floated into the great tomb again already. Most likely it will need some time to reappear" the child replied.

When Gu Qing Shan was about to continue, the void of space in front of him first wavered before a jade tablet suddenly appeared.

Gu Qing Shan caught it.

—*—the Nine Serenity Yin Incantation Jade Tablet!*

I didn't think the jade tablet would be able to sense me while standing outside the great tomb!

“What is that?” the child asked in surprise.

“Reports from my subordinates” Gu Qing Shan curtly answered, then scanned the jade tablet with his inner sight.

The voice of another ‘him’ resounded in his mind:

[We discovered something strange]

The voice of another ‘him’ also appeared: [That’s right. The two of us are currently in the vicinity of the Asura burial grounds. Due to there being too many Apocalypses around us, we’ve met up and used our strongest concealment techniques to hide in the most unassuming location on the banks of the Tomb River. We then saw—]

The ‘him’ from before cut in: [We saw the Wraith’s corpse that you mentioned previously. It was swimming along the water of the river, fighting against the remains of those void monsters for a long while before playing dead again and floated outside the Tomb River]

[Do you understand? It is alive, I repeat, it is alive!]

Gu Qing Shan felt goosebumps over his entire body.

Alive?

Then, what exactly is its goal, acting as a corpse?

At this point, the child said: "Look, the Wraith's corpse has arrived"

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

A jet-black body was floating along the incandescent lava.

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The corpse appeared a bit strange.

Its body was about the size of a courtyard, currently floating with its face under the lava and its back on top, bobbing up and down on the surface of the lava, slowly drifting towards the group.

When the corpse was only around a few hundred meters away, Gu Qing Shan's eyes flickered a bit before speaking: "Why can't I see anyone from the Wraith realm? And where are the ones who wished to cooperate with them?"

The child looked around, sure enough finding that the group that harshly opposed them previously were nowhere to be seen.

"Show yourself!" he curtly shouted.

From beneath the lava, a man clad in an incandescent glow flew out, kneeling in front of the child: "Reporting sir, not too long after you led everyone away, those people stepped onto the Wraith's back and followed it into the great tomb"

The child questioned: "Why are you the only one remaining? You mean to say that not a single one remained?"

"Sir, that is indeed the case"

"Hmph, people of the Wraith realm naturally had never set foot into the great tomb, so their souls would not be caught up by the Apocalypse, but what about the others? They're the same as us, from where did they get the courage to enter the great tomb?" the child shouted sternly.

The man covered in lava lowered his head and reported: "Sir, the rest of the people you arranged to be here had actually gone to their side while acting loyal to you, so they found out about the scales"

The child didn't appear angry when hearing that, only casually asked: "Did they also find those dark purple scales?"

The man trembled a bit, then answered with a shaking voice: "Sir, the 15 pieces of scales that you had hidden away were all taken away by them. This subordinate was alone, unable to win against them all, so I could only conceal myself and wait for sir to return before reporting the situation"

Saying so, he prostrated himself close to the ground.

"Hm, I don't blame you for this, I merely trusted the wrong people" the child dejectedly said.

The man was shocked.

Why is the sir so magnanimous today?

But since he had just escaped from being punished, he was too concerned with thanking the heavens rather than ask about it any further.

The child appeared doubtful, then turned to Gu Qing Shan and asked: "The current main point of interest should be this Wraith's corpse, so why would they enter the great tomb so early? What do you think?"

Gu Qing Shan's gaze met with the child.

Gu Qing Shan slowly shook his head, answering with a doubtful tone: "I've only just awoken not too long ago, so I haven't even met those people face to face. If you don't understand their motives, then I would also not"

— the Samsara Delimitation Artifact was currently holding this entire tomb in place, ensuring that the Apocalypses within would not be released all at once.

If someone could enter the tomb first and take this Samsara Delimitation Artifact for themselves, then they'd hold everything in their hands.

The Wraith's corpse might be related to a lot of mysteries and secrets, the wielder of this Delimitation Artifact would be able to control the Apocalypses within the great tomb, practically holding the lives of everyone in their hands.

Secrets were indeed important.

But their lives were a lot more important!

With these two matters under consideration, those people would naturally choose to enter the tomb and search for the artifact.

Gu Qing Shan was sure that this ancient monster hiding inside a child's body would be able to recognize this fact.

However, this monster obviously had other plans, so it was acting oblivious.

Combined with how it practically gave me a piece of scale earlier, most likely...

Gu Qing Shan suddenly talked telepathically with Shan Hai Qi Xia:

“Tell me, the people of the Wraith realm, as well as the tomb entities who joined their sides, how many people were there in total?”

“14, your grace, what's the matter?” Shan Hai Qi Xia replied.

“It's nothing”

Gu Qing Shan quickly realized what was going on.

Right, it must have been information purposely leaked by this monster.

It must have also not told the others of the usage time limit of the scales.

After those people tried using the scales, they would certainly discover that they were able to avoid the Apocalypses this way.

And then, there was a conjecture that the path on which the Wraith's corpse floated was a safe path.

A path that had been determined.

While the mermaid scales allowed the tomb entities to avoid having their souls taken by the Apocalypses that sealed them away.

What a God-given opportunity this was!

Those people naturally couldn't wait any longer and entered the great tomb first, wishing to obtain the artifact for themselves.

— the group of people substituted by the tomb monsters together with those from the Wraith realm totaled 14 individuals, while the child left 15 pieces of scale.

It was more than enough for one person each.

And they've all entered the Tomb River.

— in other words, they didn't even consider the issue of manpower.

This proved that they had no idea that the mermaid scales of the Calamity River could only be used for one day.

The Apocalypses would discover them again after one day.

But there were 6 tombs, 5 of which were fake, the Tomb River was full of Apocalypses and monsters, how would anyone reach the true tomb in a mere day?

Even if they could, the danger of the inner tomb wasn't something that could be dealt with in a single day.

They're definitely dead!

Gu Qing Shan silently glanced at the child.

This ancient monster hidden inside the body of the child didn't even need to lift a finger, yet was able to easily lure its enemies into a deathtrap of their own accord, truly an impressive level of scheming!

After thinking it through, Gu Qing Shan remained completely calm without mentioning a word.

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After all, the child had also given him a piece of scale.

He was also one of the targets for this scheme!

Hearing Gu Qing Shan's words, the child nodded without noticing anything and said: "It seems they've given up on this Wraith's corpse, took advantage of the subordinates I stationed here to steal my scales and entered the Tomb River ahead of us to retrieve that Delimitation Artifact"

"Then it was all your fault, putting us into the current disadvantage!" Gu Qing Shan grudgingly said.

The child generously admitted his fault: "That was truly my fault, but now that it had happened, we need to quickly consider what we need to do now"

Gu Qing Shan coldly snorted, but didn't say another word.

Seeing the two bigshots quarreling, everyone went silent.

The river of lava became silent for a while.

Only the Wraith's corpse continued to drift towards them slowly.

Any sentient entities that remained within the Tomb River would be tough to deal with.

Only this Wraith's corpse from the previous era had been able to drift between the Tomb River and lava without anything happening to it.

Gu Qing Shan observed the Wraith's corpse, keeping in his mind that it was actually still alive.

What is it actually planning?

Tch---

What a headache.

The situation is too complicated, there's too little information, and every monster here is absurdly powerful beyond imagination.

Never mind breaking the status quo, I'd be happy to just survive, but...

There is a sword inside this great tomb.

A sword belonging to the Samsara.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned, then sighed after a while and said: "If they've all gone inside, then we need to quickly go after them. If they obtain that Delimitation Artifact before us, we're in huge trouble"

The child said: "Then this Wraith's corpse——"

Gu Qing Shan turned to the Wraith's corpse.

He silently calculated.

It's currently night, I'll be able to use my Sumeru Thaumaturgy.

In the worst case scenario...

I still have 100 million Soul Points.

The War God UI should still have quite a bit of secretly stored Soul Points.

Some things simply can't be redone if one is fearful of attempting them.

Gu Qing Shan made up his mind, then raised his voice: "Let's follow it to enter the Tomb River, then act as the situation calls for it later on"

The child pondered for a bit, then said: "Very well, that's the only way"

——*I didn't think the Shaman would make such a perfect suggestion for me, then I won't need to waste any unnecessary efforts.*

"Let's go!"

Everyone jumped up and landed on the Wraith's back.

The lava continued to flow.

The Wraith drifted along the current of the lava for a while, eventually entering an underground river current.

"The Tomb River is just up ahead. From this moment onwards, prepare yourselves for combat at any moment" the child declared.

Everyone kept up their guards.

Gu Qing Shan also released his inner sight to pay close attention to his surroundings.

He held the Nine Serenity Yin Incantation Jade Tablet in his hand, sending his voice inside: "Guys, I'm currently standing on the back of that Wraith's corpse, travelling with a group of monsters into the Tomb River"

After that, he mentioned the truth about the monsters using their inheritance to steal the bodies of humans, then infused it with 1 Soul Point.

Receiving its Soul Point, the jade tablet vanished without a trace.

A few moments later.

The jade tablet appeared in Gu Qing Shan's hand again.

He scanned it with his inner sight, immediately hearing the message from one of his 'other self':

[We've already known about the matter of the inheritance, not too long ago, we opened a tattered tomb to save a guy with a monster body but human soul. Unfortunately, he couldn't endure the ravages of the Apocalypse, his soul quickly dissipated after the rescue]

The voice of another 'him' then resounded:

[Be careful, we just saw an unknown Apocalypse appearing on the Tomb River. It's currently heading towards the course of the Wraith's corpse. Most likely it will directly run into you]

Chapter 1263

Gu Qing Shan remained silent for a moment.

Another 'me' said that an unknown Apocalypse was approaching.

This meant that neither of them saw clearly what it was, only being able to observe it from a distance on the river bank.

If what's coming was a normal Apocalypse, there's still hope.

But if it's a True Apocalypse from outside the Reality Gate, the same kind as the long-cheeked skull, everything would be over.

In other words...

I can't gamble on it.

"Can you track those people's movements?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The child regretfully answered: "They were very cautious; I never got a chance to set up any means of tracking"

After all, the only outcome for them was death, he naturally wouldn't waste effort to track them.

Gu Qing Shan knew that would have been the case, so he was waiting for this exact answer.

"If we can't find them, and since the great tomb is so huge, we might as well split up our forces while maintaining mutual communications"

After he said so and the child was pondering his suggestion, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Attention!]

[Attention!]

[An illusory Apocalypse fragment is descending upon your location]

[That Apocalypse is a perception-triggered Apocalypse, in other words, as soon as someone recognizes its existence, that person would be pulled into it]

[Fortunately, it is not a True Apocalypse from outside the Gate, only an illusory fragment of a True Apocalypse]

[After 10 seconds, everyone here will be pulled into the illusory Apocalypse fragment, only those who survive until the very end will return to reality]

[10]

[9]

...

Gu Qing Shan's heart started beating faster.

What is this Apocalypse?

Simply knowing it existed meant you'd be taken and pulled into it.

Another 'Gu Qing Shan' informed me that this Apocalypse was approaching.

—-that simple statement alone triggered the Apocalypse to immediately appear!

If the War God UI had said so, then it truly would be impossible to avoid this Apocalypse.

He sighed, releasing his inner sight to observe everyone else.

This Apocalypse is entering the spatial area around me, and it's already too late to avoid it.

If I make any implications to have the others avoid it, then I'd be telling them that something would soon occur here.

As soon as they know that, they'd be pulled into the illusory Apocalypse fragment either way.

There's no way to hide.

Suddenly, the child's expression changed as he uttered: "Oh no!"

He was the first who sensed the approaching Apocalypse!

Everyone's expressions on Wraith's back started changing one by one.

"What's going on? Where did this Apocalypse come from?"

"This is definitely the sensation of an Apocalypse, but we haven't even entered the Tomb River!"

"It's already too late to run, prepare to face it!"

Everyone spoke up one by one, drew their weapons, held their breaths, and prepared themselves.

The sensation of Apocalypses was something that they could never forget.

This perception should differ depending on individual strength.

The stronger the monster, the more sensitive they were to the Apocalypses, which allowed them to discover the Apocalypse sooner.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight scanned through everyone, then stopped on Shan Hai Qi Xia.

Shan Hai Qi Xia appeared highly confused at first, and was the last one to realize.

—so this woman was the weakest among them?

Gu Qing Shan's turned his attention a bit, seeing both Old Man Embracing Bones and Extinguishing Sainly Hands standing by her with expressions of respect.

He didn't have much time to think, as the countdown on the War God UI had already reached zero.

A flash of light.

Everyone disappeared from the back of the Wraith.

...

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

He found himself wearing a suit of soldier armor, sitting on top of a cold flight of stairs.

I'm still in Li San Lang's form.

There was a huge gate behind him.

A group of soldiers were sitting with him, guarding the gate.

They didn't seem to feel anything strange about his current appearance, someone even patted his shoulder and asked: "Li San Lang, after the shift is over, you want to go get a drink?"

Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied: "I'll have to think about that first"

Suddenly, following an inexplicable headache, some information entered his head.

—so this place was a destroyed world.

I've now become a part of this world, but I need to survive until the very last moment of the world's destruction.

At that time, if I'm still alive, I'll be able to leave this illusory fragment.

This truly is...

A ridiculous Apocalypse.

Gu Qing Shan slowly accepted his background, then sighed, seeing that his breath turned into white frost within this frigid weather.

It was snowing right at this moment.

And quite late into the night as well.

Gu Qing Shan silently said in his mind: “War God UI”

Lines of glowing text quickly appeared:

[You can spend 100 Soul Points to check the current illusion’s setting]

[You can spend 200 Soul Points to examine your current situation]

[The system had performed an analysis of the current illusion and confirmed the rules placed upon you. You can spend 500 Soul Points to check the corresponding information]

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Stop, I’ll pay the Soul Points, so tell me everything you can about the current situation”

The glowing text on the War God UI all disappeared, replaced by new notifications:

[Time: The previous era]

[Location: Snowfrost Crown World (destroyed)]

[Event: Fall of the capital city]

[Within this illusion, you’ve randomly obtained the identity: Capital guard soldier]

[After 30 minutes, the Apocalypse will arrive, please make the appropriate preparations]

[Attention: Limited by the rules of your identity and skill level, during this Apocalypse, you cannot conduct yourself in a way that goes against your identity under the surveillance of native living beings. Otherwise, you will be thrown directly into the center of the Apocalypse to be eradicated]

[Furthermore, you can only choose one main method of combat, please select one out of the following options:]

[Swordsmanship, Fist techniques, Archery, Cooking, Dancing]

[Attention, once you've made your choice, you will be limited to using only that power within the illusion]

After some hesitation, Gu Qing Shan said: "I choose fist techniques"

Indeed, now that all the monsters had entered this illusory Apocalypse, if I suddenly displayed other means of combat, wouldn't that draw suspicion?

Not to mention, the power of [Ethereal] is powerful above my expectations.

Following Gu Qing Shan's choice, a pair of simple metal gauntlets appeared on his hands.

Lines of glowing text appeared:

[Kingdom soldier's standard gauntlets]

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[Elementary-level equipment, characteristics: sturdy]

[Attention: You have 29 more minutes to make your preparations]

Gu Qing Shan looked up, glancing over the many soldiers around him.

He immediately saw Shan Hai Qi Xia.

The other party seems to be officer-level personnel, wearing a suit of tight military garb. Her expression suggests that she had only just regained her senses, still a bit confused, perhaps even anxious.

—The Apocalypse illusion would not list everything in detail as the War God UI had just done.

She most likely only knew that she's in a dangerous Apocalypse where she needed to survive until the end.

Suddenly, a whisper could be heard from next to him:

“Who are you looking at?”

Another voice sounded: “He’s looking at the army’s rose, tsk tsk tsk, a frog dreaming of a swan, aren’t ya?”

“You’re one the speak, as if you haven’t snuck glances at her before”

Several familiar guard soldiers were chatting and laughing.

At this point, they had already finished their shift of the day and handed their duties over, so all of them were relaxed, chatting without care.

Gu Qing Shan’s gaze fell onto the War God UI.

[27 minutes until the arrival of the Apocalypse]

He paused slightly before heading straight towards Shan Hai Qi Xia.

Shan Hai Qi Xia had also just noticed him, instinctively about to bow when she heard Gu Qing Shan sending his voice:

“Do not make unnecessary moves, we can’t do things unfit of our identities in this place!”

Shan Hai Qi Xia froze.

Gu Qing Shan walked up to her, saluted and spoke: "Greetings, superior. This subordinate Li Qiu Shan has something to report"

Shan Hai Qi Xia nodded: "Very well, follow me"

She brought Gu Qing Shan through the gate into the city, then continued to the officer residential area and entered a certain building.

The door was closed behind them.

Shan Hai Qi Xia instantly knelt on one knee and said: "This subordinate greets your grace"

Gu Qing Shan didn't reply.

He looked around the room.

This place was clearly a female officer's quarters, with some clothes hanging on the wardrobe and clearly feminine decorations.

On top of a table in front of the fireplace, there was a bottle of alcohol.

Gu Qing Shan walked up, opened the bottle and took a whiff.

The alcohol had a sweet fragrance.

Gu Qing Shan raised the bottle and asked: "This place seems laden with traces of your life. Do you know anything about this?"

Without the War Shaman's permission, Shan Hai Qi Xia continued to kneel on one knee and replied with a respectful attitude: "This subordinate had suddenly recalled some memories—— this Apocalypse illusion seems to have arranged an identity for each of us, including the relations, family members, friends, and previous experiences in this world"

Gu Qing Shan nodded, sat down on a chair and stared at Shan Hai Qi Xia.

Even after a while, he didn't speak up.

"Your grace?" Shan Hai Qi Xia looked at him in confusion.

"Hm, I've actually felt like you've done your job quite excellently up to now, so I'm wondering how to praise you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He glanced at the void of space.

——there was 21 minutes left until the Apocalypse descended.

Shan Hai Qi Xia's beautiful face displayed a heavy look of confusion.

"Your grace... this subordinate doesn't understand what your grace means" she cautiously said.

Gu Qing Shan also seemed quite troubled.

Suddenly, he reached his hand into the void of space.

The jade tablet that went into the void of space earlier had reappeared.

The sound of another 'Gu Qing Shan' came from the jade tablet: [It turns out this Apocalypse is triggered by perception; we've also entered it this time]

Another 'Gu Qing Shan' followed up: [It seems we'll need to discuss whether to meet up or to individually gather information about this world first. My third 'self', what do you think?]

Gu Qing Shan was also a bit surprised.

So it really was a perception-triggered Apocalypse.

—my other two 'selves' were clearly on the banks of the Asura burial grounds and merely took notice of this Apocalypse for them to be pulled in like this.

Three of 'me'...

That sounds unusual, yet worth looking forward to at the same time.

After all, everyone else around me are monsters, there's really not enough manpower.

Aside from this woman...

She clearly holds some sort of secret, as she immediately returned from the great tomb right after I used [Ethereal] to destroy the apocalyptic monster.

And yet, her recognition of the Apocalypse paled in comparison to everyone else.

Tch---

Gu Qing Shan suddenly clenched his fist and struck from afar.

This strike came without any warnings, so even if Shan Hai Qi Xia saw and wanted to stop it, it was already too late---

This strike was [Ethereal – Grand Mountain]

In an instant, her mind went completely blank, unable to move.

Gu Qing Shan stood up and pressed his hand against her smooth forehead.

[Soul Reading], activate!

With his current cultivation at Sumeru Lord realm, using a technique like [Soul Reading] was as easy as turning his hand.

Shan Hai Qi Xia's thoughts were shattered by [Grand Mountain], so she couldn't even recognize what he was doing.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan finished his investigation, returned, and sat down on his chair again.

Shan Hai Qi Xia was still stunned.

Time slowly passed.

Ten breaths' worth of time was finally over, Shan Hai Qi Xia's irises regained their clarity.

She was no longer kneeling on one knee, instead slowly stood up, her expression displayed a sense of anxiety and caution.

"Your grace, just now you——"

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively, then said after some consideration: "First of all, I need you to understand something. I'm on your side"

Shan Hai Qi Xia looked at him, then smiled: "What are you saying, your grace? We both spent so much effort to escape the great tomb and reincarnate into the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, and I was originally your grace's wife"

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then told her straight: "Shan Hai Qi Xia, I know that you used some sort of method to kill the monster that tried to substitute you, in reality, I've also gotten rid of the War Shaman"

Shan Hai Qi Xia was completely shaken, exclaiming: “That’s impossible!”

Chapter 1264

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand and gestured to her by pushing it down, saying: “Lower your voice”

—after all, this was still the officer’s residential ward, which meant it was best not to cause issues.

Shan Hai Qi Xia understood and lowered her voice, quickly speaking:

“That’s impossible. Who exactly are you? Regardless of who you are, you couldn’t possibly have killed the War Shaman”

She appeared completely at a loss, unable to even think of what she needed to do.

I’ve been seen through.

He knows what I did.

—-if the other party was the War Shaman, knowing that I killed his wife, he would definitely skin me alive and cut off my tendons, torturing me to his heart’s content before killing me.

With the War Shaman’s strength, I would be helpless to even resist.

But he claims not to be the War Shaman, but a mortal that killed the War Shaman—-

That’s even more impossible!

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then asked her in return: “Haven’t you also gotten rid of the monster that wanted to substitute you? Why could you do it, but I could not?”

Shan Hai Qi Xia stared straight at him, then decisively admitted: “Because when I did it, it took the joint effort of all humans from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, including my father paying the price of his life for a single chance to ambush the sneaky ambusher”

Gu Qing Shan had seen the entire process from her memory, so he praised: "I knew that you had been able to notice it early on. Unfortunately, these monsters were too powerful, otherwise, you wouldn't have had to pay such a heavy price"

Thousands of years ago, some top human Combatants began to notice the substitution, but as they couldn't possibly win by force, they had no choice but to silently remain patient, looking for the method to deal with the monsters wherever they could.

They failed many times.

Only this time, using the Causality restraints between a father and his daughter, paying the great price of Shan Hai Qi Xia father's life and soul, as well as other Tomb of Myriad Beasts Combatants from the previous generation, they managed to activate a series of Causality Skills to ultimately kill that monster.

Shan Hai Qi Xia's expression was very serious as she spoke in a solemn voice:

"I was the only person who successfully killed the substituted monster, in the Tomb of Myriad Beasts as a whole, the future of every human rests on my shoulder"

She stared closely at Gu Qing Shan and continued: "Please tell me, who exactly are you? And how did you kill that War Shaman?"

Gu Qing Shan sat still.

From the void of space behind him, two swords silently appeared, then disappeared again in an instant.

The twin swords Heaven and Earth.

Seeing these two swords, Shan Hai Qi Xia was stunned.

She appeared immersed in memory, muttering: "These swords... look very familiar..."

After a few moments, she recalled how a certain person managed to infiltrate her sect, wielding these two swords in their hands.

Shan Hai Qi Xia calmed herself down, asking in a low voice:

“The twin swords Heaven and Earth... are you Gu Qing Shan?”

“I am” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan once travelled through time, returning to the Age of Old to fight against the three Deities, eventually obtaining the twin swords Heaven and Earth for himself.

If it is him, there certainly is a chance of getting rid of the War Shaman.

But then—

Shan Hai Qi Xia raised her voice again: “What did you do to Li Qiu Shan? Is he hurt?”

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded, then replied with a gentle expression: “From the beginning, Li Qiu Shan had been me”

“You turned into Li Qiu Shan and entered our School of Shan Hai?”

“That’s right”

Gu Qing Shan thought a bit, then told her the entire story of how he saved the young master of the School of Fei Yu, then accidentally made his way to the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

Shan Hai Qi Xia asked with a strange expression: “In other words, you originally wanted to disguise as a Wraith realm person to infiltrate the Wraith realm?”

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “That’s right, who knew something like this would happen instead, this is a headache for me too”

“What do you intend to do now?” Shan Hai Qi Xia asked.

Gu Qing Shan slowly replied: “This great tomb is concerned with many things; its secrets run extremely deep. The people of the Wraith realm had also entered the tomb to try and obtain the Delimitation Artifact, so I naturally can’t just sit still and watch—— and also, like I just said, I’m on your side”

Shan Hai Qi Xia observed his eyes, then said: “I heard that cultivators respect going against the heavens, taking the wonders of heaven and earth for themselves to use. So in your eyes, those monsters should only be seeking to survive, you would not specifically take our side”

Gu Qing Shan chuckled: “You probably heard too much gossips about cultivators that you have the wrong impression of us”

“I’m all ears” Shan Hai Qi Xia replied.

Gu Qing Shan leaned on the back of his chair, telling her: “We cultivators are merely normal people like you; however, during the process of our cultivation and breakthroughs, the old man in heaven is always sending down lightning to strike us down, if we aren’t killed by lightning, other tribulations would follow to test us again and again—— we can’t just sit still and wait to be killed, so we retaliated. That’s what the so-called ‘going against the heavens’ actually is”

“I think that anyone else would go against the heavens as well if they were put in our case”

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: “You mean, you aren’t sympathetic to those monsters?”

Gu Qing Shan sighed and replied: “This is the age of the Apocalypse, everyone has the right to try and survive, but they originally could have done much better”

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Shan Hai Qi Xia was confused by his answer, muttering: “You’re saying——”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “They could have very easily told the truth, discussed it, then reach a consensus with your people”

Shan Hai Qi Xia solemnly replied: "Consensus? We would never have given our bodies to——"

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand to cut her off, then continued: "I'm not saying that you should have surrendered yourselves, but rather they could have used their power and inheritance as a bargaining chip, offering to help you become stronger, while you choose irredeemable criminals of your worlds for them to use as bodies"

"This way, they would have escaped from the apocalyptic seal, you would have received great knowledge inheritance while also punishing those criminals. This way, peace and order would have grown better over time, everyone would be happy, society would thrive, humans and monsters would live in harmony, joining hands against the Apocalypse—— but they didn't choose this option that would strike multiple birds with one arrow. Instead, they schemed and plotted, took advantage of your desires to grow stronger, used their inheritance as a tool to take over your bodies, that truly was—— how should I say this?"

Pondering for a bit, Gu Qing Shan commented: "Unreasonable, and looking down on people too much"

Shan Hai Qi Xia froze when she heard that.

Since when has this world been reasonable?

In this age of ravaging Apocalypses, who would waste the time to be reasonable?

She considered herself to have gone through much hardship and seen the harshness of the world, yet never predicted that Gu Qing Shan would answer like this.

However, on further thoughts, could any normal person have achieved any of the feats that this sword cultivator had been able to?

Perhaps, those with strength always have a different way of thinking compared to others.

If he agrees to help...

Shan Hai Qi Xia thought about it, then suddenly asked: "Sword Saint Gu, even after killing the War Shaman, you still hadn't left. Then, other than going against the Wraiths, what else do you intend to do?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I'll cross that bridge when I get there, just know that I'm not going to be your enemy"

Shan Hai Qi Xia immediately pursued that: "Then, are you truly on our side? If we fight against the monsters, if we are defeated by them, would you act for the sake of we humans from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts?"

Before even finishing her words, she had knelt down again— this time on both knees in front of Gu Qing Shan, clutching his hand with both of her hands: "I am the only person to have ever won against a monster, but the only thing I can do right now is to protect myself, unable to shelter anyone from the School"

"I can only watch as Chun Dao, Wang Shun, the entire Western Sea Grotto, the entirety of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts' humanity slowly descend into the abyss. The only future available to them is to be tossed into the Apocalypse by those monsters, then get their bodies taken over"

Two streams of tears silently flowed down Shan Hai Qi Xia's eyes; sniffing, she continued: "I have already done everything in my power, but one hand cannot make a clap, and I truly am helpless"

"Gu Qing Shan, you were able to kill the War Shaman. Surely, you have other ways to fight against these monsters, I beg you, please help me!"

Her beautiful facial features displayed a sense of lonely despair filled with a single last ray of hope.

She clutched Gu Qing Shan's hand tightly, waiting for an answer.

Gu Qing Shan watched her blankly, even forgetting what he was about to say.

That expression, how familiar it is, so familiar that it has been already carved into my heart.

In a blur, that hoarse voice seemed to resound by his ears from the depths of his memories—

...

"Is anyone there?"

"Is anyone there to take this sword?"

...

Before the Immortal King's death, his expression was filled with despair, his eyes shedding tears of blood as he swung the sword all around.

It wasn't just the Immortal King.

Every cultivator who laid down their lives on the battlefield, those previous comrades of his past...

At the very last moments of their lives, their expressions were all the exact same.

For countless years, now and before, humanity had never only just fought against the encroaching Apocalypse, but also the various schemes and plotting of powerful monsters.

During the Age of Old, the Soul Shrieker once took control of both the Divine race and the Desolate monsters, forcing humanity to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth for it.

And now, these tomb monsters were directly taking over the bodies of humans, using this to escape their own Apocalypses.

The survival of humanity was something they needn't worry about in the first place.

The history of humanity's existence had always been an elegy filled with tears of blood.

—-when exactly can this situation be changed?

These people, how can they ultimately be saved?

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan recalled a moment from the Age of Old, within the Desolate Cloud Heavenly Palace, when Xie Gu Hong took him in as his disciple, the words he said at the time:

...

"...a child like you is indeed rare. Today I will take you as my disciple, in hope that one day you will reach your Dao, to put all injustice down for Humanity"

...

Recalling that scene, from the void of space behind Gu Qing Shan, sword after sword silently appeared.

Chao Yin.

Six Paths Great Mountain.

Heaven.

Earth.

The four swords lightly hovered behind his back, all giving off a faint vibration.

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses, then turned to Shan Hai Qi Xia.

He looked straight into her eyes, lightly stating: “There are many injustices in this world; as sword cultivators when we see injustice, we quell them with our swords”

Chapter 1265

The room fell silent.

Shan Hai Qi Xia stared closely at Gu Qing Shan as if to discern the true intentions behind his words.

“Are you really willing to stand on our side?”

She couldn't help but ask again.

“That's an easy decision to make; after all, they almost killed me” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shan Hai Qi Xia recalled the hardship she had to go through to kill the monster, then couldn't help but ask: “We had to plan it for many years, procuring every secret technique we could find, and only then, were we finally able to kill that monster—— how did you kill the Shaman?”

Gu Qing Shan drew two circles in front of his chest with his finger, casually answering her: “I stabbed myself with my swords, so when it tried to replace me, it was immediately stabbed to death”

Shan Hai Qi Xia froze when hearing that.

It was—

So simple?

She grabbed Gu Qing Shan’s upper garb.

“Oi— what are you trying to do?” Gu Qing Shan held his garb back, questioning her in a stern voice.

Shan Hai Qi Xia said: “Your swords are the strongest Soul Artifacts of the Abyss— if you truly did use the Earth sword to stab yourself, the wound shouldn’t have healed yet. I need you to prove that you aren’t lying, only then can I trust you!”

Gu Qing Shan refused, keeping his hands on his clothes: “Be reasonable, you’re the one asking for my help, why are you trying to rip my garb open?”

Shan Hai Qi Xia insisted: “I can’t afford to be deceived, please give me a reason to trust you. As long as you let me rip it, I’ll listen to your every order in combat!”

“Don’t—”

A ‘ripppp’ sound was heard.

Gu Qing Shan’s upper garb was ripped by Shan Hai Qi Xia, revealing the bloodstains and wounds on his chest.

Shan Hai Qi Xia then took out a small purple bell, ringing it as she chanted: “With blood as mark, war time recollection!”

A bloody light appeared out of thin air, displaying the scene of Gu Qing Shan using the Earth sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword to stab himself.

This recollection disappeared very quickly.

Shan Hai Qi Xia observed it all from beginning to end, but was still confused and muttered to herself:

“It’s still bloody... as if when the wounds were about to close, they were violently opened up again”

She then thought of something.

When the apocalyptic monster attacked the School of Shan Hai, it was him who stepped forward to kill that monster.

And his injuries shouldn’t have healed yet at the time...

Shan Hai Qi Xia bit her lip, then lowered her head: “I’m sorry, from this moment onwards, I will no longer doubt you”

Gu Qing Shan had been through many things in life, but this was the very first time he had gotten his clothes ripped by a woman, so he really didn’t know what to say.

He observed the woman in front of him.

She was lowering her head; the corners of her eyes seemed a bit moist.

What the hell, you’re the one who ripped my clothes, why are you acting sad?

He couldn’t get angry at her, so he just shrugged, then changed into another set of clothing before telling her with an exhausted tone: “In reality, since we both know each other’s identities, that’s already

more than enough for mutual trust. After all, we aren't going to be revealing the other person to the monsters"

After entering this Apocalypse illusion, Li San Lang's appearance had been increased by several years, so he now looked to be around 19-20 years old.

———this was the minimum age for taking the post as a city gatekeeper.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then asked: "If you've already killed that monster, then what are you currently using as your form of combat?"

Having changed her attitude, Shan Hai Qi Xia answered him straight: "I obtained all of the monster's inheritance, but I can't exert the full power of the inheritance yet"

"Hm, as I thought, you're the same as I am" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He took out a piece of bone, flipping it back and forth in the air.

———this was one of the pieces of bone Zhao Qiong gave him before, which recorded many types of fist techniques.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Comprehending all fist techniques from this piece of bone will require 105,000 Soul Points in total, would you like to spend it?]

"Do it" Gu Qing Shan replied.

A warm flow emerged from the piece of bone and followed his hand into this body before settling into his Thought Sea.

[Ethereal] consisted of Divine Skills, so it required Soul Points to use. In the follow-up battles, Gu Qing Shan couldn't keep relying on it all the time, so he needed to learn some basic fist techniques.

Shan Hai Qi Xia asked: "Gu Qing Shan, what do we do now?"

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI.

A few lines of glowing text was resting at a corner of the War God UI:

[7 minutes until the arrival of the Apocalypse]

7 minutes left.

— but I don't even know what kind of Apocalypse this is supposed to be yet.

Gu Qing Shan stood up and said: "The Apocalypse is coming. We need to take a look at what kind of Apocalypse it is before we can what to do"

Shan Hai Qi Xia thought that to be reasonable, so she nodded in agreement.

The two of them left the room and walked along the path of the residential area to leave.

It was already quite late into the night, so cold wind and snowflakes were blowing against their faces.

Other than the night patrol officers and guards, there wasn't a single person to be found on the streets.

"Halt!"

Someone called out.

When they looked back, they found that it was a group of patrolling soldiers who came from the corner of the street.

“Madam Shan Hai Qi Xia, and also— guard Li Qiu Shan, it’s already so late into the night, where are you going?” the head patrol officer asked in surprise.

In a situation like this, Gu Qing Shan didn’t have the authority to answer.

Since Shan Hai Qi Xia was acting as the superior between them, she had to be the one to make the call.

“Be careful with your answer, remember, we can’t do anything that goes against our identities” Gu Qing Shan silently sent his voice?

Shan Hai Qi Xia understood.

In the middle of a cold winter night, where the sky was getting dark, what kind of excuse would best explain this situation?

Shan Hai Qi Xia held Gu Qing Shan’s hand, then answered: “You can’t tell? We’re going on a date”

The group of patrols were all stunned.

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That’s true.

Other than those in a romantic relationship, who would go outside in such cold weather?

Our army’s rose!

Why did she get together with this Li Qiu Shan?

While everyone’s hearts were shattered, Shan Hai Qi Xia had already pulled Gu Qing Shan to leave.

“Where are we heading?” Shan Hai Qi Xia asked.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit.

If this apocalyptic event is called ‘Fall of the capital city’, then——

“Let’s head to the city gates, in case that the Apocalypse begins in the middle of the city, we’d have ample time to deal with it!” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright”

“Conceal your presence, don’t let the monsters notice us, it’s not yet time to meet up with them”

“Understood”

The two of them quickly reached the city gates.

The notification changed on the War God UI:

[Time’s up, the Apocalypse had descended]

Descended?

Where?

Gu Qing Shan looked around.

In the snowy wind, other than the large metal city gates, there were only guards who were on shift.

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan looked up.

In the night sky, a gigantic object appeared.

It was a ship!

A large wooden cruise ship!

Even Gu Qing Shan's inner sight couldn't penetrate the invisible barrier around the ship.

Only the naked eye could observe that the deck of the ship was practically crawling with something blurry.

The falling ship seemed almost like an asteroid streaking towards the capital city.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The sound of the emergency bell rang from the top of the bell tower unceasingly.

Shan Hai Qi Xia's expression changed: "It's heading towards us!"

"It's ok, it should fall a few hundred meters outside the city" Gu Qing Shan calmly said.

He affixed the metal gauntlets on his fists one last time.

Shan Hai Qi Xia also held a small purple bell in her hand, silently waiting.

Thud!

The ship crashed into the ground several hundred meters outside the capital city, causing a thunderous commotion.

Sand and dust were kicked up by the impact drifting all over.

“Why a ship?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but mutter to himself.

Shan Hai Qi Xia told him: “Don’t let your guard down. We of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts have seen many Apocalypses, but those that can manifest specific solid objects had always been the troublesome kind”

She pulled Gu Qing Shan’s sleeve, telling him: “We should hide now”

“We won’t be able to” Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly.

Shan Hai Qi Xia was surprised.

Suddenly, a loud and clear military call was heard from atop the city wall.

A gathering call.

All officers and soldiers were to stop resting and immediately gather to receive their orders!

Gu Qing Shan and Shan Hai Qi Xia were both restrained by their identities as military personnel, so they must gather at the military call, unable to escape.

If they violated this rule, they would be considered to have done something unsuitable with their identities, then directly thrown into the Apocalypse.

A communication soldier hurriedly made his way from the gate to relay the orders to officers around the city.

As he saw Shan Hai Qi Xia, he immediately called out: "Vice-captain of the Mage corps, please report to headquarters!"

Shan Hai Qi Xia glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

"Our identities as military personnel are probably our greatest shortcomings" she told Gu Qing Shan through telepathy.

—military personnel must follow orders.

"This can't be helped. Just go ahead, we'll establish contact again later tonight" Gu Qing Shan sent his voice.

"Alright, take care of yourself then"

Shan Hai Qi Xia turned to leave.

At this point, the officer responsible for defending the gates also arrived.

The officer saw Gu Qing Shan standing there and said: "Follow me, we need a team of experts to scout out what's going on"

"Understood, sir" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He looked at the fallen ship.

A cluster of black fog had already begun to emanate from the vessel, completely covering the point of landing and continued to spread in all directions.

The officer walked ahead, picking out guards with ample combat experience to form a small squad of soldiers.

The officer's gaze scanned through the soldiers.

"I remember that Li Qiu Shan and Wang Xiao Yi have had experience as scouts, then the two of you shall scout ahead, we'll follow you behind. Everyone, forward!"

"Sir, yes sir!" everyone responded.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in his heart.

—following the order means having to scout; but not following the order means I'll be thrown into the very center of it all.

Scouting is the better choice.

He and another soldier exchanged glances, then started heading towards the direction of the fallen ship.

Very quickly, the thick black fog swallowed their figures.

Chapter 1266

In the frigid snowstorm, black fog disseminated without dissipating.

After running for a distance, Gu Qing Shan suddenly noticed something was not right and called out:
"Wang Xiao Yi?"

No answer.

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

—-Wang Xiao Yi was the name of the other scout.

After entering the black fog, he and Wang Xiao Yi briefly split up to widen the search distance, but they instantly lost sight of each other.

“Wang Xiao Yi?” he shouted again.

Still no answer.

In the borderless black fog, only the sound of howling cold wind could be heard.

Gu Qing Shan was a Sumeru Lord realm cultivator, his inner sight should be able to cover an area of several ten thousand miles, yet within this black fog, his inner sight could only observe a radius of 10 meters around himself, any further and he would be obstructed by the black fog.

Without any choices, Gu Qing Shan stopped.

The current situation was no longer suitable for him to enter the black fog any deeper.

Pondering briefly, he took off his metal gauntlets and replaced them with a pair of thin beast hide gloves.

—this was the pair of beast hide gloves that Banishing Sword Saint Wang Shun gave him, a birthday present for ‘Li Qiu Shan’.

This pair of beast hide gloves were able to reinforce itself with fire, so it was much stronger compared to the standard metal gauntlets.

After putting the beast hide gloves on, Gu Qing Shan wore the metal gauntlets over that to avoid being seen.

Since something had most likely happened to Wang Xiao Yi, the best thing to do now is to follow his direction and see what exactly happened to him.

Gu Qing Shan slowly retreated, soon returning to where they split up.

He recalled the situation at the time, then followed Wang Xiao Yi's direction and headed through the black fog.

After moving for around 200 meters, a tiny noise could be heard ahead.

A figure quickly emerged out of the frigid wind approaching Gu Qing Shan.

"Wang Xiao Yi, what's the situation?" Gu Qing Shan called out.

The figure stopped in front of him, sure enough, it was Wang Xiao Yi.

"Let's return, I discovered some valuable information, we need to report to the sergeant quickly!" Wang Xiao Yi said with a tense expression.

"Alright" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He turned around, quickly running ahead.

Wang Xiao Yi ran behind him, then suddenly grinned.

He took out a Blade and slashed towards Gu Qing Shan.

In an instant, Gu Qing Shan abruptly switched places with him.

The cold Blade cut through the air, hitting nothing.

Wang Xiao Yi felt his vision becoming blurred, Gu Qing Shan disappeared, then a scorching sensation on his back.

Bam!

Flames erupted.

Gu Qing Shan sent him flying with a single strike, bouncing several times on the ground before stopping a few dozen meters away.

“Ku... khuk...”

Wang Xiao Yi spat out some blood, his vision returning to normal.

“Hurry, hurry and save me, some sort of monster had attached itself to my body!” he shouted in horror.

Gu Qing Shan walked up to him and looked down.

“I’m here, don’t worry. I need to knock you unconscious before I can be assured and carry you back— is that fine?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Do it” Wang Xiao Yi answered right away.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and held his hand straight forward, lightly chopping down on the other party’s neck.

Wang Xiao Yi instantly fell unconscious.

Gu Qing Shan lightly sighed, then rolled Wang Xiao Yi around on his face.

He muttered: "There, in this case, I wouldn't be 'conducting myself in a way that goes against my identity under the surveillance of native living beings'"

Gu Qing Shan stepped on Wang Xiao Yi's head, ensuring that he could not see anything no matter what, then grabbed the Devil King Warden Rod from the void of space, plunging it into Wang Xiao Yi's body.

"AAAarrggg! Li Qiu Shan, what are you doing!?"

The intense pain caused Wang Xiao Yi to awaken, howling with a high-pitched scream.

Gu Qing Shan held the Devil King Warden Rod, but his expression became considerably more solemn.

—*—there isn't a soul inside Wang Xiao Yi's body.*

What exactly is manipulating Wang Xiao Yi's body?

"Who are you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Wang Xiao Yi paused.

He stopped his howling of pain, then spoke with a carefully examining voice: "An artifact of Huang Quan... so it was a mortal who obtained a Deific Authority of reincarnation, no wonder you discovered me"

Gu Qing Shan uttered in a low voice: "Where's Wang Xiao Yi? If you don't want to die, give me back his soul"

Wang Xiao Yi suddenly started laughing loudly and said: "Soul? His soul had already entered the tomb, there's no way to give it back to you even if I wanted to!"

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist.

Sparks of flames started to surround his fist, eventually forming a cluster of flame.

“I say it one last time, give me his soul, or I will kill you” Gu Qing Shan threatened.

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The other party only laughed for a few moments before suddenly speaking: “Mortal, the Deific Authority isn’t suitable for you. Once the tomb starts spreading again, I’ll be coming for you”

As he said that, Wang Xiao Yi laid still on the ground, no longer moving.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down and pressed his finger against his neck.

He’s dead.

The snowstorm around him began to pick up, but there weren’t any other changes in the black fog.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a while.

This monster isn’t a soul, otherwise, I wouldn’t have allowed it to escape with the Devil King Warden Rod in my hands.

In other words, this is a monster that can devour a living being’s soul and directly replace it in their bodies. But it definitely can’t devour a soul directly and must fulfil certain conditions first.

Otherwise, as soon as it saw me, it wouldn’t have tried to ambush me with a Blade and instead directly devoured my soul.

“No soul, this is going to be troublesome...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He picked Wang Xiao Yi’s body up and quickly returned.

After a few moments, he exited the black fog.

The squad of guards were still holding their positions, waiting for information.

On the other hand, some of the powerhouses from the country had also arrived.

The officer's expression changed as he saw Wang Xiao Yi's body:

"How did he die? What happened in there?"

Gu Qing Shan put Wang Xiao Yi's body down, saluted, then began to explain what occurred earlier.

When he finished, everyone fell silent.

A Combatant wearing a General-rank garb spoke up:

"Alright, this matter isn't something gatekeepers like you can deal with, return to protect the gate"

"Sir, yes sir!" the guards spoke up all at once.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the General.

——Gu Qing Shan could sense a familiar presence from the other body.

That child.

This would most likely be the appearance of that child whose soul was replaced.

I didn't expect him to be given the identity of someone in power.

Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of danger.

A second later, the General glanced knowingly at Gu Qing Shan, then suddenly spoke up:

“Li Qiu Shan, you’re a very bright young man, your improvisation skills are also decent. I ask, do you want to be promoted to gatekeeper vice-captain, or part of my personal guard?”

After declaring so, he spoke telepathically to Gu Qing Shan: “Shaman, became my personal guard, this way it would be easier for us to act together”

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then loudly responded: “General sir, I want to be a gatekeeper vice-captain!”

The General’s expression froze.

“What are you trying to do!?” he sent his voice.

“Nothing, that black fog is too dangerous, I’m not heading back in” Gu Qing Shan replied.

—-don’t be ridiculous, your identity is that of a General while I’m a soldier, whatever you order me to do, I would have to follow.

This is basically a position of a fish on a chopping board.

There’s no way I’ll fall for that.

The General went silent briefly.

In front of everyone, the General grinned and laughed: “A talented person like you wishes to continue being a gatekeeper? This old man thinks that’s highly ridiculous”

He turned to the captain of the gatekeepers, declaring: “From this moment, Li Qiu Shan will become part of my cavalry troops, do you have any objections?”

“Not at all” the gatekeeper captain naturally couldn’t object so he hurriedly agreed.

He smiled and patted Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder, telling him: “The General had taken quite an interest in you, make sure to do your job well, don’t ruin our reputation”

“Sir, yes sir” Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to reply this way.

As his superiors had given the orders, a gatekeeper soldier like him couldn’t possibly object.

Following his reply, a new series of glowing text quickly appeared on the War God UI:

[Your identity had changed]

[You are now a member of the General’s cavalry troops]

[During this Apocalypse, you cannot conduct yourself in a way that goes against your identity under the surveillance of native living beings. Otherwise, you will be thrown directly into the center of the Apocalypse to be eradicated]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the General.

The General looked back at him.

The weak cooperation between them was directly shattered within this Apocalypse.

“So you plan on having me die within this Apocalypse” Gu Qing Shan sent his voice in return.

“Shaman, take a look at yourself now, you can’t even stand up to reveal me in front of everyone, because if you do, you’ll be thrown into the depths of the Apocalypse”

The corner of the General’s mouth curled up, then continued: “This is a one-in-a-lifetime-chance, so there’s nothing for me to be worried about”

He swung the weapon in his hand loudly declaring: “Cavalry troops, forward!”

“Sir, yes sir!” all the troops responded.

Limited by his identity, Gu Qing Shan could only respond as well.

He didn’t even have a horse yet, having no choice but to temporarily remain at the edge of the formation.

The General then ordered:

“March forth! Enter the black fog, if you see any monsters, kill them on sight”

“Furthermore——”

The General’s gaze fell onto Gu Qing Shan and slowly continued:

“Without my orders, no one is to retreat”

“Violators shall be persecuted according to the military law!”

Chapter 1267

Black fog filled the wilderness.

The entire cavalry had formed a formation to charge forward.

Gu Qing Shan followed behind the cavalry unit, slowly running after them.

——this couldn’t be helped, he was a temporary addition to the troops, forced to enter combat without being granted proper equipment or even a horse.

Suddenly, the Earth sword spoke up:

「 Gu Qing Shan, maybe you should take this chance to leave the troops 」

Luo Bing Li also followed up: “We’ve clearly seen that this world’s rules solely focus on the identity of each individual”

Shannu followed up: “Earlier, you couldn’t go against military orders, but now that the General isn’t in the vicinity, and you’re currently at the back of the formation, you only need to run away. Your identity will become ‘deserter’, and you won’t have to die”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “Just as you’ve said, this world’s rules focus solely on individual identity. If I become a ‘deserter’, that would only make me fall lower in the world’s ranking, bringing me closer to danger”

“——that’s why I can’t become a ‘deserter’”

Luo Bing Li paused: “But then what do we do now? You can’t just go rushing to your death”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Even now, we still don’t know for sure what’s going on with the Apocalypse, so it’s a good idea to take a look first”

The cavalry troops moved extremely quickly, so during the time that Gu Qing Shan spoke with the three swords, the entire squad had already passed the point he investigated earlier.

After a few more dozen seconds of running, the area up ahead had become open, leaving the area of the black fog.

Gu Qing Shan was glad, jumped out from the back of the formation and landed ahead of them, observing their surroundings.

Only to find that it was a vast desolate field.

Tombstones lined up one after another, filling every inch of space upon this vast field.

The tombstones weren't all of the same shapes and sizes, some extremely tall, some very short, a particularly huge tombstone could be even higher compared to the capital city's bell tower, while some of the smaller ones were around the size of a human grave.

Past this vast field of tombstones, at the very end of their visions stood a gigantic ship.

Strange, the ship clearly landed near the main road just a bit away from the gate of the city, how did it turn its surroundings into a vast field of tombstones so quickly?

While Gu Qing Shan was feeling curious, he noticed that some of the dirt at the border of the graveyard began to loosen.

Skeletons began to crawl out from below.

They wielded tattered wooden shields and weapons as they slowly marched towards the cavalry forces one by one.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze became focused.

Skeletons...

Such low-ranking monsters are being pitted against a squad of well-armed cavalrymen?

At this point, the cavalry captain at the forefront of the formation turned around and looked at him.

He had no horse, nor weapon suitable for a cavalry unit, only a pair of gauntlets.

The cavalry captain said: "Then—— Li Qiu Shan, you don't need to charge forward, you don't even know how to ride a horse yet!"

"Ah, yes! Yes sir!" Gu Qing Shan hurriedly answered.

The other cavalrymen laughed amicably.

“Newcomer, go back to training first before you return to the battlefield!” someone called out.

“Silence!”

The cavalry captain silenced them all, then raised his voice: “Brace yourselves, alter formation, face the enemy!”

The cavalry squad changed from a defensive formation to an offensive one.

All their horses slowly accelerated, preparing to attack.

Gu Qing Shan looked ahead.

The cavalry all raised their long-handled weapons.

Closer, closer——

In just a few moments, the foremost cavalrymen had already sped up to their limits.

“Kill!”

The cavalrymen all uttered a battle cry.

Rumble rumble rumble rumble!

Within the dusty landscape, the cavalry clashed against the skeletons.

Like taking candy from a baby.

The skeletons were dismantled at once.

The few that managed to slip through their weapons were then knocked down by the horses, then crushed under them.

The cavalry captain laughed: “Ahahaha, feeble undead monsters. You dared take our charge head on, such foolish ignorance!”

The cavalymen all cheered.

Suddenly, a voice resounded from the depths of the tomb.

「 Early celebration is usually the sign of defeat 」

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed.

This voice was the same as the monster he faced before!

“Everyone be careful, that’s an especially powerful monster!” he loudly told everyone.

But it was already too late, as the voice resounded again:

「 Mortals, the sins you committed shall be returned to yourselves, while those you slay shall heed a new beginning 」

This sounded like an incantation of some sort, and before the cavalymen even managed to react, the situation had changed——

From the void of space, a wide waterfall of light manifested.

The cavalymen that attacked the skeletons were enveloped within this waterfall of light.

From inside the light, a voice called out:

“Brace yourselves, alter formation, face the enemy!”

Dozens of voices responded at once: “Kill!”

This was the cavalry troop’s command and battle cry earlier!

Instantly, several blurry figures appeared from the light, charging straight towards the cavalry.

Attack!

With the resounding sound of horse gallops, the figures approached them increasingly closer.

“That’s my shadow!” a soldier called out in shock.

“I can see myself, why is this happening!?” another soldier shouted.

“Don’t panic, prepare your defenses!” the cavalry captain loudly declared.

The cavalry hurriedly took their defensive formation.

But it was useless—

The blurred shadows created from the light charged forward without being obstructed, piercing through all of their bodies.

Death!!!

Blood spilled into the air, severed arms and legs flew all over.

The entire cavalry troops were completely destroyed by this attack.

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—just as the skeletons had been earlier.

Rumble rumble rumble rumble!

Strong wind began to pick up, howling with the surrounding snow!

All living creatures were completely dismantled by the light, turning into blood and bones, scattering in all directions.

While the crushed skeletons once again reformed their bodies and became animated.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes wide, observing this unbelievable scene.

Suddenly, a flash of red flew towards Gu Qing Shan, leaving a blood mark on his face.

Gu Qing Shan didn't avoid this.

—it was the blood from one of the cavalymen earlier.

Just a few moments ago, he was still a living, breathing person.

Regretfully, facing this eerie power, all of his efforts had shown themselves to be utterly futile.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then wiped the blood from his face and looked at it.

What kind of ability is this monster's attack supposed to be?

Could it be that anyone's attack would be reflected onto their own bodies?

How am I supposed to fight that!?

Suddenly, a pair of hands filled with spikes reached out from the void of space, clutching Gu Qing Shan's neck out of nowhere.

The monster spoke full of killing intent: 「 You again, mortal, this time I will—— 」

Its voice was suddenly cut off.

Gu Qing Shan was still being clutched, unable to move.

“Come on, kill me!”

He provoked the monster, then reached his gauntlet-protected hand out to snap a piece of spike from the monster's hand.

At the same time, another provocative sound resounded from the void of space.

Xiu! Wu wu!

The monster abruptly looked up, but the ‘wu wu’ sound had already disappeared, no matter what kind of clairvoyance it tried to use, it couldn't discover the other party.

A moment of silence.

From the void of space, a furious roar resounded:

「 Damn ability-stealing thing, you think you can deal with me like this!?! 」

It threw Gu Qing Shan away.

Gu Qing Shan flew several dozen meters before landing without issues.

He was about to say something else, when the pair of spiky hands turned in mid-air, waved them towards the tombstones.

「 Slumbering seeds under the ground, it is time for you to awaken 」 the monster recited with a highly raised voice.

Instantly, the entire vast graveyard began to move.

Even the largest tomb the size of a bell tower began to break in half.

Having seen this, Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything else and ran away.

The monster laughed in a low voice: 「 You won't escape, this entire world shall face the fate of destruction, let alone a mere mortal like yourself 」

Gu Qing Shan ignored that.

He was running as fast as he could back where he came.

Hurry!

I need to be quicker!

Even quicker!!!

The monsters are all about to be resurrected!

The Heaven sword appeared from behind him as Luo Bing Li asked him in complete disbelief: “Gu Qing Shan, you’re already running away before any reasonable amount of fighting?”

“That’s not it, just that before I act, I feel like——”

Gu Qing Shan’s voice turned cold: “Someone should pay the price for the deaths of these cavalymen”

He activated [Ground Shrink] again and again while also flying forward at full speed to reach the border of the black fog.

“Shannu!” Gu Qing Shan called out.

“I’m here, gongzi” an autumn water-clear blue steel sword appeared from the void of space, turning into an aloof girl.

Gu Qing Shan threw the spike to her and said: “Provoke him!”

“Understood!” Shannu held the monster’s spike and solemnly answered.

She then used [Mystery of All Beings Equal] and transformed into a vicious terrible monster.

Gu Qing Shan used the remaining blood on his face to also use [Mystery of All Beings Equal] and turned into a cavalryman.

He rushed forward again, traversing the distance of a thousand meters in a few seconds.

He left the black fog.

Three rolls.

Two rolls.

Stop!

Gu Qing Shan sat crouched on the ground, spat up some blood, then shouted in utter panic: “General! General sir!!”

Everyone was still waiting in place, but heard the resounding voices from earlier.

While they were still unsure of what happened, this wounded cavalryman had already returned.

The General scowled and shouted: “What happened? What happened there?”

Gu Qing Shan cried out: “Everyone was killed, that monster was too powerful! It was too powerful! It said that if we’re so weak; if even our leader doesn’t have the courage to enter the black fog to fight it, then we should just surrender and become its slaves, this way we can at least survive!”

Complete silence.

The General took a deep breath, trying to retain his calm.

I’m currently the General, I’m currently the General, I can’t do anything that violates my identity——

Two of my subordinates who violated their identities have already vanished.

The General recited this a few times, then suddenly laughed: “Such weak provocations, how could I be deceived——”

Suddenly, the monster’s voice resounded from the black fog, overpowering the General’s voice.

「 AAARRrgggh! Human leader! 」

「 I shall be waiting for you in the black fog. If you're nothing but an utter coward, then silently wait for the black fog to spread. At that time, the entire world shall fall by my hands! 」

Everyone was stunned.

That really was the monster's voice!

It had issued an official challenge to the human leader!

Everyone turned to General at once

At this point, the surviving cavalryman wiped his face, speaking in a grudgeful voice: "General sir, the brothers have all fallen, this subordinate begs you to avenge them!"

Avenge them...

The General was caught in everyone's gaze, standing still with his mouth half-opened, completely speechless.

If I still refuse to go in now...

Apparently... it would violate... the identity of the General...

He silently thought, then confirmed this answer.

Chapter 1268

The soldier was bloody all over, his head still bleeding as he sat crouched on the snow, clearly someone who had just desperately returned to deliver news.

The General was so mad that he was clenching his teeth, but in front of so many people, he couldn't do anything.

The good news is that the War Shaman is dead.

That was good news, but also bad news.

—if even the War Shaman had died in the black fog, why should I go face such an Apocalypse?

But if I don't go and violate my identity, I'm as good as dead.

How should I deal with the current situation?

Even if I am their leader, a leader who refuses to face the enemy even after being provoked is an unworthy leader.

Unless something unexpected happened...

Unexpected...

What kind of unexpected situation could occur at this point in time?

Do I say I have a stomachache?

—That will probably send me straight into the center of the Apocalypse by the rules of this world.

The General's gaze quickly scanned through everyone here.

All of these people are too weak, if my subordinates were here, I'd at least be able to attempt fighting...

While he was thinking, a bit of commotion could be heard at the gate of the city.

"General! General!"

Someone called out.

Everyone turned back, only to see a group of 20 well-armed soldiers being led by an officer towards them.

They quickly arrived in front of the General, saluted him, then loudly said: "General, please take us into combat with you!"

The General was surprised.

All of the War Shaman's subordinates within the Tomb of Myriad Beasts are here.

As well as a portion of my subordinates.

Everyone was caught in the Apocalypse and lost sight of one another, they hadn't reestablished contact yet.

They should have taken various different identities within the capital city——

They have no way to easily change their identities and become my subordinates again!

This was one of the most headache-inducing issues.

Who in the world managed to locate them all, then send them to me like this?

The General moved his gaze towards a certain officer.

This was also one of my subordinates, but after entering this world, he became a recruitment officer, simply responsible for hiring talented individuals for the military.

Hiring talented individuals?

The General finally realized.

So this one used the power of the military to locate everyone!

The recruiting officer loudly spoke: "General, you assigned me to recruit talented individuals among the populace, so I've found these Combatants who carried unique abilities. All of them are willing to follow your every order!"

The General turned to his subordinates.

The issue of identity——

Since this was official military recruitment, it was an official reason to change someone's identity.

The rules of the world would not affect this!

Regardless if they were the War Shaman's subordinates or my own, as long as they're soldiers, they will have to listen to my orders in war!

Otherwise, they'll be tossed directly into the Apocalypse!

What a well-executed move.

— who would have thought at this crucial point in time, one of my best subordinates managed to find and rally all of the War Shaman's subordinates here?

"Where are the rest of our people?" the General sent his voice to ask the recruitment officer.

"There wasn't enough time, I still haven't managed to find everyone. These are all the people I've managed to locate so far" the recruitment officer replied.

—that was true, with so little time to spare, the fact that he managed to find 20 people was already quite an achievement.

"Ahahaha, well done!"

The General laughed.

These are all ancient monsters with ample experience against the Apocalypse. Under my command, even against an Apocalypse illusion, they'd be able to fight just fine!

At this point, the soldier who managed to escape the black fog had been carried onto a stretcher.

He suddenly raised his fist up high and shouted: "Praise the great General!"

Everyone followed suit: "Praise the great General!"

"Praise the great General!"

"Praise the great General!"

The General nodded.

— — — *there's only one choice right now.*

Since I can't violate my identity, and now there are usable men under my command, there's nothing else to do but fight.

He patted the recruitment officer's shoulder and said: "You're an office worker, not a Combatant, there is no need for you to go out on the frontlines. You shall remain and continue searching for powerful people for this General!"

"Sir, yes sir!" the recruitment officer replied.

The General walked in front of the 20 men and shouted: "Come, accompany this General against that monster!"

"All other troops, remain and await your orders!"

At this point, he had realized something.

— — — he definitely cannot allow the people of this world to come with him.

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Because that would greatly hinder him in many ways, including in combat due to fear of exposing his identity.

"Sir, yes sir!" everyone loudly responded.

The General rode a horse in front, bringing 20 ancient monsters with him.

They quickly disappeared into the black fog.

Other than them, the others remained around the vicinity of the black fog, preparing to face the enemy.

Only Gu Qing Shan was being carried away on a stretcher by two soldiers through the city gates.

As they reached the front of the city gates, the recruitment officer from earlier rode a horse alongside them.

He had his horse matched the pace of the stretcher and asked Gu Qing Shan.

“How bad are your wounds?” he asked.

“I’ll survive” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The two of them nodded and said nothing else, instead started sending their voices.

“Our collaboration this time was quite decent—— I didn’t think you’d be able to force him into a corner so well, I almost couldn’t make it in time” the recruitment officer said.

Gu Qing Shan helplessly said: “He wanted to get rid of me first—— I’ll be honest, originally I wanted to observe a bit before deciding on a game plan, but now I can see that these monsters had better be eliminated as soon as possible”

The recruitment officer nodded: “I’m of the same mind. Since the Apocalypse is already here, might as well let them throw their lives into it”

The two of them remained silent for a bit.

Apocalypse vs monsters.

It didn’t matter which of these sides were eradicated.

And it was a good opportunity to see what kind of Apocalypse they were fighting against.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Other than you, where is another 'other me'?"

The recruitment officer replied: "We didn't just kill this recruitment officer, but another monster as well. He had already taken that monster's form to investigate, when necessary, he'll act as a hidden blade or something"

"Ah... then... there's nothing to worry about right now..."

Gu Qing Shan calmed down, then muttered: "Collaborating with 'myself', this is quite a nice feeling"

The recruitment officer replied: "Hm, I didn't think I'd run into another of 'myself' here either—— it's mostly that this tomb is too miraculous, allowing people from numerous Space-Time to appear at once. I assume that quite a few parallel world Combatants are all searching for the secrets of the great tomb's deepest chamber"

"When the Tomb of Myriad Beasts fused 99% of the fragments, this great tomb appeared. Say, what kind of other things do you think would emerge if other Samsara fragments were also fused?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"That's tough to say, I'm also pondering this matter..."

...

While chatting, time passed quickly.

After entering the city, Gu Qing Shan was brought to a rehabilitation ward.

After a priest whose expertise was in healing arrived, Gu Qing Shan's flesh wounds were all healed up.

"After this illusion is over, you two will most likely be teleported back to where you previously were, while I would remain on top of the Wraith's corpse" Gu Qing Shan said.

“You’re really riding its body inside?” the recruitment officer was shocked, “But it’s a living monster”

Knock knock knock!

A sound of knocking.

“It’s me”

Shan Hai Qi Xia could be heard from the other side of the door.

The recruitment officer grabbed a sword from the void of space and looked at Gu Qing Shan.

“An ally” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He then opened the door.

Shan Hai Qi Xia walked in, then was shocked to see the recruitment officer.

Subconsciously, she had already wielded the purple bell in her hand and quickly said: “Gu Qing Shan, he’s a subordinate of the Beast King God——”

“He’s not, relax, let me introduce you two, this is me” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Nice to meet you, I’m Gu Qing Shan” the recruitment officer slightly smiled.

The recruitment officer’s outer appearance slowly changed, turning into another Gu Qing Shan.

Compared to the regular Gu Qing Shan, he was basically the exact same, but from his physique, there was a bit of belly fat.

Gu Qing Shan also noticed this and appeared confused.

“Hey, what’s up with your stomach?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ appeared troubled and replied: “It’s because of my [Order], the one I’m carrying is [Worlds Apocalypse Online – NEET¹]”

“N—NEET?” Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows.

“Yup, other than when I’m cultivating, I have to be a NEET every moment of the day in order to grow stronger”

That ‘Gu Qing Shan’ put a hand on his belly and muttered: “Staying in one place for too long and eating too much eventually led to this”

Chapter 1269

[Worlds Apocalypse Online – NEET]?

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

He muttered in confusion: “But, why is it called [NEET]? I really don’t understand, why would the Awaitings create this kind of [Order]?”

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ replied: “Ah, don’t think too much about it. Actually, this [Order]’s original intent was to protect those with potential, preventing them from dying prematurely within the rampaging Apocalypses”

“But then... the more the Awaitings finished this [Order], the more potential they felt from it, so they slowly became serious about it, and eventually turned it into this state— excuse me, but I need to go to sleep for a bit”

As he said that, he swiftly took out a futon mattress, laid on it, and covered himself with the blanket.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

Shan Hai Qi Xia: "..."

Gu Qing Shan said: "Oi, don't sleep just yet——"

He sent his voice to ask: "Earlier, you used [Mystery of All Beings Equal], and the other 'me' seems to also know this technique, so have both of you met the giant corpse?"

"Yeah, we did meet it. I still can't imagine what kind of entity it is—— and I actually have a few questions too"

The NEET Gu Qing Shan appeared intrigued and asked: "What kind of [Order] are you carrying?"

When Gu Qing Shan was just about to answer, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[You cannot tell him]

[You and I spent great efforts during the Age of Old to return to your past, thus creating a perfect closed loop that prevents all entities from probing our backgrounds]

[Although the other party is another 'you', and there is very small chance for this secret to reveal itself, you must still maintain absolute precaution and not expose any hints of the secret]

Gu Qing Shan silently said in his mind: "But 'myself' would definitely not reveal something like this"

The War God UI replied: [Within the infinite worlds, there are always abilities that you do not know about, and even the slightest mention is a risk of an unnecessary leak of information]

That's true.

Seeing how careful the War God UI was, Gu Qing Shan also stayed cautious.

"I also carry an [Order], called [Human Regiment]" Gu Qing Shan replied.

“So it’s a large-scale combative [Order], huh?” NEET Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That’s right”

“Hah, how envious. You can simply fight whenever and wherever you wish, but I have no choice but to remain a NEET in order to grow stronger”

“As a NEET, what kind of thing do you actually need to do?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Ah, since I just participated in a battle just now, let me see...”

NEET Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze to the void of space and muttered: “To better obtain power, my current objectives are——”

“After a short nap, read 20 minutes of manga, eat a bowl of instant noodles, drink 2 beers, ah, and also complete my game dailies. Not too difficult, but takes quite a bit of time... seems like I’ll have to seize my time”

He closed his eyes and instantly fell asleep.

The sound of snoring could quickly be heard.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

Shan Hai Qi Xia: “...”

“Gu Qing Shan, could someone like this, truly be you?” Shan Hai Qi Xia couldn’t help but ask.

“Of course, to be able to fall asleep so quickly, he had clearly been through relatively strict training. Many people aren’t able to achieve the same thing he does” Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms and told her with an affirmative tone.

“Right, what did you do when you left the city earlier?” Shan Hai Qi Xia asked.

Gu Qing Shan explained everything to her, making a point to emphasize the tombstones and the monster's Causality Skill.

Shan Hai Qi Xia scowled: "Oh no, so it was an Apocalypse of this rank, then we're in trouble"

"What do you mean by rank?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: "Our Tomb of Myriad Beasts had always been fighting against the Apocalypse, so as the upholding pillars of the entire world, our group had devised a categorization of Apocalypses in accordance to how much threat they pose—— I assume that your 900 million World Layers would also have a corresponding categorization of Apocalypses"

"No, our 900 million World Layers does not have a way to categorize Apocalypses at all" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shan Hai Qi Xia was shocked: "How is that possible? Do you not have a Spatial Grandmaster?"

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Gu Qing Shan replied: "We've been dealing with an [Order] that went out of control, followed by the threat of [Chaos], so we haven't been able to pay too much attention to Apocalypses"

"So there haven't been any Apocalypses that ravaged your world? No, that can't be right, we've been able to observe quite a few of them" Shan Hai Qi Xia asked.

"We indeed had to face quite a few, but for the longest time, we've had to deal with too many issues, the Apocalypse is only one of them" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

——during this period of time, the Spire that represented both history and knowledge had already been destroyed, so the 900 million World Layers didn't have the same level of understanding and research as the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, nor did it had any documents like the bone pieces that recorded as well as analyzed Apocalypses...

"Wait a moment, what did you mean by Spatial Grandmaster?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: “An individual with precise and powerful control of Space, capable of traversing from world to world, recording the uniqueness and power of each Apocalypse, while not being afraid of mundane Apocalypses, thus able to research them”

Gu Qing Shan froze briefly.

—-an individual with precise and powerful control of Space?

There is one.

But she’s already gotten addicted to going shopping and cuisine, too lazy to even write new chapters for her novel most of the time, so there’s no way anyone can trust her to have enough interest to make a categorization of Apocalypses...

The fact that categorization of Apocalypses could be done also means that they have a very deep understanding of Apocalypses.

This is something that must be done!

Ever since the great tomb appeared, the Tomb of Myriad Beasts had been continuously fighting against the Apocalypses without stopping, so they could certainly be considered experts more than anyone else.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan immediately clasped his fist to Shan Hai Qi Xia and said: “I still haven’t learnt any knowledge about Apocalypses in the Study Lodge. I’d like you to inform me of how the Tomb of Myriad Beasts had been categorizing Apocalypses up to this point, I’d be eternally grateful”

Seeing how solemn he was about it, Shan Hai Qi Xia sincerely replied: “After studying the Apocalypses for so many years, our Tomb of Myriad Beasts had divided the Apocalypses into 4 ranks. To avoid mass panic and confusion, we’ve put the two latter ranks among the secrets that only high-leveled combative personnel are allowed to research and access”

“These 4 ranks are, respectively: Sealed rank, Unsolvable rank, Unlivable rank, and Unfathomable rank”

“I’d like to know more” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Sealed rank, are Apocalypses that can be fought against and eradicated with the power of living beings. Or in the case that we cannot destroy it, we would still have a way to seal and ensure that it could not exert its power nor destroy any worlds”

“Unsolvable rank, are Apocalypses that we simply cannot seal away or eradicate. In reality, the Vengeful Spirit Apocalypse that appeared not too long ago was an Unsolvable rank Apocalypse; the stronger someone was, the easier they would die from it”

“Furthermore, whenever an Apocalypse of this rank manifests, the lives of living beings are like pieces of driftwood in a tsunami; there exists no means of retaliating against or resolving these Apocalypses. The only thing living beings can do is to find the smallest hope of survival within the infinite possibilities of death”

“The third rank is called Unlivable rank. Once an Apocalypse of this rank appears, there would surely be no survivors— as no one had ever been able to survive an Apocalypse of this level, the information we have about it are extremely sparse”

“You mean, there’s not even a single bit of information?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That’s not the case. Whenever an Apocalypse of this rank appears, it would systematically destroy many worlds at once, sometimes up to a billion worlds. During the few times they had appeared in history, our Tomb of Myriad Beasts had managed to observe and secretly record them— — — each of which were scenes of unimaginable horror”

“The final rank is known as ‘Unfathomable’, we’ve only ever recorded one such Apocalypse ever before. It was said that it appeared outside of the void, not within the Reality Gate, but I don’t know for sure what it was like. The reason for this was because our strongest ‘inheritor’ once managed to use a unique Causality Skill to observe it a single time, after which he lost this life; however, before he was completely dead, he managed to tell us through mouthing that above the rank of ‘Unlivable’, there was still the rank of ‘Unfathomable’”

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to her, then nodded: “It was truly eye-opening, our 900 million World Layers will be able to continue using your categorization from now on”

Shan Hai Qi Xia felt a bit triumphant, then asked: “Earlier, during your conversations, you mentioned a certain term, ‘Awaitings’, what kind of entities are they?”

“They are boundlessly powerful entities that took refuge behind the Reality Gate. As a way of fighting against the Apocalypse, they created [Order] and [Chaos]” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Shan Hai Qi Xia went speechless.

She also knew about the existence of [Order] and [Chaos], but never how someone could have created such things.

Right at this time, the sound of rumbling echoed from outside.

The ground itself was trembling.

The 'Gu Qing Shan' on the bed, waved his hand to arrange several layers of soundproof formations before going back to sleep.

Gu Qing Shan didn't take too much notice of his NEET 'self' and walked up to the window, opening it to look outside.

Only to see the black fog boiling intensely just outside the city gates.

The sound of several unrivaled powers clashing against one another caused thunderous resounding echoes.

Storm-level shockwaves spread into the surroundings, kicking the ceilings of several structures away.

Several people who were just walking on the streets were also blown into the air.

"Such power... that truly is..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Suddenly, a streak of light flew across the sky, approaching him from the horizon.

The sword stopped perfectly right in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Shannu's excited voice came from the sword:

“Gongzi, they’re fighting!”

Chapter 1270

The sound of explosions continuously resounded throughout heaven and earth.

The strong howling wind did not stop for even a second.

Even with the obscuring black fog, the residual power of the battle still continuously spread in every direction causing everyone’s hearts to quicken.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Shan Hai Qi Xia and asked: “What kind of Apocalypse is this?”

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: “According to your description, it should be Unlivable rank, but in consideration of this being just an illusion, both its power and destructiveness should have greatly decreased, so I assume that it should be the second level, Unsolvable rank”

“Unsolvable rank...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Unsolvable.

Humanity is helpless to fight it.

The only solution is to try and search for even the smallest hope of survival.

Shan Hai Qi Xia glanced at him, then said: “Fortunately, you managed to deceive the Beast King God into entering that black fog— it had witnessed even more Apocalypses compared to our Tomb of Myriad Beasts, so it and its subordinates should be able to hold off an Unsolvable Apocalypse and buy us quite a bit of time”

“However, I’m concerned about whether they’re stronger, or this Unsolvable Apocalypse is stronger”

Just as Gu Qing Shan said this, he fell silent.

A crimson shade of light gradually manifested from within the depths of the black fog.

Crimson, orange, light red, hazy yellow, bright yellow—— the colors grew increasingly intense until it eventually pierced through the black fog altogether.

A sharp howl resounded from deep within the black fog:

『 All shall fade within the flames of destruction! 』

In the snowy wind, countless balls of fire shot through the black fog in every direction.

A rain of flames.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze became focused.

He could sense individual malice emanating from each of these balls of fire.

The Beast King God's side would surely fight the Apocalypse for their own self-defense, but they would definitely not worry about the protection of this city.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to quickly observe the entire city.

Although the sound of alarms had been constantly ringing, it was currently in the middle of the night, and the entire city couldn't possibly mount an effective line of defense in such a short time.

Boom!

A ball of fire landed in the middle of the city's main street, forming a deep crater as it did.

Very quickly, a crimson monster climbed out from inside.

It was made from mixed masses of bones, a scorching crimson flame emanating from its body, every step it took left a mark of molten lava on the ground.

Such monsters began to fill the entire city.

Standing at the window, Shan Hai Qi Xia observed her surroundings and said:

“How troublesome, a fire-type attack. The city might have already been plunged into a sea of flames before it could react”

“That’s true. Most of the Professionals in this world are traditional knights and mages, it would most likely require quite a bit of time for them to organize proper defenses”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan took off the pair of metal gauntlets on his hands to reveal the beast hide gloves beneath.

“Ah? Isn’t this flame beast hide? From Wang Shun?” Shan Hai Qi Xia asked.

“Hm, it was his present— — but the current situation isn’t suitable for these gloves” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He took off the beast hide gloves, carefully put them away, then donned the metal gauntlets again.

Seeing that, Shan Hai Qi Xia took out the purple bell and said: “I’ll join you in battle”

“You don’t need to act in this minor incident”

“You’re— planning on fighting against all these monsters by yourself?”

Gu Qing Shan warmed himself up a bit and replied: “It’s been a long time since I got to exercise. I recall that there was a set of Elemental Frost fist techniques in the School”

“Did Zhao Qiong let you see them? Although Elemental fist techniques are rare, the Elemental Frost technique in our School was merely at the elementary level, it’s not particularly powerful” Shan Hai Qi Xia replied.

“I don’t agree with that”

Gu Qing Shan jumped out from the window and flew straight towards the monster.

The monster instantly noticed him, abruptly looked up, and spat out a cluster of flames.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand and casually threw a punch.

The frosty white air clashed against the flames, immediately overpowering it, and enveloped the monster.

In an instant, the monster was covered in a layer of frost, completely frozen in place.

Gu Qing Shan lightly landed and flicked the monster’s body with his finger.

Cracks began to spread all over the monster’s body.

Cr-rak.

Crack.

Clak clak———

The monster’s body crumbled to dust, leaving only some faint white frost where it used to be, exuding frigid air.

Shan Hai Qi Xia landed next to Gu Qing Shan.

“No, I know this fist technique very well, it shouldn’t have such power at all... this doesn’t make sense”
Shan Hai Qi Xia watched the monster’s remains and muttered.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “Someone once taught me a martial scripture, saying that as long as I recite, or even silently recount it in my mind, I’d gain much improvements on martial arts. At first, I didn’t really trust that too much, but now...”

“Hey——”

A voice called from above.

The two of them looked up.

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Only to see that NEET Gu Qing Shan had awakened.

He was holding a toothbrush in one hand and a cup of water in the other, a towel could still be seen hanging from his shoulder as he peeked out from the window.

He pointed at the rain of flames and asked: “With so many monsters, killing a single one is useless, do you have any other means?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I do, but...”

Shan Hai Qi Xia asked: “Aren’t you going to participate in battle as well?”

NEET Gu Qing Shan appeared helpless, then explained: “I’ve only just woken up and haven’t brushed my teeth yet. I still have to read a manga as well, there’s a very strict rule with my [Order]—— unless other people absolutely cannot resolve the issue, as a NEET, I can’t go acting like a savior”

“Then, how do you normally fight?” Gu Qing Shan asked in confusion.

NEET Gu Qing Shan replied in a mutter: "Silently"

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

Shan Hai Qi Xia: "..."

"Alright, just continue resting then. Just act when it's really crucial" Gu Qing Shan told him, feeling a bit of a headache, "Leave the current situation to me"

A black fog began to emanate from his body, his eyes also turned into a pair of vertical irises.

The form of a black dragon gradually became clear.

Intense wind howled.

A large dragon of darkness took to the sky, flying above the entire city.

Having consumed the power of three dragons, Gu Qing Shan's strength had already surpassed the majority of heroes within the infinite worlds!

Unless it was against an Apocalypse or the ancient monsters who survived within the great tomb, normal people weren't usually his match.

Not to mention, he still had the ability to turn into a dragon.

Roar!!!

The black dragon of darkness uttered a resounding roar, its claws gradually clad in a frigid aura.

Following the dragon's aerial circulation, the frigid aura spread in the air, turning into a layer of encircling blue ice crystals.

Bam bam bam bam bam!

The balls of fire that flew out from the black fog descended upon the blue ice crystals like asteroids, only to be abruptly frozen before dropping from the sky as broken pieces of bone.

Not a single ball of fire managed to go through the frosty barrier to enter the city intact!

Gu Qing Shan who had now taken his black dragon form casually circled around in the air, spreading frost to improve the power of the barrier.

This way, the few monsters that managed to enter the city received no reinforcements and were swiftly dispatched by the Professionists within the city.

"A dragon!"

"A legendary dragon!"

"A dragon had arrived to help us against the monsters!"

The Professionists cheered.

Shan Hai Qi Xia stood on the street of the city, feeling shaken.

"So he was able to take the form of such a powerful dragon, no wonder the three Deities in the Age of Old were no match for him" she muttered.

NEET Gu Qing Shan stood by the window sill, holding a manga in his hand.

While reading the manga, he looked at the giant creature in the sky and muttered:

“Ah... so ‘I’ can turn into a dragon? Tsk tsk tsk, a real dragon looks even more impressive compared to the manga...”

“Alright, this way I can be assured and continue being a NEET...”

There were two bottles of chilled beer and a cup of instant noodles right next to the window sill where he sat.

— from a certain point of view, this was a different kind of battle.

— the necessary NEET life for the sake of becoming stronger!

As time went by, no more balls of fire shot out from the black fog.

— apparently, the other party had realized that the plan to destroy the city had failed.

Suddenly, a malicious voice resounded from inside the black fog:

「 Dragon! I suggest you do not interfere where you are not needed unless you wish to fall to destruction following this world 」

Hearing this, Gu Qing Shan became focused.

This seems to be the guy who utilized the power of Causality earlier...

How strange, why is it working for the Apocalypse?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan loudly questioned: 「 Who are you? Anonymous bastard who conceals himself, someone without even a name doesn’t deserve to talk to this great one! 」

The black fog remained silent for a while.

The voice finally spoke up again: 「 I am the Lord of billions of worlds in the void, the Judge of Living Beings' Fate! Dragon, you have one last chance to retreat, or I shall have you endure the fate of eternal suffering! 」

Gu Qing Shan was shaken.

I was still wondering where I'm supposed to find this monster.

So this was the Judge of Living Beings' Fate!

This monster is a target that I must kill, but why did it appear in an Apocalypse illusion?

This Apocalypse is supposed to be an Apocalypse from the previous era!

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Attention!]

[You need to eliminate five void monsters in order to unlock the unique 'War God' Title: Void War God]

[The first void monster: Judge of Living Beings' Fate had appeared]

[With your power— or rather, the power of living beings in general, it is next to impossible to defeat the Judge of Living Beings' Fate]

[Countless years ago, when the great tomb manifested itself, this monster was greatly injured by the Apocalypse during its exploration of the tomb, leaving it on its last breath]

[That is why there is a chance— and now, you've encountered this monster where it was defeated in the past]

[This will be your only chance to obtain the 'Void War God' Title!]

Chapter 1271

Gu Qing Shan was circling around in the sky as a black dragon.

He no longer paid any heed to the monster's faraway shouting, instead opted to silently wait.

"Finished?" he asked with his inner sight.

“I’ll be done soon, don’t urge me”

NEET Gu Qing Shan answered as he slurped his noodles.

After eating, he picked up his beer and chugged it down.

“Such wonderful flavor, definitely worthy of protecting...” NEET Gu Qing Shan praised.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t really urge him any further, so he said: “I need to kill that monster. This is very important to me, so please hurry up as soon as you can”

NEET Gu Qing Shan finished his beer, than wiped his mouth:

“Done, you can go”

Saying so, he took out his personal Holo-brain and turned a game on.

Game music began to play.

NEET Gu Qing Shan began to change the game’s setting in accordance to his own preference.

Seeing him like this, Gu Qing Shan was still unassured and asked: “Hey, are you really going to be fine like this?”

“Sleeping, eating noodles, and drinking beer are things that I have to finish no matter what, but the game is selective, so I can pause at any time” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

From the black fog, the Judge of Living Beings’ Fate ordered:

「 Sea Armor Kaess who feeds on dragons, your opponent is a dragon. Go, kill it, consume it! 」

『 It is... my... pleasure 』

A low resounding voice replied.

Dong!

Dong!

Dong!

The ground trembled.

It was as if something gigantic was moving step by step out from the black fog.

At the same time, NEET Gu Qing Shan said: “To let you feel assured doing what you need to do——”

He pointed his finger outside the window.

A code sword qi shot out from the window, cut open the void, and displayed the chaotic scene outside this world for all to see.

The sword continued flying through the sky and entered the depths of the black fog.

A deafening howl then resounded.

Thud, thud!

Rumble!

Something had just fallen to the ground.

The black fog no longer surged, returning the world to silence.

Witnessing this sword strike, Gu Qing Shan finally felt relaxed and replied: "Very decent swordsmanship, then I'll be on my way!"

"Hm, go" NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan flew towards the black fog and soon disappeared from their sights.

"Look, that dragon is heading into the black fog!"

"It's going to fight against those monsters!"

"Ahaha, this dragon must be our world's guardian god!"

"The dragon race is truly powerful!"

Everyone cheered.

Meanwhile in the city, NEET Gu Qing Shan lowered his finger and continued with his game.

"Hey, you have nothing to do right now, and this game can be played with two people, want to join me?"

He asked Shan Hai Qi Xia.

"No, under the current situation, I'm in no mood to be playing such a thing" Shan Hai Qi Xia coldly replied.

—-he only needs to play, sleep, and eat, yet was able to grasp such powerful swordsmanship.

"This world really is unfair" Shan Hai Qi Xia subconsciously complained in irritation.

“Ah? Why is it unfair?” NEET Gu Qing Shan stared closely at the screen and casually asked.

Shan Hai Qi Xia turned her eyes, then suddenly said: “Your [Order] seems to be very powerful, can you have me carry it as well?”

NEET Gu Qing Shan appeared troubled and replied: “Ah, about that—— I’m afraid it might not want to attach to you”

Shan Hai Qi Xia was speechless.

“Why not? It is because I’m not lazy enough?” she asked.

“No, because only those with the most solid minds would not go insane after they carry it—— I’m sorry, I don’t want to praise myself, but it’s the truth” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shan Hai Qi Xia scoffed, wanting to say something else, but then went silent.

She silently watched NEET Gu Qing Shan’s back.

From behind, it was clear that NEET Gu Qing Shan was merely sitting there, calmly playing his game.

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But something feels off...

She suddenly took out her purple bell, raised it in her hand, and pointed it at NEET Gu Qing Shan.

Chink kaling-ling

The small purple bell suddenly rang by itself, letting out a clear chime before returning to silence.

A few moments later—

Chink kaling-ling

The purple bell rang again.

A few moments later.

Chink kaling-ling!

The purple bell rang again.

Shan Hai Qi Xia took a few steps back and asked with a pale expression: “What’s going on? Why did you already die three times in just a few moments?”

NEET Gu Qing Shan turned around in surprise at her: “Huh? Is that from the bell? So you already noticed”

At this point, the Holo-Brain let out some catchy electronic music.

“Wait a moment, I just passed the level” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

Right after that, the purple bell in Shan Hai Qi Xia’s hand rang again.

Four times!

In less than 10 minutes, he already died four times!

“What exactly is going on?” Shan Hai Qi Xia asked again.

“It’s nothing much. Whenever I finish a NEET mission, I’ll be sent by the [Order] into another Space-Time” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Another Space-Time?” Shan Hai Qi Xia asked in confusion.

“That’s right, the [Order] will choose an Apocalypse where I’ll lose my life even if I exert all of my powers, forcing me to fight in that environment until I die” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shan Hai Qi Xia was stunned, muttering: “That means, you’ve been continuously fighting within the Apocalypses?”

NEET Gu Qing Shan said: “It’s not much, after all, whenever I die, I’ll just return to reality”

Shan Hai Qi Xia shook her head again and again, still in disbelief: “Then, you aren’t actually as relaxed you appear, but rather earning opportunities to enter the Apocalypses during your every waking moment, then fight within that until death?”

“That’s normal. The persistence to continuously challenge yourself is only the most basic foundation of becoming stronger. There’s nothing in this reality that can simply wait until the next day for you do to it, if you need the strength to change something, then you must use everything you have to fight——”

“Every single moment of every single day”

NEET Gu Qing Shan calmly replied, then glanced at the Holo-Brain screen.

Music resounded.

A new game match had begun.

...

On the other side.

The black dragon's sky-eclipsing form entered the black fog, then instantly turned into an orange cat and flickered in the air, suddenly disappearing.

[Orange Sovereign] transformation, [Ghostly Shadow of Night] borrowing [Spotless Jade]—

Several abilities were used in tandem!

The orange cat swiftly landed on the ground and instantly began charging forward.

The power fluctuations from the battle were so obvious that they couldn't hide from its perception at all.

In the black fog, numerous monsters stood up from their tombstones, slowly making their way towards the city.

"Destroy... everything..."

They all muttered at the ends of their breaths.

The orange cat ran into these monsters, then continued past them, rapidly running in their direction.

At this point, he didn't care about these apocalyptic monsters.

—he wanted to find the Judge of Living Beings' Fate, then kill it!

The orange cat moved like a blurred shadow, moving through a large distance in a short period of time, leaving all the monsters behind him.

Suddenly, the sky ahead of him became clear!

The orange cat had made it through the black fog to reach the vast desolate field.

“Void monster, why are you working for the Apocalypse!”

The Beast King God’s roar wildly resounded.

The orange cat looked around.

The monster filled with brutal spikes were standing on top of a high tombstone——

It was the Judge of Living Beings’ Fate!

Across from it, the monsters of the great tomb were mostly defeated, quite a few of them already laying as motionless corpses on the ground.

The Beast King God stood in front of all the monsters, holding the Judge of Living Beings’ Fate off.

The orange cat raised his tail, silently moving into the center of the battle.

He climbed onto a tombstone, silently crouching behind the void monster, and waited.

——as soon as there was a chance, he would deliver the killing blow.

Chapter 1272

A humanoid monster whose entire body was covered in a grey carapace full of spikes stood on top of a tombstone, holding off against the attacks from Beast King God’s side.

——void monster: Judge of Living Beings’ Fate.

The orange cat sat crouched behind it, not in a hurry to attack, simply listening with interest.

After all, one side was a void monster while the other side was a group of monsters sealed within the great tomb, he'd surely be able to find out a few secrets while listening to their conversation.

The Beast King God's eyes flickered a bit, then said: "I know about all of you— when the great tomb revealed itself many years ago, I was able to sense powerful entities that came from the outside world, that was you"

"Unfortunately, you only saw the overflowing of precious treasures of the great tomb and not the great danger it hides!"

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate replied:

「 How would a bunch of sealed entities like yourselves possibly know our plight? 」

The Beast King God replied: "I'll be frank, the only reason this Apocalypse could even trap us at all is thanks to your power. As long as you're willing to disregard your hostility towards us, I can save you, or even take you on the search for those precious artifacts"

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate stood still for a while, then shook its head and said: 「 Too late, I've already been corroded by this Apocalypse for too long. In order to not thoroughly perish, I have chosen to become one with this Apocalypse 」

The orange opened its amber-like eyes wide open, silently crouching on the tombstone while falling into thought.

—so it turns out not all void monsters are floating along the Tomb River.

A powerful void monster like the Judge of Living Beings' Fate can also choose to fuse with the Apocalypse, becoming a part of it.

Then, what exactly is this Apocalypse?

This Apocalypse is merely an illusion, so how could it manage to force one of the most powerful void monsters, the Judge of Living Beings' Fate, to fuse with it?

Could it be...

The one who cornered it to such a degree was the Apocalypse's main body?

As the orange cat's eyes glowed, the Beast King God could clearly be seen trembling.

—it seemed to have also thought of something.

“So... you... actually manage to achieve that” the Beast King God spoke with a desperate dry tone.

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate swiftly took a step forward, its voice filled with killing intent: 「 Your deaths shall nurture the Apocalypse, and I am that Apocalypse 」

On the Beast King God's side, everyone couldn't help but retreat.

They couldn't be blamed, as this monster simply couldn't be defeated.

All of its attacks were Causality techniques, not only were they unavoidable, but they were also irresistible.

It was even able to borrow all the power of the Apocalypse.

A voice suddenly spoke up:

“Wait a minute, we truly have a method to separate you from this Apocalypse”

Everyone turned around.

He was a subordinate of the Beast King God, his figure was slender and solemn, most likely a previous bigshot from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

However, after his soul was substituted, the one who inhabited his body now was a monster from the great tomb.

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate seemed to have heard something extremely outlandish, as it looked up to the sky and laughed: 「 I am an undefeated sovereign of the void, other than the four Pillar Gods of the void and the Eternal Abyss, I would not even bother to give anyone else so much as a glance, but now even I am left with no choice but to fuse with the Apocalypse in order to survive 」

It abruptly looked at the group, boiling with overwhelming killing intent: 「 And yet insects like yourselves dare claim to be able to rescue ME? 」

The slender man calmly replied: “Perhaps we aren’t as powerful as you are, but we were born within the great tomb, so we naturally have a method to fight against the Apocalypse”

The void monster paused.

The Beast King God silently praised him, then instantly followed up: “That’s right, take a look at us. Although we were sealed inside the great tomb, we still managed to use the ‘Soul Substitution’ method in order to escape”

The Beast King God then spread both arms wide: “Come, join us, become my subordinate, I shall aid your escape from the Apocalypse”

「 ENOUGH! 」

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate uttered a resounding shout, cutting off the Beast King God's words.

It suddenly grinned: 「 I have fused myself with the Apocalypse and lived in this great tomb for over a hundred thousand years, did you really think I don't know what you actually are? 」

It moved forward step by step.

While the Beast King God's side retreated step by step.

“We are the Deities from the Samsara Beast King realm sealed away by the Apocalypse! We have the strength to fight the Apocalypse, as well as rescue you!” the Beast King God shouted.

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate shook its head: 「 No, the thing fighting the Apocalypse is the Samsara Delimitation Artifact, is it that sword! While you——- 」

Its tone suddenly became full sarcastic: 「 Ancient guardians of the Tomb Forests, they who disregarded their duties within the apocalyptic darkness, stole the inheritance from within the Tomb Forest, the only thing you have the courage to do was take over the bodies of some mortals—— and yet still have the gall to call yourselves Deities 」

「 If we Lords of the void were tomb robbers, then you would be the oath-breakers who stole what you had sworn to protect 」

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate spat out a few words in conclusion:

「 A crowd of garbage 」

At this point, there was no longer anything left to bargain or discuss.

The Beast King God furiously shouted: “Attack!”

Instantly, all of its subordinates unleashed their techniques.

But right before the Beast King God gave its order, the slender man had already acted first.

Both of his wrists were cut open by sharp air, each causing a small incision.

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He then crouched down, pressing both hands on the ground, and shouted:

“Switch!”

Oom——

Dirt and sand were kicked up in every direction, only to be blown away by the intense wind.

The area around the Beast King God became unclear and warped.

As if another world was about to descend upon this area!

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate was about to act, but stopped as it saw this and smirked: 「 An Asura Era of War technique? How interesting 」

It silently stopped to observe.

Within the descended illusion, numerous soldiers had completely surrounded the Beast King God's group.

The power and presence these soldiers gave off were not too much weaker compared to the Beast King God's side.

Very strangely, most of the soldiers seemed to be women of absolute beauty, the very few of them who were men had terrifying brutal visages and emanated presence enough to nearly rival the Beast King God himself.

At this time, the slender man's appearance slowly changed into Gu Qing Shan.

——another 'Gu Qing Shan'.

“All troops, charge!” he abruptly shouted

“Yes, your majesty!” the Asura all uttered a resounding shout in response.

Immediately, the Beast King God's group was surrounded by countless Asura.

Seeing the situation go south, the Beast King God loudly declared: “No—— you're Asura! I have your inheritance! We're actually your ancestors!”

“The inheritance came from the great tomb, not you. Furthermore, someone who fears battle can’t be considered an Asura— fight first, talk later” the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ replied.

Hoh—

The illusory world abruptly vanished together with everything else.

The field of tombstones returned to silence.

All the Asura, Beast King God, as well as ‘Gu Qing Shan’ were no longer here.

Only the Judge of Living Beings’ Fate stood alone in this vast graveyard.

The orange cat silently sat on top of a tombstone, focusing his gaze on him.

Then the Judge of Living Beings’ Fate started muttering: 「 Once this technique is over, that Asura King will return here— he isn’t an ancient tomb guardian, why did he suddenly attack? 」

「... Oh well, I shall wait for him to return 」

The Judge of Living Beings’ Fate stood still and silently waited.

After a long while.

The void of space silently warped.

Asura King Gu Qing Shan appeared from the void of space and landed.

He waved his hand towards the Judge of Living Beings’ Fate: “Hey, we meet again”

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate observed him, then muttered in a low voice: 「 Come, Law of the infinite worlds' recognition and living beings' admiration, heed my summon and converge from the void, let me witness the proof of your recognition! 」

A cluster of white fog appeared from above and entered its body before gradually disappearing.

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate closed its eyes for a few moments before muttering: 「 So you were the Deity of [Chaos] – Chaotic Lord of War, Proxy of the Asura King, Lone Wolf of Death, Slaughter God, the Renowned Savior of Worlds, Sheltered of the Inner Plane heroic spirits, Gu Qing Shan 」

“That is me” Asura King Gu Qing Shan nodded and said: “These tomb guardians were targets that I must kill no matter what. My apologies for getting you involved, I hope you can let it go”

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate replied: 「 I do not mind. In truth, as I am the embodiment of this Apocalypse and you are currently within it, I also must kill you no matter how, I hope you do not take it to heart 」

Asura King Gu Qing Shan glanced at him, then casually grabbed a sword from the void of space.

“I'm wondering” he lowered his head and pondered: “Why haven't you attacked yet?”

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate chuckled and asked: 「 Are you so impatiently looking forward to death? 」

“Of course not, it's merely a suggestion. After all, we don't have too much time to be wasting on this monster” Asura Gu Qing Shan said.

At the very next moment.

An orange cat appeared behind the Judge of Living Beings' Fate.

He leapt onto its shoulder.

A faint golden light mixed with a resounding silver glow overlapped, manifesting in the form of a coin, then followed the cat's paw into the Judge of Living Beings' Fate's body.

Earth God, [Earth's Prohibition]!

Chapter 1273

[Earth's Prohibition: An enemy you strike will have all of their supernatural abilities sealed away, 1 minute duration]

As soon as the orange cat used this technique, he also transformed back into Gu Qing Shan.

He then struck the monster using his metal gauntlets with all his strength.

Elemental Frost fist technique, [Frost Freeze]!

The frost spread from the gauntlet onto the monster's body with extreme speed, quickly forming a glittering block of ice.

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate was frozen within the ice crystal, just like an insect in amber.

It tried to struggle.

Bam!

Gu Qing Shan threw another punch towards the ice crystal.

[Ethereal – Grand Mountain]!

The Judge of Living Beings' Fate instantly became motionless.

In the next 10 breaths worth of time, it had no thoughts.

Asura Gu Qing Shan stood with his arms crossed on one side and asked: “This guy’s supernatural abilities, movements, and even thoughts have all been restrained, so why do I still feel like you’re still a bit nervous?”

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and replied: “Without being able to use my swords, I just feel a bit anxious”

Asura Gu Qing Shan thought briefly, then held his sword, asking: “You want me to do it?”

“No need”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan’s body became clad in a faint yellow glow.

Samsara derivative power!

He lightly threw a single punch towards the ice crystal.

[Ethereal – No Pardon]—

A fist technique to destroy everything!

Tangible or intangible, illusory or real, all things, all living beings, everything shall shatter in front of this punch and return to Primal Chaos.

The entire blue ice crystal shattered into glittering bits of ice, slowly scattering into the darkness like fireflies at night.

Within the ice crystal, the Judge of Living Beings' Fate stared intensely forward.

Its gaze was full of confusion but it seemed to have realized that death was approaching.

However, that didn't matter, as the power of the Earth God had stripped away all of its chance to retaliate.

It scattered with the ice, returned to Primal Chaos, no longer to be seen ever again.

"What excellent fist technique. I never thought I'd be able to wield power other than swordsmanship"
Asura Gu Qing Shan said.

"Is your soul not released?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Soul release? What's that?" Asura Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Wait a moment—"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan turned to the void of space to read the lines of quickly manifesting glowing text.

[You've eliminated the Judge of Living Beings' Fate]

[Note: This is originally an impossible task, but the other party was only 5/1000 as strong as itself during its peak; furthermore, all of its supernatural abilities were sealed by your Earth God power, unable to utilize any defensive technique, thus you were able to accomplish this slaying]

[As stated above, it did not exert any means to protect itself before death, so the Soul Points you had to spend for Ethereal was kept to a minimum]

[You expended 100 million Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan asked in confusion: "I still don't understand. I clearly used the Samsara's power, so why did I have to spend Soul Points?"

The War God UI replied: [That power was converted from your Soul Points—— you didn't really think the Samsara derivative power would just manifest out of thin air, did you?]

Gu Qing Shan changed his point of attention and asked: "If I wanted to unleash the two latter strikes of [Ethereal], would I be able to do it through Soul Points as well?"

[It is possible, but the Soul Points consumption will be quite considerable. You must prepare yourself mentally] the War God UI replied.

New lines of glowing text appeared:

[You've eliminated the Judge of Living Beings' Soul, obtaining 300 million Soul Points]

[The path of Void War God had moved onto the next phase:]

[You must reach the second void monster: Matriarch of Myriad Earths]

[Attention, this is a sovereign among void monsters, the nemesis of the Earth Pillar God of the void. If it did not enter this great tomb, it would have continued to remain locked in an eternal war against the Earth God in the space vortex]

[Eliminate it]

The lines of glowing text then disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's vision.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Both the Judge of Living Beings' Fate and the Matriarch of Myriad Earths are ridiculously overpowered monsters.

The only mistake they made was to enter this tomb.

Otherwise, with my strength, it would have been impossible to kill them.

Then.

What kind of power would a 'War God' Title that requires me to kill five of such monsters provide?

[Void War God]

What a curious thing indeed.

He slowly regained his senses and turned to Asura Gu Qing Shan.

The other party was still waiting for him and smiled amicably: “Reading the [Order] combat synopsis?”

“Yeah” Gu Qing Shan replied.

After a bit of thought, he then explained to the other party what soul release meant.

Asura Gu Qing Shan fell into thought and muttered: “Call of the Bramble Bird? I have heard of that event. The young girl called Laura is still the current Bramble Bird Empress, but only a puppet empress”

Gu Qing Shan furrowed his eyebrows and asked: “Who is she the puppet of?”

“Triste—— I heard that it was her who’s now behind the Empress, currently acting as the Bramble Bird Kingdom’s prime minister” Asura Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked: “Why didn’t you participate in the Call of the Bramble Bird?”

“Because Zhi Luo died” Asura Gu Qing Shan replied.

“What!?” Gu Qing Shan exclaimed in shock.

A hint of sorrow flashed through Asura Gu Qing Shan’s eyes before he explained: “She was an Asura girl. After the battle of Huang Quan, she took over the body of a dead human woman and returned to life”

“She then followed me into a war of infinite worlds”

“During one of our battles, to protect me, she became heavily injured”

Gu Qing Shan instantly asked: “What about her soul?”

“Her soul also became heavily injured, the only method to save her was to send her into the Forgetting River—— the water of the Forgetting River has the property of being able to heal all wounds of the soul, the price being that they would forget everything” Asura Gu Qing Shan replied.

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Forgetting everything.

That means, she would no longer remember ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

Gu Qing Shan’s thoughts turned a bit, then asked: “Then, she once again entered reincarnation?”

“That’s right, I asked for the Forgetting River Soul Flaying Hook’s help, so she should have once again reincarnated into the Asura realm”

“Even so, she would not remember you” Gu Qing Shan said.

Asura Gu Qing Shan continued: “That’s why, I took [Chaos] upon myself and entered the Asura realm, climbing step by step to become the Asura King of several Asura realm fragments”

“Why did you have to do such a thing?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“To become an Asura Deific King—— legends had it that the Asura Deific King has a unique Thaumaturgy to awaken the past life memories of every Asura, allowing them to regain the wisdom of all their lives up to now”

“No wonder you entered the path of Asura, so it was because of this” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

At this point, he really couldn’t help but feel emotional about the grandness and unpredictability of fate.

At certain crossroads of history, each individual makes their own choices that would forever alter their paths in drastically different ways.

Gu Qing Shan then clenched his fists.

“I have a favor to ask of you” he said.

“What is it?” Asura Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Save Laura” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Asura Gu Qing Shan observed him for a long time, then finally said: “The Bramble Bird Kingdom is currently the base of the [Demon King Order]. Even if I am an Asura King, it would still be quite troublesome to fight against the entire [Demon King Order] itself”

Gu Qing Shan insisted: “You must save her, because she is related to many crucial events, like the Great Bramble Tree, the three coins of Space and Time, not to mention her relations to the Dusty World. Furthermore, the [Demon King Order] actually belongs to the side of [Chaos]”

“Hm? Why haven’t I heard of anything you just mentioned?” Asura Gu Qing Shan asked.

Gu Qing Shan then explained everything to him.

“Do you care a lot about that little girl?” Asura Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That’s right. Her fate is one of extreme tragedy, I don’t want her to have to live such a life, not even in a parallel world” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Asura Gu Qing Shan seemed hesitant: “It will be a great war... I will most likely have to utilize all of my forces...”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “This matter isn’t simply related to the fact that she is the Empress, the Master of Wealth, or the envoy of the Great Bramble Tree. Even if she doesn’t have any of those identities and is only a normal girl, we must still save her”

“But why?” Asura Gu Qing Shan asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “If one day, all the Apocalypses are over, when you and I can finally live a normal life and have a daughter of our own, she would most likely be the same as her”

“For the sake of your daughter’s smile, you would surely exert all of your efforts, even if it is to slaughter or to fight, wouldn’t you?”

Asura Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

A few moments later.

He took out something and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

It was the Nine Serenity Yin Incantation Jade Tablet.

“Temporarily keep this for me, the range of this item is the entire great tomb itself, when I return, give it back to me” Asura Gu Qing Shan said.

Gu Qing Shan took the jade tablet and said in a sincere tone: “Thank you”

“No need, I’m not saving her because of you, but merely because I found out about this” Asura Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright. Go, leave this place to me”

The two Gu Qing Shan looked at each other and grinned.

Asura Gu Qing Shan turned around, heading into the dark void.

“War. That is where my sword points, an inevitable conquest for the sake of protection...”

He lightly muttered as his figure faded away, disappearing from this world.

He had left.

—left to save Laura from the parallel world.

Gu Qing Shan put the jade tablet into his bag.

He was now standing alone in the middle of a vast graveyard.

Countless monsters crawled out from their tombs, gradually surrounding him.

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tightly and looked at the surrounding monsters.

“Ah, quite a few of them here... I remember there was a fist technique where I descended from above...”

His figure slightly shifted and shot up into the sky.

...

At another location.

Above the River of Time.

Within a gently drifting Temporal Oasis.

—-the world of the Spire.

Laura sat in her room, silently holding onto a long purple twine.

The Twine of Cloud Atlas.

She possessed another Twine of Cloud Atlas!

Perhaps...

This one was the other half of the first Twine of Cloud Atlas.

A voice resounded through the restraints of Space and Time, emerging from the Twine of Cloud Atlas:

“You must save her...”

“This matter isn’t simply related to the fact that she is the Empress, the Master of Wealth, or the envoy of the Great Bramble Tree. Even if she doesn’t have any of those identities and is only a normal girl, we must still save her”

“If one day, all the Apocalypses are over, when you and I can finally live a normal life and have a daughter of our own, she would most likely be the same as her”

“For the sake of your daughter’s smile, you would surely exert all of your efforts, even if it is to slaughter or to fight, wouldn’t you?”

Gu Qing Shan’s sincere voice sounded from the Twine of Cloud Atlas.

Laura silently listened, eventually lowering her head and wiping the tears off her face.

“Gu Qing Shan...”

“Qing Shan...”

She was sobbing full of emotions.

Chapter 1274

Gu Qing Shan flew through the dark sky.

He was traveling extremely quickly and reached the capital city in just a few dozen breaths' worth of time.

The entire capital city was now surrounded by countless monsters, the capital army had already been completely overwhelmed, left with no choice but to pull their line of defense from in front of the city gates back onto the city walls.

The shouting of the Professionists resounded throughout, but couldn't alter the waning trend of their hopeless battle.

The monsters were clad in flowing lava, the flames from their bodies rising all the way to the sky, plunging the entire city in a shroud of crimson light.

They had begun to lay siege to the city.

Boom!!!

Several parts of the city wall weren't able to stand up to the flame monsters' attack and collapsed.

"Kill them all! We can't let them storm into the city!"

A commanding officer shouted.

The Professionists shouted in response, unleashing their most powerful attacks to clash against the monsters.

Unfortunately, the monsters' bodies were created from tough and sharp bones clad inside several protective layers of Elemental Fire, causing both physical and magical attacks to be unable to deal any meaningful damage.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight scanned forward, falling into the room where he was admitted for treatment earlier.

Shan Hai Qi Xia was currently guarding the door, forbidding anyone from entering.

NEET Gu Qing Shan was sitting cross-legged in an out-of-sight corner of the room.

A single sword hovered in front of him.

With NEET Gu Qing Shan's control, the sword continuously gave off wave after wave of sharp sword qi that shot out from the window to attack around the city.

Each wave of sword qi was lightning-fast, sending every monster on its path flying before slicing them into bits in mid-air.

Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit, then quickly understood.

NEET Gu Qing Shan's current identity was a military recruitment officer.

According to the rules, he could not do anything that went against his identity in front of the people of this world.

—he wouldn't be able to explain why an office worker like himself would have such powerful swordsmanship.

That was why his only choice was to hide in the room where no one could see him and use sword qi to kill the monsters.

Gu Qing Shan's figure flashed and directly appeared in the room.

"How's the battle going?" he asked.

“Not very well. Unless we can thoroughly eliminate these monsters’ bodies, their corpses would simply fuse together and form more powerful monsters” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan looked out the window.

On the streets just outside, a group of knights had just managed to defeat two monsters with their combined might.

But the corpses of the two monsters swiftly fused together, once again forming a 7-meter-tall flame monster.

———this monster was considerably more powerful!

「 All... die... 」

The huge flame monster charged towards the knights.

Oong!

Sword qi shot through the air and struck the monster, completely erasing it from this world.

The knights cheered, all of them turning towards the direction of the window.

“Which sir acted just now? Please let us see you once!” the knight captain loudly called out.

The room remained silent.

The two Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances, then both turned to Shan Hai Qi Xia.

Shan Hai Qi Xia understood what they were trying to say and replied: "I can't. My identity is that of a mage, if I claim that I unleashed that intensely sharp sword qi, that would go against my identity"

NEET Gu Qing Shan furrowed his eyebrows and replied: "I'm an office worker, someone of my identity shouldn't have such power either"

Only Gu Qing Shan remained.

He thought briefly, then walked up to the window and looked at the knights.

"Hurry up and head to the city wall to provide aid"

He casually ordered them.

The knights were all shocked.

— at this point, Gu Qing Shan was using his original face to appear in front of the knights.

His previous identity 'Cavalry Li Qiu Shan' should have already died in battle during the previous assault into the black fog.

This was something that the cavalry knight who managed to escape had confirmed, many people all heard it.

Since Gu Qing Shan was now using his real face to appear in this world, naturally no one recognized him.

In other words—

He was currently someone without an identity.

“Who might your grace be?” the knight captain asked.

Following his question, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Warning!]

[Please quickly obtain an identity recognized by this world, otherwise, you will be flung into the center of the Apocalypse. That is the location where the Apocalypse illusion connects to the true Apocalypse where you would not survive once you entered]

[Repeat, please immediately obtain an identity recognized by the living beings of this world!]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through everything, then turned to the people: “It certainly is time for you to know my true identity...”

He flew out from the window, his figure flashing as he took flight.

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At the next instant—

A gigantic black dragon abruptly manifested!

“It’s a dragon!”

“A dragon!”

“He was the dragon from before!”

“Oh my heaven, that is our guardian god!”

The knights loudly cheered.

Lines of glowing text appeared below the War God UI:

[You've once used your dragon form to fight against the monsters, thus seen and deeply remembered by all]

[Your identity had been recognized]

[Now, you are the guardian god of the capital city, Black Dragon]

The black dragon flew high through the sky, his eyes flickering.

He began to descend.

The black dragon then circled around the city walls with unimaginable speed.

Like a black stage curtain, he rapidly flew above the flame monsters, spreading the frigid frost wherever it did.

The crimson light in the darkness of the night slowly faded away.

Flock after flock of monsters were frozen in place, turned into glittering ice sculptures.

The world outside the capital city had been turned into a world of silence and snow.

"Dragon!"

"It's the dragon!"

"It had frozen those monsters!"

The Professionals on top of the city wall all cheered.

At the same time, the black dragon's gaze focused on one place.

The monsters who had stormed the city no longer attempted to spread death and destruction, instead, were converging together and slowly becoming one.

In just a few moments, the molten lava had formed a foundational shape and quickly manifested itself into a crimson dragon.

Molten lava dripped from its body to the ground, scorching it.

Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong!

This dragon took a few steps forward before abruptly taking flight into the night sky.

It was heading straight towards the black dragon.

Roar!!!

The crimson dragon unleashed a cluster of flame even more gigantic than itself.

This scene went above and beyond all stretches of the imagination, becoming a scene of apocalypse that could not be erased from the mind no matter how much time passed.

—this cluster of flame was as big as the capital city itself, and even the black dragon's gigantic form could not help but be consumed by this boundless flame!

Shan Hai Qi Xia couldn't help but exclaimed: "Watch out!"

In the blink of an eye.

Everyone felt their visions turning blurred.

The crimson dragon and black dragon abruptly switched places.

The crimson dragon was struck by its own flames and sent spiraling through the sky, falling towards the depths of the black fog.

A few moments later.

From the darkness, its furious roar could be heard.

The flames had burnt through the black fog, revealing the vast field of graveyards in the distance for everyone to see.

Gu Qing Shan once again returned to his human form, watching the vast field with a heavy gaze.

The crimson dragon was now perched on top of the tombstones, coldly staring at Gu Qing Shan.

Around it, monster after monster were piling on top of one another, also taking on draconic form.

They soon filled up every bit of space there was.

—this time, it wasn't just a crimson fire dragon.

The other dragon monsters each carried the elements of frost, poison, lightning, wind...

The city's cheering was cut short, suddenly turning into stunned silence.

There existed an innumerable number of draconic monsters.

Even the dragons of legend had never been so numerous.

And there was only a single black dragon on their side.

“So this is an Unsolvable rank Apocalypse?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He was thinking about something else.

This Apocalypse illusion only needed them to survive until the last moment in order to return.

However---

This was only an illusion.

Beyond this Apocalypse illusion, there still existed a real Apocalypse.

Even the Judge of Living Beings' Fate lost to the real Apocalypse.

Who could win against this kind of Apocalypse?

Chapter 1275

Gu Qing Shan stood mid-air, observing the horde of draconic monsters made up of bones and Elemental energy from afar.

A voice suddenly called out to him.

“Hey”

---this was NEET Gu Qing Shan's voice.

“What?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Want me to help you?” NEET Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Don’t be ridiculous, what about your identity?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“You’ve already set the example— or should I fake dying in battle and just change my identity now?” NEET Gu Qing Shan asked.

“You can turn into a dragon as well?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Hm, I can turn into an Element and Law Absorption Dragon” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

“I haven’t heard of that at all, what kind of dragon is it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I can absorb all elements, this way, the Law of Elemental would become weakened, and the apocalypse monsters would lose their strength” NEET Gu Qing Shan said.

“...If you absorb that much Elemental power, wouldn’t you also run into issues?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Maybe I’ll become a bit too full, but there generally aren’t any issues. My stomach would just become one layer thicker, something of this degree would be fine after a few days of lying around” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

“I really never thought I’d be able to turn into that something or other dragon” Gu Qing Shan blankly said.

“I never thought I’d be able to turn into a black dragon either— I’ll be honest, to activate this ability, I need your help” NEET Gu Qing Shan said.

“How do I help?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Restrain the monsters, make sure that they can’t move, then I’ll be able to absorb their elemental power” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

At this time, earth-shattering howling resounded from the faraway horizon.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the vast field.

Numerous dragon-shaped monsters manifested from the elements were taking flight one by one.

They were going to continue their assault on the capital city.

In truth, only two——

No, only one elemental dragon would have been enough to destroy the entire capital city.

With such a huge force of elemental dragons, the capital city would be wiped out in almost no time at all.

“We don’t have enough information yet, I’ll give it a try first”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan transformed into his black dragon form and headed into the wilderness while ignoring the shouts of the soldiers below.

He was extremely fast, much faster than a normal dragon, so he quickly faced the first elemental dragon.

His dragon claw flashed.

Frigid cold air ripped through this dragon clad in poisonous mist.

Thud!

This dragon immediately fell, crashed into the ground, and scattered into green mist, which then attached on to the body of another elemental dragon.

That elemental dragon's body instantly grew twice as large.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Frost counters fire, so he was able to easily dispatch the fire monsters.

But now that the dragons were made up of different elements, it would be tough to thoroughly kill them all at once.

And if he couldn't kill them, they would simply fuse and transform into even more powerful monsters.

While Gu Qing Shan was pondering this, multiple dragons clad in elemental glow had taken flight and surrounded him.

「 Die... 」

The elemental dragons swiftly declared his death.

But the black dragon vanished from their encirclement.

The elemental dragons were still confused. It was only after a bit that they realized the black dragon had returned to the human city wall.

He once again turned back into human form and stood in mid-air, muttering:

“No good, they aren’t easy to kill, and they’d grow stronger after fusing with one another.

NEET Gu Qing Shan was able to see the entire process, so he told him: “If you can help me scatter them, you can leave the rest to me”

Scatter them...

Gu Qing Shan quickly considered his means.

During this time, the elemental dragons were approaching the capital city closer and closer.

The crimson flame dragon was in the lead, spitting two balls of fire towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan swung his fist without hesitation.

——Frost Fist, [Frost Freeze]!

Bang!

The first ball of fire completely vanished from the sky.

The intense frost aura’s residual power continued shooting towards the other dragons in the sky.

Gu Qing Shan had the power of three dragons, so he was naturally much stronger compared to a normal dragon.

This strike caused the crimson dragon to become cautious.

At this point, the second ball of fire had reached Gu Qing Shan——

Sha!

A sword flashed.

Shannu wielded the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and cut the fire into nothingness.

“Gongzi cannot use his swords, but I can” she muttered.

The crimson dragon watched Shannu, then the sword in her hand, and whispered: 「 A sword that can cut Laws, so you still had such a trump card 」

It suddenly stopped flying and began reciting something in the air.

「 Apocalypse, become one with me, grant me power that far surpasses this world! 」

Oong— oong— oong—

From the end of the horizon, something was responding to its call.

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Behind it, the other elemental dragons once again turned back into pure elemental power and began circling around it.

They were absorbed into the flame dragon’s body one by one.

Oom!!

The flame dragon landed on the ground, its body slowly beginning to change.

Metal – Wood – Water – Fire – Earth, Wind – Lightning – Light – Shadow – Sound, and even Poison, Pestilence, Death, Withering, all sorts of Laws gathered into its body at once.

Its form grew.

“What is that?”

“My god...”

“Even a dragon couldn’t be a match against such a monster”

“Oh no, the world is over”

The Professionals protecting the city fell into despair.

It wasn’t just them, Gu Qing Shan himself felt his eyebrows twitching.

“Is this really just an illusion?”

He whispered.

On the empty field several hundred meters away from the city, a giant slowly stood up.

The glow of elements drifted around its body, forming intense wind around itself.

Wherever the wind blew past, everything was destroyed without exception.

The earth dried up, all things withered and died.

This was the power of an elemental tidal surge!

Simply by standing there, the giant was causing its surroundings to violently become desolate.

「 Destruction is the fate of this world 」

The elemental giant stared at Gu Qing Shan in the sky and spoke in its low voice: 「 Even if you have surpassed the power of a normal dragon, you are still but a servant of fate! 」

「 Come, surrender yourself to the fate of death 」

It started walking towards the capital city.

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly turned, going over every fighting technique he had ever learnt.

Nothing.

Other than [Ethereal], I have no fist techniques that can overturn the current situation.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[To kill this giant made up of hundreds of thousands of elemental dragon, Ethereal – No Pardon requires at least 500 million Soul Points, you do not have enough]

“Then, what about [Ethereal – Null Tribulation]?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[There isn't even enough for No Pardon, let alone Null Tribulation] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and muttered: “I worked so hard for this Soul Points... but there seems to be no other choice...”

He took a stance in mid-air, then clenched his right fist behind his back.

Taking a deep breath, he faced the elemental giant and threw a punch from afar.

—[Ethereal – Grand Mountain]!

The elemental giant paused for less than a split second before continuing to head towards Gu Qing Shan.

「 Did you really think I have such a thing as ‘thoughts’? 」

The elemental giant smirked, scoffing: 「 I am the embodiment of the Apocalypse, my will is to cause the eternal end of all things, other than that, I do not have any thoughts 」

Crash!

The firm city walls were like soft butter, easily squashed underneath its feet.

It reached its hand to catch Gu Qing Shan.

“Right at this moment!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

“Go ahead, I’ve been waiting for it!” NEET Gu Qing Shan shouted in return.

Gu Qing Shan stopped hesitating and threw another punch.

[Ethereal] ———

The first strike, [Myriad Shadows]!

[Ethereal – Myriad Shadows]

[After your first strike hit an enemy, you can activate ‘Myriad Shadows’]

[Myriad Shadows: It is a barrage of unending punches, each strike only contains 1/10,000 of your power, but as long as you do not wish it to stop, ‘Myriad Shadows’ will persist endlessly. Your enemy will remain in a state of being continuously attacked without being able to alter it]

[Eternally Striking Punch]

In an instant, Gu Qing Shan's fist became blurred, suddenly turning into hundreds of thousands of punches that continuously hit the elemental giant.

The elemental giant remained completely still, unable to move.

A giant barrage of punches had obscured its figure, each of which would strike its body without fail.

「 With this level of punches, you really think to strike me down? 」 the elemental giant smirked.

A body fused from hundreds of thousands of elemental dragons had already surpassed the normal limits of power, so it was essentially not receiving any damage at all.

“Who said I wanted to use this punch to strike you down?” while continuing with his barrage, Gu Qing Shan replied.

At the same time.

In the capital city.

Inside of a certain medical ward.

NEET Gu Qing Shan's hands were clasped into a seal, then uttered:

“Element and Law Absorption Dragon, transform!”

With a ‘poof’, NEET Gu Qing Shan's figure vanished from the room.

Instead, a dried salted fish appeared in front of Shan Hai Qi Xia.¹

This fish was around half an arm's length, displaying itself in a state of absolute dehydration.

"Ah..."

Shan Hai Qi Xia pinched her nose, silently muttering in her mind.

—Element and Law Absorption Dragon?

That's a nice name...

But this form, this stench, that's clearly a salted fish!

Almost right away, scattered elemental particles appeared from the void of space as they were absorbed into this fish's body.

As time went by, the salted fish's scales started to give off light.

Chapter 1276

A barrage of fists.

Hundreds of thousands of punches descended unceasingly onto and around the elemental giant, causing a sound almost like that of the pouring rain in a storm.

The elemental giant could not move, being trapped inside the barrage of fists.

The elemental giant only sensed for a few moments before it mocked:

「 Even if you continue this kind of attack for a hundred million years, it wouldn't cause me a single bit of damage! 」

—each punch only contained 1/10,000th of Gu Qing Shan's power, and the elemental giant was formed from numerous elemental dragons, so it wouldn't suffer any damage from this.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say a single word and continued to throw his punches.

Each punch from [Myriad Shadows] consisted of nothing but the essence of numerous fist techniques, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help himself from immersing himself within the technique, carefully experiencing their wonders.

The elemental giant was furious from seeing how he completely ignored its jeers and fully focused on throwing punches.

It couldn't help but speak up again: 「 It's nothing but a waste of time, you— 」

It abruptly stopped.

The elemental giant's expression changed as it looked down on its body.

A strand of crimson light flew out from its chest scattering into a glittering glow and vanished into the void of space.

Then a strand of blue light flew out from its arm, similarly vanishing into the void of space.

Continuously, colorful lights of the elements escaped its body bit by bit, disappearing into nothingness without it knowing where.

「 Who is doing this!? I'm going to kill you! 」

The elemental giant angrily roared.

It tried to struggle, attempting to find the one absorbing its elemental energy.

But like tidal waves of punches had completely enveloped it, causing it to be unable to move a single step.

...

On the other side.

The medical ward.

The dried salted fish smell was becoming increasingly fishy and salty.

“Ah... why is it getting even worse?” Shan Hai Qi Xia covered her nose and complained.

NEET Gu Qing Shan suddenly appeared from the void of space and picked up the dried salted fish:

“This is a cooking ingredient-type salted fish. The more it stinks, the more nutrients it contain, it’s very beneficial to consume”

Shan Hai Qi Xia was surprised: “Huh? Didn’t you turn into this salted fish? Why are you over there?”

NEET Gu Qing Shan paused for a bit, then awkwardly replied: “There was something I didn’t account for— that elemental giant contains more power than I could ever imagine, and I’d literally explode from overeating if I absorbed it directly, so I could only choose the second form— food-type Element and Law absorption Dragon”

The first form, transforming into an Element and Law absorption Dragon (salted fish) would allow him to directly absorb power.

The second form, whenever the power he needed to absorb was too great, unable to be completely digested in one sitting, he would stop taking the Element and Law absorption Dragon (salted fish) form, instead of manifesting this power in the shape of food, which could be consumed at any time.

NEET Gu Qing Shan raised the salted fish up to Shan Hai Qi Xia and asked: “Hey, do you want to eat one? This is the sublimation of [Order]’s power. After you finish eating one entire fish, there’s even a chance

to awaken a unique ability. Every time I die, I only need to eat one of these salted fish to revive and return to my peak of power——”

Shan Hai Qi Xia hurriedly backed off, waving her hand: “No! I do not wish to obtain power through this mean, not even a little bit”

Suddenly, another fully-dehydrated salted fish appeared from the void of space.

It landed in between the two of them, visibly gaining its unique smell and taste.

“Huh? Already forming a second one? The power of that monster sure is terrifying” NEET Gu Qing Shan spoke emotionally.

Shan Hai Qi Xia looked at the salted fish in his hand, then at the one on the ground and spoke in surprise: “This is the power you’ve absorbed from this monster?”

“Exactly”

NEET Gu Qing Shan continued: “In reality, it’s usually very tough to fully complete a dried salted fish. Right now, it’s actually a good thing that this elemental monster exist”

He began to take huge bites from the salted fish.

The salty fishy stench began to fill the room.

Shan Hai Qi Xia ultimately couldn’t endure it and said: “I’m heading out for a bit”

She ran out of the room without looking back.

NEET Gu Qing Shan was surprised, then muttered after a while: “She’s really giving up on such a good way of becoming stronger?”

Thud!

The void of space slightly moved.

Another salted fish fell to the ground.

The third one.

NEET Gu Qing Shan's eyebrow twitched a bit, then immediately finished the one in his hand.

"Ah, how refreshing, my power expended during the previous deaths have all been replenished.

He picked up the second salted fish and began taking huge bites out of it as well.

As he ate, he suddenly took out his sword from the void of space and casually swung a single time.

Sha—

A glowing sword phantom clad in black light manifested, flew out, and slashed the wall.

The entire wall quickly turned black, became fully corroded, then reduced to powder.

"Oh hey, I actually did awaken a new ability, what a pleasant surprise"

NEET Gu Qing Shan happily said.

He then continued to chew away at the second salted fish.

"Hoh, I'm so full already, but this really is a rare chance to get..."

NEET Gu Qing Shan bent down and picked up the third salted fish.

Thud!

The void of space moved again.

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Another salted fish dropped down.

The fourth one.

NEET Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit sorrowful and muttered to himself: "This monster's elemental energy is unbelievable. I'm lucky I avoided the first form, otherwise I would have already exploded..."

He picked up both of the salted fish on the ground and was about to wolf them down.

Then, a 'thud' could be heard.

The fifth salted fish appeared.

Instantly---

Thud thud thud!

Three more salted fish appeared at the same time!

As these salted fish fell to the ground, their thin bodies began to visibly gain flesh.

The fishy salty stench became even thicker.

NEET Gu Qing Shan looked at the two salted fish in his hand, then the ones on the ground and muttered:

“Ah, oh no...”

...

In the night sky.

The barrage of fists continued without end.

Gu Qing Shan was attacking the elemental giant with all his might.

“Yes!”

“Beat it up!”

“Guardian god dragon, do your best!”

“We will surely win!”

The people of the capital city were all loudly cheering for Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan heard them but didn't have the time to pay attention.

He couldn't stop.

Because as soon as he did, [Myriad Shadows] would also stop, and the elemental giant would regain its freedom.

“Hey!”

Suddenly, NEET Gu Qing Shan called him.

“What’s the matter?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I ran into some trouble here” NEET Gu Qing Shan said.

Gu Qing Shan’s heart tightened and asked: “What’s the trouble, hurry”

NEET Gu Qing Shan quickly explained: “This elemental giant has too much energy inside its body, so I manifested them into the food-type Element and Law absorption Dragons, but soon I won’t be able to eat anymore, you need to get someone to help me eat—— in truth, this is an extremely precious delicacy that even has a chance to awaken abilities”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “There are so many Professionals in this world, can’t you give it to them?”

NEET Gu Qing Shan resolutely replied: “They can’t, the difference in power is too great, they’ll just explode from overeating—— not to mention, they won’t easily eat salted fish from a random stranger”

Gu Qing Shan asked again: “Isn’t Shan Hai Qi Xia still there?”

“She ran away” NEET Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a moment, then shouted: “Shannu”

The void moved.

An aloof palace maid appeared behind Gu Qing Shan.

“I’m here, gongzi” she responded.

“You go and help the other ‘me’ eat the food manifested from the elemental giant’s power—— this is very crucial; it might directly affect whether or not we can survive and leave” Gu Qing Shan said.

Seeing how serious he was, Shannu solemnly responded: “Don’t worry, gongzi, I will surely do my best!”

Her figure flashed and flew towards a certain location in the city.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

“GONGZI!!!”

Shannu suddenly reappeared behind him, calling out in an emotional sobbing voice.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, almost stopping his hand.

“What is it? What happened?” he hurriedly asked in his mind.

Shannu wiped her tears: “That fish smells too foul, I can’t swallow it!”

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

NEET Gu Qing Shan’s voice came again: “Hurry, I’m reaching my limit soon! If we can’t finish these salted—— these Element and Law absorption Dragons in a certain amount of time, they’ll just return to the elemental giant!”

Gu Qing Shan’s heart became tense.

If this continued, wouldn’t this fight be a complete loss?

“Shannu!” he called out again.

Shannu said with a pitiful expression: “Gongzi, I really don’t want to eat those salted fish”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “No, I’m not forcing you to eat the fish, come here and hit this elemental giant instead of me——”

Shannu was stunned.

...

Ten breaths’ worth of time later.

The medical ward.

An orange cat was quickly chewing on a salted fish.

[Orange Sovereign transformation (mutated)]

[While you use this Thaumaturgy, you will take the form of the Orange Sovereign, thus obtaining the following ability:]

[Energy absorption: You will no longer passively absorb origin power of the soul from the void of space, but through eating and devouring, the origin power of the soul you can absorb will double]

Chapter 1277

“Eat slowly”

“Meow”

“There’s still another one, here”

“Meow meow”

In the medical ward, an orange cat was busily chewing away at a fish.

Several sets of fish bones were being thrown behind him one by one.

He was happily eating without care.

“Six... seven... eight... nine... although it makes sense for a cat to eat fish, but why is your stomach like a bottomless hole?” NEET Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

The orange cat wiped his mouth and replied: “Meow meow meow, meow meow meow meow”

NEET Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “So once you transform into a cat, you can convert any energy into Soul Points? What a great ability”

He scanned the outside with his inner sight.

An aloof palace maid was unleashing a barrage of endless punches, striking the elemental giant to the point that it couldn't move an inch, forced to stay still and have its power absorbed.

NEET Gu Qing Shan regained his spirits and looked at the orange cat.

He suddenly clapped his hands: “I can absorb and manifest energy from the monster, while you can infinitely absorb power, turning it into Soul Points...”

The orange cat also paused, staring at the UI in the void of space.

Lines of glowing text were appearing one after another:

[Through eating, you've obtained 70,000 Soul Points]

[Through eating, you've obtained 190,000 Soul Points]

...

The orange cat appeared full of wonder.

Salted fish.

And then—— an orange cat——

Cat and fish.

This kind of eating, ah no—— fighting style was nothing short of the perfect fighting style.

NEET Gu Qing Shan and the orange cat glanced at each other, then both nodded.

“Alright, then we can afford to cause a huge commotion without issues” NEET Gu Qing Shan happily said.

“Meow~!”

The orange cat also agreed.

Suddenly, the elemental giant from outside abruptly roared: 「 NO, I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS! THIS ISN'T HOW HISTORY WENT! 」

Hoh——

An intense current of power flowed from every direction.

The world itself abruptly shattered, turning into numerous spiraling images.

At this moment, both the orange cat and NEET Gu Qing Shan understood.

———following original history, this world should have come to an end at this point in time.

In other words, they managed to survive until the end!

NEET Gu Qing Shan pondered: “I will probably be transported to the Asura tomb, it’s a hidden location, upstream from where you are”

The orange cat reached his paw forward, giving the other party a jade tablet, and said: “Meow meow!”

NEET Gu Qing Shan nodded: “Right, with the jade tablet here, I’ll inform you of anything I can see”

——when this Apocalypse flowed downstream earlier, it was NEET Gu Qing Shan who sent him the reminder.

The way to react would naturally change if he was informed of anything before it occurred.

A moment later.

NEET Gu Qing Shan was pulled away by some sort of force, disappearing from the orange cat’s vision.

Everything around them slowly faded away.

The silent and frigid Tomb River reappeared.

The Wraith’s corpse silently continued to float in the water.

The orange cat landed.

He turned back into Li Qiu Shan and stood on top of the Wraith's corpse.

Various noises sounded from all around:

“What happened!?”

“Why did his grace Beast King God not return?”

“Where are the others?”

“Why are we the only ones here?”

Gu Qing Shan looked around.

Around ten humans, both male and female, were standing on top of the Wraith's corpse, looking into their surroundings.

— all of them were the Beast King God's subordinates.

Asura Gu Qing Shan had purposely picked out a group to follow the Beast King God and die with him thanks to NEET Gu Qing Shan's aid, in consideration that too many of them would instead make things difficult, these people were left aside.

Shan Hai Qi Xia had also returned, quickly blinking at him.

— *what should we do now?*

Everyone on our sides is already dead, if we truly fought here, just the two of us would definitely not be a match for these people.

Gu Qing Shan was about to say something when a hand appeared from the void of space to give him the jade tablet.

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Gu Qing Shan received and scanned it through his inner sight.

NEET Gu Qing Shan's voice came from the jade tablet:

[So... I didn't think I'd return exactly where I was previously. If you're still on top of the Wraith's back, please pay attention, a unique Apocalypse is heading towards you]

[I've come into contact with this Apocalypse once before, it was the type to bully the weak while being afraid of the strong]

[It would determine what factions a group of people might be divided into, then take the faction with the least members among the most obvious factions into an Apocalypse illusion]

[You only have that woman by your side right now, be very careful]

Gu Qing Shan put the jade tablet away, looked at the monsters in front of him, and quickly affirmed the situation.

—--the only person on my side is Shan Hai Qi Xia, while there were still over ten people on the Beast King God's side.

If the situation is allowed to continue like this, wouldn't it be me and Shan Hai Qi Xia who gets caught in the Apocalypse illusion?

Gu Qing Shan paused slightly, then abruptly shouted: "All of you, silence!"

His shout overwhelmed everyone else's voices.

"War Shaman, what do you want?" a monster asked.

Gu Qing Shan calmly looked at it, then made a trembling declaration:

"The Beast King God had been killed by Gu Qing Shan!"

What!!?

Every monster at the scene turned to a certain individual among them.

That individual had already knelt on top of the Wraith's corpse, murmuring something in their mouth.

Several pieces of broken bone were then scattered forward, forming a pattern as it rolled forward.

The individual stared closely at the pieces of bones and sighed: "The Shaman is correct, boss is dead, killed by a human sword cultivator"

All the monsters became speechless.

After a long while, someone spoke up: "I can't believe it. His grace Beast King God had already stolen such a powerful inheritance and obtained the unparalleled legendary power, how did he still lose to a human?"

The one who performed the Divination asked: "It was due to a joint effort of the Apocalypse and that human, otherwise sir Beast King God would not have died"

He then turned to Gu Qing Shan and shouted: "Sir War Shaman, you had already formed an alliance with sir Beast King God, why did you not act against that?"

Gu Qing Shan grinned and replied: "Your Beast King God wanted to kill me as well, why would I still care about our previous arrangements?"

"I can help the Shaman prove this" Shan Hai Qi Xia then stepped forward and rang her small bell towards Gu Qing Shan.

A scene appeared in front of everyone.

It was the scene of how the Beast King God forced the Shaman to probe the Apocalypse in front of the city gates.

This time, none of the monsters could say anything.

Gu Qing Shan stared down at these monsters, then calmly said: “The era chooses its Combatants and fate chooses those fit to survive. This Apocalypse had clearly proven a certain thing”

Everyone focused their attention on him.

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind on the War God UI, silently equipping and activating [Reality’s Most Amorous Man] from among his [War God Titles].

He slowly spoke: “The Beast King God’s death proved that it could not lead you all to accomplish what you wanted to. While I, as the War Shaman, am the strongest one of us all—— I am the only leader fit to truly lead you!”

Everyone was all a bit stunned.

That makes sense...

——the Beast King God and the War Shaman had always been the two strongest ones among them, it’s just that the two of them had always been at odds with one another.

And now, the Beast King God was dead.

The only one left who could lead them would naturally be the War Shaman.

After Gu Qing Shan made the statement, the title [Reality’s Most Amorous Man] became greyed-out on the War God UI.

This Title Skill: [That makes sense] could only be used once per day.

After using the ability, the Title naturally became unusable.

Gu Qing Shan's expression turned frigid, then continued: "I am the War Shaman, the wielder of the [Ethereal] inheritance; in the future Samsara Clash For Supremacy, there would also be a place for me"

"And now, I give you one last chance to pledge your allegiance and work under me"

Gu Qing Shan casually said: "Once you've given up this chance, I shall no longer accept any of you"

"Your fate is in your very hands"

After saying so, he took a few steps back to determine a clear distance between them.

"If you want to pledge your allegiance to me, come to this side"

"I shall give you until the count of one"

"Ten"

"Nine"

"Eight"

...

Shan Hai Qi Xia immediately came over.

After that, among the group of monsters, eight of them took Gu Qing Shan's side.

Only six monsters remained, forming a small group away from them.

Ten vs six.

Gu Qing Shan's expression showed no change, but his heart clearly felt more assured.

He wasn't counting on all of the monsters being convinced by his words.

— as long as they split themselves up, his goal would have been reached.

"Shaman, you might be powerful, but we can't trust you" one of the monsters said.

Gu Qing Shan looked at it and casually replied: “You’ve made an error in your calculations”

That monster couldn’t help but ask in return: “About what?”

“Fools, I’m not begging you to become my subordinates, I’m pitying your fates of certain death” Gu Qing Shan replied.

At the very next moment.

From the visible end of the Tomb River, a faint shadow appeared in front of everyone’s visions

Chapter 1278

“It’s coming!”

“It’s coming!”

“Run——”

Noises rang out all around.

At the end of the Tomb River, an illusory ferocious shadow drifted like fog as it quickly approached them.

The Wraith’s corpse followed the flow of the river, slowly moving ahead to meet the Apocalypse.

The monsters stood on top of the corpse, divided into two sides. One side stood around Gu Qing Shan, while the other side had only 6 people, cautiously standing at a distance.

On Gu Qing Shan’s side, one of the monsters carefully asked: “Your grace, sir Shaman, shouldn’t we be taking evasive actions?”

Gu Qing Shan lightly smirked, then asked in return: “Have you ever seen this Apocalypse before?”

The monster shook its head, answering him: “There was only a single Apocalypse in the inheritance place I slipped into, so I’ve never seen this Apocalypse before”

It then turned around and shouted: “Which one of you released this Apocalypse illusion when you escaped?”

The monsters all shook their heads, expressing that it wasn’t them.

Even the monsters on the other side seemed clueless about it.

Gu Qing Shan was silently shocked.

Just now, that monster said ‘released’.

Then, all the monsters tried recalling the Apocalypse illusion that they had released.

In other words——

The monsters were all trapped inside an inheritance site, and if they wanted to escape from there, they first needed to switch their bodies with a human from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, then release the Apocalypse illusion as well.

What a crowd of garbage!

At this point, a small hand reached out, silently squeezing Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

Gu Qing Shan tilted his head to look.

It was Shan Hai Qi Xia.

She was holding Gu Qing Shan’s hand very tightly, seemingly worried.

“I discovered a certain rule” she silently sent her voice.

“What is it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“When I used the Illusory Noise Bell to track the previous Apocalypse illusion, as well as this upcoming Apocalypse illusion, I found that they weren’t actually trying to actively meet us, but were simply moving against the flow of the river to enter the Tomb of Myriad Beasts”

“You mean, the Apocalypse illusion we ran into before had already entered the Tomb of Myriad Beasts?” Gu Qing Shan asked further.

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: “That’s right, it’s currently moving through the cavern to head towards the Northern Mountain Grotto of the 8 Grottos”

The corners of her eyes became reddened as she continued: “That previous Apocalypse was one that we’ve never witnessed before, many of them would surely lose their lives within it”

Gu Qing Shan could only console her: “Don’t think too much about it, it was still only an illusion, quite a far cry from a true Apocalypse”

—this has made things clear.

It turns out that the Apocalypses within the Tomb of Myriad Beasts descended upon it through this method.

—the ancient guardians released the Apocalypse illusions to take over the bodies of humans from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

Originally.

Originally, they could have come up with much better ways to survive, but they chose the cruelest and vilest method of all.

Unfortunately, these monsters are too powerful.

With my estimations, even if I suddenly attacked with all my strength, I’d only be able to eliminate one of them right away, then the others would surely retaliate.

Damn it!

They took the Samsara’s inheritance for themselves, released the Apocalypses, but they are also too powerful to arbitrarily get rid of!

Holding back his killing intent, Gu Qing Shan's expression remained calm as he spoke: "Just wait a moment, this Apocalypse illusion won't be troubling us"

As soon as he did.

The ferocious shadow of the Apocalypse abruptly vanished---

It had descended upon the Wraith's back!

They all felt nothing but a chill run down their entire bodies before this sensation disappeared.

The Apocalypse shadow could no longer be seen.

But neither was the group that opposed Gu Qing Shan.

"Your grace, Shaman---" the monster screamed out in fear.

"Hm, I can see that, since they chose not to follow me, that was their end" Gu Qing Shan calmly replied.

He walked out in front of everyone, staring closely at the fog that covered the Tomb River.

The monsters all become silent.

They quickly recalled how the Shaman once said that he had men inside the Tomb River during his bargaining with the Beast King God.

From how it currently looks, sir Shaman seems to know the path ahead like the back of his hand.

If that's the case...

The monsters' gaze landing on Gu Qing Shan's back now contained both respect and fear.

The Wraith's corpse continued to slowly drift forward along the Tomb River, slightly bobbing up and down.

While the Apocalypse shadow from earlier had reappeared, silently stood still for a few moments, then started heading towards the direction they came from.

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— it would soon enter the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight, observed for a while, then let his mind ponder.

This would be the most complicated situation I've been in so far.

The great tomb.

The inheritance.

The Samsara sword.

The ancient tomb guardians.

Apocalypses.

The Wraith realm.

— and the monsters who allied themselves with the Wraith realm.

This place is intertwined with many different Space-Time, I am even able to meet myself from a parallel world here.

And then right under me—

The Wraith corpse that's playing dead.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

He had to restrain himself greatly in order not to take out the Devil King Warden Rod and just stab it into the corpse's back.

Not even the Apocalypses managed to take this corpse into them, so it must hold some sort of secret, obviously not quite as easy to deal with as it seemed.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a while, then suddenly spoke: "I arrived here the latest, so tell me whatever you've learnt. I'll need to know as much as I can in order to determine our next course of action"

The monster heard him, exchanged glances, but said nothing yet.

Gu Qing Shan paused for a bit, then abruptly grinned

"Or perhaps, you're all still loyal to the dead Beast King God?"

—his voice was slightly raised, carrying with it pure and visible killing intent.

This is very serious.

The War Shaman is an entity on the same level as the Beast King God, when he becomes angry, who can endure the consequences?

The opposing group earlier was dispatched without sir Shaman even lifting a finger!

The monsters all felt themselves tremble.

Very quickly, a middle-aged man stepped forward.

He was the same person who performed the divination to confirm the Beast King God's situation earlier.

"Sir Shaman, we were actually trying to locate the fragments of the Delimitation Artifact under the Beast King God's lead"

"Fragments?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Yes, because of how many Apocalypses had been released within this great tomb, the sword had already broken into many fragments since a long time ago, scattering at various locations of the Tomb River in order to hold it together” the man explained.

“Go on” Gu Qing Shan said.

“The reason why we wanted to find the Delimitation Artifact’s fragments was because, although the Wraith realm human appeared to be studying the Wraith’s corpse with us, they had actually already located the True Samsara Tomb, from which they obtained the sword’s main body” the man said.

Another person chimed in: “When we realized what had happened, they were already searching for the fragments of the sword—— so we figured the more fragments we can collect, the more leverage we’ll have when it’s time to bargain”

Gu Qing Shan’s heart felt heavy.

——the Wraith realm humans had already obtained this sword?

This one will be tough.

The monsters then continued: “Sir Shaman, you were also one of their targets, as you’ve already taken the strongest inheritance of [Ethereal], it was said that this inheritance is related to some sort of future identity”

After saying so, they all turned to Gu Qing Shan.

The Beast King God originally wanted to steal [Ethereal] as well, but before he managed that, he was already dead.

...Comparatively, the Shaman is much more devious and capable.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression remained completely still without any emotions shown.

A future identity...

He silently thought as he recalled the situation when he killed the Shaman and obtained [Ethereal].

At the time, the War God UI gave the following description:

...

[You are now one of the Samsara Lords of War, qualified to participate in the new age's Samsara Clash For Supremacy]

[Your inherited fist technique is the identification of your status within the war]

...

—the Wraith realm was after [Ethereal], so what they truly wanted was the identity and status it entailed!

“Continue”

Gu Qing Shan signaled him.

The other party's expression suddenly became frantic and said:

“Sir, the Wraith realm humans took the main body of the sword to collect its fragments from all over the tomb, we need to quickly collect as many of them as possible and leave this place”

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at him.

He was also looking straight at Gu Qing Shan— with a testing gaze.

Gu Qing Shan curtly replied: “So that is what was going on, once the Wraith realm humans take this sword away, the tomb would no longer have an artifact to suppress the Apocalypses, all the Apocalypses would erupt at once, eradicating the Tomb of Myriad Beasts as well as all of its surrounding worlds, am I correct?”

Hearing that, the man lowered his head: "That is indeed the case, sir Shaman, we must quickly take away as much benefit as we can, otherwise, if we remain in the great tomb for too long, once all the Apocalypses erupt, we would all perish without question"

Chapter 1279

As Gu Qing Shan found out the truth of the situation.

At the end of the Tomb River.

Where a gigantic tomb rested.

In front of the tomb, three old men hovered in mid-air.

The three Wraith Lords of the Wraith realm!

Around them, people from the Wraith realm knelt all over the ground, possibly over a hundred thousand in number.

Among them, there were some who did not wear Wraith masks.

They were the ancient guardians of this tomb, which the three Wraith Lords had somehow convinced or subdued and turned into their subordinates.

The entire scene was so silent that even the sound of a pin drop could be heard.

They seemed to be waiting for something.

A few moments later.

A man in a Wraith mask descended from the sky, kneeling on one knee in front of the three Wraith Lords, and spoke:

“Wraith Lords sir, the core fragments have all been collected, we can be on our way at any moment”

One of the Wraith Lords spoke up:

“Hm, the rest of the fragments don’t matter, with so many worlds in our hands, we would naturally be able to reforge this sword one way or another”

Another Wraith Lord casually spoke: “Then let us go, bring this Samsara Delimitation Sword back with us”

The third Wraith Lord replied: “What’s the hurry, let me examine this tomb for a bit longer—— this is the True Samsara Tomb that would only manifest after the Beast King realm had fused over 99% of its fragments”

His gaze was filled with interest as he looked forward.

The other two Wraith Lords followed his gaze, looking upon the True Samsara Tomb that was made from a giant stone sword.

The stone sword stabbed deeply into the ground.

Where the body of the sword and the ground met, entities of various shapes and sizes were depicted from stone, their expressions displaying pain and suffering.

“61 different entities” one of the old men said.

“In other words there were 61 types of inheritance hidden in this place, but among them, the singularity inheritance [Ethereal] had disappeared, yet it was also our goal in the first place” another old man regretfully muttered.

The third old man: “Let us discuss the inheritance at a later time. Right now, we need to leave”

The other two Wraith Lords both slightly nodded their heads.

“The Delimitation Divine Sword has been taken away by us, all the Apocalypse would soon erupt. Most likely, the Tomb of Myriad Beasts will once again be reduced to countless fragmented worlds”

“Not too long from now, around 15 minutes at most, everything here will be destroyed, followed by the Tomb of Myriad Beasts...”

The three Wraith Lords stopped talking.

They brought their Wraith realm army and left this place.

...

“So that is what was going on, once the Wraith realm humans take this sword away, the tomb would no longer have an artifact to suppress the Apocalypses, all the Apocalypses would erupt at once, eradicating the Tomb of Myriad Beasts...”

Gu Qing Shan said, then turned to Shan Hai Qi Xia.

Her expression was ghastly.

— all the Apocalypses would ravage the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

Not the Apocalypse illusions, but the countless true Apocalypses themselves.

Under the endless torrent of Apocalypses, everything will be thoroughly destroyed.

Gu Qing Shan took her hand and squeezed it tightly, signaling her not to expose herself.

As the wife of the War Shaman, she should not reveal any emotions from the destruction of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts and the humans within.

Shan Hai Qi Xia understood, barely managing to maintain her calm.

Gu Qing Shan held the Nine Serenity Yin Incantation Jade Tablet and relayed this information to NEET Gu Qing Shan, then turned to the monsters and asked: "Have you determined any targets ahead of time?"

One of the monsters spoke: "We've located a certain burial ground that hid a lot of powerful Apocalypses, so there were also many sword fragments left to protect that burial ground"

"Then, once we arrive, let us take those fragments" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The monsters all responded: "Yes, your grace"

The Wraith's corpse continued to drift forward.

Shan Hai Qi Xia was so worried she couldn't keep herself calm at all, but having no other solutions, she could only hold Gu Qing Shan's hand tightly, unable to even utter a word.

Suddenly.

Gu Qing Shan noticed something and reached his hand into the void of space.

The Nine Serenity Yin Incantation Jade Tablet returned to his hand again.

NEET Gu Qing Shan's voice sounded in his Thought Sea:

[All the Apocalypses are going to erupt? It's over, I don't have a solution for that, what about you?]

Gu Qing Shan laughed bitterly, then silently sent his voice:

“It took so much effort just to deal with a single illusion, if the true Apocalypses truly does arrive, the two of us alone wouldn’t be able to do anything about it”

——not to mention, it wouldn’t be just a single true Apocalypse, but all of them at once.

He put the Nine Serenity Yin Incantation Jade Tablet back into the void of space, which then returned before even a minute had passed.

NEET Gu Qing Shan’s voice sounded again: [Hey, be careful, there’s an Apocalypse illusion I’ve never seen before approaching you, it’s really fast—— oh no, you’re not going to be able to avoid it]

Gu Qing Shan’s heart felt heavy.

“Watch out!”

He shouted.

Everyone was a bit clueless.

Suddenly, a flash of light came flying downstream from the Tomb River.

This flash of light was so quick that it was basically at the speed of thought, as soon as they recognized it was there, they had already been enveloped by it.

Sha——

Everyone was taken into the flash of light and disappeared.

Unusually.

The drifting Wraith's corpse also disappeared with them.

...

Heaven and earth turned around on their heads.

Gu Qing Shan landed on the ground.

Soon after, Shan Hai Qi Xia also landed.

Around them was the ruins of a vast city without borders.

The monsters were not around them, quite obviously been teleported elsewhere.

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"Another Apocalypse illusion" Gu Qing Shan felt a headache.

All the Apocalypses are about to erupt, but right at this crucial moment, I was transported into another Apocalypse illusion.

—--wait a moment.

If I continued to remain inside an Apocalypse illusion, would I be able to avoid the other Apocalypses?

For example, if I remain inside this illusion, would I be able to avoid that long-cheek skull?

That Apocalypse is truly terrifying, capable of sending someone away from Space and Time with just a gaze, forever trapping them in emptiness.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, Shan Hai Qi Xia clutched her face in her palms and began to cry.

"I already am helpless to save even a single person" she said as she sobbed.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

The Wraith realm had already taken the Delimitation Divine Sword away after I've only just entered this world for a short period.

It's too late.

Without any information, I had no way of predicting any of this, completely helpless to do anything about it.

I basically couldn't do anything.

And now, the Wraith realm is about to release all the Apocalypses.

—or rather, they had already left, leaving all the Apocalypses to their own devices?

This is a hopeless situation without any chances to turn things over.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, his four swords suddenly appeared behind him.

Shan Hai Qi Xia also sensed it and instinctively took out her purple bell, gazing ahead.

On top of a broken wall, a single Wraith stood.

Its body was formed out of continuously drifting black fog, the thick miasma depicting its ferocious facial features.

“It's you!”

Gu Qing Shan and Shan Hai Qi Xia both called out at the same time.

—this Wraith was exactly the same as the Wraith's corpse that carried them drifting through the Tomb River.

It spoke directly: 「 There isn't much time, we'll make it brief 」

「 After the guardians betrayed the Samsara years ago, the Apocalypse illusions began to flow out from the great tomb bit by bit, I had no choice but to split myself into many pieces to suppress the various locations of the great tomb, but very recently, I've been feeling more and more inadequate 」

「 With my original plan, I would have chosen a wielder among all those who entered the great tomb to once again help me suppress those Apocalypses 」

「 However, there is no longer time for that, as the Wraith realm humans have already brought my real body away with them 」

「 Without my real body present, all the Apocalypses would shortly erupt 」

At this point, it paused and looked at the two of them.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Then, you are the artifact spirit of this sword? No wonder you were never swept into the Apocalypses, but constantly taking people down the Tomb River—— I suppose that Apocalypse illusions were all guided by you to test and choose a new wielder?”

「 That is exactly the case. The Wraith realm humans managed to go beyond my expectations, so I no longer have the time to carefully make my choice 」

The black fog wraith turned to Gu Qing Shan and raised its hand.

In its hand was a length of black wood, carved into the shape of two wraith heads intertwining with one another to form a handle.

The handle of a sword.

It explained: 「 This is the sword handle that I had hidden away, as long as the Wraith realm does not have this sword handle, they cannot completely take control of me 」

「 Urgency calls for desperation, I hope that you will now take my sword handle with you and quickly leave this great tomb 」

「 If you can take me and escape from the great tomb, you will be presented with some of the inheritances within the great tomb. Unlike your [Ethereal], the other inheritances can be practiced by many people, capable of helping those around you quickly become stronger 」

「 Later on, I shall accompany you to the Wraith realm to retrieve the blade of my body 」

「 If your performance during this process is especially excellent, I can even consider taking you as my wielder and master—— but not right now 」

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan went silent.

This time, it was the Wraith artifact spirit that felt confused.

I'm the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword, anyone else would practically go berserk at my offer.

But he is remaining silent.

What's going through his mind?

The Wraith artifact spirit said: 「 All the Apocalypses are about to erupt; do you still intend to remain here? Your single hand cannot make a clap, there is no way to change this fact, or destroy all the Apocalypses, this is a hopeless situation that cannot be overturned by anyone 」

「 ——That's why, you must hurry and take me, then leave! 」

Gu Qing Shan continued to remain silent.

He turned to Shan Hai Qi Xia.

Shan Hai Qi Xia had basically broken.

“The Tomb... of Myriad Beasts... is done for” she silently wept as she muttered.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “That's right, it would be too late now to return and evacuate the others as well”

Li Qiu Yu and her brother, Zhao Qiong, Wang Shun, everyone will surely perish in the Apocalypse.

Everyone, every human in the Tomb of Myriad Beasts would lose their lives within the countless Apocalypses.

At this point, the Wraith artifact spirit dissolved into black fog and became fully absorbed into the sword handle, then flew in front of Gu Qing Shan.

It called out again:

「 Gu Qing Shan! There really isn't much time left, while the traitor guardians are still being restrained by me, we need to hurry and escape! 」

Gu Qing Shan silent again for a short moment before speaking: “I— still want to give it a try...”

Shan Hai Qi Xia abruptly looked up at him with her mouth wide, afraid to ask him.

She was afraid that he might give her an answer that would cause her more despair.

The Wraith artifact spirit spoke, amused: 「 You? You certainly were impressive, but in front of the never-ending Apocalypses, any one person is ultimately an insect 」

“Indeed” Gu Qing Shan admitted, “All of us, in front of the Apocalypse, are nothing but insects”

His gaze met with Shan Hai Qi Xia.

“I've agreed to help you” he said.

Shan Hai Qi Xia stared straight back at him.

“I'll say this first, I can only give it a try, if it really is hopeless, we should still retreat— after all, there's no sense staying here to die” he continued.

Shan Hai Qi Xia grabbed his hands and spoke with a trembling voice: “I, Shan Hai Qi Xia, shall make my pledge! As the only person whose soul remains after obtaining my inheritance, I represent all Combatants of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts who have discovered this fact, hereby swearing to be your ally in life and death!”

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then turned to the sword handle covered in black fog and said: “Wait a moment”

The Wraith artifact spirit asked: 「 What exactly are you trying to do? 」

Gu Qing Shan held the twin swords Heaven and Earth in his hand.

“Luo Bing Li” he silently called out.

“Hm? I’m here” Luo Bing Li replied.

“I recall that during the Age of Old, it was you who took the components of the abyssal Soul Artifact other than the Earth sword and Heaven sword” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Your eyes were very sharp, that was certainly the case” Luo Bing Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan continued non-stop: “I remember... when Lin was hiding in the shadows and you told me to guess your identity—— you were in fact the artifact spirit of the Eternal Abyssal Soul Artifact, born at the moment of the weapon’s creation. And the full name of the twin swords Heaven and Earth should be: Abyssal Soul Artifact, the main body of the Abyssal Weapon, Evil-warding weapon of the Bottomless Abyss, the Guardians against ultimate extinction, the Swords of Changing Fate, the Key to infinite worlds”

Luo Bing Li slowly understood, her expression becoming full of disbelief.

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes flickered with faint light, speaking in a whisper: “This is troublesome, truly troublesome to an extreme degree, so much so that I can die at a moment of carelessness, and even if I die, I wouldn’t be able to save those people, unable to Tomb of Myriad Beasts, and as you know one hand cannot make a clap——”

Luo Bing Li remained silent, then finally relent: “Then, the thing you’re looking to do is actually——”

“Seeing how I can’t deal with the current situation by myself, I think I’m going to take a quick trip to some parallel worlds” Gu Qing Shan paused a bit, then finally explained: “The only issue is that even if I went to a parallel world, no one would arbitrarily trust me so readily in such a short time”

“So, I’m preparing to find an army of myself as reinforcement for this battle”

Chapter 1280

The Heaven sword twirled and turned into a beautiful girl.

Luo Bing Li.

She casually told him:

“For a certain unspeakable goal, the Eternal Abyss collected knowledge and wisdom from throughout the void, only discovering the method to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth after countless long years”

“Based on eight Causality Laws, the Eternal Abyss forged eight different components to aid the twin swords Heaven and Earth in exerting their powers and open the gate of infinite worlds hidden within the countless Laws”

The other eight unique components appeared from the void of space one by one——

As they appeared, the void of space itself began to warp.

Gu Qing Shan appeared nostalgic.

He was recalling the final moment of his battle during the Age of Old.

Shan Hai Qi Xia had a look of admiration on her face, muttering: “These are the legendary twin swords Heaven and Earth...”

The components continuously circled around Luo Bing Li, quickly pushing the surrounding void around them away to display the overlapping images.

——they were the images of countless parallel worlds.

Luo Bing Li continued: “The Earth sword and I each hold a unique force in our hand, one of destruction, the other of creation. These are the Laws which all things, all living beings, and all worlds must abide by to grow, but as the twin swords Heaven and Earth are both present, destruction and creation simultaneously exist, allowing one to surpass the Laws of this reality to summon the infinite worlds before one’s eyes”

The Earth sword then spoke with a heavy mountainous voice: 「 Gu Qing Shan, have you prepared yourself? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I might not say this about anything else, but when it comes to looking for myself, I’m absolutely confident”

Luo Bing Li continued: “Then we shall—”

Suddenly, the Wraith artifact spirit spoke up:

「 Wait! 」

The black fog scattered and the sword handle disappeared as the jet-black Wraith once again reappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Its tone was no longer as frantic or urgent as it was before, instead, it was more calm and solemn:

「 Since you are able to display this much, there is no longer a need for me to pretend 」

“No longer in a hurry to flee?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked.

The Wraith scoffed: 「 I was one who existed to suppress these Apocalypses, did you really think I’d actually run away? 」

Gu Qing Shan was silent.

—this scoundrel, so you really were acting earlier.

The Wraith continued: 「 I've never thought someone would be able to come so far, but since there is now a ray of hope, I would naturally not simply give up 」

The black fog scattered, turning into an intense current of wind.

Very quickly, a wall of black wind had manifested.

This black wall of wind had enclosed Gu Qing Shan's vicinity.

Hoh—

The fog was intensely flickering within the wall as if trying to gather something.

The Wraith spoke again:

「 Gu Qing Shan, you should also know, the great tomb is composed from many warped Space and Time, so now I shall help you buy a bit of time 」

Gu Qing Shan looked into the black wall of wind surrounding him and clasped his fist: “Thank you, but could you explain what you mean?”

The Wraith answered: 「 I will take away a portion of this location's time, only once you return would I give it back 」

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then asked: “Then, regardless of how long I leave, not a single second would have passed when I come back, correct?”

「 A bit of time would still have passed, but not much—— do not worry, it would be more than enough for you to find your reinforcements, there would be no need to worry about there not being enough time 」

At this point, the Wraith appeared a bit agitated: 「 How regretful now that my main body had been taken away, my powers are greatly limited, this is the extent of what I can do 」

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent.

Shan Hai Qi Xia blankly muttered: “This is already very powerful, powerful beyond all imagination...”

If it wasn't that powerful, it wouldn't have been able to suppress so many Apocalypses.

Gu Qing Shan silently said to himself.

——directly taking time away from a location, what an unimaginable feat that was.

With that to support him, Gu Qing Shan felt even more confident.

“Luo Bing Li, Earth sword, have you prepared yourselves?”

Gu Qing Shan asked.

“We're prepared, but you need to know something ahead of time” Luo Bing Li silently sent her voice.

“What is it?” Gu Qing Shan sent his voice back.

“The eight components of the Eternal Abyss Soul Artifact originally had the ability to help you bring many items back from the parallel worlds, but now since you're attempting to have living beings with souls accompany you, this will put a huge stress on the components”

The Earth sword also sent its voice: 「 The Heaven sword and I will naturally be fine, but taking people with you from parallel worlds will damage the eight components considerably 」

“In other words, I will only be able to use this method a single time?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Indeed, once the eight components are damaged beyond repair, it will send those people back to their respective realities” Luo Bing Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: “Are you sure the two of you will be fine?”

The Earth sword replied: 「 Of course 」

Gu Qing Shan sighed and sent his voice: “As long as you two are fine”

At this point, the Wraith was losing its patience.

Its voice could be heard from the black fog:

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「 Brat, are you going to look for reinforcement or not? 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at the black wall of wind around him and smiled: “Naturally—— we’re heading off!”

「 “Very well!” 」

Luo Bing Li and the Earth sword both responded.

In an instant, the eight components spun madly, forcing the surrounding void of space to move further away.

More and more parallel world images appeared.

The twin swords Heaven and Earth both spoke up at once: 「 “Right at this moment!” 」

“Coming!”

Gu Qing Shan shouted.

He wielded one sword in each hand and heavily slashed forward.

Two wide sword images manifested.

A certain parallel world image was slashed in half, revealing a passage within.

Gu Qing Shan swiftly moved and jumped in.

As soon as he did, the passage disappeared.

Shan Hai Qi Xia witnessed it all happen, stayed silent for a long while, then sighed: “I’ve never thought such a thing would ever happen”

The Wraith laughter came from the void of space: 「 Young lady, you’re still very young, the void is infinitely vast, there are still so many things that you have yet to witness 」

Shan Hai Qi Xia raised her eyebrows a bit and asked: “You’ve seen someone travel to a parallel world like this once before?”

The Wraith’s laughter instantly stopped.

...

Darkness, deep, boundless.

Suddenly, a man appeared in that darkness.

Gu Qing Shan.

He looked around, only to see the blank space vortex with only an occasional strange object flying through the void wind.

“I forgot something” Gu Qing Shan said.

「What’s the issue?」 the Earth sword asked.

“Although we’re not pressed for time, how am I supposed to find myself?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Luo Bing Li’s voice came from the Heaven sword: “Everything about this reality is foreign to you, except a single entity that you’d be able to sense regardless of distance, that would be yourself”

“So, I just need to feel myself?”

Gu Qing Shan said, then closed his eyes.

“How interesting, I found him— I mean, I found ‘me’”

Gu Qing Shan’s figure slightly moved and flew in a certain direction.

Moving through three Super Dimensional Worlds, he quickly reached the border of the 900 million World Layers.

His homeworld.

After a bit more work, Gu Qing Shan finally found his parallel world self.

“Ah, this won’t do, the timeline in this world is still too early”

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He formed an invisibility hand seal, then silently stood in the air outside of a campus building.

Through the window, one could see the silence within the classroom.

Every student was focused on their test papers.

Including the teenage Gu Qing Shan——

He was focused on a Mech Armor analysis test.

“Gongzi, is this ‘you’ while you were younger?” Shannu asked.

“That’s right. Make sure to keep your voice down, this is a very important test. We can’t affect anyone in this place” Gu Qing Shan carefully told her.

“Is this test very important?” Luo Bing Li asked.

“Hm, this is a test related to the future of every single person in this building—— of course, the test results are also important, but what’s more important is the determination and effort each person had put into their chosen paths. Heaven will reward those who are diligent, and one’s effort will not betray them” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Ah——”

The four swords all uttered an emotional exclamation.

They curiously looked upon the immature young man from outside the window.

Gu Qing Shan said: "I still haven't gone through anything at this point in time, let's head to the next parallel world and find another 'me'"

"Let's go"

「Hm, let's go to the next world」

Before they left, Gu Qing Shan turned back towards the campus building.

His gaze moved away from his teenage self, then scanned through each of the familiar and unfamiliar faces around.

Each person was trying their best.

As this was their moment to exert their efforts.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and lightly muttered: "This is a fair battle that deserves all of your efforts, I wish you all luck"