

## Apocalypse 131

### Chapter 132

This person called “Mr. Liao” is the scientist that invented warp technology 30 years ago.

He went mad trying to pressure the 9 Lords into making him the 10th, but after Impartial Goddess disarmed his bombs, he was caught and swiftly assassinated by the 9 Lords.

Yet the one that was killed was only a clone, while his actual person continued to live on for the next 30 years in space.

In the past life, right as the Apocalypse came, he actively attacked the Confederate ———by crashing a large-scale warp device into a space monster, then activated it and sent the monster straight to the Freedom Confederate.

This act of madness was his plan for revenge that he hatched for almost 30 years, making his existence become known again.

As Gu Qing Shan finished speaking, the other side went silent.

Then after a bit, he spoke up again: “And if I were to refuse, what would you do?”

Gu Qing Shan shrugged, saying: “I know you’ve placed a lot of warp traps, capable of displacing attacks”  
“But did you know? That amount of preparations is pathetic compared to the might of the entire Confederate”

“And you can represent the Confederate?” the voice mocked.

“He can represent the Confederate” Impartial Goddess spoke.

“Impartial Goddess? The hell? You’re the President?” the voice spoke in surprise, “no, your voice is too young, the Confederate doesn’t allow for Presidents this young, but according to Impartial Goddess’ Logic, the only one able to represent the Confederate is the President”

“This is a contradiction”

The voice stopped, obviously thinking about it.

“That is to say, you are not the President, but you got the highest authority in the Confederate anyways?” He arrived at the correct answer.

“Exceptional!” the voice shouted excitedly: “I’ve also tried to do that before, but I was in so much of a hurry, and the pursuers were so hot on my tail that I couldn’t completely overwrite the 30 firewalls of Impartial Goddess”

“Well done, how did you do it?” his voice became more familiar and close.

“You don’t need to know that, we’re talking business right now” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Fine then, you want my warp technology, to deal with those damned Man Killer Fiends and sea monster, correct?”

“Correct”

“And firearms don’t work?”

“Looks like you’re really well caught up with the news”

“I need to ask one more thing, you’re not part of the 9 Lords?”

“What do you think?”

“You’re not, yeah, definitely not”

“Then, Mr. Liao, your answer?”

“I want to see a bit of sincerity first”

“My sincerity?” Gu Qing Shan smiled, then said: “I originally could’ve used chemical weapons to attack, eliminating all biological life on your small-sized space shuttle, and then go there to extract your research results”

“But I didn’t do that, instead I attempted communication with you first”

“Then you’re lucky that you didn’t” the voice spoke, “I’ve placed a biological sensor near my heart, as soon as my life signs cease, the entire space shuttle will blow up.

“Then another sincerity” Gu Qing Shan spoke again, “I know you’re about to stop a passing-by space monster, using your warp technology to send it directly to the Confederate”

“The fuck! How did you know?” the voice shouted.

“The news that you’re still alive, together with this, if they were to spread, how much longer do you think you’ll have to live?”

“Fine, fine, god damn, since you’ve been so open with me, I’ll give it to you, but under one condition”

“Speak up”

“I want to return”

Gu Qing Shan was a bit stunned when he heard that.

This psychopath wants to return?

If the 9 Lords were to discover him, he would have no chance to run again.

The voice stopped for a bit, but couldn’t wait for Gu Qing Shan’s answer before speaking again, worriedly.

“You have the highest authority, you gotta help me here”

“Everything is inconvenient in this god damn outer space. I already ran out of contraceptives long ago, you really gotta help me return ———the natural ecosystem of the ship is already at its limit supporting the population here”

As soon as he decided to, the voice started to go on and on.

“You’re still a brat so you probably can’t imagine just how much population I got up here, and how heavily pressured my life support and ecosystem up here is right now”

“God damnit, I want you to help me return, and I want some money, I want to go to the bar, have a good drink and hit on some young ladies!”

Gu Qing Shan was stunned for quite a while, then answered: “Give me all the warp technology expertise you have, then you can return”

“Very well, sent over an unmanned Military Warship ———small-sized is not enough, it has to be at least mid-sized, there’s quite a few people here”

“I’ll arrange it now, Mr. Liao. Please be patient”

Gu Qing Shan hung up.

“There’s a problem” he said.

“Please go ahead, sir” Impartial Goddess’ voice seems to carry a hint of a smile.

“This guy is a mad scientist. Right now, he still has the delusion of ruling over the world, ruling over all the females of the world”

“Even the 9 Lords fear his expertise and his madness”

“Absolutely do not let him near any core technology, as soon as he returns, inject him with Nano-bombs, and give him a deep genetic modification to change his appearance”

“Give him a new name and life, from now on, he can only move where I can track him. Do not let his wives and kids contact anybody that they know, but you can provide them a well-off life”

“Understood sir”

Gu Qing Shan sighed, saying: “This guy is a complete ticking time bomb, if it weren’t to smooth over the current situation, I would not have tried to contact him”

He went out again, giving the officers and Professionists another day’s mission to collect monster corpses.

All of them answered positively.

After Gu Qing Shan left, Wang Yan looked at Zhang You Bang.

Zhang You Bang spoke in annoyance: “I really am blind to think that I could’ve beaten him”

“Sun Ming is also blind as fuck, not only does he not know that he nearly lost his life, he’s still indignant about it in the cell. I’m going to go kick his butt and tell him about what happened just now”

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All the Professionists and officers exchanged looks.

Wang Yan shook his head, muttering: “I also only found out that Confederate scientists were that strong just now”

Gu Qing Shan returned to his lab.

Suddenly Impartial Goddess said: “The Martial Saint’s and the No.1 Man Killer Fiend’s battle has begun, would you like to observe it with satellite footage?”

“No need, we have more important things to do right now” Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then said: “Extract the current information we have on the Man Killer Fiends, categorize them by how dangerous they are”

“Understood, based on danger scale, the escaping Man Killer Fiend is considered the highest level”

“From collected intelligence, there are a total of 3 Man Killer Fiends that are close to him on the danger scale”

The screen showed some images.

A giant mountain of flesh was slowly moving about in a city.

Gu Qing Shan frowned, looking closer at the giant mountain of flesh.

On it, human corpses were piled up to make a sort of spiraling staircase upward.

The human corpses formed the steps, as the staircase led up to the top of the flesh mountain.

A really fat Man Killer Fiend sat on top of the mountain, using corpses to feed 2 Man Eater Fiends.

——they were black Man Eater Fiends, considered elites in the ranks of Man Eater Fiends.

And they were the fat Man Killer Fiend’s “pets”.

On the entire mountain of flesh, these kinds of “pets” were everywhere.

“Sir, Man Eater Fiends have quite the noticeable variation, do you think Man Eater Fiends can also evolve?” Impartial Goddess asked.

“They won’t” Gu Qing Shan answered, “A Man Eater Fiend’s biological essence will not evolve, but they can grow stronger, similar to how a human can grow from being a baby to an adult ——the better nutrients they get, the stronger they became”

“Understood”

“So it already has the consciousness to breed dogs...” Gu Qing Shan muttered, “next one”

The screen changed, showing a different area.

This was a city.

You could clearly see the city was getting rowdy as the Fiends gathered on the streets.

They all stood blankly in place, waiting for something.

Shortly after.

10 Man Eater Fiends pulled a heavy horse cart over, wherever it passes by, the Man Killer Fiends on the way started prostrating in a frenzy.

On the horse cart was a large slab of meat.

The slab of meat had no limbs or facial features, but it still accurately extended blades of flesh, piercing all the prostrating Man Killer Fiends, pulling them to it.

All the Man Killer Fiends pulled into the horse cart combined with the slab of meat and disappeared without a trace.

During the entire process, not a single Man Killer Fiend resisted or screamed in agony.

The images stopped here.

“A highly-mutated Man Killer Fiend” Gu Qing Shan spoke, “this thing is very dangerous. If it gets to mature, it’ll be even harder to deal with than the other Man Killer Fiends”

“Would you like to see the 3rd Man Killer Fiend as well?” Impartial Goddess asked.

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

In the past life, Man Killer Fiends appeared without any warning, without any knowledge or precaution, so humanity suffered immense casualties.

Man Killer Fiends evolve too quickly, and become too powerful.

If it weren’t for the fact that humanity could log into the game and quickly became stronger, able to barely catch up to the growth of Man Killer Fiends, they would’ve already been hunted to extinction by them.

This life, thanks to him informing Impartial Goddess about them so soon, the casualty isn’t quite as horrible as the past.

———but this time, the game still hasn’t launched yet, the situation is still very dire, and it will only get worse from here on.

Humanity’s destiny looks so shaky, just where is the path to our salvation?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

The screen changed again.

On it is a skeleton with scraps of rotting meat stuck to it, slowly staggering forward along an empty field.

Its body let out a thin veil of mist, wherever it passes through becomes dead land that grass can’t even grow on.

“This was the one that fought the No.1 Man Killer Fiend and was able to escape after being wounded” Impartial Goddess told him.

Looking at the yellow mist flowing from its body, Gu Qing Shan commented: “This is a plague”

“That is correct, the virus on its body is constantly evolving. Yesterday, at 7:38 PM, all of current humanity’s medical knowledge has proven unable to do anything to the virus on it”

“Dispatched Professionals are also unable to get close to it, anyone within a 30m radius will catch the virus and die”

“Has the generals been dispatched?”

“Because we have no method to save them should anything unexpected happen, the 3 Generals has not been dispatched”

“Bai Sha county has suffered the most casualties in the entire Freedom Confederate, because 2 of the 4 strongest Man Killer Fiends are here”

“77.91825% of humans in Bai Sha county were killed by this Man Killer Fiend’s plague virus”

“Addendum: From battle records, only the No.1 Man Killer Fiend has shown to have immunity to its virus”

Gu Qing Shan listened, then asked: “Aside from where these 3 Man Killer Fiends are, what is the situation of the other counties?”

“The situation is currently under control, Mobile Mechs has been dispatched appropriately, so the number of people rescued are steadily increasing, both the army and hired Professionalists are handling the aftermath of the rescue”

“What about other countries?”

“Thanks to your early cautions, I have spread the information to all other countries, allowing them to fully take control of the situation. There have been no signs of total outbreak anywhere”

“In addition, the countries have all unanimously requested help from the Confederate, so that I may help them analyze the best measure for each country”

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his temples, wryly smiling: “Finally, some good news”

### **Chapter 133**

TN: From this chapter onward, both the System and Impartial Goddess dialogues will be put into [.] for easy differentiation, as well as Skill and Technique names.

Gu Qing Shan contemplated: “This is a good chance, make sure to analyze their national situation well, we might need to resume contact with them later”

[I will] Impartial Goddess answered, [gathered intelligence of Man Killer Fiend has been relayed. Sir Gu Qing Shan, please give me your assessment of the three Man Killer Fiends]

Gu Qing Shan replied: “They’re all bad news, in comparison, I’d rather the one that evolve the fastest be that Man Killer Fiend I fought with before”

[On what basis do you use to give this assessment?]

“Their threat to humanity, as well as my own personal judgement”

Impartial Goddess stayed silent for a bit, saying: [I have a certain conversation recording that sir Gu Qing Shan might be interested in]

“Very well, play it” Gu Qing Shan said.

The sound of a ringtone.

Then the conversation began.

“Mom, how are you over there?”

Gu Qing Shan was shocked; this voice belongs to the fastest evolving Man Killer Fiend that he fought before.

...

“Right, just use the money for yourself, live a bit more well-off, this way I can concentrate on my work”

“Hm”

“Hm”

“Take care”

The conversation ends.

Gu Qing Shan sat and listened to it in silence, then closed his eyes to think for a while.

Who would’ve thought, that Man Killer Fiend was the perfect evolution that he spoke about.

A Man Killer Fiend that regains human emotions would have an evolution speed that none other can compare to.

As time passes, he’ll only get stronger.

The best way to deal with such a dangerous monster is to kill it off.

Then Impartial Goddess’ voice was heard again.

[Report, sir Martial Saint could not finish him off]

[As there were errors in his power estimation, the Man Killer Fiend was able to escape once more]

“Is the Martial Saint hurt?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[The Martial Saint was basically unscathed, the Man Killer Fiend was severely wounded, but taking into account his recovery speed, the wound might not serve as a good reference”]

Impartial Goddess asked: [Should we find the chance to finish him off?]

“Right now?”

[Seeing that the target has an emotional weakness, taking into account the possibility of using a hostage, there are a total of 31 measures we can take] Impartial Goddess suggested.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit: “Let me think for a bit”

Impartial Goddess spoke again: [Sir Gu Qing Shan was the first scientist to present the concept of Man Eater Fiend and Man Killer Fiend, as well as a Professionalist that has personally faced off against a Man Killer Fiend. Requesting sir Gu Qing Shan to create a measurement scale for Man Killer Fiends based on the current power scale, to more accurately gauge the enemy’s power]

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then quickly spoke: “Then how about we categorize Professionalists’ strength scale again, then use that to create the scale for Man Killer Fiends?”

[Currently recording, please continue]

“First are martial artists, from lowest to highest, they are: Master, Grandmaster, Martial Eminence, Martial Saint, Martial God”

Impartial Goddess spoke: [The highest level reachable by humanity is only Martial Saint. Martial God is an unknown category]

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then spoke: “Just record it first, who knows, maybe one day someone will break through the limit of Martial Saint, you can then put them as Martial God ———Martial God is the actual realm of Saint anyways”

[Recorded”]

“Next are Elementalists, from how much they can awaken it, the strength of their power also changes in different strides, the lowest is 1st stage, the highest being 5th stage”

“A 4th stage Elementalist can be used as a standard guideline for all other Professionalists, 5th stage is the same as a Martial God”

[Recorded]

“Next are God’s Chosen Skills, also split into 5 stages. 1st stage is First Awakening; 2nd stage is Willing Manifestation; 3rd stage is Complete Awakening; 4th is Undergoing Change, and 5th is Re-evolution”

Gu Qing Shan then shrugged, saying: “We can’t really assess it too deeply, since God’s Chosen Skills are too varied, no one can really tell how strong they are”

[Agreed]

“Good, then next are the Man Killer Fiends” Gu Qing Shan said, “Man Killer Fiends grow stronger at a much quicker rate, but they’re always one stage weaker than regular Professionalists”

“A 5th stage Man Killer Fiend can only be compared to a 4th stage Professionalist, sometimes even weaker due to lack of fighting skills”

“And a 6th stage Man Killer Fiend is only as strong as a 5th stage Professionalist”

“But Man Killer Fiends don’t die easily, they aren’t afraid of wounds in battle, and their rate of evolution is rapid, which is also their main strength”

“That’s pretty much it” Gu Qing Shan finished.

This is Reality’s current strength measurement scale.

But Reality’s Professionalists usage of energy is very crude, and they don’t know about the existence of spirit energy.

Spirit energy is the purest and basic power of the world.

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Reality’s martial artists don’t know to use spirit energy to nurture and train their bodies. Elementalists don’t know to use spirit energy to increase their means and power of attacks. God’s Chosen don’t know how to use spirit energy to feed their God’s Chosen Skills, to quickly increase its evolution speed.

Because of that, a single cultivator can face off several Professionalists of the same level and still have room to spare.



This type of occurrence persisted when the game started until very long after, only when everyone has already known to train and use spirit energy that it slowly disappeared.

[Recording finished, I also have something to report, that Man Killer Fiend has snuck back to Bai Sha county]

“It returned?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised, “we didn’t put any people to block his way back?”

[We only left the return path open]

“For what reason?”

[We did not have enough manpower, as well as the chance of him returning was calculated to be the lowest]

Gu Qing Shan was even more surprised; this Man Killer Fiend also knows to use its head.

Seeing both what happened before and after with this Man Killer Fiend, a brave yet crazy idea surfaced in Gu Qing Shan’s mind.

“If that’s the case...”

Gu Qing Shan clasped his hands together, resting his arm on the table and stayed silent for quite a bit.

He was thinking deeply.

This matter, if he takes one wrong step, it could lead to an irreversible chain of reactions.

But without trying at least once, he can’t give up this idea.

A long while later.

Gu Qing Shan finally decided.

“Where is the Martial Saint right now?” He asked.

[He is resting on a military HQ about 110km from here]

“Very well, I need you to make some preparations for emergency extraction, I want to contact that Man Killer Fiend again” Gu Qing Shan said.

[You mentioned ‘contact’ sir? Did you mean to fight, or verbal communication?]

“Verbal communication”

[Despite the target’s current wounds, he still has the power to threaten sir Gu Qing Shan’s life, discouraging communication]

“No need to worry, I can at least put up a fight in a short amount of time, not to mention, the Martial Saint shall be near the area”

Impartial Goddess questioned: [From current analysis, this operation contains immense risk, why does sir still insist on communication?]

“If I didn’t hear that conversation recording from before, I might have considered using power in numbers to kill him” Gu Qing Shan smiled, mocking himself: “But there’s a few things that I can’t just ignore after knowing”

[I don’t understand]

“Just prepare the best possible protection measures, I’m also afraid of death”

[Protection measures has been drafted, ready for use at any time]

Impartial Goddess went silent briefly, then said: [This operation will be considered S rank top-secret. Asides from sir and myself, only the President has enough authority to know about it, others will not have enough authority to access it]

“Very well, it’s been hard on you” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

——after this, there are a few very minor things that aren’t worth mentioning, but are worth considering.

Sometimes, even the smallest of details can lead to a tragic misunderstanding, so every move must be carefully planned out.

While he was thinking, his Holo-Brain lit up, as Impartial Goddess spoke: [You have a visitor]

“Who?” being interrupted from his thought process, Gu Qing Shan asked in annoyance.

[Your business partner]

“Why is he here?” Gu Qing Shan mumbled, stood up and went out.

On the roof, a small-sized shuttle was slowly descending.

As the door lowered, a man stepped out.

He was wearing a black vest coat, black fingerless gloves, showing a sense of maturity and steadiness.

But Gu Qing Shan knows well, that impression is very much fabricated.

Sure enough, right as he stepped out, Zhang Ying Hao spreads his arm and heartily laughed: “My dear business partner, you’ve helped save my little sister, how could I ever repay you?”

Gu Qing Shan sighed, saying: “As long as you don’t bring me any unnecessary trouble, I’ll gladly take that as repayment”

## **Chapter 134**

Seeing his ulterior motive being called out, Zhang Ying Hao was a bit embarrassed, but shook his head and spoke: “I heard you have quite the good wine here, mind inviting me for a drink?”

“Come in” Gu Qing Shan turned around.

They sat down in the lounge, knocking their glasses together.

“Tell me what you want” Gu Qing Shan said

“It’s nothing much, nothing much really” Zhang Ying Hao’s face was plastered with the brightest smile he had.

——looking Gu Qing Shan’s attitude, if I mention it now he’ll definitely refuse, let’s just wait a bit and see what happens.

“Then you can leave after finishing that drink, I have so much work over here. I’m about to head out so I won’t be able to entertain you for very long” Gu Qing Shan said very seriously.

“Hah, you want to shoo me away already? This wine really is nice, but you’re only giving me one cup here!” Zhang Ying Hao didn’t let it go.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched him, then pulled out a crate of wine from under the table.

“You can have all of it, bring it home and slowly enjoy it, can you leave now?” he pointed at the crate and said.

“Hah hah, you’ve shown your sincerity, but this isn’t a matter of the wine” Zhang Ying Hao laughed it off, “——what I’m saying is, whatever you’re doing, I can help”

“You want to help?” Gu Qing Shan glanced at him.

“Naturally, as business partners, whatever trouble you have, it’s my duty to give some aid” Zhang Ying Hao said as he puffed out his chest in pride.

Suddenly, Impartial Goddess’ voice was heard from the Holo-Brain: [Drafted target’s movement pattern, path of contact has been successfully established]

Gu Qing Shan immediately stood up, saying: “I need to leave now, you probably shouldn’t leave, just stay here, we’ll talk when I return”

Zhang Ying Hao stopped him, saying: “Then I’ll come with, no matter what mission it is, even if it’s wrestling with a Man Killer Fiend, I can fight alongside you just fine”

Gu Qing Shan stared at him, saying: “What are you doing now? My work is very dangerous”

“As business partners, I have to at least keep up appearance don’t I?” Zhang Ying Hao tilted his head slightly back, looking like a real hitman association’s boss, “Not to mention, no matter what sort of dangerous person it is, it’s no issue to this great young master”

Gu Qing Shan sighed, thought for a bit, then said: “Fine then, if you say so, then you’ll come as well”

“Where are we going? To do what?” Zhang Ying Hao asked excitedly.

Suddenly Impartial Goddess interrupted them, saying: [Zhang Ying Hao does not have the appropriate authority level, denied access to S-rank top-secret information]

Zhang Ying Hao shut off the Holo-Brain, then asked Gu Qing Shan: “Now you can tell me”

“Hmm, yeah, we’re going to meet someone that almost killed me” Gu Qing Shan thought about it, then answered vaguely.

“You really won’t tell me the situation?” Zhang Ying Hao asked, feeling hurt.

“I have to think about the other’s feelings as well” Gu Qing Shan sighed again.

Sure enough, the Holo-Brain automatically lit up as Impartial Goddess’ voice was heard from it: [S-rank top-secret information isn’t easily spread. Sir Gu Qing Shan’s actions are highly appreciated]

Not knowing why, Zhang Ying Hao felt like Impartial Goddess’ voice held a clear joyful tone.

“Fine, then can I come or not?” Zhang Ying Hao asked Impartial Goddess.

“Having someone to watch my back is also not a bad choice” Gu Qing Shan also explained to Impartial Goddess.

Impartial Goddess stayed silent for a bit, then spoke: [Zhang Ying Hao has been allowed participation in the operation. But Zhang Ying Hao can infer the corresponding intelligence by himself, Impartial Goddess and sir Gu Qing Shan cannot easily disclose them]

“So I can come help? We’re going to fight?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“That remains to be seen” Gu Qing Shan didn’t confirm or deny it.

“What is there left to be seen? From what you said, that guy almost killed you!”

“Fighting isn’t going to solve every problem in the world”

“Look at you, you really have no hot blood what-so-ever”

“Go” Gu Qing Shan chased him out, “I need to take care of a few things, you can go say hi to everyone, I’ll go look for you after I’m finished”

“Fine then” Zhang Ying Hao walked out, slightly annoyed.

After he left, Gu Qing Shan closed the door and went back to the table, speaking: “Impartial Goddess”  
[I’m here]

“The situation has changed, aside from the Contact operation, draft another operation for me”

[Please elaborate]

“The operation will be named: Exterminate. Show me a map of the area”

[Understood]

After Impartial Goddess confirmed it, she showed a map of the city in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the map, carefully arranging the necessary measures.

“10km from our meeting point, at these points here, arrange a squad of Mech fighters in each place. Have them turn off their engines and wait for orders”

“30km from our meeting point, arrange the army and Professionalists at these points to create a pincer formation. Gather two of the Generals and station them respectively at South East and North West directions, have them ready for battle”

“Do not reveal the actual situation, give them a mission to complete while maintaining the appropriate distance from us”

“If the Contact operation fails, when Zhang Ying Hao and I enter combat, have the Mechs arrive at the scene within exactly 1 minute, and the Generals within 2 minutes to commence the Exterminate operation and kill the Man Killer Fiend”

“Besides that, I want you to prepare some footage and records, be ready to send them to my personal Holo-Brain at a moment’s notice”

[Understood] Impartial Goddess spoke, [Sir, your preparation is exceptional, but I have a question]

“Go ahead”

[Why didn’t you do this before?]

“Before, if Contact were to fail once, I can still try it again”

“But now” Gu Qing Shan sighed, “I need to guarantee my business partner’s life as well”

[So that’s the reason]

One minute later.

A small-sized shuttle landed on an abandoned ball field at the edge of the city.

Zhang Ying Hao stepped off the shuttle and evaluated the area.

This was an open basketball field, quite a few large blotches of blood soaked the ground.

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On one of the goal baskets hung half a corpse, obviously someone tried to hide their temporarily, but got killed anyways.

A flat basketball was sitting on the side of the court on the grass, covered in some sort of black substance, attracting countless flies circling over it.

“So, what are we here for?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

He then went silent.

A very normal looking young man half covered in blood dragged his feet walking in from outside the court, leaving a trail of blood.

His complexion was pale, his steps staggering, wearing a pair of sunglasses on his face to hide his eyes.

Zhang Ying Hao glanced at Gu Qing Shan while reaching inside his coat pocket.

Gu Qing Shan quickly stopped his hand, afraid that it will alert the other party.

As he saw him stopping his weapon, Zhang Ying Hao understood.

So they really were here not to fight but to find him.

Zhang Ying Hao evaluated the young man in front of him.

———what would they need this guy covered in wounds for?

Gu Qing Shan normally looks very down-to-earth and humble, but he's extremely prickly and not easy to mess with.

And yet this young man was almost able to kill Gu Qing Shan? Looking at his appearance, you wouldn't associate him with being a strong person.

While he was silently dissing him, Gu Qing Shan has already greeted the young man.

"Please wait a minute" Gu Qing Shan said.

The young man stopped, turned around to look at them.

"You again" the young man spoke in a low voice.

He was hesitating a bit, seemingly considering what to do.

But Gu Qing Shan had already spoke again: "I'm not here to fight"

He raised both hands up, showing that he was unarmed"

"Ah? How did you find me? You should know, even the military couldn't track me here" the young man asked.

Still capable of being curious, that's a good sign, Gu Qing Shan silently muttered.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "That's because you still have your Holo-Brain with you"

"What does that have to do with anything?" the young man questioned.

Gu Qing Shan snapped his fingers.

And the young man's Holo-Brain lit up in his breast pocket.

[Greetings, former Confederate citizen Ye Fei Li, I am Impartial Goddess] a voice was heard from his Holo-Brain.

Gu Qing Shan snapped his finger again.

Ye Fei Li's Holo-Brain shut down again.

Zhang Ying Hao opened his mouth wide, unable to say anything as he saw that.

Ye Fei Li's face changed, himself also speechless.

Both of them know very well what that just now meant.

Because even the President can't do what he just did.

"How interesting" Ye Fei Li blinked, then asked: "This seems to be a secret, so why did you tell me?"

"I and my friend here needs a business partner, and you seem to be quite an appropriate person for the job" Gu Qing Shan lowered his hands, his expression also relaxed.

Ye Fei Li was truly stunned this time.

“Ahaha, business partner?” He laughed like crazy.

How long has it been since he heard something like that?

This guy is really out of expectation, no, to be more precise, any normal person would not have the same way of thinking he does.

Ye Fei Li shook his head, face showing disdain: “For me, only my body is going crazy, but you, your brain is definitely crazy”

Zhang Ying Hao has already regained his composure, seemingly understood the intent behind this meeting.

First of all, Gu Qing Shan is very serious about wanting to get this person on their side.

Second, this person is exceptionally valuable for something.

Third, he said his body was going crazy... and God’s Chosens at their 4th stage, Undergoing Change, certainly does have a symptom of not being able to control their body.

—very well, seems like this really is worth his cooperation.

“You ——brother Ye, please don’t mind it” Zhang Ying Hao cleared his throat and started to speak to the young man, “even though my business partner here speaks a bit too frankly, I assure you he’s a nice guy all around. If his friends ever need help, he’ll stop at nothing to help them”

“If he thinks you’re suitable to become our partner, then you definitely are exceptional without a doubt”

“Brother Ye, you can be assured” Zhang Ying Hao showed a smile, continuing: “You only need to become our partner, and all sorts of fortunes are waiting for you. Your life from now on, would only change for the better, you’ll be on your way to the very peak of life itself”

A strange silence followed.

Zhang Ying Hao kept up his friendly but not too excited smile.

He’s extremely pleased with his performance, and is currently thinking of the next words to say.

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li were both staring at him.

Gu Qing Shan showed a confused expression, but was also quite approving.

While Ye Fei Li was staring at him from behind the sunglasses, his eyes contained nothing but surprise.

## **Chapter 135**

Zhang Ying Hao has already entered his “zone”, slowly started to speak: “How do I say this, personally, I think there are two kinds of aristocrats ——”

Gu Qing Shan almost couldn’t help doing a spit-take.

This was the very same reasoning Zhang Ying Hao used to win him over last time.

Ye Fei Li scoffed: "So there are now two kinds of aristocrats now?"

"Of course, the first are the rotten, corrupted old men, together with the young masters who knows nothing but to play around, becoming the cancer tumors of society" Zhang Ying Hao answered.

"I agree, aristocrats are like that" the young man crossed his arms and nodded.

"Then there's the second kind of aristocrat, who don't think of themselves as such. They think that the title of 'aristocrat' is absolute dog shit" Zhang Ying Hao continued.

"Ah? That can't be true"

"Of course it's true, just take me for example. I might look like an aristocrat to you, but I've already been kicked out of my home since I was 15"

"What for?"

"Because they wanted me to marry out! What bull shit! My to-be wife looked like a fucking sea monster, if I marry her, it'll be hard to even say who is bedding who"

"And so, right then ——— I put my house on fire"

"A mansion?" Ye Fei Li suddenly asked.

"Hm" although caught a bit off-guard, Zhang Ying Hao nodded.

"That's easily worth a few millions, and you gave that up?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Who cares about the money. The point is, you can't compromise and make these kinds of dirty deals just to keep a damn status"

"It's dirty indeed, but how did you live from then on?"

"I kill people for money, my targets are especially people whose sins knows no end" Zhang Ying Hao got more and more excited as he talked.

"Kill people?" Ye Fei Li was very interested, letting go of his crossed arms.

Gu Qing Shan silently felt that bringing Zhang Ying Hao with him today was the best decision he has made since his return to the past.

He silently stood there listening to the two of them.

"That's right, afterwards, I created a hitman firm, called the Hunter Association"

"Hunter... that sounds nice"

...

"After that, I got to know my business partner here, Mr. Gu Qing Shan" Zhang Ying Hao finally concluded his spiel.

"Your name is Gu Qing Shan?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"That's right" Gu Qing Shan said.



Ye Fei Li looked at Zhang Ying Hao, then at him, asking: "Then what exactly do you want when you came here today to meet me?"

Gu Qing Shan was silent for a bit, then said: "I don't think killing is a really big issue or anything like that, the only thing is knowing to kill their people that needs to"

"Continue"

"And that is why I wanted to invite you to become our partner here"

"Me? But I'm ——"

"There's no problem with that, truthfully, this is a good thing for both you and I"

"What's good am I supposed to get from this?"

"Impartial Goddess told me, your mother is ill, extremely ill" Gu Qing Shan said.

Ye Fei Li's expression changed, hurriedly asked: "Her illness is acting up again? Didn't I transfer her some money already? Why doesn't she use it?"

"Because she wanted to save it up, together with her pension, leaving all to them for you" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"You might want to take a look at what happened yesterday's afternoon"

He snapped his fingers, then the Holo-Brain lit up again.

A screen is projected in the air.

An ambulance stretcher carried a thin, middle-aged woman out from a building.

Her hair has already started going grey, her skin was bone dry, there were even wrinkles that weren't supposed to be there at her age. Obviously the pressure of her living conditions had left quite a few marks on herself.

A doctor was angrily walking next to the stretcher, chastising her: "I already told you to receive treatment, but you still insisted on not coming, just how much do you want to save that money?"

The middle-aged woman tried her best to smile, saying: "I'm an old woman now, how long I have left to live isn't a big deal, I have to save it for my son"

The footage stopped, the screen shut down.

Ye Fei Li was shocked, took out his Holo-Brain wanting to do something.

Then a voice notified him

[User doesn't exist, unable to operate Confederate account]

"Aaaaarrgg!"

Ye Fei Li roared angrily, throwing the Holo-Brain to the ground as hard as he could.

He suddenly turned away, taking off his sunglasses and tilted his head upward.

“Oy, brother, we’re all grown-ups here, what are you crying for” Zhang Ying Hao loudly spoke.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit nervous, glaring at him.

Zhang Ying Hao thumped his chest, silently gestured “I got this” with his mouth.

“Listen to me, this isn’t that big a deal”

Zhang Ying Hao lit himself a cigarette, doesn’t mind that the young man had already put back his sunglasses on and stared at him.

He continued: “Currently, the best possible way to cure a person is to restructure and fix them up from the genetics level”

“The deep restructure and fixing of their gene will largely extend a person’s lifespan”

“But if that is kept up, people would die too slowly, the population would increase exponentially and place great stress upon the planet. That’s why it has always been strictly regulated and banned”

He drew another breath from the cigarette.

“Not to mention, a single time of deep genetic restructuring would cost an astronomical amount of credits, enough to buy off half a city”

“Impartial Goddess herself is the one enforcing the restrictions”

Zhang Ying Hao then leaned his elbow on Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder, suddenly shifting his tone: “But the two of us here, control both the light and the shadow. There’s no problem in this Confederate that we can’t handle”

“The price of tricking me will be very severe” Ye Fei Li cut him off.

“What I have is money” Zhang Ying Hao pointed at himself, then at Gu Qing Shan: “And he, has authority ——you saw it yourself just now, Impartial Goddess acted like she was his little lover”

“That means the two of us here have so much money that we don’t know what to do with, as well as privileges that none other has”

“We can use the Confederate’s technology to save your mother” Gu Qing Shan added.

“If you come with us, I’ll definitely make sure your mother gets back to full health” He looked at him very sincerely and said.

Ye Fei Li looked at him, silent.

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“To become our partner means that your mother is my mother, so I’ll take care of her treatment!”

Zhang Ying Hao suddenly raised his voice, thumping his chest in assurance.

Ye Fei Li frowned, a bit hesitant: “I’m different from you two. Every day, I have to kil——”

Zhang Ying Hao raised his eyebrows.

“There’s no problem with that!” Gu Qing Shan quickly cut him off, “there are many Man Killer Fiends that are getting stronger and stronger every day, we need your help to kill them”

Gu Qing Shan then continued: "To be honest, many of their evolutions are going on the wrong path. The only perfect evolution is when you're able to keep both emotion and memories, and the only one that will be able to go exceptionally far"

"At your current level, you are probably able to suppress your 'urge' temporarily"

"Temporarily... that is true, just like someone that's starving, I can use my will to suppress the urge, but not for long" Ye Fei Li answered.

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hand, saying: "The more you evolve, the longer you'll be able to keep your sanity, of course, if you want to keep evolving, you'll have to keep doing what you've been doing"

As Zhang Ying Hao listened to their talk, he felt like he understood something.

Evolve?

His ability evolves?

This guy's ability has reached the Further Evolution level?

That's already the highest rank of God's Chosens.

No wonder he was able to almost kill Gu Qing Shan.

What an eye-opener indeed.

Such a powerful ally, no wonder Gu Qing Shan is so sincere and tense about getting him on our side.

——that's right, such a powerful person must definitely be on our side no matter what.

"Come on man, we're offering such an exclusive deal here, what are you hesitating for? Accept it, and we'll crack open a bottle of champagne to celebrate. It's all on me today, we'll go hard all the way until midnight" Zhang Ying Hao put the cigarette in his mouth, spreads his arms and smile full of enthusiasm.

Ye Fei Li stood there, stunned.

He took out a jade medallion from his chest, rubbing it dearly.

"What will you have me do?" he stared at the jade, not lifting his head.

"To kill, or more precisely, kill the other Man Killer Fiends" Gu Qing Shan said.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "From now on, all the killing operations will be left to you, and I'll handle all the aftermath for you"

"And I'll be dependent on you?"

"No, this is a partnership, everyone gets a slice of the cake, and help with a part of the cleanup"

Ye Fei Li rubbed his chin, then asked again: "What if I can't control myself, what then?"

"I'll help you with controlling yourself"

"You will?" Ye Fei Li smiled, unconvinced.

"I have my ways; you just have to put a little bit more trust in me"

“And you aren’t afraid of being exposed that we’re working together?” Ye Fei Li questioned further.

“Everyone only have one life. No matter what, there’s always a risk you have to take” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ye Fei Li listened, his eyes loosened behind the sunglasses, but stayed silent.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “We have Impartial Goddess here with us, we’ll be able to analyze you more accurately with your cooperation. If we are able to deal with your problem using genetic techniques, I believe you can even go back to a normal life with your mother”

Then his tone shifted to be slow and steady: “There’s no such thing as an obstacle that can’t be passed, even if the threats are eliminated, I can specifically make a giant slaughterhouse just for you”

“Alright, I’m in” Ye Fei Li finally agreed.

Gu Qing Shan’s heart was able to relax.

He was clenching his fist tightly, his emotions boiling, almost couldn’t help himself from shouting in joy.

The entire 10 years of the Apocalypse, there has never been a case where a Man Killer Fiend even agreed to a peaceful life with humans.

This is a historic moment, a choice that affected the fate of humanity, a miracle in the evolution of life, a change so drastic that billions of people in the past life couldn’t possibly fathom.

“And so, please save my mother” Ye Fei Li said.

Gu Qing Shan calmed himself down, then said: “Impartial Goddess”

[I’m here] his Holo-Brain lit up.

“You’ve heard everything”

[I did, but the authority, resources and manpower needed for a deep genetic restructuring is massive, I will need one week of preparation]

“Then first preserve Ye Fei Li’s mother’s life”

[That won’t be a problem]

“Use Merit from my personal account to exchange for the finance to give Ye Fei Li’s mother better living conditions”

[Understood] Impartial Goddess said, [currently preparing conditions corresponding to Aristocrats]

Gu Qing Shan looked at Ye Fei Li: “You’ve heard it, correct?”

Ye Fei Li slowly nodded.

“From now on, you can come meet her as well” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Good” Ye Fei Li answered.

“As for right now” Gu Qing Shan considered a bit, then said: “The people at my place already met you, going there would only create unnecessary trouble”

He looked at Zhang Ying Hao: “Do you have a place? Somewhere for him to rest”

“Leave it to me” Zhang Ying Hao lifted his head: “As a partner of mine, of course you’ll receive the royal treatment”

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed.

A line of text flashed on the War God UI.

[The world’s space-time has been affected by an unknown force, affecting the user’s time flow. The user has to immediately enter the cultivation world to normalize his own time flow]

What does that mean?

Gu Qing Shan looked at the line of text in confusion, silently asked the System: “Why did the world’s space-time change? What are the specific symptoms of this?”

[Ting!]

The System replied: [An outside force, like the appearance of the sea creatures and Man Eater Fiends]

“Then why did my time flow not get affected when the sea creatures and Man Eater Fiends appeared, yet it got affected now?” Gu Qing Shan questioned further.

[Because this time’s force is greater than it has ever been]

## **Chapter 136**

Gu Qing Shan bit his lip tight, then finally opened his mouth to ask again after a while: “System, just what exactly is the cause for this?”

[The System can only feel the change in space-time, but it does not know the reason behind it. The user must find that out by himself]

“I want to find it out, but you’re telling me to go to cultivation world!”

[If the user does not enter the cultivation world, the user’s time flow will experience severe unknown consequences]

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but shook his head, there’s no time left to even speak.

Because the System once again popped up a message.

[Please enter the cultivation world immediately, to avoid the change in space-time, final 30 seconds countdown begin!]

[30, 29, 28...]

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t do anything but turn around, patting Zhang Ying Hao and said: “I’ll leave him to you, I need to leave to do something urgent now, I’ll come back to see you guys later”

Then he nodded at Ye Fei Li, turned around and jumped away.

As he reached a street corner, Gu Qing Shan said: "Impartial Goddess"

[I'm here]

"Protect them for me"

[Very well, you can be assured sir]

A light flashed, as Gu Qing Shan disappeared from Reality.

On the other side, the basketball court.

Zhang Ying Hao shook his head, complaining: "We haven't even finished speaking and he already left, what a worrywart"

But he resumed a smiling face and said: "Ignore him, let us go first ——brother, I'll bring you to a good place, guaranteed to be at least the level of the kings of the past, I'm sure it'll be unforgettable"

"I'll be fine as long as I can rest" Ye Fei Li looked at the wounds on himself and said.

Zhang Ying Hao stepped forward, very enthusiastically: "Let us introduce ourselves, I'm the boss of the Confederate's No.1 hitman firm, Zhang Ying Hao, to a happy partnership from now on"

He extended his hand.

Seeing his enthusiasm and his sincerity, Ye Fei Li also took off his sunglasses, revealing a pair of red glowing eyes.

Very seriously, he looked at Zhang Ying Hao and shook his hand.

"Nice to meet you, I'm the No.1 Man Killer Fiend in the world, Ye Fei Li"

Their eyes met.

Zhang Ying Hao opened his eyes wide, cold sweat running down his forehead.

Then everything that happened up until this point replayed in his mind.

This time, he finally understood.

As cold sweat ran down his forehead, Zhang Ying Hao couldn't help but shiver.

He tried to retract his hand ——then stopped.

Ye Fei Li is shaking his hand tightly to show his seriousness and respect.

Zhang Ying Hao breathed in, making a smile that's harder to look at than a frown, saying: "Ah, brother, I have confidence that you'll be a very good partner, definitely so"

Cultivation world.

After the semester examination, the world's situation is boiling up.

Bai Hua Palace.

A long streak of fire flew in, hovering in front of Bai Hua Fairy.

Taking the flame talisman, Bai Hua Fairy scanned it with her inner sight.

“What a strange piece of intelligence” she said.

“What’s the matter?” Xiuxiu asked curiously.

“All the strong demons and demon beasts that used to occupied Demon Cloud River is nowhere to be seen”

“Could it be they’ve entered human territory?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“They couldn’t, we’re keeping very strict surveillance, if they ever get close, we’d definitely notice” Bai Hua Fairy said.

“After confirming many times, they seem to be going away, leaving our world” she added.

“That’s a good thing” Qin Xiao Lou smiled and said, “if they all leave, we’ve already won without needing to fight”

“But all the Beast Saints are still here, not even a single one has left” Bai Hua Fairy continued.

She contemplated for a bit, saying: “Even though we don’t know what happened, but this is the best chance for humanity”

“We originally only wanted to retaliate after the semester examination, but look like it can become a decisive all-out attack instead”

As Gu Qing Shan listened, his heart sank.

The demons are leaving — — — but where?

If the corpse on the bronze pillar is telling the truth, then they are definitely looking for a softer fruit to pick.

And that means Reality.

At this point, the demons themselves still can’t go into Reality yet, but they’ve already had both the sea creatures and the Man Killer Fiends descend, what would they do next?

Reality is already very tattered, unfit to deal with a 3rd great calamity at the same time.

Damn it, I should be in Reality right now, checking exactly what happened!

Gu Qing Shan was a bit sorrowful, but he can’t help it.

Both worlds are changing too rapidly in this life that he really can’t do anything about it.

No need to talk about the changes in Reality, even the cultivation world is different.

In the past life, players can at least start with killing small and weak demon beasts, slowly gaining strength and levels, getting used to the cultivation world.

But this time, since humanity has found out the demon's plan and Shen Wu world, on the basis that they have absolute tactical advantage, there wouldn't be any more small-scale fights, only large, all-out operations.

And he himself will soon have to enter the fray!

This isn't a game where you fight monsters to level up, this is actual combat that can and will cost you your life.

Facing the giant flow of war, the fate of any person is like a leaf in water, weak and fragile.

Then what... should he do?

Gu Qing Shan quickly glanced at the hourglass.

It's still falling extremely slowly ———ever since he went into that strange space, his time flow has been messed up to no end.

He doesn't even know exactly when he'll be able to go back to Reality during this trip the cultivation world.

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He silently sighed.

There's no more room for him to worry about Reality, at the moment, the thing he has to worry about most is this time's operation.

He can only hope that nothing too major happens during the time he's at cultivation world.

Gu Qing Shan temporarily pushed his worries down, concentrating on what's going on in Bai Hua Palace.

Then Bai Hua Fairy swung her hand, leaving two items on the table.

They were two identification badges. One in front of Gu Qing Shan, the other in front of Qin Xiao Lou.

Gu Qing Shan's badge is still the same gold blue color, but it wasn't as big as the one he had when he came here.

In the middle of the badge, a dark red string carved out two large and fierce characters.

——Xiao Qi

Gu Qing Shan stared at the Xiao Qi Chaplain badge in disbelief: "I've become a Xiao Qi Chaplain just like that?"

Xiao Qi Chaplain is the 3rd rank within the "6 Chaplains", it's quite the status.

Humanity's military officers use a "6 Chaplains, 4 Generals, Vice and Main Deputy" ranking system.

As for Lieutenant, Captain, Major, etc. they're considered small team's leaders within the ranks of soldiers, not actual officers (1)



A Chaplain, from lowest to highest in order are: “Pei Rong”, “Ren Yong”, “Yu Wu”, “Xiao Qi”, “Zhen Wei” and “Zhao Wu”

This system went through many times of correction and discussion before being born, universally recognized in the entire cultivation world.

For cultivators within this system, every time they want to advance a rank, they need to have the appropriate amount of Military Merits.

And for players, that means to kill demons.

In the past life, a player needed to kill 800 demon beasts to change their status from “Soldier” to “Pei Rong Chaplain”, and from Pei Rong to Ren Yong requires killing 2000 demon beasts.

After advancing each rank, the amount required to advance again increase by at least two fold.

From a soldier to a Xiao Qi Chaplain, a player would need to kill a total of 30,800 demon beasts.

This is such a ridiculous amount that very few are able to reach, but it’s how the System worked.

If they’re not players but rather real cultivators, people of this world, someone that was a frontline soldier like Gu Qing Shan would have to make 10 small contributions, or 1 large contribution in a battle to advance to Pei Rong Chaplain.

“Pei Rong” is the lowest rank within officers, and yet Gu Qing Shan’s badge says he was already a Xiao Qi Chaplain.

He skipped 3 ranks.

“That is what you’re supposed to get, no need to be surprised” white goose said.

Bai Hua Fairy smiled, also saying: “You save two Generals, got this Saint to personally handle the matter, help with uncovering the spy in Humanity’s top brass, even discovering Shen Wu world was a part of your contributions, and you still don’t think you deserve to be a Xiao Qi?”

White goose also said: “If it weren’t for the fact that you advancing too quickly would harm your cultivation, Shifu would’ve forced the army to give you a General title as well”

“Shifu can actually do that?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit unconvinced.

Within the Human Cultivation Alliance, the thing with the most weight is Military Merit. Each time anyone advance a rank, it’s always an extremely serious and impartial matter without any space for personal feelings.

Even if he contributed greatly to humanity’s cause, going from a normal soldier straight to being a General is still very unbelievable.

White goose explained: “Currently, there are no Deputy or Vice-deputy for the alliance army”

“There’s no Deputy? Then who’s in charge now?” Xiuxiu asked.

“After Blade Emperor’s betrayal, the people’s spirits aren’t united” white goose squints his eyes, “after much discussion, the current Human Cultivator Alliance’s army has three highest leaders, the 3 Saints

shall personally handle control of the army”

“As there’s no chance for any of the 3 Saints to betray humanity, this is the most assured method”

“How is it?” white goose asked with pride, “third brother, as the highest leader of the army, do you think Shifu have the ability to directly promote you to a General?”

“Yes she does” Gu Qing Shan said in cold sweat.

Bai Hua Fairy cleared her throat and said very seriously: “Qing Shan, seeing that you’re still very young, Shifu believe you still need to train and better yourself, there’s still a lot of time for you to become a General later”

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Be a Chaplain first, after you get used to the battlefield and know how to control the troops then we can consider it later”

“Yes”

“Not to mention, with your talents, wouldn’t contributing and ranking up a simple matter?” Bai Hua Fairy very casually said, lifting her head in pride.

“...” Gu Qing Shan didn’t answer.

No it’s not simple, even contributing requires a lot of effort and accumulation, Gu Qing Shan silently complained to himself.

He’s almost sure that he understands the Military Merit and ranking system better than Bai Hua Fairy.

Because in the past life, this is something that players have become accustomed to and knows by heart, everyone heard it so many times that they’re all familiar with it.

But Bai Hua Fairy is a Saint, a person standing at the very top of humanity’s cultivation. Everything she has to think about are major matters, so she won’t necessarily study and understand the Military system as carefully as he had to.

“Third brother is quite talented, you’re only a rank below me” Qin Xiao Lou pridefully showed off his badge.

On it was the two characters for “Zhen Wei”

Xiao Qi, Zhen Wei, Zhao Wu, these are the highest 3 tiers of the Chaplain rank.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, saying: “Seems like we brother can fight side by side on the frontline this time”

As soon as Qin Xiao Lou heard that, he quickly hid his badge, embarrassed: “About that, erm, I’m actually at the backline”

White goose scoffed, saying: “How would he know about killing and battle. He’s getting by at the backline thanks to the 6 arts”

Gu Qing Shan then remembered.

Divination, Formation, Smithing, Pills, Talisman, Food. These are the 6 things that no cultivators can not use, and Qin Xiao Lou is an expert in all of them.

Thanks to that, he basically doesn't need to be at the frontline, being in the backline is where he shines and contributes the most to strengthen humanity's alliance.

Gu Qing Shan very serious said: "That's also a tough job, demons are fierce and aren't afraid of death, if it weren't for the 6 arts, humanity would have been defeated long ago"

The 6 arts are the crystallization of this world's civilization. A large part of why humanity can rival demons at all is thanks to having these things.

"That's very correct, you're not wrong" very rarely, white goose doesn't push Qin Xiao Lou down and agreed, praising him.

Bai Hua Fairy explained: "Bai Ying Tian is a beast, so his position is a bit hard. While Xiuxiu is still young, so she can't go yet"

"The two of you will represent Bai Hua Sect, at the frontline, make sure to do your best and don't soil our sect's name"

"Yes" they both replied at the same time.

"Very good" Bai Hua Fairy smiled, "Qing Shan is already a Xiao Qi Chaplain, but he doesn't even have a spirit beast for a mount. Xiao Lou, you bring him to choose a spirit beast to use as mount"

"Leave it to me" Qin Xiao Lou appreciated how Gu Qing Shan followed up for him just now, so he was more than happy to do so.

Bai Hua Fairy nodded, then floated away.

Note:

(1) military ranks: "lieutenant, captain, major" are not the literal translation, but there's no real equivalent to them in English. Essentially they are a leader of a team of 10, 100 and 1000 respectively. I feel like I need to explain the "6 Chaplains, 4 Generals, Main and Vice Deputy" system a bit clearer.

1/ The system refers only to officers in the army, soldiers aren't included.

2/ 6 Chaplains refer to the 6 mini-ranks within the Chaplain military ranking. Same goes to 4 General In my opinion, the system makes no sense in a real military context aside from giving a game-like feel where you can climb the ranks and eventually make it to the top. Because there would be too many officers and not enough soldiers.

## **Chapter 137**

After Bai Hua Fairy left, white goose also took Xiuxiu away to cultivate, the only two left in the great hall were Gu Qing Shan and Qin Xiao Lou.

"Come, junior brother" Qing Xiao Lou said as he stood up and gestured to Gu Qing Shan.

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan smiled, took the badge in his hand, about to leave.

Just right as he took the badge, his expression changed.

A flash of light passed by the War God UI, turning into a large red letters right in the middle

[Detected user activating a special story scenario]

[Current conditions suitable for activation]

[Destiny Quest activated]

A Destiny Quest!

Another Destiny Quest!

The last time he got one was when he was with Gong Sun Zhi and Ning Yue Xi, being surrounded by the horde of elite demon beasts.

That time was so dangerous that he almost lost his life numerous times before being able to complete the quest, activating the [War God Thaumaturgy] button.

Then what about now?

Gu Qing Shan quickly looked down.

[Destiny Quest: Decisive battle]

[Breaking the shackles of destiny, changing the direction that history takes, user Gu Qing Shan has entered a Destiny Quest]

[Quest description: The cultivation world has done everything it could to prepare for the final battle with the demons. Victory and defeat will be decided on this single battle. If they succeed, cultivation world will be able to advance their army to Shen Wu world; if they fail, the migrating demons shall all come crawling back as humanity of this world shall continue their path towards the destruction]

[Quest objective: Only when standing high enough that you'll be able to efficiently affect the direction of this war. You must increase your Military Rank to Zhao Wu Chaplain before the war reaches its halfway point]

[As this is an incredibly dangerous and difficult war, to ensure that the user does not die prematurely, the quest reward has been given early]

[If the Quest fails, the reward shall be rescinded, and the user will not be able to increase their cultivation in the span of 3 years]

After reading through everything, Gu Qing Shan felt surprised, and a heavy feeling of unease.

The Quest is called [Decisive Battle] —yet it is only a half-mission.

In other words, he has to complete this first half before gaining the right to attempt the second half of the Quest.

Not to mention, the Quest reward has already been given early.

Gu Qing Shan doesn't feel the least bit glad, instead he felt extremely heavy.

——the mission before was to save Gong Sun Zhi and Ning Yue Xi, despite how dangerous it was, there was never a mention of a reward being given early.

But this time, the System outright told him that this will be a dangerous and difficult battle, and gave him the reward early.

This is unheard of.

In the entire history of the game, never has there been any Quest that would give the reward before it's completed.

That is to say, the System predicted that even the player can die in this war.

Not to mention, if the Quest fails, he will be unable to increase his cultivation for 3 years.

He'll live, but that's the same as waiting for death.

At least if he tries his hardest and dies, he'll be able to avoid having to watch things happen without being able to do anything about it.

After reading through the Quest description again, he silently sighed.

Gu Qing Shan felt like he was standing on a thousand-mile-high cliff, one wrong step is all it takes for him to die the most gruesome of deaths.

Then he tapped the [receive reward] symbol on the UI.

[Ting!]

[Destiny Quest reward has been received]

On the War God UI, a new golden symbol appeared at the bottom, in the same row as [War God Skills] and [War God Thaumaturgy].

Gu Qing Shan was slightly surprised, but confirmed that Destiny Quests are indeed the key to opening the black symbols on the War God UI.

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He quickly checked it out.

A description showed on the symbol.

[War God Title]

[As the name of War God is renowned across all the lands, your title is the manifestation of your will]

[User Gu Qing Shan current owned titles: 2]

[Notice, you can only equip one title"]

I already own a title?

Gu Qing Shan looked down in surprise.

[Title 1: Sword 15]

[Description: On the day of the semester examination, you used one sword strike to blow away 15 of the top cultivators there. So many sect's newcomers have started to spread the name of Sword 15]

[Equipping this title grants you the specialist skill: Sound Shock]

[Sound Shock: when attacking, you'll deal many minor damage to the opponent's soul vessel]

[Title 2: Xiao Qi Chaplain]

[Description: Within the Humanity's Alliance army, this is the 3rd officer Military rank from the bottom]

[Equipping this title grants you the specialist skill: Quick Attack]

[Quick Attack: The user's attack speed is increased by 10%]

Gu Qing Shan breathed out as he looked, as expected of War God UI, the name War God isn't just for show. Each and every symbol of the War God is incredibly powerful.

These two titles that he has right now are only primary-level titles.

But looking at the description of the skills, this is on the same level as Growth Skills.

Using [Shifting Flurry] as an example, you'd see how strong a Growth Skill is.

Gu Qing Shan can already guess what powerful effects it would gain as the titles evolves.

If one day, he reaches the level of the 3 Saints, just how strong would a specialist skill of the titles be?

No wonder the System gave him this reward early; this is quite the big boost of morale for him.

After reading through the Quest reward, Gu Qing Shan's emotions calmed down again.

Can't help it then, he can't run away from what he has to face, so he might as well try his best to deal with the upcoming problem.

Going with Qin Xiao Lou, he went to an area behind Bai Hua Palace.

Qin Xiao Lou was speaking excitedly: "Junior brother, you have to carefully pick a mount for yourself ok?"

Although Qin Xiao Lou looked like a thoughtless slack-off, he actually noticed how Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

Then he complained: "Shifu has a close relationship with quite a few spirit beasts, but normally she is very strict with them, so I can't come hang out with them"

Gu Qing Shan reluctantly forced a smile, asking: "Senior brother, what mount do you use?"

'Me?' Qin Xiao Lou laughed and took out a Spirit Beast Bag.

"Check it out, brother!"

Then he tapped his spirit beast bag, releasing a giant shadow that descended on them from the sky, filling their visions.

Boom!

A giant tortoise that's about 2 stories tall landed on the ground, shaking the earth.

This is a Frost Mist Mystic Tortoise, having awoken Water Elemental root to 2nd stage, it can be considered decent.

"His strength and whatever isn't the main point" Qin Xiao Lou was excitedly explaining how great the tortoise was, "the main thing is that his shell has a layer of ice, to normal attacks are very likely to slide

off and miss”

“Just look at the thickness of this shell, its defensive capabilities are insane!”

Gu Qing Shan was a bit doubtful: “But what does how strong its defensive abilities are have to do with you?”

“You don’t understand at all” Qin Xiao Lou pridefully said, “I spent a ton of effort to put 3 space formations on the shell, that way, even if demons make it to where I am, I can just teleport and hide inside the shell”

Gu Qing Shan very seriously looked at the shell, confirming that he wasn’t kidding.

Qin Xiao Lou was this kind of person, charming enough to unconsciously move your point of focus away, sometimes forgetting about your worries as well.

“Nice, it’s a really good idea, but first please put him back, second brother. He’s too heavy to be standing on the two of us” Gu Qing Shan said.

### **Chapter 138**

“Hm, right, I didn’t really pay attention when I released him” Qin Xiao Lou only now noticed and put the Frost Mist Mystic Tortoise back.

They stood up, wiping the dust off themselves.

After walking another while, Qin Xiao Lou pointed at a great hall, saying: “We’re here”

Gu Qing Shan looked up to see the three large characters on the hall entrance: Spirit Beast Hall.

Walking in, the entire hall was filled with numerous Spirit Beast tags tied to red strings that hung from the top down.

Using his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan scanned the nearest few tags, seeing a name of a spirit beast on each of them.

And the entire hall was filled with these kinds of spirit beast tags.

Roughly counting, the amount of tags is easily a couple thousands, making for a magnificent sight.

“To do good is spirit, evil is demon” Qin Xiao Lou couldn’t help but exclaim: “Truthfully, demon beasts are also spirit beasts, and spirit beasts are also demon beasts. Being good or evil is within a single thought, not that different from human beings”

“Shifu raised so many spirit beasts?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

“Quite a few of them aren’t raised, rather they hang their tags here to show gratitude to Shifu for helping them” Qin Xiao Lou answered.

“What did Shifu do?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Not much really, she helps whoever is in trouble”

“Trouble? What trouble would spirit beasts have?”

“Not enough food, being pursued by someone, demonic possession while cultivating, their 1000-year herb got stolen... things like that”

“The ones that hang their tags here all gave their words to Shifu that if there’s ever a problem, call them and they’ll answer” Qin Xiao Lou said.

“Seems like Shifu has helped quite a few spirit beasts indeed” Gu Qing Shan looked at the hall filled with tags, exclaiming.

“Right, junior brother, what kind of mount do you want?”

“I want a fast one” Gu Qing Shan thought, then replied.

If it’s for fighting, him alone is enough.

But when moving from battlefield to battlefield, even a difference of 1 minute might create an entirely different situation.

“You only want speed?” Qin Xiao Lou asked.

“Right” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Qin Xiao Lou then showed an expression that says ‘I get you’

“We’re brothers alright” he spoke in a low voice, “I hide and you run away, this way, seems like Shifu doesn’t need to care about our safety”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, so he decided to say nothing.

Qin Xiao Lou sighed a bit sorrowfully, then said: “This time we’re going out, there’s going to be a lot of danger, Shifu doesn’t limit us on what kind of mount we can use, so we’ll just get you the best possible spirit beast”

He thought a bit more: “Fast speed... then it would have to be the Blackmane Unicorn, Twilight Bluemoon Panther and Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane”

Saying so, Qin Xiao Lou waved his hand and summoned three tags slowly flying towards him.

“Make sure to pay attention when you talk, spirit beasts all have their own temperament, not to mention these three are all Golden Core spirit beasts” Qin Xiao Lou advised him in a low voice.

“Yes” replied Gu Qing Shan.

Then Qin Xiao Lou released his spirit energy, tapping each spirit beast tag once.

Poof! Poof! Poof!

Three figures appeared in front of the two of them.

A majestic unicorn, a panther whose body slightly shimmers, and a completely white crane, with only a patch of red feather right at its neck.

The three spirit beasts stood there, exchanged looks, then looked at the two of them.

“What is it?” the unicorn spoke.



His voice was quick and fierce, almost like he was questioning them.

“Three seniors, we are about to go to the frontline and my junior brother here needs a mount, can any of the three of you help him?” right now, Qin Xiao Lou was speaking in an extremely polite manner.

“War?” the Blackmane Unicorn breathed from his nose in annoyance, “there already dead bodies everywhere, and you humans still don’t feel that that’s enough?”

“Ahaha, seniors please don’t misunderstand, it’s the demons that are attacking us, we’re only looking to survive here” Qin Xiao Lou quickly assured them.

The shimmering panther spoke: “You don’t have much choice in war, but in such a place, we aren’t guaranteed to be able to protect ourselves, yet you want us to protect a Foundation Establishment brat as well?”

Qin Xiao Lou smiled: “Foundation Establishment is only temporary, humans cultivate very quickly, who knows, maybe my junior brother will very quickly increase his strength in the near future”

“Come, junior brother, give your greetings to the seniors there” he pulled Gu Qing Shan in front.

“My greetings to seniors” Gu Qing Shan said.

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The three spirit beasts evaluated him.

“How old are you?” the Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane asked, its voice was quite gentle.

“This humble one is 18, about to be 19 soon” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Going to the frontline, will you be in the same place as Qin Xiao Lou?” the Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane asked again.

“I won’t, I will be at the very front, fighting against enemies”

The Blackmane Unicorn and Twilight Bluemoon Panther listened and exchanged looks.

“Very brave, he’s also quite good, what do you think?” the Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane asked its fellow spirit beasts.

“I’m putting my tag here just because I am willing to become the Fairy’s mount” Blackmane Unicorn turned around.

“He’s still too young, going to the frontline like this, he still doesn’t understand the cruelty of war” Twilight Bluemoon Panther said.

“That’s right, such a young child going to war, am I expected to be a nanny for him or something?” Blackmane Unicorn commented again.

Twilight Bluemoon Panther shook his head: “Troublesome, too troublesome!”

“Ahaha, seniors please ———” Qin Xiao Lou smiled, about to say something.

But Gu Qing Shan suddenly pat his shoulder, gesturing him not to speak.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the two spirit beasts and said: "Perhaps you're misunderstanding something"

The two of them stared at him.

"First of all, this war is fought by humans for the sake of this world's existence, they're fought by those who are willing to give up their life for the greater good, and not something for you to judge to be troublesome or annoying"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "If this world is destroyed, then you lot aren't going to get off easy either"

"Brat..." Twilight Bluemoon Panther stared at him, growling in a low voice.

Qin Xiao Lou was trying his best to gesture for Gu Qing Shan to stop, but Gu Qing Shan ignored him and continued: "Second, I'm not here begging you to become my spirit beast mount, I'm only picking you because you hung your tags here"

"If you aren't willing, then you are free to leave. Bai Hua sect doesn't need your tags to be hung here, because you can't even do what you promised to"

"Snot-nosed brat! How dare you!" Blackmane Unicorn neighed angrily.

"This place is Bai Hua Sect, and you would ask me if I dare?" Gu Qing Shan squints his eyes.

Instantly emitting killing intent, he grabbed the air as the Earth Sword came to his hand.

The Earth sword let out a 'wu wu' sound, also looking ready to fight.

Hoong!

A glow emitted from the entire sword.

"Would you care to say that again? Senior?" Gu Qing Shan looked at Blackmane Unicorn, softly saying so.

All three spirit beasts took a step backwards.

All the hairs on their bodies stood up, as veterans of countless years of battle, they're extremely sensitive to whenever the situation changes.

A sword cultivator

Every single sword cultivator is a psychopath.

Looking at him right now, you can tell he's dead serious.

He definitely dares to fight — even if he can't match them, he will still fight!

This thought showed up in all their minds at the same time.

Blackmane Unicorn stared at him, but didn't move.

"Brat..." Twilight Bluemoon Panther muttered, but didn't continue.

"Ok, let me be your mount" Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane suddenly said.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit shocked

“Why?” he asked.

“I originally felt that you were very brave, not to mention, being accepted by the Saint at such a young age, your talents must also be exceptional” Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane said, “I’ve been stuck at Golden Core realm for over a hundred years, if I become your mount, one day you become a great cultivator, you might even be able to help me breakthrough”

“This is a great chance for me, a win-win situation” Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane answered.

“You aren’t afraid you’ll die with me at the frontline?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Even a Foundation Establishment brat like you isn’t afraid, why should a Golden Core beast like myself be?” Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane replied.

“Well said” a female voice was heard.

They all turned to look and finally noticed that Bai Hua Fairy was floating in the air, looking at them.

### **Chapter 139**

“Shifu, when did you arrived?” Qin Xiao Lou asked.

“I’ve been here for a while” Bai Hua Fairy replied.

“Greetings, Saint” the three spirit beasts all bowed their heads.

“Hm” Bai Hua Fairy pressed the air, suddenly two of the three tags from before broke apart.

“Blackmane Unicorn, Twilight Bluemoon Panther, from now on, both of you are banned from entering 1000 miles of Bai Hua Immortal country and never to use my name for anything ever again. If you violate this ban, this Saint will make sure you face the consequences”

“From now on, Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane will become Gu Qing Shan’s mount, all your cultivation scriptures, pills and food will be provided by our Bai Hua Sect”

“Yes”

All three spirit beasts bowed their heads in compliance and didn’t dare to speak up.

Night.

Orchid Hall.

White goose gave Gu Qing Shan a jade tag, telling him: “Learn it well”

Gu Qing Shan took the tag, scanning it with his inner sight, then felt his heart jumped.

This was a cultivation scripture jade tag.

[Hundred Saints Core Formation Script]

This was Bai Hua Fairy’s own cultivation scripture.

In the past life, this scripture was extremely famous, widely regarded as the strongest Foundation Establishment realm scripture there is.

Cultivating with this scripture will give you about 20% more spirit energy than any other, not to mention a much easier time breaking through each time.

Everyone knows the name of this scripture, but since there isn't a player who was able to become Bai Hua Fairy's disciple, no one practices it.

White goose said: "Your venture to the frontline this time will probably leave you away from the sect for a while. After Shifu looked through hundreds of Foundation Establishment realm scriptures, she decided to give you the one she used to practice"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I understand, I'll definitely do my best to learn it"

How unfortunate that I don't have any Soul Points right now, he silently complained to himself.

Of course this problem is easily solved if he just goes to the frontline to kill a few demon beasts.

Gu Qing Shan can also start learning the method right now the old-fashioned way, but since he has too much to do, using Soul Points to learn it directly is still the most convenient.

Xiuxiu stood on one side for a while, then finally came up to Gu Qing Shan and gave him a bag.

"Senior brother, there's a lot of snacks inside, I had to choose them for very long. If you're ever hungry eat a bit, ok?" Xiuxiu said.

"Ah, our Xiuxiu really is the best, after senior brother comes back, I'll take you out to play again" Gu Qing Shan took the Inventory Bag and rubbed her head softly.

"Junior brother!"

A shout came from outside Orchid Hall.

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan quickly stood up and went out.

A bit later, Qin Xiao Lou walked behind him into Orchid Hall.

"How's your preparations?" Qin Xiao Lou asked.

"I've prepared everything, only need to wait until tomorrow to leave" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Ha ha" Qin Xiao Lou patted Gu Qing Shan's shoulder, saying: "Today's matter with the spirit beasts, I thought about it a lot and concluded that it was my shortcoming that made you had to deal with that"

"We're brothers here, no need to be like that"

"Hm, very well, but to make it up to you, senior brother has a great technique here to teach you" Qin Xiao Lou spoke mysteriously.

"What kind of technique?"

"This technique is something I improved myself, it's guaranteed to let you experience all the glorious ups and downs of life"

Saying so, he tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a jade tag.

Looking at the jade tag and hearing his description of it, Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt his head hurting a bit.

The last time Qin Xiao Lou gave out a jade tag to Gu Qing Shan, white goose knocked it away.

It was the Long-ranged Spirit Nurturing Method, a technique specifically made to Qin Xiao Lou to hit on women.

It wasn't until after Xiuxiu explained to him that Gu Qing Shan understood, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

This time, he can't predict what sort of thing he'll bring out.

Qin Xiao Lou pridefully gave him the jade tag.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but accept it.

As soon as he received it, the War God UI flashed a line of text

[Discovered an improved version of Super Presence Concealment Script, would you like to spend 10 Soul Points to learn it?] (1)

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

The Presence Concealment technique is a very common one, usually only usable in a few missions that require stealth.

This [Improved Super Presence Concealment Script] costs more Soul Points to learn than some of the Attack Skills he knows, so it's probably one of the best Presence Concealment techniques.

But, what would this be used for?

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Gu Qing Shan asked again: "Isn't this just a Presence Concealment technique? How would I experience the glorious ups and downs of life with this?"

"You still don't get it?" Qin Xiao Lou was acting all mysterious-like again.

"Yeah, I don't understand" Gu Qing Shan followed up with him.

Qin Xiao Lou laughed heartily, then suddenly turned serious and said: "This technique's true meaning is encompassed in 7 words!"

"I've never told this to anyone else, so junior brother, you must listen very carefully"

Seeing him so serious, Gu Qing Shan also unconsciously became serious and replied: "Very well, brother, please tell me"

Qin Xiao Lou very solemnly: "Faking a pig to eat a tiger" (2)

Gu Qing Shan was confused.

Qin Xiao Lou explained: "Go somewhere that there's a lot of qi training realm cultivators, if anyone were to make you angry, just cancel the technique and show off your actual strength, you can easily scare

them into begging for forgiveness”

“Using this technique to show off in front of female cultivators is satisfying both physically and mentally”

“But then” Gu Qing Shan asked, “what is the other party has seniors go out to defend them?”

Qin Xiao Lou clasped his hand: “This humble one is Bai Hua Sect’s Bai Hua Saint’s direct disciple, Qin Xiao Lou. Might I ask, brother, which sect are you from?”

“...You actually use Shifu’s name like that...”

“Absolutely do not tell her” Qin Xiao Lou hurriedly wave his hands, “that method is only for you to relieve stress”

“This is also my ultimate stress relief method, I’m only teaching it to you, my brother”

“How is it, senior brother really cares about you right?”

“...Very”

“Senior brother is being a suitable brother right?”

“...Yes”

Qin Xiao Lou then looked at white goose and Xiuxiu, saying: “Ah, right, senior brother, junior sister, please don’t tell Shifu about this as well, this is because I’m worried about Qing Shan you know”

Xiuxiu reluctantly: “Because you said this is for third brother, I won’t tell”

“Senior brother, ehehe, I beg you don’t tell her as well, ok?” Qin Xiao Lou smiled brightly, asking.

White goose squints his eyes, coldly said: “Don’t worry, I won’t tell”

Qin Xiao Lou felt himself able to relax.

Thinking about it again, he praised himself for thinking so much about his junior brother.

After the rest of them left, there was only Gu Qing Shan left in Orchid Hall.

Looking at the jade tag in his hand, Gu Qing Shan still stowed it away in his Inventory Bag.

Fine, although Qin Xiao Lou’s methods can’t be called the best, at least his intention is good.

Suddenly, a flame talisman flew to him.

Taking it in hand, Gu Qing Shan was a bit unexpected.

Because this came from Gong Sun Zhi.

Using his inner sight, he scanned the flaming communication talisman.

Then he heard the message.

“Do you want to get some Military Merits?”

Of course he does, this is a matter of life and death to him!

He needs Military Merit to increase his rank, because unless he makes to it Zhao Wu Chaplain, he won't be able to increase his cultivation at all for the next 3 years!

Gu Qing Shan quickly replied.

"I do, please teach me how, General Sun Zhi"

He sent the talisman away again with his answer.

Very quickly, the flame talisman returned with Gong Sun Zhi's answer.

"During the previous campaign, you are the only surviving frontline soldier. Compile all the intelligence you have regarding the demon beasts into a proper report, listing out their characteristics, attack method, weaknesses. That itself is a great contribution"

Gu Qing Shan then remembered.

That's right, the first campaign was meant to test the water for both demons and humans.

Demons had only just arrived at this world.

If it weren't for the fact that Gong Sun Zhi and Ning Yue Xi discovered the secret regarding Shen Wu world, they wouldn't have sortied such an overwhelming force.

Because they still haven't grasped the power level of this world.

Humanity was the same.

And so, humanity is still very much in the dark about how strong demons are.

Being able to compile intelligence regarding the demons at this point would be a great contribution to the war indeed.

—of course he can't just give everything away. After all, many demons still haven't appeared yet at this point in time.

He has to think carefully about this.

Thinking so, he immediately took out a jade tag and started compiling the list of demons that would have appeared at the frontline into it.

No matter what, before the war even began, being able to gain Military Merit like this is a good thing for him.

Note:

(1) Presence Concealment: in cultivation novels, a person's presence not only let others know where they are, it can also be used to tell how strong they are. Thus presence concealment doesn't only hide a person's presence, it also carry a meaning to reduce their presence and make them seem weaker than they actually are.

(2) faking a pig to eat a tiger: a Chinese proverb, it means making yourself seems weaker to get close to and defeat the opponent.

## Chapter 140

An uneventful night.

The next day came.

Dawn.

A white crane with a red scruff flew from Bai Hua Palace, heading to far away.

The crane's speed was exceptional, every time it flapped its wings, a transparent flame-like cloud appeared around its body.

Anyone who's knowledgeable will know that this is the fastest of all flying mounts, the Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane.

This type of crane doesn't have excellent fighting power or defensive capabilities, its only specialty is speed.

Cultivators can also fly, but when they enter into long-term battle, they must have a mount.

Airships cost spirit stones, while spirit beasts don't even consume any, in the worst situation, just giving them a Fasting Pill when they're hungry is enough.

If cultivators were to fly by themselves they would have to waste spirit energy.

And on the battlefield, every little bit of spirit energy can be the difference between life and death.

Thus, the best choice is to use spirit beasts as a mount. Cultivators would not need to spend precious spirit energy or stamina while on the move, and they could even meditate and recover while on the mount.

Sitting on the white crane, Gu Qing Shan extends his sight far away.

Exiting Bai Hua Immortal country, they passed by Mountain Spirit Sect, Flowing Clouds Sect, West Mountain Sword Sect, and then into desolate land.

There were a lot of cities, fields, towns and villages on the way, but they all quickly passed with the crane's speed.

Instead, what came into sight as a broad, barren country area.

A few of them were even abandoned.

Everyone there has been convinced to migrate further into the mainland, no matter if they were mortals or cultivators.

This area is already very close to the frontline.

Occasionally, there were groups of 3-5 formation users scattered across the land, setting up all sorts of formations.

This would be considered a buffer zone between the frontline and the mainland, if the frontline ever breaks, the formations set up here will be used for defensive and counter attacking purposes.

Flying for another hour or so, Gu Qing Shan finally saw the military outpost.



It's called an outpost, but the area set up here is easily as big as a mid-sized city. The outer ring of the outpost was covered in a 10-meter radius dome-shaped defensive formation, occasionally there were cultivators on their spirit beasts, flying around patrolling.

A true military war fortress.

"We're going down" he said.

"Right" Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane answered.

It landed on an empty field right outside the outpost.

Gu Qing Shan took out a pill and gave it to the white crane, saying: "It's been tough on you, come rest up first"

After eating the pill, it went back inside the spirit beast bag.

Gu Qing Shan quickly walked to the outpost gate.

"Who's there?" the two guards shouted.

"Xiao Qi Chaplain, Gu Qing Shan, reporting for duty" Gu Qing Shan answered, then threw his badge over.

One of them took the badge, infusing it with spirit energy and the badge lit up.

A light floated from the badge, forming the characters "Xiao Qi Chaplain Gu Qing Shan".

Scanning it, they found the badge was indeed linked with the young man standing before them, nodding.

Giving Gu Qing Shan back his badge, he said: "Come on in"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Thank you"

In the outpost, everything was quite busy and rowdy.

"Who's in charge of pills for Jia Zhi camp?"

"Where are the formation plates? Have the frontline formation users finished crafting the plates yet? We're moving out tomorrow, why haven't they delivered it yet?"

"Someone record this for me, the two camps at the West is under attack, I need to move out"

Many great cultivators were shouting, ordering around, their aides were running around unable to sit still for even a second.

Gu Qing Shan went into a queue, placing his badge on the table when it came his turn.

After the cultivator at the table put a spirit rune inside, he gave it back and said: "Next"

Gu Qing Shan quickly took the badge, following another person into a different building.

Looking at the nameplate, it said: Quartermaster.

After going in, another cultivator took his badge.

He let out his inner sight and scanned the badge.

“A Xiao Qi Chaplain, you arrived at the right time”

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Saying so, he turned around, walked into the storage room and took out a set of armor.

“Check it carefully, if there’s no problems then put your fingerprint here”

“Ah, ok, thank you”

Gu Qing Shan took the set of armor to another table, and carefully examined it.

It’s a black armor with red patterns, the red patterns on it were quite small and inscribed on hard-to-notice places. This would be the armor’s spirit energy circuit formation.

Breast plate, shoulder pads, helmet, wrist guard, gauntlet, belt, knee pads, marching shoes. All of them were brand new and of the highest quality.

This entire set of armor was all equipment at Spirit grade.

Equipment of all kinds made from smithing are categorized from lowest to highest as: Sharp, Treasure, Spirit, Law, Dao.

Spirit is only the middle rank, but it’s already extremely valuable, not to mention this was a full set of Spirit-grade armor.

Having this set of armor, he can be assured and just focus on killing demons without fear of demons whose expertise is sneak attacks, like the Heart-stealing Imp.

The golden set of armor that Ning Yue Xi wore before was a standard set of armor for Generals.

Wearing that, even if she only stood still for demons to attack, they wouldn’t even leave a scratch on it.

But that set of armor should be about peak Law-grade. The resources and time needed to craft it are extraordinary, so it’s very valuable.

Gu Qing Shan carefully checked everything and confirmed with his fingerprint.

Seeing him not complaining at all, finished checking and confirming so quickly, the other cultivator was quite glad.

Then he said: “Very good, now for your weapons”

Flipping through a list, he spoke: “Let me see, Xiao Qi Chaplain, hm, you can choose two weapons — — what weapon do you use?”

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then replied: “I’ll use my own weapon, but can I exchange the two weapons for a few more Demon Slaying Arrows instead?”

“You don’t want the two weapons but want Demon Slaying Arrows?”

“Yes”

The other cultivator looked at him serious, then spoke: "At your rank of Xiao Qi Chaplain, you can only receive 1 Demon Slaying Arrow, but if you'll give up the weapons, I can give you a total of 5 Demon Slaying Arrows instead"

"Yes please" Gu Qing Shan happily agreed.

The cultivator went deep inside the storage room. After a while, he returned, trying to best to carry five arrows.

Thunk!

As he put down the arrows, they made a dull sound.

The cultivator breathed heavily, saying: "These things are damn heavy, right, check them for yourself"

Gu Qing Shan took one and examined it.

The Demon Slaying Arrow let out a dark light, from one end to the other, it was inscribed with extremely intricate and small runes. The entire arrow was covered in runes without any blank space.

Demon Slaying Arrows are crafted from meteorites, its power is immense, but there's very few of them, normally only used for important tactical-level campaigns, very rarely are they given to soldiers.

This is without a doubt life-saving equipment, so there can't be any problems with it, Gu Qing Shan was examining every inch of it with utmost care.

After checking all five arrows, he clasped his hand at the cultivator, saying: "There are no problems, thank you very much"

"Come here, put your fingerprint on the weapons log as well"

"Yes"

After receiving his supplies, Gu Qing Shan went out and was guided to a certain building by another cultivator.

There were more than a dozen cultivators there, silently sitting and waiting for orders.

As the cultivator brought Gu Qing Shan to three other cultivators, he said: "Your group here is complete, you can start preparing now, when you're called, all of you will leave together"

Saying so, the cultivator left.

The other three people also carefully checked their belongings again, making sure they didn't miss anything.

Gu Qing Shan went to one of the guards, asking and went to the tent where they deal with Military Merit.

A while later, he came back smiling.

A few great cultivators was told of his arrival by Ding Yuan General Gong Sun Zhi, so they have been waiting for him since morning.

As Gu Qing Shan gave them the list of demons, the great cultivators there all praised him highly.

This is a very good thing to have, it would definitely give them a huge advantage on the battlefield.

Gu Qing Shan received 100 Military Merit for this.

It takes 180 Military Merit to advance from “Xiao Qi” to “Zhen Wei”, so he’s already more than halfway there with this.

Thanks to that, the pressure from the Destiny Quest was eased somewhat.

When Gu Qing Shan came back, the other three had already donned their armor.

## **Chapter 141**

One of them was wearing the same armor set as Gu Qing Shan, while the other two wore Grey-white armor with blue patterns.

Those are Yu Wu Chaplain standard armor sets, a step lower than Xiao Qi Chaplain, but it’s still a decently high military rank.

Since there is still some time, the 4 of them sat around in a circle and introduced each other.

“Li Chu Chen, Spirit Beast sect”

“Zhang Fang, West Mountain Sword sect”

“Bai Hai Dong, Yao Guang sect”

“Gu Qing Shan, Bai Hua sect”

After the 4 of them greeted each other, Bai Hai Dong was the first to look at Gu Qing Shan and smiled: “Senior brother Leng has told me a lot about you”

“You’re Leng Tian Xing’s junior brother? How fortunate, we can look out for each other then” Gu Qing Shan smiled back.

The 3 of them were all very young, looks to be about 20 years old, Zhang Fang and Li Chu Chen were at Foundation Establishment perfect peak, while Bai Hai Dong is Foundation Establishment last stage.

Gu Qing Shan had the lowest cultivation, and was the youngest.

But no one dares to look down on him.

All three of them were people that made it to Foundation Establishment realm at a young age, as well as slowly accumulated Military Merit to reach their current rank, each and every one of them anywhere else would be considered a genius among geniuses.

The fact that Gu Qing Shan is able to become a Xiao Qi Chaplain means that he has actual ability and actual mettle to reach where he is.

Military Merit does not lie.

Not to mention, he’s a disciple of Bai Hua Saint.

As smart as they are, everyone only needed a second to understand the best treatment to give him.

Li Chu Chen looked at Gu Qing Shan and clasped his fist: "So you're the famous Sword 15"

Everyone lightly laughed, obviously the matter that happened at the semester examination has become quite wide-spread.

Bai Hua Sect, a Saint's direct disciple, the young sword cultivator, he's quite the famous figure recently.

Zhang Fang asked: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, I saw that you went to the Merit tent, seems like you had some harvest?"

Gu Qing Shan looked at him ——he was the same Xiao Qi Chaplain as Gu Qing Shan, 1 rank higher than Bai Hai Dong and Li Chu Chen.

"That's right, before I was part of the vanguard legion, so I compiled what I know of the demons and sent it in" Gu Qing Shan refreshingly admitted.

The 3 people's expressions changed slightly.

Ah, so Sword 15 actually belonged to the vanguard legion.

That place is where the battle was the fiercest, to be able to return from there in one piece is already quite impressive.

There are simply too many demons, too many types.

Their characteristics and attacks are so varied that unexpected situations happen very often, enough to drive cultivators crazy.

The fact that Gu Qing Shan got Merit from compiling monster characteristics means that what he reported must be true, otherwise it wouldn't fly past all the great cultivators at the Merit tent.

Zhang Fang then said: "Since you know about the monsters' characteristics, we'll have to trouble you on the way forward"

These words were very well said, because he's clearly letting Gu Qing Shan be the leader, yet the tone was that he's troubling him.

Of the 4 of them, only Gu Qing Shan and himself were Xiao Qi Chaplains.

Since Zhang Fang has given up the position, the leader can only be Gu Qing Shan ——because there is no way two Yu Wu Chaplains are going to command two Xiao Qi Chaplains.

Leng Tian Xing's junior brother Bai Hai Dong was the first to agree, then Li Chu Chen also followed

Just like that, a temporary party has been formed.

A guard cultivator went and gave the 4 of them this month's salary in advance ——Xiao Qi Chaplains get around 300 low-tier spirit stones, while Yu Wu Chaplains get 200.

Zhang Fang put the spirit stones in his bag, saying: "We have no idea when we can lose our lives, so I gotta spend the money I have. When we make it to the camp, I'll treat everyone here to a round of drinks"

Gu Qing Shan finished putting on his armor, smiled and said: "After your treat, it'll be mine"

Everyone laughed heartily, creating for a harmonic atmosphere.

At this time, a guard cultivator came and called: "Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Fang, Li Chu Chen, Bai Hai Dong, get ready to move out"

"Roger!"

Their expressions became serious, the relaxedness from before disappeared without a trace.

The 4 of them quickly walked and stepped into the General's tent.

A General wearing golden armor looked at them and spoke: "You're all Foundation Establishment here, then there's a perfect place for you"

He ordered: "The 4 of you shall sortie to Water Valley Camp, move out immediately, do not make any mistakes"

He then gave them an arrow with runes on it, saying: "This will be your only Decree Arrow, do not use it lightly"

"Roger!"

The 4 of them clasped their fists.

Gu Qing Shan received the arrow and put it in his bag.

Leaving the outpost, they all get their spirit beasts out and flew up.

About 10 minutes later.

"How much longer can we fly?" Zhang Fang asked.

Once you've entered the battlefield, any flying creature is a living target for the demons to hit, unless they're a great cultivator, no one dares to fly without thought.

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Checking the map, Gu Qing Shan answered: "We'll enter the battlefield after 100 miles, after that we must land and continue on foot"

"Understood" they all nodded and replied.

Everyone kept silent, their expressions became cold.

They're about to enter the battlefield.

After a while, Gu Qing Shan waved his hand: "Land here"

Everyone landed together.

In front of them was a green forest valley, luscious and vast, yet there isn't a single sound of birds or insects.

It was like the valley itself had lost its life.

Bai Hai Dong grabbed the air and smelled it.

“There’s no essence of death for the last 3 days” he reported.

This seems to be his God’s Chosen Skill or thaumaturgy, but no one bothered to ask.

No essence of death means there hasn’t been any large-scale battles.

Everyone loosened a bit.

Gu Qing Shan then said: “Let’s get to know each other first, that way it’s easier to delegate roles”

“That’s reasonable, I’m an Elementalist, Water root 2nd stage” Bai Hai Dong answered.

“Although we’re a sword sect, my expertise is with the spear” Zhang Fang said.

“I’m a spirit beast tamer, I have a few spirit beasts for scouting, other than that I know a bit of martial arts” Li Chu Chen answered.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, saying: “I’m a sword cultivator”

He then quickly assigned them: “I’ll be the vanguard, Zhang Fang at the back. Brother Chu Chen should release a few spirit beasts to scout out our left and right, as well as one to scout right behind me. Bai Hai Dong will be in the middle, to help out all sides”

They all replied at the same time: “Understood”

That is the best way to assign them.

Li Chu Chen also sighed in relief.

His biggest fear is meeting a superior that doesn’t understand how things work and order his spirit beast to go scout in front.

Fighter-type beasts aren’t suitable for scouting, and scouting-type beasts can’t go out in front.

Because if they ever meet a powerful demon, it will be eaten immediately, unable to be of any use.

It’s very hard to tame and raise a spirit beast, so if any of them die uselessly, the tamer would feel hurt.

The best place for spirit beasts is in the middle, since it’ll be easy for them to adapt and to in front or back as the situation calls for it.

The best way to use them is to only let the fighter-type spirit beasts out after the fight begins.

Holding the Earth sword in hand, Gu Qing Shan led them through the forest.

Seeing his expression cold and acted without any hesitation, the other three could also relax a bit and followed.

2 hours later.

The 4 of them were taking a short rest.

“Keeping up our current speed, we’ll reach the Water Valley Camp by noon tomorrow” Gu Qing Shan said.

“You can keep going as today, I’ll follow your lead” Zhang Fang crossed his arms and spoke.

Li Chu Chen and Bai Hai Dong both nodded.

During the journey, regardless of marching or scouting, Gu Qing Shan showed himself to be an extremely experienced frontline soldier. The rest of them here also came from the frontline, so it was right now that they fully accepted him.

“Very well, I’ll keep up the arrangements after this” Gu Qing Shan doesn’t act humble at all, only calmly said.

He was originally a tactical commander in the past life, so his experience fighting with demons doesn’t fall short of anyone, the journey just now was simply him following old habits.

After eating their rations, the 4 of them continued on their way.

A long while later, they finally exited the forest and entered a vast grassland.

“Stop!” Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped.

He squints his eyes and looked around.

He could feel a very faint scent of spirit energy dissipating in the air.

Could it be there was a battle on this grassland area?

The 3 people heard him and also stopped their feet.

“What happened?” Li Chu Chen placed his hand on the spirit beast bag and asked in a low voice.

“Fellow Dao seeker Bai, please check again” Gu Qing Shan spoke in a low voice.

Hearing so, Bai Hai Dong grabbed a handful of air and smelled it.

“Essence of death isn’t very heavy, but the smell of blood is, there’s also a strong stench of demons — —in that direction”

He pointed far into the grasslands.

## **Chapter 142**

Gu Qing Shan touched the grass and looked in that direction.

The 3 other people were exchanging looks, Zhang Fang couldn’t help but ask: “What do we do now?”

Meeting the demons so quickly, and under unknown circumstances, the 3 of them were a bit hesitant.

On this path, the highest-levelled demons are probably around Foundation Establishment perfect peak, or Golden Core first stage.

This place was still quite far from the frontline, so the majority of powerful demons that lurks around here has already been cleaned up by great cultivators.



But since even great cultivators have their limits, they all about reached that limit after dealing with a few demons around their own strength. So after their clean-up was the turn of Golden Core and Foundation Establishment realm cultivators to deal with the rest.

“I’m guessing the demons are using the advantage of number to surround and whittle the other group down bit by bit. We’re going”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan quickly rushed forward.

The other 3 were stunned and couldn’t believe that Gu Qing Shan had already made a decision only after a few breaths.

Zhang Fang laughed: “Hak, we still haven’t made it to the camp and there’s already a harvest”

Tapping his Inventory Bag, he took out a large spear, place it on his shoulder and followed Gu Qing Shan.

“Then let’s go” saying so, Bai Hai Dong took out a chilling blue-glowing dagger and followed suit.

It was only when the other three went quite far, leaving Li Chu Chen alone that he tapped his spirit beast bag to let out a blue-eyes white tiger.

Lying on the tiger’s back, he shouted: “Wait for me!”

The blue-eyes white tiger quickly ran after them.

Li Chu Chen then hurriedly lowered his head, whispering to the tiger: “Run a bit slower”

The tiger let out a low roar, still following them, but lowered its speed bit by bit.

Gu Qing Shan was already running as fast as he could, but felt that he wouldn’t make it in time, so he tapped his spirit beast bag and let out the Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane.

“Senior, please caw” he said.

Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane glanced at him, a bit hesitant, but still cawed.

The caw of a crane travelled very far in the vast grasslands.

Sure enough, as the sound reached that area, waves of spirit energy emitted again, almost like they were risking their lives to cast spells.

“Alright, now we need to fly low, close to the ground, quickly” Gu Qing Shan jumped onto Flamecloud Chasing Sky Crane’s back.

The crane flapped its wings strongly, turned into a flaming cloud as it jetted across the grasslands.

Its speed is very impressive, already made it to the place in just a few dozen breaths.

Gu Qing Shan stood on the crane’s back, extending his sight.

All he could see was a large horde of demons surrounded a few bloodied cultivators, as they stood back to back, trying their best to hold on.

“It’s them?”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, then became worried.

The surrounded cultivators were the 5 sisters that Ning Yue Xi brought with her during the semester examination.

In front of them was a one-armed monk, bloodied all over, still chanting the Buddha Dalani script, using layers upon layers of golden light to block out the countless demons.

Seeing that someone has come near, his eyes lit up again.

As their eyes met, they immediately understood the other party's situation.

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank, shouting: "Endure!"

When the monk saw his worried figure, he gently smiled.

Making a series of hand seals, he chanted: "Ohm A Me Na Hong Dat Khap La!"

This was some sort of Buddha Dalani script.

All Dalani are very powerful, but you can't cultivate them without being a Buddhist.

As he finished his chant, numerous golden swords rose from the ground, bisecting all the demons that tried to come close.

The swords floated in mid-air after they killed all the demons around, if any more demons approached, they would automatically move and cut off their heads.

Seeing such a powerful ability, all the demons were a bit frightened.

They shrank their bodies, not wanting to come too close.

After chanting, the monk closed his eyes, seeming to fall into a peaceful sleep.

His spirit energy waves suddenly disappeared.

He died.

Gu Qing Shan noticed the change and couldn't help but lowered his head in silence.

He was still one step too late.

Letting go of the Earth sword, it immediately melded into the air and disappeared.

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Instead, Gu Qing Shan grabbed the Night Rain in his hand.

He only entered the firing range for the Night Rain just now.

Rapid Fire!

Riding Wind!

Numerous arrows flew towards the outer layer of demons.

All of them hit, as the demons screeched before they died.

But there are simply too many demons, he simply cannot kill all of them in such a rushed situation.

Gu Qing Shan then exchanged this “Xiao Qi Chaplain” title for the “Sword 15 title”

Grabbing a Demon Slaying Arrow, he knocked it onto the Night Rain.

Bombardment!

Sharpshooter!

Title Skill: Sound Shock!

The 3 Skills activated at once.

The Demon Slaying Arrow turned into a black streak of shadow and shot out from the Night Rain.

———Boom!

This shot pierced through the numerous layers of demons, accurately hit and crushed the strongest Crimson Flame Demon among them all, they continued to fly.

The countless waves of demons were pierced through by this shot and made a giant hole in their formation.

The soul piercing sound made by the Demon Slaying Arrow also affected the surrounding demons, immobilizing them.

The encirclement was stopped for just a little bit.

It was now that the numerous golden swords on the ground finally scattered.

Gu Qing Shan used the hole opened by himself to enter into the fray.

As soon as he did, Gu Qing Shan did three things.

He put white crane back into the spirit beast bag, stowed the Night Rain away in his Inventory Bag, and changed his title back to “Xiao Qi Chaplain”.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the Earth sword in his hand, rushing like a hungry wolf at the nearest demon.

Having to watch the monk die right in front of him because he was too far away made his already bad temper even worse.

“Die, all of you!”

The Earth sword with its 60,000 tons’ strike was being swung in his hand, creating afterimages.

With the increased attack speed, the demons couldn’t possibly follow the trajectory of the Earth sword.

Having his black armor, Gu Qing Shan didn’t stop and just rushed straight ahead.

Where ever he passed by, demon limbs where flying, bones breaking, blood spurting.

Clang clang, clink, clang, clink!

The demons' retaliation also fell on his body.

But Gu Qing Shan ignored all of them, the only reason why he even wore this fancy armor in the first place was to make sure he was able to fully concentrate on killing.

Crack!

There was a crack on one of the shoulder pads.

Gu Qing Shan still didn't back down as the Earth sword swung without any space to rest, any demons that meets the blade were all easily bisected without fail.

Gu Qing Shan's body followed the sword, going all around the encirclement, wherever the demons would rush in, he would go there to cut down all down before they could.

Having such fighting power blocking for them, the surrounded cultivators finally felt like they have escaped the deadly situation.

"It's senior brother Gu!"

"It's Bai Hua sect's senior brother Gu!"

The 5 female cultivators yelled in joy.

Being saved right as you feel like you are about to this, this kind of joy is enough to follow you to the end of your life.

"Don't let your guard down, protect yourselves" Gu Qing Shan coldly shouted.

The 5 female cultivators were stunned, but regained their senses and quickly stood back to back, once again entering battle mode.

But they couldn't help but stealing glances at Gu Qing Shan.

All they saw was the frenzied Gu Qing Shan rushing at the demons, slaughtering them like they were useless cattle, almost taking away their attention.

Thanks to him blocking the majority of the attacks, their pressure decreased greatly.

From far away, another male voice came: "I was wondering why you were rushing so much, so it's because you wanted to save the damsels in distress!"

Boom!

The demon encirclement was once again being torn apart.

A male cultivator that wore the same Xiao Qi Chaplain armor and carried a long spear, entered the battle.

### **Chapter 143**

"You take the left! I'll go right!" Gu Qing Shan quickly split the roles.

"Ok!" Zhang Fang loudly replied.

He's also a Xiao Qi Chaplain, furthermore, he was at Foundation Establishment perfect peak, as soon as he started using his spear Secret Arts, the pressure on Gu Qing Shan decreased by half.

At this time, from outside the encirclement, layers upon layers of ice started to sprout from the ground, freezing the innumerable demons in place, immobilizing them.

"I can keep hold of them for 5 breaths, go wild!" Bai Hai Dong's voice was heard.

"Ok!"

Both Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Fang's eyes lit up and they started using their strongest hidden moves.

Secret Art, Water Flow Severance.

Secret Art, Dragon Leaving Mountain.

A sword and one spear turned into life-harvesting gods of death, crushing the horde of demons into paste.

Like a meat grinder, the two of them circled the group of female cultivators once, clearing out all the demons nearby.

Rushing at full speed, they only concentrated on killing the demons, so when their attacks collided with each other, it let out a dull "BANG!" sound.

Luckily their armors were tough, not to mention it contained miniature formations to lessen the force on impact, so they got out unscathed.

"We can go again" Gu Qing Shan said as he glanced at the horde of demons still frozen in a white sheet of ice.

"Then let's go" Zhang Fang held his spear tightly.

"Go!" Gu Qing Shan shouted, the Earth sword held high in his hand.

They changed places, once again using their full power.

Secret Art, Crescent Slash!

Secret Art, Dragon Tail Swing!

A crescent moon and a thrashing dragon suddenly entered amidst the demons, quickly killed off the demons within a few meters' radius before returning to their positions.

"Very good spear techniques" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Your sword is the same" Zhang Fang laughed loudly.

The two of them took the left and right wings to protect the female cultivators, ensuring that there weren't any more demons alive in the immediate vicinity.

The rest of the demons that were afar saw that things weren't going well, so they scattered and ran.

It was now that Li Chu Chen arrived, they only gave chase a bit more before regrouping.

They went in front of the monk's corpse.

Sighing heavily with regret, Gu Qing Shan gave him a burial.

After that, everyone sat down and began to rest.

"The wounds on you guys aren't light, why aren't you using healing pills for recovery?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"We've used it all on the way" the female cultivators replied.

Gu Qing Shan then took out his own pills and gave them to the female cultivators.

He said: "You should recover first. Li Chu Chen, Bai Hai Dong, you two are on look-out. Zhang Fang and I need to meditate a bit"

"Roger"

The 3 male cultivators answered.

Everyone exchanged looks.

Zhang Fang was still fine, since he was a bit slower he didn't receive many wounds. But Gu Qing Shan's armor was full of scratch marks by various demons, his shoulder pads were already cracked and broken, revealing a bloodied muscular shoulder.

Glancing a bit, the surrounding was littered with demon corpse pieces and blood, yet not a speck of it could enter within 5 steps of the female cultivators.

They immediately realized.

———this guy's sword cultivation was extremely scary, no wonder he's a Xiao Qi Chaplain at such a young age.

After hesitating for a bit, Gu Qing Shan decided not to send out a communication talisman to Ning Yue Xi.

First of all, the female cultivators here are already safe, second, Ning Yue Xi might be in the middle of some kind of mission, if she was distracted and unable to get away from it, it might affect her performance.

Half an hour later.

The female cultivators' wounds have closed up.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Why are you all here?"

Liu Qing Yan was the one with the lightest wound, saying: "We escaped from Water Valley Camp and were pursued all the way here"

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Fang were both surprised.

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Zhang Fang asked: "What happened with Water Valley Camp?"

Liu Qing Yan's face showed fear as she spoke: "The demons all went into a frenzy and attacked the camp without minding their lives. We really couldn't go on"

Zhang Fang's cold eyes softened as he looked at Liu Qing Yan, saying: "Don't be scared, we're here now"

Liu Qing Yan could feel his good will, lifting her head to see he was wearing a Xiao Qi Chaplain armor set, feeling a bit more relieved.

It is very hard to make a contribution in the army, all the girls here were only soldiers, the fact that he was a Xiao Qi Chaplain means he must have been through many bloody battles, an actual capable person.

Liu Qing Yan nodded in gratitude.

Seeing her reaction, Zhang Fang smiled.

Gu Qing Shan contemplated for a bit, then suddenly asked: "When they attacked the camp, what did the strongest demons look like?"

Liu Qing Yan recalled for a bit, then said: "There were too many demons and I was frightened, so I didn't notice any that was exceptionally strong"

"How did the camp fall?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

"The defensive formations we had suddenly lost power one by one, after that even the attacking formation went haywire"

"Without the support of formations, the demons only needed a slight push to break through the camp"

Gu Qing Shan listened and thought some more.

In a large-scale war, formations have always been the strongest means of defense that humanity had.

If they can't break the formations, demons cannot go into melee with cultivators and become living meat targets.

Because of that, demons have thought of hundreds and thousands of ways ever since the first few days of the war to sabotage humanity's formations.

So he can't pin-point exactly which method they used this time.

All things said, Gu Qing Shan isn't a formation user, even as a returner from the future, he can't just guess wildly without clues.

He has to see the formation plates at the camp to make an educated guess.

After thinking for a bit, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the Decree Arrow.

He infused it with his spirit energy

A high-pitched screech was heard as a green light flew straight upwards, visible from far away.

A few minutes later, a Daoist came riding his spirit beast.

The spirit pressure he emitted felt solid, making the wounded female cultivators unable to resist and quickly kneeled.

After noticing that, the Daoist retracted his spirit pressure.

“You only get a single Decree Arrow, unless it’s a dire situation, you definitely cannot use it without reason, don’t you know that?” the Daoist questioned strictly.

Gu Qing Shan then told him of the situation, while the female cultivators backed him up.

The Daoist’s expression dimmed.

“Take out your badges, I’ll take a look at it first” he ordered.

They all took and threw their badges floating in the air.

The Daoist first looked at the female cultivators’ badges.

A badge can record the amount of demons their owner has killed, but only high-ranked human cultivators can check it.

“Hm, you are Heaven’s Limit sect’s disciples, indeed, you’ve killed quite a few demons on the way” the Daoist’s expression loosened.

Then he looked at Gu Qing Shan’s group’s badges, then glared strictly at Li Chu Chen.

Li Chu Chen lowered his head, both legs shaking.

Returning the badges to them, he said: “The two Xiao Qi Chaplains reacted in time to save your allies, 5 Merit each. Bai Hai Dong 1 Merit”

The three of them were glad.

Military Merit is the most practical kind of reward.

The Daoist ordered: “Very well, all of you move out to the South, there’s a General stationed at the camp. You’ll be temporarily stationed there until further orders”

“Roger”

The Daoist nodded and flew towards the Water Valley Camp.

“What realm is he? Could you tell?” Zhang Fang asked.

“He’s too far away from us so I can’t make an accurate read, I think he’s probably an Ascended” Gu Qing Shan thought and replied.

“Let’s go” Zhang Fang sighed, “first we need to reach the camp for the female cultivator group to rest”

“Right, let’s go immediately”

Even when saying so, Gu Qing Shan’s expression was a bit uneasy.

## **Chapter 144**



This time, Li Chu Chen was very eager to help, immediately calling out a few spirit beasts to carry the wounded girls on their backs.

The group quickly moved out towards the military camp marked on the map.

A few hours of running later.

The female cultivators' wounds were still not fully healed, so even just sitting on the spirit beast's backs, the journey made all of them exhausted, a few of their wounds even re-opened.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but have the group stop.

It was already approaching night time.

Looking around, Gu Qing Shan chose a windless area and set up camp with a formation plate.

Without a real formation user here, they could only employ single-use formation plates to set up a defensive array.

He ordered everyone: "Let's rest here for the day. Journeying while exhausted in the middle of the night is ill-advised. We will get casualties if there are any sneak attacks. We'll continue tomorrow at dawn"

"Li Chu Chen, you have your spirit beasts look out for us. Bai Hai Dong, set up a few traps around. Zhang Fang, you still have strength so go look out for him, be careful"

"And you girls just sit down and recover"

Hearing his orders loud and clear, they all followed suit.

After the male cultivators left, Gu Qing Shan turned around and asked Liu Qing Yan.

"Can you remember a bit more specifically? Just how did the formations at the camp failed?"

Liu Qing Yan recalled deeply for a bit, then said: "Now that I think about it, the first formations to have problems were the two most important defensive formations"

"Because the rest of the formations were still working fine, everyone didn't pay too much attention to it"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Did the camp have any formation users?"

"There was, but he drank himself to sleep and didn't wake up no matter how much we called him"

"Where is that formation user now?"

"After the camp was broken through, he was beheaded by the camp's General"

"Was he awake when he was killed?"

"He was"

"Did he say anything?"

"He was yelling that he was innocent, but at the time, everyone was cursing him for the lost battle, and the General killing him followed military law, so no one tried to save him"

Gu Qing Shan's eyes slightly glowed.

“Alright, go ahead and rest”

“Hm, thanks for saving us”

“It’s my duty, no need to think too much of it”

As they finished talking, Li Chu Chen returned.

“What were you talking about?” He asked nonchalantly.

Liu Qing Yan was about to answer, but then heard Gu Qing Shan sending his voice to her: “We were talking about how my shoulder pad was broken”

Liu Qing Yan isn’t a dumb girl, so she quickly processed what he said and acted a bit angry: “We were talking about what to do now that senior brother Gu’s shoulder pad is broken”

To her, Gu Qing Shan is a Saint’s disciple, a friend of her senior sister, and her life saviour, so he’s very trustworthy.

If he’s being so careful, then he must have his reasons, she only needs to follow him.

Li Chu Chen breathed out and exclaimed: “Sword 15 you really are as respectable as the rumors say, killing demons like a frenzied tiger”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t respond to that, only tapping his Inventory Bag to take out a large, black pot.

Bai Hai Dong and Zhang Fang also returned just in time to see that, Zhang Fang asked curiously: “What are you doing?”

“Making dinner” Gu Qing Shan dodged the previous topic, “my senior brother made a few spirit dishes that only need to be heated to be eaten, you guys sure are lucky”

Bai Hai Dong asked: “Your senior brother ——— the Womanizer, Qin Xiao Lou?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “That’s him”

Li Chu Chen’s gulped, muttering: “So it’s him, then we really are lucky indeed”

Everyone heated the food inside the pot, then poured them into bowls for everyone.

Zhang Fang gave Liu Qing Yan a portion, saying: “You girls are still hurt, so eat a bit more”

“Thank you” Liu Qing Yan face flushed a bit, barely able to lift her hand and accepted the bowl.

She’s the one that’s least wounded among the girls, but even lifting a finger was hard for her.

Not to mention the rest of the female cultivators, a few of them found it hard to even sit up straight.

With them like that, there really was no choice but to rest for the night and figure things out later.

After everyone ate the food in silence and prepared to rest, Gu Qing Shan split the group into shifts for the night guard.

“Li Chu Chen and I will guard until midnight, Zhang Fang and Bai Hai Dong will take the shift from midnight to dawn”

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Everyone nodded.

Gu Qing Shan's methods are swift and flexible, not to mention he was the first to jump out at the demons without any hesitation, since he already spoke up, no one else declined.

"Two people for one shift, how will we split?" Bai Hai Dong asked.

"One person each at the front and back of the camp. Leaving your post without permission is forbidden, if anything happens then you must report immediately ———after all, we have so many wounded here, caution is advised" Gu Qing Shan said.

"If anyone violates the rules, we'll deal with him via military law" he added with a very strict tone.

"Roger" everyone unanimously said.

Within this group, his military rank is tied for being the highest, and he's appropriately delegating roles for everyone. With how the cultivation alliance military works, following his orders was a given"

Night came.

After going through an arduous and hard journey, the female cultivators all sat down to rest.

Zhang Fang manned up and talked with Liu Qing Yan for a bit, returning with a flushed face.

He sat down, crossed his legs and began meditating.

Bai Hai Dong was using a communication talisman, seemingly chatting with someone.

Gu Qing Shan discussed with Li Chu Chen a bit, then both left the camp, stationed at the front and back of the camp respectively.

Gu Qing Shan silently sat down, leaned on a relatively large rock and thought about today's matters.

———may be it's just a coincidence and not what I think it is.

Afterall, there's still half a year before the game is supposed to start.

If "that event" is happening at this time just like he thought, then this world must really be going crazy.

He relaxed himself a bit, watching the War God UI.

[Gu Qing Shan, Current Soul Points: 320/20]

The War God UI really loves battle and fighting, and it really loves having the weaker defeat the stronger.

That's right, Gu Qing Shan right now is only a Foundation Establishment early stage.

As long as he kept fighting and killing demons that are at Foundation Establishment mid stage, or possibly even last stage like today, his Soul Points would increase very quickly.

The Xiao Qi Chaplain armor set that he's wearing is a rare defensive item set that's normally very hard to get, so it served to protect him against the demons' attacks well.

And since he has the Earth sword whose attacks weighs 60,000 tons, together with his powerful Secret Arts, he's basically invincible amidst a wave of low level demons.

This is how Smithing of the 6 arts strengthened cultivators.

Sword cultivator has always been a Profession that was all about killing enemies in battle.

Having a trustworthy armor and a sharp sword, a sword cultivator's burst of power is higher than any other cultivators'.

Looking at the War God UI, Gu Qing Shan slightly loosened his heart.

He has to increase his cultivation right now.

Having so much Soul Points to spend, he can finally learn the scripture that Shifu gave him for Foundation Establishment realm.

Soul Points is better than Experience Points in the fact that it doesn't require much to rank up, and after ranking up his spirit energy immediately becomes full.

If it was Experience Points instead, the amount of demons that Gu Qing Shan killed today would be nowhere near enough to level up even once.

The most important thing is that Soul Points also help Gu Qing Shan instantly grasp each and every cultivation rank firmly, helping in his path of cultivation and become a true cultivator.

Experience Points could only directly increase your rank. Even though it sounds convenient, it was similar to doping to make players stronger while having no idea where the power comes from.

Because players don't know anything about the basics of cultivation and were simply strong, right until the end, no players could ever break through the realm of Sainting that way.

This was the blood and tears experience that players have gathered during the past life.

Many people released their cultivation and started over from the bottom, but before they could grow up to be strong again, humanity had already been destroyed.

Gu Qing Shan stared for a long time at the War God UI, thinking.

Suddenly, he tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a jade tag.

As soon as he grabbed it, [War God Skills] flashed a line of text.

[Discovered Improved Super Presence Concealment Script, would you like to spend 10 Soul Points to learn it?]

It's quite impressive that Qin Xiao Lou accidentally gave him a technique that he needs the most right now.

Everything on the frontline is unpredictable.

If he learns this technique, he can use it to hide the fact that he broke through, making others unable to judge his true strength.

This isn't "faking a pig to eat a tiger", this is simply a method of self-preservation.

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In the worst case that everything is only needless worry, he only spent 10 Soul Points for an impractical ability.

But if anything unexpected happens, the Presence Concealment technique would be an excellent preparation for what's about to come.

"Do it"

[Ting!]

[The user has comprehended Improved Super Presence Concealment Script, Current Soul Points: 310/20]

A warm stream flowed from the jade tag into his body, concentrating at Gu Qing Shan's Thought Sea.

He finished comprehending the Improved Super Presence Concealment Script.

This is a very simple technique, it doesn't have many layers that needed to be learnt one at a time, so he only need to pay the cost once to fully grasp it.

Trying it out, Gu Qing Shan found that he's able to simulate being at qi training stage 1. Seems like the presence concealment is very potent.

That's fine, he'll be able to increase his cultivation with peace of mind now.

Stowing the jade tag away, he took out Shifu's [Hundred Saints Core Formation Script] and used 40 Soul Points to learn the method to break through Foundation Establishment middle stage.

After comprehending the Foundation Establishment middle stage, he had 270 Soul Points left.

He can attempt breaking through right now.

With how much spirit energy Gu Qing Shan has, it should be more than enough to break through Foundation Establishment middle stage. But for safety reasons, he took out the best spirit energy replenishment pill he had and swallowed it.

When breaking through, he needs some caution to prevent unexpected interference, leading to demonic possession.

Putting his hand on his spirit beast bag, he thought about it, but stopped.

Instead Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out his personal formation plate.

Infusing it with spirit energy, a small alarm formation was formed.

Holding the formation, he sighed suddenly without any reason.

Premature preparation is still better than no preparation at all.

Thinking so, Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI.

A notification was flashing on [War God Skills]

[Common defensive formation, able to deploy alarm formation: Wind Spirit Formation. Remaining usage: 30]

[To comprehend Wind Spirit Formation, 12 Soul Points required, would you like to learn it?]

“Yes”

[User has comprehended how to arrange Wind Spirit Formation, Current Soul Points: 258/20]

A warm stream flowed into his body again, and then Gu Qing Shan learnt how to arrange this primary level formation.

Holding the formation plate, he set up another Wind Spirit Formation.

With 2 layers of Wind Spirit Formation, the range became very wide, giving enough time for the cultivators inside to deal with any incoming danger.

Having a Wind Spirit Formation here to warn him of danger, even if something unexpected happens, Gu Qing Shan can just stop breaking through and be ready for battle at any time.

Finishing that, Gu Qing Shan began his breakthrough.

Sitting cross-legged, he closed his eyes and controlled his spirit energy

After about half an hour, he opened his eyes again.

The spirit light he emits had grown stronger, he's now a Foundation Establishment middle stage cultivator.

But Gu Qing Shan immediately use the presence concealment technique to lower his spirit energy waves back to being Foundation Establishment early stage.

“Foundation Establishment middle stage... 30% more spirit energy, just like I thought”

Feeling the change in his Dantian, he used the technique again to also limit the spirit energy he emits down to Foundation Establishment early stage.

Next ———

He'll continue breaking through to Foundation Establishment late stage!

The amount of Soul Points needed to break through to Foundation Establishment late stage has doubled from 40 to 80.

But even so, this way was still much quicker than how players used to need Experience Points to level up in the past life.

Gu Qing Shan immediately used 80 Soul Points to comprehend the method to break through Foundation Establishment late stage as well.

His remaining Soul Points was 178.

At this moment, he was like a Foundation Establishment late stage cultivator, already having the necessary cultivation and understanding of the stage, only his spirit energy volume was still at Foundation Establishment middle stage.

This can be compared to having a bowl full of water suddenly turning into a bucket, and then discovering that the bucket still has a lot of room to contain more water.

What else is there to say, just swallow more pills to “replenish” spirit energy!

Tapping his Inventory Bag, Gu Qing Shan took out the perfected pills Bai Hua Fairy gave him and swallowed.

At the same time, his hand cast the presence concealment technique again to calm down the surging spirit energy.

From outside, he was still only a Foundation Establishment early stage cultivator.

But inside Gu Qing Shan, the spirit energy was surging like an underground river, silently but quickly filling all the crevices in his body.

A while later.

Gu Qing Shan became a Foundation Establishment late stage cultivator.

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But as soon as he successfully broke through, he coughed up a mist of blood, and all the pores on his body started leaking blood.

His entire circulation system was tense from being overworked, his Dantian was hurting a bit from being stretched, his Thought Sea felt like someone was banging it with a hammer.

Rapidly breaking through like that was extremely dangerous, even if he succeeded, the burden it placed on the body isn't something to joke about.

It was only thanks to Gu Qing Shan having cultivation experience from his past life, as well as War God Skills giving him enough understanding of the Saint's cultivation method that his spirit energy didn't flow backwards and blow himself up.

If it was any other person, even a monstrous genius would only attempt a second breakthrough after a few days of rest and resituating themselves.

But knowing that humanity might begin the war at any point in the next 2 days, Gu Qing Shan simply doesn't have the time to wait.

He could only risk it.

He sighed, then swallowed a high quality healing pill.

Skipping over the necessary procedures to get immediate results isn't a good thing. After his crazy attempt this time, he will need to use even more time than he originally needed in order to nurture his body and get used to his new cultivation.

If it weren't for the strange circumstances that led him to remember the unfortunate events of the past life, he really doesn't want to break through like this.

Suddenly, [War God Skills] popped up another notification.

[Because the user had broken through in rapid succession, comprehension of cultivation scriptures has entered a cool down period]

[The user may expend Soul Points to decrease the cool down period]

There's no mention of how long the cool down period is, but Gu Qing Shan understood what the message meant.

——it wants him to fight.

The thing that the War God UI encourages the most is fighting.

Half an hour later.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and looked at the camp behind him.

The Invisibility and defensive formations are still on, the rest of them are probably resting.

His surging spirit energy has been calmed down.

Gu Qing Shan looked around.

In the dead of night, the lonely grasslands were being illuminated by the bright silvery moon, almost like a sea of moonlight on earth.

Such a beautiful land, why can't it ever be peaceful?

As the wind starts blowing, the moonlight was being dimmed by the clouds, until finally completely hidden away.

A thick black cloud has blocked out the moon, casting a darkness over the land.

The wind was still blowing.

It began to blow stronger, the screaming wind drowned out any other sounds there might have been.

An environment that's hard to see and hard to hear ——if anything really were to happen, this would be the most opportune moment for it.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the air as the Earth sword was held in his hand.

Is something going to come?

One breath.

Five breaths.

Ten breaths.

Twenty breaths.



Thirty breaths.

As time slowly passed, Gu Qing Shan suddenly held his breath.

His inner sight was able to pick up something. Something was moving at the desolate area a few dozen meters away from the rock he was sitting at.

Whatever it is, it's very careful, stopping right outside the Wind Spirit Formation, silently waiting.

Gu Qing Shan leaned on the rock, changing his posture.

A few seconds later, the thing moved again, this time, it moved straight forward.

What is coming?

Gu Qing Shan squints his eyes, very carefully retracted his killing intent, not letting a single bit of it leak.

He silently jumped on the rock, carefully checked the direction and jumped high up with the Earth sword.

He lightly swung the Earth sword as a sword gleam shone, attacking the thing on the ground.

"Get out here!"

He shouted.

Boom———

The thing was unable to endure the hit, jumped from pain and revealed itself from underground.

Its body was a few dozen meters long, and about as thick as a person.

The brown scales on it were full of sharp spikes, it had a mouth full of dark green venomous teeth.

This was a Foundation Establishment late stage Burrowing Demon Python, an evolution of the Burrowing Demon Snake.

Its entire body is extremely venomous, even if you aren't bitten by its teeth, being scratched by any of the spikes on its body and you will be on the verge of death.