

Apocalypse 1341

Chapter 1341

Translator: La0o9

The forest.

The orange cat sat atop a big tree, looking down towards a lake in the distance.

This place was a considerable distance away from Ramon village, in the middle of a mountain range in the wilderness of the border.

The other side of the mountain range would be another Duchy.

The orange cat retracted his gaze and closed his eyes, silently waiting.

According to that wraith's memories, since this was a highly secluded location, a temporary base, and the people of this world trusted the wraiths quite a bit, this base's security wasn't as strict as other bases.

The one thing the wraiths were most confident about was their individual ability to keep secrets.

— even that guy who was infected by the Plague Apocalypse managed to apply several defensive techniques on his body right as he was resurrected.

About two minutes later.

The orange cat abruptly opened his eyes, staring down at the lake.

A wraith descended from above, landing on the surface of the lake, and instantly disappeared without a trace.

Seeing this, the orange cat turned around and ran, quickly leaving this forest surrounding the lake.

He stopped in a different location of the forest, took out the jade pieces from earlier, and drew a circle with his paws.

Instantly, the archery techniques recorded on the jade pieces all disappeared.

「What are you making?」 the Earth sword sent its mountainous heavy voice.

“I don’t have any jade tags I can use right now, so I’ll just use their jade pieces for convenience’s sake”
Gu Qing Shan also sent his voice in reply.

The orange cat put the jade pieces in the air, striking spirit energy into it continuously with both paws.

The Earth sword hovered a bit in the air, slicing a stalking large snake on the tree in half, then continued:
「I had thought that you were going to eradicate all of those wraiths」

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword appeared.

Shannu spoke up:

“There aren’t too many wraiths here, what use would there be in killing them? That would only alarm them and place gongzi in a more dangerous situation”

The Earth sword was stumped, so it asked: 「Then what do you think he’s trying to do?」

Shannu replied: “I think that gongzi is trying to infiltrate the wraiths, not only would that not expose him, but he would also gain a lot of information— is that right, gongzi?”

The two swords both looked at Gu Qing Shan.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan had finished modifying the jade pieces, so he chuckled: “Shannu, since when could you consider such matter?”

Shannu replied: “Because I would occasionally have to act as gongzi, I’m now always paying close attention to your gestures, words, and thought process”

Gu Qing Shan praised: “Indeed, I’m pleased that you can now make preparations for abrupt circumstances”

Being praised, Shannu felt delighted, which showed in her tone: “Then, was that what gongzi is planning to do?”

The orange cat opened his paw, displaying for her to see, and sent his voice: “The wraiths have both the advantage of number and strength, but I still have to deal with the threat of the Plague Apocalypse and extinct monsters, so I don’t have the time to slowly grind them down”

“Then— this is?” Shannu was confused and asked.

The orange cat raised one of the jade pieces, formed a hand seal with one paw, and sent his voice:

“Under normal circumstances, different individuals value different things, so it is very difficult for you to force someone to care about something they aren’t interested in, unless...”

Shannu fell silent.

She had no idea what Gu Qing Shan was talking about, so she chose to listen.

Gu Qing Shan circulated his spirit energy and infused it into his hand seal.

“Unless that ‘something’ was related to the survival of everyone as a whole, only then would a ripple effect be achieved, leading the entire world to exert its greatest possible force”

“This world will soon fall into chaos, so if the rotten part isn’t amputated, everything is going to be over before it even begins. I’ll have to take this opportunity while the plague and monsters still haven’t completely descended to stir up just the right amount of chaos”

—his technique was completed.

Image Recording technique!

This was an extremely simple technique of the cultivation world, which essentially acted as both a camera and microphone in its vicinity.

Holding the jade piece in his mouth, the orange cat quickly returned to the lake.

He approached the lake, then waited for a while.

Having known the patrolling rules from soul reading and having seen the wraith earlier, Gu Qing Shan had a perfect grasp of the other party's timing.

About two breaths' worth of time later, another wraith descended from above right on schedule, preparing to enter the base.

But this wraith didn't know that when he released the lock seals atop the lake surface, a cat had suddenly appeared behind him.

This cat entered the base below the lake together with him.

Everything around the entrance was cold and wet, but there was a narrow stone staircase that continued from the surface of the lake to the very bottom.

The orange cat silently followed behind the wraith, quickly reaching the end of the stair.

This place was around half a football course in size, with two wraiths hovering in mid-air right at the very center.

Both of these wraiths were covered from head to toe with talismans and exuded an eerie fluctuation.

Below them, around 7-8 wraiths were busy with their own work.

They occasionally drew a seal in mid-air with spirit energy and controlled the talismans, sensing their changes.

The orange cat held the jade piece in his mouth and slowly entered the room before jumping onto a long table, silently observing everything.

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Suddenly, one of the wraiths asked:

“Sir, how do you feel?”

One of the wraiths whose body was stuck full of talismans in mid-air replied:

“I have received the guiding fluctuations of the [Snowdrift] inheritance. Baron Rhode of Langlois Prefecture’s soul frequency and direction have been determined. Once the progress of his cultivation reaches 75%, I will activate the first soul exchange”

One of the wraiths curiously asked: “Sir, he’s only a Baron, why do we need to use not only the precious [Snowdrift], but also for you to personally take over his body?”

The wraith stuck full of talismans replied:

“You’ve only just arrived so you don’t know, but this Baron is a rare Condemner, his faith lies not with the Deities, but with his Condemnation Codex. We still haven’t managed to obtain this Profession, so the superiors are highly interested in it”

“So that’s why——”

The wraith was about to say something else but was cut off.

The other wraith whose body was stuck full of talismans in the air raised his voice:

“Attention everyone, Viscount Fidez’s [Hundred Slashes] technique has been cultivated to completion, please get ready, I’m going to perform the complete soul exchange”

As soon as he said so, the talismans on his body exuded a malicious aura.

Hearing that, the wraiths gathered around this wraith, each forming a different hand seal.

Instantly, black lengths of chains manifested from their hand seals, wrapping the body of the wraith covered in talismans.

“Sir, [Life Snatch Body Swap] is ready!” one wraith reported.

The wraith in mid-air solemnly declared: “Everyone, I shall be leaving. From today onwards, I am Viscount Fidez. Make sure to clean everything up carefully. After taking over his body, I will look for Viscount Warren, temporarily do not contact me”

“Understood”

“Very well, begin!”

Each of the wraiths started to ready a different hand seal, shouting in unison: “We’ll see you off, sir!”

Instantly, the hovering wraith whose body was stuck full of talismans fell down, crashing into the ground.

One breath.

Two breaths.

He staggered to stand back up, ripping off the talismans on his body while doubtfully questioning:
“Where... am I?”

The wraiths activated all of their hand seals at once.

The black chains instantly tightened up, restraining the man.

“Magic Prohibition!”

“Physical Prohibition!”

“Divine Prohibition!”

“Item Prohibition!”

“Covenant Prohibition!”

“Restrained!”

The wraiths shouted one after another.

The man tried to struggle, shouting in fury: “You damned inferior wraiths, I am Viscount Fidez! How dare you disrespect me this way!”

The wraiths completely ignored him.

They exchanged glances, then one of them reported: “[Life Snatch Body Swap] was successful, no mistakes were made, we can now proceed to the next step”

One of the wraiths stepped forward, declaring: “I’ll do it”

He drew a blade and swung.

“Don’t—”

Before the man on the ground even managed to beg, he was chopped in half, losing his life instantly.

“Very well, the only target left is Baron Rhode. He won’t be able to reach requirements for swapping for a short while. Everyone, get some rest”

“Alright”

...

The orange cat held the jade piece in his mouth, coldly observing everything that had occurred.

Once everyone had scattered, leaving only a single wraith here as a guard, he silently went back the way he came and stood at the entrance of the base.

The orange cat turned back into Gu Qing Shan, the effects of [Ghostly Shadow of Night] instantly disappeared from his body.

Gu Qing Shan raised the jade piece up to carefully record his surroundings.

Finally, he put the jade piece directly in front of his face and solemnly said: “Everyone, I am Rhode of Ramon village in the Langlois Prefecture of the Fran Duchy, a Baron”

“During my recent conferring ceremony, I have received a gift from the wraiths— a few Archery techniques”

“The wraiths always present their gifts to aristocrats, but was this really because they are humble?”

“I felt suspicious, so I did some investigations”

“Earlier, I have shown you the truth”

“Following this— I will collect samples and use a real example as evidence”

“The battle might be a bit bloody, there’s no need for everyone to observe that”

He put the jade piece away, then wielded both the Earth sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword tightly in his hands.

“Earth sword”

「 Hm? 」

“Now, this is the time to kill them all”

At the depths of the base, the wraiths quickly sensed the unusual fluctuations here and were swiftly making their way towards him.

Chapter 1342

Translator: La0o9

Standing at the top of the stone stairs, Gu Qing Shan pointed his sword downwards.

In the darkness, wind began to converge, then abruptly receded in every direction like a storm.

A current of endlessly flowing sword phantoms erupted in a flash.

“Go” Gu Qing Shan casually said.

Boom!!!

Sword phantoms continuously appeared from the Earth sword like a blinding waterfall.

Everything in their way was destroyed——

Secret Art, [Great Flood]!

When the first wraith showed up with a demon-faced tower shield attempting to stop the flow of swords, he was mercilessly erased without issues.

The second wraith quickly formed a hand seal and transformed into an actual wraith-like creature whose entire body was blue and purple, erupting in a resounding howl.

The flood of swords enveloped him, after which he was nowhere to be seen.

The third and fourth wraiths both wielded a burning talisman to form a burning mirror of light to block the sword phantoms—

Boom!!!

The mirror broke, they died!

The fifth, sixth, seventh wraith appeared all at once, standing back-to-back and shouted in unison: "Heaven and earth are devilish, only I am demonic!"

The sword phantoms arrived.

Within the blinding flood of swords, the three wraiths fused with one another, turning into a three-headed, six-armed monster. The six arms formed individual hand seals while the three mouths chanted an incantation, abruptly shouting: "True Demon Thought Forms!"

Countless demonic shadows appeared from the monster's body, each wielding a strange-looking weapon, and started fighting against the sword phantoms.

The sword phantoms slowly faded away.

The three-headed, six-armed monster stood still in the middle of the path, still completely intact.

It wasn't in a hurry to pursue the attack and instead took a stance, drawing a blade, a mace, and a staff to wield in the six hands, then finally turned to Gu Qing Shan.

"So it was you, Baron Rhode, for what reason did you suddenly ambush us?"

It questioned with a confused look.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and spoke in a warm voice: "I'm just here to pay a visit"

He threw a punch backward without turning around.

At the very moment he threw the punch, a wraith suddenly appeared behind him wielding two sharp spikes on his hand, apparently getting ready to attack.

"Do it!"

The three-headed, six-armed monster shouted.

But the wraith stood completely still as if he was daydreaming.

A sword phantom heavily slashed across.

His head was sliced off.

Holding the head in his hand, Gu Qing Shan pointed at them with his sword: "It's not interesting at all for others to fight for you, come at me yourself"

The three-headed, six-armed monster's expression became dark and muttered in a low voice: "Baron Rhode, you asked for it"

Its six arms clasped together to form a hand seal.

Cackling noises popped up around its body, soon manifesting a malicious figure——

Shu!

A tiny noise.

The malicious figure abruptly scattered and disappeared without a trace.

“Hak... khak...”

The monster spat up blood as it stood still, slowly looking down.

A sword had pierced through its chest, with another sword piercing through from behind.

——[Swallow Returns]

The two intersecting swords directly stripped the monster of its life.

An orange cat raised an autumn water-like blue steel sword, coldly declaring: “Meow”

A cold gleam flashed.

The monster was ripped apart, its entire body finely diced by tiny sword phantoms and turned into a mist of blood, scattering away by the howling wind.

The orange cat put the sword away, turned back into a girl, then hid into the void of space before turning back into a sword and returned to Gu Qing Shan's hand.

—it was the Six Paths Great Mountain sword that Gu Qing Shan had let go from his left hand earlier.

“So many powerful techniques and spells that they haven't even used” Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

“They don't use their heads at all when they kill, so they're still quite green compared to gongzi” Shannu followed up his words.

「 What are you praising him for... 」 the Earth sword whispered.

“None of your business” Shannu coldly replied.

Gu Qing Shan's figure shifted and disappeared.

He appeared at the innermost chamber of this base.

In the middle of the empty yard, only a single wraith whose body was stuck full of talismans remained, hovering in the air.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then had Shannu stand next to him while he took out a black bow, continuously unleashing arrows towards the wraith.

“Rhode! Baron Rhode! You mercilessly slaughtered the people of our Wraith realm without any reasons, we will definitely report this to his grace the Duke, and have you pay the price for your crime! Mark my words!”

The wraith threatened him fiercely without any assurance.

Gu Qing Shan didn't stop his hands.

Arrows continued to pierce through the talismans and punctured the wraith's body.

Blood flowed.

"You wanted to steal my body, so killing you is nothing but justice, no one will say anything" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The wraith froze, then muttered in a harrowing voice: "So you already know"

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A burst of flames appeared from his body then disappeared without a trace.

At the same time, 7-8 of the talismans on the wraith's body began to burn, the blue vapor that they gave off slowly formed into sharp pikes.

"I'm not the same as those useless garbages" the wraith casually said.

The pikes were as numerous as a forest, reaching Gu Qing Shan in almost an instant and gave him practically no time to dodge.

Gu Qing Shan barely managed to avoid the majority of them, but still got hit a few times, causing him to spit up blood.

The wraith clicked his tongue, sighing: "Rhode, you truly are a rare talent. Not only did you manage to find this place alone, but you also managed to bypass all of our prepared formations and discover our plans— but regretfully, a large number of Combatants will arrive here in five breaths' worth of time, and you will die"

Five breaths?

Gu Qing Shan abruptly shouted: “Card!”

“Huh? What did you just say?” the wraith confusedly said.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t pay attention to him.

Hearing him, Shannu immediately put the jade piece in her hand away.

Gu Qing Shan’s figure moved like a ghostly shadow, easily avoiding the hail of pikes.

Compared to how tough it looked for him earlier, he was now like a completely different person.

Swatting a group of pikes shadows away with his bow, he asked: “Shannu, did you manage to record that?”

Examining the jade piece in her hand, Shannu nodded and loudly said: “I recorded everything, but gongzi spat up too much blood earlier, it’s a bit of a waste”

“It’s fine, it adds to the realism” Gu Qing Shan loudly replied.

The 5th breath.

The glow of formations appeared all over the ground——

Someone was teleporting here.

The reinforcement that the wraith had mentioned was about to arrive!

With a flick of his hand, the bow Gu Qing Shan was holding disappeared, replaced by a dark green bow that gave off indescribable fluctuations.

—Dreamscape Soul Artifact, [Bow of Fallen Souls]!

“See you later”

Arrows were instantly let loose, not towards the wraith in the air, but towards the ground.

Zi zi zi... shill— — —

Every arrow that touched the ground quickly gave off a corroding noise that quickly ate through the ground and fell.

This was the power of the [Bow of Fallen Souls], the corrosion of all things.

The teleportation was cut off.

Staring closely at the wraith, Gu Qing Shan silently took one step back.

Layers of fog appeared out of nowhere, enveloped him, then disappeared.

[Fog Realm Descent]!

Gu Qing Shan had escaped from this wraith base.

He appeared in the wilderness just outside Ramon village.

Shannu gave the jade piece to Gu Qing Shan, asking him: “Gongzi, what do we do now?”

Gu Qing Shan pondered; a bit troubled: “I don’t have enough jade tags...”

Suddenly, a scorching sensation came from his wrist.

The blue skull pattern began to burn, followed by the world spirit's voice:

「 At your feet... 」

Gu Qing Shan crouched down as instructed and brushed off the uppermost layer of dirt.

A piece of pure-white jade was reflected in his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and searched his surroundings.

——in a radius of several dozen miles, high-quality white jade filled the ground!

Gu Qing Shan paused a bit, then chuckled: “I almost forgot, the world is currently on my side”

He traced his finger in the air, swiftly cutting many pieces of jade from the ground, made them into jade tags, then copied everything from the jade piece to the jade tags with spirit energy.

Gu Qing Shan didn't stop until he created a total of 300 identical jade tags.

「 When these jade tags spread all over the world, the time of war shall begin 」 the Earth sword commented.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and replied: “The wraiths had already become so deeply rooted in this world for so many years already, minor tricks and ploy aren't going to do anything. The only chance this world has to triumph against the wraith, plague, and monsters is for me to prematurely push it past the brink of war”

“But when, how should we spread these jade tags?” Shannu asked.

“It was originally going to be very troublesome, but since the wraiths had given me a hand and the world spirit was also on my side——”

Gu Qing Shan tied a jade tag onto an arrow, then fully drew his bowstring.

The string gave off a loud bang like thunder as the arrow flew above the clouds, disappearing without a trace.

“This is... [Snowdrift]...” Shannu muttered.

“That’s right, this is a Divine Skill, it’ll reach 100,000 miles in no time at all, probably faster than those fast food delivery places back in the Freedom Confederate” Gu Qing Shan confirmed her guess.

「 I’ve already lived through quite a few years in several cultivation-type worlds, but this is the first time I’ve seen someone use a Divine Skill to deliver a jade tag 」 the Earth sword muttered.

“But does gongzi have a target? Where would these jade tags be delivered to?” Shannu asked.

“I didn’t have targets, but it has gotten a chance to do everything over. There are definitely things and people that it remembers well. It has targets”

“ 「 It? 」 ” the Earth sword and Shannu asked in unison.

“That’s right”

Gu Qing Shan tied another jade tag onto another arrow.

In the wilderness, a gust of wind suddenly manifested.

The wind appeared out of nowhere, drifting around the flying arrow, seemingly trying to escort these jade tags to certain locations in this world.

“The wind will show those arrows the way” Gu Qing Shan continued: “Let the world spirit decide where these jade tags will be delivered to, right now, it is our ally”

Another arrow was let loose, flew above the clouds, then disappeared without a trace.

Chapter 1343

Translator: La0o9

An arrow was flying above the clouds, crossing mountains and seas while quickly heading forward.

After an unknown amount of time, it had crossed a distance of almost 200,000 miles before thoroughly losing its strength and fell to the ground.

The wind continued to surround the arrow, forming an invisible path towards a certain direction.

—this was another continent.

There wasn't a single cloud for over ten thousand miles, a breeze blew across the vast wheat field, gently swaying them.

The arrow speed was increasing, falling like a meteorite.

—after crossing the long distance, it finally shot towards an old farmer, but the farmer didn't seem like he noticed the arrow or the disaster that was about to befall him.

Descending.

Descending.

Right as it was about to hit the old farmer, the arrow abruptly stopped.

“An assassin? No...”

The old farmer faintly smiled, then grabbed the arrow from above his head.

“Oh... this seems like an image recording technique, quite crude, but still interesting...”

“I wonder whose child’s work this is, it’s quite decent”

The farmer praised, then rubbed his blister-filled fingers on the jade tag for a bit before lightly pressing on it.

The jade tag was activated.

A recorded scene appeared in front of the farmer.

A narrow stone path that reached from the surface of the lake to the bottom.

There was a wraith right in the middle of the screen.

The screen seemed to follow the wraith’s footsteps until it reached the end of the path.

Two wraiths hovered in mid-air; their bodies stuck full of talismans.

Their conversation could be heard:

“Sir, how do you feel?”

“I have received the guiding fluctuations of the [Snowdrift] inheritance. Baron Rhode of Langlois Prefecture’s soul frequency and direction have been determined. Once the progress of his cultivation reaches 75%, I will activate the first soul exchange”

The old farmer’s smile instantly disappeared.

His yes was now completely frigid.

The conversation continued in the recording:

“...Viscount Fidez’s [Hundred Slashes] technique has been cultivated to completion, please get ready, I’m going to perform the complete soul exchange!”

“...from today onwards, I am Viscount Fidez. Make sure to clean everything up carefully. After taking over his body, I will look for Viscount Warren...”

The soul exchange was completed and Viscount Fidez was killed on the spot.

The scene quickly moved away, showing that the observer was leaving this frightening place.

Finally, the scene stopped at the top of the stone stairs.

Gu Qing Shan appeared in the image.

He spoke with a serious expression: “Everyone, I am Rhode of Ramon village in the Langlois Prefecture of the Fran Duchy, a Baron”

“Earlier, I have shown you the truth”

...

The scene changed.

“Rhode! Baron Rhode! You mercilessly slaughtered the people of our Wraith realm without any reasons, we will definitely report this to his grace the Duke, and have you pay the price for your crime! Mark my words!”

The battle began.

“You wanted to steal my body, so killing you is nothing but justice, no one will say anything” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“So you already know”

The young man called Rhode tried his best to dodge among the hail of pikes, but still got injured and bled.

The scene ended.

The old farmer put the jade tag into his mouth, chewed it up, then swallowed.

“There are no issues with the item...”

A few moments of silence.

Someone suddenly called out from a distance: “Grandpa, today’s work is done, let’s go back and eat!”

The old farmer turned around, smiling with his face full of wrinkles: “I have a meeting with some old friends today, we’re going out for a drink, so I won’t eat dinner tonight”

“Really? Then try not to drink too much ok, we’re heading back first”

“Alright”

The old farmer watched as they left.

Only when the entire field had returned to silence did he mutter: "...Deceiving us for so many years!"

Boom!

Boundless rage erupted from his body, blowing the nearby wheat straight to the ground.

Like a cannonball, the old man shot into the sky, flying towards the ocean.

...

At another location.

One of the jade tags fell in the middle of a forest, hanging on the branch of a great tree.

「 What... is... this... thing? 」

The great tree extended an emerald branch outwards to take the jade tag.

The recorded scene inside appeared.

...

At the host seat of a grand banquet, a man with a crown on his head was merrily laughing with his fellow men, a glass of wine in his hand.

He suddenly put his hand up towards the sky.

Instantly, an arrow appeared in front of him.

"An assailant! Guards!" someone immediately shouted.

“Guard his majesty!”

“Guard his majesty!”

The entire banquet instantly turned chaotic, fully-armored royal guards wielding weapons appeared one after another, several powerful Combatants who were hiding in the shadows also appeared, cautiously surrounding the man.

“All of you, if something truly did happen, would I really need you to guard?” the man wearing the crown chuckled.

“Sire, this arrow—”

“Doesn’t contain any force. It probably flew in from an extremely far distance, then just happened to fall in front of me... a coincidence”

Saying that, the man suddenly recalled something.

If all things contain the will of God, then what would this be?

His expression turned solemn and swiftly took the jade tag that was tied to the arrow.

“This thing is quite interesting, let me see exactly what’s going on”

The recorded scene appeared for everyone to see.

...

A gloomy, dark fortress.

On the top floor, just as a blood-colored casket was about to open, an arrow descended from above and landed exactly on top of it with a 'thud'.

The casket was a bit startled.

A hand reached out from within the casket and searched the top for a bit, finally taking both the arrow and jade tag inside.

Very quickly, voices could be heard from inside the casket:

"Sir, he's only a Baron, why do we need to use not only the precious [Snowdrift] but also for you to personally take over his body?"

"...We still haven't managed to obtain this Profession, so the superiors are highly interested in it"

...

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Ramon village.

In the wilderness just outside the village.

Gu Qing Shan had taken out a chair and sat in the middle of the frigid wilderness, slowly enjoying a bottle of liquor.

Crow carried the duck plushie with her and sat across from him.

"I'm telling you, the bar has several cute ladies" Crow excitedly said.

The duck plushie replied: "Whether or not those ladies are cute doesn't seem to have anything to do with you as you currently are, right?"

Crow tapped the duck plushie's head: "You damn lustful duck, I don't need you to tell me that"

Gu Qing Shan offered each of them a glass of liquor and asked: "Then what do you want me to tell you?"

"How about why we are sitting in the middle of nowhere?" Crow asked.

"That's right, wouldn't it be better to sit in the bat?" the duck plushie also said.

"We probably will have to move soon" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Both Crow and the duck plushie asked in unison: ""What?""

"That's right, we'll probably be heading to bigger cities, perhaps even the center of this world's civilization—— I'm not really sure if you'll enjoy that or not"

""Of course I do!""

Crow and the duck plushie both nodded.

"Then let me tell you about something first"

Gu Qing Shan began to explain how the wraiths are swapping everyone's souls.

Right at this moment, many figures began to show up one after another from the shadows.

Wraiths.

Numerous wraiths.

From the mountains to the forest, squadrons of wraiths orderly and silently rallied.

They were all heading towards Gu Qing Shan's group.

"Baron Rhode, I really must say, you are an exceptional individual"

A voice resounded.

The wraiths quickly parted ways to make a path for one person to come forward.

The man had greyish white hair, wore a red yaksha mask over his face, and had an aura of a superior.

He stood in front of Gu Qing Shan, solemnly observing him.

"For millennia, no one of the Saint Spirit world had tried to investigate our matters, no one had ever suspected anything. You were the only person to have done so, furthermore, the only one who successfully avoided all of our defensive measures, so you are relatively valuable"

"And so?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I shall give you a chance. Convert to become a person of our Wraith realm and vanish from this world, pledge your allegiance to me from now on" the man declared.

"Pledge my allegiance to you... but I don't even know who you are" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The man paused a bit, then chuckled: "Very well, you wouldn't be able to escape either way, I shall give you an answer. I am Red Wraith"

"Red Wraith?"

“Indeed, there are two rulers in our Wraith realm, a Heavenly King and a Wraith. I am that Wraith”

“Where is the Heavenly King?”

“We still haven’t found him—-- but this isn’t the time to talk about that. You must make a choice right now; are you going to die or pledge your allegiance to me?”

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at the other party and asked: “My choice isn’t that hard to make, but if you’re willing to let me live, you’d be giving up on taking over my body, is that really true?”

“That is indeed true” Red Wraith nodded.

Gu Qing Shan questioned further: “Wouldn’t my disappearance be too sudden? Don’t you have any techniques other than [Life Seize Body Swap] to make someone else take my place?”

Red Wraith replied: “That isn’t something you need to worry about. The scene of a minor Baron’s death can easily be faked, we can guarantee that no one will suspect a thing”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Very well, then I don’t have any other questions”

Red Wraith’s killing intent subsided, asking: “Then you’re accepting my offer?”

“I refuse” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith was silent for a moment, thinking that he heard wrongly.

“...You chose to die?” he asked

“No” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Then——”

“I said, I refuse”

Red Wraith said confusedly: “Refusal means death. After speaking so much, you still ended up choosing to die?”

Gu Qing Shan grinned and nodded, telling him: “Right, come”

Red Wraith stared straight at him and slowly raised his hand

“Baron Rhode, your death——”

Despite saying that, Red Wraith didn't act.

He abruptly looked up towards the sky: “Someone's coming, very rapidly!”

“Defend!” Red Wraith abruptly shouted.

At the very next instant.

A holy mass of light descended from above, striking Red Wraith's body and sending him flying.

“Who!?”

The wraiths readied their formations and sternly shouted.

A man wearing a crown slowly descended from above.

“I am the emperor of Roland; you bunch don’t deserve to hear my name” the man casually replied.

Suddenly, a shrill noise resounded in the air.

Boom!

Another figure descended from above, landing on the ground.

An unassuming old farmer.

His body was still glowing in a green aura as he looked around, smirking: “So many people, very well, your corpses will serve to nourish my wheat fields”

The clouds in the sky gradually began to part.

Numerous figures were descending one after another.

Hundreds of them had arrived almost at the same time!

All of them exuded intense pressure, all landing around Gu Qing Shan.

They were the true top-rate Combatants of this world.

During the previous timeline, they all fought to the very last moment, heroes recorded by the world spirit.

So with this second chance, the world spirit chose to send Gu Qing Shan’s jade tags to them.

Red Wraith staggered a bit to stand back up, looking up at the sky.

So many... powerful Combatants who hadn't been taken over...

This force is more than enough to sweep through the entire world...

Red Wraith took a deep breath, barely retaining his calm: "Esteemed ones, please listen to me"

A blinding explosion!

The group of wraiths was sent flying, raining down as either corpses or pools of blood.

A red-haired woman hovering in the sky pulled back her hand, lightly declaring:

"There is nothing to be said, all wraiths must die!"

Chapter 1344

Translator: La0o9

The Saint Spirit world was the strongest world.

And the strongest group of people in this world were, without a doubt, the strongest Combatants among the various top-level Combatants from the many parallel worlds.

Then, what kind of battle would they fight?

If it was in any other worlds, the mere act of them lifting a finger could cause countless worlds to perish.

Fortunately---

This world had an immensely powerful Origin, as well as a world spirit manifested from the remnant Will of Deities.

These people were powerful, but the world was more powerful.

Which meant that it could endure their combat.

However—

When the killing intent rose to the sky, blood filled the air, and the earth trembled, Gu Qing Shan could no longer observe the following combat.

When the red-haired woman raised her hand, Gu Qing Shan as well as his chair were sent away together with Crow and the duck plushie.

—as a small Baron and Baron's aide, it was almost impossible for them to survive in a battle of such epic proportions.

So the three of them were sent far away to avoid being caught in the grand battle.

—they appeared in the middle of a vast ocean, on top of a floating iceberg.

"I couldn't even resist before being sent away here" Crow muttered.

"Indeed, they are very powerful" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He was still sitting neatly on his chair, slowly taking a sip of his liquor.

The ocean was calm, occasionally one or two sea birds would fly by, cawing loudly.

"Look, there are a few tunas over there, do you want to—" Gu Qing Shan pointed for the duck plushie to see.

The duck plushie refused: "I'm not going into water"

"Hah, how regretful, I was prepared to make you a bit of a meal as well" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

"They're already fighting and you're here talking about a meal— are we just going to stay here and wait for the results?" Crow opened her bright eyes wide, speechless.

From the scene of an impending desperate battle to a scene of a peaceful ocean, this abrupt change was hard for most to adapt to.

Suddenly, an intense power fluctuation was felt.

It originated from a considerable distance from this part of the ocean, but with Gu Qing Shan and Crow's strength, they still managed to sharply recognize this fluctuation.

"The battle had begun" Crow said, clenching her fist.

The duck plushie took out a notebook, writing his calculations on it, and excitedly said: "According to the Laws of Spatial Transportation, someone must be at least five times stronger than we were to be able to directly transport us away while ignoring our resistance"

"Combined with the power fluctuations we felt earlier, divided by the number of Combatants who appeared, those people were averagely 4.3 times stronger compared to the three of us combined"

"Are they really that strong?" Crow was a bit unconvinced.

"Data never lies" the duck plushie replied.

After saying that, both of them felt dejected.

Crow was a top-level Titled Combatant of Void City. Even if he was weaker compared to the strongest void monsters, he wouldn't be that much weaker.

It was truly a strike to their pride.

Seeing their expressions, Gu Qing Shan chuckled: “No need to feel down. This place is the most powerful world in the history of all worlds of the past, and the fact that we were able to see these Combatants here is already a great opportunity. During our cultivation in this place from now on, we’d be able to use them as a standard to strive forward”

He poured two more glasses for the two of them, cheered, and drank it all at once.

Seeing him drink, Crow also finished her glass.

The lingering burning sensation of the liquor in her chest thoroughly dispelled the earlier dejection.

Crow swiftly readjusted her mentality, then asked: “How do you think the battle is going on that side?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “The wraiths would not give up their many years of effort so easily, so they would surely come up with some way to salvage the situation”

“But you’ve already recorded everything, the truth is right there, who else would be able to save them?” the duck plushie enjoyed the sea breeze and asked.

“Those who were taken over would definitely think of a way to erase all evidence, then arrive to rescue the wraiths” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow then said: “But everyone knows that they’ve been taken over, their appearance would only further fan the flames of those Combatants’ rage”

After a moment of silence, Gu Qing Shan replied: “In the worst-case scenario, they would find those who haven’t been taken over to help convince the others”

Crow was surprised: “Those who haven’t been taken over? Would people like that actually help them?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: "There are always those who hold nothing but malice towards living beings in every world... while they live behind their façade being admired by others, they would silently perform nothing short of the cruelest activities. We wouldn't be able to understand people with this mentality"

At this point, Shannu silently suggested inside Gu Qing Shan's Thought Sea:

"Gongzi has already practiced [Snowdrift], so when the wraiths want to turn things over on their heads later on, we can simply show everyone how a take-over would happen— the Earth sword and I will prepare to kill the one trying to take over like last time"

"That's not possible" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Not possible?"

"That's right. Last time was a desperate measure, I was a hair's breadth away from killing myself. I can't stab myself in front of so many people once again and stay in that near-death state, that's essentially the same as volunteering myself as hostage"

"Then..." Shannu hesitantly asked.

"Furthermore, the wraiths must have already cleaned everything up regarding this matter as soon as it was found out, they wouldn't let us use such obvious evidence against them"

Gu Qing Shan put down his glass, stood up, and drew a black bow: "As proof—"

He quickly fired off several arrows with the bow.

The arrows flew like streaks of light across the surface of the ocean, finally disappearing into the horizon.

"I've just performed [Snowdrift] at its greatest mastery, so I should have already been taken over, but nothing happened at all"

“The wraiths have erased the [Life Seize Body Swap] technique from this inheritance as soon as they were able to”

Gu Qing Shan slowly explained.

Shannu was in a bit of panic as she heard that, muttering: “Then, would those Combatants be convinced?”

“Most likely, they’ll summon me to confirm the situation” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu was really panicking this time, asking: “Gongzi, what do we do now?”

“The wraiths have most likely prepared for everything and are waiting for me to return, but the most they would be able to do is to examine my jade tags, so their only case would most likely be that I fabricated the contents of the jade tags”

Gu Qing Shan then took out the original jade piece and rubbed it with his fingers

“But they didn’t know that I had this jade piece in my hand that came from them. This contained the original recording, including the coordinates and timeline of events. With the world itself as my proof, they couldn’t possibly claim that this was also fake”

“How strange, why haven’t they summoned me yet? Did the wraiths already give——”

As soon as he said that, he disappeared from the iceberg.

...

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Outside Ramon village.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly appeared.

Hundreds of Combatants focused their gazes on him.

On the other side.

Countless wraiths all prostrated themselves, displaying their surrender.

In front of the wraiths were several Combatants in luxurious clothing.

“Come, that Baron is here! His recording might not have any issues, but he was the one who made it!”

“It’s time to let everyone know the truth, he must have been lying!”

“That’s right, couldn’t all of you have carefully considered the facts? Those jade tags were clearly all the results of his handiwork”

Those Combatants immediately called out.

Gu Qing Shan coldly glanced at them, then turned to the Combatants around him.

He took out the original jade piece and openly displayed it in his hand.

In that short moment, everyone’s gazes were focused on the jade piece.

This was the wraith’s jade piece.

It contained the original recording.

The people on the other side changed their expressions.

But how could that reaction fool any of the Combatants here?

They immediately surrounded Gu Qing Shan, cautiously protecting him.

An old farmer took the jade piece from Gu Qing Shan's hand, closed his eyes and silently sensed it, then said: "Using a temporal technique, anyone can see the truth, I believe there are no issues with this"

Right at that moment, before waiting for anyone else to speak, Gu Qing Shan changed his Title to [Reality's Most Amorous Man]

--Title Skill activated!

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "Everyone, I'm merely a Baron, but the jade piece in my hand contained the original recording. Regardless of what anyone says, the jade piece is right there, and anyone of your caliber would be able to tell if it was fabricated or not. Because of that, the truth must be--- the wraiths were unwilling to give up on their work after so much, so they attempted one last struggle to continue taking over this world"

"Furthermore, the very fact that they know this technique is a sin in and of itself. Since when did we from the Saint Spirit world need to be reasonable when killing?"

Silence, all around.

Suddenly---

The Combatants surrounding Gu Qing Shan quickly expressed their opinions.

"Indeed, they deserve to die just by having such thoughts, let alone the current circumstances"

"Makes sense"

"That makes a lot of sense"

"There's no need to say anything else, let's kill them"

"That's right, with an impending Apocalypse, we can't let these wraiths interfere with us"

"Then..."

"Kill them!"

The light of numerous powerful techniques abruptly bloomed in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Someone waved their hand.

His vision became blurred—

Gu Qing Shan found himself back on top of the iceberg in the middle of the vast ocean.

Crow and the duck plushie each had a fishing pole in their hands, seriously fishing.

Gu Qing Shan leaned back on his chair, sighing in relief.

“How was it? Did they question you?” Crow asked.

“Didn’t let them” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“What happened next?” the duck plushie questioned further.

“They fought” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“There shouldn’t be any other issues, right?” Crow asked.

“If they still continued to hesitate, they wouldn’t be qualified to be Combatants” Gu Qing Shan grinned.

“Tsk tsk, a world-shaking battle, but we don’t even have the opportunity to witness it” the duck plushie sighed dejectedly.

Crow scoffed: “Even I’m not qualified to stand at the scene, a duck plushie like you being there would mean nothing but death”

Saying so, she pulled her hand up, grabbing a fish out of water.

“You know how to make seafood?” she asked Gu Qing Shan.

“I’m somewhat familiar with them”

Gu Qing Shan sat down, excitedly looking at the fish.

Suddenly, he felt a burning sensation on his wrist.

The blue skull pattern disappeared, this time turning into a sword and blade crossing pattern.

The world went away from Gu Qing Shan’s vision.

Darkness.

Countless stars descended, surrounding Gu Qing Shan and spoke in thousands of whispering voices:

「 The Saint Spirit world and Wraith realm have officially become enemies, the flames of war have erupted 」

「 You’ve proven your wits and power 」

「 ...Please fight along our side, we shall further provide you with aid 」

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

[You’ve obtained the recognition of the world spirit; you no longer need to expend Soul Points]

The number of Soul Points constantly being deducted at the corner of the UI suddenly stopped.

Gu Qing Shan glanced over to see that there were around 200 million Soul Points left.

—*decent enough.*

The sea of stars scattered away.

The darkness around him quickly receded, returning the world to normal.

The blue sky, calm ocean, and gentle breeze.

A flock of birds flew across the sky.

On top of the iceberg, Crow and the duck plushie were busy focusing on fishing.

Gu Qing Shan rolled up his sleeves and picked the large fish up, seriously considering what he should prepare for dinner.

Chapter 1345

Translator: La0o9

The wilderness.

After Gu Qing Shan was sent away, the atmosphere abruptly changed.

“Speaking of which, a few dozen million years ago, the Wraith realm was a subservient world that we conquered” the red-haired woman said.

“Indeed, according to historical records, they didn’t fight us for long before surrendering, volunteering themselves to be our dogs” the old farmer said with his hands clasped behind his back.

“Then they had always planned for this. But then, having stayed silent for so many years, what exactly did they want from our world?” a woman in a pure-white dress while wielding a scepter asked.

The man wearing a crown scoffed, declaring: “It doesn’t matter what they were after, once we eradicate them all, they wouldn’t possibly be able to obtain it”

「 Indeed 」 an old tree responded.

Instantly, a thick wave of killing intent filled the entire scene.

While they were talking, Red Wraith who was wearing a red yaksha mask understood that the situation could no longer be salvaged.

—countless years of planning and efforts, numerous secret operations, only to be foiled by a 15-year-old Baron.

“How regretful, regretful”

Red Wraith sighed, only to see someone unleashing a spell towards them among the Combatants on the other side.

Knowing that life and death rested on these few moments, Red Wraith didn’t try to block that attack; instead, he let it strike and immediately kill a large number of his subordinates.

“Everyone! Everyone please!” he clasped his hands “Please let me say one last thing, you must hear what I’m about to say”

Sure enough, the Combatants of Saint Spirit world paused to look at him.

Red Wraith slyly grinned.

Taking advantage of this single moment, hundreds of wraiths surrounded him, all forming the same hand seals and shouted: “With the power of my death, Wraith Mountain, activate!”

Their bodies instantly fused together and exploded, turning into a crimson screen.

The screen had separated the Combatants from the wraiths.

Red Wraith quickly retreated while more powerful wraiths surrounded him, all producing a formation plate to begin arranging a grand formation.

“Do you really think you can escape?” the red-haired woman coldly snorted.

She transformed into a flaming bird over a hundred meters long, heavily crashing into the crimson screen.

Flames rose to the sky!

But the flaming bird was forced backwards.

『 How strange, this power seems to be some sort of unique Law 』 the flaming bird spoke in human language.

The other Combatants all attempted to attack, only to see that crimson screen simply shaking without collapsing.

“It’s useless. Hundreds of powerful wraiths have laid down their lives just to buy these five breaths’ worth of time”

Red Wraith sighed again.

Hundreds of his best men sacrificed their everything just to give him a chance to escape.

This was too heavy of a price.

Around Red Wraith, the remaining wraiths acted quickly and finished arranging a super-distance warp formation in one mere breath's worth of time.

Red Wraith then declared: "Everyone, your actions cost me many of my best men. Once I return to the Wraith realm, I shall definitely return with my main army for a proper battle"

He clasped his fists and lowered his head, speaking with a heavy tone: "I swear upon my dignity, this grudge shall be settled"

Five breaths were over.

Red Wraith stepped onto the warp formation without stalling and slowly disappeared.

...

At the same time.

On top of the ocean.

"If the wraiths tried to flee this time around, that would be nothing but a pipe dream" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Why?" Crow asked while eating a piece of fish.

Gu Qing Shan poured a full glass of liquor for himself, casually finished it, then replied:

"This current world was actually a world fused from three destroyed worlds"

"Each of these worlds came from a different parallel world, which had jointly used the power of the fusion to reset the timeline"

"Through this reset, everyone in Saint Spirit world was revived, and time had also returned to the moment in which this world was at its strongest"

“This created an issue since the Saint Spirit world’s timeline isn’t the same as the timeline in our void”

The duck plushie called out: “I get it. The wraiths would have no choice but to stay put in this world, unable to go to any other worlds— because of the difference in the timeline, the Three Great Laws of Reality ¹would not allow them to enter other worlds within the space vortex, otherwise it would create a time disturbance!”

“Exactly!” Gu Qing Shan praised.

He handed a plate of cake to the duck plushie, watching him wolfing it down.

Crow pondered for a bit, then asked: “What would happen to this world from now on?”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “From the parallel world disaster, a portion had been turned into Fate Corrosion and used against the Eternal Abyss, a portion of destroyed worlds had disappeared without a trace, only this Saint Spirit world remained, so I’m not sure what would happen to it either”

He suddenly sensed something and took out the black handbook.

The black handbook flipped open on its own, displaying the empty Card slot for [Crimson Demon Divine Spear], and the [Divine Word: Cleanse] Card.

Under Gu Qing Shan’s watchful eye, the black handbook flipped over to the next page.

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This page had three Card slots, two of which were empty, while the third slot had a single Card.

The Card depicted a horrific scene of the world’s destruction.

Under the Card, its name and explanation were written:

[Card: World's suspicion]

[This is a Card manifested by the world spirit to facilitate easier communication]

[Among numerous parallel worlds, there should have been no worlds more powerful than the Saint Spirit world, but the wraiths still set their sights on it and spent the numerous years necessary to eventually push it to destruction]

[If this was done only for the sake of a gigantic Fate Corrosion, this reason seems to be highly insufficient, like using a meat cleaver to chop a fly]

[Both the Deities and the previous world spirit feel confused about this]

[During the following battle, they hope that you further investigate the wraith's secret and find out the reason for their actions]

[If you successfully finds out the answer, you can directly contact the world spirit and obtain a precious Card from the Inner Plane: Armor of Condemnation]

Quickly reading through this description, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit tempted.

Searching for the secrets of the Wraith realm was what I originally wanted to do.

And now, I'd gain the Armor of Condemnation by completing this—

After I gave Su Xue Er my best armor, every armor I obtained after that was easily destroyed or lost.

Items in the Condemnation series have all been exceptionally powerful.

And Gu Qing Shan was currently in urgent need of a good set of armor.

He picked up the Card, quickly asking: "Can I take a look at what the Armor of Condemnation looks like? This way, I'd be even more motivated"

An unusual fluctuation could be felt from the Card.

The world spirit answered him right away.

Within one of the two empty Card slots, a transparent Card slowly manifested.

— it depicted a milky white armor with many exposed spots, only shielding the most crucial parts of the body.

Fortunately, the back of the armor was more intricate compared to the front, containing a pair of white wings the size of a palm.

— the wings could even move.

Below this Card, some descriptions were also written:

[Armor of the Divine: Cherub of Condemnation's Protection]

A solemn voice resounded by Gu Qing Shan's ear:

「 Due to your Deific authority of Condemnation, you shall be granted the unique armor of cherubim 」

Looking at the armor, Gu Qing Shan practically froze on the spot.

He clutched the [World's suspicion] Card tightly, declaring beyond any doubts: "Absolutely not, I will not accept this armor. If you really gave this to me, I'll turn on you!"

A long fluctuation could be felt from the [World's suspicion] Card, seemingly the world spirit was very confused.

A few moments later, a line of text appeared on the Card:

[But why? I can sense your desires towards a protection garment, and this was a carefully prepared reward based on your Deific authority]

Gu Qing Shan calmed himself down, then spoke honestly: "Please give me a set of armor that people won't laugh at if they saw it"

The [World's suspicion] Card then vibrated a bit.

New lines of text then appeared on the Card:

[Then, you shall receive the Condemnation Warrior armor, the armor of Condemners. Are you willing to give up the Divine Armor to wear the armor of mortals?]

This time, Gu Qing Shan was even more cautious and said: "Please let me see what this armor looks like"

[No problem]

The Cherub armor disappeared from the empty Card slot, slowly forming a new image.

This was a silver full-body armor with faint golden rune accents, which exuded solemnity.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

"Great, I'll take it" he agreed.

A line of text appeared on the [World's suspicion] Card: [Then it is decided, you must first discover the true reason why the wraiths had attacked this world, then the world shall manifest your armor Card using our world Origin]

"It's decided" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Card flew out of his hand and landed back inside the Card slot.

The black handbook closed.

...

On the other side.

Red Wraith and the rest of his men were still standing in the wilderness.

The powerful defensive technique that continued for five breaths' worth of time had already disappeared.

Around them, the heroes of Saint Spirit world had formed an enclosed encirclement.

"You said you'd bring your main army here?" a burly man asked, clenching his fist tightly.

"Hm, he even swore on his dignity that he'd settle this grudge" the red-haired woman crossed her arms and said.

Red Wraith was sweating bullets.

He truly had no idea why he couldn't warp away from the Saint Spirit world.

Chapter 1346

Translator: La0o9

Two days later.

In a certain city.

A sharp arrow whizzed through the air, whistling as it streaked across the sky. It flew across a long street to finally pin a man onto a wall.

"Save... me..." the man struggled and screamed.

"Save you?"

A female voice called out.

Crow descended from the air, looking down on the man with an eager expression.

The man begged: "I really am not a wraith, I'm just a civilian, please don't kill me"

Crow drew her rapier and chuckled: "Unfortunately, I've never hesitated when it came to murder"

"I'm not lying..."

The man struggled to raise his hand, pushing open the door behind him.

In the house, a woman was holding onto a baby with a fearful expression towards Crow.

Looking at them, Crow had a complicated expression.

She turned towards the end of the street and shouted:

"Oy, are you sure there weren't any mistakes? Maybe that bastard doesn't hurt civilians?"

No one answered him.

A breeze blew past.

Perhaps it was because Crow's voice was too loud but the baby started crying loudly.

Keeping her gaze at the end of the street, Crow complained: "This great one was born powerful, never have I ever come into contact with normal people— what am I supposed to do with these civilians now?"

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan's voice sounded from next to her:

"Let me take a look"

Gu Qing Shan hung the bow on his back, placed one hand on the man's chest and the other hand on a black handbook, chanting:

"The creation and destruction of all things are but a single moment, with my power of Condemnation, your suffering shall surely be atoned for——"

"[Divine Word: Cleanse]"

The man's body lightly shook before going completely limp on the spot.

"No!" the woman screamed in sorrow.

She ran out of the house with the baby in her arms, hurriedly running towards the man.

Crow looked at the body, then at the woman, asking in shock: "Hey, that's just a powerless person, what do we——"

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer and instead held the bow in his hand.

"Hey——" Crow shouted.

Gu Qing Shan didn't react to her and immediately shot an arrow.

A bolt of lightning shot out from the bow, piercing through the woman's shoulder and pinned her on the wall.

“Aaaaae!” the woman screamed in pain while trembling.

As she was shot, the baby left her hand and seemed like it was flying into another wall.

Crow hurriedly went to catch the baby while Gu Qing Shan rushed forward, put one hand over the woman’s shoulder, and quickly chanted with the black handbook in his other hand: “The creation and destruction of all things are but a single moment, with my power of Condemnation, your suffering shall surely be atoned for——”

“[Divine Word: Cleanse]”

As the woman heavily shook, a black shadow escaped from her body and slowly faded away.

At this point, Crow had just caught the baby and was observing how Gu Qing Shan dealt with the woman.

“Leave that baby!” Gu Qing Shan abruptly shouted.

In Crow’s embrace, the crying baby suddenly thrust both hands towards Crow.

The baby’s expression was cruel, both of its hands had already transformed into sharp claws that could easily cut through anyone’s throat.

——right as it was about to succeed.

A frigid wave of cold air appeared from Crow’s body to freeze the baby inside a block of clear ice.

“Scram!”

The duck plushie jumped out from Crow’s chest, kicking the block of ice away.

Noticing that it had lost its chance, a mass of black gas appeared from the baby's body.

The gas converged into the form of a wraith wearing a red yaksha mask that was staring closely at Gu Qing Shan.

「 Rhode 」 the wraith image spoke, 「 Almost 60% of the soul vessels of civilians' from this world are under my control, you won't be able to kill me 」

He then changed to a mocking tone: 「 Or perhaps you enjoy killing civilians? If that's the case, I'll satisfy your inner desires, I guarantee that no matter where you go, every last civilian will die 」

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: "These people are already dead, not even their souls remain in their bodies. Otherwise, after I dispel your technique, they should have continued to live, not die"

Crow had just now regained her senses, soaked in a cold sweat, angrily shouting: "Bastard, you'd even lay your hands on a baby, you piece of garbage"

She thrust forward with her sword.

The wraith image was instantly scattered, leaving sporadic voices behind:

「 Strange... Condemner... could it be that you aren't... 」

The voices completely faded away.

——Red Wraith's technique had ended.

Yu Juan examined the three corpses, then reported: "Still the same technique, completely undetectable initially, but as soon as it's activated, it can eradicate the soul and turn the body into a remote-controlled puppet"

He shivered, muttering: "How could the Wraith realm have such a cruel technique? Our Void Library hasn't discovered it at all"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the corpses on the ground.

A family of three.

Without the invasion of the wraiths, they should have been able to live a peaceful life, not laying sprawled all over as corpses.

...

Two days ago.

In the wilderness just outside Ramon village, a gathering of the strongest Combatants of Saint Spirit world eradicated a large number of wraiths.

Using some sort of technique, Red Wraith was the only one who managed to escape with his life intact.

That was only the beginning.

As soon as the truth got out, the Combatants of the world considered many solutions before announcing a total of seven distinguishing Holy Arts that would expose any hidden wraiths to help everyone eliminate them.

What they didn't expect was that during the long years the wraiths have had to prepare themselves, a large number of aristocrats in the Saint Spirit world as a whole had been taken over, even civilians had gotten under their control.

War broke out.

One of the two great Empires, the Frost Empire, immediately announced absolute refusal to accept any examining techniques, declaring that everything was fake, and this was nothing but the top Combatants' plan to destroy the empire.

From the uppermost level, the entire Empire began preparing for war. Many of the Empire's Combatants also invaded its surrounding Duchies, declaring this to be the beginning of a war of justice to protect their home.

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Quite obviously, the wraiths had taken over the majority of Combatants in this Empire, gaining actual control over them.

But the other Empire, the Roland Empire, discovered that very few of them had actually been taken over by the wraiths after the initial wave of panic.

Turns out, this had a lot to do with the customs of the two empires.

The aristocrats of the Roland empire believed that anything they were gifted from others must be offered to their Deities before using.

So any inheritance, spells, treasures, and armor that they received from the Wraith realm must first be plunged within the Sacred Spring of Deities as an offering for the Gods before they could personally use it.

The Sacred Spring of Deities had a natural cleansing ability, so all of the offered items lost their abilities to take over the users.

The wraiths didn't really have a countermeasure against this, and they couldn't really try to shake this religious belief either.

In the end, the wraiths decided to only gloss over their offerings to the aristocrats of the Roland empire, while focusing most of their efforts on the Frost empire.

The Duchy where Gu Qing Shan arrived at was indeed part of the Frost empire.

And now, the two great Empires had turned on one another---

Or rather, the wraiths had finally shown their true colors.

War broke out without any hope of reconciliation.

And everyone was caught in it.

“The city is about to fall, should we put in some more effort?” Crow asked.

She and Gu Qing Shan buried the three corpses first before looking at the inner city.

There were a lot of people there.

—people that have been taken over by wraiths.

The military, civilians, aristocrats, all of them were trying their best to defend against the Roland empire’s attacks.

All of them were actually wraith in control of other people’s bodies.

No one knew what kind of technique Red Wraith was using, but he was able to take over anyone at the scene in order to give orders to the wraiths.

The sound of exploding magic resounded without ending, echoing far into the horizon.

The ground and structures were all trembling, occasionally the sound of collapse could even be heard.

The sieging battle continued.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, replying: "Let's return to the Roland empire first. The conferring ceremony is today, we need to hold actual authority in our hands to better deal with any issues"

Crow agreed: "That's true, but after the conferring ceremony, I'm heading back here to continue killing the wraiths"

Gu Qing Shan looked at her.

Only to see her eyes full of unrestrained killing intent.

"Come, let's go together" Gu Qing Shan said.

A wave of white fog suddenly appeared and enveloped the two of them in a flash.

They left the streets of the warring city.

...

The Roland empire.

The royal capital, City of Holy Crown.

Just as Gu Qing Shan's group returned to their room the sound of knocking was heard.

"Rhode, his majesty summons you"

Gu Qing Shan opened the door and left with the guards towards the royal palace.

After passing through numerous checks, he and Crow finally reached the grand audience hall of the palace.

From afar, they could see the emperor of Roland currently discussing the war situation with other Combatants, occasionally someone would even arrive to report the newest war situation.

The sense of urgency that could only be seen in the middle of a war was naturally felt by Gu Qing Shan.

The guards had Gu Qing Shan and Crow remain where they were while they stepped forward and loudly reported:

“Sire, Rhode has arrived”

The sound of discussions stopped.

All the Combatants turned to Gu Qing Shan at the same time.

The solemn expression of emperor Roland also disappeared as he smiled and approached Gu Qing Shan.

“The first person to see through the wraiths’ plan was a young man, as well as a rare Condemner— in reality, it has been a very long time since the last Condemner appeared on this continent, even the Church of Condemnation is nothing but an empty shell now”

He drew the ceremonial sword and lightly propped it on Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder.

“Rhode, I have a question” emperor Roland said.

“Please ask ahead, sire” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Emperor Roland questioned: “I wanted to know why you suspected the gift of the wraiths. As you know, this had already become a common custom for the last hundred thousand years, everyone had already gotten used to it”

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Sire, to gain without putting in efforts had always made me feel unsettled, and I simply did not mind assuming that there could have been malicious intentions behind it"

Emperor Roland fell into thought briefly.

"You are correct. We were deceived by the wraiths because our strength had afforded us the pride and prejudice we uphold up to this point, but I guarantee that won't be the case any longer"

Saying that, he tapped Gu Qing Shan's shoulder once each with the ceremonial sword, then recited:

"I, emperor of Roland, Friedrich, through this profound ritual, hereby confer Baron Rhode as a Viscount of our Saint Roland Empire. And by his salvation and contributions to humanity as a whole, confer him as Count White Night"

"May your heart shine like burning holy light and eliminate all darkness in this world; may the shroud of darkness from all living beings never descend"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

Emperor Roland pulled the ceremonial sword back, patting his shoulder: "In truth, the rank of Count isn't equivalent to your contributions, but you are only 15 years old. I cannot grant you too much authority, lest it would ruin you instead— do you object?"

"I do not" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Very well. As we are in the time of war, everything shall be simplified, but you shall receive everything that you deserve, my men will show you the way"

"Understood"

"Just a question, what do you intend to do from now on? The land I granted you was among the best vacation spots of the empire, perhaps you should take a look first"

“Sire, since it was I who first discovered the wraiths, I’d like to head to the battlefield”

Emperor Roland smiled.

The other Combatants also looked at Gu Qing Shan with a faint smile.

“A very decent little one” a beautiful woman with red hair licked her lips and muttered.

“Indeed, the new Condemner” an old farmer said emotionally.

Emperor Roland’s attitude also became much more friendly and said:

“Rhode, you are a very decent child who would definitely become a pillar of our empire in the future without questions, but you are still only 15 years old, you still need protection, as well as the test of time. Continue to train yourself, get to know trustworthy allies and friends who share your same views. I even hope that you will be able to attain love in this place”

Before Gu Qing Shan even said anything else, emperor Roland patted his shoulder:

“Don’t worry, with so many of us here, you can leave the war to us Combatants—-- men, lead our new Count to his quarters, he will require a ceremonial garb suitable for his status”

Chapter 1347

Translator: La0o9

TN: The name of one of the Wraith Lords in the chapter “Mountain Climbing Competition” has been changed from “Hundred Grudges” to Bai Yuan, the previous translation was due to a misunderstanding from the translator.

—

Gu Qing Shan and Crow were led by a ceremonial official.

As they walked along the luxurious carpet towards the end of the hallway, six western palace maids were waiting for them.

The ceremonial official glanced at the six maids, then gave Gu Qing Shan a profound look.

What?

Gu Qing Shan didn't really understand, so he just stared back towards the official.

At this point, the maids bowed towards them and spoke in unison: "The Count's official garbs have been prepared, you may return, sir"

"Good" the official replied, then turned to leave.

He didn't respond to Gu Qing Shan's stare.

The six maids led Gu Qing Shan and Crow along several flights of stairs, slowly ascending the palace until they reached a certain room.

Another maid was waiting there for them.

The six maids arrived in front of her, bowing together: "Head maid, the Count has arrived"

The girl had an average appearance, but a natural aura of leadership.

She spoke: "I wish you well, Count Rhode, his majesty has ordered me and my subordinating maids to arrange for your official garb, your trip, an introduction to your bestowed land, as well as other aristocratic accessories— do not worry, they are completely safe, although you do not fear such things in the first place. Furthermore, you have been granted a place of accommodation within the Holy Crown city with the appropriate personnel prepared"

"I'm grateful, thank you very much" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl further explained:

“Count Rhode, as you and your knight have yet to visit our Roland empire before, both of your garbs were urgently woven in the fastest possible time; please try it on to see if there are any issues so that we may adjust them”

“I’ve troubled you, then I shall try it on right away” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Crow also nodded to greet them.

—-their original identities were minor aristocrats of a Duchy under the rule of the Frost empire, so now that the Frost empire had been fully taken over by the wraiths, no one here had ever seen them, so naturally no one knew their sizes.

Very quickly, a suit representing the Count’s official garb was placed in front of Gu Qing Shan.

A top hat, vest, a short cane adorned appropriately for a Count, pants and shoes. Everything was black, only the inner lining of the clothing was white.

Crow, on the other hand, had a suit of solemn and mature female military uniform, also completely black.

According to the rules of the Roland empire, a knight must wear a military uniform on non-combative official occasions in order to express their status.

—-the aristocratic clothing of the Roland empire was mostly black, believing that this color represented officiality, solemnity, and dignity.

The head maid signaled to the maids with her eye, saying: “Go, help the Count with his clothe—-”

“No need!”

Gu Qing Shan quickly stopped her, saying: “Let me wear it myself”

Crow also said: "That's right, we can do it ourselves, no need for any help"

The girl paused a bit, then realized what was happening.

Count Rhode is only 15 years old, so it was natural for him to feel embarrassed.

As for his knight—

Being such a beautiful woman, she was most likely not just his knight, perhaps she might be the one helping the Count with his clothes later on.

The girl maintained her graceful and gentle expression, then stood with the maids: "Then we shall wait outside the door, please go ahead and try out your clothing inside"

"Very well" Gu Qing Shan and Crow both responded.

The maids stood aside.

They closed the door.

The two of them began to take off their clothes.

"Crow, go to that side, there's another changing room over there" Gu Qing Shan told Crow.

Crow looked down at herself, then left with the entire set of clothes.

The duck plushie followed behind her.

After changing, Gu Qing Shan held the cane and stood in front of the mirror.

Quite decent, I feel a bit more dignified in these clothes.

Crow also quickly finished changing into her military uniform and came out.

“Fits quite well” Crow commented.

“Hm, we can call the maids in now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Wait—”

Crow suddenly took out a flying bird medal, closed her eyes, and sensed it for a while: “On the entire battlefield between the Roland empire and Frost empire, there have been both victories and losses. The small city we were in previously was called Weitz, the battle situation on that side had entered a desperate stalemate”

Gu Qing Shan checked the medal in her hand, then asked: “Can you see who currently has the upper hand?”

Crow scowled: “I can barely make out that the wraiths have the advantage; because that city belonged to them, they’ve managed to set up many traps, causing the Roland empire’s army huge losses... they’re going to have to retreat soon!”

“Let’s get on the battlefield then?” Gu Qing Shan suggested.

Crow agreed: “Let’s go!”

White fog enveloped the room, taking them away.

As soon as they left, the door swung open.

The girl from before walked in with the six maids behind her.

At this point, the aura she gave off was significantly different from before, exuding even more superiority and dignity.

The six maids also appeared considerably more careful.

The girl snorted, complaining: "He's two years younger than I am and Father still wants me to take a look at him, Father is clearly getting old"

After saying so, she made a gesture with her hand.

One of the maids appeared troubled and said: "Your Highness, Count Rhode was changing his clothes"

"He was changing his clothes in my palace" the girl casually replied.

The maid had no choice but to take off a book from the wall, then chanted an incantation.

Light manifested from the book to form a hologram.

The scene of what occurred in this room earlier slowly showed itself to them.

Gu Qing Shan had Crow change her clothes in another room.

The two of them changed separately.

The maids quickly lowered their heads.

But the girl continued to stare closely.

A few moments later, Crow returned and started talking about the frontlines.

The two of them disappeared into the white fog.

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The hologram stopped.

“Weitz city?” the girl muttered, then ordered: “Show me the live feed from Weitz city, I want to observe the war situation”

“Understood”

...

The white fog scattered.

Gu Qing Shan and Crow reappeared on the street where they were before.

The street was filled with blood and corpses.

The sound of explosions echoed across the sky.

The fluctuations from the spells were comparable to that of a continuous earthquake.

The two of them were in no hurry to enter the fray and first entered a house.

Crow drew her rapier, asking: “How are we doing this?”

“After the wraiths take over these people, it seems that they can’t use their Guise Hexes and Life Talismans from before” Gu Qing Shan pondered.

“But they also held the various powers of this world, which are not any weaker compared to the Roland army” Crow followed up.

“This proves a certain fact: this world’s Deities hadn’t been present in this world since the very beginning, otherwise they would only need to strip these people of their power for the war to become meaningless” Gu Qing Shan muttered in thought.

“Let’s simply charge in. But since this is a large-scale war, we need armor”

Crow took out a set of armor.

This was her Titled Hitman armor when she was still male, so it was now a bit loose, but with the extra layer of military uniform, she was barely able to fit inside.

Gu Qing Shan also took out a suit of silver armor inlaid with golden runes, with a light tap, he caused it to split into its components and quickly attached to his body.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Armor of Condemnation (primary)]

[Sturdy, Magic resistant]

This was a very simple description.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but recall the Cherub armor from before.

That was a real Divine Armament—

But it seemed to have been made to look like a bikini, and with a pair of little wings on the back as well...

Forget it.

Gu Qing Shan drew his black bow, sending his voice: “Crow, my current identity is that of an archer, so I can’t expose my swordsmanship, but [Snowdrift] isn’t suitable for close combat, and my other Archery techniques aren’t sufficient to deal with these enemies either. However, this bow has an ability to reduce an arrow’s flight time, and I can infuse my Lightning ability into the arrows to restrain the enemy’s movement”

Crow asked: "How long can you keep them restrained?"

"Five seconds" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow's expression displayed clear surprise: "Sufficient! I'll act in accordance with your arrows. If anything happens on your side, I'll simply return to protect you"

"Got it!" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The two of them ran out of the house at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan raised his bow, then abruptly let loose.

Five arrows infused with light-blue lightning shot forward, drawing unpredictable arcs before hitting the soldiers of the Frost empire.

[Shifting Flurry]!

Lightning Thaumaturgy, [Dreamjolt]!

Gu Qing Shan didn't stop his hands at all, his hand turning into a shadow that continuously snapped against the bowstring.

Bolts of lightning flew all over the sky.

Crow followed each of the bolts of lightning, thrusting her sword into each of the lightning bolt's targets and instantly turned them into a charred body.

In just a few dozen seconds, they had cleaned out most of the enemies on this entire street.

Crow landed next to Gu Qing Shan: “They’re all normal soldiers, no sense of challenge at all”

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and spoke with a scowl: “Be careful, the more enemies we kill off, the easier we’d draw the attention of powerful monsters”

Crow replied indifferently: “It’s fine, with your lightning arrows and my flame explosion rapier, unless the enemy was this world’s Magic Scale Dragon, there wouldn’t—”

She quickly realized something and swiftly shut up.

Gu Qing Shan had already raised his eyebrows.

Boom!

A black shadow descended from above, landing right in front of the two of them.

It was a dragon with a gigantic body whose length reached almost a hundred meters.

Simply by landing, its large body had already destroyed every single structure on the entire street.

“It actually is... a Magic Scale Dragon”

The duck plushie covered his face and muttered in despair.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Magic Scale Dragons had a layer of elemental-resistant scale, combined with their Dragonics magic, as well as their sharp scale and fangs, they were enemies that could only be defeated through physical attacks.

However, defeating a dragon through physical attacks was easier said than done.

The Magic Scale dragon exhaled a long breath.

The intense wind almost caused the duck plushie to be blown away, so Crow quickly caught him and shoved him into her bag.

“This fellow is going to be tough, I’ll go first”

Crow brandished her rapier, summoning a layer of glowing lava on it.

“No, let me— I’m glad this place is chaotic enough that no one will take notice of us” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Although, it wasn’t an issue even if someone noticed, as dragons were infamous for being scoundrels who liked to hide, preferring not to reveal their true identities.

Gu Qing Shan let go of his bow and took a step backwards, summoning a mass of black fog around his body.

The form of a black dragon manifested.

Roar!!

The Demon Dragon form that had incorporated the power of three dragons suddenly appeared, charging towards the Magic Scale Dragon.

...

At another location.

The Roland empire.

Holy Crown city, the royal palace.

Within a screen of light, two dragons had just ascended into the sky, both uttering resounding roars.

A girl was silently watching this.

“Not only was he a Condemner, but he was also a dragon? How interesting...”

She lightly muttered.

Chapter 1348

Translator: La0o9

The word ‘kill’ could be heard shouted from all over the battlefield.

The war between the two great Empires in this city had entered a climax.

Above the clouds, two dragons were uttering blood-curdling roars during their blood-thirsty bout, rousing nothing but fright in everyone’s minds.

The Magic Scale Dragon’s scales were as tough as metal, so it used that to its advantage and brutally pushed the black dragon out of the battlefield using sheer force.

Turning a bit in mid-air, the black dragon regained his balance.

“You have to be careful, its attacks were clearly systematic” Crow loudly called out.

When Gu Qing Shan transformed into the black dragon, she had taken that chance to leap onto Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder and flew with him into the sky.

Gu Qing Shan replied: 「 I haven't been a dragon for too long, so I'm not very used to hand-to-hand combat yet 」

Crow reminded: "You can try infusing your techniques into close combat, it should work the same way!"

「 Got it 」

Gu Qing Shan uttered a resounding dragon roar and charged into the battlefield again.

The two dragons once again clashed against one another, exchanging blow for blow.

After a few moments, the Magic Scale Dragon swung its tail onto the black dragon's chest, sending him flying.

「 Idiot with nothing but strength 」 the Magic Scale Dragon mocked.

The black dragon stopped its backward flight, then abruptly disappeared.

He suddenly reappeared above the Magic Scale Dragon, unleashing a blast of black and green dragon flame.

「 I've been waiting for this! 」

The Magic Scale Dragon lightly tilted its head up and unleashed a blast of pale yellow flames.

The two bursts of flames crashed against one another and scattered all around. From a distance, it looked like a sea of flames that would envelop heaven and earth.

However, the Magic Scale Dragon made a mistake.

The black dragon had the power of three dragons, so the flames he unleashed were significantly more powerful compared to regular dragons.

The Magic Scale Dragon was enveloped by the intense sea of flames.

「 Useless—— 」

The Magic Scale Dragon endured the blast in the middle of the flames, the scales on its entire body clattering in metallic noises.

It roared: 「 My body is clad in magic scales, I'm not afraid of elemental damage! 」

Saying so, it charged out of the flames towards the black dragon once again.

Bam!!

A resounding echo.

The two dragons caused an intense shockwave with their clash.

Taking its opportunity, the Magic Scale Dragon bit the black dragon's neck and ripped out a large chunk of flesh.

「 Idiot, you're full of openings—— 」

The Magic Scale Dragon spat the flesh out, mocking him.

The black dragon suddenly reached his claws out to restrain the other party's head and shouted: 「 Hurry! 」

Hurry?

While the Magic Scale Dragon was still in doubt, it suddenly felt an intense wave of pain.

Inside its giant mouth, Crow had drawn her rapier and pointed it down the creature's throat!

The opening just now was something Gu Qing Shan purposely created to allow Crow to enter the Magic Scale Dragon's mouth, avoiding all of its magic scales.

No matter how tough its scales were, they couldn't protect it from the inside of its mouth.

Air flowed intensely around Crow's body like a brewing storm——

"Been a while since I had to go all-out"

Crow declared, then raised her rapier and thrust forward with all her strength!

Boom!

An intense explosion resounded from inside the dragon's mouth!

Many of the scales on the dragon's head broke off from the explosion and fell together with the dragon's blood.

The Magic Scale Dragon pushed the black dragon away, uttering a resounding howl that echoed across the sky.

Seizing that chance, Crow retreated to the black dragon.

"That felt good, what's next?"

She loudly asked.

The black dragon replied: “It’s probably going to go berserk, so I’m going to use an infallible power to deal with it, just make sure to protect yourself”

Crow answered with a stern expression: “Got it”

At the very next second.

The Magic Scale Dragon uttered a furious roar:

「 You devious bastard, you think this is enough to get rid of me? I’m definitely going to kill you! 」

Immense killing intent could be felt from its body.

Layers upon layers of flames began to gather around its body.

Magical fluctuations could be felt clearly in the air.

The black dragon’s expression became cautious as he silently took distance and readied himself in mid-air, preparing to face the oncoming assault.

The Magic Scale Dragon stared straight at him, then began shouting:

「 You’re a strange dragon, what exactly are you? Not only do you spit flames with black, red, and green colors, but you also found a human to help you in combat, I can’t even say I scorn you, because I hold you in nothing less than absolute contempt— 」

The black dragon’s expression instantly changed.

A mass of white fog several hundred meters in length suddenly appeared to envelop the black dragon and disappeared.

The Magic Scale Dragon froze.

「 Strange... why did he suddenly run when I've just begun? 」 the Magic Scale Dragon muttered.

...

Several hundred miles away.

Ramon village.

A sudden wave of white fog descended from above.

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The black dragon had turned back into Gu Qing Shan as both he and Crow walked out from the fog.

“Why did we suddenly run?” Crow asked in confusion.

“I was unleashing an infallible power, but I didn't think it would also unleash its Draconics magic” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Glancing at the War God UI, he saw a line of blinking glowing text:

[Combat warning: you've been affected by Draconics magic]

[Red Dragon Shadow Hex – Twist]

[Twist: With every 30 syllables you speak while using the Hex, your target's senses would decrease by one stage]

[Your senses have been decreased by one stage]

[Combat note: you have a total of 21 stages of senses. It was fortunate that you ran away quickly, otherwise all your senses would have been stripped, leaving you as a sandbag to be beaten up]

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed, then couldn't help but want to curse.

These dragons, every last one of them—

Scoundrels!

It's fortunate that I was prepared for it.

"Strange, my ability to sense my surroundings seemed to have been obscured by something" Crow commented.

"I as well" the duck plushie called out from inside her bag.

Gu Qing Shan then explained the Draconics magic.

Crow was naturally shocked, unable to help herself cursing: "What a bunch of scoundrels, I've always heard that dragons are a shady bunch, but I didn't think that their magic would also be this way"

The duck plushie poked his head out from Crow's pocket, asking: "I've always heard that Draconics magic cannot be defended against, and sure enough it is— what do we do now, clean up and return?"

"No"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

He took out his black bow and slowly knocked an arrow onto it.

"That strike of yours was very opportune, breaking several of the scales on its head—" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Crow asked in disbelief: “There’s at least a distance of 80-90 thousand miles from Weitz city to this place, you’re saying you want to use your arrows to hit the wounds on its head?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Hm, after all, I’ve already sensed the presence of its blood——”

A line of glowing text appeared on the void of space:

[Divine Skill: Snowdrift activated; every arrow you shoot will require 800,000 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan still had over 200 million Soul Points, so he didn’t care about that expenditure, instantly infusing his bow and arrow with Soul Points.

A profound fluctuation radiated from his body.

The bowstring was slowly pulled back until it was at full draw.

A short pause.

Suddenly, the bowstring snapped back into a series of overlapping images, causing a resounding sonic boom.

The arrow disappeared.

...

On the other side.

The Magic Scale Dragon circled a bit in the sky, then looked below.

That guy had run away, then next——

Suddenly, it sensed danger.

Boom!

A deep black hole abruptly manifested in the void of space with an explosion, countless tiny cracks scattered like spider nets into the surrounding.

A deep gash was split open in the Magic Scale Dragon's head, causing its blood to spill.

It roared, wanting to look for the enemy.

At the very next moment, the second black hole manifested in the void of space——

The second arrow!

It was too fast to avoid!

Struck by the arrow, the Magic Scale Dragon spun in mid-air, half of its skull had been exposed to open air.

It quickly grasped the situation and tried to escape.

Right at this moment, a sharp unbearable pain spread all over its body, causing the Magic Scale Dragon to tremble.

Damn it, what kind of technique is this?

When did I get inflicted with such a painful technique?

It couldn't think of an answer, nor did it have time to.

The void of space broke open again.

The arrow appeared right in the middle of the dragon's head.

Boom!!!

Blood exploded like a flower in the air.

Then fell to the ground like a rain shower.

Being struck by three consecutive [Snowdrift], the Magic Scale Dragon lost consciousness.

Right at this moment, white fog appeared in the sky.

Gu Qing Shan and Crow reappeared.

Watching the dying Magic Scale Dragon, Crow clicked her tongue: "This is [Snowdrift]?"

Aside from the wounds on its head, the Magic Scale Dragon seemed to be afflicted by something else, as its entire body was constantly trembling like it was in intense pain.

"That's right, this is [Snowdrift], but not only [Snowdrift]"

Gu Qing Shan put the black bow away, turning back into his black dragon form.

Roar!!!

The black dragon's gigantic body once again obscured the sky itself.

He swiftly moved forward, bit down on the Magic Scale Dragon's head, and tore at it.

Suddenly, the black dragon lifted his head up---

He was holding the Magic Scale Dragon's severed head in his mouth.

The headless dragon body fell down, crashing on the ground.

This successfully influenced the battlefield below.

The soldiers of the Frost empire began to scatter and flee.

Chapter 1349

Translator: La0o9

The headless dragon body fell to the ground.

The black dragon coldly watched this as the grey aura around his body suddenly began to move.

Black fog began to scatter from his body, appearing almost sentient as they enveloped both the dragon's head and body.

While this dragon utilized its [Red Dragon Shadow Hex – Twist], Gu Qing Shan was similarly using his own technique.

---Demon Dragon Bloodline.

The Demon Dragon Bloodline was an ability that even the Bygone Humans were afraid of, capable of corroding any living being and turning them into a bloodkin without them knowing, then converting their everything into its own power.

When this dragon was struck with the first two [Snowdrift] hits, it succumbed to the influence of the Demon Dragon Bloodline and felt intense pain all over its body when it tried to flee, which ended up losing its last chance to escape.

The viscous, almost sentient black fog quickly devoured the entirety of the dragon's body and head.

"Come"

The black dragon grumbled.

Right now, even if his identity was exposed, he still had to absorb this bloodkin's power.

—this was the complete power of a dragon, capable of helping him quickly become stronger!

The swirling black fog returned to the sky, then was absorbed into the black dragon's body.

「 Argh... 」

The black dragon uttered a curt grunt of pain.

Although he had absorbed the power of three dragons, the power contained within a dragon was still enormous, causing the black dragon intense suffering whenever he did it.

The overflowing and excessive Magic Scale Dragon's power struck directly at his Thought Sea, his soul, his body, causing pain like being mutilated by a thousand blades.

Line of glowing text quickly appeared on the War God UI:

[You've killed a Demon Dragon bloodkin]

[That Demon Dragon bloodkin's power had been fully absorbed by you as the Demon Dragon]

[You've killed a mythical creature: the Magic Scale Dragon]

[Even with the power of three dragons, your usage of the dragon's race power was still too shallow. It had a not inconsiderable chance to triumph against you and kill you]

[This combat has been judged to be one between equal forces, and you will be rewarded the corresponding Soul Points]

[Soul Points calculating...]

Gu Qing Shan suddenly sensed something.

"Crow, find somewhere to hide and wait for me" he whispered.

"Alright, I didn't think you had the ability to turn into a dragon, what a stylish fiend you are" Crow excitedly said, then vanished without a trace.

A cloud of white fog then manifested around the black dragon's body, enveloping it before it left the battlefield.

The ocean.

Above the clear-blue ocean, white fog spread.

Very quickly a black dragon appeared from the white fog.

The black dragon uttered a pained roar, then twisted its body and turned into an orange cat.

——[Orange Sovereign Transformation]!

Unlike when he first absorbed the Demon Dragon, the [Orange Mountain] Thaumaturgy had undergone mutation when Gu Qing Shan reached the Sumeru Lord cultivation realm.

After transforming into the Orange Sovereign, other than [Ghostly Shadow of Night], Gu Qing Shan had another ability:

[Power Absorption]

[You will no longer passively absorb origin power of the soul from the void of space, but through eating and devouring, the origin power of the soul you can absorb will double]

The orange cat waved his hand to summon an iceberg on top of the ocean before lying on it.

Sensing the changes in his body, the orange cat felt calm.

Sure enough, the Orange Sovereign form was specialized to absorb power in all forms, the sensation of being mutilated by a thousand blades is now completely gone.

That's better.

The orange cat lazily laid on top of the iceberg to bathe in the sun, relaxedly closing his eyes.

Suddenly, a line of glowing text appeared in the void of space:

[After transforming into the Orange Sovereign, the Soul Points you absorb will double]

[Furthermore, you're using the Demon Dragon Bloodline power to devour the power of a mythical creature: the Magic Scale Dragon]

[The Orange Sovereign has an extreme level of power absorption; your absorbing process had sped up]

Gu Qing Shan felt even better.

It doesn't hurt, I'm gaining twice as many Soul Points, and the absorption speed has also increased.

[Orange Sovereign Transformation] is such a useful ability!

Lines of glowing text continue to appear in the void of space:

[Special reminder: Besides the portion being converted into Soul Points, the Magic Scale Dragon currently has several unique abilities remaining]

[You have two choices]

[Firstly, you may choose one of these unique abilities to turn into your Thaumaturgy]

[Secondly, you may use the Demon Dragon power to fully consume them all and change your Demon Dragon Bloodline ability]

[Attention!]

[The Demon Dragon was the greatest Soul Artifact created by the Bygone Era humans, if you choose to consume it, you will lose the Demon Dragon's bloodline ability and change it into a new unknown ability]

[Please make your choice]

Without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan chose the first option.

The Demon Dragon Bloodline ability wasn't only undetectable, undefendable, but it could also abruptly come into effect in the middle of combat.

After an enemy is killed, I can even devour their power as my own, which is a terrifying ability in every meaning of the word.

I won't give up such an ability.

[You've chosen to gain a Thaumaturgy]

[Attention please, only the following abilities have appeared during this absorption for you to choose:]

[First—]

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The notification suddenly became stuck, the follow-up glowing text stopped appearing.

The orange cat stopped waving his tail, feeling anxious.

What happened?

Did it get blue-screened?

All of a sudden, all the previous lines of glowing text disappeared as the War God UI spoke up:

[You've obtained the inheritance of the Thousand Dragons Ancestor, the heir it had chosen]

[Due to your existence, the Magic Scale Dragon's abilities are awakening]

[You may choose one of the following inheritances from the dragon ancestor as your new ability]

[Firstly, Magic Scale Armor]

[Description: Whenever you take dragon form, you will grow a layer of Demon Dragon Scales that is immune to all elemental attacks, as well as unaffected by curses, poisons, and diseases]

[This old man has a body of steel, come and get me!]

[Secondly, Dragon Beating]

[Description: Whenever you take dragon form, your strength will become 5-fold, 10-fold, 15-fold, and 20-fold for the next four consecutive attacks, but you will become weakened for one second after]

[I'm going to beat you to death!]

[Thirdly, Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist]

[Description: Whenever another person calls your name (or any designations specifying you), if you answer them, their next attack will hit themselves]

[Guess who I am!]

[Fourthly, Dragon King Shield]

[Description: Whenever you turn into a non-dragon creature, a Law-manifested shield will hide around your body, ensuring that you will not be immediately killed in the events of an ambush]

[Being undefeatable... is lonely]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through everything.

All of these abilities were ridiculously powerful, especially in this age of approaching Apocalypse, they were nothing short of being given a piece of coal to warm oneself in a snowy night.

[Dragon Beating] was the first to be dismissed, the one-second period of being weakened was something that Gu Qing Shan could not accept.

[Magic Scale Armor] was limited to only his dragon form, while [Dragon King Shield] was generally only usable in his human form, so both of them had shortcomings.

The true deviousness lied in [Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist].

Carefully reading the description of this ability, Gu Qing Shan felt an indescribable feeling in his heart.

—both the [Azure Dragon Origin Hex – Binding] and [Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist], in fact, all of the dragon race’s Hex abilities are...

Unimaginable.

No wonder the Thousand Dragons Ancestor felt that I was misusing the ability when he saw me.

All they need to do is call out a name to kill an enemy where they stand.

On the other hand, if someone called out their name, the calling person would face the consequences!

The fact that I carry with Demon Dragon Bloodline power probably couldn’t fool the Thousand Dragons Ancestor either.

Gu Qing Shan slowly realized something.

...It seems the Thousand Dragons Ancestor is hoping that I would inherit his legacy.

“I choose [Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist]” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Are you sure?] the War God UI asked.

“Very sure”

The War God UI continued: [Currently absorbing the corresponding unique abilities and converting it into your Thaumaturgy]

[Please wait for five minutes]

[Also, you've finished absorbing the Magic Scale Dragon's origin power of the soul and doubled it under the Orange Sovereign state]

[You received 2 million Soul Points]

The orange cat narrowed his eyes, feeling relaxed.

I only need to wait for the Thaumaturgy to complete itself, let's pick Crow up and quickly return for now. After all, it's already been quite a bit of time since we left...

The orange cat turned back into Gu Qing Shan and quickly walked into the white fog.

He returned to Weitz city to pick Crow up, then both returned to the Roland empire.

...

The royal palace

The changing room.

The two of them appeared from the fog.

Everything was as normal.

Knock knock knock!

The sound of knocking could be heard.

"Count Rhode sir, have you finished changing clothes?" a maid called out.

Crow hurriedly replied: "Almost! Almost!"

The female voice outside suddenly raised: “Oh no, he hasn’t left after so long, could something have happened to the Count? Quickly open the door!”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan and Crow both hurriedly doffed their armors.

Crow instantly hid their armors away.

A second later.

Bam!

The door was forced open.

The girl from before came in with her six maids, watching the two of them.

“Count Rhode sir, you look like you’ve been through quite some intense activities” she said with an unsmiling smile.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at himself.

After taking off his armor, his official garb had already been thoroughly ripped apart, leaving only crucial parts concealed.

—after such an intense battle earlier, even turning into a dragon, how could a suit meant for ceremonial and official occasions survive?

Gu Qing Shan used his hand to block his exposed parts, then calmly replied: “The official wear was exactly my size, but the material leaves a bit to be desired for, please give me a different one”

Chapter 1350

Translator: La0o9

The girl with the average appearance looked straight at Gu Qing Shan, gazing straight into his eyes instead of any other parts of his body.

She casually stated: "I am Maria, a royal princess of the Roland empire. I have something to discuss with you, but you should obviously wash off that stench of blood and change into a suitable outfit before we talk"

"I also believe that to be the best" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Maria clasped her hand and turned to leave.

The six maids quickly provided him a new suit to change into, then swiftly left.

The door closed again.

"The princess? Why is she looking for you?" the duck plushie asked doubtfully.

"Who knows" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow drew her rapier and lightly tapped herself, then tapped Gu Qing Shan.

A curt burst of flame appeared all around their bodies.

The smell of dirt and blood completely disappeared from their bodies.

"Burning away the dirt and grime? What intricate and profound control over fire"

Gu Qing Shan commented in interest.

Even the dried blood stuck in his hair had been burnt completely away, but not a single strand of his hair got burnt or even got warped by the heat.

Crow replied a bit boastfully: "I merely felt that it wasn't necessary to use water to wash oneself"

She then looked at the duck plushie and said: "But you probably will need to be washed with water— then dried in the sun"

The two of them split up and changed into their new clothes.

"I'm done" Gu Qing Shan raised his voice.

Bam!

The door was opened.

The six maids entered, some of them brought Crow to another room, while the others led Gu Qing Shan up a flight of stairs until they reached a sky garden.

Princess Maria was sitting on a long park bench on top of the grass with a book in her hand.

"Your Highness, he is here" the maid reported.

The princess waved her hand, signaling for Gu Qing Shan to sit down across the table from her.

"I won't waste time with pleasantries. Count Rhode, I have something I'd like to discuss with you" she said.

Everyone else had been dismissed, so only Gu Qing Shan and she were present in the sky garden.

Seeing her stern and serious attitude, Gu Qing Shan also became serious and replied:

“Please explain, your Highness”

“Do you think the wraiths are powerful?” Maria asked.

“If they cannot escape from this world and could no longer use the Life Talismans and Hex techniques that they were used to before taking over other people’s bodies, their failure would only be a matter of time” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“But the war is currently in a stalemate, is it not?” Maria said.

“That’s right... that certain is strange, could it be that we are holding back to retain our strength?” Gu Qing Shan pondered.

Maria continued to look straight at him and said: “A few days ago, mutated creature incidents have been popping up all over the world. Rhode, you were the first to discover and report it”

“That’s right, in my village, two wraiths were turned into monsters” Gu Qing Shan replied

He suddenly realized what she meant and opened his eyes wide: “Could it be...”

“Indeed, the plague had actually descended upon this world and was constantly being fought off by the top Combatants” Maria confirmed.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and quickly scanned through the entirety of Holy Crown city.

It was completely peaceful.

“Are you wondering why you can’t discover any mutated creature?” Maria asked.

“I am, what exactly is going on?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked in return.

Gazing at him with a probing look, Maria slowly explained: "You are only 15 years old, so the adults have decided to protect you and not allow you to enter the Chasm to fight"

"The Chasm?"

"Indeed, the top Combatants had jointly created a layered world separated from this one called the Chasm. Any infected individuals who become mutated, as well as entire cities that are destroyed by the plague, would be instantly teleported to that layered world due to their ill-fit nature against this world"

Maria continued: "The true war is being fought within that Chasm world"

Gu Qing Shan understood the implications and continued: "So that was the reason. The Combatants had to split up their forces on two fronts, giving the wraiths leeway to temporarily maintain a stalemate"

His heart slowly sank.

I was wondering why things had been so calm for the past few days despite the initial signs of the Plague Apocalypse's appearance.

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So the situation had actually gotten this bad.

"Count Rhode, I have a proposition for you" Maria said.

"What is it?"

"I'll be frank, I have seen that your true form is that of a dragon"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised and stared straight at her.

She stared back at Gu Qing Shan.

“...That is true” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

Maria displayed a triumphant smile and continued: “Count Rhode, since you and I both have yet to reach adulthood, the adults are keeping us outside of the true battle; but if you and I were to use our true strength, we would definitely be qualified to participate in this war”

Gu Qing Shan faintly understood.

—-if this princess could help him join the war, Gu Qing Shan was more than willing to accept her offer.

He nodded for her to continue.

Sure enough, Maria made the offer: “Count Rhode, let us cooperate”

“How does your Highness wish for us to cooperate?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Maria replied: “To enter the Chasm, one must first reach 18 years old, followed by a requirement of personal strength. Both you and I should be more than strong enough, only our age is a bit short, so I’ve come up with a compromise”

“And that would be?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“A summoner and their summoned entity’s age and strength can be accounted for together” Maria replied.

“In which case, both of our age combined will be enough” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Are you willing to accept?” Maria asked.

“I’m not against it, but how should we do this exactly?”

“It’s quite simple, you will sign a covenant with me, agreeing to be my summoned mount”

Gu Qing Shan paused.

“You... want to ride me?” he asked.

“Indeed, although you’re still a hatchling, you have certainly eliminated the Magic Scale Dragon, which makes you qualified for this position” Maria replied.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent a bit, then suggested: “Can’t it be a combative summoned entity contract instead? I’ll be your summoned companion”

Maria frowned: “Are you saying you want to be my pet?”

“...I was referring to a combative summoned companion” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“They’re called Combat Summons, but pets nonetheless” Maria affirmed.

“My way of fighting is different from a pet” Gu Qing Shan affirmed.

The two of them locked eyes.

Finally, Maria said: “That’s true, we should certainly get to know one another’s strength properly. This would aid our cooperation better for when we enter the Chasm to fight against the plague monsters”

“I agree” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Then, should we conduct a short sparring session?”

“We can”

“Count, you may go first”

“You’re a lady, please go ahead and act first” Gu Qing Shan replied.

If we really fought, should I continue to use bow and arrows? Or martial arts? Or swordsmanship?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

Since my dragon identity has been exposed, there shouldn’t be any issues with a dragon knowing other combative techniques outside of archery.

This girl appears to be very strong; I should probably use my swords.

Gu Qing Shan put both his hands on the table without moving.

Maria smiled and replied: “Count Rhode; If I act first, you won’t even get a chance to act”

“Please” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Maria raised her hand and lightly swung.

Pah!

Maria suddenly slapped herself.

Both of them froze.

Chapter 1351

Translator: La0o9

Following the maids' lead, Gu Qing Shan went by himself to the sky garden to meet princess Maria face to face.

At the same time.

Crow was led by a few other maids towards a reception room, where she was responsible for accepting everything that the Roland empire would bestow Rhode.

"The list is here, please take a look and confirm everything" one of the maids said.

"Ah, I understand" Crow received the list.

The maids respectfully bowed, then left.

Looking around, Crow found that they had all left after closing the door.

She had no choice but to take the list and examine each item one by one.

—this couldn't be helped, she was the Count's only official knight and aide, since he hadn't hired a butler yet, she had to be the one who did this.

Crow took a look at the land deeds, then carefully examined the official conferring certificates and documents of the empire.

While she was doing that, the door was opened.

Princess Maria had entered with a few of her maids.

Crow indifferently glanced over, then bowed: "Greetings, your Royal Highness"

Maria evaluated her a bit, then muttered: "You are very beautiful"

"Thank you, from the past up until now, I have gone through much hardship, but this opinion of yours had always been unanimously agreed upon" Crow proudly agreed.

Princess Maria's expression twitched a bit, then asked: "Back in Ramon village, were you responsible for all of Count Rhode's personal matters?"

Crow nodded: "Ah, yes indeed, I naturally had to be the one to do these things"

"For what reason?"

"Because he had no one else"

"The two of you seem to have quite a good relationship" the princess commented to her.

Crow appeared a bit embarrassed, then shook her head: "No, we're actually sworn siblings"

"Is that true?"

"Naturally"

"Hm, I can feel the sincerity of your words"

The princess's expression loosened somewhat, then grabbed Crow's hand: "However, if the Count were to ask you to marry him, how would you react?"

Crow affirmed beyond any doubts: "He would never do such a thing"

The princess smiled.

Suddenly, Crow's eyes dilated, and immediately put a hand on her rapier.

The atmosphere instantly changed.

Several maids swiftly rushed forward, shielding the princess.

"It is fine"

The princess dismissed them while still holding onto Crow's hand and asked: "Why did you suddenly hold killing intent against me?"

Crow said with a serious voice: "You are not the princess"

She had drawn her rapier.

Princess Maria looked at her with intrigue, asking: "What proof do you have to say that I'm not the princess?"

"I've come into contact with more women than you've ever met in your entire life, so I've gained an ability to distinguish between them. Every woman gives off a unique smell, and I can tell the difference" Crow explained.

This time, it was princess Maria's expression that changed.

"That's impossible... I clearly left the changing room as soon as I could... and haven't appeared until now" she muttered.

"There's no way you can deceive me, you are a completely different person from the princess earlier" Crow coldly snorted.

Both of them paused.

They were able to tell that something was off from the other party's words.

Earlier?

Princess Maria's mind quickly moved, slowly realizing something.

Haven't appeared until now?

Crow recalled everything that happened up to this point and realized the situation.

A second later.

Both of them questioned the other party: ""Where is the Count?""

"Oh no!"

Princess Maria quickly took out a small golden bell and rang it with all her strength.

The sound of the bell echoed across the entire palace.

...

Let us rewind time a bit.

While Crow was examining the list of items by herself, Gu Qing Shan was with princess Maria in the sky garden, about to 'conduct a short sparring session'.

The sound of a clear slap resounded through the air.

Princess Maria was stunned.

Gu Qing Shan was also surprised, but quickly understood.

——this was the Red Dragon Origin Hex's effect.

Sure enough, lines of glowing text had appeared on the War God UI to explain the current combat situation:

[The other party had been affected by Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist, using the attack they were about to unleash against you on themselves]

Tch!

What a potent ability.

Gu Qing Shan was silently pleased, but showed nothing on his face and asked: “Your Royal Highness, would you consider our sparring session finished?”

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Princess Maria remained silent for a while, then muttered: “If I remember correctly, the rare black dragon does not have the power of a red dragon, and the Red Dragon Hex that the Magic Scale Dragon had was only at the level of ‘Shadow’, the effects of which was to weaken the senses”

In front of Gu Qing Shan's surprised gaze, princess Maria continued: “I've read through many books, dragons were a race that suddenly appeared in the space vortex of the void. They normally do not possess the power of Hexes, only truly talented and powerful dragons would hold the power of a Shadow Hex, while dragons who hold an Origin Hex are nothing short of elites among their elites”

“But you, Count Rhode, not only managed to gain the power of that Magic Scale Dragon after killing it but also sublime that ability to the level of an Origin Hex...”

Princess Maria clapped her hand: “How extraordinary”

“So you've also seen the process of our battle, your Highness” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Indeed, I could not feel safe with a stranger entering the empire, so my monitoring of you was quite tight. I hope you can understand”

Saying so, princess Maria stood up and said: “Would you like to come with me to the Chasm world now to take a look?”

Gu Qing Shan also stood up.

A sense of danger appeared in his spirit sense.

—that place is a world being corroded by the Plague Apocalypse, so it was naturally dangerous.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan relaxed.

“Of course” he replied.

“Then let us go together”

Princess Maria formed a hand seal with her hands inside her sleeves.

An unusual fluctuation began to exude from her body, quickly changing the state of their surrounding space.

The royal palace, the garden, the peaceful world receded in front of their eyes.

Darkness.

Following that, a foreign and unclear world appeared at the end of their visions.

It was rapidly approaching them.

Gu Qing Shan scowled, then abruptly drew the Earth sword and propped it against princess Maria’s neck.

“Who exactly are you?” he asked

Princess Maria appeared to be confused.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away and instead wielded the Six Paths Great Mountain sword, once again pushing it against the other party’s neck.

—[Law Breaker]!

Fresh red blood began to flow from the princess’s pearl-white neck.

Following that, her appearance suddenly changed and turned into a maid.

The maid laughed, then asked: “Rhode, I did not utter a single lie earlier, so how did you notice that I wasn’t the princess?”

Gu Qing Shan continued to keep his sword against her neck, casually replying: “You and I hadn’t formed any sort of covenant, so according to what you said, we couldn’t have possibly entered the Chasm world due to not being old enough, this was the first clue”

“Secondly, the spatial technique you performed earlier was a cultivation-type technique”

The maid sighed, then replied: “I can’t afford to wait any longer, Rhode. I need to act as fast as possible, even if I have to use up this maid pawn I’ve hidden for numerous years, I have to kill you”

A figure of a man wearing a red yaksha mask appeared from her body.

Red Wraith.

Him again!

Who would've thought that he managed to arrange a pawn in the Roland empire's royal palace!

"That can't be right" Gu Qing Shan spoke in a low tone: "Every person in the royal palace had been thoroughly examined, no one was under the effects of your technique"

「 Of course there weren't, these few maids were completely clean, people that I personally raised for many years. It was only after they had passed the examination in the palace that they contacted me 」
Red Wraith replied.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "Such a precious hidden pawn, and yet you used her up on me..."

Red Wraith watched him with a complicated expression: 「 It couldn't be helped, the more I come into contact with you, the more terrifying I sense you to be, which is why I can't afford to wait any longer 」

「 Rhode, you should be proud, this was a trap I originally laid for emperor Roland 」

「 ——die 」

As soon as he declared so, Red Wraith's figure disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's sight.

The maid began to chant a strange incantation.

Boom!

Her body exploded into a mass of blood, which manifested a red talisman in the void of space.

Seeing that talisman, Gu Qing Shan instantly knew that things were turning bad.

The shadow of death had consumed his spirit sense.

But this place had no sky or ground, only a world that was quickly approaching him and a bloody wraith talisman that was quickly manifesting.

In a single instance, Gu Qing Shan pondered many solutions, only to realize that he didn't know what kind of world was on the other side, nor what kind of effects would that talisman have on him.

—how could he prepare against that?

Who could have predicted that such a deathtrap was hidden in the middle of the Roland empire's royal palace?

Without any other solutions, Gu Qing Shan could only come up with a single thing.

Instantly, an intertwining silver and golden glow appeared inside his body, flowed along his arm, then manifested on top of his palm.

A hologram of a coin was in his hand.

The Coin of the Earth!

As soon as the coin appeared, the bloody talisman had begun moving.

The bloody glow entered Gu Qing Shan's body in a flash.

Sensing his consciousness slipping away, Gu Qing Shan seized what little time he had to say: "I will probably need some luck"

Oong—

The Coin of the Earth uttered a resounding reply.

[True Luck], activated!

A golden glow appeared from the coin to envelop Gu Qing Shan, then slowly entered his body.

A second later, the world in the distance had surrounded Gu Qing Shan and took him inside.

Gu Qing Shan began falling to the ground, unconscious.

Chapter 1352

Translator: La0o9

The sound of the bell rang intensely.

Princess Maria and Crow appeared above the sky garden.

Very soon, emperor Roland also appeared out of nowhere.

More and more Combatants were also gathering to completely surround the sky garden.

Ten minutes later.

The truth came out.

Years ago, the wraiths had managed to prepare several pawns that were completely clean right inside the Roland royal palace.

Realizing the implications of this, everyone felt shocked to no end.

Crow couldn't help but ask: "Where's Rhode? Where exactly had he been sent to?"

Emperor Roland pondered, then replied: "Not the Chasm. Rhode isn't old enough, so he wouldn't have been able to enter"

The old farmer disappeared, then quickly reappeared: "I've memorized Rhode's life signatures from before, so I went to take a look, but he wasn't present in the wraith's territory"

The red-haired woman continued: "Recently, our world seemed to have been sealed off by the power of the Deities, completely unable to connect to other worlds. The wraiths would not be able to achieve this either"

Crow immediately said: "If that's the case, he should still be in our world!"

"But very strangely—I can't sense him" princess Maria said as she slowly closed her eyes.

The old farmer confirmed this: "That is the truth, his life signature doesn't exist in our current world, otherwise, I would definitely be able to find him"

Everyone exchanged glances.

He wasn't transported somewhere else, nor could he enter the Chasm world, then where exactly did Rhode disappear to?

Emperor Roland became more serious and said: "If Maria couldn't sense him, then he definitely isn't here, that leaves us with a single possibility..."

Everyone's expressions became solemn.

"What is that single possibility?" Crow asked.

The red-haired woman clicked her tongue, then waved her hand over the void of space and muttered: "By the might of the goddess, display all techniques of the past"

Clusters of colorful light gathered and converged, circling around her hand.

The red-haired woman stared closely at these clusters of light, then explained to the rest: "Earlier, the techniques that had appeared in this place were: Red Dragon Origin Hex, Spatial Erosion, Forceful Transmission, Concealed Layer Leap... let me check the coordinates... that's right, it's that place"

Princess Maria sighed, explaining to Crow: "We created the Chasm in order to forcefully isolate the infected zones outside of our world, but during that process, we found that the infected zones were currently fighting against another layered world—— the world of extinct monsters"

"You mean, Rhode had been transported to that world of monsters?" Crow asked in a heavy tone.

"Indeed, those monsters were both powerful and cautious, only using their thoughts to contact us. Both sides agreed to not invade one another, and that if anyone arbitrarily entered the other's realm, they would be eliminated without question" emperor Roland replied.

Crow drew her sword and said: "Please take me there, I want to save Rhode"

"It's useless, child"

The red-hair woman looked at Crow and spoke with pity: "There was one other technique I didn't tell you about just now"

In front of everyone, the red-haired woman lightly moved her finger, taking away all the clusters of light, leaving a single bright red cluster behind.

"This was the technique I did not mention earlier—— an extremely difficult technique to dispel, it requires the caster to sacrifice their life in order to activate. Under normal combat circumstances, it couldn't possibly be performed, but if it was ever truly managed to cast, even we would find it difficult to stop"

"Life Talisman: Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit"

"The person afflicted by this technique would enter an unconscious state where they would only act on their instincts, but all of their actions would become aggressive in nature. Furthermore, this state would continue for 12 hours in total"

The red-haired woman didn't continue.

But everyone understood her words.

—arbitrarily infiltrate the monster’s territory and could only act aggressively, anyone could guess the outcome of such a person.

“Wraiths...”

Crow clenched the rapier in her hand tightly.

...

The extinct monster world.

This was a bright red world from the sky to the ground, where numerous monsters that didn’t exist anywhere else were locked in insane combat.

They were desperately beating, clawing, biting, utilizing magic, some didn’t even care about their survival.

—from the looks of it, the spread of the plague had begun.

Right at this moment.

A rip opened up in the void of space and spat out a small black dot.

Gu Qing Shan.

He had lost his consciousness, unable to do anything but fall down following the flow of the wind towards the middle of the numerous monsters.

In his Thought Sea, his swords were arguing with one another.

“Gongzi can’t move right now, I need to go out to save him!” Shannu declared resolutely.

「 Don’t move 」 the Earth sword shouted.

“Why not? It’s so dangerous outside!” Shannu shouted back.

「 You can’t act impulsively, Gu Qing Shan is currently under the effects of [True Luck], meaning he’s being taken care of by fate. As we are his swords, we are also affected by this power—— which is exactly why you can’t go out right now 」 the Earth sword explained.

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“Why would that mean that I can’t go out?” Shannu didn’t understand.

「 Without Gu Qing Shan to control us, we’re very limited in what we can do on our own. Even if you have [Living’s Wisdom], can you guarantee that you’ll be able to deal with all of those terrifying monsters outside? 」

「 That’s why, the only thing we can rely on right now is [True Luck]—— this is both a technique and power that we don’t understand, I’m afraid that it might be affected by your [Law Breaker] property. When that happens, Gu Qing Shan would truly be in trouble 」 the Earth sword replied.

“Then what do we do now?” Shannu worriedly asked.

The Earth sword answered firmly: 「 Since Chao Yin and I are here, you shouldn’t act just yet, let’s just wait—— let Gu Qing Shan’s power of the Pillar God counteract that Life Talisman on its own 」

Shannu turned to the other two swords.

Chao Yin sword let out a small vibration, expressing agreement.

The Heaven sword gave off a faint snoring sound.

Shannu sighed.

The Earth sword is right, [True Luck] is a manifestation of a Pillar God's power, an extremely powerful technique.

I have to be careful not to affect it.

I can only restrain myself for now.

Gu Qing Shan continued to fall.

Despite the numerous fighting monsters, he luckily fell through the small gaps between each combat, occasionally being pushed or pulled by the residual shockwaves, which slowed his descent like a leaf in the wind.

—-but he was completely oblivious about it.

Thud!

A very light crashing noise.

Despite falling from such height, he was completely intact.

The wind blew against his body, almost sweeping him away.

The ground started moving rapidly moving forward.

—-no, that wasn't the ground, but a giant beetle whose body was several hundred miles long.

The beetle flapped its wings at an extreme frequency, trying its best to fly above the clouds.

It continued to fly at full speed until it left the area filled with screams and screeches of combat behind.

Just as the beetle relaxed itself, a long and thin spike suddenly appeared on its back, piercing through its carapace and into its body.

Srri srrii sriiii— — —

The beetle screeched in despair, trying to struggle.

Coincidentally, the spike had pierced through near Gu Qing Shan's position.

The tremble woke Gu Qing Shan up.

"So... noisy..."

He whispered, still unconscious.

A second later, he began staggering to stand up, trying to grab something.

The Earth sword appeared from the void of space for Gu Qing Shan to grab.

"Hm..."

Gu Qing Shan raised his sword and swung with all his strength towards the spike!

—[Earth's Choice]!

The Soul Points value on the War God UI jumped.

A blinding arc of sword phantom instantly manifested.

The thin spike was struck head-on, then quickly vanished.

Like it had just been spared, the giant beetle immediately stabilized itself and continued to fly forward.

After unleashing one strike, he shook his head, then collapsed on top of the carapace.

He rolled over, opened his eyes, and silently stared at the sky.

A voice suddenly resounded by his ear: "Thank you for saving me, who are you?"

Gu Qing Shan was still acting on instincts so he belligerently replied: "The fuck you questioning me for? You want to die?"

The voice paused a bit.

A few moments later, the voice spoke up again with a very serious tone: "You're right, this isn't the time to be asking questions, we need to quickly run for our lives!"

The giant beetle sped up, flying like a streak of light across the sky, and left the battlefield.

Several powerful attacks exploded consecutively behind it but failed to connect because it suddenly sped up.

Gu Qing Shan was oblivious to all of this.

He laid flat on top of the carapace, slowly closing his eyes again.

—-he had fallen unconscious again.

Chapter 1353

Translator: La0o9

During the flight.

White clouds were continuously receding behind them.

The giant beetle gradually escaped the battlefield to head towards the inner parts of this world.

Gu Qing Shan laid on top of the giant beetle, snoring.

The Wraith realm was indeed hard to deal with.

At the Yama Heavenly realm, when Cang Wu Zhang's servant brought with him a golden pair of chopsticks to kill Gu Qing Shan, that was when Gu Qing Shan first came into contact with their forces.

—Soul Artifacts that carried Causality Skills, infallible Guise Hexes, Life Talismans that were activated through life sacrifices, none of which could be defended against.

Cang Wu Zhang had even relied on a Life Talisman in order to escape with his life under the combined attacks of Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling.

Truly devious and unpredictable.

Red Wraith had used the maid's life to activate this Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit hex, believing that it would be a guaranteed kill.

However,

Even now, Gu Qing Shan was alive and well.

Perhaps he had many other ideas, but ended up giving up on them?

No one knew.

One minute slowly passed.

The giant beetle flew out of land and entered a vast ocean.

It slowed down, then sent its voice to Gu Qing Shan: "I didn't ask you earlier, do you hate seawater?"

No answer.

"If you hate it, I'll just go down to make the report myself, can you wait here for me?"

No answer.

The giant beetle pondered, then acted startled: "Right, my mistake, I still haven't asked for your name"

Still no answer.

The giant beetle was troubled: "You can't tell me? Then, how should I call you?"

Gu Qing Shan turned a bit in his sleep, muttering in return: "Dragon King... of Atrocity... Jail..."

"Dragon King of Atrocity Jail? That sounds impressive" the giant beetle happily said.

"Then, Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, I'm going to head down, be careful"

Gu Qing Shan began snoring loudly.

The giant beetle observed him for a bit, then muttered: "He's still sleeping... he must have expended a lot of power for that previous strike"

To save me, he used all his strength to destroy that frightening spike.

With that in mind, the giant beetle's antennae twitched a bit, pointing towards Gu Qing Shan.

A few moments later.

A dome of air manifested out of thin air, covering Gu Qing Shan inside.

"Since you're asleep, I can't really leave you here alone, so I'll take you with me"

Saying that, the giant beetle brought Gu Qing Shan into the ocean with it, heading straight down.

It headed towards a place deep underwater.

Very quickly, a voice sounded from the ocean abyss:

「 Purple Star, why are you here? 」

The giant beetle replied: "The Eastern frontlines had collapsed, the 37th virus spread too quickly. I'm the only one left alive"

Many figures became rowdy at the bottom of the sea.

「 That's very troublesome, we haven't fully resolved the 36 other viruses yet and the 37th one has already manifested, how do we get rid of it now? 」

"I observed it for a while and discovered that this virus would rouse insanity within the infected, filling them with murderous thoughts, they could also continuously kill in order to grow stronger"

「 But that is only a preliminary observation, we need more information 」

『 Indeed 』

As the monsters were discussing a countermeasure——

A sleepy voice suddenly spoke up in irritation: “That virus is called the Man Killer Fiend. The infected can grow increasingly more powerful through killing, but as long as they can pass their initial killing frenzy, if reasonable guidance can be provided, they would be able to reawaken their sense of self”

The monsters carefully listened, then quickly understood.

「 Is that so? So that’s what it was? 」

“I see, that was all it was”

『 If that’s the case, we can—— 』

The monsters abruptly realized what just happened, all turning their gazes towards the giant beetle called Purple Star.

On the tough carapace of the beetle, a single human young man laid there, snoring.

It was him who spoke earlier.

「 Purple Star, what’s going on here? 」 a monster with eight arms questioned.

The giant beetle replied: “He fell from the sky, saved my life, then fell asleep”

Recalling something, it added: “Right now he’s my friend, right, he’s called Dragon King of Atrocity Jail”

The eight-armed monster smirked: 「 Dragon King of Atrocity Jail? What a grand name, for a human to dare call themselves that 」

The giant beetle replied: “Don’t always look down on others, it was him who told us how to deal with the 37th virus just now”

The monsters discussed rowdily.

The eight-armed monsters pondered, then shouted towards the depths of the ocean: 「 Gerhard, what do you think? 」

A solemn voice responded from the depths: 「 We had discussed this with the humans, no one is allowed to enter our world. Even if he’s called Dragon King of Atrocity Jail elsewhere, in our world, his only outcome will be the same—- that is death! 」

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The giant beetle continuously retreated, shouting back: “There’s no need for that, he hasn’t done anything yet”

Gu Qing Shan was disturbed by its movement, so he finally awoke and sat up, muttering blankly: “Who... called my name?”

The eight-armed monster didn’t care about that and shouted: 「 If that’s the case, I’ll volunteer to be the executioner! 」

Killing intent filled its presence, instantly leaping into action.

A resounding explosion.

A tidal wave had surged from the depths of the ocean and shot to the surface, forming a column of water that reached dozens of meters in height.

A large body floated atop the water, being washed away by the current.

— the eight-armed monster's body.

The monsters: "..."

No one was able to tell what had just happened.

A certain monster whispered: "Didn't he want to kill that human just now? Why did he use his sure-kill technique on himself?"

Another monster whispered in return: "I don't know, can't ask either, he's already dead"

The solemn voice from the depths of the ocean resounded again: 「 Human, you've angered me 」

The underwater current surged.

The ocean itself began to bob up and down.

A twin-headed sea serpent rose up from the depths.

Its scales carried natural magic runes; its every movement was accompanied by countless divine lights.

「 According to the Monster Codex, only unique one-of-a-kind monsters of the void may enter our world, otherwise, they are granted death! 」

The twin-headed sea serpent slowly circled the ocean depths, speaking with an authoritative tone.

The giant beetle was trembling but still tried to argue: "You're being unreasonable. The Codex mentioned that monsters who wish to live in our world must be one-of-a-kind, but he doesn't want to remain here"

The twin-headed sea serpent completely ignored the giant beetle, its vertical irises stared straight at Gu Qing Shan and continued:

「 I, Gerhard have always been an astute supporter of the monster Codex, and I shall eliminate this human without fail! 」

Gu Qing Shan was still a bit delirious.

But the sea serpent's loud voice didn't allow him to sleep.

He staggered to stand up, mumbling: "You are... Gerhard?"

「 That is I. Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, today shall be the day of your death! 」

"My death?"

Gu Qing Shan abruptly started laughing madly.

"You dare to disturb my sleep, unforgivable! Completely unforgivable!"

He leapt away from the giant beetle's back; his body abruptly manifested into a boundless shadow.

The shadow then solidified as a large dragon, several hundred meters in size!

After fusing with the power of the fourth dragon, the black dragon's body had gotten a bit stouter, but the ferocious flames it naturally exuded had gotten considerably more intense!

Roar!!!!

The dragon rushed straight towards the twin-headed sea serpent.

The twin-headed sea serpent tried to match him but found that it had been restrained in place, unable to move a muscle.

It was startled, but quickly regained its calm and circulated its strongest power——

In front of everyone, the twin-headed sea serpent suddenly unleashed a cluster of colorful flames upon itself.

「 Aarrggh—— what is going on!? 」

The twin-headed sea serpent howled desperately.

The black dragon rushed forward, grabbed it tightly with his claw, then began to tear at it with his dragon maw.

Fresh blood dyed the ocean red.

——this black dragon was as strong as four other dragons!

The twin-headed sea serpent couldn't escape, was struck by one of its own techniques, then further suffered the attacks of the black dragon, so it was quickly drawing its final breaths.

「 Such a delectable stench of blood! 」 the black dragon roared.

Just as the twin-headed sea serpent was about to be killed, a glorious ray of light shot into the ocean from the sky, manifesting two hands of light.

These two hands seemed to contain boundless power, easily separating the black dragon and twin-headed sea serpent.

Both of them tried everything they could but were unable to resist this force at all.

『 Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, you cannot kill it, its crime doesn't deserve death 』

A gentle voice called out.

The holy ray of light illuminated the entire ocean, focusing on the black dragon.

“Whatever... Don't... court death”

The black dragon mumbled his complaints, then slowly closed his eyes and continued to sleep while floating in the water.

Hearing that voice, the twin-headed sea serpent called out in delight: 「 My king, please grant me justice and kill this wicked dragon who blaspheme the Monster Codex 」

The gentle voice responded: 『 He had not blasphemed the Monster Codex 』

The twin-headed sea serpent was shocked, muttering in disbelief: 「 King, he might not be human, but he is only a normal dragon. Our world only allows entry to one-of-a-kind monsters, and dragons do not qualify 」

The gentle voice replied: 『 You are incorrect. I have personally examined it, he is not a true dragon, but rather an advanced kind of living Soul Artifact, a unique one 』

『 I can even say that among the infinite void, a dragon-type Soul Artifact like him is unique 』

『 For that reason, he is qualified to remain in our world 』

Chapter 1354

Translator: La0o9

The light illuminated the depths of the ocean, illuminating the dark underwater with a light-blue hue.

The gentle voice continued:

『 This black dragon might seem like a draconic life form, but he was actually an advanced Soul Artifact crafted for the sake of war—— the one who created it must have spent great efforts 』

『 It is one-of-a-kind 』

『 ...But I can sense a particularly malicious and powerful hex afflicting him 』

『 I currently have my hands busy with dealing against the viruses, so I don't have the time to worry about your side. I want you to take Dragon King of Atrocity Jail to the sealing grounds for me 』

The voice slowly disappeared.

The light receded from the ocean and disappeared in mere seconds.

But a layer of holy white light remained around the black dragon's body.

Laying inside the white light, he delightfully slept.

If Gu Qing Shan was conscious, he would see the lines of text appearing on the War God UI:

[You've received the blessing of the Serpentes King]

[The Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit hex you are afflicted by has been partially dispelled, the hex duration has been reduced by one hour]

The white light around the black dragon's body slowly shrunk and became dim.

Sensing that, the black dragon swiftly grew smaller as well, eventually returning to human form to keep himself enveloped in the white glow.

A few moments later.

The light thoroughly faded.

Gu Qing Shan mumbled something in irritation, but then fell back to sleep.

The giant beetle swam towards him, cautiously lifting him from below.

“I will take him to see King now, which one of you wants to come with?” the giant beetle asked.

“Me!”

「 I'm going as well 」

「 Me too 」

“Me!”

The monsters all volunteered.

—according to their King, this living Soul Artifact had been afflicted by a wicked hex.

While under this hex, it still managed to defeat Gerhard, so its strength is unquestionable.

This is currently its roughest moment, so if we don't take this chance to flatter and get acquainted with it, when would we get another chance?

After it recovers, why would it pay any attention to us?

The giant beetle carried Gu Qing Shan up and was about to leave, then remembered something and asked Gerhard: “Are you coming?”

The twin-headed sea serpent scoffed: 「 Bringing that fellow to our King would only cause them more trouble. You should understand how full their hands already are 」

After a moment of silence, the giant beetle replied: “I'm merely following King's orders”

Saying so, it took Gu Qing Shan out of the water and hovered just above the surface.

Several dozen monsters followed suit.

They all floated at the surface to examine their surroundings.

Only to see that the sky had turned a gloomy grey hue, with deep grey, mossy green, and crimson clouds falling like meteors across the sky, continuously raining down on the earth.

“7-8 new viruses again...” the giant beetle muttered in shock.

『 Strange, we’ve already defeated over a dozen viruses, why are there still more new viruses coming nonstop? 』 one of the monsters doubtfully asked.

Apparently hearing this, Gu Qing Shan turned over on top of the carapace and muttered: “So what if you’ve defeated over a dozen of them? There are over a thousand viruses in total”

The monsters exchanged glances, completely stupefied.

Just fighting against the few dozen viruses up to this point had already caused them so many casualties, if there are actually over a thousand types of viruses, wouldn’t that mean complete extinction for them?

“He’s just sleep talking” the giant beetle said.

All the monsters looked at Gu Qing Shan.

He was sleeping soundly.

“So that was just nonsense huh, that’s good”

『 Right, caused me such a huge fright 』

They all sighed in relief.

The giant beetle stayed silent for a bit, then determined a direction and abruptly sped up with its wings flapping at high frequency.

The monsters followed closely behind.

Around 10 minutes of flying later, Gu Qing Shan suddenly said: "There's a foul stench up ahead, don't keep going this way"

The giant beetle froze.

After thinking for a few moments, its wings flapped to change directions, drawing an arc across the sky.

The other monsters had to follow as well.

"Hey, Purple Star, you're going the long way" one of the monsters called out.

"That's right, he's just sleep talking" another monster agreed.

Purple Star didn't reply, only continuing its roundabout path.

A few more minutes of flying later——

Gu Qing Shan was still lying on top of the carapace, but suddenly reached his hand forward:

"Over there, go over there!"

The giant beetle followed his direction.

A monster carrying a large shell on its back suddenly jumped out, loudly asking: "Purple Star, why aren't you flying on the Altitude Cableway?"

The giant beetle stopped in mid-air, replying: "There might be issues with the Altitude Cableway, I'm going to listen to Dragon King of Atrocity Jail"

"He's sleeping, and you know there are troops guarding the Altitude Cableway, it's very safe—— if you keep flying around like this, it's just going to waste time" the monster berated him.

The giant beetle didn't know how to explain.

The monster continued: "You're going against King's expectations and I can't accept that. Give Dragon King of Atrocity Jail to me, I'll bring him along the Altitude Cableway and quickly reach King!"

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Before the giant beetle could even digest these words, a muttering voice sounded from its back:

"Who is... talking?"

The giant beetle replied: "A snail"

"Snail?" the voice repeated.

"Yes, a snail"

"How come it's on this world?"

The giant beetle explained: "It's very strong—— but that isn't the main point. It was the only snail in history that could fart, this unique characteristic granted it the qualifications to remain in this world"

“Ah...”

The person on its back seemed to have just scoffed as he put up one finger.

—*—what does this mean?*

All the monsters were curious.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly sat straight up, shouting: “Snail! Need to be braised, cooked in the same pot with fish and beef fat! Combined with some chilled strong liquor, that’s the peak of deliciousness!!!”

After that shout, he yawned, slowly laid back down, closed his eyes, and remained still.

All the monsters were stunned.

They were trying to argue over the right of who to take Dragon King of Atrocity Jail to see King, why... Why did he suddenly mention eating?

They suddenly recalled how this human took dragon form earlier and pinned Gerhard to the ground while ripping his flesh away with his teeth, shouting in his frenzy something like ‘delectable stench of blood’.

Hm...

So Dragon King of Atrocity Jail’s menu has a snail dish?

He could even eat a twin-headed sea serpent.

Is he an omnivore?

Right... that makes sense.

It makes perfect sense.

The other monsters felt a chill run down their spine, refusing to even breathe heavily.

The snail monster was scared into trembling, so it quickly twisted its body to make way.

Indeed, it wanted to please King, but it definitely did not want to offer itself as a dish to be eaten.

No other monsters tried to stop the giant beetle.

—nobody knew for sure whether or not Dragon King of Atrocity Jail's menu contained their species.

The giant beetle didn't worry about that at all, it kept moving its wings and flew forward.

Following that.

Whenever Gu Qing Shan spoke up and requested to change directions, the giant beetle would obediently follow.

About two minutes later, several panicked monsters could be seen rushing at them.

The giant beetle called them back, quickly asking: "Strange, where did you guys come from?"

"The Altitude Cableway" the monsters were still breathing heavily, still hadn't regained their senses.

"What happened?" the giant beetle asked.

"Over a dozen viruses descended upon that place at once, instantly destroying the defenses"

The monsters here were all speechless.

We almost had to risk our lives there as well, it's fortunate that we didn't go that way!

Everyone felt even more respect and fear towards Dragon King of Atrocity Jail.

About half an hour later, the monsters finally reached their destination.

This place was filled with the color white, an entire forest of withered trees was covered completely in frost and snow.

Behind the forest was a magnificent mountain range whose borders couldn't be seen.

The monsters landed at a distance, taking care not to get too close to the snow on the ground.

「 There's more snow on the trees again 」 one of the monsters commented.

「 Yeah, I wonder how much longer can our world persist 」 another monster confirmed.

The monsters were all worriedly staring at the withered forest.

Each tree was covered from head to toe in a thick blanket of snow and frost, barely retaining their appearances.

A breeze blew past.

It was bone-chillingly frigid.

The giant beetle stepped a bit forward, speaking towards the withered forest: "King, I have brought Dragon King of Atrocity Jail to you"

A flash of holy light appeared out of nowhere and enveloped Gu Qing Shan.

Just as Gu Qing Shan appeared pleased, the light disappeared.

The gentle voice resounded following that:

『 The number of viruses that I could fight off had reached a limit, but then several hundred types of viruses suddenly appeared at once. I had no choice but to spend the efforts to manifest them outside my body 』

『 However, these viruses seemed to be able to connect to one another, they fused with my energy and created a sort of sealing restraints that had managed to seal me 』

『 For that reason, my current power is no longer enough to help him dispel the wicked curse 』

The monsters froze.

“King, are you going to be fine?” the giant beetle asked out of concern.

The gentle voice sighed: 『 It is hard to say, most likely, I would also—— 』

Gu Qing Shan abruptly leapt to his feet, shouting towards the forest: “Light! I want that previous kind of light! Where is the light? Why didn’t you give it to me?”

『 I am sorry, my power is no longer enough to help you dispel the wicked curse 』 the gentle voice told him apologetically.

“No, I want that kind of light! If you won’t give it to me, I will eat away all of your power!”

Gu Qing Shan transformed into an orange cat and directly charged towards the white snow and frost.

Chapter 1355

Translator: La0o9

The orange cat swiftly ran forward.

It was charging towards the ice and snow that covered the ground.

The gentle voice hurriedly shouted:

『 Be careful, don't come here! 』

The orange cat ferociously uttered a 'meowwww' in reply.

He didn't care about anything else.

If you don't give me that light, I'll just eat your power.

With so much crystallized energy manifested as white snow on the ground, you think you can hide them from me?

The orange cat stopped at the border of the blanket of snow, then bit off a big chunk.

It's icy.

It's cold.

...as well as a pleasant sensation, and something else.

What are these things?

The orange cat only pondered for a single moment before he stopped thinking.

Whatever, as long as I can eat them!

The orange cat happily wolfed everything down without looking up.

The monsters were scared stiff.

Time slowly went by.

The orange cat was getting increasingly aggressive as he ate, gradually eating away a small circle of snow.

『 Are you... alright? 』

The gentle voice was in disbelief.

The orange cat stood up on its two hind legs, then performed a short tap dance.

After it finished dancing, he continued to eat the snow.

This time, his surroundings somehow became even more deathly silent, enough to hear a needle drop.

A few moments later.

The withered trees in the forest began to shake.

A mass of gentle light appeared from inside the forest and attracted all the surrounding snow and ice around it as if it was sucking them up.

The thick blanket of snow was picked up and gathered all around the mass of light.

At the same time, various scenes of destruction erupted out of nowhere, flickering in and out of existence in the void of space at dizzying speeds.

The snow and ice gathered layer by layer, squished together, then compressed until eventually there was only a snowball the size of a thumb remaining.

When this snowball was formed, the snow in the forest had decreased by around 10%.

The light continued to encase the snowball and slowly hovered in front of the orange cat.

Seeing that holy white light, the orange cat happily 'meow'.

He grabbed the glowing snowball with both paws and ate it in one bite.

A second later.

A layer of frost appeared outside the orange cat's body, freezing him like an ice sculpture.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

It remained still.

『 No... could I have made a mistake? 』 the gentle voice wondered.

Suddenly, the orange cat shivered.

Burrr—

The orange cat loudly burped, then started shaking his body.

The thin layer of ice was shaken off.

Compared to the amount of snow that it ate earlier, this bit of snow was nothing.

At the same time, lines of glowing text were quickly appearing in front of the orange cat's vision:

[This is an unbelievable coincidence, a stroke of ultimate luck]

[This is the manifestation of a Pillar God's power!]

[As you have transformed into the Orange Sovereign, which had the 'Energy Absorption' ability, you can devour and consume seals made of pure energy]

[You have devoured the unique substance: Endless Vitality Seal of numerous mixed viruses]

[The power you obtain from the seal will be converted into double the normal amount of Soul Points]

[As the viruses are not pure energy, they will cause you a stomachache]

[Attention, you will get a stomachache]

The orange cat completely ignored these notifications.

He was currently in an unconscious state, so he only knew that he was getting to eat to his heart's content.

"Meow meow, meow meow meow meow meow!"

The orange cat rubbed its belly and rampantly called out with a loud voice.

The gentle voice turned to the monsters and asked: 『 Which one of you understand Cat? 』

"I do"

A green tiger raised its claw.

『 What is he saying? 』 the gentle voice asked.

The tiger lowered its head, its ear completely bent backwards, and hesitantly said: “King, I’m a bit afraid of telling you, he is insulting you”

『 That is no matter, quickly tell me 』 the gentle voice replied.

The green tiger paused for a bit, then clenched its teeth and translated: “He’s saying—— quickly bring more food for this great one, or this great one is going to trash your shop”

Gasp!

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The monsters all inhaled a frightened breath.

The gentle voice didn’t respond.

But within the withered forest, a more radiant mass of light had manifested.

The suction force of this mass of light was more powerful compared to the previous one——

All the snow and ice in the forest were tossed into the air, quickly circling around the mass of light.

They slowly gathered into a ball and continuously shrunk.

A few moments later.

A snowball exactly the same as before appeared.

However, when this snowball manifested, the amount of snow in the forest had decreased by another 30%.

Some of the trees were regaining their luster at a visible speed.

The previously canopies of dead leaves were slowly becoming green again.

The mass of light covered the snowball and brought it in front of the orange cat.

“Meow———”

The orange cat delightfully called out, then swallowed it whole again.

——he didn't even bother to chew this time.

After a few moments, a thicker layer of ice formed around the orange cat's body, turning him into an ice sculpture again.

One breath.

Two breaths.

The sound of cracking ice resounded.

Kli klik klak klak!

Boom———

The orange cat broke out of the ice, then swiftly shook his body again.

He called out delightfully: “Meow meow meow, meow meow meow meow”

『 What is he saying? 』 the gentle voice asked.

The green tiger’s face was turning a bit red, speaking as if whispering: “He said, it tastes good, give this great one a song, and one more portion”

The gentle voice hesitated: 『 I don’t know how to sing, which one of you can sing? 』

The monsters looked left, looked right, then all shook their heads.

The gentle voice became solemn as it spoke to the monsters: 『 Pay close attention, this is the greatest opportunity we have to fight against the Apocalypse, do not try to hide anything, or the consequences would be unthinkable 』

Hearing such a tone, they understood that King was serious.

“We’re all monsters, who could sing?”

「 That’s right, I’ve never really paid attention to that, or tried to learn 」

“I can fight, eat, and sleep, but I have no idea how to sing”

『 Quickly think, who would——』

The monsters discussed among one another.

Suddenly, one of the monsters called out: 「 I remember green tiger once sang a song during its birthday 」

All the monsters turned to the green tiger.

The green tiger awkwardly said: “I only know a small part, and I don’t even remember it well”

『 I’ll tell you clearly. Since he is currently under the influence of the wicked hex, he will only act on his instincts and leisure. That’s why, for the sake of saving this world, you must make it happy 』 the gentle voice ordered it.

“Yes, my King”

The green tiger took a deep breath, stood in front of the frigid wind, then began to sing to the orange cat:

“Happy birthday to you, happy birthday you to”

“Happy bird day, happy Bert day!”

“Happy shirt day to you!”

Complete silence, every monster seriously listened.

The orange cat narrowed his eyes and listened as well, then suddenly called out loudly: “Meow meow meow, meow meow meow meow meow”

The green tiger felt like it was struck by a hammer and became speechless.

『 What did he say? 』 the gentle voice asked.

The green tiger replied: “He said that I was completely off-tone, but at least I have the right spirit”

『 Then it’s fine, just do as he says and continue to sing 』

The gentle voice said.

Being ordered by King, the green tiger had no choice but to continue singing.

“Happy birthday to you, happy birthday you to...”

At the same time, another mass of warm holy light manifested in the middle of the withered forest.

All the remaining snow rapidly gathered towards this mass of light.

The gentle voice muttered: 『 I’ve almost escaped from my burden and regain my power... 』

The entire forest now clearly appeared lush and green.

Vitality had returned.

When the green tiger repeated the song for the third time, the snowball enveloped by holy light had arrived in front of the orange cat again.

The orange cat opened his mouth and directly swallowed this mass of mixed pure energy and viruses.

Lines of glowing text quickly appeared:

[After this meal, you’ve obtained a total of 100 million Soul Points]

[Your resistance against viruses had increased]

[All viruses that you’ve eaten, thanks to the tabby immune system, can no longer hurt you in any way]

[Special note:]

[In one minute, you’ll get diarrhea]

Chapter 1356

Translator: La0o9

All the ice was consumed by the orange cat.

The icy white snow that originally blanketed the entire withered forest had completely disappeared.

As time slowly passed, an indescribable sensation manifested within the forest, rousing an unknown sentimental sensation in the hearts of the observing monsters.

A bright green hue then appeared on a piece of dried-up leaf, which 'ignited' the entire forest.

In an instant, the great trees that were plunged in deathly silence rapidly regained their vitality, all exuding immeasurable life force.

From the void of space, the glittering green light was almost visible.

『 The seal has been completely removed... 』

The gentle voice commented.

Its voice seemed to contain both vicissitudes and complex emotions.

A second later.

The entire forest began to burn, the green vitality from before erupting into intense heat that created a sky-high pillar of holy light.

The light burst forth, then spread.

Heaven and earth became white.

An overwhelming presence that observed every living being at once had manifested!

All the monsters prostrated themselves, devoutly praying while chanting in unison: “King has awoken!”

At this point, another voice cut in:

“Meow meow meow——”

The orange cat patted his own chest with his paw and boasted full of spirit.

Without the gentle voice asking, the green tiger quickly translated:

“King, he said that it’s a good thing he was here”

The gentle voice replied from the sky with a faint smile:

『 Indeed, it was a good thing 』

As it spoke, an air current began to swirl in the sky.

A blinding ray of white light shot down from above, enveloping the orange cat.

Boom!

The storm-force wind ravaged his surroundings.

The orange cat’s fur was also fluttering in the wind, his whiskers moving like they were dancing.

“Meow... meow... meow...”

The orange cat narrowed his eyes and moaned in pleasure.

He didn't pay attention to the lines of text that appeared on the void of space:

[You've received the rejuvenating baptism of the Chaos Serpentes King— Ouroboros]

[Life Talisman: Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit had completely been dispelled]

[You've regained your consciousness]

Instantly, the orange cat's eyes abruptly opened wide— almost like he was shocked.

He hurriedly looked around.

Only to see a group of monsters standing at a distance with a giant pillar of holy light descending upon him from above.

Where am I? What am I doing? What exactly—

Because he could ask any of that, the orange cat realized something very unwell.

A notification popped up on the War God UI:

[Attention, you will expel the virus waste out of your body. This is a harmless process, but during it, you will only have the constitution of a cat, please be careful of the numbness in your legs]

Numbness— in my leg—?

The orange cat was very doubtful.

Suddenly, an ominous sensation descended from the very depths of his heart and mind.

It hurts!

This stomachache!

Almost instantly, the orange cat couldn't hold it in.

His body flashed numerous times, using [Ground Shrink] to teleport towards a river that was a few hundred miles away.

Not good, I can't hold it in—

The orange cat appeared by the river, then immediately lowered his body to rapidly dig up dirt, shouting: "Meow—"

He quickly dug up a hole of appropriate size and sat down on it.

Piu!

The fart only lasted for an instant, immediately followed by—

Shuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!!

—like a broken dam!

The orange cat was frightened by the amount of excrement he was letting out.

Suddenly, a cautious sensation appeared in his mind.

It's probably diarrhea, so why does that part feel so cold!?

It feels as cold as actual ice down there!

The orange cat shivered, the fur all around his body standing up on their ends.

But the dam was still broken and the flow was intense, so not even a God would be able to stop this from happening.

The orange cat had no choice but to stretch his tail as straight as possible, his front paws digging into the ground to hold himself down, and endured the frigid poop with all his willpower.

This can't be right!

Why would the wraith's talisman hex have such an effect!?

The orange cat was confused, so he looked towards the UI in front of his eyes and silently asked: "Meow meow, meow meow meow?"

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The War God UI first gave this explanation:

[For the system, answering an animal's question is too troublesome, so recorded footage will be shown instead. This is considered to be hard work, so you will need to pay an extra fee]

[This question will require 5000 Soul Points; would you like to pay?]

——*you're robbing a man in his needs!*

The orange cat was full of complaints, but he was already used to it, and he really needed to know what happened, so he had no choice but to compromise.

"Meow!" the orange cat urged.

The UI replied: [Very well, you will know what happened for the past few hours]

5000 Soul Points was deducted.

Very quickly, images appeared in front of the orange cat's vision.

Ever since he first entered this world, up until the moment he wolfed down the icy seal, everything was shown without cuts.

The orange cat closely watched it, soon understanding everything that had happened.

“Meow——”

He helplessly sighed.

It's a good thing that [True Luck] was there, this is already the best possible result.

Lines of glowing text then appeared:

[Attention]

[Attention]

[The hex has completely disappeared, your True Luck can still persist for another 3.5 hours, please make sure to use it well]

The orange cat's eyes glowed.

That's right, I still have 3.5 hours of [True Luck] remaining!

I need to quickly take this time and think of a way to get rid of the Plague Apocalypse!!!

The orange cat suddenly stood up, then immediately sat back down.

Not yet, this still isn't over!

An entire half-hour later, the orange cat finally stood back up with its numb hind legs, barely managing to walk away.

He staggered to leave the hole, forming a hand seal without turning back.

The earth moved by itself to cover up the hole.

Hoh—

The orange cat sighed.

Finally, it was done.

He turned back to human form, taking his original appearance.

Suddenly—

From his Thought Sea, a delighted voice called out: "Gongzi, you're finally back to normal!"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

It's over.

That entire embarrassing process was seen by the three swords, nothing managed to escape their eyes.

Gu Qing Shan quickly adjusted his emotions and acted confused:

“Shannu, what exactly happened?”

「 Gu Qing Shan, don't you remember anything? 」 the Earth sword asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “That's right, I only remember that I was hit by the talisman hex, then the next moment, I'm suddenly standing here—— what exactly happened in the middle?”

Saying that, he looked around like he was truly disoriented.

“Where exactly is this place? Why am I here?”

He mumbled in confusion.

Shannu called out: “It seems gongzi's hex had been completely dispelled, that's perfect!”

「 It was like this... 」 the Earth sword began to patiently explain to him.

Very quickly, Gu Qing Shan got to hear what happened earlier again.

He sighed deeply, saying: “It was a really good thing that I have [True Luck], but I'm probably not going to take suck a huge risk again”

「 Risk? 」 the Earth sword asked.

“That's right. When I was back in Ramon village looking through that wraith's memories, I obtained very little knowledge and skills of the wraiths. The only knowledge he had were prepared for the sake of performing [Life Seize Soul Swap], even his combat skills were limited to a few kinds”

The swords didn't say anything and silently listed to him:

“They’re like mass-produced combat robots, each of them was granted a mission and certain abilities built around that mission. Although this ensured their productivity, it also meant that outsiders wouldn’t be able to see through the foundation of wraith’s civilization”

“Even someone like Cang Wu Zhang only managed to obtain many spoils of war from the worlds he conquered and a few more techniques compared to the others, while he hadn’t truly gotten into contact with the core secrets of the Wraith realm”

At this point, Gu Qing Shan’s gaze became profound:

“But Red Wraith isn’t the same, I can sense that he’s unique——”

“He also said it himself, there were two rulers of the Wraith realm, one Heavenly King, and one Wraith, with him being the Wraith”

“In this timeline, the Wraith realm humans have yet to find the Heavenly King, so Red Wraith was the only true ruler of the Wraith realm”

“Such a status was worth me taking such a risk”

From the void of space, a ‘xiu’ was heard, seemingly agreeing with Gu Qing Shan’s opinion.

Gu Qing Shan then turned to the void of space: “Adorable, now it’s time for us to see the results of our effort”

Xiu xiu xiu xiu!

Instantly, a blood-red talisman appeared out of nowhere, then shot towards the empty sky.

——nothing happened after that.

This was an attack without any targets, so it wouldn’t hurt anyone.

Gu Qing Shan waited until the blood-red light had completely disappeared into the horizon before he reached his hand into the void of space.

The icon displaying [War God Skills] lit up on the War God UI.

Lines of glowing text quickly followed:

[Jade pendant Adorable had performed the following Skills]

[Life Talisman: Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit]

[Would you like to comprehend this Life Talisman Skill?]

Chapter 1357

Translator: La0o9

A long series of text appeared on the War God UI:

[As the jade pendant Adorable's performed Skill was 'borrowed', the following description must be made:]

[When a new ability is 'borrowed', all traces of the previous skill will completely disappear, so you may only comprehend the most recent ability performed by the jade pendant]

This wasn't hard to understand, so Gu Qing Shan simply answered after skimming through: "Got it"

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

[A total of 100 million Soul Points must be consumed to comprehend Life Talisman: Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised and asked: "Why does it cost so much Soul Points?"

The War God UI replied: [Because you have not practiced any sort of Life Talisman techniques, a large amount of origin power of the soul must be used to analyze, study, reconstruct, and complete that Life Talisman. Through calculations, that amount was estimated to be 100 million]

Gu Qing Shan then asked: "If I had practiced Life Talisman techniques before, would that mean the number of Soul Points necessary to comprehend this technique would decrease like in the past?"

[That is exactly the case] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan appeared nostalgic.

Something similar had happened in the past.

For example, then comprehending the Divine Skill [Ground Shrink], I had to practice it quite a few time beforehand.

The more skilled I became, the fewer Soul Points was necessary to comprehend the technique.

And so, the right understanding is:

The more in-depth knowledge I have towards a certain topic, the number of Soul Points necessary to comprehend a Skill in that topic would be correspondingly reduced.

Unfortunately, the talismans of the cultivation world were regular spirit talismans, which were usually used to unleash spells.

On the other hand, the talismans of the Wraith realm were Life Talismans that require human life force to activate.

——the entirety of the Wraith realm is a huge mystery, so it was nearly impossible to already have knowledge of their civilization and knowledge beforehand.

I wouldn't have a chance to study other Life Talismans, nor would I be able to improve my understanding of this one through practice.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant.

100 million Soul Points in exchange for comprehending the Wraith realm's Life Talisman techniques.

——is it worth it?

After a short pause, he quickly made his decision.

“System, I want to spend 100 million Soul Points to comprehend [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit]”

His remaining Soul Points value jumped on the War God UI.

The 100 million Soul Points he just earned were instantly used up.

The War God UI spoke up:

[Soul Points received, now beginning to expend origin power of the soul to analyze and record the Life Talisman]

[Attention, this is knowledge of a completely unknown civilization, the system will require a bit of time]

[One hour later, you will obtain all knowledge regarding the Life Talisman]

Gu Qing Shan happily replied: “Thanks”

—this was a Life Talisman from Red Wraith himself, if the War God UI can decrypt this talisman and extract the great amount of knowledge within, Gu Qing Shan believed that the 100 million Soul Points cost wouldn't be a loss.

The War God UI slowly calmed down.

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the great pillar of white light.

A certain life form seems to be in the middle of that pillar of light, seemingly regaining its power.

With every passing second, Gu Qing Shan could sense it become considerably stronger.

This power had even surpassed the Saint Spirit world, almost at the same level as the Earth Creator and Lady Fusi.

“How... extraordinary”

Gu Qing Shan muttered, then felt like he had ignored something important.

After thinking back, he recalled something.

The War God UI had stated earlier that I received the rejuvenating baptism of the Chaos Serpentes King, Ouroboros.

— that's right.

[Chaos]!

Could this Serpentes King be an Awaiting from the [Chaos] faction?

Gu Qing Shan was doubtful.

『 I've left you waiting 』

A gentle voice spoke up.

Following this voice, all the holy white light in the sky pulled back and returned to the ground.

The entire forest from earlier had disappeared.

Instead, a lake of light was situated where the forest was previously.

“Hello, were you the one who helped me dispel the wicked hex? I have yet to thank you”

Gu Qing Shan respectfully asked.

The gentle voice replied: 『 There is no need for such formalities, in fact, it was you who saved my life. When I pushed this world away from its impending doom not too long ago, I had to expend all of my power— but never did I expect to face this Plague Apocalypse before I even had a chance to catch my breath, almost succumbing to it 』

Gu Qing Shan's attention focused on those words.

Indeed.

The extinct monster world, the Plague Apocalypse world, as well as the Saint Spirit world, were all at the brink of destruction, but the remnant Origin of these three worlds fused with one another and initiated a local timeline reset, which gave them a temporary chance to exist.

Gu Qing Shan said: “It might be rude of me, but what exactly happened here in your world?”

From the glowing lake of light, the gentle voice responded:

『 Perhaps you do not know because you came from a different fused world, but if you wish to know, I can explain it to you somewhat 』

“Thank you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The gentle voice began:

『 The void call us the Awaitings, and so do we 』

『 In my original parallel world, the Apocalypse managed to knock open the Reality Gate, causing the infinite worlds of the space vortex to descend into destruction 』

『 We who were in slumber did not fully regain our strength, and by the time we had awoken, what we saw were everything coming to their ends 』

『 We felt despair—— as the measures we had spent all of our powers to arrange failed against the Apocalypse 』

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Gu Qing Shan’s gaze became focused.

The so-called measures were most likely [Order] and [Chaos].

But Gu Qing Shan didn’t try to ask, simply keeping silent and waited for the other party to continue.

The gentle voice continued:

『 All the Awaitings were dead 』

『 ——only I, the [Chaos] Serpentes King, managed to find a single way to survive 』

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan asked: “Your grace, did you truly find a solution against the Apocalypse?”

『 That is not the case 』

The [Chaos] Serpentes King answered bitterly: 『 I had merely found a solution to temporarily prolong our last breaths 』

“Prolong your last breaths?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

『 I discovered that the majority of Apocalypse had a certain characteristic, that is once they had sensed a certain level of destruction within a world, they would cease to summon more Apocalypses—— from that point on, they would simply wait for the situation to develop itself and silently wait until everything comes to an eventual end 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King explained.

“Please elaborate further” Gu Qing Shan sincerely asked.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King replied: 『 The world we are currently in was in fact a destroyed world. Furthermore, we had placed a strict requirement that any entity who enters this world must be a one-of-a-kind unique existence, which was the only way to deceive the Apocalypse 』

Gu Qing Shan realized what that meant and said: “Because every entity is a one-of-a-kind unique existence, there would be no possibilities of reproduction, and since this world was already destroyed, any Apocalypse that comes into contact with this world would believe that it would eventually be destroyed, thus no longer attack it”

『 That is indeed the case, you are very smart 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King affirmed.

Gu Qing Shan felt waves surging in his mind.

—so something like this was possible!

This could be considered as deceiving the Apocalypse, but also not deceiving them at the same time.

Due to the composition of only unique entities, there would be no possibilities of a 'species' being formed, as well as no possibility of creating any offspring, everyone is doomed to die while being single.

The world would certainly be heading towards destruction step-by-step.

But this process would be incredibly slow, and the unique entities who reside here would survive longer than most others.

“To be able to come up with such a solution, I truly respect your grace”

Gu Qing Shan said from the bottom of his heart.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King answered him in a lonely manner: 『 In the end, we still lost to the Apocalypse and would have to die sooner or later 』

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King also didn't say anything else.

What exactly are the Apocalypses?

Why are Apocalypses constantly manifesting, spreading, trying to destroy everything?

If every Awaitings were already dead, then—

What happened to Lady Fusi?

She was friends with Time itself, capable of moving along the flow of time and observing secrets that others cannot.

And also, what was the Earth Creator's final outcome in that parallel world?

——Gu Qing Shan had actually never managed to completely explore the power of the Coin of the Earth.

Because he was too weak.

The Earth Creator was different, it was extremely powerful.

It was able to completely exert the power Fate through [True Luck], while Lady Fusi was able to borrow the power of Time——

Could the other Pillars Gods also have been alive?

Gu Qing Shan recalled how the Soul Artifacts that manifested from the Laws of the other three Pillars had arrived to witness him taking on the mantle of the Earth God.

The Law Soul Artifact of the Wind God was an azure key.

——Key of the Wind.

If the Wind God of the Pillar Gods was still alive, they would be able to use the power of the Key of the Wind to travel to any place within the space vortex.

Which meant that the Three Great Laws of Reality – Time, Space, and Fate would be on their side.

Perhaps that wasn't enough to fight the Apocalypse, but couldn't they have survived?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan tried asking: “Have all of your comrades died?”

『 Indeed, I am positive about this 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King replied.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned a bit and asked: “Then, what about your enemies?”

『 Enemies? 』

The [Chaos] Serpentes King pondered: 『 Those fellows from the [Order] faction seemed to have escaped to the Eternal Abyss 』

『 It had been much too long, let me think... 』

『 The Inner Plane had been destroyed, but at the very bottom of the Eternal Abyss, there is a passage that leads into the destroyed Inner Plane 』

『 However, it seemed to have been guarded by something terrifying—— due to that ‘thing’, the Eternal Abyss was forced to remain in slumber, unable to even wake up... 』

『 How ridiculous, the Eternal Abyss was the greatest monster ever to be born into the space vortex, and yet it was afraid of that ‘thing’ 』

Gu Qing Shan’s heart started beating faster.

There is a horrifying creature at the bottom of the Abyss.

Boss had also once mentioned this, but his expression showed that he had zero intentions of attempting to return to the Inner Plane.

Gu Qing Shan was able to sense that Boss had some ideas, but he also sensed helplessness.

——helpless to do anything, unable to change reality.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King continued: 『 In the past... the Eternal Abyss had exhausted all of its means to finally come up with a solution against the terrifying ‘thing’, a weapon 』

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed, already knowing the answer, but still asked: “What was that weapon?”

The [Chaos] Serpentes King stayed silent briefly before answering: 『 It was the Guardians against ultimate extinction, the Swords of Changing Fate, the Key to infinite worlds, Evil-warding weapon of the Bottomless Abyss, the legendary twin swords: Heaven and Earth 』

“Evil-warding weapon of the Bottomless Abyss...” Gu Qing Shan muttered this name.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King continued: 『 Regretfully, the sword called ‘Earth’ had been completely destroyed 』

Gu Qing Shan questioned: “Why couldn’t a replacement be made?”

『 This type of weapon carries with it a unique mission, infused with the Laws of Causality and Secret, which means that it would only ever appear once along with the lengthy flow of history 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King said emotionally.

『 Speaking of which, at the final moments when the Apocalypse destroyed everything, most likely that one or two of those fellows from the [Order] faction had remained to stop the terrifying ‘thing’ at the bottom of the Abyss, then those still alive would enter the destroyed Inner Plane— or none of them managed to survive at all 』

Gu Qing Shan immediately asked: “Why did they go there?”

『 ...I do not know 』

The [Chaos] Serpentes King answered full of confusion.

Chapter 1358

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

So that was the origin of the extinct monster world.

It was originally a parallel world heading towards destruction, with only a relatively small number of strange monsters under the [Chaos] Serpentes King’s lead, prolonging their last breaths.

As for the plague world—

It had already been completely destroyed by the Plague Apocalypse without a single living being remaining.

In short, both the monster world and plague world were parallel worlds without any hope.

Parallel worlds...

Gu Qing Shan’s thoughts turned a bit, recalling the black spike crab.

That crab once said that parallel worlds were actually a masquerade.

But it also said that it didn't really understand what was going on.

What a headache.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

There's not enough information to analyze any sort of truth right now, I'd rather seize the time when [True Luck] is still in effect to think of a solution to resolve the Plague Apocalypse.

"Your Grace, I'm preparing to venture out in order to take a look at the plague world, so I won't be here for long"

Gu Qing Shan said.

His gaze was focused on the lake of glowing holy light.

From the lake, the [Chaos] Serpentes King's voice responded: 『 You alone won't be enough, only our collaboration would allow us to triumph against this Apocalypse 』

Gu Qing Shan was surprised and asked: "Our collaboration?"

『 Indeed, I have regained my powers, so from this point on, I will be able to convert the viruses into pure energy form 』

"Then what about me?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 You'll be responsible for eating 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King replied.

Eating...

Gu Qing Shan froze and couldn't help but recall everything that happened while he was turned into the orange cat, literally shivering from the bottom of his heart.

Even now, a certain part of his body still felt frigid.

Do I really need to use this method to save the world?

The [Chaos] Serpentes King continued:

『 Before you appeared, I had personally travelled across the border of the two worlds and entered the plague world, locating the origin of the viruses 』

『 Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, I can sense your resistance and immunity against the viruses; you should be able to do the same as I and infiltrate the center of the infected zone 』

『 But that world is full of various monsters created by the plague, your powers alone would be no match for them. I shall accompany you and eliminate the monsters that attack you 』

Stating so, the holy power within the lake became even purer and vaster as it glowed.

Gu Qing Shan silently sensed that but didn't say anything in response.

——the [Chaos] Serpentes King, Ouroboros.

Gu Qing Shan didn't know why the other party was previously a forest, and now a lake, but he could clearly feel the profound power that it wielded.

——the Saint Spirit world was a mortal world under the rule of the Deities from the Inner Plane, so they were exceedingly powerful.

But in the end, the people of the Saint Spirit world didn't have the actual power of the Deities, so they couldn't possibly compare with the [Chaos] Serpentes King Ouroboros.

Perhaps, its support was also part of [True Luck].

“If that’s the case, time doesn’t wait for people, let us proceed immediately” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The lake didn’t answer.

But the entire lake then turned into surging white light, shot into the sky, and finally descended upon Gu Qing Shan’s body.

The intense white glow drifted around him.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[The Chaos Serpentes King Ouroboros has attached itself onto your body]

[This isn’t a harmful state, but rather a combative state]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through, then silently nodded.

『 My form has been completely destroyed, only my pure will and power have been left, so I need to attach myself to you, I hope you don’t mind 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King spoke.

“Not at all” Gu Qing Shan replied.

『 Very well, let me lead you 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King said.

The white glow flashed and disappeared.

Boom!

An intense gust of wind erupted.

Being clad by the white glow, Gu Qing Shan rapidly flew forward, across mountains and seas, across everything of this world as he headed towards the edge of it.

He couldn't see anything clearly at all.

With this flight speed, everything around him was warped into arcs as they rapidly moved in the opposite direction, retreating away from him.

About 5 minutes later, their flight gradually slowed down.

The light glow landed outside of a ruined city.

『 This is the border of the two worlds, pay close attention, I will now inform you the location of the virus origin 』

Within the white glow, the [Chaos] Serpentes King said.

An image manifested in front of Gu Qing Shan's vision.

This was a desert enveloped in fog, the gloomy yellow mist had completely obscured everything within the desert, leaving nothing to be seen.

Gu Qing Shan was quickly able to sense where that desert was located.

From this ruined city, they would need to cross an exceedingly long distance in order to finally reach that place.

『 Do you see the direction? 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King asked.

“I got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

『 I will focus on two things, the first is to turn all the viruses that block our way into ice. You will need to quickly devour them all in order to create antibodies for yourself 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King explained.

“What about the second thing?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Keep in mind, the plague will surely notice our presence—-- or perhaps it has already known of our arrival. It will use the fastest possible speed to try and stop us, so I will be responsible for combat alone, attacking all the monsters by myself 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King replied.

“What do I need to do then?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

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『 You need to make sure not to let any monsters stall you, simply run forward with all your strength—-- while fighting I will also continue to convert the viruses, so we will have to rely on you to approach the center of the plague 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King explained.

“No problem”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the sky.

It's nearly twilight, but there's still a bit of time left.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath, his body slowly shrank down into an orange cat.

“Meow!”

The orange cat calmly called out.

He began running on all fours, quickly moving across the border of the two worlds.

The ruined city.

As soon as the orange cat entered the ruins, numerous clattering noises resounded from all over the city.

Countless insects appeared out of nowhere.

Their bright red compound eyes were wide open, staring straight at Gu Qing Shan.

The white glow around Gu Qing Shan's body erupted and radiated in every direction, illuminating all the insects.

Lines of glowing text quickly appeared in the void of space:

[Currently unleashing Chaos Divine Skill: Hyaline Slash]

——the [Chaos] Serpentes King had begun to act!

The orange cat's spirits were high as he uttered a long 'Meow'!

A second later, he turned into a bolt of lightning that rapidly streaked across the city.

Full speed ahead!

Every once in a while, the orange cat would use [Ground Shrink] to directly traverse a large distance.

With him as the center, the intense white glow swept through everything.

All the insects, ruins, everything that tried to move was slashed into nothingness by the white light.

Wherever the orange cat went, the ground was leveled, and all things were destroyed.

But that wasn't enough!

There was still a considerable distance from here to the desert!

The orange cat focused only on himself and continued running at full speed.

Like an orange shadow, he was hurriedly traversing the vast and dead land.

From the void of space, masses of snow and ice would occasionally gather into balls next to the orange cat's mouth.

The orange cat ate them all without hesitation.

[You've gained resistance against the limb mutation virus]

[You've gained resistance against the bone liquidation virus]

[You've gained resistance against the blood death virus]

...

Within the holy glow, the orange cat continued his rapid advance, quickly making it through the city and continued towards the canal.

Behind him, the ruined city had been completely erased.

—this was the power of the Awaiting, [Chaos] Serpentes King.

「 Stop... Or... Die! 」

A furious roar abruptly resounded from the depths of the canal.

It came from a completely rotten giant whose eyes were filled with violent killing intent.

He swiftly pursued the orange cat.

The holy glow around the orange cat's body surged forward in a flash, striking the giant with a single flicker.

Ridiculously fast! Completely undefendable!

While speeding forward, the orange cat silently made that evaluation.

Being struck by the white light, the giant was instantly forced to stop.

He stood still for a few moments before his body was completely erased within the blindingly divine light.

The orange cat continued like this for another 10 miles.

A monster whose body was filled with spikes suddenly appeared.

It was about several stories in height.

— the aura it gave off was already comparable to Gu Qing Shan's aura.

And then there was also a seemingly endless wave of monsters behind this monster.

Various infected creatures with varying sizes occupied the land and their visions.

Against this number and quality of infected creatures, the orange cat couldn't even find a place to stand.

This wasn't all, the sky was also turning prematurely dark.

A humanoid monster with a pair of bright red boney wings on its back was quickly approaching them from afar.

Behind him, countless infected creatures had completely blocked out the sky.

All of these infected creatures were staring at the orange cat with killing intent.

All of their eyes were glowing red, their expressions filled with the desire to murder.

At this point, with so many monsters blocking out the sky, not even light could peer through to illuminate the earth.

The orange cat didn't stop.

He simply continued to run forward, straight into the masses of darkness.

Another line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Currently unleashing the Chaos Divine Skill: Cyan Flames]

The white glow around the orange cat's body trembled and manifested clusters of flames that swept across the world like a storm.

All the infected were wiped out.

Chapter 1359

Translator: La0o9

Within the silent destroyed world, white light erupted layer by layer.

All the infected in and on their path were directly reduced to ashes under the illumination of this holy light.

Clad in this light, the orange cat continued to run forward without stopping.

Only very occasionally, he would slow down and consume a hovering snowball in front of him.

Lines of glowing text appeared in front of his eyes:

[You have devoured the unique substance: Endless Vitality Seal of numerous mixed viruses]

[The power you obtain from the seal will be converted into double the normal amount of Soul Points]

[As the viruses are not pure energy, they will cause you a stomachache]

[Attention, you will get a stomachache]

The orange cat skimmed through this text with an unchanging cold gaze.

To win against the Plague Apocalypse, what does a small bit of necessary sacrifice matter?

“Meow!!!”

The orange cat called out, then sped up.

Where he ran through, the darkness had been completely swept away; the originally barren land and the blue sky had once again become clear.

He ran across the wilderness, weaving his way through a tall mountain range.

Through a large open lake, killing all the undead monsters wandering through an abandoned country road.

Across a vast meadow of grass, with the sweeping light and wind, nothing managed to stop his advance.

Finally, the orange cat reached the border of a desert.

— the center of the infected zone was deep inside this desert.

『 Be careful, this was as far as I managed to reach the previous time— I wasn't even able to enter the desert 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King resounded in his ears.

“Meow”

The orange cat calmly replied.

He didn't enter the desert right away and instead looked for a relatively hidden place right outside the desert, then dug a hole.

Very quickly, an intricate and perfect dirt hole was dug.

The orange cat sat on it with a stern expression.

As soon as his paws clenched tightly—

Piu~

A short fart signified the beginning of true suffering!

The orange cat's entire body suddenly shook, almost levitating.

He opened his eyes wide in shock.

I'm levitating?

Why is it that intense?

—-it wasn't nearly as forceful as this the previous time.

The orange cat pondered.

This time, I ate a few hundred snowballs, but that encompassed pretty much all the viruses.

Perhaps, the change in quantity constituted a change in quality?

Regardless, that doesn't matter, what does matter is for me to quickly finish this.

The orange cat was trembling in mid-air, levitating up and down, causing him to have no choice but to form a hand seal to maintain his balance.

Even more importantly, I definitely cannot fall into that pit of icy poop!

A short moment later.

Some monsters occasionally approached them but were all erased by the [Chaos] Serpentes King with the white glow.

Finally, the crucial final moment was reached!

Even the War God UI reported an analysis of this situation:

[Attention]

[You have gained resistance and immunity of nearly 1000 viruses, similarly, all the plague viruses you've accumulated so far had undergone the innocuous treatment. The final and most important release will soon be performed!]

[Please prepare to fly]

The orange cat was a bit shocked.

Prepare to fly?

Why do I have to prepare to fly?

But the countdown had already begun on the War God UI:

[3]

[2]

[1!]

The orange cat felt an intense pain in his stomach.

Completely ignoring his hand seal, he just clenched his paws tightly.

Not good, I can't hold it—

Pwoooooo!

This was an unprecedented eruption!!!

The orange cat shot into the air, caught by the wind, and flew straight into the desert covered in gloomy yellow fog like a cannonball.

Countless monsters appeared from within the desert, trying to attack the orange cat.

The holy white glow brushed back and forth, continuously defending and retaliating.

『 How rash 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King spoke, 『 Hurry, quickly moderate our speed and direction; we can't simply fly straight towards the center of the desert like this 』

The orange cat nodded embarrassedly: “Meow!”

He reached his paw out, about to form a hand seal——

But for some reason, his paws were covered in ice, completely frozen over.

The orange cat was a bit panicked and hurriedly tried to use spirit energy to control his flight.

But this wave of frost didn't stop there, it had frozen his Dantian as well, preventing him from using spirit energy temporarily.

The orange cat continued to ascend through the yellow fog.

Even with all of his wits, means, and abilities, he really couldn't think of a proper way to resolve this.

——*wait a minute.*

The orange cat glanced at the War God UI.

There was still over an hour of [True Luck] left!

In other words, everything happening right now is still under the influence of [True Luck].

The orange cat relaxed.

He let himself be carried by the wind and continued to fly forward until he started to descend.

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It was now that the numbness brought by the ice subsided somewhat.

The orange cat immediately used spirit energy to make himself hover in mid-air, slowly descending downwards.

There were no longer any infected creatures here, nor any attacks towards them.

The white glow around the orange cat had also completely receded, seemingly to help him avoid being detected.

A few moments later.

The orange cat finally landed on top of a layer of fine sand.

He instantly released his inner sight and scanned his surroundings.

The orange cat suddenly shivered.

Apparently sensing something, he was looking in a certain direction.

From the wind, a faint voice would be heard:

[Conclusion...]

[...but fuses...]

[Suddenly...]

The orange cat opened his eyes wide, carefully determining the direction, and realized that the sound was coming from within the yellow fog not too far away from where he was.

He didn't speak up, only reaching a paw out to touch the white glow inside his body.

『 I'm ready to fight at any moment 』

The [Chaos] Serpentes King's voice resounded in the orange cat's head.

The orange cat stopped hesitating and began flying towards the voice.

A few moments later.

The orange cat saw that entity——

A humanoid stone statue whose face was obscured, its entire body giving off a thick yellow mist that continuously spread in every direction.

A line of glowing text appeared on the void of space:

[You've discovered the source of the Plague Apocalypse]

Right at this moment, the humanoid statue also turned towards the orange cat.

[Wait a moment, I need to first make a report]

The humanoid statue tilted its head a bit to the orange cat, apparently asking for permission.

The orange cat didn't try to act.

He could sense a true threat of death.

This felt like the threat of death that a drowning person would feel at the exact moment before they would die.

If I attack, I'll definitely die!

The orange cat stared closely at the other party, trying to find any useful information.

But this statue was too mysterious. Other than the fact that it was exuding the yellow mist that contained the viruses, almost no clear distinctions could be seen.

Its face was carved into the shape of a face obscured by a thin veil, so there was no way to see its expression either.

The humanoid statue reached its finger out very slowly and tapped the void of space, then spoke:

[Envoy]

[Parallel world #796 had been completely destroyed, no information discovered]

[Parallel world #1539 and #65 are currently in a fusing state]

[Currently eroding]

[Report complete]

Suddenly, the white glow around the orange cat's body burst forward to attack the humanoid statue like it was in a frenzy.

『 We have to destroy it as soon as possible! 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King hurriedly shouted.

For the very first time, Gu Qing Shan heard a hint of fear in its voice.

All the white glow had erupted to envelop the humanoid statue.

But it remained still.

No matter what kind of attack it received, including earth-shattering forces and several Chaos Divine Skills that the orange cat had never seen before, none of it managed to leave a scratch on the humanoid statue.

[It is useless, the barrier of Apocalypse is protecting me]

The humanoid statue casually spoke: [The reason you are alive is that you happened to bypass the 1,999 sure-death traps that were arranged in the desert]

[But luck cannot continue indefinitely]

[Although I was made purely as a source of virus to quickly infect every world, one last Apocalyptic power was still carved onto my body——]

[This power is specifically designed in extreme fringe cases, where the enemies manage to approach me, to eliminate them]

[I will grant you one last bit of time to choose and enter the embrace of the Apocalypse]

[Or you will die]

The orange cat stayed silent, then slowly returned to human form.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the humanoid statue with the obscured face and questioned: “Who exactly are you?”

The humanoid statue was still covered by the yellow mist, coldly responding:

[In three breaths' worth of time, you must kneel and accept the implantation of my Apocalypse Punishing Crime power, or I will kill you]

Gu Qing Shan blinked and temporarily fell into silence.

Around his body, the holy white glow was still continuously attacking the humanoid statue with all its strength.

But still nothing.

One breath passed.

Two breaths passed.

The third breath.

[State your choice...] the humanoid statue spoke.

Suddenly—

The wind started flowing.

The humanoid statue couldn't make its next statement.

Gu Qing Shan also looked up.

A figure was rapidly approaching them from the sky.

So fast!

Who's coming?

Gu Qing Shan's pupils dilated.

Boom!

That figure crashed and landed near the humanoid statue and Gu Qing Shan.

A man wearing a yaksha mask leapt out from the yellow mist, staring at Gu Qing Shan and the humanoid statue.

Chapter 1360

Translator: La0o9

Let's rewind time a bit.

The Saint Spirit world.

The Frost empire.

Red Wraith descended from above, landing in the empire's royal palace.

Including the emperor and queen, everyone instantly bowed to greet him.

"I've killed the young man called Rhode" Red Wraith said.

Everyone looked up confusedly.

The emperor doubtfully asked: "Your grace, did you not go out in order to assassinate the Roland emperor?"

Red Wraith shook his head: "The Roland emperor is an opponent that we know very well. The one called Rhode is the only variable in our plan, so I had to kill him before he managed to throw things completely out of order"

"Your Grace, the Roland empire is currently in a stalemate with us, but more and more of their Combatants are participating in the war, so we won't be able to hold against them for too much longer" the emperor reported.

The prime minister then followed up: "Furthermore, other than the extinct monster world that your grace had discovered and explored, we discovered another new world"

"Oh? What kind of world is it?" Red Wraith asked with interest.

"A world completely destroyed by the Plague Apocalypse; it is currently fusing with the Saint Spirit world" the prime minister replied.

"What do you all think?" Red Wraith asked.

The emperor replied: "There are too few of our comrades who had remained within the Saint Spirit world, those who remained outside cannot be contacted, so with just our numbers here, there is quite a bit of difficulty in defeating the Combatants of the Roland empire"

The prime minister followed up: "If we can guide that Plague Apocalypse to descend en masse in the Roland Empire, our chances of victory would drastically increase"

"But that is highly risky because this level of Apocalypse is..."

Red Wraith didn't respond, instead, he slowly strolled around the room.

The entire palace was in complete silence, these swapped wraiths were waiting for Red Wraith's decision with bated breaths.

After a while, Red Wraith spoke up:

“The Plague Apocalypse... have we recorded it?”

A wraith who looked like a historical official reported: “Your grace, we have recorded it. The Plague Apocalypse was considered to be Unsolvable, Fiercest”

Unsolvable rank was only the second weakest level of Apocalypse among the Apocalypse ranking.

The reason why the Void City army had considered the Plague Apocalypse to be Unlivable and no longer tried to send anyone inside was because they didn't know that three worlds were actually fusing with one another in this place.

Hearing that, Red Wraith appeared relaxed and spoke: “Even though it had reached the rank of Fiercest, an Unsolvable Apocalypse would not contain those truly terrifying ones”

“At most, it would be one of two objects that are responsible for spreading the virus, but since this world is completely separated from everything else, those objects wouldn't be able to summon an Envoy”

“As long as those objects aren't disturbed...”

“I can indeed attempt to secretly guide the spread of the plague”

Having decided, Red Wraith abruptly looked up at everyone else.

The group instantly knelt on one knee, lowering their heads:

“Your grace, please give your orders”

Red Wraith spoke: “Unseal the strongest body, I will be using it”

“Understood”

Everyone remained kneeling on the ground, only the emperor, the queen, the prime minister, the military minister, the grand general, as well as the church ambassador stood up.

Each of them held a different talisman in their hands and shouted in unison:

“Sealing— undo!”

A spark flashed.

The talismans in their hands instantly burnt away, manifesting lengths of chain from the void of space.

All the chains broke off at once.

A casket then lightly landed on the ground.

This was a white-grey stone casket with a large talisman stuck on its lid.

The talisman abruptly turned to ash.

Bam!

The casket was opened.

A corpse covered in crimson talismans was revealed to everyone.

Red Wraith turned into a cloud of mist and entered the corpse.

A few moments later.

The corpse started twitching, slowly standing up from inside the casket.

The crimson talismans also began to burn.

A suit of blood-red armor appeared from thin air, scattering into its components before donning itself onto the corpse.

Following that, a yaksha mask fell from above, donning itself onto the corpse's face.

The corpse raised its hand, open its palm, then closed it lightly—

Hoh!

A huge gust of wind manifested out of nowhere, sweeping across the entire audience hall.

An invisible pressure that inhibited breathing was abruptly applied on everyone.

Everyone felt themselves being pinned to the ground, unable to even move a muscle.

“Hm, the power of this heavenly being corpse, combined with my full power, that should be enough”
Red Wraith spoke from behind the yaksha mask.

He casually used his finger to draw a mystical pattern in mid-air.

A bloody talisman manifested and quickly flared up.

A large opening was burnt into the void of space, the other side of the opening could be faintly seen to be a world enveloped in yellow fog.

The heavenly being's corpse that wore a yaksha mask stood there without moving.

He looked to the world on the other side and focused his mind.

Red Wraith's voice resounded again:

"That is indeed an Unsolvable Apocalypse"

"Very well, let me take a look at that plague world and see if I would be able to guide the plague to descend upon the Saint Spirit world"

"After I leave, make sure to cautiously manage the front lines"

Everyone responded at once: "Understood, your grace!"

Only the emperor appeared a bit hesitant after declaring that.

Red Wraith didn't bother to look back at his subordinates and quickly entered the opening in the void of space.

The opening then slowly closed back up.

The emperor abruptly stood up and asked everyone: "Did his grace bring his weapon with him?"

The military minister was startled and replied: "It was originally put in the heavenly being Inventory Bag, but since his grace ordered me to engrave a few more runes earlier, I had taken it out"

Everyone's heart tightened.

"Then did you finish it yet?" the emperor shouted.

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“I have” the military minister hurriedly took out a pair of long Blades and replied.

The emperor took the Blades, then deeply inhaled: “I shall take it to his grace, let’s hope he won’t be angered by your mistake”

...

Red Wraith appeared in the sky.

The faint yellow fog was being blown towards the distance following the strong wind.

Red Wraith stood still for a few moments observing this, then muttered:

“The direction that this fog is heading in should be the extinct monster world”

He reached out his finger, casually drawing in mid-air.

A talisman was formed.

“The three worlds are currently fusing with one another, so their borders should also be connected”

“In that case, I merely have to change the direction of the wind...”

The talisman burnt away.

The wind stopped blowing for a short moment.

Suddenly, the strong wind resumed, having changed directions.

Red Wraith observed for a bit, then shook his head.

To make sure that the wind blows towards the Saint Spirit world, and furthermore, towards the Roland empire in particular, I will need to adjust it some more.

For now, the wind is only blowing upwards to make sure that the fog won't stay too close to the ground.

Actually, changing the direction of the wind wasn't too hard for Red Wraith.

The key point was to make sure that the change had to be natural, ensuring that a certain object within this Apocalypse doesn't notice.

That was the difficult part.

Just as Red Wraith prepared to draw another talisman, he suddenly stopped, muttering to himself:

"An ominous feeling... could I have been discovered?"

He made a small incision on his neck with his finger, then took some blood from there to draw in mid-air.

"To completely conceal myself, I need a—"

—it was said that the Wraith realm's weapons contain Causality Laws, their Guise Hexes were infallible, and their Life Talismans were unpredictably devious, using the life force and vitality in order to activate, which made them hard to defend against.

Before Red Wraith even finished his words, a certain event had already occurred.

A nearly impossible event that should never have happened became true thanks to [True Luck].

Below the sky, the strong wind, the clouds, and even the fog.

From the depths of another world where no one could have detected, a crimson streak of light shot through the air.

In that instant, the crimson Life Talisman struck Red Wraith.

“Aaarrgh! This is [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit]!”

“What exactly—”

For the first time, Red Wraith’s voice carried a bit of panic.

Life Talismans were his source and his roots, so he naturally knew how to dispel the [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit] talisman, however—

The price that must be paid would be the majority of this heavenly being corpse’s power!

But it wasn’t the time for him to hesitate.

Red Wraith clenched his teeth, endured the terrible cost, then resolutely made the call.

He stopped trying to draw the original talisman and instead changed his movement halfway, beginning to draw a talisman to dispel [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit].

The talisman was swiftly completed!

A dark green glow radiated from the talisman.

It then disappeared.

All the dark green glow had gathered into a ball and began to enter Red Wraith's body when an opening appeared in the void of space.

A pair of hands reached out.

— the hands were holding a pair of long blades.

Followed by the Frost emperor's respectful voice:

"Your grace, you forgot your weapons"

The dark green ball of light crashed into the opening, bringing with it the two long blades as well as the emperor's frightened statement 'Your grace, mercy', and disappeared without a trace.

Everything returned to silence in the sky.

Red Wraith was stunned.

He was speechless, then quickly lost consciousness and closed his eyes.

The wind continued to blow high in the sky.

The wind that had changed directions brought Red Wraith with it, hovering and flying aimlessly.

Not too long after.

Flashes of white light continuously shot up from deep underground.

Dark and light intertwined with one another.

The air current was changed.

The stench of blood filled the air.

Red Wraith suddenly turned over, mumbling: “How noisy...”

“I’m going to kill you!”

He tilted his body and flew towards the source of the commotion.

...

At the center of the desert.

[State your choice...] the humanoid statue spoke.

Gu Qing Shan was quickly trying to come up with a solution.

Suddenly——

A figure was rapidly approaching them from the sky.

So fast!

Who’s coming?

Gu Qing Shan and the humanoid statue both turned their heads

Boom!

That figure crashed and landed near the humanoid statue and Gu Qing Shan.

A man wearing a yaksha mask leapt out from the yellow mist, staring at Gu Qing Shan and the humanoid statue.

“Both of you are so noisy, just die!”

The wraith shouted in irritation.

Chapter 1361

Translator: La0o9

The humanoid statue made Gu Qing Shan choose between surrender or death.

So from the very beginning, Gu Qing Shan had already made preparations against that.

However, when the wraith landed from above, declaring ‘Both of you are so noisy, just die!’, Gu Qing Shan immediately scrapped all of his previous plans.

“Your grace Ouroboros, please don’t say anything or attack”

He sent his voice to the [Chaos] Serpentes King, then proceeded to shrink and turn into the orange cat.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King was also a sly one, so it immediately retracted all of his white glow back into the orange cat’s body right after it heard that, no longer doing anything.

——the world just happened to become nighttime right at this moment!

The orange cat immediately used [Ghostly Shadow of Night] and borrowed [Spotless Jade] from Adorable to disappear.

Since the cat disappeared, the only ones left in the desert were a wraith and a statue.

[A mere temporary obscurement, you cannot escape] the humanoid statue coldly stated.

It then turned to Red Wraith and continued: [You have three breaths' worth of time to choose between life and death]

Red Wraith broke out into mad laughter, shouting back:

“You’re a mere Apocalypse object and you dare to tell this old man to choose between life and death?”

Red Wraith touched the incision earlier on his neck to extract some heavenly being blood and swiftly drew a talisman in the void of space.

The bloody talisman was instantly activated, turning into light-blue moonlight that coldly illuminated the humanoid statue.

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Moonlight¹]!

The part of the desert being illuminated by moonlight was instantly turned into a block of chilling ice crystal.

Kli kli kli crack—

As the moonlight brightly erupted, the sound of cracking resounded around the statue.

As if something invisible was shattering.

[So it was a remnant of the Samsara, very good, I’ve finally caught one]

Speaking in a low solemn voice, the humanoid statue’s tone carried the intention to kill.

[Envoy]

[The #796 parallel universe had been completely destroyed; no further information found]

[The #1539 and #65 parallel worlds are currently undergoing fusion]

[Discovered Samsara remnant, requesting elimination]

[Repeat, discovered Samsara remnant, requesting immediate elimination!]

While listening, Red Wraith continuously drew bloody Life Talismans into the void of space.

He laughed maniacally: "This world had already been isolated; your information will never get out"

Two talismans were quickly drawn, then activated in unison.

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Four Saint]!

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Palace Offering]!

"Together with [Moonlight], you think three Heavenly Talismans aren't enough to destroy your Apocalypse barrier?"

Red Wraith pointed at the humanoid statue and shouted: "Quick!"

Instantly, the entire desert disappeared without a trace; instead, a different world manifested out of thin air.

This was a tattered and broken palace, under the light of the moon, it appeared completely lonely and devoid of all life.

A magnificent jade palace without a single inhabitant.

The humanoid statue was stuck in the front square in front of the palace, currently situated on top of a bare jade altar.

Around the altar, four large statues depicting the Azure Dragon, the White Tiger, the Vermillion Bird, and the Black Tortoise stood at each cardinal direction, all of which were facing the humanoid statue.

An immense aura radiated from their bodies, almost as if they were alive.

“Life, Death, Turn, and Shift, let fortune decide your fate”

Red Wraith declared with his hands clasped behind his back.

Among the four statues, the White Tiger statue slowly opened its eyes.

The White Tiger Divine Beast statue lowered its gaze to stare directly at the humanoid statue.

Red Wraith shook his head: “The White Tiger governs the Death sentence, for you to catch its gaze, what great fortune you have”

The Divine Beast White Tiger opened its mouth wide and unleashed a golden blast of light, which directly struck the humanoid statue’s body.

—*crack!*

A series of shattering noises resounded.

Under the White Tiger’s gaze, the barrier around the humanoid statue started to crack into pieces.

The barrier that the [Chaos] Serpentes King could not budge after attacking so many times was immediately broken by three of Red Wraith’s Heavenly Talismans!

Following that, cracks also started to spread on the humanoid statue’s body.

—it was also going to be destroyed!

[This level of strength will require the dispatch of an even more powerful Apocalypse...]

The humanoid statue muttered, then suddenly turned into a mass of dark yellow fog that started boiling and surging almost like an intense tidal wave, seemingly nurturing something.

When the orange cat was still observing it, the [Chaos] Serpentes King's voice suddenly sounded by his ears:

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『 Consider whether or not to attack it right now! 』

“Why?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 It is evolving— I did not expect it to carry the power of evolution 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King replied.

“What will happen?”

『 It was originally an Unsolvable Apocalypse, so it would evolve into an Unlivable Apocalypse. That would be very troublesome, there is no guarantee that we would be able to deal with that 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King explained.

The orange cat took one step forward, then paused.

“I am prepared to enter into battle at any moment, but we should be patient for a bit longer— speaking of which, were those three Heavenly Talismans really that powerful? You also attacked that barrier with everything you had, why didn't it break?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King replied: 『 You are incorrect. The Apocalypse barrier only manifested after I attacked, so it was created specifically to guard against my forms of attack. That is the reason why I couldn't break it, not that the wraith was more powerful compared to me 』

“So it was a type of Causality barrier?”

『 Correct 』

While the two of them talked, another change had occurred on the field.

Seeing the humanoid statue turning into yellow fog, Red Wraith's voice became even more enraged:

“You're thinking about evolving in front of me? Dream on!”

Red Wraith touched his blood-soaked finger to his yaksha mask.

Sha—

The yaksha face depicted on the mask instantly disappeared.

The orange cat was shocked.

All the Guise Hexes of the Wraith realm are supposed to be infallible, so what was Red Wraith's Guise Hex?

A cold light reflected off the jade platform, illuminating the boiling yellow fog and preventing it from moving any further.

After the White Tiger statue opened its eyes, the four large Divine Beast statues had gone silent again, but after this Guise Hex was unleashed, the statues began displaying an unknown aura once more.

“Life, Death, Turn, Shift— let us see once again what fortune your future holds” Red Wraith coldly declared.

Among the four statues, the Azure Dragon statue suddenly opened its eyes to gaze upon the plague fog on top of the jade platform.

Red Wraith grinned, declaring: “The Azure Dragon governs over Life, you’re done for”

The Azure Dragon opened its mouth and lightly blew a colorful breath of light—

Hoh!

This colorful light instantly enveloped the yellow fog, which then manifested a gust of intense wind that blew the light away from the altar, landing on the empty dirt outside of the square.

As soon as it landed on the dirt, this light manifested as a small seed, which instantly grew to become a tree large enough for several adults to embrace at once.

—there were no signs suggesting that this tree used to be a type of Apocalypse.

If there were any noticeable signs, it might be the fact that the tree appeared to be a bit more dried-up compared to the surrounding trees.

Tree—

The orange cat blinked, then looked around his vicinity.

Outside of the square, there were numerous trees of every type, all of which formed a forest whose border couldn’t be seen.

Could it be... all of these were things that had been sealed away?

What unimaginable power this is!

The orange cat turned his head towards the destroyed palace.

There wasn't anyone here.

Not even a single sign of life.

Suddenly, his vision shifted.

The palace, the moonlight, the altar, the four Divine Beast statues, the square, the forest, everything disappeared without a trace.

The orange cat found himself returned to the desert.

As well as Red Wraith who had also returned with him.

After being used, Red Wraith's mask returned to how it was earlier, although the form of the wraith depicted on it had become a bit dim.

"I remember... there was someone else"

Red Wraith looked around his surroundings and muttered to himself.

The orange cat sat just a bit away, coldly observing him.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King's voice suddenly sounded in his ears: 『 This is a powerful foe, should we stay, or leave? 』

Right as it asked that, Red Wraith had already reached his hand towards his neck to take some more blood.

— he was clearly attempting to draw another talisman.

The orange cat's gaze became sharp.

Don't be ridiculous, if those talismans were to be used again, how would I deal with them?

"I want to kill him"

Gu Qing Shan told the [Chaos] Serpentes King.

Chapter 1362

Translator: La0o9

Killing intent filled the entire desert.

Red Wraith lowered his head as his killing intent gradually became more profound.

"You think you'll be fine just by hiding yourself?"

Muttering that, his fingers quickly danced across the void of space.

With a small drop of blood, the Life Talisman was completed.

Standing just a bit away, the orange cat's hairs stood on their ends.

『 We don't have enough time to run, if you want to fight then we fight, I'll go first! 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes quickly spoke.

Holy light erupted from its body, forming a sea of light in mid-air.

As soon as it escaped from the orange cat's body, it became visible again.

“You are— the Awaiting Ouroboros?”

Red Wraith was surprised for a split second, then swiftly undid the bloody talisman in front of him to draw another talisman.

The white light illuminated heaven and earth, reflecting upon Red Wraith's body.

Chaos Divine Skill, [Hyaline Slash]!

Clang clang clang clang clang clang—

A long series of clattering noises resounded from Red Wraith's armor.

After being struck continuously, he spat up blood.

“You want to kill me? Then die!”

Red Wraith angrily roared, quickly drawing a bloody talisman in mid-air.

A light-blue glow burst forth from the talisman to receive the illuminating holy light from above.

Oong—

A resounding noise completely unintelligible to humans echoed through the air before converging as a loud explosion.

The orange cat took a few more steps back and quickly pondered his measures.

“Shannu, can those Life Talismans be broken?” he asked.

“I can break them, but the Life Talismans would instantly come into effect as soon as they’re drawn, so unless you can hit the Life Talisman before that moment, you won’t make it in time!” Shannu understood that it was an urgent situation, so she quickly explained.

“That’s difficult, he draws talismans too quickly” Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

“Earth sword, how many Soul Points do you need to kill it?” Shannu asked.

The Earth sword spoke in a heavy voice: 「 I sense that Gu Qing Shan’s Soul Points might not be enough to slay him—- because this body isn’t the wraith’s body, but a different kind of corpse 」

“A different kind of corpse?” Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

「 Indeed, a powerful entity beyond all imaginations had left this corpse after their death, which Red Wraith is currently possessing 」 the Earth sword explained.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Then the only solution is to go against him head-on.

If only I can use the Heaven sword—

Gu Qing Shan turned to his Thought Sea, only to see that the Heaven sword was still sleeping.

“Prepare for combat” Gu Qing Shan declared.

Suddenly, the Chao Yin sword vibrated to let out a 'wu wu' noise.

"Gongzi, wait! Chao Yin said that Red Wraith's Life Talismans didn't use up any vitality? How could he continuously unleash so many powerful Life Talismans without killing anyone?" Shannu asked.

The swords and the orange cat all looked at the middle of the battlefield.

At a distance—

The battle in the desert had entered a dangerous state.

As the two kinds of light reached a stalemate, a sprite of tiny light appeared from within the holy light.

This tiny sprite of light lightly trembled, then abruptly manifested a blinding sun that unleashed a rain shower of scorching flames.

—Chaos Divine Skill, [Cyan Flames]!

All the cold light-blue light was thoroughly burned away.

The Red Wraith didn't panic at all and shouted hysterically: "Nice moves!"

He stopped drawing talismans and instead took out a blood-colored talisman from his Inventory Bag.

"Forward!"

The blood-color talisman was caught by the wind and was instantly burnt into nothingness.

Over a thousand figures of wraiths appeared out of nowhere, swinging their weapons to receive the cyan flames.

They either faced it head-on or crashed straight into the cyan flames to ensure mutual destruction.

Several of the strongest wraith figures stood around Red Wraith, carefully protecting him.

—Wraith Life Talisman, [One Thousand Eight Hundred Wraiths]!

“Laughable Awaiting, you couldn’t even resolve your own matters and you’re trying to interfere with mine? You’re courting death!” Red Wraith shouted out loud.

With over a thousand wraith figures protecting him, Red Wraith once again reached towards his neck to take some blood and began drawing talismans in mid-air.

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice towards the three swords:

“That body’s blood contains a vast amount of vitality, so he doesn’t need to worry about using it up for his talismans”

“Then, how about using [Grand Mountain]?” Shannu suggested.

Gu Qing Shan considered his options: “That won’t do, he’s already in an unconscious state, so [Grand Mountain] will probably do nothing, I need to use swordsmanship— and I need to ensure that he doesn’t get a chance to draw his talismans, ending this battle in an instant”

During that pause, Red Wraith had already finished drawing two bloody talismans.

He looked up towards the endless white light in the sky, shouting: “Come, Awaiting, let us see which of the four Divine Beasts favor you”

The two bloody talismans solidified and scattered.

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Four Saints]!

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Palace Offering]!

The scene of the desert slowly melted away as a palace slowly manifested——

“Oh no, we can’t let him use this technique!” Gu Qing Shan hurriedly sent his voice.

『 I know! 』 the Serpentes King replied.

Ouroboros had also seen these two talismans in action, so it naturally knew how powerful they were.

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It suddenly manifested into a long snake whose body glowed in holy light, the snake then bit its own tail and rapidly spun in a circle.

A holy aria echoed throughout the sky, with numerous unheard entities unleashing their powers one after another, infusing them onto the snake.

——Chaos Divine Skill, [Praise of the Eternal World]!

The melting desert suddenly stopped; the scene of the palace also became stuck, unable to fully manifest.

They were in a stalemate.

The two talismans’ power had gone into a stalemate with the Chaos Divine Skill.

Red Wraith loudly laughed: “Ahahaha, you’re capable, but next...”

He began to draw talismans again.

「 We have to go head-on 」 the Earth sword said.

“We only have one chance to act, he would definitely be able to use a talisman to deal with us the second time” Gu Qing Shan lightly said.

“Understood, gongzi” Shannu replied.

The Chao Yin sword silently listened and remained silent.

——there weren't any other strategies to be thinking about right now.

“Go!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

Instantly, space became blurred as the orange cat vanished where he was standing.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

One of the wraith shadows standing guard behind Red Wraith suddenly disappeared.

It was replaced by a giant black dragon.

The black dragon unleashed a scorching dragon breath.

Red Wraith abruptly turned around and tossed out a talisman, laughing loudly as he did: “I knew there was another one hiding in the shadow, your outcome has been determined”

The talisman manifested an icy jade ring in mid-air, firmly blocking the dragon's breath.

“Go!”

Red Wraith shouted, calling the wraith shadows that were protecting him to charge towards the black dragon.

The wraith shadows and black dragon kept one another busy as both ascended into the sky.

Red Wraith muttered: “Another one?”

As he said so, he had already reached both hands towards his Inventory Bag.

A sword infinitely enlarged itself in front of his eyes, pierced through his forehead, and went through all the way.

At the same time, another sword thrust through the back of his head, exiting at his forehead.

Secret Art, [Swallow Returns].

One of the strongest assassinating sword techniques.

Sha sha!

The yaksha mask was broken, falling into pieces.

Red Wraith lifted his hand in mid-air, clearly the posture to swing some sort of weapon.

—-but there were no weapons in his hand.

“Where... are... my... Blades...?”

Red Wraith moaned confusedly.

Gu Qing Shan was also startled for a split second——

The other party didn't have a weapon!

As a Samsara entity of supreme power, this was completely unbelievable!

However, as this wasn't the time to hesitate, Gu Qing Shan instantly activated his Lightning Thaumaturgy——

[Dreamjolt]!

“Aargh——”

Red Wraith uttered an unwilling scream, but then started trembling without being able to move at all.

Gu Qing Shan let go of the Earth sword, then reached his hand into the air.

The black dragon that was fighting against the wraith shadows suddenly disappeared and turned into an autumn water-clear blue steel sword, then flashed.

The sword directly appeared in Gu Qing Shan's hand, which pierced through the crimson armor before it started vibrating.

A large sword phantom shot forward like a bolt of lightning.

Pfft!!

Red Wraith spat up blood as a large hole was blown open into his body.

He seemed to have escaped [Dreamjolt]'s influence as he laughed maniacally:

“You can’t kill me! This heavenly being’s blood is my talisman’s vitality, as long as the blood doesn’t run dry, I won’t die!”

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

At this time, the Chao Yin sword suddenly vibrated loudly.

Without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan let go of the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and wielded the Chao Yin sword.

Lines of blood-red text appeared on the War God UI:

[The Chao Yin sword requires your Soul Points to perform All Crossing Sea of Bitterness!]

“This time...”

Gu Qing Shan only read the very first line before a thought flashed through his mind.

Chao Yin can control water, could it be—

Gu Qing Shan immediately infused his Soul Points into the sword.

Oong!

The Chao Yin sword loudly vibrated.

A torrent of blood abruptly poured out from the hole in the middle of Red Wraith's body.

All of the blood within this heavenly being's body was sucked completely dry by Chao Yin and left hovering next to Gu Qing Shan.

Red Wraith stood motionlessly in the middle of the desert.

Chapter 1363

Translator: La0o9

The blood continuously flowed out and manifested as a stream of blood in mid-air.

The heavenly being's corpse immediately collapsed.

Red Wraith's soul escaped from the corpse's head and would soon manifest into proper form in mid-air.

Instantly, Gu Qing Shan drew a black scepter from the void of space and stabbed it into the corpse.

The horned skull on top of the scepter exuded a bright red glow.

The Devil King Warden Rod!

Red Wraith's soul uttered a shriek, then instantly retreated into the corpse.

The heavenly being's corpse abruptly opened its eyes and stared at Gu Qing Shan: "Rhode, who exactly are you!?"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

To be able to call my name means that Red Wraith had regained his clarity.

The power of [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit] should have been able to continue for a while before it lost its effect.

Seems like Red Wraith had a certain level of resistance against Life Talismans in general.

“Who do you think I am?”

Gu Qing Shan asked.

Red Wraith reached his hand out to clutch the black scepter: “This power to suppress the soul, it should be the Devil King Warden Rod— you’re the Huang Quan Devil King!”

His gaze appeared complicated.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t answer and simply placed his hand on the heavenly being corpse’s head.

[Soul Reading] activate!

One breath.

Two breaths.

Gu Qing Shan frowned and pulled his hand back.

Red Wraith laughed uncontrollably: “You wanted to use [Soul Reading]? Ahahaha, this heavenly being’s corpse had been wiped of all memories, and I don’t belong to this body. You won’t be able to get any information from me!”

Shannu’s hurried voice told him: “Gongzi, I’m familiar with the Devil King Warden Rod, I can sense that it hasn’t truly suppressed Red Wraith’s soul”

“I know” Gu Qing Shan glanced at the notification in the void of space and replied.

Lines of glowing text had already appeared to inform him of the combat situation:

[Attention, you cannot use the Devil King Warden Rod to erase the other party, as they do not exist as a soul]

If he's not a soul, what is he?

Although I've sucked out the blood from the heavenly being's corpse, Red Wraith doesn't need to rely on drawing talismans in order to attack.

He had already used a talisman from his Inventory Bag to stop my black dragon breath.

Gu Qing Shan's expression remained unchanged as he glanced towards the sky above.

The two worlds were still continuously moving back and forth trying to overtake one another but continued to be stuck in a stalemate.

——the [Chaos] Serpentes King Ouroboros was still fighting against the two Supreme Yin Heavenly Talismans.

Red Wraith noticed Gu Qing Shan's gaze and thought of something.

“Rhode, you can't kill me. Once I die, you won't be a match for Ouroboros!”

Gu Qing Shan replied without changing his expression: “I have a proposition for you, if you accept, I won't kill you”

“What kind of proposition?” Red Wraith asked.

“Tell me everything you know” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith displayed a mocking expression: “You think I’m going to trust you?”

Gu Qing Shan simply said: “I am also a member of the Samsara; I can make a vow to heaven and earth”

Red Wraith was surprised.

When the other party said ‘vow to heaven and earth’, an almost unnoticeable fluctuation could be felt in this world.

This proved that he was truly a member of the Samsara.

“What do you want to know?” Red Wraith asked.

Gu Qing Shan said: “The Saint Spirit world was the strongest world, so why did you want to attack and even destroy it?”

Red Wraith’s gaze moved back and forth between Gu Qing Shan and the sky.

“Rhode, let us each make a vow to heaven and earth to not attack one another for the next short period of time, we need to get rid of the [Chaos] Serpentes King Ouroboros first”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “It is helping me, it’s not my enemy”

Red Wraith replied: “It is an Awaiting of the [Chaos] faction, very soon, you’ll find that its measures are even crueler than what you’ve imagined”

The two bloody talismans in the sky were slowly becoming dim.

“Hurry, Rhode, without my power to reinforce them, the talismans will disappear very soon, at that point, there would be no other ways to get rid of Ouroboros, both you and I will have to die!” Red Wraith said with a panicked tone.

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the sky.

The [Chaos] faction...

Against the Apocalypse, the [Order] faction’s goal was for all living beings to become strong enough to fight with them.

But the [Chaos] faction wanted to destroy all living beings before that, causing the worlds to fall into destruction before the Apocalypse arrives.

This way, no Apocalypse would descend upon destroyed worlds.

As the Awaitings, they would be able to silently hide and silently wait until the age of Apocalypse is over.

Hasn’t everything that the [Chaos] Serpentes King done so far reflected this same goal?

If that’s the case, what the [Chaos] Serpentes King needed to do next was very clear.

As a powerful Awaiting that had just regained all of its power, I’m no match for such an entity.

Then...

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I can only rely on Red Wraith to kill it.

But Red Wraith isn’t under my control, we’re merely trying to form a temporary truce, and I don’t know what other cards he has hidden.

Once the [Chaos] Serpentes King is dead, I would definitely be next on Red Wraith’s hit list.

Regardless, neither of these monsters can die before the other...

Gu Qing Shan’s thoughts quickly ran through, sent his voice to Red Wraith, then suddenly shouted: “Red Wraith, your fate is to perish!”

The Devil King Warden Rod abruptly trembled.

Red Wraith uttered a desperate shriek, his body trembled intensely for a while, then became completely still.

Time slowly passed.

A few dozen seconds later.

In the sky, the two bloody talismans shattered with a tiny noise and disappeared without a trace.

The holy white light was becoming increasingly blinding.

The snake manifested from light flew down, looked at the corpse on the ground, then at Gu Qing Shan.

It spoke with a gentle voice: 『 It is our victory 』

“That’s right, but this isn’t the end. We still need to head to the Saint Spirit world and kill everyone who has been taken over by wraiths” Gu Qing Shan said.

He waved his hands to put the hovering heavenly being blood away, then propped the Devil King Warden Rod on his shoulder.

——the heavenly being’s corpse was still stuck on top of the scepter, completely motionless.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King said: 『 You are correct. After the three worlds have fused together, the source of the virus had already been destroyed, and the entities that remain within the Saint Spirit world must also be destroyed 』

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “Let us go kill those wraiths”

The white light coiled a few times around Gu Qing Shan, then gently spoke: 『 That is incorrect 』

“What is?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King gently answered him: 『 Only killing the wraiths isn't enough, every other type of entity must be eradicated as well 』

“For what reason?”

『 To ensure that the world after fusion would be the same as before: a world of monsters without the ability to reproduce 』

The [Chaos] Serpentes King patiently explained: 『 You and I are both one-of-a-kind unique entities, the monsters I've collected thus far under me were also the same, unique entities without any kin. This way, the world shall continue to not draw the attention of any Apocalypse, we will be able to continue surviving until a favorable turn shows itself 』

“What is this ‘favorable turn’?” Gu Qing Shan pursued the question.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King paused.

『 Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, I actually do not know either, but we would be able to continue surviving, isn't that right? 』 it said.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “As long as we can survive, nothing else matters”

The [Chaos] Serpentes King then said with a hint of a smile: 『 That is indeed the case. This is the only chance of life within the Apocalypse 』

Gu Qing Shan suddenly changed the subject and asked: “There are still many infected creatures in this world, should we eradicate them all as well?”

『 No! Definitely not! A world that had been destroyed and still contains plenty of traces belonging to the Plague Apocalypse, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, ensuring that every other Apocalypse will avoid this place 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King replied.

Gu Qing Shan praised it: “I admire your ability to make such thorough considerations”

The holy light fully descended around Gu Qing Shan, then disappeared without a trace.

...

The Saint Spirit world.

The Frost empire.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King flew above the clouds and continuously unleashed its intense light in every direction.

Like a bolt of lightning, it flew across each county, city, and town of this world at unimaginable speeds.

Chaos Divine Skill, [Hyaline Slash]!

Wherever the Serpentes King went, all the wraiths appeared to be directly erased by the holy light, the same as those infected creatures in the plague world.

It was a surviving Awaiting from the age of Immemorial, a near-undefeatable entity in front of these few wraiths!

The large number of wraiths who took over the people of this world were killed off.

In a few dozen breaths’ worth of time, the [Chaos] Serpentes King had returned in front of Gu Qing Shan.

『 This place had been completely cleaned up; we shall have to move towards the other side of the continent— I can sense the existence of many subjects under the protection of the orthodox Inner Plane Deities 』 the Serpentes King told him.

“So we have to kill them all as well?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Naturally, but you are still weak, I will be responsible for doing this alone 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King replied.

It turned back into a cluster of light, about to shoot into the sky.

“Wait a moment!” Gu Qing Shan called the Serpentes King back.

The cluster of light paused and descended again.

『 What is the matter? 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King asked.

“Just now, the battle between you and that guy wasn’t over, which one of you was actually stronger?” Gu Qing Shan curiously asked.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King replied: 『 It was thanks to you holding him off, otherwise, if he had continued to infuse power into that bloody talisman, I would have had to face the attack of that world-swapping technique 』

“Is that so?”

Gu Qing Shan swung the black scepter in his hand a bit forward.

The heavenly being’s corpse flew out.

“While I still have some luck remaining, I’d like to see that scene again” Gu Qing Shan said.

Before he finished his words, the heavenly being’s corpse suddenly drew two finished talismans and tossed them towards the [Chaos] Serpentes King.

Chapter 1364

Translator: La0o9

“Rhode, you need to give me enough heavenly being’s blood”

“Rhode, it’s very urgent, without the blood, that snake will kill me”

“I can guarantee, as long as I die, you will never be able to obtain the secrets of the Wraith realm regardless of what you do”

—before Gu Qing Shan ‘killed’ Red Wraith, Red Wraith was hastily bargaining with Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice: “I can give you the heavenly being’s blood, but I want you to tell me why you wanted to invade the Saint Spirit world”

Red Wraith roared: “There isn’t time— hurry up and look, that snake is about to destroy my talismans already. Give me the blood, we need to defeat it first!”

“Not until you tell me the reason why you wanted to destroy the Saint Spirit world” Gu Qing Shan calmly replied.

Red Wraith was furious: “You—”

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: “I think you haven’t fully understood the situation. Without the heavenly being’s blood, you will be killed by the [Chaos] Serpentes King, but I won’t”

Red Wraith stayed silent and looked up at the sky.

The two Supreme Yin Heavenly Talismans that gave off a chilling aura were becoming increasingly dimmer.

The holy white light was about to destroy these two talismans.

There really wasn’t enough time left.

Despicable, if this brat hadn't gotten control of the heavenly being's blood...

Red Wraith gritted his teeth: "Rhode, I will only say it once. There is a unique object hidden within the Saint Spirit world, no one knows for sure what it exactly was, but I know that it must be either an object or message left from a person who came from outside the Reality Gate"

"But no one could find that object, not a single person"

"Only by destroying the entire Saint Spirit world would that object appear from its hiding place— as it would not be destroyed together with the world!"

"We need to find it. This is an extremely crucial matter for us!"

"Vow that your words do not contain any lies" Gu Qing Shan said.

He had already pondered about what he just heard.

— could the object that Red Wraith is talking about the same thing that mother and father had hidden in the Roland empire's underground royal treasure vault?

"You want me to vow? Why don't you believe me!?" Red Wraith shouted.

"What a strange question, why should I believe you? Hurry up and vow, then I'll give you the blood" Gu Qing Shan calmly said.

Right at this moment, a resounding heavy noise echoed from above.

The holy light had completely enveloped the sky, the two Supreme Yin Heavenly Talismans were completely destroyed without any trace.

This meant that the [Chaos] serpent would be coming soon.

Just as Gu Qing Shan had said, the [Chaos] Serpentes King would not kill him first, or even kill him at all, it would focus on immediately killing Red Wraith who could no longer draw any talismans.

Having no other choice, Red Wraith quickly made a vow to heaven and earth.

The Laws of reality fluctuated as proof.

The vow had been completed!

A burning sensation suddenly appeared from Gu Qing Shan's wrist.

He released his inner sight to circle his left wrist.

The indigo pattern that depicted a sword and blade crossing with one another had turned into a burning Divine Script, which was the source of the pain.

The entire world receded away from Gu Qing Shan's vision.

As darkness descended, Gu Qing Shan soon found himself standing in the middle of a vast sea of stars once again.

The boundless starlight quickly circled around him.

The world spirit manifested as numerous voices and spoke in unison: 「 You have learnt of the Wraith realm's plans, as well as the truth of the matter 」

「 For the world as a whole, the current circumstances are extremely dangerous 」

「 The world after fusion absolutely cannot fall under the [Chaos] Serpentes King's control, as the methodology of this Awaiting has all but caused the extinct monster world to be destroyed. You cannot allow the new world to also fall into acute self-destruction 」

The Divine Script on Gu Qing Shan's wrist once again shapeshifted into a snake pattern.

「 You must stop the [Chaos] Serpentes King Ouroboros! 」

「 Considering the difference in strength like heaven and earth between the two of you, we do not require that you kill it, but you must ensure that it cannot influence the world's natural flow 」

「 If you can do this, we shall extract the precious world Origin of the Inner Plane from the Laws of the world and gift it to you! 」

Instantly, the sea of stars scattered away, returning everything to how things originally were.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath, then took a small bit of heavenly being's blood from the mass of hovering blood.

He raised the Devil King Warden Rod up high and thrust it downwards with force!

“Argh!” Red Wraith uttered a desperate howl.

The heavenly being's blood flowed along the Devil King Warden Rod to enter the heavenly being's corpse.

Red Wraith instantly faked being dead and remained skewered by the Devil King Warden Rod.

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Right at this moment, the [Chaos] serpent Ouroboros descended from above.

『 It is our victory 』 it declared.

...

Jumping forward in time.

Right as the [Chaos] serpent wanted to move and eradicate the remaining humans of the Saint Spirit world, Gu Qing Shan called it back.

“While I still have some luck remaining, I’d like to see that scene once again”

Saying that, Gu Qing Shan flicked the Devil King Warden Rod forward.

The heavenly being’s corpse was thrown out, then abruptly came back to life and tossed out two talismans.

“Quick!”

Red Wraith shouted.

Without any time to prepare, the [Chaos] Serpentes King stared closely at Gu Qing Shan: 『 Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, how unexpected for you to choose a path of certain death 』

“My apologies, but for living beings as a whole, you are also a path of certain death” Gu Qing Shan replied.

On the other hand, Red Wraith shouted hysterically: “Ahahaha, I was no match for you earlier because I was afflicted by [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit], but now things are different!”

His hands were both soaked in heavenly being’s blood, which he used to swiftly draw talisman after talisman in the void of space.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King instantly unleashed its holy white light to attack the talismans that have yet to be completed.

Whenever they were struck, the talismans would fade into the void of space, then reappeared after a short while.

Both of Red Wraith’s hands had turned into blurred images as he rapidly drew more and more talismans.

In almost a single breath's worth of time, he had already finished drawing a long chain of talismans.

As these talismans became linked with one another, they hovered in place, showing no reaction even as they were struck by the white light.

Red Wraith pulled his hands back and formed a hand seal.

Heavenly Talisman technique: [Moon Chains]!

Instantly, the chain of talismans manifested into crimson chains that coiled around the [Chaos] serpent, trapping it.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King struggled with all its might.

Red Wraith loudly shouted: "[Chaos] serpent, I won't kill you, that would only expend all of my power and ensure our mutual destruction!"

『 I don't believe you 』 the [Chaos] Serpentes King coldly replied.

It gathered all of the white light to manifest a sword of light, preparing to cut the crimson chains apart.

Red Wraith loudly shouted: "Serpentes King, you and I have no grudge against one another, I don't even care about what you want to do! But I want to kill this human called Rhode, my chains are only there to restrain you and ensure that you won't interfere"

The [Chaos] Serpentes King turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Only to see that around Gu Qing Shan, the desert had disappeared without a trace, replaced by another world entirely.

A tattered palace lit by moonlight that seemed to be the Heavenly Palace after it had been destroyed.

Crumbling walls, and not a single person to be seen.

In the main square in front of the palace, Gu Qing Shan was standing on top of a jade platform.

Around the platform, at the four cardinal directions, a statue of the Azure Dragon, the White Tiger, the Vermillion Bird, and the Black Tortoise stood respectively, all of which were facing Gu Qing Shan.

An immense aura radiated from their bodies, almost as if they were alive.

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Four Saint]!

Supreme Yin Heavenly Talisman, [Palace Offering]!

“Rhode, it’s time for your death” Red Wraith spoke in a heavy tone.

Gu Qing Shan curtly smiled at him: “You were begging me for heavenly being’s blood earlier and you’re already trying to kill me now?”

“I’ve been trying to kill you for a long while— not only do you know the secret of our Wraith realm, but you had even tried to chase the wolf towards the tiger, trying to get me to help you kill the [Chaos] Serpentes King— you are not personally powerful, but I’ve felt nothing but a chilling sensation whenever I see you” Red Wraith replied.

At this point, he could finally see his approaching victory.

“Come, Rhode— Life, Death, Turn, or Shift, let us see your fortune” Red Wraith raised his voice.

Gu Qing Shan calmly replied: “No, I suggest that you continue to fight the [Chaos] Serpentes King, or you will die immediately”

A handful of fine black sand appeared in his palm, at the same time, the mass of heavenly being's blood hovering in the air flew towards him and lightly levitated around the fine black sand.

"Care to take a guess what would happen if I put this handful of sand into the heavenly being's blood?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Red Wraith was stunned.

"You... How could you have the Reincarnation Spirit Devouring Sand!?" he shouted in disbelief.

Chapter 1365

Translator: La0o9

In the sky, while the [Chaos] Serpentes King was being trapped by the chains, it stopped struggling temporarily.

—Red Wraith had indeed used the two Heavenly Talismans on Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, which convinced the Serpentes King for now.

When individuals at Red Wraith's and its level clash against one another, they could clearly infer even without fighting that neither party would be able to easily kill the other.

The Serpentes King simply gathered power and prepared to remove the chains while coldly observing how this would play out.

Suddenly, within the world of the tattered and desolate palace, while standing on the jade platform, Dragon King of Atrocity Jail took out a handful of fine black sand.

The black sand and red blood both hovered in mid-air, sticking so close to one another that they could fuse at any moment.

Time slowly passed.

The four Divine Beast statues continued to stand still with their eyes closed.

“Rhode, how did you notice?”

Red Wraith called out.

He was staring with a profoundly dark expression at Gu Qing Shan.

“When you suggested that the two of us won’t attack one another, I had already realized the gist of it”
Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith was shocked and spoke in disbelief: “With just only that?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “You’re clearly much stronger than I am, but you were worried about your own safety more than I was, wouldn’t that be strange to you too?”

Red Wraith refuted: “That was because of the Devil King Warden Rod——”

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: “Stop pretending, I know you weren’t afraid of it at all. I couldn’t be absolutely sure at the time, but then you hurriedly asked for the heavenly being’s blood from me”

Red Wraith continued: “That was because I needed it to fight the [Chaos] Serpentes King”

“No, by that time, I could already confirm that you were actually residing inside this blood” Gu Qing Shan replied.

As if he heard some sort of joke, Red Wraith loudly laughed: “Me? Inside the blood? What do you think I am?”

“A talisman” Gu Qing Shan curtly responded.

Red Wraith's laugh was instantly cut off.

He glared ferociously at Gu Qing Shan with the most twisted expression he had ever seen.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and continued: "You probably don't know, but while you were under the effects of [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit], you once said something"

"What did I say?" Red Wraith questioned.

"This heavenly being's blood is my talisman's vitality, as long as the blood doesn't run dry, I won't die"
Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith froze.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "If you had said 'as long as the blood doesn't run dry, I can continue to use my techniques', that would be correct and would perfectly fit the actual combat situation at the time—— but you said 'as long as the blood doesn't run dry, I won't die'. These two statements carry drastically different meanings"

"With only that statement?" Red Wraith was still unconvinced.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then continued: "A certain lady once told me that the Wraith realm has two Divine Armament: a Heavenly King, and a Wraith"

"Red Wraith, it was also you who told me that you and another individual called Heavenly King were the rulers of the Wraith realm"

"Added onto the fact that the Devil King Warden Rod couldn't take control of you"

"——With the above information, even a pig's brain would be able to infer your true identity"

Gu Qing Shan casually took a single grain of fine sand and put it into the heavenly being's blood.

"AAAARRGGHH!"

Red Wraith instantly howled in pain.

The heavenly being's blood appeared as if boiling, or like it was a sentient being subjected to torture as it writhed madly nonstop.

The Chao Yin sword couldn't bear to watch, so it lightly made a 'wu wu' noise.

The heavenly being's blood instantly returned to normal.

"—See, I was right"

Gu Qing Shan took the grain of black sand out from the blood and casually said.

It was only now that Red Wraith stopped screaming and started breathing heavily.

While still ahead, Gu Qing Shan pointed at the sky: "Red Wraith, we don't have much time to be talking—"

Red Wraith looked up, only to see the [Chaos] Serpentes King slowly manifested a long blade of white light in an attempt to cut the chains apart.

Gu Qing Shan said: "Killing the [Chaos] Serpentes King is probably a bit difficult, I don't expect that you'd be able to do that either, so I hope that you can seal it away tightly"

"I assume that you can at least do that without issues"

Red Wraith stared closely at Gu Qing Shan, then finally spoke after a long while: "You and I will vow right here. If I do this for you, the grudge between us will be resolved, neither of us can actively attack the other party again, furthermore, you must give the heavenly being's blood and my body back to me"

Gu Qing Shan chuckled, then stated: "As witnessed by heaven and earth"

Boom—

A resounding boom of thunder echoed across the sky.

The vow to heaven and earth was made!

This was a unique Law of the Samsara, specifically designed to hold beings of the Samsara responsible for their words. Even after the Samsara had broken, this Law had not been weakened for even a little bit.

Red Wraith's expression loosened a bit.

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Gu Qing Shan then casually said: "To live or to die, that's your choice to make"

The handful of black sand had now completely circled around the mass of heavenly being's blood in mid-air.

With a single thought from Gu Qing Shan, they would instantly infuse themselves into the blood and exert their power.

Red Wraith clenched his teeth and tapped his Inventory Bag.

—if the requirements are only to seal the [Chaos] Serpentes King for him, that is still possible!

Several dozen blood-colored talismans were tossed into the air by Red Wraith.

These talismans flew into the sky, connecting to one another to form a circle that gave off clear moonlight.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King was struggling even more intensely than before, its voice was no longer gentle, instead, it exuded a tone of cruelty and desperation:

『 Wraith, are you planning to commit mutual suicide!?! 』

Red Wraith shook his head: “I can’t kill you; I can only temporarily seal you away for a period of time”

He then formed a hand seal.

——Supreme Yin Divine Skill, [Moon Palace]!

As the fog disappeared, the moonlight illuminated tens of thousands of miles.

Wherever the moonlight passed through, the frigid chill enveloped the desert, causing the entire world to disappear. Magnificent palaces with intricately decorated walls and pillars rose one after another from the ground; faint figures traveled back and forth among the palaces; a stifled heavenly aria resounded from above with numerous unknown flowers fluttering down.

The four Divine Beasts who originally stood around Gu Qing Shan all opened their eyes, then shook their bodies in a lively manner.

Pieces of ancient stone broke off from their bodies.

Under the moonlight, they flew into the sky and surrounded the [Chaos] Serpentes King.

Red Wraith formed another hand seal and shouted:

“Take!”

Instantly, everything disappeared without a trace.

The desert was still the desert, but the moonlight in the sky, the Divine Beasts, the [Chaos] Serpentes King, the palace on the ground, the jade platform, the square, and the forest, everything had disappeared.

Red Wraith explained: "I sealed it away into another world, that will most likely last for a year"

"A year? That's quite impressive, seems like I've troubled you" Gu Qing Shan grinned and replied.

"Give me back my blood, we will say our goodbyes, and it would be best for us to never meet again"

Since neither side was able to attack the other, Red Wraith didn't want to look at Gu Qing Shan for a single moment longer, so he immediately urged him.

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand.

The heavenly being's blood levitated and re-entered the heavenly being's corpse.

"Good. Bye" Red Wraith coldly said.

Just as he was about to leave, Gu Qing Shan suddenly said: "In consideration of how you actually went all out, I'll give you some advice"

Red Wraith stopped.

—-with the vow to heaven and earth, I can simply leave whenever I want, he wouldn't be able to act against me in any way.

There would be no harm in listening to some parting words.

Regardless of whether or not they're true, at least they're information.

“Speak” Red Wraith said.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “You won’t be able to leave this place. There’s nothing outside of this world, only I know how to leave”

“How ridiculous, this is merely three worlds in the process of fusion and are temporarily isolated, how would I not be able to leave? Don’t even try to deceive me!” Red Wraith sarcastically replied.

Gu Qing Shan simply smiled without answering.

Red Wraith was sarcastic, but he indeed continued to remain without leaving.

“Let us start from the beginning—— I actually don’t belong to this reality” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith once again looked at Gu Qing Shan with a probing gaze, then tried asking: “Where did your Reincarnation Spirit Devouring Sand come from?”

——that was the real question he wanted to be answered.

Gu Qing Shan also wanted to know for sure what the Wraith artifact spirit in the Tomb of Myriad Beasts actually was.

But he couldn’t ask directly.

Right now, both sides were trying to measure the other’s depths.

“Why didn’t you ask me which reality I came from, instead of asking where the Reincarnation Spirit Devouring Sand came from?” Gu Qing Shan displayed an intrigued expression.

“Reality? There’s no meaning in asking about your reality— parallel worlds are nothing but a series of illusions with overlapping fate, ensuring that no one would be able to reach the truth of it all— to be frank, even I am not sure whether I’m a true entity or a fake illusion” Red Wraith shook his head.

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at him.

Red Wraith’s Guise Hex mask had already been broken, so his expression now displayed clear loss and confusion.

This was the first time Gu Qing Shan had seen this artifact spirit display such an expression.

Gu Qing Shan suppressed his overflowing thoughts and lightly said: “So you aren’t asking about my background because all space is fake, only the sand in my hand was real”

“That’s right, how did you obtain this sand?” Red Wraith asked.

Chapter 1366

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan put the fine black sand in his hand away.

He didn’t answer the question immediately, but once again looked at Red Wraith.

“What is it?” Red Wraith wasn’t too clear.

Gu Qing Shan quickly seized this bit of time to quickly ponder.

Red Wraith said that parallel worlds are a series of illusions with overlapping fate, this meant the same thing as when the black-spiked crab said that ‘parallel worlds are a masquerade’.

What exactly was being hidden that caused so many parallel worlds to appear?

Who was the one who created these numerous parallel worlds?

Gu Qing Shan silently shook his head.

This matter is too far away from me right now.

“This handful of Reincarnation Spirit Devouring Sand in my hands came from the Wraith realm, you should already know that” Gu Qing Shan suddenly replied.

Red Wraith said: “That is a treasure of the Samsara, you couldn’t have possibly stolen it—— I highly doubt that you had the capabilities to even attempt such a thing”

“Just take a look at how the [Chaos] Serpentes King ended up. It was an opponent I couldn’t have possibly won against, but it was ultimately sealed away as I wanted it to be” Gu Qing Shan replied with a calm expression.

Red Wraith pondered those words.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “I had tried to look for this same treasure on another world, but no matter how many worlds I came in contact with, I could not find something of the same nature, so I was left with no choice but to exhaust my means and take it from your world”

Red Wraith sighed, then couldn’t help but reply: “Naturally, within the space vortex, there exists only a handful of Reincarnation Spirit Devouring Sand—— the will of the Samsara most likely felt it to be too cruel, so it would never allow a second handful of this kind of sand to come into existence”

Gu Qing Shan’s mind quickly turned.

Success!

This was an item from the Wraith realm, not from the great tomb of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, nor from the artifact spirit of the Delimitation Divine Sword within the great tomb!

In other words, that Wraith artifact spirit came from the Wraith realm.

This was the only way to explain why it had this handful of sand.

But that begs the question, why did the Wraith artifact spirit give me this handful of sand?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, Red Wraith sighed and said:

“Rhode, you are unbelievably weak, but your capabilities are unlike anything else I’ve seen during my entire life”

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and signaled for the other party to continue.

Red Wraith appeared confused: “I really cannot understand. You’ve clearly earned the [Chaos] Serpentes King’s trust, why did you have to turn on it?”

“Why couldn’t I?” Gu Qing Shan grinned in reply.

Red Wraith continued: “But it was among the most powerful entities within the space vortex, even with all my strength, I wouldn’t have been able to kill it— but you’ve offended it, it will eventually find you and kill you”

Gu Qing Shan paused for a bit, then replied: “This is a war of beliefs”

“Are you perhaps really an Awaiting from the [Order] faction?” Red Wraith tried asking.

“No, I am a cultivator, but I represent them” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Red Wraith didn’t expect him to answer so readily, so he was surprised.

Can his words be trusted?

Seeing his eyes, Gu Qing Shan suddenly added: “Since we have made a vow to heaven and earth to mutually not harm the other party, I have no reason to deceive you”

Red Wraith pondered: “That is true, but your personal strength is still much too...”

Gu Qing Shan casually took a dark green bow from the void of space and wielded it in his hand.

“A Dreamscape Soul Artifact from the [Chaos] faction” Red Wraith took a deep breath, then took a guess: “You killed an Awaiting from the [Chaos] faction, but in return, you were heavily injured and lost a majority of your strength?”

“You can say that. I did indeed kill someone from the [Chaos] faction very recently— that guy arranged an extremely long scheme through many ages, almost managing to deceive us all and completely destroy [Order]” Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

Red Wraith glanced at the talisman hidden inside his sleeves.

It showed no reaction.

Every word he said was true.

How is that possible!

And yet it was still the truth!

Red Wraith appeared a bit more respectful and asked: “Then your true identity is——”

“No one would be able to investigate my true identity; because our war against [Chaos] had yet to be over. As an entity hidden in the shadows, I carry many things on my shoulders, my identity naturally cannot be revealed” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith slowly calmed down as his expression became relaxed.

The talisman hidden in his other sleeve had just burnt away completely.

— the talisman was destroyed by an overwhelming force, unable to investigate the other party's identity.

“...No wonder you were able to discard the [Chaos] Serpentes King's friendship without even changing your expression”

“No wonder you were able to steal the Reincarnation Spirit Devouring Sand from our Wraith realm”

Red Wraith mumbled in a low voice.

Naturally, I can't completely trust this 'Rhode' either, he could easily be another overwhelmingly powerful entity.

—wielding a Dreamscape Soul Artifact would surely draw the attention of the other Awaitings, the only way to obscure the senses of the other Awaitings from the [Chaos] faction is by treating that bow with a unique method.

The only entities capable of doing this are an especially powerful Awaiting, or an entity even more powerful than an Awaiting.

Regardless of who he was, Red Wraith no longer felt necessary to find out.

This is truly a member of the [Order] faction.

—no wonder he was so tough to deal with!

Seeing his expression, Gu Qing Shan understood that he had finished laying the foundations.

Just as he was about to say something else, a scorching sensation was felt from his wrist.

Instantly, everything in the desert faded away.

Countless stars descended from above.

Gu Qing Shan quickly released his inner sight to coil around his left wrist.

Once again, the indigo pattern on his wrist had manifested into a burning Divine Script.

The sea of stars circled around Gu Qing Shan, speaking in a tone of numerous delighted voices:

「 You have brought this world a completely new life! 」

「 The [Chaos] Serpentes King has been sealed away, the new world shall begin quickly developing and evolving, as well as synchronizing its flow of time with your parallel world 」

「 From now on, the Saint Spirit world would become a world within your space vortex 」

「 ——You shall receive our gift! 」

「 But before that, as the new world will enter completely isolation in order to evolve, you must make the following choice: 」

「 You may remain within the isolated Saint Spirit world until evolution is complete 」

「 Or, you may return to your original world with your companions, when the Saint Spirit world's evolution is complete, we shall invite you here again 」

「 In 5 minutes, the Saint Spirit world shall enter completely isolation 」

「 You must make your decision within 5 minutes! 」

Gu Qing Shan felt heavy.

He originally wanted to use the Awaitings to deceive Red Wraith and clearly discern what happened in the Tomb of Myriad Beasts——

But now, there's no time for that.

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“May I ask if I can choose the companions I wish to take with me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Naturally, but you must receive their consent beforehand 」 the world spirit replied to Gu Qing Shan with its voice manifested from thousands of voices.

“Very well, I’ve decided”

Gu Qing Shan turned to Red Wraith.

“I’ll be leaving now” he curtly said.

“Where are you going?” Red Wraith asked.

Gu Qing Shan grinned, then replied: “I’ve dealt with the Plague Apocalypse and borrowed your power to seal the [Chaos] Serpentes King, why should I remain here?”

Red Wraith couldn’t help but said: “But the [Chaos] Serpentes King is still alive”

Gu Qing Shan coldly responded: “Once I’ve regained a bit of strength, I’ll call upon our Awaitings and eliminate it”

Red Wraith paused, then wisely stayed silent.

—this is the eternal war between the faction of [Chaos] and [Order], it’s best that I don’t get involved with either of these insane extremists.

Gu Qing Shan continued:

“This world is currently undergoing rejuvenation, so it will isolate itself for the next while. Just stay here and rest for the next while, we’ll meet again if fate allows it”

Just as he said that, the ground, the sky, the boundless desert, as well as the world beyond the horizon, everything began to tremble.

— the world was about to evolve!

Red Wraith was naturally able to sense the true situation from this change.

His expression immediately changed.

— *the other party hadn't said a word of lie up to now.*

"Wait!" he called out.

Gu Qing Shan curiously looked at him and signaled for him to continue.

Red Wraith said: "Can you take me out of this world with you?"

"You want to leave?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"That's right. All of my subordinates had been killed by the [Chaos] Serpentes King, our mission here has failed. I must first return to our world" Red Wraith replied.

"I guess it doesn't hurt to take you with me... but aren't you worried that I'll harm you?" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

"There is a vow of heaven and earth between us, neither can attack the other" Red Wraith replied.

"Very well, then prepare yourself" Gu Qing Shan said.

He casually waved his hand.

Both Crow and the duck plushie instantly appeared.

“Let us go” Gu Qing Shan declared.

A vast consciousness descended from above.

Everyone heard tens of thousands of whispering voices by their ears.

“Everyone accept, or I won’t be able to take you with me”

The other three were all moved.

It turns out he was directly communicating with the world spirit in order to be brought outside.

What kind of power is this!?

Red Wraith carefully examined it, discovered that this was truly the world spirit and that it was only using a teleportation technique, so he was assured.

“You... could actually communicate with the world spirit itself. Now I understand why the Awaitings of the [Order] faction had chosen you” Red Wraith commented.

“Let’s not talk about that, we’re leaving” Gu Qing Shan said.

A flash of light flickered and enveloped the four of them.

They disappeared from the Saint Spirit world.

...

Within the space vortex.

Four figures appeared.

Gu Qing Shan, Red Wraith, Crow, and Yu Juan.

Red Wraith took out a communication talisman and was about to say something, but then noticed a certain fact.

He found that his heavenly being's corpse, as well as himself, were slowly scattering into dust.

Red Wraith was extremely confused and turned to Gu Qing Shan: "How did you do this?"

"You're talking about violating the vow to heaven and earth? No, I haven't done anything against you at all, not even now" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Red Wraith's figure then thoroughly scattered into dust and disappeared into the darkness of the void.

His final words were: "I don't..."

Before he could finish, his existence had already been completely erased.

Red Wraith was completely gone.

"You were simply unlucky" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

"Strange, why did that wraith suddenly disappear?" Crow cautiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied:

"He's dead"

“Dead? But why? He seemed quite powerful” Yu Juan commented.

“Because the Saint Spirit world has already become a part of our space vortex, thus becoming a part of our parallel world” Gu Qing Shan explained.

“What does that have to do with anything?” Crow couldn’t understand.

Gu Qing Shan answered full of regrets: “The Saint Spirit world is no longer part of another parallel world, so only one version of the living being that it brought with it could exist within this reality at this very moment in the timeline”

“Then, you mean that wraith was erased by the Three Great Laws of Reality?” Yu Juan asked.

“That’s exactly the case” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He turned to the War God UI.

[True Luck] had only just ended.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the UI:

[You’ve successfully saved the Saint Spirit world and obtained the world spirit’s gift!]

[Please take a moment of your free time to examine the treasures you’ve received]

Chapter 1367

Translator: La0o9

As Gu Qing Shan’s group came out from the Saint Spirit world.

At another location.

The Wraith realm.

Outside of the Wraith Temple.

All of the most powerful wraiths had entered a combat-ready state.

Although they don't know what happened, this was a joint order from all three Wraith Lords, so they understood how serious the situation was.

The three Wraith Lords were in an emergency meeting, discussing the matter that had just occurred.

The atmosphere was tense.

"What exactly happened earlier?" one of the Wraith Lords asked.

"There was an extraordinarily high-authority fluctuation on the Myriad Talismans Array, but despite my continuous investigations, I couldn't find anything" another Wraith Lord replied.

"Indeed, I've even resorted to using Immortal Craft, but still could not find the talisman that caused that fluctuation" the third Wraith Lord affirmed.

They exchanged glances.

"Could it be, sir Wraith Saint had returned?"

"Come, let's go take a look"

"For the sake of sir Wraith Saint's safety, we first need to turn on all defensive formations"

"Let me"

One of the Wraith Lords took out a formation plate and swiftly operated it.

Very quickly, layers upon layers of light flashed before disappearing into the void of space.

All defensive formations had been activated at once.

It was only now that the three Wraith Lords walked deeper into the Wraith Temple and put their hands on a spot in the wall.

A secret passage opened in front of them.

Through the passage, at the very end of the darkness, there was an altar.

On top of this altar was a single hovering crimson talisman.

This talisman was silent and unresponsive, but around it, mirages of the sky, clouds, clusters of palaces, aquatic pavilions, as well as precious and rare species could be seen.

The three Wraith Lords clasped their fists and bowed in unison: "Wraith Saint, sir"

The talisman remained silent as if it had lost its soul and didn't move.

"It seems that he still hasn't returned" one of the Wraith Lords sighed.

Another Wraith Lord seemed confused: "That is strange, if it wasn't the Wraith Saint, then who was it that connected to our Myriad Talismans Array?"

"Could it have been the Heavenly King?"

“It couldn’t have, the Heavenly King doesn’t understand talismans, the Myriad Talismans Array is a part of the Wraith Saint himself. It could have only been the Wraith Saint or another unknown entity”

The three Wraith Lords exchanged confused glances.

Finally, one of the Wraith Lords sighed: “Hah, sir Red Wraith had disappeared for so long without contacting us, I really wonder what had happened to him”

“That’s right, that incident is approaching us, but the sir is still nowhere to be found...”

...

The space vortex.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the woman next to him and the duck plushie.

A mystical fluctuation exuded from their bodies, almost as if something was disappearing from them.

Crow’s body gradually grew taller and more masculine.

The duck plushie’s changes were considerably more drastic, all of its feathers first fell out, then it grew into a goose.

After becoming a goose, it quickly turned into a dog, then continued to change.

——seems like he would be able to return to human form eventually.

Gu Qing Shan felt assured, so he decided to use this time to check what he gained.

Following his thought, lines of glowing text quickly appeared on the War God UI:

[You’ve successfully saved the Saint Spirit world]

[You’ve obtained the gift of the world spirit, please take out your Condemnation Codex]

Gu Qing Shan took the black handbook out as instructed and held it in his hand.

[You've found the truth of the Wraith realm's destruction of the Saint Spirit world and obtained the following reward:]

[Card: Armor of Condemnation]

[You've sealed the Chaos Serpentes King and obtained a unique gift from the world spirit:]

[The Inner Plane's Condemnation Origin power]

[This Origin power is the manifestation of the Condemnation Codex's power. You may directly utilize it to help you gain three Condemnation Cards, or you can use one Condemnation Card as the price to thoroughly activate this Origin power and increase your Condemnation rank]

Gu Qing Shan seriously thought about this, then said: "If I choose to obtain three Cards, then I'd obtain a total of four Cards, including the Armor of Condemnation"

[Indeed] the War God UI replied.

"Then, what would happen if I increase my Condemnation rank?"

[Your Condemnation rank will be promoted from 'Cherub' to 'Angel'; after this promotion, you will also obtain a new Condemnation Card]

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Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant.

If I don't increase my Condemnation rank, I'll obtain a total of four Cards.

If I do increase it, I'll only obtain a single Card.

"What's the benefit of increasing my Condemnation rank?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[You will have to ask your Condemnation Codex for that answer] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan flipped the black handbook open and silently asked the question again.

A line of text quickly appeared on the black handbook:

[After increasing your Condemnation rank, you will obtain a Card of the type you choose, additionally, every Card you obtain from now on will be promoted by one rank]

[Specifically, the Cards you obtain will be promoted from Azure to Lilac]

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit, then said: "I will sacrifice one Condemnation Card as the price to activate the Condemnation Origin power and increase my rank"

[Are you sure?]

"I'm sure"

[Please choose the Condemnation Card you wish to sacrifice]

Gu Qing Shan paused.

At the moment, he had a total of three Cards.

The [Crimson Demon Divine Spear] was currently not with him, [Divine Word: Cleanse] was a highly useful magic Card, and the [Armor of Condemnation] was an armor made specifically for Condemners.

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out to touch the [Armor of Condemnation] Card, then replied: "I choose this Card"

[Your choice has been confirmed, currently releasing his Card's power to activate the Condemnation Origin power to increase your rank]

[In three seconds, your promotion shall be complete]

[3]

[2]

[1]

As the black handbook silently sat in Gu Qing Shan's hand, an invisible force suddenly manifested and entered the handbook.

This Condemnation Codex began to give off violet light.

[Congratulations, your Condemnation rank has been promoted to Angel of Condemnation]

[All of your Cards shall be promoted]

[The Card 'Crimson Demon Divine Spear' is currently not present, promotion temporarily stopped]

[The Card 'Divine Word: Cleanse' is currently being promoted to Lilac grade, please re-examine it in ten minutes]

[You will obtain a new Card, please choose a Card type to receive]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through everything, then said: "I choose my new Card to be a defense armament, it would be best if it's an armor"

The black handbook automatically flipped to the next page to display an empty Card slot.

Lines of descriptions appeared below the Card slot:

[In accordance with your Condemnation rank, you will obtain a new Lilac Card: Angel Wings of Condemnation (armor)]

[Condemnation Origin power is currently manifesting this Card, please re-examine it in ten minutes]

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

Finally, I have a half-decent set of armor.

Furthermore, when the [Crimson Demon Divine Spear] returns, its strength will be further increased.

This is a good thing.

He then noticed something and turned to his side.

Crow was rubbing his flat chest with his hand, so excited that he was trembling.

“Ahahahaha, I’ve turned back!”

While laughing hysterically, he took out what seemed like a communication device and spoke into it:
“Lize, my precious, I want to invite you for a drink tonight”

The medal gave off the scream of a woman, followed by a hurried questioning voice.

“Ahaha, I’m not dead, of course, I’m not dead”

Crow began to explain.

After a short while, he hung up.

“Oi, aren’t we supposed to immediately report to Void City that we’ve returned?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

He looked at Crow, then at Yu Juan.

Yu Juan had also turned back into a human man from the duck plushie, his hand also holding a communication device.

—as expected, Yu Juan is more reliable.

Just as he thought that, Yu Juan quickly spoke: “Yes, yes, tickets for tonight’s concert... WHAT!? There are only VIP tickets left? Are you sure?”

“... How much?”

“Fine, give me one”

After he finished booking his ticket, he put the communication device away, only to notice Gu Qing Shan’s gaze.

Yu Juan said with an embarrassed expression: “I didn’t think that only one hour had passed despite how long we were in there, so there’s enough time for me to return for the concert”

Gu Qing Shan speechlessly took out his communication talisman.

—although I can just use [Fog Realm Descent], it’s probably best to go the official route at a time like this.

“Xiao Die, it’s me, please help me contact the Hitman Guild”

“Hm... A lot had happened... it’s a good thing that we’re still alive, please have the Guild send people to pick us up”

Chapter 1368

Translator: La0o9

Void City.

All the bigshots of the city had gathered at the City Lord’s manor.

Gu Qing Shan, Crow, and Yu Juan were all standing in front of them.

“Then, you’re saying that this was the truth behind the Plague Apocalypse?” the Hitman Guild master asked.

“That is indeed the truth without a doubt. When the three parallel worlds were destroyed, the plague world, extinct monster world, as well as Saint Spirit world had fused with one another to ultimately form a new world” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“After a short while, that world should complete its evolution, at which point you will see it” Yu Juan added.

The bigshots listened, then turned to Crow.

Crow also spoke with a serious expression: “You sealed off that area before as you were afraid that the Apocalypse would spread, but now that a new world is forming instead of an Apocalypse, there is no longer a need to quarantine it— actually, you all can personally confirm the truth of this matter, there’s no need to ask us”

The Bounty Hunter Guild master sighed: “We can certainly confirm it for ourselves, but this is such a big matter that we still need to properly question you about it”

“We’ve already explained it five times, so can we leave now? I have a date” Crow couldn’t help but ask.

“I- I also have a concert that I want to attend” Yu Juan also said.

The bigshots exchanged glances.

A voice resounded from the depths of the City Lord’s manor:

“One last question, were the wraiths truly trying to take over the bodies of the Saint Spirit world’s living beings in that parallel world?”

“Indeed, that was certainly what happened in that parallel world” Gu Qing Shan confirmed.

The other two also nodded.

The bigshots immediately got busy discussing it among themselves.

—-if this was the truth, then this ability of the wraiths would cause massive unease.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

The indigo pattern on his wrist had now turned into a chaotic mess, regardless of how he tried, he still couldn't get a response from it.

The newly-rejuvenated world had sealed itself off.

Most likely, I'll have to wait until the world's evolution is complete before I can contact it again.

There are still plenty of things that I haven't done in that world.

The Saint Spirit world and the Deities of the Inner Plane are surely related somehow, so I need to confirm it properly.

Furthermore, the thing that my mother and father left me still remains in the Saint Spirit world, waiting for me to retrieve.

Just as he was pondering, the door was opened and a group of strong Combatants wearing different uniforms entered.

"Reporting sirs, we have examined the location, there was indeed only a single world in a sealed state, no Apocalypse to be found"

The bigshots all turned their gazes towards Gu Qing Shan.

—-this Hitman managed to discover the wraith's plan in a parallel world, then borrow the power of the wraiths to seal a legendary monster.

The [Chaos] Serpentes King, Ouroboros.

「 Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, can you explain in detail how you were about to achieve everything you did? 」 asked a bigshot with a hidden face.

Gu Qing Shan bowed, then asked: “Could you still be doubting the truth of these matters?”

「 No, I have conducted several investigations, so I do not doubt them, I’m simply curious about how you were about to complete this great feat 」 the bigshot replied.

“My apologies, as this is related to my personal abilities, I cannot expose them” Gu Qing Shan answered.

He took a step back, his figure became obscured by white fog, then gradually disappeared altogether.

——he left.

「 Hmph, what a rude child 」 the hidden bigshot scoffed.

The Hitman Guild master praised him: “He’s very capable and very smart, but more than anything else, he’s cautious. He was afraid that others would find out his measures and depths”

『 I’m curious how those wraiths in our reality would react after they find out about this 』 another bigshot commented.

Everyone fell silent.

The wraith’s plan, the strength of the Saint Spirit world, or the [Chaos] Serpentes King’s existence were all shocking matters that couldn’t be hidden.

Crow suddenly said: “Wait, so we were already allowed to leave?”

His figure flashed and disappeared from the bigshots’ gaze.

Seeing that, Yu Juan also wanted to flee but stopped after being glared at by the head librarian of the Void Library.

The Ominous Demon Tower's master suddenly said: 「 How long has it been since we last saw such a brilliant young one? 」

“What are you planning?” the Hitman Guild master appeared cautious.

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The Ominous Demon tower's master replied: 「 The wraiths' forces are considerable. Your little Hitman Guild won't be able to protect him, so give him to our Ominous Demon Tower 」

“Bullshit, just his contribution in resolving the Plague Apocalypse is more than enough for him to be promoted to Titled Hitman, I'm going to deal with that matter immediately after I return” the Hitman Guild master said.

“Wasn't that fiend an Unsolvable Hitman? Wouldn't it be too fast for him to be promoted straight to Titled rank?” another bigshot asked in surprise.

The Hitman Guild master coldly replied: “After today, do you think anyone would still not know of the name 'Dragon King of Atrocity Jail'?”

That bigshot shook his head: “He's still too weak, despite his achievements, a lot of it could be considered coincidental or fortunate”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

“No, he wasn't simply fortunate”

From deep inside the City Lord's manor, a female voice resounded.

The bigshots all appeared shocked.

Someone tried asking: “Do you mean——”

“This Fear Fiend underwent the examination when he first entered Void City, our equipment extracted a certain Title from him...”

“This Dragon King of Atrocity Jail was the Heir of the Thousand Dragons Ancestor” the female voice explained.

Everyone’s expressions changed.

“So he was the heir of the dragon race, furthermore, one chosen by the Dragon Ancestor himself, then there is nothing to talk about”

「 Indeed, I had thought that the Wraith realm would definitely not let him go; but now, if the wraiths want to touch him, they will probably reconsider 」

“Right, those ones from the dragon race might be in slumber most of the time, but if someone dared to touch the heir chosen by their ancestor, they might all show up at once. Even if only for their reputation, they would still choose to act”

Everyone fell into thought.

...

In a small brick house.

Gu Qing Shan appeared from inside a cloud of white fog.

Xiao Die was currently cooking, so she just told him without turning around: “Come and sit down, the food will be ready soon”

“Let me cook today”

Saying that, Gu Qing Shan found an apron and put it on, then took the pan from Xiao Die.

Xiao Die decided to let him cook.

She stood to one side and said:

“I didn’t think you’d tell the entire truth”

“There’s a very simple truth to this— the ones who committed the wrongdoing were the wraiths, I merely dealt with the Plague Apocalypse, so what do I have to be afraid of?” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“The wraiths will definitely think of a way to save their reputation. After all, while those events did happen in the parallel world, it’s still only a possibility to our reality” Xiao Die said.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I understand, but once the seeds of doubt have been sown, the wraiths would definitely have to lay low for a bit, because there would be numerous Combatants who would keep their eyes on them, either purposely or coincidentally”

“Because of that, they wouldn’t have the courage to try and do anything to you at this point, because once something does happen, it would only prove that they truly harbor such thoughts” Xiao Die concluded.

“Yup, that’s exactly it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xiao Die sighed and said: “You’re much too sly”

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then served the completed dishes onto the table before telling her: “I didn’t have a choice before this, because of how weak I am, there are a lot of things that I could only keep hidden”

Xiao Die evaluated him, then pondered: “Your growth was certainly rapid... wait, the City Lord’s manor just announced your identity as a dragon, this way, the wraiths truly have to make a lot of considerations before they act against you”

“Then the City Lord’s manor is helping me, but for what reason?” Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

Xiao Die displayed an indiscernible expression, then muttered: “I think you’ll find out soon enough”

Just as Gu Qing Shan was about to ask about it, he sensed something.

Lines of glowing text quickly appeared on the War God UI:

[You have brought a completely new and powerful world to the space vortex, strengthening the Laws and total Origin power of the space vortex]

[The numerous Laws of Reality have recognized your actions]

[Your codename is spreading within Void City, numerous worlds and Combatants are learning of your great achievements through various forms of information]

[Congratulations, you have obtained the recognition of both the Laws of Reality and the living beings of many worlds, manifesting as your Title]

[Your Hitman codename: Dragon King of Atrocity Jail have been officially converted into a Title]

Below the War God UI, the [War God Titles] icon began flashing.

A completely new Title had appeared!

[Title: Dragon King of Atrocity Jail]

[Description: You’ve triumphed against the Plague Apocalypse and sealed away the Chaos Serpentes King, saving three worlds that had been immersed in Apocalypse. This is a shocking great achievement that does not sully the War God name]

[Equipping this Title will grant you the unique Title Skill: Warden]

[Warden: While you’re in combat, numerous virtuous living beings within the Void will sense your combat situation, perhaps they will arrive to aid you]

Chapter 1369

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan slowly sighed.

Finally, I've become a Titled Hitman.

The Title Skill [Warden] will be exceptionally useful for many situations, I'll probably use it as much as I can.

He regained his senses, placing all the dishes onto the table, prepared utensils, then sat down with Xiao Die.

Xiao Die tasted each dish, then praised: "Hm, it tastes good, quite a bit better than mine"

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a bottle of liquor, asking her:

"Want some appetizer liquor?"

"—No, we can't drink alcohol today"

Saying that, Xiao Die waved her hand and summoned three cups of fruit juice.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched this.

Xiao Die put one cup in front of Gu Qing Shan and the remaining cup at an empty seat together with a set of utensils.

"I hope that you'll be able to remain calm while you listen to what comes next" Xiao Die said.

Gu Qing Shan quickly realized and asked: "So there's already news for my matter?"

Earlier, Xiao Die had agreed to help him enter the Wraith realm, but with the prerequisites that he must at least be a Titled Combatant.

And now, Gu Qing Shan has achieved that.

He was the heir of the Dragon Ancestor, the eradicator of the Apocalypse, a Hitman everyone knew the Title of: Dragon King of Atrocity Jail.

Xiao Die spoke with a solemn expression: "I assume that the matter in the City Lord's manor will soon finish. Just sit and wait, she'll be here very soon. I also hope that you can remain calm during your discussion with her, as the matter that follows will be exceptionally important"

Suddenly, a female voice sounded from the void of space:

"How fragrant, just when I was hungry too"

A girl appeared from the void of space and leisurely sat on the empty seat.

She took a sip of the fruit juice.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the other party in thought.

"No need to think too much, I'm the one who gave you your codename" the girl nodded to greet him.

She had a pair of gem-like bright emerald eyes that couldn't help but draw one's eyes the more one looked at her.

Long black hair, and a pearly fair complexion.

She was clad in a long green mage robe with white cloud accents, exuding a sense of mystery, nobility, and superiority.

“You are—— the head assistant of the City Lord?”

Gu Qing Shan evaluated her again and asked.

The girl lightly smiled: “Indeed, I am the assistant, because I’m responsible for everything in the City Lord’s manor”

Xiao Die made a stern expression, then said: “No one would be able to intrude my place, nor could they eavesdrop here, so if either of you wants to say something, just be out with it and don’t waste each other’s time”

Gu Qing Shan turned to Xiao Die.

“Just say what you need, I guarantee that she’s trustworthy—— but you must now prove to her that you’re also trustworthy” Xiao Die silently sent her voice.

Gu Qing Shan understood.

The girl on the other side slightly lowered her head and remained silent, seemingly waiting for Gu Qing Shan to talk first.

Gu Qing Shan stood up, prepared a full bowl of rice for the girl, then placed it in front of her.

“This is food that I made—— I hope you’ll be able to enjoy my cooking” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl’s expression moved a bit.

She then recalled that when this fiend came to her for divination, he had said that his desire was to open a diner.

What a strange fiend...

The girl picked up the bowl, tasting each dish once.

Her brows slowly unfurrowed.

“Xiao Die told me that you wanted to enter the Wraith realm” the girl commented.

Gu Qing Shan also picked up his bowl and answered as he ate: “Yes”

“Was the exposed matter of the Saint Spirit world not enough for you?”

The girl looked straight at Gu Qing Shan and curtly said: “Or perhaps, I can help mediate between you, my words at least have the weight to help resolve your grudge with the wraiths”

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“I personally don’t have any grudges with the wraiths, even if there were, I would have already resolved it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl put down her utensils and asked: “Then why did you ask Xiao Die to help you enter the Wraith realm?”

“I simply want to go to their world and finish a certain matter” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“What would that be?” the girl asked.

“Eradicate them all” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Didn’t you say that you don’t have a grudge with them?” the girl asked again.

“No one would hold any grudges towards trash on the ground, but everyone would feel inclined to put the trash where they belong” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl’s lips slowly curled up, once again picking up her utensils, and resumed eating.

She then asked: “When I performed divination for you, you didn’t tell me your true name, was that simply because of your species’ customs?”

Gu Qing Shan paused for a short moment, then said: “My apologies, I’m actually human, my name is Gu Qing Shan”

The girl’s chopsticks abruptly stopped, then only continued to pick up more food after a while.

“Wielder of the Eternal Abyss’ ultimate Soul Artifact, Heaven and Earth; I know you”

“You know me?”

“Indeed, I also know that you cannot possibly stand on the side of the wraiths...”

The girl muttered.

She then took out a piece of white silk and placed it on the table in front of Gu Qing Shan.

There was a single word written on the piece of silk

[Nineteen]

Seeing this piece of silk, Xiao Die showed a leisurely smile.

She had only been listening to their talk, only now did she pick up her utensils and started eating as well.

“This is really good. Gu Qing Shan, if you have some free time, come here and cook more”

She began taking large bites from her food, completely ignoring the other two.

The girl turned to Gu Qing Shan and said: “Take this piece of white silk, it is Proof of Identity”

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

“My servant” the girl continued to explain: “In half a month’s time, I will be leaving for the Wraith realm. With this piece of white silk, you will be considered part of my entourage and allowed entry into the Wraith realm”

“What are you heading into the Wraith realm for?” Gu Qing Shan questioned further.

“I’m getting married” the girl replied.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

The girl’s expression remained completely unchanged as she leisurely continued: “I am the daughter of Void City’s Lord, so I will be getting married to one of the three Wraith Lords as a means of strengthening our bonds”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the piece of silk on the table and asked: “So you’re going to live in the Wraith realm from now on, but also willing to bring me with you, someone with intentions to destroy the Wraith realm?”

The girl explained: “Getting married is fake. The Wraith realm had done many inexcusable things, and I hold an irreconcilable grudge against them. Most of the forces of Void City have been contacted and are silently making their preparations, using this marriage as a springboard to enter the Wraith realm——”

She suddenly stopped.

Looking into her eyes, Gu Qing Shan slowly realized.

“So you also wanted to destroy the Wraith realm?” he asked.

The girl nodded and said: “We have made ample preparations and gathered a large number of experts, gradually completing our plans for the past few years. The only issue lies with how hard it was to enter the Wraith realm, so we finally decided to use my marriage as the official way to enter their world”

Gu Qing Shan pondered: “Why does the Wraith realm want you to marry into their world?”

The girl answered: “I am an expert at divining the link between individuals, as well as between all things and all living beings, they have been craving this ability of mine for a very long time”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “But since you are the daughter of Void City’s Lord, everyone is constantly paying close attention to your actions, they couldn’t continue with their regular arrogant nature and force you to do anything”

“Indeed, that’s why they went to ask my father for permission to marry me” the girl replied.

“Did your father accept their offer?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“My father is dead, I accepted their offer” the girl answered.

After a moment of silence, Gu Qing Shan pushed the piece of white silk back to her.

“I’m sorry, but I can’t accept this piece of silk”

He said.

Chapter 1370

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan pushed the piece of silk back.

The atmosphere suddenly became a bit tenser.

The girl opened her pair of emerald eyes wide open, slowly evaluating Gu Qing Shan.

“Do you not trust Xiao Die, or do you simply don’t trust me?” she asked.

Gu Qing Shan leaned back on his chair, casually took out a bottle of liquor, and poured himself a shot.

He raised his glass to the girl and signaled to her: “The fact that you were willing to tell me so many secrets is due to your trust in Xiao Die and your recognition of me”

The girl didn’t say anything and silently watched him.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “But I don’t trust the organizations within Void City. I believe that if something is known to too many people, there would definitely be issues”

The girl replied: “You worry too much. We’ve always kept a close eye on the wraiths—— every wraith that enters Void City is constantly under extreme scrutiny and monitoring from numerous organizations, there is no way for them to buy off anybody in authority under our monitoring”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “You’ve been in contact with the wraiths for a very long time, but there’s one thing you still don’t understand”

“What would that be?” the girl asked.

“When the wraiths contact you, they’ve always used a cooperative method of mutual benefit. For countless years, the wraiths as you know them have always been how they want you to know them, not their true selves” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Are you saying the wraiths you’ve seen are completely different from the ones we have?” the girl said.

Gu Qing Shan responded: “Before, I was nothing but an insect that they could erase any time they wish, of course, their attitude towards me would be different”

He raised his glass, gulped it down, then placed it back on the table as he leaned forward, asking in a low voice: “Have you ever seen how a wild animal hunts?”

“Gu Qing Shan, what are you trying to say?” the girl asked.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “For an insignificant one like myself, the wraiths simply sent someone to recruit me as a slave— if I refuse, I would simply be killed”

“But when dealing with you, the wraiths applied the art of hunting”

“The wraiths would first observe you, probe you, pretend to pass by, purposely get on your good side, explore your depths, then look for a proper chance. They would not act until they can guarantee a critical strike that would ensure you would be unable to resist them in any way, shape, or form”

The girl pondered his words, then said: “It seems you don’t trust our plan”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I understand how they work— because I would do the exact same when dealing with especially powerful foes— the art of the hunt is nothing but these few simple but effective tricks”

The girl fell silent.

Xiao Die simply focused on eating and gave no input.

The girl thought for a bit more, then asked: “If you were me, what would you do?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “If I were you, I’d first send people into the Wraith realm for pre-marital preparations and connections, then use that chance for probing the wraiths’ depths and eliminate them”

“Meaning I would remain at the backline?” the girl asked.

“Correct” Gu Qing Shan confirmed.

“You can’t make an omelette without breaking a few eggs” the girl shook her head.

“Make sure what you’re breaking are the eggs, not your bowl” Gu Qing Shan refuted.

“The only way to ensure something is done well is to do it yourself” the girl snapped back.

“The first thing to be gone when fishing is the live worm bait” Gu Qing Shan dismissed her.

The girl slammed the table and glared straight at him: “Are you saying I’m just a worm?”

Gu Qing Shan avoided that subject and patiently explained: “The wraiths’ target is you, so if you actually went on this trip, there’s no telling what they would resort to; but if you don’t, they wouldn’t be able to achieve their goal, having no choice but to wait for another chance without revealing their true colors”

The girl stared closely at him, then said: “I know that the wielder of the twin swords Heaven and Earth was a sword cultivator”

“I am a sword cultivator” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

“A sword cultivator should be one who isn’t afraid of death, always willing to lead in a battle and clash with the enemies, so why do you value your life so much?” the girl asked.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression turned a bit grim as if recalling something.

After a moment of silence, he answered with a hoarse voice: “Everyone only gets one life, when it’s not necessary, there is no need to risk it”

The girl stood up and paced around the room.

After a while, she suddenly stopped and resolutely affirmed to him: “We of Void City had been scheming and preparing for so many years, waiting for this exact moment. The arrow has already been knocked, there’s no longer an option to not fire, in short, it’s impossible to change the plan simply because of your words”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I agree, but I hope that you can give me a different identity— one that no one except you would know about”

The girl shook her head: “Those who travel with me to the Wraith realm are the guards and servants of my personal entourage as well as bigshots of Void City, each of them individually named and selected, how could there be an identity like the one you mentioned!”

Gu Qing Shan stood up and walked in front of her, whispering: “You cannot underestimate the wraiths for even a little bit when facing them, there is surely a secret behind them, one so great that no one even knows about— I hope that you would be able to help me create an identity that no one knows about, consider it preparation for your own sake”

“For my own sake...” the girl muttered.

Gu Qing Shan took out a black leather handbook from the void of space and flipped it open.

He took a Card out from the handbook and muttered: “By my Condemnation name, grant this power”

The Card suddenly glowed.

Gu Qing Shan handed her the Card and explained: “I’m not an assistant who will take a passive stance either. Take this Card and use it on your servant entourage, see for yourself how well it works”

The girl took the Card and carefully looked at it.

The Card depicted a group of people wearing tattered clothing and surrounded by withering dry mist, they were all kneeling on their knees, devoutly praying. Above them in the sky, a man with a pair of wings made of light looked at them with pity as he exuded brilliant white light.

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The girl was knowledgeable, so she quickly exclaimed in surprise: “This is an Inner Plane Card! I can sense its power... there’s definitely no mistake, this is an extremely powerful purification technique!”

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

After the Card [Divine Word: Cleanse] was promoted to Lilac grade, it became a new Card——

[Divine Word: Thwart]

[By activating this Card, you would be able to eradicate all restraining abilities upon any living beings or Deities, including any substances or other living creatures]

[Note: Can be used against multiple targets, eradicate all restraining powers at once]

After being promoted to [Angel of Condemnation], not only did Gu Qing Shan’s Cards become promoted, but he also gained the ability to grant his ability for others to use.

“Take this Card and use it against everyone in your guard and servant group, you’ll be able to remove everyone who is being controlled” Gu Qing Shan explained.

“What is the incantation?” the girl asked.

Gu Qing Shan said: “All things live and die in the fleeting moment, with my power of Condemnation, all wicked machinations upon you shall be eradicated”

The girl took a careful looked at him, then replied: “Condemnation Cards are Cards of the highest level. If you wield such power, I will think of a way to give you the identity you wanted”

“It’s best if you can follow my advice and not go to the Wraith realm at all, just remain in Void City and take command” Gu Qing Shan suggested again.

The girl shook her head: “That matter has already been decided, it can’t be changed— I will try this Card out first”

Leaving those words, she disappeared.

Only Gu Qing Shan and Xiao Die remained in the room.

“How hotheaded...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered, then sat back on his chair and poured himself another shot.

Xiao Die immediately took the glass away, telling him sternly: “Don’t drink, this is a very crucial moment”

Gu Qing Shan begrudgingly stopped.

“How many manipulated guards do you think she can catch using that Card of yours?”

Xiao Die asked as she drank the entire shot of liquor at once

“All of them” Gu Qing Shan.

“Pfft—!”

Xiao Die spat out all the liquor in her mouth on Gu Qing Shan’s mouth.

“Ah, I’m sorry”

“It’s fine, it’s nothing”

Gu Qing Shan formed a hand seal and removed all the liquor on his face.

“Are you that pessimistic?” Xiao Die asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “This isn’t pessimism, the fight for survival had always been this cruel and malicious, the wraiths would only begin such an operation once they’ve held the absolute advantage”

“Since the wraiths have openly mentioned this Void City Lord’s daughter marriage, they surely must have made all the necessary preparations”

“What if someone lucky manages to pass?” Xiao Die asked.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: “Luck is a different matter entirely, that’s not part of our discussion”

The two of them paused.

The girl from before reappeared, no longer holding the Card in her hand.

Her complexion was a bit pale.

Xiao Die asked right away: “How was it?”

The girl answered: “As soon as the purification technique was used, every guard chosen to come with me to the Wraith realm dropped dead, all the guards who were not chosen remained alive”

Xiao Die glanced at Gu Qing Shan with a slight smile.

Gu Qing Shan didn't show anything on his expression and simply said: "That's why I suggested that you don't go—— as long as you remain here, the operation would not begin, victory and defeat would remain a mystery"

"I can't hide what happened just now, the situation would only become even more urgent, Gu Qing Shan, follow me"

The girl caught Gu Qing Shan's hand and vanished with him.

The room went back to silence.

——only Xiao Die remained.

After sitting still for a while, Xiao Die silently lowered her hand.

Her son suddenly appeared and yawned: "Mama, my concealing technique has been rescinded"

Xiao Die nodded and muttered to herself: "Just like that, he coaxed a girl..."

Her son said: "I want to correct you, the girl who just got coaxed was the strongest girl in the city"

Xiao Die turned to her son.

Her son immediately realized what he said and quickly smiled: "Mama, you're really strong as well, but you're a widow, your level is higher"