

Apocalypse 1371

Chapter 1371

Translator: La0o9

The City Lord's manor.

Gu Qing Shan and the girl appeared inside a hidden room.

"Gu Qing Shan, the urgent matter right now is that over a hundred of the City Lord manor's guards and servants have just died all at once. Such a huge matter would definitely be discovered, and numerous forces in the city are surely asking for an explanation right as we speak" the girl said.

"Were they all killed by the Card I gave you earlier?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"That is indeed the case. I still have a way to gloss this over, but that would cause everyone's hearts and beliefs to waver, so I want to know if you have any other solutions" the girl replied.

"I do"

Gu Qing Shan took out his black handbook and casually said: "Remember, as soon as they've all gathered, immediately use the first Card I give you"

...

A minute later.

The City Lord manor's conference room.

All the big shots in the city were gathered here.

—after all, this was an incident that occurred in the City Lord's manor at an extremely sensitive time, everyone wanted to know the truth of the matter.

The girl looked over all the big shots sitting at the scene and gave her explanation.

“As everyone here surely knows, I’ve just used a technique to locate spies among us and eliminated quite a few guards”

“...And so, please prepare yourselves”

She raised a Card and whispered the incantation right away: “All things live and die in the fleeting moment, with my power of Condemnation, all wicked machinations upon you shall be eradicated”

A holy glow illuminated the entire room.

Every bigshot in the conference room was completely safe while bathing in the light.

No one died.

The girl sighed in relief and announced: “Very well, at least no one here talking had fallen under manipulation”

“Does this discerning technique of yours truly work?” someone couldn’t help but ask.

“It does work, this has been confirmed”

The girl took out another copy of the same Card and said: “Although everyone here has been confirmed to be safe, there are no guarantees that your subordinates would be the same, so I want to examine them—— keep in mind, every member who had been chosen to enter the Wraith realm must undergo this check”

The big shots exchanged glances.

「 My apologies, can I take a look at that Card? 」

A middle-aged man in a bowler hat asked.

The Card slowly levitated towards him.

“How was it, troupe leader?” the girl asked.

「 Ah, this certainly is a purification Card from the Inner Plane, a relatively high-level one as well, I believe we can try it once 」 the man called ‘troupe leader’ agreed.

He handed the Card to the person next to him.

All the big shots examined the Card once.

Although they weren’t Card experts, they could naturally sense that this Card was meant for discerning thanks to their level of strength.

—-that was enough for them to make the call.

「 There is no harm in being cautious; since the troupe leader of the Card Hunting Troupe has confirmed it, I think we should indeed conduct an examination 」 a tree spirit said.

“Indeed, we are powerful enough that there should be no issues with us, but those below could certainly be easily manipulated” the Hitman Guild master affirmed.

「 I agree 」 the Ominous Demon Tower master also said.

“A short check would make us more assured”

“Summon all the subordinates”

The big shots all agreed one after another.

Very quickly, the members chosen to enter the Wraith realm from every organization were summoned to the City Lord’s manor.

In front of everyone, the girl raised the Card up high and whispered: "All things live and die in the fleeting moment, with my power of Condemnation, all wicked machinations upon you shall be eradicated"

A holy white glow appeared.

A group among them immediately howled in pain as a shadow was expelled from their bodies and took flight, attempting to flee.

But under the illuminating light, they quickly melted and faded away like snow under the sun.

The big shots all looked at this with terrible expressions.

Never did they think that so many of their subordinates would fall under control even before they made it to the Wraith realm.

If they had gone to the Wraith realm like this, they wouldn't even know how they died.

Fortunately, the City Lord's manor managed to act in time and resolve this big issue.

The girl waved her hand to dismiss the subordinates from the various organizations.

The big shots returned to the conference.

"Then, should we cancel the plan?" one of the big shots asked.

"No, this entire matter had been conducted in secret, I don't intend to make it come to light, the plan will commence as normal"

Another bigshot said: 『 Wouldn't these people's deaths cause the wraiths to be cautious? 』

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Someone else shook their head: "Our true plan was only known to everyone sitting here, it wouldn't have been until hour zero that our subordinates received their orders"

The Hitman Guild master affirmed them: "Indeed, that was certainly the plan, so in theory, the wraiths do not know of our true intentions even now"

An old man carrying a Blade on his back spoke: 『 The deaths of these people would also serve as a threat to the wraiths, warning them not to make any suspicious moves 』

「 That is indeed the case, after this examination, we've managed to filter out every spy, the plan will have an even better chance of success 」 the Card Hunting Troupe leader also agreed.

He then changed the subject, asking in a seemingly casual manner: 「 However, this Card had truly been a great asset, who exactly was the owner of this Inner Plane Card? 」

Everyone remained silent.

The girl grinned and said: "It's a secret"

「 Even to us? 」 the Card Hunting Troupe leader asked.

"Of course, his safety will directly decide whether or not our hands are clean, I need to protect his identity"

"That is true" someone agreed.

"Indeed, such a rare ability certainly needs to be well-protected"

This subject was then glossed over.

Very quickly, the big shots once again reached a consensus to re-select the suitable people after getting rid of all the spies, swiftly making preparations for the plan.

...

The girl returned to the secret room.

“Everything has been resolved, it’s fortunate that I had you”

She looked closely at Gu Qing Shan and said.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “What exactly happened?”

The girl then carefully explained the entire process.

Gu Qing Shan listened carefully, occasionally even asking questions. It wasn’t until half an hour later that they fully got this matter over with.

“What do you intend to do from now on?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The girl said: “According to the plan, I will personally make my way to the Wraith realm”

“You can’t go” Gu Qing Shan said again.

The girl paused a bit, then replied: “In truth, even with spies among us, I would still have nothing to fear because I’m still personally strong, not to mention the big shots of Void City, we have the power to directly declare war on the Wraith realm, the only reason why we chose an ambush was to take the initiative”

Gu Qing Shan slowly said: “But you still can’t go”

The girl's beautiful eyebrows furrowed, then slowly smoothed again.

"Gu Qing Shan, why do you think that I still can't go?" she held back her temper and asked.

"Because the wraiths seem to need you for something, and my Card can only check those who are under their control, not those who have silently defected to the wraith's side" Gu Qing Shan replied.

As the girl wanted to refute him, Gu Qing Shan put his hand up to stop her.

"In reality, among the two Cards I gave you earlier, one was real, and one was fake"

He explained.

The girl was surprised and asked: "One was real and once was fake?"

"The Card you used against the big shots was fake; the one you used against their subordinates was real"

"Why was that necessary?"

"Firstly, to prove that it was indeed you investigating the spies among your ranks that caused the death of the City Lord manor's guards"

"Secondly, to prove that there were spies among each organization, as well as eradicate them all"

"Thirdly, to ensure that everyone understood that there wasn't an issue with any of the big shots. Not only would this ease everyone's minds, but it would also cause the wraith defectors among the big shots to believe that the Card wouldn't be able to discern those who are too powerful. Once they've shown their true colors, they will have thoroughly lost their values and I would still be able to kill them with my Card"

"Fourthly, since you've just eliminated every spy among you, your organization would become a lot more tight-knit, you would naturally follow the original plan, while the wraiths who had received information would make the appropriate adjustments to wait for you"

"—And so, the true battle had only just begun"

The girl was stunned when she heard his explanation.

No wonder he told me to immediately use the first Card...

And here I thought both of them were real.

However, thanks to that, my gaze, attitude, and language were all without issues...

This guy deceived even me for the sake of this plan.

But the results were unexpectedly great as well.

After a lot of thinking, she finally spoke up: "With me at the backline, would the wraiths not attempt anything against those who enter their world?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "No, the situation has changed— what I want to do now is to lure them into using their countermeasures against your plans, only then would we be able to clearly see the wraith's strength and weaknesses, which would also make it easier for me to work in the shadows"

"But you're insisting that I don't leave" the girl said.

Gu Qing Shan observed her from top to bottom, clearly examining her closely.

Being looked at like that, the girl was angry, then thought for a bit and said: "Wait, you mean that you want someone else to disguise as me and enter the Wraith realm, while I remain here in Void City to control the entire operation?"


Gu Qing Shan nodded and slowly said: "A secret plan, a sudden ambush, and the general isn't in danger, such is the recipe for an infallible plan"

"But who would be able to act as my doppelganger? You?" the girl asked with intrigue.

"I can't do it, because I have other things I need to do, but I do have a suitable candidate" Gu Qing Shan replied.

“If they’re not strong, acting like me would only mean their death” the girl said.

“Don’t worry, he’s a Titled Hitman” Gu Qing Shan assured her.

Chapter 1372 

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Chapter 1372

Translator: La0o9

In the secret room.

“A Titled Hitman? Which one?” the girl asked.

“Crow” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl thought for a bit, recalling Crow’s appearance.

This man is extremely pretty, he could indeed work as my doppelganger without issues!

“He... can he be trusted?” the girl asked.

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: “I think he’s trustworthy, but for the sake of safety, I’ll use [Divine Word] on him”

“That’s good, then do you have confidence in convincing him to become my doppelganger?” the girl then asked.

“I can’t guarantee anything, so please wait here while I ask him” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl scowled: “It’s best that you act as soon as possible because there’s not much time until we need to set off. My doppelganger would have to quickly study my manner of speech, movements, gestures, expressions, as well as speech habits— he must get completely used to a feminine lifestyle”

Gu Qing Shan paused a bit, muttering: “If it’s as you said, I think convincing will be...”

“Very hard?” the girl asked.

“No, I think it’ll be much easier...”

Saying so, a mass of fog appeared behind Gu Qing Shan.

He went into the white fog and disappeared without a trace.

A moment later.

He directly appeared inside the Hitman Guild main lobby.

“Your grace Dragon King of Atrocity Jail!”

“You’ve returned!”

The staff members greeted him one after another.

“Ah, I have. I want to know, is Crow currently in the Guild?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“He did return earlier, but he immediately left for a bar right after changing his clothes” a staff member answered.

“Do you know which bar he went to?”

“I’m not sure—— your grace, this is your Titled Hitman medal”

“Ah, thank you, I’ll go find him myself then”

Gu Qing Shan received the medal and directly disappeared.

...

In order to prevent their guests from causing a commotion, the bars of Void City were usually equipped with both defensive and obscuring measures.

So Gu Qing Shan’s inner sight couldn’t be used to search, he had no choice but to go to each bar by himself.

As he just left a bar, he sensed something.

A simple bracelet made of bones was taken from his Inventory Bag.

——this was an item from the Wraith realm, specifically, a gift from Zhao Qiong.

A female voice sounded from the bracelet:

“Gu Qing Shan, can you hear me?”

This was Shan Hai Qi Xia, the only human who had managed to escape from having their soul swapped within the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, as well as their representative.

“I can hear you; did something happen on your side?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Nothing has actually happened yet...” Shan Hai Qi Xia’s voice appeared a bit hesitant.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything and silently waited.

Sure enough, Shan Hai Qi Xia quickly explained: "As we practiced the inheritances that you brought from the great tomb, and because the Tomb of Myriad Beasts was originally a world fused from 99% of the Beast King realm's fragments, all of us quickly gained strength, the Tomb of Myriad Beasts as a whole is rapidly growing stronger—— but all of us learnt to restrain ourselves, so the outside world doesn't know of the real situation here"

"And so?" Gu Qing Shan quickly cut in.

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: "Although we are all becoming stronger, the only person whose spirit sense had actually been greatly explored was me alone, and I feel... increasingly uneasy"

Gu Qing Shan paused.

Shan Hai Qi Xia is a highly capable person with ample capabilities to make her own decisions, otherwise, she wouldn't have been able to lead the Tomb of Myriad Beasts for so many years without being taken over.

If it was some mundane matter, she wouldn't have been in so much of a hurry to inform me.

Gu Qing Shan pondered briefly, then told her: "The great tomb is right above your heads, and it's still hiding numerous Apocalypses. Despite it being suppressed, it still remains a great threat, you'd definitely still feel uneasy from it"

Shan Hai Qi Xia replied: "This isn't about the great tomb. During deep meditation, I was able to sense numerous unusual entities, they also seemed to be uneasily waiting for something—— I think that something is definitely going to happen, something in the near future"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Were you able to sense what kind of thing it generally was?"

"I'm unsure, I think it's related to the inheritance, it was filled with the scent of blood and fire" Shan Hai Qi Xia's voice became a bit blank: "...It feels like a war, it's calling upon us"

A certain thought flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

He lowered his voice a bit and whispered: "I understand. You will need to become even more cautious than before. In case you discover anything inappropriate, you all need to immediately evacuate from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts, your lives are more important than revenge, it's best to avoid the calamity before anything else"

"I understand" Shan Hai Qi Xia replied.

"Contact me whenever necessary"

"Got it"

Their communication ceased.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit more.

"...The Samsara Clash for Supremacy..." he muttered as his figure disappeared.

A minute later.

He finally found Crow.

Unexpectedly, Crow wasn't sitting in the bar, instead, he laid outside in a secluded corner, holding nothing but a bottle of liquor and slowly drowning himself in it.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down in front of Crow and asked in surprise: "What happened to you?"

“I was originally going to get married to my girl, our ceremony had already been prepared” Crow replied in a despondent voice.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him, then slowly understood.

“When we lost contact at the Saint Spirit world, everyone thought that we were dead, so your fiancée also assumed that you were also dead?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

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“That’s right, she ran away with another guy” Crow replied.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged, asking in confusion: “Can’t you just explain things and steal her back?”

Crow chuckled bitterly, then began pouring liquor directly from the bottle into his mouth.

Gu Qing Shan watched his expression and muttered: “So it’s not that simple huh?”

Bam!

The door of the opposite bar was slammed open.

Several dead drunk men came out, each with a woman in their embrace.

Seeing Crow, they laughed: “Ahahaha, a previous Titled Hitman, now you’ve lost all your powers, a complete piece of garbage!”

A particularly burly man pushed the woman in his embrace forward, calling out: “Lize, say your goodbyes to this piece of garbage”

The woman appeared empathetic and said: “Crow, I hope you’ll live well from now on”

Right after saying that, she immediately went back into the burly man's embrace.

Gu Qing Shan tilted his head.

This was a gesture that he very rarely did, but he really didn't understand the current situation at all.

"What happened?" he sent his voice to Crow.

"Nothing much" Crow dejectedly sent his voice in return, "I was just joking around, telling her that I was heavily injured during the battle and lost most of my power, then... I was beaten up by those people who eavesdropped on us. After that, she suddenly joined them as well"

After that explanation, he took another big gulp of liquor.

"You didn't fight back?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I didn't—— I've recently felt signs of breaking through, lingering right at the border, so I used a Secret Art to suppress it, normal people wouldn't be able to notice—— so I can't arbitrarily act either, that could easily cause a lot of collateral damage" Crow replied.

Gu Qing Shan now understood.

"Did it hurt?" he curiously asked.

Crow gave him a sidelong glance, replying: "Their fists felt as soft as plush pillows"

"How does it feel to be betrayed by your girl?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

“I was probably too much of a playboy before, so it’s my turn to get a taste of this feeling. I really must say, at very rare occasions, fate is truly fair”

After saying that, Crow continued pouring liquor down his throat.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the other group and their ignorant triumph.

“Listen, I got a mission here, rather than mopping here with alcohol, how about you join me?” Gu Qing Shan suggested.

“My heart is bleeding; I need some time to ease this pain” Crow replied.

“How about I sing you a song to cheer you up?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“A song is probably not going to do anything” Crow sighed.

“I’ll take you to see the City Lord’s daughter, she’s even more beautiful than you are” Gu Qing Shan suggested.

Crow’s ears perked up.

——the Avian race couldn’t stop their ears from moving whenever they felt excited.

Crow sighed and shook his head: “Hah, let’s not, I prepared for this wedding for an entire year, how sad”

“Ah, I don’t really understand something like that—— but this is truly an important moment of a person’s life, I can understand your sadness” Gu Qing Shan consoled him.

“Can’t you say anything useful for once? How are those empty words supposed to ease my heart?” Crow glared with his pretty eyes.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then clapped his hand: "Just look, how beautiful this world is"

"How so?" Crow glanced at him.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the group of men and women up ahead, explaining: "In this age of Apocalypse, those powerful men even have the heart to care about those girls, volunteering to keep them safe; those girls were also very considerate, actively leaving you right as they know you've become crippled in order to not draw any trouble to you"

Crow was speechless for a while before muttering: "I'm moved"

"That's why, let's go and see the City Lord's daughter, I guarantee that you've never seen a more beautiful girl ever before" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Wait a minute, what are we going to meet her for?" Crow asked with a stern expression.

"I'm thinking of making you disguise as her to take on a few kidnappings and assassinations; in short, you'll be playing the part of an extremely beautiful and authoritative woman" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"And the pay?" Crow asked.

"She's the true leader of Void City, just demand whatever kind of payment you need from her" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow scoffed: "It's a really tough job to act like a woman, any normal people wouldn't be able to do it, so my fees aren't going to be cheap"

Gu Qing Shan silently glanced at Crow's hand.

——the pinky finger of his hand that was originally holding the liquor bottle had subconsciously lifted up.

Gu Qing Shan and Crow both stood up.

“So what do you plan on asking as payment?” Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

“My 100th wedding was cancelled—— this is nothing short of the greatest humiliation I’ve ever received, so I want a person of nobility like her to host my 100th wedding and make up for my failure at this moment” Crow answered.

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at him, then repeated:

“100th?”

“That’s right” Crow confirmed.

“——Where’s your previous wife?”

“Our relationship broke apart”

“What kind of relationships break that fast!?”

Crow sighed: “They all just wanted me for my peerless strength and beauty at my peak, none of them cared about my heart”

Gu Qing Shan was speechless for a while.

“Crow”

“What?”

“Next time you get married, please don’t tell me about it”

Chapter 1373

Translator: La0o9

Disguising as the City Lord’s daughter and heading into the Wraith realm, what an exciting prospect that is.

Not to mention an abundance of rewards.

This is a deal that I can’t refuse!

“Then, to make one last thing clear, I won’t really be getting married to some wraith?” Crow continued sending his voice.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: “Of course, that person— erm, the City Lord’s daughter said that your disguising technique can be dispelled any time you wish; I trust that after it had been undone, no wraith would still want to marry you”

Both of them fell silent.

Crow reached his hand to stroke his face and said with concern: “If a female wraith were to take a liking to me...”

“Hm, that will be a huge issue” Gu Qing Shan agreed.

“All in all, this is a very dangerous matter, we need to go see her and discuss this more carefully” Gu Qing Shan continued.

“Hm, let’s go” Crow replied.

At this point, the men from before brought their women back towards them.

“I just remembered, although you’ve lost all your powers, you have definitely accumulated quite a bit of wealth over the years” one of them commented.

Crow replied: "That's right, I'm very rich"

"You can simply retire and live out the rest of your life in Void City" another one of them added.

"That's true" Crow also agreed.

The men exchanged glances, slowly grinning.

A gust of wind blew through the air.

All of them suddenly became headless bodies.

The woman screamed in panic and fled back into the bar.

Crow looked at the corpses on the ground, then at Gu Qing Shan.

"I'm moved, but killing them would just lower our status" Crow said.

"I just happened to check the wanted list earlier, they were slave traffickers" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"In this apocalyptic era, manpower and physical labor are still required everywhere, their existence in Void City was also thanks to the tacit agreement of the bigshots y'know" Crow told him.

"Crow, I've never liked to kill, unless there's a proper reason" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow paused, then said with a solemn tone: "Dragon King, you're now a Titled class Hitman, it should cost a lot to make you act even a single time, these small fries aren't even worth you moving a pinky finger"

"All meetings are predestined; a missed opportunity is a regretful occasion" Gu Qing Shan answered.

He took out his Hitman medal and spoke a few words.

Very quickly, a man and a woman flew in from afar, both staff members of the Hitman Guild.

One of them was the girl who acted as Gu Qing Shan's receptionist, Qin.

"Your grace, Dragon King. How may we help you?" she smiled and said.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the ground and said: "I just got promoted to Titled Hitman today, so turn these slave traffickers in for their bounty and get a round of drinks for everyone, my treat"

The two staff members' eyes practically glowed as they heard that.

The male staff member said: "Dragon King sir, you truly are—"

"Generous" Qin praised.

While they were smiling, they took care of the scene swiftly and professionally.

Crow shook his head and sighed: "Those guys definitely still have companions who'll come to you looking for trouble..."

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Even after getting beat up, you're still making predictions for them?"

Crow snapped out it up and quickly changed his words, following up on his previous statements: "But some of them truly are pathetically weak"

A moment later, some of the girls who fled earlier led a group of people out from the bar.

“It was them!”

The woman called Lize pointed at Crow and Gu Qing Shan.

Everyone turned towards them.

Gu Qing Shan turned to Qin and asked: “It’s a lot of trouble to check using my medal, can you take a look and see for me which one of them is on the wanted list?”

Qin glanced over them and replied: “They’re part of the same gang, so they’re all on the wanted list, just that no one had ever killed them—— their existence had received tacit understanding from the bigshots”

Gu Qing Shan grinned.

“Seems like there’s still a bit of money to be made” he muttered.

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“Oy——”

The leader on the other side only managed to utter a single word before his head vanished.

A light breeze.

Every slave trafficker on the wanted list had turned into headless bodies.

An autumn water-like clear blue steel sword hovered in mid-air, drawing a graceful arc, seemingly unsatisfied.

“A Titled Hitman killing slave traffickers, that’s like using a cleaver to chop a fly” Crow shook his head again.

“Your dinner tonight will be on me as well” Gu Qing Shan told Qin.

“Understood, that should be enough as well” Qin smiled and replied.

She took a close look at this evil creature again.

—this is a very impressive Archfiend.

When he first joined the Guild, I was afraid that evil creatures who liked to deceive people would cause chaos in the Guild.

But in the end, not only did he save me once, but he had also become promoted to Titled Hitman at an unbelievable speed.

He’s renowned across the void.

I wonder... if my species allows marriage with evil creatures.

I’ll check it right away when I return.

Qin silently thought.

Crow suddenly made another statement: “Ah, I forgot earlier but they do have a boss, he’s quite strong though”

Gu Qing Shan stared at him.

Crow was a bit embarrassed: “Sorry, when the premonition comes, I can’t stop it”

A thunderous shout resounded from inside the bar:

「 WHO WAS IT THAT KILLED MY MEN!? 」

The door slammed open again as a man whose body was full of tattoos came out.

Just as he stood facing Gu Qing Shan and Crow, his chest was pierced through by a thin, razor-sharp rapier.

「 Ah... 」 the man only managed to cough a few times before he fell and died.

Qin looked at the corpse and reported: “Captain of the Golden Slavers, they mostly sell women and children from the various races, frequently providing high-quality slaves for many bigshots, so they were allowed to remain in Void City”

Crow pulled his rapier back and asked: “This guy is worth quite a bit then, how should we deal with him?”

Gu Qing Shan pondered: “Other than those who support slavery, are there any forces in Void City that aid the weak?”

Crow replied: “That would be the Splendor Saint Church—— those angels of the church might be braindead, but they’re at least trustworthy then it comes to aiding the weak and bullied”

Gu Qing Shan then: “Qin, donate this guy’s bounty to the Splendor Saint Church, tell them that it’s specifically for the sake of their relief efforts”

“Understood, Dragon King sir” Qin replied.

“——Wait!”

Crow turned around.

Lize trembled as she looked at him, muttering: “You—— didn’t you already lose your powers?”

Crow paused a bit, frowning: "That's right, I did lose my powers"

"Then how did you kill them? Were you lying to me before?" Lize questioned.

"I... was just joking"

"Uooo... uooo..., I don't care, you emotional fraud!"

Lize ran over and fell into Crow's embrace.

Out of habit, Crow hugged her.

"Our relationship is already broken off, even if you get my body, you won't gain my heart" Crow sighed.

"I don't care, I still love you" Lize insisted.

Crow looked at Gu Qing Shan, troubled.

Gu Qing Shan could kill without issues, but he really didn't know how to resolve this matter either.

Suddenly, a solemn male voice declared:

"By the name of the Holy Father, I hereby express gratitude to his grace Dragon King's donation, and also make the following judgement towards his grace Crow's marriage: You two are unsuitable"

As everyone turned towards the voice, they saw a handsome and graceful man standing at the road intersection.

A shining halo that gave off gentle light hovered above his head.

Chapter 1374

Translator: La0o9

Qin and the other staff member had left, preparing to turn the traffickers' heads in for their bounty.

Lize didn't have the courage to go against an angel's judgement— as that would be the same as going against the Splendor Saint Church itself.

She had no choice but to unwillingly leave.

Only Gu Qing Shan and Crow, as well as— the familiar angel who remained at the scene.

Their gazes were focused on the halo above the angel's head.

"So you're no longer a librarian?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Yu Juan sighed: "I just took a couple of days off, I didn't expect to see Crow in this kind of trouble, so I just provided him some help"

"So you've left the Void Library?"

Gu Qing Shan and Crow both asked.

Yu Juan appeared a bit dejected: "As a librarian, I have to face the Apocalypse and risk my life for the pursuit of knowledge, but I couldn't even go to a concert when I returned. Living without any personal time like this is completely uninteresting"

"That's true" Crow agreed.

"So why did you turn into an angel?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

“You’re talking about this?”

In front of the two of them, Yu Juan took the halo off his head.

“Hovering-type ring-shaped luminescent lightbulb, a technological product; it could also change into a total of seven colors following personal preference” Yu Juan delightedly explained.

Gu Qing Shan and Crow were both stunned.

“So in the end, you weren’t actually an angel of the Splendor Saint Church” Crow sighed in relief.

“Why do you seem so afraid?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Those angels are really hard-headed; I don’t want to be associated with them in any way, shape, or form” Crow replied.

Yu Juan pressed down on a certain part of the light.

The white glowing halo turned into faint pink.

“Ah, that’s quite a cutesy color, angelic pink, correct?” Crow asked.

Yu Juan gave him a thumbs-up: “You sure know your stuff. This is a limited edition proof of devout believers”

Gu Qing Shan took the ring and examined it for a bit, asking: “Yu Juan, aren’t you afraid of being discovered by the church as you’re impersonating them?”

“It was the church who gave this to me” Yu Juan stuck his chest out.

Seeing how confused Gu Qing Shan was, he explained: “I frequently make donations to the church, so when it reached a certain limit, the angels gave me this halo as a representation that I’m a mortal under the Church’s protection”

“How much money did you actually donate?” Crow asked.

Yu Juan answered with a number.

Crow whistled impressively and commented: “I didn’t think you were that rich”

“Does that mean that the more money one donates to the Church, the better the incentives become?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Indeed, if you can donate an astronomical amount, then they could even help you reincarnate as a real angel, perhaps even give you a certain amount of power and authority” Crow replied.

“That’s right, money is omnipotent, there isn’t a single organization who’d say no to more money” Yu Juan replied.

Hearing them talking, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but recall Laura.

...I could probably take Laura to Void City.

This place is her real home field.

Crow spoke in a low voice: “Yu Juan, where did you get so much money to exchange for a lightbulb from the angels?”

Yu Juan also lowered his voice: “This is my entire research budget— I’m currently researching the correlation between the Church’s authority and wealth”

“It certainly takes a lot of money to conduct research, but where exactly did your budget come from?” Gu Qing Shan also asked.

“Evil creatures” Yu Juan replied.

“...Right, I should’ve guessed, only evil creatures would be so interested in the church” Gu Qing Shan said.

Yu Juan looked down to check his watch, then said right away: “—Let’s not talk yet, I need to get to my concert”

“Ah, we’re just about to get busy with something else too, see you later then”

“See you”

The three of them flashed and disappeared, flying away in different directions.

...

The City Lord’s manor.

The girl walked around Crow, then nodded to Gu Qing Shan.

“His appearance is decent, I’ve also heard that he had experience acting as a woman, but I wonder if he was under any manipulation” the girl said.

Gu Qing Shan took out his black handbook and chanted the incantation.

[Divine Word: Thwart]

A holy glow enveloped Crow.

He was fine.

“Curt Death Silver Crow, I trust that Gu Qing Shan has explained what you need to know— are you willing to become my doppelganger and head into the Wraith realm?” the girl asked.

Crow turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “My real name is Gu Qing Shan”

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“Since you’re willing to state your true name, you weren’t originally an evil creature, were you?” Crow asked.

“That’s right, I’m a human. For the sake of my safety, I had to keep it a secret before” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

Crow appeared triumphant and said: “I knew you couldn’t have been an evil creature”

“Why not?”

“Because you’re so much more ferocious compared to an evil creature”

“...”

Crow turned to the City Lord’s daughter again, silently praising the other party’s beauty, but kept a firm expression and asked: “Esteemed lady, may we have the honor of knowing your name?”

“I am the Fate Technician Fei Yue, daughter of our Void City’s Lord, and currently the manager of the entire Void City” she answered.

“Fate Technician!?” Crow was startled and couldn’t help himself exclaim: “Then all of your techniques are Fate-type abilities?”

“That is exactly the case. You are about to act as my doppelganger, while Gu Qing Shan has the same goal I do; I trust him, and I trust the person that he nominated— so there’s a need for you to understand my capabilities”

Fei Yue opened her palm and spoke with a calm expression: “While all of my abilities are Fate-type Skills, the most crucial of them is called [Threads of Fate]”

Thin black threads extended from her fingers and went into the void of space, disappearing after a few moments.

A second later.

One of the threads became attached to Crow’s shoulder.

“Is this infallible?” Crow looked at his shoulder.

“Indeed, I can see the connection between you and I” Fei Yue said, “I will prepare the reward you wished for”

Crow was surprised: “You already know what kind of reward I want? What exactly is this ability?”

Fei Yue explained: “All living beings and all things are interconnected; I can see all the connections between them through minimal divination. Given the correct conditions, I am able to use this connection to discover the truth, peer into the future, unleash attacks, or anything else that I might wish to do”

After a bit of thinking, Crow’s expression became serious.

This meant that if she wanted to kill someone, she didn’t even need to see them, she would be able to act simply by possessing something with connections to them.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t say anything, but he suddenly recalled Lin.

Lin also had a Fate-type ability.

[Existence].

Both [Existence] and [Threads of Fate] are abilities that can't be practically resolved.

—Fate-type abilities are indeed terrifying.

As Fei Yue pulled her hand back, the five black threads disappeared without a trace.

“Now that you’ve had an understanding of me, Crow, you must be able to perfectly imitate my manner of speech and gestures to the point that no one would be able to discern us within the next half-month” Fei Yue said.

“That’s no problem, but I’ve reached a pivotal point in strength and will probably break through very soon, I’ll need a bit of time” Crow told her.

Fei Yue looked at him, then turned to Gu Qing Shan: “Indeed, the two of you had stayed in the Saint Spirit world before, its Origin power was extremely powerful so just by fighting there, your respective strengths should have received a considerable boost”

“Before we set out, Gu Qing Shan will most likely get a chance to break through as well, but that will depend a lot on his fate”

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

Breaking through to reach Star River Saint realm wasn’t something that could be achieved in a short while, so he still hadn’t noticed any signs of it happening.

“Crow, you have one and a half days to achieve a breakthrough, after that is over, immediately come to see me” Fei Yue told him.

“One and a half days is enough” Crow nodded.

Fei Yue then turned to Gu Qing Shan and said: “You must also achieve a breakthrough as well; I have a premonition that your survival will depend on this breakthrough”

“What do you mean by that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“If you cannot advance, you will face numerous hardships after entering the Wraith realm. Only by breaking through and gaining a great boost in strength would the plan you and I have drawn up have a possibility of success”

“...I do not understand this advancement very well either, I would like to borrow some Cultivation-type books from the City Lord’s manor to learn about it” Gu Qing Shan said.

Star River Saint.

It was said that there was a great rift in strength between Sumeru Lord realm and Star River Saint realm.

He didn’t think that this rift would be directly smoothed over from a trip to a supremely powerful world.

But the process of breaking through to Star River Saint was different from other cultivation realms, and Gu Qing Shan didn’t know a lot about the mystics of Star River Saint realm.

This realm itself was a mystery.

“No problem, I’ll give them to you now”

Stating that, Fei Yue leisurely waved her hand.

Oom!

A slight tremble.

At the middle of the secret room stood a huge piece of white jade around a hundred meters in height.

“These are the advanced cultivation knowledge that the City Lord’s manor had collected and compiled into a mega-sized jade tag, take good care of it” Fei Yue told him.

Gu Qing Shan put his hand on the piece of white jade and stowed it into his Inventory Bag.

“Thank you very much, I’m grateful” he clasped his fist.

“No need to thank me, I’m only doing this for our plan. Gu Qing Shan, the stronger you become, the more assured we would be regarding this matter” Fei Yue smiled.

“I still need to thank you. I’ll be taking my leave right away and immediately return after I complete my breakthrough”

Fei Yue and Crow both nodded.

Gu Qing Shan stepped backwards into the white fog and disappeared from the secret room.

Chapter 1375

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan sat on top of the cliff looking down towards endless darkness.

——this was a completely barren and desolate world, other than the space vortex in every direction, there were only layers upon layers of mysterious runes that occasionally glowed in the darkness.

Isolation runes.

This entire world was in a state of isolation.

Xiao Die stood behind him, explaining: “This is a Cultivation-type world in our Ominous Demon Tower’s possession, while there are no longer any people here, the world’s Origin remains”

Gu Qing Shan said: "Thank you for lending me this world"

Xiao Die nodded: "Then I won't bother you any longer, seize your time and advance—— there wouldn't be any environment that is perfectly safe like this once you've arrived in the Wraith realm"

"Yeah, I'll do my best" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xiao Die's figure flashed and disappeared into the darkness.

She had left.

The only person left in this world was Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan took out a cushion, laid it out on the floor, and silently pondered as he sat on it.

It was fortunate that he obtained Fei Yue's jade tag as well; since the City Lord's manor had a collection of cultivation scriptures which was a lot more complete compared to many of the Cultivation-type worlds he had gotten into contact with.

It was only now that Gu Qing Shan had a clear understanding of the breakthrough to the Star River Saint realm.

To achieve this cultivation realm, three conditions were necessary.

Firstly, the cultivator's total spirit energy reservoir must be twice as much compared to that of Sumeru Lord realm.

The more spirit energy one had, the more powerful techniques one would be capable of unleashing, so this improvement in total spirit energy reserve was the most basic requirement.

Gu Qing Shan silently circulated his spirit energy and soon arrived at an answer.

—thanks to his battles in the Saint Spirit world, he was able to bask in that world's powerful Origin power and collected just about enough spirit energy.

As long as he continued to cultivate normally for about ten days, he would be able to reach the required spirit energy limit.

However, just having the spirit energy wasn't enough, a second condition must also be fulfilled.

—that was to have a Samsara inheritance.

The Samsara had numerous inheritances, as many as stars in the sky, so as long as one was able to obtain a single one among them, they would be able to trigger the power of the inheritance itself and aid in the process of breaking through.

Other Cultivation-type worlds also had access to Samsara inheritances, but those inheritances were mostly normal, not powerful like the Tomb of Myriad Beasts to the point that the wraiths wanted them, nor did they hide any risks of being taken over by other entities.

Gu Qing Shan was silently glad about his trip to the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

In that place, he obtained the Samsara inheritance: [Ethereal].

This inheritance seemed to have been the strongest one among the top-level inheritances in the great tomb.

According to the War God UI's notifications, this inheritance even represented a kind of identity that would allow him to participate in the Samsara Clash for Supremacy.

With both spirit energy and inheritance ready, there was only one final requirement for breaking through to Star River Saint.

Saint Selection.

The description for this was quite simple, it only consisted of one sentence:

To choose a suitable realm as your path.

There was also a detailed note following that:

[All powerful Cultivation-type worlds know about the importance of Saint Selection. Most choose the Heaven realm or the Beast King realm; because according to legends, the Heaven realm was the most powerful; while in reality, the Beast King realm had the highest rate of fusion, which benefited a Star River Saint's enlightenment]

Recalling the words on the jade tag, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh.

He waved his hand, summoning the Chao Yin sword, Earth sword, and Six Paths Great Mountain sword from the void of space.

"Gongzi, why did you summon us?" Shannu asked.

Gu Qing Shan said: "I have something that I need your suggestions with"

「 Go ahead 」 the Earth sword said.

Gu Qing Shan paused a bit, then said: "Among the realms of the Samsara, if I had to choose one of them, which one do you think I should choose?"

The Earth sword replied: 「 That would depend on what you're choosing the realms for 」

“What do you mean?”

「 If you want to drink away your days, pick up girls, and generally enjoy yourself, then the Human realm with all its hustle and bustle would definitely fit you best 」 the Earth sword replied.

“I also need a realm that can represent the path that I choose” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Gongzi, then you definitely need to pick the Heaven realm. You’ve seen a few Immortal Crafts and even experienced the extent of these techniques’ power; the Heaven realm is surely the most powerful one” Shannu suggested.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then said: “Speaking of which, after travelling to so many worlds, we’ve only seen the Samsara of my homeworld to be near-perfect”

「 Indeed 」 the Earth sword affirmed him, 「 Your homeworld also had a Wraith realm of its own, although those wraiths were feeble and weak, they were still true Wraiths 」

“But the residents of your homeworld’s Heaven realm were the descendants of the Inner Plane’s Deities, which is highly unusual” Shannu added.

“According to the records of the jade tag, the Heaven realm of every Samsara world was empty, those Demis most likely took residence there later on” Gu Qing Shan replied.

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The Earth sword also said: 「 The only residence of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts were also humans, there weren’t any truly powerful beasts or animals 」

Gu Qing Shan followed up: “The Wraith realm also had nothing but humans, there aren’t any true Wraiths there”

Shannu suddenly commented: “But the Huang Quan realm had real dead people, Hell, the Forgetting River, and the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, it was not that different from a real Huang Quan realm”

Gu Qing Shan was slightly startled.

“That’s true...” he muttered, “Other than Huang Quan, we actually don’t understand the other Samsara worlds very well either”

Tapping his Inventory Bag, Gu Qing Shan took out the Devil King Warden Rod.

He lightly stroked this scepter and muttered to himself: “For some reason, while I’m thinking about choosing a Samsara realm, only when thinking of the Huang Quan realm would I feel a bit at ease”

「 So you don’t intend to choose other realms? 」 the Earth sword asked.

“Right” Gu Qing Shan slowly made his decision: “I have the Deific Authority of the Huang Quan Devil King, as well as the Divine Sword representing the grand mountain encompassing the Samsara, both of these are powers of Huang Quan”

“Then, does gongzi intend to choose Huang Quan?” Shannu asked.

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

Countless years ago, the Samsara was broken apart.

Either by the Apocalypse or something else entirely, something had still managed to destroy the entire Samsara, causing its countless fragments to scatter into the space vortex.

—wait, no.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly narrowed his eyes as a different aura rose from his body.

He had been so busy dealing with one situation after another, it was only now that he had the chance to silently ponder everything over again.

He noticed a discrepancy.

The Wraith realm had destroyed many parallel worlds to use Fate Corrosion as a means to attack the Eternal Abyss.

—could the fragments of the Samsara have actually spread throughout numerous parallel worlds instead?

After all, the parallel worlds were only a ‘masquerade’.

Taking it one step further, would many of the Samsara’s secrets be hidden within parallel worlds as well?

The Tomb of Myriad Beasts claimed that they had fused 99% of the Beast King realm’s fragments, but what emerged from it was a large tomb.

Could it be—

They had actually only managed to fuse the majority of the Beast King realm’s fragments from this parallel world?

While there were actually numerous other fragments still hidden in other parallel worlds?

The real clue to answer this would be that great tomb.

But the great tomb is currently hiding many Apocalypse, temporarily sealed away by the Wraith artifact spirit, while the Delimitation Divine Sword has been completely broken and brought back to the Wraith realm.

To find the truth of it all, I need to head into the Wraith realm and find that Delimitation Divine Sword.

Other than that—

If the Tomb of Myriad Beasts themselves don’t fully understand the secrets of the Beast King realm, how could someone else from another realm understand?

It’s simply impossible.

The results of this would be that many cultivators who choose the Beast King realm during their Saint Selection were also completely blind.

The Beast King realm they know of was actually only the Beast King realm that humans reside in, not the true Beast King realm.

If I were to choose the beast King realm, even if I manage to complete the Saint Selection, I would be going the long way due to ignorance just like many others.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

If I hadn't discovered the truth of Tomb of Myriad Beasts, I might have chosen this realm as well.

—in reality, after comparing the six realms to one another, the one I understand the most relatively would still be the Huang Quan realm.

"I've decided, I'll choose the Huang Quan realm" Gu Qing Shan said.

"It's fine as long as gongzi is the one who made the decision" Shannu said.

「 Then prepare to break through, we'll remain cautious and guard your surroundings 」 the Earth sword said.

Oong!

The Chao Yin sword vibrated.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then closed his eyes and began to accumulate his spirit energy

His breathing gradually became lighter, until it completely faded away.

—ten days.

I'll need only ten days to complete this process and begin breaking through to Star River Saint realm.

...

At another location.

In the normal flow of time.

In the middle of a vast palace structure covered by fog and mist.

Xie Dao Ling stood under a garden of peaches, her hand lifting six transparent crystal beads.

Staring at the six beads, she muttered:

“Heaven, Human, Asura, Animal, Wraith, Huang Quan, six realms in total...”

“Four among them do not fit me”

She took away four beads, leaving only two in her hand.

One as pristine as white jade, one as translucent as mist.

“Heaven is the strongest, while Huang Quan is undefeated”

Xie Dao Ling’s gaze fell onto the translucent bead, hesitated briefly, then muttered: “Qing Shan has the proof of the Huang Quan Devil King, most likely he will walk this path”

She put the translucent bead away as well.

At this point, only the pristine jade bead remained in her hand.

“Then for Saint Selection, I shall choose the Heaven realm”

Chapter 1376

Translator: La0o9

Time slowly passed.

Gu Qing Shan had sat on top of this cliff for about eight days in a row.

During these eight days, he had done nothing but focused on accumulating his inner spirit energy.

The ninth day.

He finally opened his eyes.

Deep blue light erupted around his body, then swiftly spread into the entire mountain, as it let out continuous sparks of electricity.

The arcs of lightning illuminated this entire dark world.

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up and carefully examined the spirit energy inside his body.

It took him one day less than he had anticipated to reach the necessary amount of spirit energy for this breakthrough.

Among heaven and earth, a tiny sensation descended upon his body.

This sensation couldn't be clearly discerned or described, it was like Reality itself was observing the individual called Gu Qing Shan.

At that moment, Gu Qing Shan stood alone on top of the cliff, being enveloped by countless rays of lightning as he silently waited for what would arrive next.

“Why do I feel a bit like my identity is being checked... War God UI, do you have any suggestions?”

Gu Qing Shan silently asked.

The War God UI lit up, then answered him: [Currently analyzing, please wait a moment]

A few moments later.

A line of glowing text appeared in front of his vision:

[Your inheritance is a fist technique resulting from 'Ethereal' and the Six Paths Great Mountain sword, but your utmost expertise is swordsmanship. The Laws of Reality are confused by sensing such a thing, so your breakthrough had become stagnated]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit speechless.

"The Laws of reality can't even discern this?" he couldn't help but ask.

[This world is a regular Cultivation-type world, its Origin power is incredibly weak, so it naturally has an influence on the process of your breakthrough] the War God UI replied.

"What are the solutions?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

[You should enter a more powerful world— any type of world will be fine. The Samsara will borrow the ample Origin power of more powerful worlds to manifest itself, only then would the process of your breakthrough be smooth enough] the War God UI answered.

[Remember, the more powerful the Origin power, the more powerful you would be after becoming a Star River Saint]

"Got it"

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the mountain and silently pondered.

Should I go to the Tomb of Myriad Beasts?

There's not enough time, I have to be teleported from inside the great tomb straight to the outskirts of Void City before.

I still haven't returned to the Tomb of Myriad Beasts after I obtained [Fog Realm Descent], so I can't use the technique to return to that world either.

Are there any other worlds that can be considered powerful?

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand and looked at the chaotic indigo pattern that the world spirit left on his wrist.

The Saint Spirit world was the most powerful world in its parallel world.

Now that it had fused with two other worlds, the Origin power of its Laws would only further increase.

At the moment, it is synchronizing with the current flow of time, thus becoming one of, if not the strongest world within the space vortex.

If I can advance in the Saint Spirit world, I will probably surpass every other cultivator who has reached Star River Saint realm.

And since my selection was Huang Quan, thanks to my understanding of this realm, I would be even stronger than those people after I finish Saint Selection!

Although the Saint Spirit world is currently in the middle of evolving, I could still try to contact it; what if I happen to succeed?

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and spoke to the indigo pattern on his wrist: "Saint Spirit world's world spirit, I know that you're in the middle of evolving, but I have a favor to ask, can I go to your world and face my Tribulation?"

No answer.

Gu Qing Shan tried again: "It'll be very quick; I guarantee I won't interfere with you"

No answer.

Gu Qing Shan tried negotiating: "Me becoming stronger is also a good thing, if you happen to run into any trouble in the future, you can call me, it'll be a mutual benefit"

The Proof of the World remained completely silent.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "Can you at least tell me if you accept or not?"

Suddenly, the Proof of the World erupted into a mass of light and became a gate in mid-air.

With a 'hoh' sound, Gu Qing Shan was sucked into the gate.

At the very next moment.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing on top of a vast blue ocean.

There was only a single iceberg floating beneath his feet.

Thousands of voices sounded in his ears:

「 The ocean... you can use... The land is evolving, do not go 」

This was the world spirit's voice.

Gu Qing Shan instantly answered: "Thank you, I'm also quite used to this environment, I don't need to go on land"

No answer.

The world spirit had left.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and resumed his breakthrough from the beginning.

A few moments later.

Blue arcs of lightning appeared around his body, striking in every direction.

Among heaven and earth, a tiny sensation descended upon his body.

The same sensation as before.

The ocean and sky both went silent.

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the vast ocean, silently waiting.

Suddenly, he sensed a certain thought.

Rather than a 'thought', it might be better to say that he was enlightened of something.

"How speedy, as expected of the most powerful world"

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

—-in this world, almost as soon as he stimulated the Laws of Reality, he was recognized by the Samsara.

And now, the Saint Selection had begun.

A second later—

Gu Qing Shan suddenly looked up.

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Only to see the world disappearing in front of his eyes as a sky-high ancient tree appeared in front of him.

「 My heavens, what is that? 」 the Earth sword's mountainous heavy voice resounded.

“Not sure”

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the tree.

Only to see that the tree’s top was completely out of his vision, while the tree’s roots were deeply sunken into a vast river of faint yellow water¹.

Innumerable dead people flowed along the river, heading towards a distant location.

The ancient great tree stood still within the river without moving.

“The Forgetting River... why would there be a tree inside the Forgetting River?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered with a serious expression on his face.

...

At another location.

After Gu Qing Shan was led away by the Saint Spirit world’s world spirit.

The dark Cultivation-type world returned to silence and stillness.

A few dozen minutes later, two figures appeared in this world.

「 No one’s here 」 one of the figures said.

『 That’s right, I have also confirmed that the Dragon King of Atrocity Jail isn’t here 』 another figure said.

The two of them remained silent for a few moments.

『 How strange, Xiao Die has a relatively good relationship with that fiend, I had thought that she borrowed a world for him 』

「 Seems like that isn't the case, we need to search for that Dragon King of Atrocity Jail once again 」

As they were discussing, a female voice sounded behind them:

“There's no need to search”

Xiao Die appeared from the darkness.

She appeared charming and refined, almost like a cute female student from any school, a stark contrast to this current world of darkness.

No one would be able to tell that she had already given birth, nor the fact that she was a particularly rare instance of an ominous demon.

「 Aha, Xiao Die, we heard that you borrowed a world from the Tower master, so we got curious and went to take a look 」

『 That's right, we were going to ask if there was anything we can help you with 』

The two figures flatteringly said and showed themselves.

Two members of the Ominous Demon Tower.

The two adult men with burly figures smiled as they approached Xiao Die.

Xiao Die looked at them without changing her expression and leisurely drew a Card.

“No wonder he gave me this Card, saying that there might be an opportunity to use it” Xiao Die said in a low voice.

The two men’s expressions immediately changed as soon as they saw the Card.

One of them shouted: 「 It’s the discerning Card! 」

The other shouted: 『 Not good, hurry and flee! 』

Their figures flashed and disappeared from where they stood.

Xiao Die held onto the Card without being in any hurry to throw it out.

She examined the Card closely for a while and muttered in intrigue: “So this is a Card from the Inner Plane? I wonder if there are any Scroll Users in the Inner Plane, and what kinds of Scrolls they might have”

After a while, she finally put the Card away carefully.

Blood began to rain sporadically from above.

“Both of you looked down on people too much” Xiao Die sighed and shook her head: “Did you really think I needed to use this Card to kill you?”

In the sky, the two burly men were completely skewered by countless spikes of bone, restrained tightly in place.

These spikes of bones weaved into an entire network in the sky, only a single one of them reached down, connected to Xiao Die’s pinky finger.

——all the bone spikes in the sky originated from her single pinky finger.

Xiao Die opened her mouth and lightly inhaled.

Two figures fell from the burly men's bodies, rapidly falling into her mouth.

“No——”

“I beg you!”

Before the two figures managed to say anything else, Xiao Die had already closed her mouth.

She only chewed twice before frowning.

“This taste...”

She licked her lips with her light pinkish tongue.

「 So? How does it taste? Are they good? 」

From the darkness, another voice asked.

“They're wraith souls, the wraiths always give off a taste of expired food, they're not very tasty” Xiao Die commented.

The voice said: 「 How about you give me that Card instead? I'm going to cleanse the entire Tower 」

“No problem, Tower Master” Xiao Die tossed the Card to him.

The other person caught the Card and was about to go back into the darkness.

Suddenly recalling something, he stopped and said: 「 Xiao Die, I've found the 5th method for you to return to being human 」

Xiao Die wasn't very concerned and asked: "Will I have to give up all of my ominous demon powers again?"

「 Yes 」 the Tower Master affirmed.

"Then forget it, in this age of Apocalypse, as long as I gain enough power to protect myself, I don't mind being a demon" Xiao Die replied.

「 I remember that you used to be a Scroll User, even after giving up your ominous demon powers, you would still be able to become a pure human Scroll User, you would remain as powerful as you currently are 」 the Tower Master explained.

Xiao Die shook her head and sincerely replied: "Thank you for taking me in and taking care of me up to now, but my heart can no longer return to how it was, I don't want to go back to being a weak human woman"

The Tower Master sighed as his figure slowly faded.

His voice remained in the world of darkness:

「 If the man you had met when you first went out to study was Dragon King of Atrocity Jail... I presume that many things would not be as they currently are 」

Xiao Die stood in the darkness and remained indulged in a long silence.

Chapter 1377

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan stood atop a tree branch.

When the entire world manifested in front of his vision and became real, he suddenly found himself already standing on a branch of this ancient great tree.

——the lowest branch.

Looking down, he could see the faint yellow water of the Forgetting River rushing through beneath him.

Even the slightest mistake could cause him to fall into the river, he would instantly become a dead person and forget everything about his past.

Standing firmly on the tree branch, Gu Qing Shan grabbed a nearby smaller branch to brace himself and looked up.

The branches above him were also bare, with barely any leaves, but had quite a few people hanging from them.

From out of nowhere, a sense of new understanding appeared in his mind:

[No tricks]

No tricks?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought to himself.

At this time, the Earth sword asked: 「 Are you going to just fly up there? 」

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and replied: “I can’t fly. This tree is a manifestation of the Samsara’s Laws, using tricks would end up with me being disregarded by the Laws and pronounced as failed”

“Gongzi, then what should we do now?” Shannu asked.

“We climb” Gu Qing Shan curtly answered.

He held onto the branches and slowly climbed upwards bit by bit.

Very quickly, he went further and further away from the Forgetting River.

「 Who would've thought that the Saint Selection of Huang Quan for the Star River Tribulation would be like this 」 the Earth sword sighed.

“Gongzi, please be careful” Shannu said.

Gu Qing Shan maintained his calm and quickly ascended the trunk of the tree.

After a bit, he abruptly stopped and looked up.

There was a tree branch immediately in front of him with a hanged corpse.

There were only thick interweaving branches around the corpse without any other paths.

Gu Qing Shan looked up further.

There were numerous corpses littered along the path necessary to ascend.

—no tricks.

Gu Qing Shan silently muttered the reminder of the Laws, then slowly climbed until he reached the corpse.

The corpse twitched a bit and gradually came alive.

When alive, this corpse used to be a male cultivator, even now, he was wearing a Daoist robe.

“Ah... it has been a very long time since someone last went the Saint Selection path of Huang Quan, cultivator” the corpse said.

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up straight on top of the branch and said: “I’m not very sure about that, can you stand aside? I’d like to go through”

The corpse displayed an indiscernible smile, then evaluated Gu Qing Shan.

“Young man... truly a young man. Very well, I’ll tell you, this is the Saint Selection path of Huang Quan, you will need to pay the appropriate price to convince me. After I’m satisfied, I’ll let you through”

“What if I don’t have anything to give you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The corpse appeared reminiscent, answering him: “I was already qualified to achieve the realm of Star River Saint in the past, it was only because of this Tribulation that I became trapped here”

He looked back at Gu Qing Shan and spoke with a sharper tone:

“I can stay here without dying, but if you won’t listen to me, then prepare to die, got it?”

“Got it”

Answering him, Gu Qing Shan casually threw a punch.

—[Ethereal – Grand Mountain]!

The corpse had already held a jade ruler in his hand but stopped moving after being struck by this punch.

Gu Qing Shan wielded the Earth sword and chopped the vine that hung the corpse with all his strength.

The vine was cut.

The corpse easily rolled along the trunk of the tree and fell down.

Plop!

The corpse fell into the Forgetting River and sank after bobbing up and down a few times.

「 What just happened? 」 the Earth sword asked.

“I’m not sure” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Not sure? 」 the Earth sword felt a bit speechless.

“The Laws only mentioned a single rule to me, that is I can’t use tricks, I assume that if I had bought off this corpse, that would be considered using a trick” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Earth sword then commented: 「 If that’s the case, wouldn’t that mean you would have immediately lost your qualifications if you agreed to pay the price earlier? 」

“That’s right” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Doesn’t cutting off the vine count as using tricks as well? 」 the Earth sword asked.

Gu Qing Shan patiently explained: “When you face an obstacle on the road, going around that obstacle would be considered using a trick, but removing that obstacle so you can continue moving forward couldn’t be considered using a trick, because that is the dumbest possible solution”

As soon as he finished, an indiscernible sensation could be felt from the tree.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes to sense it, then exclaimed in surprise: “I passed the Tribulation”

「 What? So easily? 」 the Earth sword asked in confusion.

“That’s right, to pass the first corpse means I’ve barely passed the Tribulation and am allowed to return” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Barely passed... what if you don’t return now? 」 the Earth sword asked.

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“The higher I climb, the stronger the Samsara power I’ll obtain after passing the tribulation” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The Earth sword didn’t say anything else.

——even without saying anything, Gu Qing Shan would definitely continue climbing upwards.

Sure enough, Gu Qing Shan declared: “I think I’m going to keep climbing. Even without anything else, I might be able to find out some matters of the past from these dead people”

He put his sword away and continued climbing.

The trunk of this tree was filled with interweaving dried-up branches, but their surface was moist and slippery, so Gu Qing Shan had to remain cautious as he climbed up.

—it was hard to say what would happen next in these strange and unusual circumstances.

Finally, he exited the area of the first corpse and arrived in front of the second corpse.

This was a female corpse.

“Please let me pass, I don’t want to do unnecessary things” Gu Qing Shan said.

The female corpse simply hung in place while staring straight at him, then asked doubtfully: “During Saint Selection, there are very few who will choose the Huang Quan realm, most would choose either the Beast King realm or Heaven realm, so why did you choose the Huang Quan realm?”

Gu Qing Shan answered straight: “I had confidence in myself, what about you?”

“I simply wanted to choose a path that very few have trekked, but that ended up with failure in the end” the female corpse replied.

“How did you fail?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The female corpse sighed: “I chose Huang Quan as my world, but I got greedy during my Star River Tribulation and attempted to pass the third stage, only to end up being killed— so I became trapped here for eternity”

Gu Qing Shan looked up and saw that there was indeed another corpse hanging from a branch just a bit above her.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “So you became stuck here and intend on stopping my advance?”

“No” the female corpse replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

The female corpse continued: “Everyone on this tree hopes to also force those who come after them remain here, as that would make them feel like their failure wasn’t an outlier”

“I understand” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The female corpse went on: “Regardless of how they think, I can tell you that the range of attack for everyone on this tree is a mere few dozen meters in front of themselves, so as long as you’re cautious enough, defending yourself and returning won’t be an issue”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Thank you for telling me all this, what is your—”

“I’ve stayed here for long enough; I hope that I can enter reincarnation” the female corpse replied.

Gu Qing Shan happily replied: “That, I can help you with”

He drew his sword.

“Is there anything else you’d like to say?” he asked.

The female corpse appeared dejected: “Thousands of years of cultivation only to end up like this, I really don’t know what happened with the Samsara. I merely wish to become stronger, so why do I have to face matters like these?”

Gu Qing Shan remained silent, then answered her: “No one knows the reason, but this is the path that cultivators must take. To become stronger, we can only risk our lives, as for what happens after that and what secrets the Samsara is hiding, only those who had become even more powerful are qualified to know”

The female corpse nodded and spoke tiredly: “Send me off, I hope that I won’t continue to be a cultivator in the next life”

Gu Qing Shan sincerely told her: “I hope you a peaceful journey, may your next life be more fortunate”

—his sword swung.

The female corpse fell down into the Forgetting River and quickly went out of sight.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, walked past where the female corpse originally hung, then continued climbing up.

For some reason, he felt a bit down.

Cultivators were always completely different from other Professions.

No other Profession has to be struck by lightning every time they advance to their next level or face numerous trials and tribulations, forced to risk their lives every time they do so.

Why are the Laws of the Samsara so harsh?

Was this predestined by heaven? Or had everything been for the preparation of something else?

Gu Qing Shan continued to climb as he fell into thought.

By the time he reached the third corpse, a faint fluctuation of Law descended on his body.

「 What happened? 」 the Earth sword asked.

“Ah... if I end my Tribulation now, I’ll be stronger compared to if I had done so previously” Gu Qing Shan lightly muttered.

「 But you won’t end the Tribulation 」

“Right”

Gu Qing Shan turned to the third corpse.

This was an old man who had already awoken and was looking straight at Gu Qing Shan with a distasteful expression.

“Tsk tsk, it’s so hard to finally meet a newcomer, only for you to be such a hotheaded fellow, everyone is very unhappy” the old man said.

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

Only to see that every corpse hanging on the tree had opened their eyes looking at him.

“Did you know? The two earlier were the weakest, if you can’t give up anything to convince me, then die right here” the old man declared.

Accepting the transaction means using tricks and being directly disqualified.

Not accepting meant a fight to the death.

Gu Qing Shan slightly shook his head, then extended his gaze towards all the corpses on the tree.

He waved his hand, loudly calling out: “Everyone, the friends over there, and the friends over here as well, hello”

The corpses all stared down at him.

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and continued: “Right now, I’m in a very bad mood, so I’m just going to skip all the pleasantries”

“Considering that you’re all dead, I brought a little present with me this time”

He took out the Devil King Warden Rod.

A bright red glow appeared around the jet-black scepter.

Chapter 1378

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan felt that his choice was correct.

As a Deity of Huang Quan, to choose the Huang Quan realm and face his Tribulation on the Forgetting River.

This was as natural as it could be.

There was nothing opportunistic about this.

He stood in front of the old man and smiled: “Old senior, take a look, do you mind us turning war into peace?”

The old man looked straight at him.

He slowly swung the Devil King Warden Rod in his hand from side to side.

A moment of silence.

“Ahahaha” the old man suddenly looked up at the sky and laughed, loudly replying: “You see, you see, this is what it truly means for water to flood the Dragon King’s temple. Truthfully, I only wanted to test your excellency’s character in the face of hardship”

“So, what do you think?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Your excellency is a humble, spotless and loyal, mindful and frank, virtuously brilliant, unlike those of mortals, and positively pure”

The old man shook his head along with the swinging scepter, rapidly spouting a long series of descriptive words.

“Ah, I see” Gu Qing Shan nodded with a pleased expression.

Inside this Thought Sea, the Earth sword silently said: 「 Shannu, Chao Yin, you probably don't know, but among all the things that old man praised him about, he only got one thing right 」

Shannu couldn't help but take the bait: “Which one?”

Right as the Earth sword was about to answer, another sword smacked it away.

“Don't listen to his babbling”

Luo Bing Li yawned and lazily said.

——she had woken up.

“What's going on right now?” she asked.

“It's a long story...” Shannu slowly explained to her.

On the tree, Gu Qing Shan naturally knew what was happening inside his Thought Sea, but he didn't really want to pay attention to the Earth sword.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the old man and said: "Tell me a bit about your life, then I'll send you into reincarnation"

"Ah, thank you fellow Dao seeker. I came from the Nan Hua Dao world, born without a spirit root, so without any choice..."

The old man talked for a while.

After listening to him, Gu Qing Shan asked: "Has there been anyone who came to take part in Saint Selection recently?"

"Not for the past few thousand years. Huang Quan is truly a little-known realm, and since it was related to the dead, it was also a sign of inauspiciousness. That was why when we saw you, we acted a bit inadequately" the old man explained in detail.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "See you again"

His sword swung.

The vine that wrapped around the old man's neck was chopped off.

The old man fell along the trunk of the tree, sank into the raging river below, and disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan continued to climb up the tree.

The indiscernible sensation from before appeared on his body again.

This time, it was stronger than the previous two times.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but pause a bit and looked up at the top of the tree.

— which couldn't be seen at all, the tree trunk extended far above the cloud layer, so nothing above that could be seen at all.

He reached the fourth corpse.

This was also a female corpse, who spoke up first: "Can I remain here?"

"For what reason?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Because I like this place" the female corpse replied.

"No, because everyone before you is already dead. If someone else comes to face their Tribulation, the one who gets to charge a passage fee will be you" Gu Qing Shan snapped back.

The female corpse froze.

Gu Qing Shan then asked: "But you're also being hung here by the neck, what would you actually be able to do with those things even if you get them?"

The female corpse hesitated to speak.

Gu Qing Shan lightly put the Devil King Warden Rod on her shoulder.

"Don't worry, I don't like to threaten people, so if you really don't want to say, I won't force you to" he said.

The female corpse appeared touched, then muttered in a low voice: "Thank you"

“Let us change the question——— for countless years, you have to hang right here as a corpse, what’s so good about that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The female corpse answered: “This place is isolated from the Apocalypse, never to be destroyed, I can continue to exist here forever”

Gu Qing Shan stared at her.

The female corpse lowered her head: “It’s true, I’m not willing to leave, but I can let you pass”

“No need” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The female corpse suddenly uttered a sharp howl.

Her entire body was scattered into a fine dusty mist that was absorbed by the black scepter.

Shi... shi...

A tiny chewing noise could be heard from the scepter.

Other than the sound of blowing wind and flowing water, no other sound could be heard from the tree.

The rest of the corpses remained completely silent.

They could feel the power of this scepter.

This was the power of the Laws of Huang Quan, capable of deciding their fates!

Gu Qing Shan waited until the scepter was done eating and lightly declared: “If anyone else tries to deceive me, they’ll end up the same”

One of the corpses suddenly spoke: “Are you really fine with treating a female cultivator who’s stuck between life and death like that?”

Gu Qing Shan asked in return: “She insisted on refusing to accept my offer of sending her into reincarnation, you call that ‘stuck between life and death’?”

The corpse was speechless.

Another corpse tried asking: “What if she truly wanted to stay here to avoid the Apocalypse?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “You can avoid the Apocalypse in Huang Quan? Who actually believes that to be true?”

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——having been to Huang Quan before, he naturally knew that the female corpse earlier was lying to him.

The other corpses remained silent.

They still couldn’t probe the true depths of this cultivator, so they weren’t willing to risk anything.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and loudly announced: “All of you seemed to have misunderstood something. This place is Huang Quan, not some charity house, if you’re going to talk, make sure to at least tell the truth and show your respect to me as the Devil King”

“Those who won’t respect me also won’t be granted my respect”

He continued to walk past that female corpse’s original location and climbed up.

A few moments later, he reached another corpse.

“My friend, do you mind telling me why there are people willing to remain here on the tree?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

That corpse trembled as he answered: “If no one manages to successfully make it through their Tribulation for long enough, the Laws of Huang Quan will converge and nurture this tree, which would also grant us benefits”

“What benefits?”

Gu Qing Shan lightly placed the Devil King Warden Rod on his shoulder as he asked.

The corpse hurriedly answered: “We would gain power— for the past few thousand years, we’ve already obtained many unique abilities of Huang Quan. If Huang Quan was to be destroyed by the Apocalypse one day, we would be able to escape with these abilities”

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “So that was the reason? All of you absorb the power of Huang Quan, then eliminate anyone who tries to climb the tree to face their Tribulation, ensuring that no one could reach the top of the tree?”

The corpse appeared confused as well and replied: “These are the rules of the Tribulation, and the longer we remain, the more powerful we would become, making the chances of success for those who face the Tribulation even lower. To be frank, we don’t know why the rules were arranged this way either”

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit, then drew his sword.

The corpse fell into the Forgetting River and disappeared as well.

Gu Qing Shan continued to climb.

He stopped asking the corpses questions and simply climbed up.

The Laws of Reality continuously gathered inside his body, strengthening the sensation from before.

Around two hours later, he finally reached the top of the tree.

This place was already above the clouds and high in the sky.

A strong breeze slowly blew past.

A sea of clouds.

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

There were no longer any corpses hanging on the tree.

A mass of thick yellow fog slowly filled the area, enveloping the entire tree.

The sensation from before had now grown to an incredible level around his body, like a radiance around the body of a Deity.

A sense of understanding appeared in his heart once again.

“Inheritance? So only by reaching the top of the tree would it check for an inheritance?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

「 How do you intend to let it check? 」 the Earth sword asked.

“I remember that to become a Star River Saint, a Spiritual Heavenly Tome and Virtuous Karmic Tome must each be manifested, which I assume will happen right now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He clenched his fist and unleashed an [Ethereal – Grand Mountain] towards the sky.

A few moments later.

Far above the sky, the sound of something rushing through the wind would be heard.

Gu Qing Shan carefully observed it.

Finally, a tattered, collapsed palace descended from above.

When it was a few hundred meters away from the tree, it completely shattered into pieces.

Innumerable pieces of bricks and tiles scattered everywhere, but they didn't fall below the sea of clouds.

These bricks and tiles instead manifested into a gigantic face in the sky.

—a face of a one-horned demon.

The demon observed Gu Qing Shan then spoke in a thunderous voice:

「 So it was the Huang Quan Devil King and Lord of the Samsara Divine Mountain. For you to obtain the [Ethereal] inheritance, you must have gone through numerous arduous battles 」

Without anything else to say, Gu Qing Shan could only nod to affirm its words.

And it was true that he obtained the [Ethereal] inheritance in one of the most precarious situations he had faced so far.

When he killed that monster in the great tomb, the War God UI's evaluation was:

...

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

...

And that monster's soul swapping technique was a skill that originated from the Wraith realm.

— — — in other words, the ones who had been attempting to steal this inheritance were those from the Wraith realm.

But in the end, it was Gu Qing Shan who obtained it.

The one-horned demon stared closely at Gu Qing Shan and continued:

「 The status you've obtained and the feats you've managed to achieve are almost unheard of 」

「 — — — It seems the Saint Selection of the Huang Quan realm can now end 」

Following this declaration, the entire Huang Quan realm suddenly began to collapse.

In almost a single second, the entire Huang Quan realm disappeared without a trace, even the ancient great tree that he was standing on earlier was also gone.

Only a single faint yellow bead remained in mid-air.

Gu Qing Shan stood in the middle of the void and clasped his fist: "May I know who you are?"

The one-horned demon indifferently replied: 「 No need to ask me such a thing. After today, I shall disappear, but I shall leave a bit of Origin behind for cultivators of the future to undergo Saint Selection 」

It then breathed out a mass of faint mist.

A shaky and transparent Huang Quan realm reappeared around him.

The faint yellow bead hovered directly towards Gu Qing Shan.

「 Take this bead, as this is the true Saint Selection Bead 」 the one-horned demon curtly told him.

“What exactly is going on? Where are the Spiritual Heavenly Tome and the Virtuous Karmic Tome that a Star River Saint is supposed to manifest?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

The bricks and tiles that made up the one-horned demon’s face gradually fell down and turned to mist, eventually disappearing altogether.

「 That is a matter of regular cultivators, completely unrelated to yourself 」

「 You are one of the Samsara Lords of War, qualified to participate in the new era’s Samsara Clash for Supremacy 」

「 The Samsara has already been broken once... 」

「 Do... not... let... it... be... broken... again... 」

The one-horned demon was now completely gone.

Chapter 1379

Translator: La0o9

The fog continued to spread, as the bead gave off a faint yellow glow that illuminated Gu Qing Shan’s face.

That one-horned demon’s words just now revealed an awful lot of information.

Unfortunately, after finishing its mission, it simply disappeared without answering any specific questions.

Gu Qing Shan sighed lightly.

Around him, the empty void slowly disappeared.

The Forgetting River had reappeared, the ancient great tree once again stood tall above the river.

—this was something that the one-horned demon left for those who came later and chose the Huang Quan Saint Selection.

As for Gu Qing Shan, he had already reached the peak of the tree and completed his own Star River Tribulation.

Gu Qing Shan held the bead, and coiled his inner sight around it, quickly refining it into his belonging.

A few moments later, the world faded away from him.

He found that he had returned to the Saint Spirit world, standing on top of the iceberg in the middle of a vast ocean.

Lines of glowing text continuously appeared in the void of space:

[You've obtained the Huang Quan Saint Selection Bead]

[This is a proof of identity for the Huang Quan Lord of War, you can use this bead to obtain the recognition of the Samsara's Huang Quan realm fragments, becoming their owner]

[The more Huang Quan realm fragments you fuse, the more powerful you will become]

[Attention, you will need to speed up your collection of Huang Quan realm fragments in preparation for the future war]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed that over and quickly understood.

A sense of unfounded anxiety suddenly appeared in his mind.

Just like Shan Hai Qi Xia had said, he could now also sense the incoming storm.

—–the Samsara Clash for Supremacy is coming!

But what exactly is this war?

When is it going to happen?

“War God UI, do you know the details of the Samsara Clash for Supremacy?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[No] the War God UI answered without hesitation.

2000 Soul Points were instantly deducted from him.

Gu Qing Shan’s eye twitched.

—–you’re taking a fee even when you don’t know?

But he managed to keep it in and not actually make this complaint.

Heaven and earth suddenly changed.

The boundless power of the Laws converged in mid-air as a colorful cloud, then swiftly surged forward and infused itself into his body.

Boom!

Shockwaves spread in every direction.

A faint glow began radiating from Gu Qing Shan's body.

Lines of notifications quickly appeared on the War God UI:

[The Star River Tribulation has ended]

[As you successfully reached the top of the Forgetting River Divine Tree, you may absorb all the Huang Quan Origin power within the Star River Tribulation]

[From now on, your spirit energy will slowly be converted to Huang Quan Origin power]

[Special note: You can still use origin power of the soul to replace Huang Quan origin power and unleash its corresponding abilities]

[You've obtained the World Origin power: Huang Quan]

[As you have the World Technique: Fog Realm Descend, the best infusion method for World Origin power: Huang Quan is to fuse into your left eye, do you accept?]

"I accept"

Gu Qing Shan answered right away.

More lines of glowing text appeared:

[The infusion has begun]

[From now on, you will be able to unleash abilities with the Huang Quan property]

[You will obtain a new World Technique]

[The new World Technique will carry the Huang Quan property. It is estimated to awaken in about one full day's worth of time, please wait patiently]

Reading these lines of text, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit expectant.

When he performed the seven sword strikes as offering to the infinite worlds, the past worlds all fused into one and entered Gu Qing Shan's left eye in order to escape from being erased by the Three Great Laws of Reality.

[Fog Realm Descent] was a World Technique that Gu Qing Shan had only just recently obtained, the very first product of this fusion.

And now, this World Technique will also carry the Huang Quan property.

If Gu Qing Shan didn't already command a World Technique; carried the post-fusion product of numerous past worlds; the place he faced his Tribulation was the most powerful Saint Spirit world; furthermore, if Gu Qing Shan wasn't already the Huang Quan Devil King and successfully reached the top of the Forgetting River Divine Tree; this exact scene wouldn't have happened.

The current happenings could only be attributed to Gu Qing Shan's continuous efforts and hard work that ultimately brought about the best possible result.

The Star River Tribulation was finally over.

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist and silently sensed the spirit energy inside his body.

Sure enough, the spirit energy in his Dantian was slowly being converted into a different power source that contained a faint yellowish aura.

This was a unique force that belonged to the Samsara, carrying the Huang Quan property, it was vastly more powerful compared to spirit energy.

Such power... what can it be used for?

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Gu Qing Shan silently pondered.

—I remember that [Ethereal] had a total of four fist techniques, of which he had already unleashed [Grand Mountain], [No Pardon], and [Myriad Shadows], only the ultimate attack— [Null Tribulation] hadn't been unleashed even once due to lacking power.

But now, the power of Huang Quan inside my body is also part of the Samsara, perhaps I'd be able to perform [Null Tribulation] now?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan stood atop the iceberg, took a deep breath, and clenched his fist.

His power boiled and fully gathered at his fist.

A terrifying presence could be felt.

Gu Qing Shan's entire body was immersed inside a profound yellow aura, which then gradually turned jet-black and spread into the ocean.

“Let's try out [Null Tribulation]—”

Just as Gu Qing Shan muttered that, a scorching sensation was felt on his wrist.

Thousands of voices resounded in his ears:

「 I... lent you a place to use, but now... you're going to destroy the environment? 」

—the Saint Spirit world's world spirit had recognized the power of [Null Tribulation] and manifested around Gu Qing Shan once again.

The entire ocean began to exude a dangerous aura.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

— I was too immersed in my new power and forgot where I was.

The Saint Spirit world was originally in the middle of evolution, it was only because I was in so much of a hurry that it allowed me to face my Tribulation here.

And now I'm trying to hit it?

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly dispelled the Huang Quan power around his body and smiled, trying to smooth things over: “Ah, I’m sorry, I was in deep thought and forgot”

Invisible fluctuation slowly radiated from his hand.

Origin power of the soul.

“Haha, this is my thank you gift” Gu Qing Shan said.

A second later, he felt something surrounding his hand and lightly absorbed the invisible fluctuations.

His Soul Points was deducted by 10 million on the War God UI.

「 Ah... it... is... delectable... thank you 」

Numerous voices resounded by Gu Qing Shan’s ear, exuding an unprecedented sense of intimacy.

— -10 million at once?

Gu Qing Shan’s smile became a bit stiff.

“I’ve troubled you this time. I’ll be taking my leave first, once you’ve finished your evolution, we’ll communicate again” he said.

「 See... you... again... 」 the world spirit spoke.

Gu Qing Shan entered a mass of white fog and disappeared almost instantly.

...

At another location.

The dark Cultivation-type world.

Right as Gu Qing Shan appeared, he saw Xiao Die.

“Are you done breaking through?” Xiao Die asked.

“I am, the property of my power source has also changed” Gu Qing Shan replied.

A vast faint-yellow aura radiated around his body.

Watching this aura, Xiao Die pondered: “This seems to be much more powerful compared to spirit energy, your advancement... almost seemed like you had just undergone a change into an ominous demon”

“Is it that great of a change?” Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

“It is, perhaps you’ve just not had an objective understanding of it——- how about we spar for a bit?” Xiao Die suggested.

“Alright—— never mind”

Gu Qing Shan corrected himself.

Xiao Die was a bit surprised and asked: “Why did you suddenly change your mind?”

Recalling what happened just now and answered her in an embarrassed manner: “You lent me a world to use and even watched over my Tribulation, if I were to fight and accidentally hurt you right now, that would be very bad”

He could clearly sense that by having the Huang Quan Origin power as its driving force, the power of [Ethereal] had been massively improved.

If they truly fought, never mind his other means, [Null Tribulation] would definitely hurt Xiao Die.

Gu Qing Shan was absolutely confident about this.

Xiao Die silently listened, then smirked a bit and muttered: “With your current strength, you can certainly hurt me”

“That’s why let’s not” Gu Qing Shan concluded.

“It’s noon, let’s head back for lunch?” Xiao Die asked.

“I’m going to head out for a bit, I’ll return to make lunch soon” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright, I’ll wait for you before eating, go” Xiao Die said.

A mass of fog appeared around Gu Qing Shan’s body and enveloped him.

He quickly left again.

Chapter 1380

Translator: La0o9

The bar.

Among the lively sound of music, Gu Qing Shan and Crow walked up to the counter and sat down.

“Broken through?” Crow asked.

He handed a shot glass to Gu Qing Shan while slightly twisting his body, which displayed a hint of femininity.

—he’s keeping up his act even now, seems like Crow had prepared quite a bit during the past while.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

He accepted the shot glass and took a sip.

“That’s right, it took quite a bit of time too, almost 10 full days” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Apocalypse Era, gaining strength is always a good thing—- right, have you returned to the Guild yet?” Crow continued asking.

“I did, got various Titled Hitman supplies out of it, and even a big bag of money” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow laughed and said: “As soon as they came into contact with the Saint Spirit world’s world spirit, it would have confirmed your involvements in defeating the Plague Apocalypse, so of course you received an ample reward for it”

“The money was certainly quite a bit” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

He was quite pleased about this as well.

In short, he won’t have to worry about not having money to use for a very long time.

“Please” Crow chuckled: “At the time, the entire allied army assumed that it was an Unlivable Apocalypse, they were so scared that they almost ran away shitless, but instead you brought a completely new powerful world to the space vortex. I’m telling you, no reward would have been enough for that”

“Why is everyone so excited about that?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused.

Crow raised his glass and said: “It’s your treat today”

“Sure” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The two of them cheered.

Crow then explained: “Just look, you and I successfully broke through after staying in that world for a short amount of time”

“We did” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He now understood.

Sure enough, Crow continued: “Now that the world had undergone rejuvenation and become a powerful world fused from three extremely powerful worlds, it would only grow even stronger in the future”

“Such a powerful world is beneficial for everyone involved, as long as they’re allowed to travel there and cultivate themselves, they would eventually be able to advance as well”

“Then after the world fusion is over, let’s make another trip there” Gu Qing Shan suggested.

At this time, the door of the bar opened as a handsome man in glasses walked in.

“You two sure came early” Yu Juan commented.

Crow handed him a shot glass: “You arrived late, perverted duck”

Yu Juan didn’t respond to that and turned to Gu Qing Shan: “Last time, you donated the trafficker leader’s bounty to the Church, right?”

“That’s right, Crow was the one who killed him” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“The Church had put him on their wanted list for a very long while, but they didn’t expect for anyone to actually cash it in—— so here, take this”

Yu Juan handed two halos to Gu Qing Shan and Crow, explaining to them how to use it.

Crow took it, casually pressed it a few times and made the halo glow green.

As Crow put the halo above his head, it began to hover in place.

“You like this color?” Yu Juan seemed a bit doubtful.

“Not me, a certain girl likes this color” answering him, Crow also gave Gu Qing Shan a wink.

Gu Qing Shan understood that he was talking about Fei Yue.

“These are your rewards from the Church, you’re both now considered to be high-ranking believers” Yu Juan explained.

Gu Qing Shan held the circular lightbulb and hesitated a bit.

Yu Juan continued: “While wearing this hovering circular lightbulb, as long as you don’t pick a fight with the City Lord’s manor, you’ll basically be untouchable in Void City”

“That impressive?” Gu Qing Shan asked with interest.

“That’s right, whenever a fight breaks out where there’s a halo, the angels will directly teleport there and attack regardless of the price to pay— no one is willing to fight against the angels”

Crow affirmed: “This is true, the angels of the Splendor Saint Church had never easily forgiven anyone who bullied their believers. In fact, they’ve declared several infamous great wards because of this”

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

—am I really going to put this halo above my head whenever I fight?

If there’s an occasion that I need to personally act, the Splendor Saint Church wouldn’t be able to interfere regardless.

Yu Juan then handed two lists over and explained:

“This is the church’s list of contributions, if you donate enough money, you’d even have the right to directly summon an angel”

Gu Qing Shan took one of the lists and saw that his codename was written on it.

Crow took out a coin and put it into his list.

Right away, his donation amount written on it was increased by one coin.

“To ask for wealth so openly, is the Church in that much money trouble?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

“Not sure, but it’s a fact that the Church had always been interested in wealth” Yu Juan shrugged.

The door of the bar was opened again.

A group of people wearing yaksha masks came in.

Their leader wore a full set of black armor and a spear in his hand, who slowly entered into the bar and stood still in the middle.

The other wraiths swiftly went to the other bar patrons.

It was unknown what means they used, but the patrons swiftly stood up one by one and left the bar.

Very quickly, other than Gu Qing Shan, Crow, and Yu Juan, the only people left in the bar were the wraiths.

At this time, the black-armored wraith turned towards Gu Qing Shan.

“Long time no see, Dragon King of Atrocity Jail”

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “I remember you, Wraith Might, You Tian Gui”

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This Wraith Might was someone that the Wraith realm sent out to investigate the death of Elder Du.

He originally managed to find Gu Qing Shan, but due to the ominous demons' sudden descent, he couldn't help but escape.

You Tian Gui walked in front of the bar counter, stood against Gu Qing Shan, then said:

“Dragon King, I want to talk with you for a little bit”

“Have a drink, then we’ll talk” Gu Qing Shan handed him a drink.

“Thank you” You Tian Gui accepted the shot glass in surprise and remained silent for a bit.

The glass in his hand was filled with a crimson red liquid that looked almost like it was burning, yet it was cold to the touch, which made anyone feel like taking a sip.

Gu Qing Shan raised his own glass.

You Tian Gui could only raise his glass as well and took a sip.

“Sure enough, excellent liquor” You Tian Gui praised.

The bartender cut in: “Gentlemen, this is the most expensive drink in our store, one that Dragon King of Atrocity Jail had specifically ordered when he saw you enter”

“I hope that you can make peace in war, and not cause any trouble in the bar”

You Tian Gui glanced at the bartender and said: “You people sure know a lot”

“The bar has always been a place where information travels fast” Gu Qing Shan grinned.

You Tian Gui turned to Gu Qing Shan with his mind full of thoughts.

From the moment I stepped into the bar, my momentum had been continuously accumulating. Once everyone was chased outside and I walked up to him, it should have reached a peak.

At this point, I became like a tense arrow ready to fire, constantly preparing for a sure-kill attack.

—-but he handed me a drink.

If I didn’t accept that drink and at least say a few words, I truly wouldn’t have been able to properly attack.

Furthermore, without knowing, I've already been inflicted by some sort of hex that remains without activating.

Without a sign or warning, the initiative had been shifted.

This one...

Is extraordinary.

You Tian Gui remained silent for a few moments, then suddenly decided to use a different method to face this newly-promoted Titled Hitman.

“Dragon King, how much do you know about our Wraith realm?” he asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “You are too closed-off, I don't know much about you at all— but I know that you're all humans, so why must you wear those yaksha masks?”

“The masks can grant us power” You Tian Gui replied.

Gu Qing Shan chuckled: “Then why do your masks all have varying expressions, some crying and some laughing?”

You Tian Gui said: “Because certain emotions are necessary as a guide to achieve a certain effect with our techniques, or even achieve certain results”

“But those are the masks depicting you crying or laughing, not your true selves” Gu Qing Shan commented.

“It doesn't matter who it is, it is enough for the masks to display them, and we only care about results” You Tian Gui replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: “How regretful”

“What is regretful?” You Tian Gui asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Crying and laughing are only the symbols, if you treat them as tools, you will never be able to sense just how much suffering is behind a smile, and how much despair lies behind a tear"

"These are the true sources of a cultivator's power"

You Tian Gui paused, then suddenly grinned and said: "You seem to understand us quite well, have you been constantly studying our Wraith realm?"

"Not at all" Gu Qing Shan replied.

You Tian Gui continued: "You killed Elder Du didn't you, Dragon King?"

Gu Qing Shan took a sip of his liquor and said: "You need proof for everything in Void City; if you just spout nonsense like—"

You Tian Gui suddenly cut him off and declared: "It was you who killed Elder Du, I know that for a fact, and I've made the preparations for this"

The atmosphere of the bar suddenly became as sharp as razor blades.

Every wraith in the bar had drawn their weapons, some even had talismans ready in their hands.

Gu Qing Shan put the shot glass down and looked at him.

You Tian Gui relaxed his hand and muttered: "The ominous demons cannot constantly protect you, Dragon King, I suggest that you surrender, then you might manage to stay alive"

Gu Qing Shan silently smiled.

"We're doing this?" Crow silently sent his voice.

“...No” Gu Qing Shan replied.

It's... not yet time.

My goal is to enter the Wraith realm, find the Delimitation Divine Sword, resolve the threat looming over Tomb of Myriad Beasts, then reach the truth.

Then...

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan silently took out the circular lightbulb, turned it white and placed it above his head.

Seeing him do that, Crow and Yu Juan both took out their respective halos and put it above their heads as well.

Crow turned his halo pink, while Yu Juan turned it red.

The three of them looked at the wraiths with three lights above their heads.

The colors pink, red, and white illuminated the entire bar.

Yu Juan chanted a short incantation:

“One, two, three, go~”

Instantly, like a disco light, the three halos began to blink systematically.

The sharp atmosphere was broken again.

The music, the light, a bar with everyone's attention on him, this was nothing but the perfect opportunity, Gu Qing Shan suspected that if the Sacrificial Dance wasn't sleeping, he might have already begun dancing.

You Tian Gui looked at the halo above Gu Qing Shan's head, then at Gu Qing Shan himself.

This was an angel's halo.

Anyone who dared to attack those carrying an angel's halo within Void City would be met with instant retaliation from the angels.

Gu Qing Shan raised his glass towards You Tian Gui again.

"How regretful, I actually do have 24/7 protection"

He smiled.

Chapter 1381

Translator: La0o9

Lively music.

Flashing pink and red light throughout the entire bar.

The flashing light illuminated each of the yaksha masks turn by turn, completely wiping out the razor-sharp atmosphere from before.

You Tian Gui said: "Earlier you hid under the Ominous Demon Tower, now under the Church— are you that afraid of us?"

Gu Qing Shan replied with a smug expression: "Unless other people pay me to, I don't really like to kill people. I'd rather just drink, sing, make some food, and enjoy a peaceful life"

You Tian Gui looked at Gu Qing Shan, feeling a sense of absurdity.

Has this Hitman always been this way?

According to information, Elder Du only got into a small bit of conflict with this Hitman.

Elder Du's entire group were murdered that same night.

—if Elder Du was truly killed by this Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, he must be the kind of expert killer whose wits are only surpassed by his cruelty.

And definitely not seeking refuge under every possible group just because he isn't willing to right like he's doing right now.

—did I make a mistake in my judgement?

When an absolute matter suddenly became uncertain, You Tian Gui stood still, silently falling into thought.

...that's not necessarily the case.

There are two possible situations.

Firstly, considering this Hitman's reaction, I had truly made a mistake, and the culprit was someone else entirely.

Secondly, there was a hidden reason why Elder Du was murdered by this Hitman, and the reason he isn't willing to clash head-on was that he had something else planned.

In that case, I still need to kill this Hitman.

Even if he isn't the culprit, we can use his death to announce to Void City that this was the outcome for anyone who tried to kill an Elder of the Wraith realm.

Not only would this resolve the humiliation of the Wraith realm, but it would also deceive the real culprit— if the culprit was someone entirely, they would definitely let their guard down, which makes it easier for me to silently continue investigating the truth.

Then...

Kill him.

You Tian Gui made a gesture behind his back, then spoke: "Dragon King, don't you think you've failed to account for something?"

“What would that be?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Always relying on someone else’s protection won’t allow you to live to the very end” You Tian Gui replied.

The wraiths behind him suddenly activated two Life Talismans and shouted: “Wraith realm Revolution!”

The bar disappeared.

The entire world suddenly faded away.

“Be careful! This is a World Technique, they’re trying to take us to another world, that must be a place filled with their deathtraps——”

Crow hurriedly said.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly cut him off and shouted: “Crow, your predictions!”

Crow also reacted quickly and corrected himself: “But this World Technique will suddenly malfunction, they won’t successfully take us to their destination, instead, everyone will arrive at a foreign world”

Just as he finished, the Life Talismans in the wraiths’ hands burnt completely away.

Teleportation runes manifested out of nowhere to form a talisman array.

Watching that talisman array, Gu Qing Shan suddenly found himself being able to understand them.

In the Saint Spirit world, he was able to learn Red Wraith’s [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit] through the jade gourd pendant Adorable.

—Red Wraith was one of the two rulers of the Wraith realm, his expertise when it came to Talisman arts must have been the peak of the Wraith realm, and since [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit] was a talisman designed for the Roland Emperor, it must have been among the most powerful Life Talismans he had.

Gu Qing Shan had to spend a total of 100 million Soul Points to completely dissect [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit] with [War God Skills], through which he gained a deep level of the Wraith realm's Life Talismans.

At this point, he could easily understand and see through the majority of the Wraith realm's common talismans.

—back then, it was for the sake of learning the wraith's Life Talismans that he purposely let himself be afflicted by Red Wraith's [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit] without any resistance.

And it was at this moment that it paid off.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly put up his hand and began to draw a faint yellow light in mid-air using his finger.

The yellow light swirled like snakes and dragons before instantly manifesting a rune.

This rune became dim and shattered.

After all, this was his first time drawing a wraith rune, he failed.

Gu Qing Shan felt heavy, but swiftly moved his hand again to draw another rune.

This rune gave off an intense golden glow.

—*Success!*

Standing against him, You Tian Gui exclaimed in disbelief as he saw this rune: “That’s impossible!”

The rune that Gu Qing Shan drew suddenly faded into the air before manifesting inside the talisman array.

The entire talisman array began to become twisted, even the fluctuations it gave off became unstable.

“Oh no, Wraith Might sir, the teleportation has been directed slightly off-course!” one wraith shouted.

While it felt like a long time, everyone only happened in an instant.

A second later.

Heaven and earth turned around themselves.

A heavy impact could be felt.

Everyone fell on the ground, then quickly stood back up.

A blanket of lush green plants surrounded them.

A great tree took up their entire visions, some small animals could even be seen running from them out of fright.

—this was an unknown world.

You Tian Gui stood on top of a tree branch, looking towards Gu Qing Shan and Crow.

What that Hitman called Curt Death Silver Crow said had actually become the truth.

But compared to that, even more unbelievable was the fact that Dragon King of Atrocity Jail knew how to use Life Talismans.

—furthermore, it was an exceptionally high level of Life Talisman technique that managed to alter the entire teleportation talisman array with a single rune.

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It wasn't just You Tian Gui, but the other wraiths also noticed this.

They fell into a strange silence.

Against them.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit irritated.

The art of Life Talisman was supposed to be a Trump card I was saving against the Wraith realm, but I was forced to use it prematurely.

It was truly dangerous just now—

The wraith's prepared destination would definitely have been laced with countless layers of death traps; as soon as Crow, Yu Juan, and I are transported there, we would have had nearly no chance of survival.

Life Talismans techniques are extremely fast and flexible, which makes them hard to both defend against and destroy.

That was the reason why he had to use a Life Talisman technique just now.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You're performed a Life Talisman technique]

[Life Talisman techniques require the life force of others as casting catalyst]

[You've spent Soul Points instead of life force to perform this Life Talisman instead, using 500 Soul Points in total]

Gu Qing Shan relaxed slightly.

He currently had over 200 million Soul Points, so using up 500 wasn't anything to fuss over.

You Tian Gui spoke: "Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, I know your background very well. You were originally a Fear Fiend who came from the 900 million World Layers who happened to save a receptionist of the Hitman Guild, at the same time saving a lot of the Guild's assets, which allowed you to enter Void City"

His killing intent abruptly rose.

"Originally, killing Elder Du would have already been a great matter, but I didn't think you also knew how to use Life Talismans"

"This is a unique talisman art of our Wraith realm; how could you grasp it?"

Gu Qing Shan sighed and didn't say anything.

—I really didn't think things would get to this.

You Tian Gui gestured with his hand behind his back.

All the wraiths put their Life Talismans away and drew their weapons.

"Speak, Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, this is already your last chance"

You Tian Gui also brandished his spear and declared.

"You're trying to kill me?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Although this is an unknown world, it is still far away from Void City, the Ominous Demon Tower, the angels, and the Hitman Guild, none of them can protect you now” You Tian Gui stated.

Speaking of this, You Tian Gui couldn't help recalling how his shoulders were pressed down by a bunch of burly men.

No one would be able to help you now.

Feeling his anger being vented, You Tian Gui mocked: “Coward who only knows how to hide behind others, there's no one left to protect you now, prepare to die!”

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a moment.

“Let's leave that for later, I need to do something first” Gu Qing Shan said.

He abruptly drew a sword and attacked his two companions.

“You dare ambush me!?”

Crow angrily shouted and drew his rapier.

Yu Juan also unleashed a blast of frigid air towards Gu Qing Shan.

The three of them were clearly fighting at full strength, exchanging near-fatal blows that instantly pushed the battle into its most intense phase.

“What?” You Tian Gui exclaimed in shock.

—what's going on? Why are they fighting among themselves?

The wraiths were also shocked to see this.

“Sir, what do we do now?” one of the wraiths whispered and asked.

You Tian Gui fell silent, sensing an unknown emotion pressuring his heart.

This damn Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, first invited someone for a drink, then suddenly put a lightbulb on his head, then casually used a Life Talisman.

And now, he suddenly attacked his companions.

— even if you ask me, how am I supposed to know what to do!!!?

You Tian Gui recollected himself a bit before a thought flashed through his mind.

Life Talismans are the core of the Wraith Saint's power.

If he knows Life Talismans as well as he's shown, could he be somehow related to the Wraith Saint?

You Tian Gui looked to the other side again.

Only to see Dragon King of Atrocity Jail attacking the other Hitman and the librarian with considerable force.

Perhaps...

There is something he can't let these two know about?

With that in mind, You Tian Gui gave out his orders: “We’re going to remain still for now and silently observe any change”

“Understood, sir”

The wraiths then remained still, silently watching the three’s battle.

Only to see their clash growing increasingly more intense, with even shouting and screaming thrown into the mix.

A few moments passed.

A few dozen seconds passed.

Suddenly, the sound of dragon howls resounded throughout the sky.

A dragon suddenly descended from above.

「 I can sense someone fighting against the disciple of the old dragon boss man, are you provoking our dragon race? 」 the dragon spoke in a thunderous voice.

Chapter 1382

Translator: La0o9

As soon as the dragon had spoken, You Tian Gui had immediately made preparations to fight.

There were over a dozen wraiths on their side, so if it was only a single dragon, they had no need to panic——

A second later, a dragon that suddenly appeared out of nowhere looked blankly towards the group of people.

It looked around, muttering:

「 What happened? Why is there so much killing intent, and even signs of death? The clouds in the sky are crying, the flowers on the ground are still trying to grow, how could all of you have run all the way here just to fight to the death in such a beautiful place~ 」

It began to sing.

The wraiths were stunned.

— is this dragon dumb?

Suddenly, another dragon descended from above.

「 Even after knowing that he's the heir of our boss, you still dare to bully him, so you're looking down on our dragon race huh? 」 this dragon angrily grumbled.

More and more dragons continued to descend one after another, all of them landing on top of the trees and looking down towards Gu Qing Shan's side.

One, two, three... a total of 29 dragons!

This was an overwhelming force!

Gu Qing Shan finally put his sword away, tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a few bottles of liquor, then threw one each to Crow and Yu Juan.

“After sparring, it's so easy to feel a bit parched” he said.

Lines of glowing text were hovering in the void of space in front of him.

[You've equipped the Title: Dragon King of Atrocity Jail]

[You are in combat]

[As the heir of the dragon ancestor, your battle will be sensed by the other dragons within your vicinity, they might come to aid you]

[Attention, the first dragon is approaching]

[Attention, the second dragon is approaching]

[...]

Gu Qing Shan stopped looking at the combat synopsis and popped his bottle open.

Crow also opened his bottle, drank several mouthfuls, then spoke: “So you were trying to buy time to complete a summoning technique”

Yu Juan commented while feeling assured: “We’re saved”

The three of them all turned towards the wraiths.

Gu Qing Shan looked at You Tian Gui and said: “See, even while we’re not in Void City, I still have people to protect me”

You Tian Gui was holding a Life Talisman in his hand, but no matter how he tried, it didn’t activate.

He changed to another talisman and declared after forming a hand seal: “Law Exposure!”

The Life Talisman burnt away and formed two unique runes in mid-air.

Seeing these two runes, You Tian Gui’s expression changed.

Anti-warp Barrier Hex!

Isolation Barrier Hex!

—without me knowing, we were already restrained by these two Hexes!

When did that happen?

You Tian Gui was confused.

I can't send out a talisman to call for help either.

Despite how cautious I was, I couldn't even see the one who acted.

Exactly when, who, and how did they manage to set up these barriers?

You Tian Gui was a bit speechless.

Right now, he was feeling some regret.

If only the Wraith Lord hadn't assigned me to this...

As he thought that, a dragon roared towards Gu Qing Shan from above: 「 Who said I'm here to protect you? I have a grudge against the dragon ancestor, I'm here to kill you 」

「 Me too 」

「 I as well 」

「 And me 」

「 That's right, kill him, I'm in! 」

About a dozen dragons roared at the same time.

The remaining dozen dragons stood in front of Gu Qing Shan's group to shield them, angrily roaring: 「 You can't kill him, he's the heir of the dragon ancestor! 」

The dragons were stuck in a stand-off, their killing intent growing increasingly stronger.

You Tian Gui suddenly felt hope.

So many of these dragons actually came here to kill him!

He silently counted and found that the dragons who wanted to kill Gu Qing Shan were actually the majority.

That's perfect!

You Tian Gui was excited and swung his hand: "Everyone, everyone please! We wraiths also wish to kill the disciple of the dragon ancestor; we can fight alongside you!"

The dragons who wanted to kill Gu Qing Shan swiftly retreated and stood around the wraiths.

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「 Who are you? 」 one of the dragons asked in a whisper.

"I am You Tian Gui, I came from the Wraith realm, under orders to kill this Dragon King of Atrocity Jail"

「 You Tian Gui? 」 another dragon asked.

"Yes, as long as you can help us hold off those dragons, you can leave killing Dragon King of Atrocity Jail to us" You Tian Gui confirmed.

「 You said you were called, You Tian Gui, are you sure you aren't boasting? Do you have confidence in actually killing that 'Dragon King of Atrocity Jail'? 」 another dragon questioned.

"There won't be any issues" You Tian Gui assured them.

The dragons exchanged glances, they nodded: 「 Very well, then you can join us 」

The leader dragon spoke: 「 Wait a moment first, we will first use our Draconics magic to attack, they are extremely powerful techniques, so don't act yet or you might get caught in them 」

“I understand” You Tian Gui replied.

He was feeling more confident, and even a bit curious.

Very few have actually witnessed the dragon’s Draconics magic.

All historical records regarding the dragon’s magic had been hidden by the dragons, one way or another.

Dragons are truly sly.

Most of the time, one wouldn’t even know how they actually attacked.

And now, with the dragons fighting in front of me, I can finally——

「 I spit on you, you damn bastards! Carefully listen to what I have to say! 」

A resounding howl from above cut off You Tian Gui’s thoughts.

He looked up.

Only to see the dragons on the other side were shouting jeers and insults towards theirs.

「 I spit on you! I woke up in the middle of the night and someone was trying to bully a dragon, huh! 」
one of the dragons said.

The second followed up: 「 I open my big eyes to try and take a look, turns out it was a bunch who wear masks and hide like turtles in their shells 」

The third dragon howled: 「 If you want to fight then fight, what ‘help’, I’ve seen through your shamelessness, acting like you own the place! 」

Against them, among the dragons that wanted to kill Gu Qing Shan, one of them stood out and began:

「 Yo~ 」

The dragons behind it immediately raised their voices and chanted in unison: 「 You bunch of good-for-nothings only knows how to run your mouths. You all know what schemes you're plotting, others people might not want to expose you, but I can tell from a mile away~ 」

Among the dragons on Gu Qing Shan's side, one of them instantly jumped out and angrily shouted: 「 Bullshit! 」

It cleared its throat and shouted: 「 You dirty rat bastards, I'm telling you right now—— 」

After spitting an entire bar, it happily retreated.

It was happy, but the dragons on the other side weren't.

Another dragon stepped forward, scoffed in disdain, then began insulting its opposition.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan put his hands on Crow and Yu Juan's shoulders, telling them: "Let's back off a bit"

Crow already had his rapier at the ready, prepared for combat, but since the dragons in the air were still insulting one another, he didn't really have an opening to charge forward.

"What's going on here?" Yu Juan couldn't help but ask.

"We just need to wait" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Lines of text were appearing in front of his eyes one after another:

[Combat synopsis:]

[Frost Dragon had unleashed the Frost Dragon Shadow Hex]

[Emerald Dragon had unleashed the Emerald Dragon Shadow Hex]

[Ghost Illusion Dragon had unleashed the Purple Dragon Shadow Hex]

[Saint Light Dragon had unleashed the White Dragon Shadow Hex]

[Demon Flame Dragon had unleashed the Blue Dragon Shadow Hex]

[Silver Dragon had unleashed the Golden Dragon Shadow Hex]

[Lightning Dragon had unleashed the...]

[...]

[All the Dragon Hexes have afflicted the wraiths]

Time slowly passed.

It had already been ten minutes.

The three of them felt their visions becoming blurred.

They had returned to the bar.

Everything was as they were previously.

But the wraiths did not appear.

This time, even Crow was confused.

“Hey, do you know what just happened?” he silently sent his voice to Gu Qing Shan and asked.

“Not sure, most likely the dragon race’s combat practices are a secret to the dragon race, so they didn’t want us to witness” Gu Qing Shan silently replied.

Crow asked in confusion: “Weren’t those dragons insulting each other, preparing to fight?”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “They were deceiving those wraiths”

Chapter 1383

Translator: La0o9

The Wraith realm.

On top of a jagged rocky mountain.

Innumerable wraiths surrounded this entire area from the foot of the mountain all the way to the top.

There wasn't anything at the very top except a formation that was full of inscribed runes made of obsidian.

The wraiths stood around the formation, ready to catch their enemies.

No one said a single word.

The entire mountain was in absolute silence and solemnity.

Suddenly, a figure descended from above, standing in front of the formation and asked: “The Wraith Lord sent me, what's the progress so far?”

Another wraith stepped forward, kneeling on one knee: “Sir You Tian Gui had begun his pursuit, most likely he had found the Dragon King of Atrocity Jail”

The figure asked: “Is the Soul Vessel Imprisonment Formation ready?”

“As Dragon King of Atrocity Jail is a Titled Hitman, we didn't only prepare a Soul Vessel Imprisonment Formation, but also several restraining formations— the triggering talismans have been handed to sir You Tian Gui's subordinates”

The figure nodded satisfactorily: "That's good. The Laws of Soul Eradication Mountain were established by sir Wraith Saint himself, there are very rarely any mistakes. They will surely be transported here briefly, and Dragon King of Atrocity Jail will be executed"

The wraith answered: "We've eliminated countless powerful Combatants from numerous worlds while posted here at Soul Eradication Mountain, don't worry sir"

"Ahaha, very well, I shall wait here for a bit here then. Once you've taken Dragon King of Atrocity Jail's head, I will also be able to report it"

"Yes sir, then please wait for a moment"

"Hm"

After that, both the figure and the wraith stood waiting without uttering a single sound.

One minute passed.

...

Two minutes passed.

The figure couldn't help but ask: "Why is You Tian Gui so slow?"

Someone replied: "You might not know sir, but Dragon King of Atrocity Jail has close relationships with the Ominous Demon Tower. Perhaps he's staying in the Tower as a guest, so You Tian Gui can't really act just yet, having to wait until he leaves the Ominous Demon Tower"

The figure thought for a bit then nodded.

The other organizations of Void City were no issue, only the Ominous Demon Tower was especially tough to deal with.

—they had a particularly disgusting way of threatening people.

That method was truly something they had to look out for.

The figure sighed, then continued: “Very well, I shall wait for a bit longer, but I want all of you to remain completely cautious. Dragon King of Atrocity Jail is known for having many numerous means, I want you all to kill him as soon as he appears”

The wraiths all responded: “Sir, yes sir!”

Time slowly passed...

The sun had set and the moon had risen.

An entire day went by.

The figure suddenly shouted: “We’ve waited for an entire day— why did we wait here for one whole day? This isn’t right!”

The wraiths seemed like they’ve just snapped out of a dream as well.

“Sir, we’re contacting Wraith Might You Tian Gui”

“Oh no, sir, we can’t reach him!”

“We can’t reach any of his subordinates either!”

“Quickly report to the Wraith Lord!”

The wraiths immediately went into a panic.

...

Let's rewind time a bit.

In reality, You Tian Gui had already found Gu Qing Shan when the figure arrived at Soul Eradication Mountain.

Their teleportation was interfered by Crow and Gu Qing Shan's joint effort, all of them were transported to a foreign world.

The dragons appeared and began to insult one another.

Right after that, Gu Qing Shan, Crow, and Yu Juan all returned to the bar.

"You said that the dragons were deceiving the wraiths?" Crow asked, still confused.

"Yeah, that's what I suspect" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Yu Juan was disappointed: "How regretful, not even our library had records of the dragon's combat method, it's quite mysterious"

Crow followed up: "That's right, I also want to see how the dragons fight— I can see how intense it must be just by thinking about it"

Gu Qing Shan's mouth twitched a bit and said: "Let's not, I guarantee that you don't want to"

At this point, the only other people left in the bar were the three bartenders.

They looked at Gu Qing Shan's group with a strange expression.

These people manage to escape from the wraiths' coercion.

—*what shocking news.*

As they thought that, the door of the bar suddenly opened.

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A man wearing a black baseball cap, a pair of sunglasses, a disposable mask, and a black business suit entered the bar.

Dressing like this, no one was able to see how he actually looked.

“Welcome” one of the bartenders said.

The man walked up to the bar counter, pulled out a piece of paper and muttered: “Tudor, Dian Kong, Gold Card”

The three bartenders all appeared surprised.

“Yes”

“Yes”

“Your excellency? What do you need us for?”

They spoke up in unison.

The man created a flame on his hand and burnt the piece of paper.

“It’s nothing. It took quite a bit of effort to find your names”

He suddenly clapped his hands after saying that.

The three bartenders instantly became as stiff as statues.

The man declared: “Swear by your names, you shall forget the memories I choose”

The three bartenders then became limp and collapsed to the ground.

At this point, the man nodded towards Gu Qing Shan and said: “You don’t need to care about those two dozen wraiths anymore”

His voice suddenly became a female voice.

—it was truly impossible to discern whether this individual was male or female.

This type of disguise and demeanor displayed just how cautious they were.

Gu Qing Shan instantly understood.

—*dragon.*

This individual is a dragon.

Gu Qing Shan curiously asked: “How did you deal with them?”

The man answered: “All wraiths are laced with various kinds of tracking techniques, even after they die they can be summoned back, killing them would be the same as releasing them, so we restrained all the magic on their bodies, turned them into a dozen grains of sand and tossed them randomly into various different points in the space vortex.

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

These dragons were truly the definition of caution.

The space vortex was boundlessly vast, capable of housing the infinite worlds, so trying to find a few dozen grains of sand would be infinitely more difficult than finding a needle at the bottom of the ocean.

The man continued: "We then used the remnant fluctuations of their talisman array to unleash an Unintelligent Hex. Anyone affected by this hex would become dumb, and every wraith on the other side of that teleportation array would have been affected"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist: "Please pass on my gratitude to your companions as well, thank you very much for your help"

"No need to be so formal, our identities are hidden, so the wraiths wouldn't be able to find us either way. But you, on the other hand, you need to be extra cautious from now on, try not to get involved with those wraiths" the man said.

Saying so, he turned around and prepared to leave.

At this point, Crow couldn't help but ask: "You are a dragon? You've turned all those wraiths into sand?"

The man paused.

He glanced at Crow and was stunned by Crow's appearance.

"How handsome"

The man spoke in a female voice.

He— she took off her sunglasses to reveal a pair of beautiful silver eyes and looked at Crow: "What is it? Do you have any objections?"

"Not really objections, I'm just curious to know how you managed to restrain those wraiths" Crow sincerely replied.

Yu Juan also appeared to really want to know, standing next to them.

The woman looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked with a surprised voice: “You didn’t tell them?”

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and replied: “I thought this was a secret of our dragon race”

The woman appeared pleased, then patted his shoulder: “That’s right, we manipulate behind the scenes, trip people up, hit below the belt, shout insults and abuse before killing people— but everything we do, we do for justice, don’t we?”

Gu Qing Shan quickly nodded in agreement and replied: “That’s exactly it”

The woman put her sunglasses on again and spoke: “I’ll advise you again. Stay as far away as you can from the wraiths, they seemed to have been afflicted with some kind of madness, we of the dragon race had always taken a stance to avoid them”

“Got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The woman nodded to him, then turned around and left the bar.

After she left, the three bartenders quickly regained their senses and staggered to stand back up from the ground.

“What happened?”

“I’m not sure, I only remember sleeping very soundly”

“Ah? Why is the bar so empty today?”

The bartenders all felt confused.

As far as they can see, the only customers in the bar were Gu Qing Shan, Yu Juan, and Crow.

Chapter 1384

Translator: La0o9

The neon lights flickered.

The music in the bar was stable and drifty.

The bartenders were confused, completely clueless to what had happened.

“Let’s go”

Gu Qing Shan stood up and walked out of the bar.

Crow and Yu Juan swiftly followed.

The three of them exited the bar and walked along the lonely night streets.

Yu Juan casually created a soundproof barrier around them, then told Gu Qing Shan: “Those wraiths came to kill you, but now you’re completely fine while they’ve all disappeared, this is a big issue”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “That’s why that dragon advised me to go into hiding”

Crow asked: “What do you plan to do now?”

“Haven’t thought that far yet” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Crow was a bit surprised and said: "That's very unlike you— you should know that the wraiths never leave things hanging, especially when it comes to killing. The fact that they've lost people will only further reinforce this"

Before Gu Qing Shan even said anything, Yu Juan said: "That woman just now said that the wraiths on the other side were afflicted with a Dragon Hex, so there won't be any issues for a day"

"Even so, he still needs to come up with something soon" Crow said as he blinked.

—since he was part of Fei Yue's plan, he knew what were Gu Qing Shan's true intentions.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and replied: "I'm still thinking about that"

Yu Juan suddenly said: "Ever since we returned from the Saint Spirit world, I felt like I'm about to break through, what about you two?"

Gu Qing Shan and Crow exchanged glances before smiling.

"Perverted duck, this Curt Death Silver Crow had already broken through, and so did Dragon King" Crow triumphantly boasted.

Yu Juan was a bit surprised, replying with some dissatisfaction: "And here I thought I was the fastest— speaking of which, did you gain any new abilities?"

Gu Qing Shan thought about his evolving World Technique and shook his head.

Crow excitedly replied: "My [Weal In, Woe Out] technique had advanced, the duration of my prediction had gotten longer, the future I am able to see has gotten more accurate as well. Other than that, I think I've also gained a new precognition technique"

"A new precognition technique? Impressive!" Yu Juan praised.

Crow stopped.

He thought about his scheduled time with Fei Yue, then told Gu Qing Shan and Yu Juan: "I have to go back now"

Yu Juan asked: "To the Hitman Guild?"

Crow chuckled, about to say something, but then noticed Gu Qing Shan's almost non-existent reminding gaze.

—right, this matter is very secretive, I can't randomly discuss it.

Crow continued: "That's right, a new officer had just been appointed for the Guild's reception, she's quite the beauty"

"Oh? Even prettier than you when you were a woman?" Yu Juan asked with intrigue.

"Of course not" Crow denied right away.

"If that's the case, I won't be joining your fun" Yu Juan waved his hand and continued walking ahead.

"Where are you going?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Where else? Back to the library, there are still so many research topics I need to continue with" Yu Juan helplessly sighed.

"See you"

"See you"

Yu Juan's figure flashed and faded into the darkness, quickly disappearing as he flew away.

Crow and Gu Qing Shan continued to stand in the darkness, watching him leave.

"Not going to invite him to join? He's quite knowledgeable even for a librarian" Crow asked.

"No, his combat skills are a bit lacking. If we insist on getting him involved in an operation against the wraiths, his life will be at risk" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"True, I agree with you on that" Crow nodded.

"So you're heading to Fei Yue's place now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Right, I'm heading out right now— come to the City Lord's manor if you need me for anything" Crow replied.

"Got it"

Gu Qing Shan smiled and casually said: "As long as I don't want the wraiths to find me, they're never going to reach me"

Recalling Gu Qing Shan's [Fog Realm Descent], Crow chuckled: "Then it's best that you travel to a few more worlds, make it easier for you to flee whenever you want to"

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan wanted to reply, only to see Crow's eyes becoming dark as he stared at him with a terrifying expression.

—-it was like he was staring at a strange corpse.

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask.

Crow continued staring at him without saying a word, but feathers had manifested around his body, completely enveloping it.

Crow began speaking with a voice that almost sounded like sharp metal screeching.

『 Great Flood is about to arrive, there will be no place to hide in the entirety of Void City, those who go against the wraiths will die without a place to be buried, but you, Gu Qing Shan, you will face your death before you even witness that sight! 』

As soon as the declaration was over, all the unusual phenomena disappeared.

Crow's expression returned to normal and laughed: "Alright, I'll be going ahead, see you later"

"Wait!"

Gu Qing Shan pulled him back.

Crow appeared confused and asked: "What's the matter?"

"What did you say just now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"—Did I say something?" Crow seemed clueless.

He then quickly realized and happily explained: "Ah right, I've now grasped the second stage of [Weal In, Woe Out], sometimes capable of saying things that even I don't know about"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised for a short moment.

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

[You've been influenced by the prophetic power: Cementary]

[Cementary: Capable of accurately foresee upcoming mass death events]

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

Crow's original ability was [Tombstone], which can aid the Law of Fate.

Fortunately, Crow is able to control it by making timely corrections to alter the results.

But now, Crow had gotten ahold of a new precognition ability—

[Cemetery] cannot be changed at all, it is able to directly foresee the true future!

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts moved quickly.

Just now, Crow said 'those who go against the wraiths will die without a place to be buried'.

Then, is the Apocalypse called 'Great Flood' under the control of the wraiths?

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Gu Qing Shan paused for a bit and asked: "Crow, what is 'Great Flood'?"

Crow's expression greatly changed and hurriedly asked: "Did I just mention Great Flood?"

"You did"

Gu Qing Shan then repeated everything that Crow said earlier.

Crow was stunned for a while before answering: "Great Flood... is a true Unlivable rank Apocalypse..."

Unlivable.

An Apocalypse that no one would be able to survive.

— the countless people of great talents, numerous heroes of the void, no one had ever been able to survive such an Apocalypse.

Even the Plague Apocalypse that we faced before was only an Unsolvable Apocalypse, the dangers of which were far from the current one.

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank completely.

The wraiths hold such power in their hands...

How exactly did they achieve such a thing?

"Crow, inform Fei Yue of this quickly. She's both knowledgeable and powerful, she surely has a proper way to respond to this" Gu Qing Shan immediately said.

"Got it"

Crow understood how serious the situation was, so he disappeared right as he said that.

Gu Qing Shan also entered a mass of white fog and disappeared from the street.

He directly appeared inside a small brick house.

"What's the matter? Your complexion doesn't look so good" Xiao Die commented.

"A few things have happened; I need to confirm something" Gu Qing Shan replied.

In front of Xiao Die, he took out the colorful rooster statue.

Xiao Die was surprised: "What is this?"

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything and pulled on the comb of the rooster.

The colorful rooster came to life.

It wasn't yawning this time; it was in an extreme panic from the very beginning.

"Gu Qing Shan, hurry! Hurry and give me Soul Points! I have something I need to tell you right away!"

"How much?"

"100,000!"

Gu Qing Shan infused it with the Soul Points without hesitation.

Receiving Soul Points, the colorful rooster first uttered a loud cluck, then told him: "Gu Qing Shan, your identity has been exposed, the wraiths know who you truly are, they've found out that you came from the future!"

"How is that possible!? Who disclosed my identity?" Gu Qing Shan immediately asked.

"Unsure, you've already known that Great Flood will soon occur, so the only thing I can tell you right now is that you have a spy among you, he has sold you out, and you will soon succumb to your death!"

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

Gu Qing Shan abruptly turned to Xiao Die.

Xiao Die calmly asked: "Are you suspecting me?"

"No"

Gu Qing Shan walked up to her and said: “Crow predicted that Great Flood is coming, and I have a spy next to me. I want you to immediately go to Fei Yue, she’s a Fate Technician, and the most powerful individual in Void City. Go to her place and wait for me, I’ll come to find you soon!”

“And then what?” Xiao Die asked.

“Then we’re going to flee immediately—- an Unlivable Apocalypse isn’t to be trifled with” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Why don’t you doubt me?” Xiao Die asked.

“Hm? Why would I doubt you?” Gu Qing Shan asked back in surprise.

Xiao Die stared at him for a long while, then answered him: “Alright, I’ll need to find the Tower Master first, you don’t mind right?”

“I don’t, you can do what you think is necessary, we’ll meet up at the City Lord’s manor—- hurry!” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xiao Die nodded, then disappeared where she stood.

The only one left in the room was Gu Qing Shan.

He stood in the darkness, once again going through everything he had experienced since he came to Void City.

There are only two people who know a lot about me.

One of them was Crow, and the other was Yu Juan.

Crow knows my true name.

Yu Juan doesn’t.

Could it be Crow?

No, Crow didn't change his expression at all even after knowing the prediction he made.

He even went to the City Lord's manor just as I instructed.

At this point, I could simply flee using [Fog Realm Descent].

If Crow was the culprit, he wouldn't make such a newbie mistake.

Then...

It must be Yu Juan?

Even after thinking for a while, Gu Qing Shan found it hard to discern.

“Even knowing that I have [Fog Realm Descent], they're still confident in being able to kill me, unless...”

He took out the halo and examined it again.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Hovering-type ring-shaped luminescent lightbulb, technological product, capable of displaying seven different colors of light. Also capable of examining the environment, detect combat states, and summon the angels]

Reading these lines, Gu Qing Shan's thoughts swirled.

“Most likely he's not being manipulated, but is purposely standing on the wraith's side”

“No, I need to see the truth for myself”

Gu Qing Shan entered a mass of white fog.

...

At another location.

The Splendor Saint Church.

Yu Juan entered the cathedral, then followed two angels through numerous structures.

Finally, he reached the innermost building in the church.

Six angels came forward, all kneeling on one knee to greet him.

“Holy Son, you have returned”

They all spoke in unison.

Boundless holy light appeared from Yu Juan’s body as a pair of pure-white wings spread behind his back.

He coldly nodded, then said: “Among the donors of the Church, there is one called Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, discuss with the wraiths, kill him”

“Understood!”

Chapter 1385

Translator: La0o9

The Wraith realm.

The Wraith Temple.

Deep inside the temple, three statues stood straight without moving.

These were the statues of the three Wraith Lords.

They silently remained here like they were protecting something, or were waiting for someone.

Suddenly, one of the statues spoke: "Half an hour had passed, no reports had come from the Soul Eradication Mountain, they had most likely failed"

Another statue spoke: "The formation of our Soul Eradication Mountain had not failed for over 500 years; it seems like that Hitman's backgrounds are much deeper than we had thought"

The final statue spoke: "Perhaps we should personally act, to make——"

Its voice was cut off.

The sound of a chiming bell resounded throughout, cutting off the three Wraith Lords' conversation.

Ding Dong—— Ding Dong—— Ding Dong——

Ding Dong—— Ding Dong—— Ding Dong——

A total of six chimes echoed across the entire Wraith Temple.

The Wraith Temple suddenly disappeared without a trace, abruptly replaced by an entirely new world.

There was no sun in the sky, but a faint white glow was radiated from a statue high above the clouds to illuminate the entire world.

Around the three Wraith Lords, a lush green field, countless beautiful flowers, a clear water spring, and a series of ivory-white high towers were built in close vicinity.

An angel with four natural pairs of wings descended from above, landing in front of the three Wraith Lords.

The four-winged angel bowed, then spoke: "Greetings; Wraith Lords Fate Obstruction, Giant Frame, and Karmic Fire; I'm here under orders of the Holy Son to report a certain matter"

The Wraith Lords responded to its greeting and spoke: "Please go ahead"

The four-winged angel explained: "The Holy Son had told me to report that he managed to recognize one of the swords in that Title Hitman's hand, which was the Earth sword among the twin swords Heaven and Earth"

"His identity can practically be confirmed, but there exists a faint Space-Time fluctuation on his body. The Holy Son was worried that you cannot deal with him properly, so he specifically ordered me to bring my men here to aid you"

Wraith Lord Fate Obstruction spoke: "The twin swords Heaven and Earth... strange, these two swords should currently be in the 900 million World Layers, under the joint monitoring of the Eternal Abyss, as well as the Awaitings of [Order] and [Chaos], how could it..."

Wraith Lord Giant Frame continued: "That is correct, I also remember that the twin swords are currently in the 900 million World Layers, unless..."

Wraith Lord Karmic Fire concluded: "Unless this Hitman came from the past or future!"

The angel envoy's expression turned cold and continued: "According to our information, Fei Yue of Void City has gotten into contact with this individual, absolutely no mistakes must come out of this matter—to prevent this individual from interfering with our true plan, I shall personally bring my angels with the three Wraith Lords to eliminate this individual!"

...

Void City.

Gu Qing Shan stood at the main lobby of the library and waited for a while.

"Are you looking for me?" a voice called out.

Gu Qing Shan followed the voice, only to see an unfamiliar middle-aged man standing just a bit away from him with a slightly nervous expression.

"You are?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The middle-aged man replied: "This humble one is Yu Juan, a researcher librarian of Void City's Grand Library— they said that a Titled Hitman was looking for me"

Gu Qing Shan observed the other party and fell into thought.

I've never seen this man before.

"Not too long ago, did you participate in the battle against the Plague Apocalypse in Saint Spirit world?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The middle-aged man lowered his head and answered after some thought: "At the time I was... conducting an experiment but I was careless, so there was an accident. I fell unconscious and only awoke yesterday"

Gu Qing Shan looked closer at him; his killing intent subsided a bit before asking in a low voice: "Can you affirm that what you said was true?"

The middle-aged man sighed, then tiredly replied: "Yes, my ID card was indeed lost. As soon as I heard that I participated in that war, and even survived, I knew right away that someone impersonated me"

"But what could I actually say? If that person was able to steal my ID card without a sound or commotion, it wouldn't have been much trouble for them to take my life, so I didn't dare to expose this matter"

—the man was wearing a thick pair of glasses, his expression full of annoyance from having to talk to other people, his expression displayed honesty and anxiety, his strength... is much lower compared to the Yu Juan I know.

—he isn't lying.

Gu Qing Shan arrived at this conclusion simply with his intuition.

"You... Do you have any relations to the church?" Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit and asked.

“The Church?” the middle-aged man’s expression lit up and immediately explained in detail: “I’m their devout believer. The Splendor Saint Church is extremely powerful, not only have they been continuously protected us researchers who have no power, only knowing how to do research, but they also provide us with finances”

“Ah right, are you also a believer?” the middle-aged man asked.

Gu Qing Shan remained silent for a split second.

He was already prepared to leave, but the middle-aged man’s last words drew his attention.

“I am a believer, take a look”

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan took out the ring-shaped lightbulb.

“A Saint Selection believer! My apologies, so you were at a much higher rank than I am” the middle-aged man exclaimed in shock.

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“Do you know what this means?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Of course, only believers of the firmest faith would know about this halo, even I just happened to qualify as well” the middle-aged man’s expression displayed a hint of respect.

He even made a holy sign towards Gu Qing Shan as he stared closely at the halo.

Gu Qing Shan’s thoughts were quickly turning.

This halo that was used to monitor me and my location is now serving to prove my identity as a believer.

“Do you think so highly of this?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Indeed, this is a kind of proof, we can show it to the church in order to exchange for even more research funds” the middle-aged man explained in detail.

“Then do you know how many believers there are in Void City’s Grand Library?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The middle-aged man’s gaze was still locked on the halo as he replied: “I only know that there are some believers in my division, but I rarely contact researchers of other divisions, so I don’t really know other believers”

“Oh? What does your division mainly study?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The middle-aged man replied: “We study the worlds of the void as well as the corresponding information of those worlds”

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

The one who impersonated Yu Juan didn’t silence him.

This meant that the real Yu Juan also had a certain level of value.

“Might I be so rude to ask, what is your field of research?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Me?” the middle-aged man puffed out his chest and pridefully answered: “I research the war history of multiple layer worlds”

War history of multiple layer worlds?

Gu Qing Shan silently committed this term to memory.

“Then you must be the leading expert in this field” he flattered him.

“Ahaha, there is no need to say that, there are actually several other experts who are similarly knowledgeable when it comes to this field— although they are a bit lacking compared to me” the middle-aged man seemed embarrassed.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

—this is a man immersed in scientific research who doesn't understand the outside world well.

“Here, I'll give this to you. Keep in mind, never mention another word about the fact that someone impersonated you, this is for your own good”

After saying that, a mass of white fog appeared around Gu Qing Shan as he disappeared.

The middle-aged man appeared surprised before looking down at this hand.

The other party just gave the ring-shaped lightbulb to me.

“This is... perfect. With this Proof, I'll have enough resources for my upcoming research!”

He said as he excitedly put the lightbulb away.

...

The shade of night was heavy.

An orange cat was rapidly running through the streets under the protection of the shadow.

The orange cat rushed past several tall buildings, managing to find his destination in a few breaths' worth of time.

He lightly landed on the cold street and looked at the series of structures in front of him.

It was the Church.

It was currently midnight, so most of the church's believers had dispersed and gone home, the inside of the church was also very silent with only the occasional gospel being heard sung by a few angels.

「 Should we silently sneak inside to check? 」 the Earth sword asked.

The orange cat replied: “No, Great Flood is about to hit, and I would die before that— we won't have time to slowly confirm the truth”

「 Then what now? 」

“I can almost guarantee that this was the work of the Church— so now, I'll force that person out”

The orange cat raised his paw and pointed forward.

An excited ‘wu wu’ could be heard from the void of space.

A sprite of light the size of a finger's section suddenly manifested out of thin air.

It gave off a faint gentle glow as it drifted in the wind towards the Church.

A split second later.

This small sprite of light began to tremble, then abruptly formed a blinding spherical sun. It then began to radiate wave after wave of gigantic red flames like a solar storm or comet towards the Church complex.

—[Chaos] Divine Skill, [Cyan Flames]

This was a Divine Skill from the [Chaos] Serpentes King, Ouroboros!

Almost as soon as [Cyan Flames] manifested, the alarms inside the church loudly rang, squads of angels immediately took flight to face the intense flames!

Chapter 1386

Translator: La0o9

Flames descended like rain upon the Church.

Squads of angels took flight one after another, attempting to stop the descending waves of flames.

But facing this [Chaos] Divine Skill, their efforts were doomed to fail from the very beginning.

The angels who tried to face the flames were swiftly burnt to ashes.

Screams resounded throughout.

The angels gradually noticed that they were outmatched and quickly retreated, hurriedly dodging what they could.

Under the rain of fire, the Church's defensive arrays were fully activated.

The unending sound of a holy aria resounded.

A mass of holy light manifested in the air above the church to form a transparent barrier with dozens of layers.

The layered barrier completely isolated the Church from the outside world.

The rain of flames crashed into the barriers, causing earth-shaking explosions.

The layered holy barrier naturally couldn't completely stop the rain of flames, but it was regenerating rapidly, instantly reforming right as it was broken through.

The angels returned inside the Church, cooperating with the defensive array to stop the rain of flames.

However, the barrier was only able to block the rain of flames from a small part of the Church, while the remaining [Cyan Flames] continued to ravage the rest of the Church complex, committing mass arson.

—[Chaos] Serpentes King, Ouroboros.

This was an Awaiting who managed to survive until the very last moment of another parallel world.

A [Chaos] Divine Skill unleashed by such an entity could only be fought against by Combatants of at least Red Wraith's level.

Not even Red Wraith managed to completely defeat it and was only able to temporarily seal it away.

—-And that was under the circumstances where the [Chaos] Serpentes King was previously wounded, unable to fully exert its power.

Gu Qing Shan only helped it recover from the wounds inflicted by the Plague Apocalypse, not the wounds it sustained before that.

And this level of attack wasn't something that the angels could resist.

In the shadow of the night, intense flames illuminated the sky.

The orange cat maintained a cold expression as he sat on the other side of the street, carefully observing the Church's situation.

The intense flames reflecting in the orange cat's eyes did not cause any fluctuations.

He just silently sat there.

And waited.

Time slowly passed.

The rain of flames finally destroyed a few crucial buildings.

The layered holy barrier became unbearably dim.

The situation was gradually becoming more chaotic.

It was now that the orange cat slowly stood up, took out a formation plate, and began operating it with his claws.

Very quickly, a miniature warp formation was arranged at a dark corner of the street.

The orange cat put the formation plate away and raised his tail.

An autumn water-like blue steel sword silently appeared from the void of space, falling into the orange cat's tail and was tightly held by it.

The orange cat took a few steps forward, clearly preparing to charge.

He continued to wait.

Time continued to pass.

A large sphere of flame descended from the sky, broke through all the holy light and landed in the main Cathedral of the Church.

Boom—

With an ear-ringing explosion, the entire Cathedral was destroyed, scattering as embers.

The holy barrier in the sky flickered, then slowly vanished.

Right at this moment!

The orange cat's figure shifted and disappeared.

Before the layered barrier could regenerate, he had appeared next to the collapsed Cathedral, releasing his inner sight to observe his surroundings.

Very quickly, the orange cat discovered something.

At the Southwest corner of the Church, a large squad of angels were protecting a single building.

Whenever a shot of [Cyan Flames] fell towards this structure, many of the angels would immediately leap forward and unleash their magic without any regard for their own lives to resist the descending [Cyan Flames].

Although the angels continued to fall in battle, more and more angels also continued to pour out from the structure without fear.

The orange cat silently watched for a while, feeling a bit confused.

—every once in a while, a group of angels would fly out from the building.

There were so many of them that it had far surpassed the number that could be contained inside the building.

Could there be a warp formation inside?

The orange cat silently walked past a group of angels who arrived to douse the fire.

Thanks to [Ghostly Shadow of Night], none of the angels discovered the orange cat's existence.

And so, the sword that the orange cat had coiled around his tail also did not unleash any attacks.

He slowly continued forward, carefully avoiding the dwindling [Cyan Flames] attacks while approaching the building.

After a while, the building's door opened again.

The orange cat took that chance to abruptly activate his Divine Skill—

[Ground Shrink]!

Instantly, the orange cat appeared behind the large squad of angels and entered the building.

As soon as he entered, he heard a familiar voice:

“Who exactly was it that dared to openly attack the Church in Void City? I want him dead!”

The orange cat's ears twitched.

This was Yu Juan's voice, the Yu Juan that he knew.

The orange cat looked into the main hall of the building, only to see several angels kneeling on one knee around a unique angel with six natural wings on his back and clad in holy light.

—-*A six-winged seraph.*

Who would have thought that 'Yu Juan' was actually a six-winged seraph?

He had a cold expression on his face mixed with clear anger as he shouted towards an angel:

"Why haven't you found the source of this flame magic yet?"

The angel fearfully responded: "This subordinate has been investigating, but could not find such a technique within our records of the last few thousand years"

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"Then search in the records of ten thousand years ago!" the six-winged seraph shouted.

"Yes! Yes sir!"

The angel hurriedly flipped through the magic book in his hand and continued to search.

Next to these angels, there was a rune formation created from pure holy light.

Every few moments, an angel would be transported here through the rune formation.

—-*sure enough, there was a warp formation here.*

The orange cat narrowed his eyes and hid in the corner.

—for the sake of safety, he did not mention the battle between Red Wraith and the [Chaos] Serpentes King in too much detail.

This was nothing but a basic precaution.

When Gu Qing Shan had just returned, quite a few people wanted Gu Qing Shan to explain everything that happened, but the City Lord's manor was on Gu Qing Shan's side, coupled with the Ominous Demon Tower's influence and the Hitman Guild's nature as a murder organization—

Investigating a Titled Hitman's secret could easily offend them as well as the murder organization they represented, and the Ominous Demon Tower had also made their stance very clear.

That was why no one really knew the specifics of the combat situation.

They only confirmed through investigations that the Plague Apocalypse did disappear, and a new world was indeed forming.

Someone used a unique ability to communicate with the world spirit, who confirmed Gu Qing Shan's words.

That was why everyone believed Gu Qing Shan's version of events.

But no one knew about the [Chaos] Serpentes King in detail.

Which included Yu Juan.

The orange cat silently thought as his tail twitched.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword followed his tail's movement and pointed straight at Yu Juan.

—there's nothing to regret about killing someone who sold me out.

But then, why did he do such a thing?

The orange cat fell into thought.

A series of hurried footsteps sounded.

"Holy Son, we can't hold it off, that technique is growing increasingly stronger, almost like it's never-ending" someone reported.

Yu Juan's anger abruptly vanished, he calmed down and ordered: "If it had gotten to that degree, there is no need to continue forcefully holding it off, evacuate everyone from the Church's vicinity.

"Then what about you, sir?" an angel asked.

"I'll return to Heaven" Yu Juan casually replied.

The angel then advised: "You can't, sir. If the other party can unleash such a technique, there's no guarantee that Heaven is safe either"

Yu Juan wanted to say something, but then slowly closed his eyes.

"You're right, no one in the Church can withstand such a technique, I wouldn't be safe even if I return to Heaven..."

He muttered to himself.

The orange cat silently continued to observe and quickly saw something he found to be strange.

Yu Juan glanced at the clock on the wall.

The other angels also turned towards the clock one by one.

The orange cat carefully examined it, only to find that it was a normal clock in every meaning of the word.

Yu Juan then declared: "We've stalled for long enough, let's first return to Heaven before we head to that place"

"Understood, Holy Son"

"You will be safe there, Holy Son"

"Please go ahead"

The angels agreed.

Yu Juan ordered: "Everyone qualified will remain here, the others evacuate from the Church complex, immediately!"

"Sir, yes sir!" the angels responded in unison.

The angels here swiftly scattered.

The angels who were trying to hold off [Cyan Flames] swiftly left the Church complex, fleeing to other areas.

Only a handful of angels remained around Yu Juan.

What exactly is going on?

Where is Yu Juan heading to?

The orange cat's eyes flickered a bit.

...Killing Yu Juan doesn't seem to be my first priority anymore.

"Let's go" Yu Juan ordered.

The angels followed and stepped onto the warp formation with him.

The warp formation radiated white holy light and fully initiated—

The angels' expression became relaxed as they waited for the warp to complete.

Yu Juan had also begun to ponder the background of the terrifying technique in the sky.

Right at this moment, the orange cat finally made his move.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

Yu Juan switched places with the orange cat who was outside the formation!

Swiftly, the orange cat switched places with the clock on the wall as well.

The warp formation was activated!

The angels and the clock were all transported away.

Only Yu Juan remained inside the room.

He only felt his vision becoming blurred and a faint spatial fluctuation.

These are the signs of the warp formation activating.

But, why am I still inside the room?

As soon as he thought that, a sword had already been propped against his neck.

A light-blue flash of lightning flickered!

Thaumaturgy, [Dreamjolt]!

Yu Juan's body trembled, unable to move.

The orange cat instantly took out a formation plate and clicked on it with his claw.

Warp activated—

The orange cat and Yu Juan both disappeared, then reappeared outside of the church complex where the previous formation was set up.

The orange cat then used [Ground Shrink] and took Yu Juan away without leaving a trace.

Chapter 1387

Translator: La0o9

The small brick house.

Xiao Die wasn't here; she had either gone to the Ominous Demon Tower or the City Lord's manor.

Gu Qing Shan tossed Yu Juan on the ground and pierced his chest with the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

Numerous rays of light appeared from Yu Juan's body, then quickly faded away.

Yu Juan endured the pain and coldly questioned: "This isn't the Earth sword. How could it destroy all of my defensive measures?"

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer.

He grabbed the hilt of the sword and lifted Yu Juan up, violently pinning him on the wall.

"Aaarrggh—"

Yu Juan uttered a painful shriek, as if preparing to unleash something.

Gu Qing Shan's expression didn't change and simply declared: "Move, and you die"

Yu Juan could only hang both hands down.

He breathed heavily: "You—- how did you discover me?"

Gu Qing Shan questioned in return: "Yu Juan, why did you sell me out? For what reason did you tell the wraiths about me?"

Yu Juan's expression reflected clear pain as his was sweating bullets, seemingly unable to endure the torture of being pinned to the wall.

Shannu's voice sounded from the sword: "Gongzi, this isn't his real body"

Gu Qing Shan's expression remained calm and nonchalantly replied: "I know"

There were infinite worlds within the space vortex with countless Combatants with countless abilities. It was impossible for someone to always win against their adversaries, and even more impossible to know everything.

Fortunately, Gu Qing Shan specifically chose the Six Paths Great Mountain sword to attack him.

This sword was capable of breaking all Laws.

This was why Shannu instantly noticed the disparity as soon as she stabbed him.

Yu Juan's pained expression faded, he then smiled: "Your sword spirit sure is sensitive. How regretful that my eyes were drawn by the Earth sword and didn't notice that you had another such a powerful sword"

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "I'll ask you again, why did you sell me out?"

He stared closely into Yu Juan's eyes; his tone now gained a bit of killing intent.

"I won't force you to answer if you don't want to, but keep in mind, I will destroy this clone of yours, then continued searching for you until I kill you"

Yu Juan replied: "Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, tsk, sure enough, someone who could achieve so many things wouldn't be easy to deal with— how about this, I'll answer one of your questions, then you must answer one of my questions. If you refuse, then just kill this clone, we'll meet again later"

"Why did you sell me out?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Yu Juan chuckled and replied: "You sure wasted no time on that— very well, I'll tell you. I did not sell you out, even now I haven't done so, we simply aren't people on the same side from the very beginning. Everything I've done, I did out of necessity from my perspective"

“In other words, my death benefits you in some way” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Correct” Yu Juan admitted.

“What’s your relationship with the wraiths?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

“Stop, we’ve already agreed, one question in exchange for one question” Yu Juan said.

He then asked: “Dragon King, how did you notice that it was me?”

Gu Qing Shan coldly replied: “You’ve always left a bunch of breadcrumbs to be seen. I simply didn’t say anything because everyone has their own secrets, and you haven’t done anything I can’t forgive, not to mention we’ve even fought on the same side”

The six-winged seraph laughed: “Don’t act so deep. I can already guess what happened, it must have been Crow’s predictions, otherwise you would never have discovered that you were sold out”

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “Ever since Crow and I saved you from the pile of corpses, you were already exposed”

Yu Juan’s laughter stopped.

“You’re lying” he stared straight at Gu Qing Shan and spoke in a heavy tone.

“It was quite simple. When Crow and I were stuck in the tower, you purposely gave off a hint of vitality while hiding among a pile of corpses, I knew right away that there were issues with you”

“I was a survivor” Yu Juan said.

“The corpses around you were several days old, some of the corpses had already become rotten, but you were still full of vitality. In an apocalyptic situation, that kind of luck is nearly nonexistent” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Yu Juan remained silent for a bit, then said: “I’ll be sure to pay attention to my surroundings next time— — but that can’t prove that there’s some sort of issue with me, what if I was truly just lucky?”

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Gu Qing Shan continued: “In the Saint Spirit world, to better deal with the world’s issues and challenges, I was turned into a young man, Crow was turned into a woman, while you were turned into a duck plushie”

“So what? Speaking of which, that world spirit is truly detestable, turning me into a toy like that” Yu Juan begrudgingly said.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him and slowly pointed out: “I was turned into a young man because the world spirit needed me to begin with the identity of Rhode; Crow was turned into a woman because he was already extremely beautiful as a man, turning him into a woman only helped him further take advantage of what he already had— — don’t you get it? The world spirit was helping us, and also helping itself”

“But you were turned into a duck plushie, meaning that the world spirit felt cautious against you. It would rather disregard you as a possible helping hand than to let you participate in the crucial events that followed”

“If you were with me while I was doing my work in the plague world and extinct monster world, then the results might have been very different”

Gu Qing Shan’s body tilted forward and stared straight into Yu Juan’s eyes, telling him: “The world spirit is the combined form of numerous Laws, it was able to sense that you were trouble”

Yu Juan was stunned, temporarily speechless.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “After we returned, while Crow and I were discussing our matter, you happened to show up just in time, and even introduced the technological light rings that could monitor everything— —”

“Seems like you really didn’t know, but I’m actually a scientist”

“You? A scientist?” Yu Juan exclaimed in disbelief.

Gu Qing Shan regretfully continued: “I know of the hidden functions of your lightbulb, but didn’t say anything. Because I felt that regardless of the schemes you’re trying to hatch, I would be able to handle them”

“You won’t be able to handle this one” Yu Juan refuted.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t say anything.

He simply pointed at the sword in Yu Juan’s chest with his finger.

Yu Juan looked down at the sword in his chest and fell silent.

At this point, powerful rays of light could be seen appearing one after another from the nearby window.

“Hurry! Let’s go take a look!”

“Somebody destroyed the Church”

“What the hell, who exactly was it that actually managed to erase the entire Splendor Saint Church!?”

“Those angels are running everywhere like headless flies”

“My god, this is big news!”

...

The two people in the small brick house silently listened to the conversation outside.

Yu Juan’s pupils suddenly shrank, his expression turned absolutely serious.

Gu Qing Shan then said: “Now it’s your turn to answer me—- what’s the relationship between you and the wraiths?”

“Allies. Many of the forces within Void City are mutual allies with the wraiths, like the Grand Library, the Church, the Bounty Hunter Guild. There are actually a lot more, but I can only tell you three of them at most, I won’t mention the rest” Yu Juan said.

“Why do you want to help the wraiths? You know they’ve done a lot of evil deeds, so what exactly are you thinking?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Yu Juan waved his hand dismissively and said: “It’s my turn to ask you now. Tell me, if the person you sold you out wasn’t me but Crow, then would you also have so many reasons to suspect that there were issues with him?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “There’s a lot, but they’re not exactly clues”

“What do you mean?” Yu Juan questioned.

“In their daily lives, it is impossible for an individual to always focus themselves on a single task, the general state for everyone should be subconscious— for example, while we’re drinking at the bar, if you took the time to make observations, you’d discover that everyone is prone to making a lot of subconscious gestures that they don’t even notice. But you can’t simply use these subconscious actions to judge whether or not someone is good or bad— this was also the reason why I easily ignored your schemes so many times” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“You thought that I was on your side” Yu Juan concluded.

“Correct, especially after we went through battle together” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Yu Juan tilted his head to think, then continued: “Then, you were waiting to see what kind of wrongdoing I would commit? And then what? What were you going to do then?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “If you were heading down the wrong path, I would pull you pack; if you were being forced by someone else, I would kill them; if you had other troubles, Crow and I would have helped you resolve them”

Yu Juan lowered his head, a lot of images flashed through his gaze but he didn't say anything for a while.

"Then, you're saying I disappointed you?" he suddenly asked.

"From now on, you won't be able to" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Yu Juan looked up, once again carefully observing Gu Qing Shan.

"It's been a long time since I met someone like you" he slowly said, "If this wasn't a crucial point in our operation, and you weren't standing in the middle of our bigger picture, I truly would have wanted you to join us"

"What exactly are you doing?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Yu Juan stared straight at him, then seriously replied: "After I answer this question, I won't owe you anything else. From this point on, you and I will live as fate had decided for us to, our acquaintance won't affect our survival"

"That will depend on the answer I receive" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Yu Juan slightly tilted forward and lowered his voice: "The Era of the Samsara Clash for Supremacy is approaching, and we... are preparing to destroy the entire Samsara to fix the future era"

He then twisted around himself, his body slashed to bits by the sword that was pinning him to the wall, shattering into pieces of white paper.

—he destroyed his own clone to leave Gu Qing Shan's sight.

Chapter 1388

Translator: La0o9

The small brick house returned back to its tranquillity.

Gu Qing Shan slowly started to sweat bullets, so he took out a handkerchief and silently wiped the sweat off his forehead.

Cold sweat poured out uncontrollably.

This was his body's natural reaction to death, as well as his spirit sense's reaction.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword returned to Gu Qing Shan's side.

"Gongzi, he has left" Shannu said.

"Hm" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Earth sword couldn't help but ask: 「 Gu Qing Shan, do you believe him? 」

"Not a single word" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu was surprised and asked: "But you both said that you'd take turns asking questions——"

"We said we'd ask, but why should we honestly answer the other party's question?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Shannu froze.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Shannu, you've seen Lady Unextinguishing Sand, the Dragon Ancestor, and the [Chaos] Serpentes King with me, your discerning eyes should be a bit more sensitive"

"Be a bit more sensitive?" Shannu didn't understand.

“That’s right. Just take a look at these angels, they couldn’t even resist a single attack from the [Chaos] Serpentes King, how are they supposed to destroy the Samsara?” Gu Qing Shan scoffed.

“Gongzi, you mean——” Shannu asked.

“The [Chaos] Serpentes King wasn’t at its peak, that’s why Red Wraith was able to seal it away. But Red Wraith comes from the Samsara, one of the two Divine Armaments that rules the Wraith realm, the ‘Wraith’ among the ‘Heavenly King and Wraith’” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Shannu fell into thought.

*—–the Wraith talisman of the Wraith realm is able to fight off the [Chaos] Serpentes King himself.
But the Samsara has a total of six worlds, so the other artifact spirits might even be more powerful.
With that in mind, Yu Juan’s words earlier were extremely laughable.
If the Church couldn’t even stop one attack, how are they supposed to fight against the Samsara.
Not to mention, that was only an artifact spirit.
A weapon could only exert its true power while being wielded by someone.
Who would be... Red Wraith’s wielder?
Without any support, how could they win against such a powerful enemy?*

The more Shannu thought about it, the more nervous she felt.

While Gu Qing Shan was wiping his cold sweat, Shannu stood there muttering to herself: “Red Wraith... too powerful... being able to fight against the [Chaos] Serpentes King... if he has a wielder...”

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes flickered a bit and loudly called out: “Shannu!”

“Ah! What is it? Gongzi?” Shannu hurriedly replied.

Gu Qing Shan shouted: “You are the Six Paths Great Mountain sword, the one who wields the power of [Invincible] and [Law Breaker], even the Red Wraith would be powerless against you. If we have to face the Red Wraith of this reality in the future, my survival and victory will have to rely on you!”

Shannu’s voice became firm: “Don’t worry gongzi, as long as I’m here, I shall definitely help you cut that talisman apart!”

“Right!” Gu Qing Shan nodded, feeling assured.

The Earth sword stood by one side and muttered to itself: 「 I don’t know when the Samsara Clash for Supremacy would begin, but the artifact spirits of the Samsara are already clashing for supremacy... 」

At this point, Luo Bing Li spoke up:

“Gu Qing Shan, since both of you were lying through your teeth, you must have had a plan right?”

“I do”

Gu Qing Shan continued to wipe the sweat off his forehead and said: “He was stalling me here in order to inform others to come and kill me—— take a look, my spirit sense is already able to sense my impending death, so I’m constantly sweating bullets”

Luo Bing Li couldn’t help but raise her voice: “Then why did you let him stall you? Why aren’t you already running for your life?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Because I was giving him a chance to summon his people”

Luo Bing Li was surprised.

A second later, several figures appeared one by one.

The first to appear was a girl.

She wore a green mage robe embroidered with white clouds, her long black hair and emerald eyes were both giving off a lively sensation.

This strongest girl of Void City handed a void thread that radiated dark aura to Gu Qing Shan.

“All preparations are finished; we can proceed at any time”

Fei Yue’s voice contained pure killing intent.

Xiao Die appeared behind Fei Yue, nodding to Gu Qing Shan: “As soon as we received news from your side, we began making the preparations— there aren’t many people this time, but they’re all the best of the best, we’re definitely going to make sure none of those wraiths go anywhere”

Another figure appeared.

A muscular man with a teddy bear tattoo on his chest.

He grinned with a cruel expression: “Killing wraiths and angels? How exciting”

Another voice continued: “Indeed, but since this is a fight for life and death, there’s probably not going to be any money in this”

From the void of space, a silver-haired old man with neatly combed hair walked out with a cigar in his mouth.

One of his eyes was covered by an eyepatch, the other eye was as sharp as a hawk. He sat down in the middle of the room with a short walking cane in his hand and a black bird on his shoulder.

—-The Hitman Guild’s master.

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Crow also appeared from the void of space with a rapier in his hand.

“Old man, don’t just think about money all the time, make sure to frequently train your body, otherwise, I’m going to beat you down to your seat one of these days” he teased.

Gu Qing Shan watched all the figures, then asked Fei Yue in a low voice: “Could there be any leaks?”

“Definitely not, my Fate ability has connected to everyone, any traitors will immediately die” Fei Yue replied.

“What about the Great Flood?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“As soon as we capture this bunch, we’re going to leave” Fei Yue replied.

She held the black thread in her hand, wrapped it around Gu Qing Shan’s body, then began chanting an incantation.

Xiao Die also began to chant another incantation towards Gu Qing Shan.

When Gu Qing Shan was about to ask about the thread, lines of glowing text suddenly appeared in front of his eyes:

[Your World Technique had been nurtured by the Huang Quan Origin power, only one last step remains]

[Please put your Huang Quan Saint Selection Bead into your left eye, it will become the core of your World Technique]

Reading this, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but sigh.

My left eye had been infused with the four Pillar Elements of the void, Origin power of the Inner Plane, an incomplete parallel world, the power of Iris Sword, the fused spirit of the past worlds, the Huang Quan Origin power...

And now I'm going to put a bead into it as well.

Is my left eye still an eye?

While he thought that, with a completely new World Technique waiting for him, how could Gu Qing Shan give it up?

He clenched his teeth and took out the Huang Quan Saint Selection Bead from his Thought Sea.

As soon as the translucent bead that radiated faint yellow fog appeared, he directly shoved it into his left eye.

New lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[The new World Technique is forming, please wait for five seconds]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[Your World Technique: Huang Quan's Guidance, has been activated]

[Huang Quan's Guidance: You are able to infuse fragments of the Huang Quan realm into your eye, forming them into a more powerful Huang Quan realm]

[Huang Quan's Guidance is the most basic Huang Quan World Technique, the more Huang Quan realm fragments you collect, the more powerful the Huang Quan Law in your eye will become, and the stronger you will be]

[Attention: Whenever you infuse a new Huang Quan realm fragment, all of your abilities will also be reinforced by the power of Huang Quan, thus evolving into more powerful Huang Quan Divine Skills]

[Special note: Gaining the 'Huang Quan's Guidance' technique is proof that you have officially entered the preparation phase to participate in the Samsara Clash for Supremacy, you have begun your battle to reunite the Huang Quan realm]

[This is the beginning of everything]

[Additional note: Your left eye will not be blind again]

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt an intense pain radiating from his left eye.

His left eye was now enveloped by a mass of burning fog, which exuded an indiscernible aura of death.

Immense power appeared within his iris.

"Gu Qing Shan, what's the matter?" Xiao Die asked.

"It's nothing, just one of my abilities evolving" Gu Qing Shan answered as he held his left eye.

Xiao Die and Fei Yue exchanged glances, both feeling assured.

"It's going to begin now" Fei Yue muttered as she sensed something.

Xiao Die nodded.

The two of them disappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

Boom—

The entire small brick house had been levelled.

Dust and ash rose up high.

Humans wearing yaksha masks appeared one after another.

A bit further away, innumerable angels descended from above, encircling Gu Qing Shan.

From the ground to the sky, there were only angels and wraiths, they had surrounded Gu Qing Shan completely to the point that he had nowhere to run.

A fully-armored wraith stepped forward, staring down at Gu Qing Shan.

“Ahaha, like catching a fish in a barrel”

The wraith mocked.

Gu Qing Shan slightly nodded and grinned: “I completely agree with your assessment”

Suddenly, another wave of pain came from his left eye.

Lines of text quickly appeared on the War God UI:

[Thanks to your Huang Quan Guidance technique, your first ability is currently evolving]

[Your Secret Art, ‘Water Flow Severance’ had fused with Huang Quan Origin power, thus it has been converted to a Huang Quan Skill]

[You've obtained the Huang Quan Secret Art, Divine Skill: Forgetting River Severance]

Chapter 1389

Translator: La0o9

An unfamiliar sword technique appeared in Gu Qing Shan's Thought Sea, that was slowly being comprehended and grasped by him.

[Huang Quan Divine Skill: Forgetting River Severance]

[Iris Sword, instant ability]

[Instantly unleash 36 consecutive Mind Sword attacks; if it gets blocked, then unleash 72 consecutive strikes; if it gets blocked, then unleash 144 consecutive strikes; so on and so forth. Every Iris Sword will be stronger than the last, continuing until 1000 strikes]

[The water of the Forgetting River indefinitely flows]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

His understanding of Mind Swords up to now had been limited to [Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon], so he didn't expect to suddenly gain another Mind Sword technique.

I wonder how powerful this Sword Divine Skill is...

Right as Gu Qing Shan was thinking that, he heard the fully-armored wraith shout:

"Dragon King of Atrocity Jail, your death is imminent, hand over the twin swords Heaven and Earth, and surrender!"

Gu Qing Shan blankly turned to that wraith.

—there's a perfect target right here, isn't there?

With that thought in mind, he triggered the sword seal as his left eye gave off an immense flow of sword phantoms.

Instantly—

A total of 36 sharp fluctuations appeared at the same time, slashing towards the armored wraith.

The wraith was caught by surprise, but he still hurriedly wielded a quarterstaff to protect himself.

Clang clang clang clang clang clang!

The sound of numerous strikes hit the quarterstaff, sending the wraith spiraling backwards as if he was struck by a huge impact.

—there was truly some merit to him, being chosen as the wraith's leader during such an operation, as he actually managed to stop 36 strikes in a row.

Unfortunately...

As soon as the first 36 strikes faded away, another 72 sharp fluctuations manifested and violently slashed towards the wraith.

The wraith was frightened, but still swung the quarterstaff in his hand and shouted: "Petty tricks—"

Bam!

The first fluctuation struck the quarterstaff, this time giving off a resounding noise.

—the strikes were stronger this time!

Instantly, the wraith's figure was sent flying towards the distant horizon like a small black dot.

At the end of their visions, countless sword phantoms struck the quarterstaff one after another.

The quarterstaff was finally unable to endure the impact and broke in half.

The wraith was instantly slashed into a mist of blood by the invisible fluctuations before being blown away by the night wind.

Complete silence.

The wraiths and angels didn't even see Gu Qing Shan act.

They only heard the wraith leader completing one sentence before being sent flying.

On the other hand, Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

After unleashing this Iris Sword Divine Skill, he instantly understood.

This Iris Sword ability is very powerful.

— —but its consumption is also considerable, using up 20% of my Huang Quan Origin power in an instant.

Huang Quan Origin power was the evolved version of spirit energy, so he needed a certain amount of time for it to slowly recover.

Naturally, the more Gu Qing Shan could fused the Huang Quan fragment worlds into his eye later on, the vaster his Huang Quan Origin power reservoir would become.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded and muttered to himself: "He's quite strong, being able to stop 107 strikes from me, he was certainly qualified to lead my elimination mission"

As soon as Gu Qing Shan said that, the numerous angels and wraiths in the sky snapped out of their shock.

“Detestable, kill him!” one of the angels shouted.

“Charge!”

“Kill him!”

Right as they were about to attack, Gu Qing Shan appeared as if he sensed something and firmly shouted:

“Wait—— everybody halt! Stop your hands!”

The angels and wraiths couldn't help but pause.

Gu Qing Shan's expression was extremely serious as he shouted to everyone: “Listen carefully! You definitely cannot attack me all at once!”

He appeared extremely anxious as if there was some sort of severe issue with doing that.

Everyone couldn't help but think.

Could there still be some sort of unknown circumstances?

One of the angels couldn't help but question: “Why can't we attack?”

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the numerous enemies in the sky, answering them with a serious expression: “Because if you all attack me at once, I will die”

The angels and wraiths froze, their minds quickly turning.

What he said... was true.

But we're here to take your life.

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Damn it!

*Do you not understand your situation!?*¹

A female voice suddenly sounded:

“No need to stall any longer, the thread of death has coiled around all of the prey”

Gu Qing Shan instantly raised his hand.

A fine thread that exuded black mist was coiled around his wrist, while the other end of the thread reached into the infinite void of space.

Gu Qing Shan then pulled it down with all his strength.

The female voice also grunted: “Dual Worlds of Destiny, manifest!”

Instantly, all the wraiths and angels felt an intense force pulling on their bodies.

The massive number of angels and wraiths that surrounded Gu Qing Shan from the earth to the sky all disappeared without a trace.

There was no longer any intense presence, radiating fluctuations, or immense killing intent.

Everything had returned to normal.

This was such an incredible scene that it felt almost like a miracle.

Gu Qing Shan looked around and sighed: “Finally, some peace and quiet”

Xiao Die slowly descended from above, standing next to him with a shocked expression.

“They destroyed my house”

She angrily puffed up.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then consoled her: “The Great Flood is coming, that’s an Unlivable Apocalypse, your house would probably not be able to survive either way, don’t feel too bad about it”

Xiao Die refuted: “No way, that house was something I personally designed, I spent effort to build and fix it bit by bit, you don’t even understand how much hard work it took—— I’m going to kill as many as I can to avenge my house!”

She raised her hand.

There was also a thread that exuded black mist around her wrist.

Xiao Die suddenly clenched her fist and violently threw a punch into the void of space.

Numerous desperate screams could be heard.

From these screams, one could tell that they came from some angels and wraiths.

Gu Qing Shan stood with his arms crossed on one side, confusedly asking: “Where exactly did these angels come from? I know that the angels come from a world called Heaven, but I think there were also entities called angels in the Inner Plane”

Xiao Die continuously threw punches into the void of space without pause while answering him: “Angels were originally unique envoys of the Inner Plane, responsible for enforcing a certain authority to restrict the Deities, called Condemnation—- but after the Inner Plane was destroyed, the angels lost this authority and became scattered within the space vortex, gradually forming their own world”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

An authority to restrict Deities called Condemnation.

That sounds familiar.

He released his inner sight to scan inside his Thought Sea.

Only to see the Condemnation Codex remaining still within his Thought Sea without moving.

—-so there was such a story behind it.

If that’s the case, these angels are all fake, only Little Dusk and I are real angels?

Gu Qing Shan’s mind was a bit boggled.

Then, what exactly are these angels planning, getting so involved with the wraiths?

They’re not actually planning to destroy the Samsara like Yu Juan claimed, right?

—-impossible.

Never mind anything else, there’s no way that the wraiths would destroy the Mara Heavenly Bow and Red Wraith Life Talisman.

Xiao Die’s voice called out, cutting off his train of thought:

“Gu Qing Shan, come here and help me, we need to quickly kill them all and leave”

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and drew his sword.

He wielded the sword with the hand wrapped by the thread of fate and continuously swung towards the void of space.

Several splashes of blood appeared in front of his eyes and disappeared, but none of them fell on his body.

From various hidden locations, many Combatants were also attacking the void of space with a thread wrapped around their wrist.

Not too long after, Fei Yue's voice called out again:

“No need to keep killing, I've left a few to slowly pry their mouths open”

Everyone stopped at once.

Fei Yue then declared: “Everyone gather at the City Lord's manor; we're going to leave Void City before the Great Flood strikes!”

While she spoke, Gu Qing Shan noticed that the black thread on his wrist had disappeared.

He couldn't help but check the combat synopsis on the War God UI:

[You've successfully entered the Dual Worlds of Destiny, the Living world]

[Each of your attacks will directly strike living beings of the Death world, causing true damage]

[Attention, this is a Fate-type Divine Skill of the highest level, do not attempt to disturb or destroy it, otherwise, you will be inflicted with continuous bad luck, this will continue for 100 years before it slowly fades away]

Gu Qing Shan slightly shook his head.

Fate-type abilities were truly terrifying.

As expected, Fei Yue's title of the strongest person in Void City wasn't just for show.

Chapter 1390

Translator: La0o9

The City Lord's manor

Several angels and wraiths were being restrained in the void of space, unable to move a single muscle.

The big shots of Void City were standing around Fei Yue interrogating these fellows.

Gu Qing Shan and Xiao Die appeared from the void of space.

Crow also appeared from a different side from the void of space and told everyone: "I was able to predict the coming of the Great Flood, but due to some sort of issue, it won't arrive at Void City for at least half a day"

Everyone's expression became relaxed.

Half a day was more than enough for them to leave.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze scanned through, only to see that the angels were all dead without any signs of torture on their bodies.

The angels had already committed suicide right as they were captured.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Were these angels so hard-boiled that they already committed suicide before being interrogated?"

Fei Yue replied: "Because the country of the angels have a Holy Fountain, after death, they would simply return to the Holy Fountain and be reincarnated into an angel again"

Gu Qing Shan then turned to the wraiths.

Several wraiths were still alive, but from the numerous wounds on their bodies, they had clearly gone through torture.

Xiao Die walked forward and pointed her finger forward.

Her finger transformed into a sharp bone spike and pierced through the forehead of one wraith as she lightly whispered:

“Being of bone, prison of soul, I order you to expose the secrets in your mind”

Bang!

With a loud noise, the wraith’s head imploded on itself.

Blood splattered everywhere.

Xiao Die was startled.

A blind nun explained: “It’s useless, their soul vessels are under restraints, whenever they unwittingly say something, they will instantly die”

Xiao Die looked at her and asked: “Even a soul and spirit expert like yourself cannot fix that?”

The blind nun replied: “Their soul vessels have been fused with something. Unless one understands the mysticisms involved, their lives would immediately be forfeited if we used force”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “What exactly had fused with their soul vessel?”

The blind nun turned to the wraiths and replied: "You will have to ask them yourself"

The wraiths lowered their heads without saying a word.

At this time, Fei Yue calmly said: "You need to think carefully. If you talk, we might be able to save you from this restrained state and spare your lives, you will no longer be enslaved"

One of the wraiths scoffed: "I don't need you to spare my life! Our Wraith realm has Immortal Crafts that can resurrect us, we aren't afraid of your forced interrogations"

Fei Yue continued without changing her expression: "A resurrection Immortal Craft requires half of a Wraith Lord's power, and the full power of a Wraith Might, but your war against the Eternal Abyss has only just entered into a desperate stage. I assume that there isn't going to be any Wraith Lords who'd be willing to waste their power to save you, nor would any Wraith Might"

The wraith froze.

Another wraith grunted: "Don't fall for it! If we die, we die. Or do you want to betray the Wraith Lord and get your soul fished up from Huang Quan to endure eternal torture and punishment?"

Hearing that, the wraith seemed to have remembered something and started trembling, then hurriedly muttered something.

One breath's worth of time later.

After he finished chanting his incantation, his body tilted to one side and collapsed.

He was dead.

Several other wraiths had also copied him, but didn't open their mouths and only chanted it in their minds.

They all collapsed without uttering a sound.

The big shots exchanged glances, feeling a deep sense of helplessness.

Against a target who wished to die and could commit suicide at any moment, no one really had any good solutions.

Only two wraiths remain.

The Hitman Guild's master sighed and said: "Seems like there's a reason why the wraiths had been able to consistently protect the secrets of their world"

"How about I give it a try?" someone called out.

When everyone turned towards the voice, they saw that it was Dragon King of Atrocity Jail who stood next to Xiao Die.

Xiao Die whispered and asked: "Are you confident?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "It's just another method, without testing, I can't guarantee either"

Xiao Die turned to Fei Yue.

Fei Yue glanced at Gu Qing Shan, then nodded.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then took out a large black pot from his Inventory Bag.

All the big shots were very confused when they saw that.

— you're supposed to interrogate them, what are you taking a pot out for?

Xiao Die advised him in a low voice: "Hey, you can't eat wraith meat, it's really rotten"

Apparently recalling when she did that, she appeared full of disdain.

Gu Qing Shan paused a bit before telling her: "Don't worry, I'm not eating them"

He used a hand seal to draw water from the air into the pot, lit a fire under it, then skillfully made a bowl of noodles.

In front of everyone, he took the bowl of noodles to the wraith and said: "Here, eat"

The wraith appeared confused.

I'm going to die soon, and you're telling me to eat noodles?

Could there be something wrong with it?

No, I can't betray the Wrath Lord, or I'm going to undergo endless torture after I die.

The wraith stared with his eyes wide at Gu Qing Shan and hesitated for a split second.

— yeah, it's best that I just die right now.

The wraith began to silently chant his incantation.

Seeing the other party's resolute expression, Gu Qing Shan understood what he was doing right away.

He changed his equipped Title to [Reality's Most Amorous Man], then activated the Title Skill: [That makes sense].

“Hey”

Gu Qing Shan quickly spoke: “Look, you’re going to die either way, if you don’t eat something before you die, what if you get hungry on the road to Huang Quan?”

The wraith was already halfway through his incantation, but couldn’t help but stop to think when he heard that.

That’s true.

When I die, I’ll be heading into Huang Quan.

—if I’m going to die either way, why should I stay a hungry ghost?

The wraith looked at Gu Qing Shan a bit and muttered to himself: “That makes sense”

Gu Qing Shan winked towards Fei Yue.

Fei Yue’s finger slightly loosened.

Behind the wraith, 7-8 black threads all let go at once.

The wraith regained his freedom.

He actively took the bowl from Gu Qing Shan and began slurping the noodles.

“Hm, it tastes so good”

“What exactly did you put into this? How did a normal bowl of noodles get this tasty?”

While eating, the wraith asked Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan just smiled without saying anything.

The group also remained still, waiting for Gu Qing Shan's follow-up measures.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't do anything, he only watched the wraith eating noodles.

It wasn't until after the wraith was done and prepared to chant this incantation that Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked:

"What kind of thing was refined into you wraiths' souls?"

The wraith's expression became blank briefly before answering: "Each of our Thought Seas contains a Life Talisman that controls our soul, as soon as we are forced to spill any secrets, or if our soul vessels lose control——"

Bang!

Another loud noise.

The wraith's head was ripped apart, the headless body collapsed on the ground.

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The big shots' expressions all jerked a bit.

——although he still died, at least we now know what they're being restrained by.

「 Life Talisman... I know about these things. Among the many means of the wraiths, Guise Hexes are infallible, while Life Talismans are sneaky and undetectable; they also activate extremely quickly, so it isn't easy to stop 」 the Ominous Demon Tower's master explained.

The blind nun also appeared regretful and added: “I’ve also studied the Life Talisman of the wraiths, unfortunately, I only understood a single thing:”

“Life Talismans require vitality to activate, someone will definitely die as they are used, unless——”

“Unless what?” Fei Yue asked.

“Unless someone is willing to use the origin power of their soul to activate these Life Talismans instead” the blind nun replied.

The Ominous Demon Tower’s master scoffed: 「 Tch, who’s going to uselessly expend the origin power of their own soul like that? This is the most basic of powers! 」

A man carrying a 50-meter long blade on his shoulder examined the small book in his hand and spoke without looking up: “The wraiths have a strict hierarchy of rank, usually, higher-ranked wraiths use the lives of lower-ranked wraiths to utilize Life Talismans, which makes them not only hard to defend against but also extremely powerful”

Xiao Die commented: “The wraiths are known to have a strict hierarchy, iron discipline, willing to easily lay down their lives in battle, so the reason for that was that their lives had already been fused with a Life Talisman, disobedience would also mean death”

Everyone’s expressions felt heavy.

If that’s the case, there wouldn’t be any use to capture prisoners.

Unless Dragon King of Atrocity Jail acted again, maybe he would be able to pry something else.

Everyone couldn’t help but turn to the last remaining wraith.

The wraith’s expression was fearful, immediately preparing to chant his incantation.

—don’t be ridiculous, I don’t want to die, but revealing the secrets of the Wraith realm would only subject me to torture even in death, I’d rather just die right now!

The blind nun suddenly appeared behind the wraith and lightly tapped his shoulder.

The wraith's body turned into solid diamond and froze completely still.

"With Dragon King of Atrocity Jail's method, we can ask one more question, now we need to think of what we actually need to ask" the blind nun said.

The group glanced over the human-shaped chunk of diamond and fell into thought.

Crow suddenly said: "Everyone, although the Great Flood hasn't arrived, I have an ominous premonition, this premonition is coming from Void City itself"

Fei Yue shouted: "Crow, trigger the joint technique with me"

She reached out her hand, throwing a black thread to Crow.

Crow caught the thread, coiled it around his hand, then quickly chanted: "With the power of Fate as catalyst, reveal the ominous truth"

The black thread flew into the air and formed a screen of light.

Many familiar figures appeared in the boundless space vortex within the screen.

——they were all big shots of Void City.

They were not under the wraith's control, but they had willingly pledged their allegiance to the wraiths.

The one who stood in front of this group was a white-haired old man wearing a yaksha mask.

He held a talisman in his hand as he muttered something under his breath.

“Activate!” the old man loudly shouted.

The others behind him each held onto a talisman as they each emanated power from their bodies.

From the void of space in front of them, layers of fog slowly appeared and drifted towards Void City.

Fog?

Gu Qing Shan’s heart began to clench tightly.

The void cannot handle powers of too high of a level, so they could only manifest in the form of fog, lest the void of space would collapse.

From the looks of it, they seem to be unleashing some sort of large-scaled technique.

The Ominous Demon Tower’s master grunted: 「 They’re unleashing an extremely powerful restraining barrier. Unless our powers are 10 times stronger than theirs, we cannot escape from this restraining formation 」

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and found that Void City as a whole had indeed been enveloped by a layer of fog.

Fei Yue was startled, her gaze focused on the white-haired old man without moving away.

Xiao Die walked forward and silently held her hand.

“I’m fine” Fei Yue calmly replied.

The other big shots were already beginning to discuss among themselves.

“Look! That’s the Bounty Hunter Guild’s master”

“And the people of the Grand Library as well, they’re standing with the angels of the Church”

“Even the ones from the Mining Association aren’t on our side”

“Tsk, I knew those guys have already joined the old——”

This person seemed to realize something and instinctively shut his mouth, then habitually glanced at Fei Yue.

Fei Yue’s complexion was pale as she bit down on her lips, although her eyes were as calm as water, her hands were clearly trembling.

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes flickered a bit.

Strange...

Why do all these people seem to know that wraith?

And what’s with Fei Yue’s reaction?

Without giving him more time to think, the old man on the screen seemed to have realized something.

He suddenly looked straight at everyone and laughed: “Fei Yue, for you to be able to borrow the ability of another to peek at Destiny, you’ve grown”

Fei Yue coldly asked: “Why did you come here?”

The old man replied: “Why couldn’t I? After all, you’re going to be heading to the Wraith realm soon, so to prevent any misgivings, I specifically came here to pick you up”

“Misgivings?” Fei Yue repeated those eyes, then lowered her eyes and commented: “So the reason why you prepared so many hidden pawns and even unleashed a large-scale restraining barrier towards the City Lord’s manor was purely to pick me up in order to take me to the Wraith realm?”

The old man smiled: “You’ve managed Void City very well and even got a group of true Combatants to stand on your side, this has proven your capabilities. However, compared to your Fate talent, all of this isn’t worth a single penny”

He sincerely spoke: “Fei Yue, your talent is the rarest in this Reality, only the Wraith realm can fully exert your power. Everything I’ve done over the past few years, I’ve done it for your sake, it had all been for your own good; even if you won’t recognize my efforts now, I would still continue to do so”

Fei Yue calmly responded: “If I did not have this Fate talent, if I only had mundane talents, would you still have spent so much effort?”

The old man opened his mouth wide, but couldn’t say anything.

Gu Qing Shan felt very confused and couldn’t help but turn to Xiao Die.

Xiao Die sensed his gaze, so she snuck a glance at him.

A second later, her voice sounded by Gu Qing Shan’s ear:

“I’ll explain to you through sending my voice—— but keep this to yourself, don’t tell anyone I told you”

Gu Qing Shan slightly nodded.

Xiao Die explained: “That’s Fei Yue’s father, the previous City Lord of Void City”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “What? Didn’t Fei Yue say that her father was dead?”

“She hates him”

“——Her family matters are complicated. In short, when Fei Yue displayed her Fate talent at a young age, the Wraith realm wanted to take her away, but Fei Yue’s mother didn’t let them”

“The wraiths promised numerous conditions as well as countless benefits, finally tempting Fei Yue’s father”

“But Fei Yue’s mother continued to reject them, as she wouldn’t trade away her daughter for anything in Reality”

“Later on, Fei Yue’s mother died of unknown causes, and the wraiths also backed down”

“Not too long later, the wraiths came to Void City again, seeking an audience with Fei Yue’s father. They made the offer for Fei Yue to get married to one of the three Wraith Lords when she grows up, making her the most authoritative woman in the Wraith realm”

“And her father agreed?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Not in the beginning, after the wraiths promised even more benefits, is when her father finally agreed”

“Fei Yue’s mother was also a powerful Fate Technician—— but her strength had already peaked, which pales in comparison to the talents that Fei Yue had displayed”

“I once personally investigated and found that to protect her, Fei Yue’s mother had to give up her life in order to drive the wraiths off. Later on, then Fei Yue’s father surrendered himself completely to the wraiths and took up long-term stay in the Wraith realm, many of Void City’s matters were left for Fei Yue to manage”

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask: “Why did she not flee?”

“I don’t know either, but most likely it was because she couldn’t—— when I came to Void City later on, I was discovered by the wraiths. Because I was a rare unique monster even among the ominous demons, the wraiths wanted to capture me; I had no one to rely on at the time, but I was fortunate to receive Fei Yue and the Ominous Demon Tower’s master help, which was why I gradually grew closer to Fei Yue”

“——That’s the basic gist of it, it’s fine if you know, but definitely don’t spread it”

Xiao Die reminded him once again.

“I understand” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He quickly observed their surroundings and silently prepared a countermeasure.

—-the Great Flood is coming, but Fei Yue's father has trapped everyone in Void City.

What comes after this would be the moment to decide everyone's survival.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan turned to Fei Yue.

He saw Fei Yue's gaze that was full of resolution to end everything, he understood her upcoming intentions.

This won't be easy...

How am I supposed to break this situation and find a path to survival?

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts quickly turned.

Suddenly, his gaze landed on the diamond statue.

This wraith had been restrained by his Life Talisman, the most he'd be able to do is answer one question.

Life Talisman...

Wait, Life Talisman?!

Chapter 1391

Translator: La0o9

Watching the diamond statue, Gu Qing Shan quickly pondered.

Red Wraith's true form is a talisman.

Without the Mara Heavenly King here, Red Wraith was the true ruler of the Wraith realm.

—-perhaps, all of the Wraith realm's Life Talismans actually originated from Red Wraith?

If that's the case, since I know part of Red Wraith's talisman creation technique, would I be able to dispel the soul-taking Life Talisman within the wraith's soul vessel?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan turned to Fei Yue.

“Fei Yue, can you give that final wraith to me? I’ve thought of another solution”

Fei Yue glanced at him in surprise.

It would have already been considered impressive to pry one secret from the wraith’s mouth, but now he’s even got another idea?

“Very well, big sis blind nun, please release this wraith’s soul position for Dragon King to investigate him further” Fei Yue replied.

The blind nun lightly tapped the diamond wraith’s head, allowing his head to return to normal.

Gu Qing Shan walked in front of the wraith and carefully pondered.

From Red Wraith’s Life Talisman technique, [Wicked Thoughts Burning Spirit], he was able to reverse-engineer several thousand basic talisman runes, each of them could be combined and used in conjunction to create innumerable talisman techniques of varying levels.

—but which one would be able to release the soul-taking Life Talisman within the wraiths’ Thought Sea?

While he was thinking, Fei Yue’s father on the screen swung his hand.

Following his gesture, the Combatants who had pledged their allegiance to the wraiths cast their talismans forward one after another.

All the talismans turned into light and flew towards Void City.

Boom!

Various sounds of explosions could be heard.

Outside Void City, a bright red dome of light enveloped in mist had manifested.

——Great Formation of Myriad Worlds: Soul Stealing and Life Locking!

Fei Yue's father nodded satisfactorily.

From this point on, anything or anyone within Void City would be trapped inside the barrier, even if they died, ultimately being left for the wraiths to take away.

This was a large-scale formation that the wraiths frequently used when they were destroying other worlds.

——the wraiths had always been famous for never letting their enemies go, even if the only thing left of them was a soul.

In the City Lord's manor, someone recognized this formation and shouted: "Hong Yi Jue, are you really ruthless to this degree!?"

Hong Yi Jue shook his head and simply looked at Fei Yue, slowly telling her:

"My daughter, I'm here on orders of the three Wraith Lords to escort you to the Wraith realm and join in matrimony with the Wraith Lord Karmic Fire"

Fei Yue questioned: "Wraith Lord Karmic Fire's real name is Bai Yuan, famous for his hobby of torturing living beings to death, do you really want me to get married to him?"

The Ominous Demon Tower's master couldn't help but speak up as well: 「 Old City Lord, I won't stop you from pledging yourself to the wraiths, but if you're marrying Fei Yue to that Bai Yuan fellow, you'd just be pushing Fei Yue to her death 」

Hong Yi Jue scoffed: “I’m sure you understand that remaining in Void City right now is the guaranteed way to die”

Everyone fell silent.

Now that the Great Formation of Myriad Worlds: Soul Stealing and Life Locking had been completed, there would be no escape even in death.

The Great Flood was also approaching.

This was an Unlivable Apocalypse, capable of completely destroying Void City without giving anyone a chance to escape even in their deaths.

What they didn’t expect was for the old City Lord to stand completely on the side of the wraiths, using this method to force his daughter into a wedding with a wraith.

How should we deal with the current circumstances?

Frankly speaking, there was no need to try and fight the Great Flood.

Because many predecessors had proven that this wasn’t a force that living beings could resist against, let alone destroy.

At that moment, the morale of the City Lord’s manor fell a bit low.

The very next moment—

An abrupt change occurred!

Four swords suddenly appeared around Gu Qing Shan.

They all gave off intense sword qi and spoke up at once:

““ 「 Gu Qing Shan, careful (oong)! 」 ””

Gu Qing Shan had also noticed this change.

He felt his heart being suppressed by a huge mountain and countless shadows gripping at his throat, leaving him unable to even properly speak a full sentence.

This feeling—

What exactly is it? The Great Flood shouldn't have arrived yet!

Such thoughts flashed through his mind as he quickly released his inner sight to observe their surroundings.

The big shots also changed their expressions one after another.

They all brandished their weapons, staring intensely at their surroundings.

—but nothing occurred at all.

『 Who has a predictive ability? 』 one of the Combatants shouted.

Everyone turned to Crow.

Only to see Crow kneeling with both knees on the ground, his hand clutching his head as he was trembling uncontrollably.

Gu Qing Shan rushed to calm him down, asking in a whisper: “What’s the matter with you?”

Crow replied while still trembling: “I don’t know, it’s like there’s an intense premonition, I have to—”

He raised his head straight up to spit out blood, then pushed Gu Qing Shan away.

A second later, his entire body began hovering in mid-air, his eyes turning white as he howled in a harrowing voice.

Gu Qing Shan was about to jump up to catch Crow out of worry.

Fei Yue held him back and quickly retreated, explaining: “Don’t touch him, he’s currently in a prophetic state!”

Gu Qing Shan kept his eyes on Crow.

While hanging in mid-air, Crow abruptly called out with a high-pitched voice:

『 Heed! The omens of the Great Flood have arrived, these are the preliminary fluctuations of an Unlivable Apocalypse, representing the absolute destruction of all things! 』

Everyone’s hearts became tense.

Without waiting for them to react in any way, a gust of wind suddenly blew towards them.

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The City Lord’s manor was instantly scattered away like dust in the wind.

All the structures of Void City also turned to nothingness in this wind.

Everyone couldn't help but hover within the endless void.

With nothing but a gust of wind, all material substances were completely gone!

"My heavens, many of our Guild's war machines had been destroyed all at once!" the Hitman Guild's master exclaimed.

The Ominous Demon Tower's master also spoke in a heavy tone: 「The entire Ominous Demon tower itself was a large war machine, but it had been erased as well」

Everyone looked around only to find that not even a single tile remained within this empty void.

— and that was nothing but the first fluctuation of the Great Flood.

"Terrifying..." someone muttered.

Gu Qing Shan was also speechless.

He had witnessed numerous Apocalypses, but never had he seen such a terrifying Apocalypse before!

Damn it!

If a single fluctuation was able to cause this damage, then this type of Apocalypse truly isn't something that living beings can resist.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe the surroundings.

— the giant formation that had entrapped Void City still remained!

"Life Talisman..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered, then flew towards the last remaining wraith.

He put his hand on the other's forehead and closed his eyes, throwing away all useless thoughts and silently focused on looking for the way to undo the Life Talisman's structure.

In just a few moments, he had found the other party's memories.

All of these memories displayed a regular cultivation life, displaying life in the Wraith realm.

—Gu Qing Shan had once used [Soul Reading] on several wraiths' souls, which displayed basically the same scenery with this wraith.

But this time, Gu Qing Shan commanded the peak level of Life Talisman expertise, which allowed him to instantly notice various disparities.

“Strange, these don't look like real memories. They look like illusions that are being created through talisman techniques, specifically used to deceive Cultivation-type enemies...”

He kept his hand on the wraith's head while drawing several mysterious runes in the void of space.

In a few moments, the runes were completed

—Illusion Dispelling Life Talisman!

Instantly, all the scenes shown inside the wraith's memories disappeared.

—*so they were, in fact, illusions created by talisman techniques!*

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

The wraiths are truly sly, to specifically prepare illusions using the Life Talisman just to prevent other cultivators from using [Soul Reading] on them and discover the secrets of the Wraith realm.

If Gu Qing Shan was clueless about Life Talismans like before, he would have been fooled once again.

Most likely, this illusion was made in case any wraiths failed to take their own life and deceive those capable of using [Soul Reading] on them—truly a good method to fight against powerful Cultivation-type enemies.

“Good! Good! Good! So everything I’ve managed to learn about them through [Soul Reading] before has been nothing but fake illusions, how impressive!”

Gu Qing Shan whispered but remained calm as he continued investigating.

He had already dispelled the illusory representation of the Life Talisman and was about to touch the Life Talisman itself.

—while he focused his attention on dispelling the Life Talisman, a sudden change had occurred around him.

Crow was still hovering in mid-air; while covering his mouth, he ignored the blood that he was spitting up and shouted with a hoarse voice:

“This preliminary omen of the Great Flood is able to destroy all things, but against living beings, I cannot predict its power and effects”

“—stay cautious, this isn’t over!”

As soon as he declared that, everyone saw their surroundings turned into pure white emptiness.

The space vortex had disappeared.

At the horizon of his vast white world, something was flying towards them through the wind.

Everyone had their guards completely up.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan deep in thought, Xiao Die flew next to him and took a defensive stance.

A second later.

A jet-black shadow landed in front of them all

— a black snake.

This snake coiled around itself into a circle as it fell on the white emptiness, it then looked up at the group and hissed at them.

Regardless of how one looked at it, they could only see it as a regular black snake.

“How would such a thing be here?” the Hitman Guild’s master scowled and said.

He casually unleashed an attack towards the snake.

At the very next split second.

The black snake appeared on the Hitman Guild master’s body, opened its mouth and swiftly bit him before vanishing!

“AARRRGH!”

The Hitman Guild’s master uttered a maddened howl.

He looked around his surroundings, his gaze seemingly contained his last bit of clarity.

In an instant, this great Hitman resolutely affirmed his determination.

He abruptly unleashed all of his power to fly away from the group and towards the Great Formation of Myriad Worlds Soul Stealing and Life Locking.

Halfway there, this old man abruptly transformed into a gigantic bird clad in blue flames and crashed into the barrier without hesitation.

Boom!

He unexpectedly punched a big hole in the Great Formation of Myriad Worlds Soul Stealing and Life Locking.

The old man landed among the Void City big shots who surrendered to the wraiths.

“OUUUUO000!”

「 AARGGGHHH—— 」

“EEEEAAAAA”

Around him, everyone howled in madness.

They all had lost their sanity!

Chapter 1392

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan didn't pay much attention to what was happening.

When Xiao Die was standing next to him, his four swords also appeared from the void of space and stood guard around him.

With this level of protection he was able to temporarily ignore everything on the outside world and focus completely on invading the wraith's Thought Sea to analyze the soul-reaping Life Talisman in his head.

The world had been completely erased, turned into emptiness by the wind.

And then, the Hitman Guild's master broke through the barrier and fell among the enemy ranks, causing them to also go insane.

None of it affected Gu Qing Shan.

But that wouldn't be the same for everyone else.

A golden glow appeared on the body of Fei Yue's father, Hong Yi Jue.

"Move away!"

He shouted, then took out a Life Talisman from his sleeve and tossed it forward.

The Life Talisman turned into a flare and was quickly burnt away.

Pop pop pop pop pop pop—

The heads of the big shots who went insane abruptly exploded at the same time, killing them all.

There weren't many people left on their side.

After a few moments, the Head of the Grand Library rushed forward, clutched Hong Yi Jue's collar, and angrily shouted:

“Hong Yi Jue, we had the formation, why did our side still suffer heavy casualties!?”

Hong Yi Jue coldly looked at him, answering: “He was carrying the power of an Unlivable Apocalypse on his body, no formation could defend against that. Also, do you want to die as well?”

The big shot hesitantly loosened his hand and slowly backed down.

The Bounty Hunter Guild’s master stared blankly at the headless corpses around him.

“Dead... they’re all dead...”

He muttered in shock.

Originally, he thought that by joining the old City Lord’s side, combined with the Wraith realm’s support, they would be able to defeat their opponents without much trouble.

And yet, it was their side that suffered the great casualties before anything even began.

If he didn’t happen to stand a bit further away, his head would have exploded from Hong Yi Jue triggering the Life Talisman inside his soul.

Is this the outcome of pledging our allegiance to the wraiths?

The wraiths are actually just using us as fodders, aren’t they?

...Laughable.

How laughable!

Suddenly, the Bounty Hunter Guild’s master felt immense regret.

Hong Yi Jue breathed heavily for a bit, then suddenly turned towards the void of space and shouted at Fei Yue: “Daughter, do you still not understand? Do you want everyone here to die before you agree to get married to the wraiths?”

Fei Yue witnessed everything that happened through the screen of light, staring blankly at the scenery outside Void City and muttering to herself: “That’s impossible, so many expert Combatants of the void, there’s no way that the wraiths don’t care about them at all”

Hong Yi Jue coldly scoffed, then shouted: “Expert Combatants? We are indeed a bit powerful, but you don’t know the truth of this world at all”

Fei Yue paused.

She looked closely at Hong Yi Jue, seeing a clear sense of fear that flashed through his expression.

He’s afraid.

Afraid of what?

For the very first time, Fei Yue felt uncertainty.

The situation was truly too mysterious and confusing, normal people wouldn’t be able to understand what was happening at all.

The blind nun stood by Fei Yue and spoke to her in a whisper: “It seems the situation is much more complicated than what we had imagined. Fei Yue, can you tell us something that we don’t know about yet? I might be able to use my [Living Beings Clear Mind] technique to help you see through the origin of this problem”

While she spoke, an eye opened above her head that stared into the void of space, while her closed eyes began to weep tears of blood.

—at a time like this, the blind nun was no longer worried about conserving her strength and fully unleashed a clear mind technique that surpassed even Space and Time.

Seeing that, Fei Yue answered: “Before my mother died, she used her soul to place a Destiny Shackle on my body— until the day I get married, as soon as anyone tries to force me to use my Fate techniques or steal my Fate abilities, they will die with me”

The blind nun was startled and asked: “Why did she do that?”

Fei Yue blankly replied: “Because she was also helpless to win against those enemies, having no choice but to use this method to temporarily guarantee my safety”

The blind nun remained silent for a short moment before continuing: “I understand now, the wraiths need this power of yours— they’re in a desperate need to use your Fate abilities to complete a certain thing”

“No one else is able to achieve this, only your Fate abilities could complete this feat”

Everyone was shocked, unable to help themselves turning towards the blind nun.

The blind nun wiped the tears below her eyes and continued: “After so many years, the wraiths can no longer remain patient, so they brought your father here in order to force you to make the final decision”

Fei Yue didn’t say anything.

She seemed to have understood everything.

The Ominous Demon Tower’s master couldn’t help but ask: 「 What choice? 」

The blind nun replied: “To let everything in Void City be destroyed, as well as for Fei Yue to witness her father and everyone else die in front of her eyes”

“Or what?”

“Or Fei Yue must immediately agree to the marriage, then use her Fate abilities for the sake of the Wraith realm”

“——only then, would the wraiths let everyone here go”

Everyone was completely speechless.

It was only now that they understood the wraith’s intentions.

To make Fei Yue see her father and the Void City that she had personally built up to this point be completely destroyed.

Extreme cruelty and ruthlessness.

But this was the wraith’s ultimatum, they were forcing Fei Yue to make a choice.

The blind nun appeared sympathetic and continued: “If they cannot have Fei Yue, the wraiths are willing to let her die, rather than letting her powers serve others”

The blind nun lightly touched Fei Yue’s shoulder and said: “Child, you have suffered”

Suddenly.

Two more black dots appeared out of the empty void of space.

These black dots only stayed in the air for a second before they dropped down in front of everyone’s eyes.

They then jumped, one of them landing at the foot of the man who carried a 50-meter blade on his shoulder.

The other landed in front of a beast-headed human-bodied Combatant standing next to him.

As everyone looked at them, they saw the two dots open up, turning into a pair of small green snakes.

These green snakes were smaller than the black snake from before, but they each had five heads.

The man with the blade couldn't help but speak: "A strange snake?"

The beast-headed Combatant next to him also couldn't help but wonder: 「 How did these things appear here? 」

The man didn't move at all, but a series of blurred images suddenly appeared from the blade on his shoulder.

The beast-headed Combatant also casually threw a punch.

The two small green snakes instantly disappeared just as they were struck.

A split second later——

The snakes reappeared on their bodies, lightly bit them, then vanished again.

A sense of indiscernible terror descended upon them.

"Damn it!"

The man abruptly snapped out of it and cursed in regret.

「 AARRRGHH—— 」

The beast-headed Combatant had already begun shouting in madness.

He had gone insane.

Seeing that, the man's gaze displayed the resolution to die, he suddenly tossed his blade away and rushed forward to grab the beast-headed Combatant.

"Everyone, farewell!"

The man shouted.

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At the very next moment, their figures disappeared in front of everyone.

It all happened in the mere blink of an eye.

Before the rest could even react, the two of them had already been bitten and disappeared.

The blind nun appeared full of sorrow and muttered:

"They... to not spread death and madness to us, have died"

「 Where did Cracked Blade take Tree Beast? 」 the Ominous Demon Tower's master asked.

Fei Yue took out a small glowing stone.

The glow of the stone slowly faded away, then suddenly broke.

"Cracked Blade had a personal world"

Fei Yue looked at the stone and answered without changing her expression: “That world had just been destroyed”

Everyone was completely silent.

The mere omen of the Great Flood had easily eradicated two Combatants, and casually destroyed an entire world.

The blind nun took out a white handkerchief and wiped the blood tears from her eyes.

Her eyes then scowled, as if she was suffering some sort of pain.

The group then heard her explain: “I’ve seen through a bit of this Apocalypse— it uses the power of Causality to trigger destruction. As soon as it falls into our vicinity, it will trigger a Causality ability to force us to attack it, then fall into madness”

A male voice refuted: “That isn’t the case”

Everyone looked back, only to see that it was Crow.

His eyes were reddened: “You’ve all forgotten, this is merely the omens before the Great Flood, the preliminary fluctuations of an Unlivable Apocalypse. Once it fully erupts, it would not be as weak as this”

—*you call this weak?*

Everyone couldn’t help but think that.

But they certainly couldn’t refute the fact that this was indeed only an omen of the Great Flood.

The wraiths are somehow able to manipulate the Great Flood.

*If they had the ability to manipulate an Apocalypse, is there anything that the wraiths cannot do?
Which world within this infinite void would be able to go against them?*

Everyone slowly fell into despair.

In the screen of light hovering in the void of space, Hong Yi Jue opened his eyes wide, looked at Fei Yue, then shouted:

“Daughter, do you still not get it? This is irresistible power!”

“My daughter, I no longer have another death-immunity talisman——”

Hong Yi Jue was practically begging as he shouted:

“It’s merely working for the wraiths; can’t you see that clearly? Or do you want us all to die within this Apocalypse?”

Fei Yue coldly replied: “Mother had already predicted the results of me working for the wraiths, and you know full well what that is!”

“Results...”

Everyone heard Hong Yi Jue’s weak voice filled with nothing but stifled emotions: “Regardless of the results, even getting to enjoy life one more day as a wraith is still better than dying immediately!”

He threw the talisman in his hand away, his complexion completely ashen:

“Over the past years, I’ve enjoyed a lot of things, but all of them come with a certain price. I need to marry you into the Wraith realm, if I fail to do that, the wraiths will definitely take my life”

“This is already the last chance, daughter”

“Whether everyone dies together, or live another day as you become a female ruler of the Wraith realm, everything depends on your decision”

“Even if you hate me, you cannot simply watch as everyone in Void City loses their life in this Apocalypse!”

Fei Yue's figure was slightly trembling.

Void City...

She clenched both her fist and her teeth tightly: "In the past, Mother was able to fight against the wraiths for an entire day without losing, but you insisted on not leading Void City against the wraiths—"

"Father, you used to be a renowned great Combatant within the void, why do you not have even a little bit of desire to resist them? Is it because you already knew that the wraiths had an Unlivable Apocalypse in their hands?"

She loudly questioned him.

Hong Yi Jue paused for a bit, then showed a strange expression.

In front of everyone, he opened his mouth, then slowly closed it, then abruptly opened it again.

His appearance looked a bit laughable, but Hong Yi Jue's expression was filled with despair as he was breathing heavily, not at all trying to make fun or joking.

It was as if he had something stuck in his throat, unable to speak.

Fei Yue was confused by that.

Everyone else also felt it was strange.

Regardless if he did or not, couldn't he just answer straight?

If the old City Lord was truly bending to the hidden strength of the wraiths, that would only better help the wraiths strike fear into them without resulting in any other consequences, so why is Hong Yi Jue so hesitant to speak?

The blind nun suddenly said: “Even as a top Combatant of the void, he has become extremely frightful”

This comment caused everyone to fall silent.

Carefully observing the old City Lord, they were indeed able to see that his body was trembling nonstop.

At that moment, both sides fell into an unusual stalemate.

...what exactly is a Combatant of his caliber afraid of?

Under such circumstances, what choice will Fei Yue make?

Everyone had such thoughts, then couldn't help but pull their gazes back to look at Fei Yue.

At this point.

This extremely pivotal moment, only a single person wasn't paying any attention to Fei Yue.

Gu Qing Shan.

—if Gu Qing Shan had been constantly paying close attention to the situation, he might have been able to notice something from Hong Yi Jue's expressions just now.

This wasn't related to any sort of Thaumaturgy or his level of power.

In reality, Gu Qing Shan had already fought against the wraiths in many worlds, he had witnessed the wraiths taking over a Huang Quan realm fragment, he had seen the Divine Skill [Lead The People]¹, and he knew about the fact that the wraiths had planned for countless years in order to enter the Inner Plane.

He had fought against Cang Wu Zhang, personally faced Red Wraith in the Saint Spirit world, and even saw through the Sacrificial Dance how the Wraith Lord fought against the Eternal Abyss, then desperately ran away.

— if Gu Qing Shan was able to see Hong Yi Jue's unusual expression and committed his full attention to ponder these matters, he might have been able to reach one or more unbelievable conclusions.

Unfortunately, Gu Qing Shan was currently in a state of absolute focus.

— he had both his eyes closed, currently doing everything he could to reverse-engineer the structure of this Life Talisman.

And so, everyone only saw a flare talisman flying in front of Hong Yi Jue from an extremely far distance.

Hong Yi Jue received the talisman, then his expression became completely bitter.

“What authority, what treasure, what bullshit power, they're all nothing but fireflies that can't compare to the shine of moonlight, and it's time for us to face our final destiny”

He waved the talisman and infused his power into it.

The talisman suddenly lit up.

An old voice resounded from within the talisman:

[City Lord Fei Yue, we recognize your power, and as long as you are willing to work for the Wraith realm, everything can be negotiated]

[We have waited for you for a very long time, which cannot continue any longer, because... certain events are about to occur]

[We cannot allow your power to exist outside of the Wraith realm's grasp, I hope you can understand]

[In consideration of your father and daughter's deep relationship, I will give you one last incense's worth of time]

[After this incense burns out, you will choose to either get married or to face the Unlivable Apocalypse]

[City Lord Fei Yue, I hope you will make the proper choice]

The talisman burst into flame, then quickly burnt away.

Silence.

There was nothing else but the absolute silence within this void.

Fei Yue's gaze passed through everyone.

The entire Void City is about to be destroyed... and the only outcome for everyone is death.

Countless years of preparations, and this is the result?

Fei Yue rubbed away her tears at the corners of her eyes.

She took a deep breath, then resolutely spoke: "I... am willing..."

Suddenly, a voice cut her off.

"Ah? Seems like a lot has happened—— Fei Yue, first undo your Fate technique!"

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and shouted in a low voice.

Chapter 1393

Translator: La0o9

Hearing that, Fei Yue silently chanted something.

The screen in mid-air disappeared, making Hong Yi Jue unable to see what was happening on their side.

“It is dispelled”

Fei Yue looked at Gu Qing Shan as if hoping for something.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Alright, everyone please use any concealment or isolation technique you have, make sure that no one would be able to discover anything happening here”

The remaining big shots all became spirited again as they heard that.

It seems like we have some hope.

Everyone swiftly used their respective measures to completely seal off their area of space.

Gu Qing Shan watched their tense expressions and shook his head: “Don’t place too much hope in me, all I’ve been able to do is to uncover a very insignificant detail, I’m just going to tell you about it and see if anyone has any good ideas”

Everyone’s expressions remained still and they continued staring at him.

Xiao Die suddenly said: “We only have one incense stick’s worth of time, quickly do what you want to do, or there won’t be enough time”

“One incense stick’s worth? The situation is even better than I had thought” Gu Qing Shan turned to the void of space and spoke: “Shannu, check if there are any spells or techniques that we can’t detect around this area. Adorable, see if there are anyone other than us here who had unleashed any attacks”

“There isn’t anything”

Xiu!

Two responses came.

Gu Qing Shan then relaxed a bit and began explaining to everyone: “When I fought against the wraiths in the Saint Spirit world, I managed to learn some of their talisman creation technique”

“And now, I’ve been able to somewhat understand that soul-reaping Life Talisman’s structure, it seems to be more than just a soul-reaping Life Talisman”

“What other use does that Life Talisman have?” Fei Yue asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I haven’t been able to confirm that, so I’ll try to create one right now—— this might be the only hope for our survival, please study it with me carefully”

He put up a finger and began to write something in mid-air the same way that Red Wraith had done in the Saint Spirit world.

Everyone’s gaze closely followed his gestures, attempting to see it clearly to the very end.

Gu Qing Shan’s hand moved like a blurred image and rapidly finished a talisman in mid-air, after that, he waved his hand towards the void, causing the mysterious runes to freeze in the air and begin giving off unusual fluctuations.

The talisman was completed!

Gu Qing Shan explained: “This is a soul-reaping Life Talisman, it didn’t originate from the Wraith realm, but from my hands, which makes it slightly different from the wraiths’ soul-reaping Life Talisman—— it won’t be able to take anyone’s soul”

As soon as he finished, a flare abruptly flew out from the void of space.

No one knew where that flare originated from, it simply appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan without any warning.

——the light of the flare faded away to reveal a talisman inside.

A different talisman!

The talisman stopped next to the Life Talisman that Gu Qing Shan created, giving off bright red light.

Everyone exchanged glances.

Just now, the Life Talisman that Gu Qing Shan drew suddenly called another talisman here.

What exactly is going on?

The eye on top of the blind nun's head stared incessantly at the talisman.

She told him: "Dragon King, you have to also uncover this talisman's structure, or we won't know anything about it either"

Gu Qing Shan stared at the runes drawn on that talisman, slowly analyzing the meaning behind its structure.

—if he was to consider it using the cultivation world's knowledge, this talisman was the same type of talisman used for communication.

Gu Qing Shan lightly tapped his finger on the bright-red talisman, after which a voice sounded in his mind:

[Searching for your identity]

[Your identity cannot be confirmed, please prove your identity within five breaths' worth of time, or erasure shall be trigger]

Gu Qing Shan told everyone: "This talisman is telling me to provide proof of my identity within five breaths' worth of time, or it will kill me"

Five breaths!

The blind nun instantly said: "It seems you need to prove that you are a wraith"

"I guessed that as well" Fei Yue agreed.

Suddenly, from within the boundless white space, a black dot flew towards them from afar, landing right next to Gu Qing Shan's foot.

—this dot was visibly moving with shiny black scales around it, which was unravelling at an extremely slow pace.

Looking at this black dot, a thought suddenly flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

—what is this?

Why haven't I already killed this thing?

As soon as that thought appeared, it filled Gu Qing Shan's heart like overgrown wild grass.

Everyone's expressions changed.

So what the message meant was that after five breaths' worth of time, the Apocalypse would act to directly kill Dragon King of Atrocity Jail!

Xiao Die loudly shouted: "Be careful, this is a portion of the Unlivable Apocalypse's power, you need to quickly think of a solution"

"Got it" Gu Qing Shan hurriedly replied.

He felt his life at the verge of life and death, so he forced himself to temporarily ignore the thought of attacking the black dot.

To prove that I'm a wraith—

How would I be able to achieve that?

As Gu Qing Shan was thinking, Fei Yue stepped forward and tossed out a series of black threads with both of her hands, the threads then wrapped around Gu Qing Shan and the wraith.

The Ominous Demon Tower's master also quickly walked forward, pressing one hand on Gu Qing Shan and the other hand on the wraith.

He abruptly turned into a giant blood vein that connected Gu Qing Shan and the wraith.

Fei Yue shouted: "With your death, Fate shall disguise!"

The Ominous Demon Tower's master also uttered: 「 Twins as one body 」

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They seemed to have used a certain power of theirs.

But the black dot on the ground was still quickly unravelling itself.

The third breath!

—there's not going to be enough time!

The blind nun's eye opened completely, staring straight at the talisman in front of Gu Qing Shan.

She hurriedly told him: "Dragon King, Fei Yue and the Tower Master are turning you into that wraith, but that isn't enough, you need to take the Life Talisman from that wraith's body immediately as he died in order to deceive it!"

— one breath left!

Gu Qing Shan didn't have time to answer, he could only rapidly draw a talisman in front of the wraith's forehead.

This was a talisman technique he learnt from Red Wraith, specifically made to take Life Talismans from others.

This technique was something that wraith leaders used to directly issue orders before large-scale missions.

They would simply take each person's Life Talisman and write their respective missions on the Life Talismans.

“Retrieve—”

Gu Qing Shan uttered a loud shout.

A Life Talisman suddenly flew out from the wraith's forehead and landed in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of intimacy and obedience as he held the Life Talisman in his hand.

Thanks to Fei Yue's and the Ominous Demon Tower master's abilities, he was currently that wraith, an extended part of that wraith's body, so the Life Talisman did not try to resist.

Gu Qing Shan held the Life Talisman and put it straight into his Thought Sea.

Five breaths were over.

It was time!

The bright-red talisman in front of Gu Qing Shan exploded into a flash of red light and enveloped him.

A cold voice sounded:

[Identification passed]

[Your mission was to cooperate with the angels to eliminate a suspicious individual]

[Your mission has failed; you will be transported back in ten breaths' worth of time to receive your punishment]

Ten breaths!

There really is no time at all!

Gu Qing Shan turned to everyone else and immediately explained: "I'm going to be transported away soon, what do you plan to do?"

Everyone was silent.

They didn't expect the situation to change so rapidly, with only Gu Qing Shan alone being able to escape from the Great Flood.

And he wouldn't necessarily be able to escape either.

Because there were surely corresponding people waiting for him in the Wraith realm to hand out his punishment for failing his mission.

He was still in a dangerous situation.

But everyone else would soon die in the Great Flood Apocalypse.

Fei Yue sighed and said: “Let us prepare for rocks and gems to break together——”

“That’s not it, Fei Yue, you need to prepare to get married!” Gu Qing Shan suddenly cut her off.

Fei Yue raised her brow and resolutely declared: “I will definitely not——”

Gu Qing Shan cut her off again, saying: “Fei Yue, do you remember? What were you preparing for her before this?”

Fei Yue was stunned for a moment before her eyes suddenly glittered.

Originally, they planned to infiltrate and attack the Wraith realm, but couldn’t even begin the operation before this Unlivable Apocalypse destroyed the entire Void City.

——however, their preparations were still there!

This was their only chance of survival!

“That’s it! I have a solution” Fei Yue turned to everyone and loudly declared.

Everyone turned to her.

“Everyone, use the technique that I had you all prepare right now, we’re going to turn Crow into me”

Fei Yue’s speech sped up and continued: “We will follow our previous invasion plan; everyone will act as the wedding entourage and follow Crow into the Wraith realm; we’d then be able to avoid the Unlivable Apocalypse!”

Everyone was ecstatic to hear that.

—-as long as they didn't have to face the Unlivable Apocalypse, there wasn't anything they had to fear.

All of them were Combatants with at least one or two Titles in the void, they wouldn't necessarily lose even in a direct battle against a Wraith Lord.

"Then what about Dragon King of Atrocity Jail?" Xiao Die asked.

The blind nun said: "The Wraith realm is a complete mystery with numerous Causality techniques prepared to isolate them. Dragon King is the only person among us who knows how to use the wraith's Life Talismans, once we arrive in the Wraith realm, we will need to seek him out to have a chance at escaping, or even resist against the wraiths"

Fei Yue said: "I will tie my [Threads of Fate] around him, this way we'd be able to contact one another— —"

She pulled several black threads from the void of space and coiled them a few times around Gu Qing Shan's arm.

Time was up!

"Everyone, see you in the Wraith realm"

Gu Qing Shan said and disappeared in front of everyone.

He had left for the Wraith realm.

Everyone pulled back their gazes, focusing on Crow.

Right now, the key to everything lied with Crow.

Fei Yue said with a serious expression: “Crow, you’ve done very well up to now when imitating me, you can now replace me—— but there is one flaw, whenever you’re too immersed in your role, you’d appear very seductive, you need to be careful about that”

In front of everyone, Crow subconsciously played with his bangs and shook his head: “Don’t worry, I’ll pay close attention”

Chapter 1394

1394: Longing

Translator: La0o9

One stick of incense was about to burn out.

From the empty void of space where Void City once was, Fei Yue’s voice could be heard:

“I agree to the marriage, but I have a condition”

Hong Yi Jue was delighted and hurriedly asked: “Daughter, quickly state your condition”

Fei Yue spoke up again: “I request an official wedding ceremony down to every last detail; nothing must be glossed over”

——she was the true ruler of Void City, not only was she personally powerful, but she also carried the power of Fate. There was nothing wrong with her being particular about ceremonies, in fact, her ceremony must be extremely particular even if she didn’t want to; simply because the infinite worlds of the void would be paying attention to this wedding.

If the wedding ceremony between Fei Yue and the Wraith Lord were to have even a tiny mistake, it would immediately become the biggest joke the void had ever heard, greatly harming both of their reputations.

Before Hong Yi Jue even replied, the old voice from before had already responded:

[City Lord Fei Yue, please do not worry, we shall definitely arrange a wedding ceremony of the highest possible standard, numerous worlds will arrive to watch the wedding, and it shall be conducted in the most luxurious and grandest way]

“Hm, and I have one other condition” Fei Yue continued.

[Please speak] the old voice replied.

Fei Yue said: “Everyone currently by my side will be a part of my entourage and enter the Wraith realm with me”

The other side stayed silent.

Fei Yue coldly laughed: “As the City Lord of Void City, if I were to enter the Wraith realm alone without anyone by my side, that would be a disgrace”

“—if you refuse, then use the Apocalypse to kill us all”

After declaring that, she said nothing else.

Everyone turned to Fei Yue worriedly.

The blind nun assured them all: “It will be ok, the wraiths had planned to get Fei Yue for so many years, they wouldn’t give it up for such a simple matter. They will definitely accept this condition”

After a few moments, the old voice spoke up again:

[I can accept your condition, but I hope you will keep it close in mind that you will enter the Wraith realm to conduct the wedding ceremony, please do not try anything extraneous, or your outcomes would be vastly worse than death]

Fei Yue responded: “No problem”

She then gestured with her hand.

The blind nun urged: “Hurry everyone, follow the plan and help Fei Yue finish her disguise!”

Several Combatants stepped forward to release a technique they had been preparing for Fei Yue and turned her into a completely different person.

Standing to face Fei Yue, Crow watched as she was turned into a maid from the City Lord’s manor while he was transformed into a woman from inside and out.

—-he had completely taken on Fei Yue’s appearance.

The formation around Void City slowly faded away as countless wraith called out like a resounding wave:

“GREETINGS, CITY LORD FEI YUE!!”

The maid silently stepped forward, lightly held Crow’s hand, then sent her voice through telepathy: “We’re starting— Crow, make sure to pay attention to your appearance, and make sure to protect me—- I expended too much power just now, so I’m a bit weakened”

Crow puffed out his chest and laughed: “Don’t worry, just leave everything else to me”

The maid looked at him with an expression of exhaustion and helplessness

...

—-let us rewind time for a bit.

Right as Gu Qing Shan was about to be transported away, Fei Yue tied several black threads on Gu Qing Shan’s arm.

“Gu Qing Shan, don’t say a word, just listen to me”

Fei Yue’s voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan’s Thought Sea.

“The wraiths have prepared themselves for everything, so even if our group can enter the Wraith realm on the grounds of marrying in, we would still be closely monitored, making it difficult to attempt anything”

“But you know the secret of the Life Talisman and exist outside of the wraith’s vision, so you’re our only hope”

“I will lend you my most important power to you, it will definitely help you greatly”

“If possible, do not come to save us, just do as what you have told me before and eradicate the entire Wraith realm”

After that, the black threads all disappeared into Gu Qing Shan’s arm without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan stood there reading the lines of text that appeared in the void of space and replied with a heavy tone:

“Thank you for your trust, I will definitely achieve it”

Fei Yue stared closely at Gu Qing Shan, then loudly declared: “I will wrap my [Threads of Fate] around him, this way we’d be able to remain in contact”

The others showed no reaction.

Everyone believed this to be the same as what Fei Yue had claimed, merely a technique for communication, so they didn’t think too much of it.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared without a trace.

——only the eye on top of the blind nun’s head stared closely at Fei Yue.

The blind nun trembled and hurriedly sent her voice:

“You gave that Fate ability to him? Wouldn’t that mean you’ve tied your life to him?”

Fei Yue’s expression remained calm and replied: “He holds a deep grudge against the wraiths, and is one who would not surrender”

The blind nun pursued the question: “How do you know that?”

Fei Yue replied: “Because I once peeked into his past, and he is the wielder of Heaven and Earth, and also... in short, there won’t be any issues with giving it to him”

Her gaze appeared reminiscent as she thought of something.

In Xiao Die’s small brick house, the two of them officially met for the first time.

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She had silently used her Fate abilities to check his background.

However, just like the time she performed divination for his codename, she couldn’t see a lot of things clearly.

She only saw continuous Apocalypses, what Gu Qing Shan had done, as well as the very last scene—

...

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of a mountain wielding a scepter in his hand, in front of him, innumerable dead people filled every corner of the world, all of them cheering for him:

“Long live the Devil King!”

“Long live the Devil King!”

“Long live the Devil King!”

...

Fei Yue’s eyes glowed, clenched her hand subconsciously, then muttered under her breath: “With my power, he should be able to achieve a lot with little effort... perhaps he might truly be able to...”

The blind nun wanted to say something else, but then only sighed: “Hah, he truly is the only one not under the wraith’s control, we have no choice but to gamble on him this once”

Speaking of the wraiths, Fei Yue coldly scoffed and sent her voice: “And now, even if the wraiths see through the disguise or kill me, they would still never be able to obtain that power from me”

...

Gu Qing Shan was flying through the endless dark void of space.

He could clearly sense that he would soon arrive at the Wraith realm.

But his mind wasn’t focused on that at all.

He was still staring at the lines of text in the void of space, still shocked.

[You’ve been gifted a Fate Talent]

[This Fate Talent is a natural-born ability that you can use without paying any price, like your eyes, ears, tongue, and body]

[The next time you meet the original owner of this Fate Talent, you may choose to return this Fate Talent to her, or keep it to yourself as your possession]

[You’ve obtained the Fate Talent: Longing]

[Longing: You are able to see the connections between all things or all living beings, understand this connection, and even able to perform certain things to these connections]

[Special attention: This is an extremely unique and rare Fate Talent; it is as deep as the ocean depths and as miraculous as any miracle. You must carefully study it to understand its true value]

Reading this description again, Gu Qing Shan was still in disbelief.

Since the War God UI had mentioned it in such a vague way, this Fate Talent seems to be something that cannot be understood unless I slowly learn about it.

With a single thought, he activated his Fate Talent.

Instantly, he noticed two more black threads on his left hand.

These two threads were reaching towards two different directions, both disappeared into the void of space.

“This is... the same kind of Fate threads that Fei Yue uses...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He reached his hand out to touch one of the black threads.

——this thread led to the same destination as his teleport location.

A sense of danger could be felt from it.

Gu Qing Shan instantly understood that this was what he needed to face after he returned as a wraith.

The other thread reached even deeper into the darkness of the void.

Gu Qing Shan touched his thread with his hand as well.

A sense of understanding appeared in his mind.

“An item... something that I want to find... is in this direction”

He silently muttered.

Suddenly, a total of five Life Talismans appeared from the void of space to surround Gu Qing Shan.

Overlapping figures appeared all around, seemingly a lot of people were moving back and forth, talking and chatting while also busy with their work.

A voice sounded next to Gu Qing Shan’s ear:

“Complete wipe out, only you managed to survive and return alone, what a disgrace”

“After his warp is completed, take him to the fifth passage for his punishment”

The others replied: “Understood!”

Gu Qing Shan silently listened, but his eyes stared closely at the five talismans while his thoughts quickly moved.

The scenery around him was becoming clearer.

——this was a large teleportation area with many warp formations of various sizes, which the wraiths were using to busily move in and out of this area.

Right at this moment, Gu Qing Shan suddenly reached his hand out to draw a rune.

“Quick!”

He grunted.

The talisman was completed!

Instantly, the five talismans did not finish his teleportation and instead gave off more light to carry Gu Qing Shan away from the teleportation area.

Several panicked voices sounded by his ears before quickly disappearing without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan followed the Fate thread on his hand and flew deeper into the void.

Chapter 1395

1395: Unfamiliar

Translator: La0o9

Flying through space.

The teleportation area had disappeared from his vision for a while, and Gu Qing Shan was still flying through the dark void of space.

Multitudes of talisman runes filled the space around him to form a cylindrical tunnel that gave off immense irresistible power.

As Gu Qing Shan carefully examined the talismans around him, he was silently surprised.

Even his inner sight could not fully reach the end of the tunnel passage.

—-he couldn't even begin to imagine how many Life Talismans the wraiths had placed around this place, let alone to cover the entire Wraith realm.

The five Life Talismans around him were continuously resonating with the tunnel, using that to produce the power that was propelling Gu Qing Shan forward.

Gu Qing Shan silently felt a sense of confusion.

So many Life Talismans...

As soon as one of them is touched, it would awaken the power of every Life Talisman in this place, which would immediately erase any entities inside.

Yet the entire tunnel was able to resonate with the warp talismans to create this warping spatial power.

There are no living beings here.

If this tunnel didn't exist, Gu Qing Shan would have felt himself being completely isolated as he silently moved forward through an ocean towards an unknown abyss.

No direction, no destination, nothing to use as a point of reference.

After a while.

The five Life Talismans around him shut down.

—-these warp talismans were supposed to take him to a place to be punished, but Gu Qing Shan had managed to alter them to change directions and took him all the way here.

Without the power of the talismans, Gu Qing Shan gradually slowed down until he stopped completely.

This place was still inside the tunnel with nothing ahead and nothing behind him.

Gu Qing Shan hovered in place for a bit, then gradually felt the fluctuation of Life Talismans approaching him.

From his spirit sense, a sense of urgency descended on Gu Qing Shan.

As if someone was pursuing him.

— it's definitely not a good idea to continue waiting like this.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought as he went through the structure of the five warp talismans from before in his head several times.

He then rapidly drew a warp talisman with his finger in mid-air.

The runes flickered and manifested as a burning flare.

Success!

300 Soul Points were deducted on the War God UI.

300 Soul Points for a talisman, this literally was nothing to Gu Qing Shan.

The talisman fluctuations behind him were growing stronger.

Gu Qing Shan continued drawing several more warp talismans without hesitation.

As the fifth warp Life Talisman was drawn, all of them automatically turned into a swirling ring of fire around Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's body slowly began moving forward, once again supported by the spatial power of the talismans.

He quickly moved along the tunnel.

Just like that, for the next few moments, Gu Qing Shan continued to use the power of the warp talismans to fly deeper into the tunnel.

Whenever the Life Talismans would lose power and drop, he would simply draw new ones to replace them.

After an unknown amount of time, the Life Talisman fluctuation behind him disappeared.

The sense of urgency in Gu Qing Shan's mind also faded.

Strange, why aren't they continuing with the chase?

This place is the Wraith realm, it should be completely under their control, so why did they give up on pursuit?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused.

At this point, he saw something eerie.

The tunnel in front of him was cut off.

A grand mountain appeared in Gu Qing Shan's vision with a large head mounted on top of it.

The head slowly closed its eyes and exhaled through its nose, producing a mass of white mist.

Just as Gu Qing Shan wanted to take a closer look, the warp talismans quickly pushed him through.

On the other side of the mist was another dark tunnel, but many of the talismans that made up this tunnel had already turned rotten and crumbled, no longer giving off any light that a talisman should.

From the looks of it, this talisman tunnel was in a state of abandonment.

Gu Qing Shan hesitated.

Should I continue moving forward?

He looked down a bit at the black thread in his hand.

Only to see that the other end of the thread continued to reach deeper into the abandoned tunnel, still nowhere in sight.

A wondrous sensation naturally appeared in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

"Not far, what I want to find... is right ahead..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered, clenched his teeth, then continued to fly deeper into the tunnel.

From this point onwards, the talisman tunnel became completely different from before, occasionally displaying inexplicable illusions.

An abandoned train station suddenly appeared in his vision.

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The tracks were completely rusted with a destroyed train engine and grass that had overgrown the entire area.

In the empty train station, a dark figure could also be seen standing there while looking around.

Gu Qing Shan's pupils dilated, muttering to himself: "Strange, why does it feel so familiar..."

The illusion flashed.

Gu Qing Shan continued flying forward, seeing more abandoned Technology-type structures on the way.

At first, they were mundane things like wooden bridges, horse carriages, small buildings, then eventually things like steam cars, cement structures, clocks, planes, and even a giant mecha could be seen.

All of them were completely broken without fail.

By the time a tattered spaceship appeared in his vision, the tunnel around him had completely become dim.

All the Life Talismans here had lost their light, no longer giving off any fluctuations.

The flare around Gu Qing Shan's body had also just faded away.

No longer supported by the teleportation talismans, he once again hovered in mid-air.

Gu Qing Shan was about to draw talismans again, but then noticed that the black thread was no longer reaching forward, it now coiled around his hand before lightly pointing downwards.

"Below..."

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

But before he could discern anything, he suddenly felt a huge suction force pulling him downwards.

He directly vanished from his position.

...

Night had enveloped the world.

Outside of a bustling huge city, a figure slowly climbed out from the city moat.

Gu Qing Shan.

He stood on the bank of the moat and casually used a hand seal to dry off the water on his body before turning to the huge city.

There was no issue with calling this a huge city since Gu Qing Shan's inner sight that could easily envelope certain small worlds wasn't able to even reach either side of the city's border.

The city was filled to the brim with spirit energy, some people would occasionally take flight above the clouds.

— as he looked up, he could see beautiful palaces and structures hovering in the air, continuously stacked up until they reached the depths of space.

Gu Qing Shan took a short look before noticing that none of the people here was wearing wraith masks.

...strange, this place is clearly the Wraith realm, so why aren't there any wraiths here?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to examine more carefully.

Wherever his inner sight passed through, several people would become cautious and some even reacted angrily, but they quickly smiled, turned towards Gu Qing Shan's direction and greeted him:

"So it was a Star River Saint"

"Venerable Saint, accept this humble one's bow"

"Greetings, venerable Saint"

...

Everyone swiftly followed Gu Qing Shan's inner sight to greet him.

Gu Qing Shan instantly pulled his inner sight away.

In a Cultivation-type world, arbitrarily using one's inner sight to investigate others was certainly rude behavior.

It had been so long since he went to a Cultivation-type world that he had temporarily forgotten this tacit rule.

When he first arrived at Void City, when he used his inner sight to examine the city, he was instantly noticed by a cultivator and even got berated for it.

Right now, the fact that these people are able to immediately recognize my cultivation realm means that they're all used to this level of inner sight and that this wasn't an unusual occurrence.

That's one detail I can't gloss over.

Gu Qing Shan formed a hand seal to use Qin Xiao Lou's improved Presence Concealment technique, then slowly disappeared into the shadow.

Noticing the Star River Saint's inner sight disappearing, the people in the huge city slowly relaxed and went back to their own businesses.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few more moments until the city had regained its calm before he appeared from another direction.

At this point, he had gotten far away from the moat, currently walking in the wilderness.

There was a man lying in the grass here.

A sharp dagger had pierced through the man's body, his blood slowly dripping out.

Gu Qing Shan looked down and saw that the black thread on his hand was coiled around the man's body.

Gu Qing Shan's expression became strange.

He could guarantee that he had never seen this man before, but the Fate Talent informed him that there was a connection between him and this man.

That made things even more confusing.

Maybe, the thing I'm looking for is on this person's body?

He walked forward, about to examine him more carefully.

Suddenly, a transparent figure appeared from the man's body and observed him: "Who are you?"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, but before he could even reply, the other party had hurriedly said: "I know, you must be the Black and White Impermanence, I beg you, please take me away"

"I... why should I take you away? And I'm not the Black and White Impermanence" Gu Qing Shan replied.

It was the transparent man's turn to be shocked.

He confusedly asked: "The Black and White Impermanence didn't arrive, you... who exactly are you?"

Chapter 1396

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer him and only crouched down, lightly touching the other party's chest.

He made a strange expression.

—-quite a bit of blood had been spilled, but the dagger didn't puncture too deeply.

Such a wound was very easy for cultivators to heal, in certain intense combat, this level of injury could be considered as just a scratch.

Then why did his soul already leave his body?

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes in thought, then recalled the numerous Cultivation-type healing techniques that the worlds of the past had bestowed him, among them was an exceptional one.

This technique could easily heal his wounds if Gu Qing Shan used it.

Gu Qing Shan formed a hand seal in both hands.

"You... are clearly still alive, so why did your soul already escape your body?" Gu Qing Shan focused his spirit energy without actually using it and asked.

The man's soul hovered in mid-air, now recognizing Gu Qing Shan as a cultivator and clasped his fist: "Greetings, fellow Dao seeker, this is a unique technique of my own creation, capable of allowing the soul to leave the body before death— I'm not actually a dead soul, but a normal soul that can talk with living people"

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "To allow the soul to leave the body before death? What is this technique good for?"

“It can allow someone to die earlier” the man triumphantly boasted.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

Why are you acting boastful about being able to die earlier?

Wait a minute!

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized.

If I want my soul to leave my body, I have to use the combination of two Secret Art, [Sealed Body Yin Shift] and [Soul Come Soul Goes] in order to enter a fake state of death and head into Huang Quan.

The fact that this person was able to create something of similar nature, albeit still far from reaching the same level, means that he could easily be considered a genius.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist: “So you’ve created a technique that allows for an earlier death, fellow Dao seeker. What extraordinary thinking and wonderful execution, this humble one is truly impressed”

Seeing him say that, the man was delighted: “Good! Good! I’ve finally met someone who understands my work, unlike those old cows, so damn conservative, every last one of them”

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then smiled and asked: “Fellow Dao seeker, you’re highly talented and a splendid individual, you should have a very bright future ahead, so why did you suddenly die here?”

The man angrily replied: “My natural talents are both varied and well-developed, my looks and talents are both top-level, my knowledge unrivalled, a pillar that could hold up heaven——”

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: “Fellow Dao seeker, ‘a pillar that could hold up heaven’ isn’t a way to describe talents”

The man froze, then pondered for a bit: “He who ties the universe together, a pillar that holds the heaven at the Southern Plain’— this poem was originally used to describe a person who holds great responsibility, such people could only be those with great talents and ability”

Gu Qing Shan also pondered: “If you put it that way... that certainly is the case, please continue”

The man casually continued: “A pillar that could hold up heaven——”

“Fellow Dao seeker, please get to the point”

“Ah, right. I’m a man with great capabilities, but due to me being too excellent, my greatness cannot be understood by others, and I became the target of others’ envy. The trees want to remain still, but the storm refuses to relent; I happened to anger some people who schemed and plotted to stain my name. They succeeded in the end, so my reputation at the academy is now completely gone and resulted in my expulsion. What else do I have to live for? Might as well die early, reincarnate, then swiftly begin anew” the man sighed.

Gu Qing Shan asked; “May I ask how those snakes ruined your reputation?”

As soon as this was mentioned, the man was so furious that he began trembling and shouted: “They claim that I long for the flowers on the streets, immersing myself in lust and debauchery, no longer seeking Dao!”

“But you actually didn’t go to such places?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I did” the man replied.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

If not for the Fate threads connecting him and this man, he would have already turned around and left right away.

Seeing his expression, the man also guessed his thoughts and hurriedly said: "Fellow Dao seeker, you've missed the key point in all this"

"What was the key point?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"The key point was that they claimed that I'm no longer seeking Dao, but that's blatant falsehood only seeking to ruin my reputation—— everyone knows that ever since this Su Qing entered the academy, I've never once been lazy with cultivation, creating numerous techniques and growing increasingly stronger. I am the most competent competitor for the Seven Institutes' Dao debate" the man explained.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath, asking: "So you're seeking death because someone has tried to frame you?"

"They've already convinced the Disciplinary Elder, who will host an academy-wide gathering, openly berating me in front of everyone before expelling me from the academy"

Su Qing resolutely said: "But they don't know that I'd rather seek death than to accept such humiliation"

Gu Qing Shan tried asking: "If a talented disciple like yourself were to die, wouldn't that be the academy's loss?"

Su Qing replied: "Hmph, now that the Seven Institutes' Dao debate is approaching, if a pillar that holds the heaven like myself suddenly fell, our Kunlun Mountain Academy would definitely lose a valuable asset—— that will ensure that the Disciplinary Elder hit his own foot with a rock, announcing to the entire academy how they forced me to my death!"

Gu Qing Shan face-palmed for a long while speechlessly.

He suddenly lowered his voice and said: "Fellow Dao seeker Su, if you want to die, I won't stop you, but you might have something that I want, can you open your Inventory Bag for me to check?"

"Something?" Su Qing doubtfully asked.

“That’s right, I’m looking for a certain item that’s related to me, can you—— resurrect and help me take a look?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

——he glanced at the black thread on his left hand.

Only to see the thread had extended and coiled exactly around the Inventory Bag on Su Qing’s body.

“You want me to temporarily resurrect myself?” hearing him, Su Qing looked at Gu Qing Shan with a weird expression.

“That’s right, fellow Dao seeker Su, I’m indeed looking for something” Gu Qing Shan explained.

“What do you want to find?” Su Qing asked.

“I need to first see what you have before I know what I’m looking for” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Qing’s expression once again displayed a profound sense of understanding.

“What’s the matter?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused.

Su Qing clasped his fist: “I won’t lie to you, fellow Dao Seeker, ever since I began my cultivation path, I’ve met thieves and burglars, robbers who take things from people on the streets, and even bandits willing to kill to rob people—— but I’ve never seen someone who would even steal from a soul, this level of creativity is truly innovative, this humble one is impressed”

Gu Qing Shan’s fingers twitched, almost triggering his sword seal.

He took a deep breath and suppress his voice: “Fellow Dao seeker Su, I’m not stealing——”

Su Qing signaled for him to not continue.

“It is fine, you and I are not acquaintances, we merely happened to meet and had a great conversation, it’s like we’ve known one another for a long time, so I will help you” Su Qing told him.

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His soul formed a hand seal in mid-air and slowly went back into his body.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan triggered the healing technique he had prepared and helped close the other party’s wound.

Su Qing slowly opened his eyes, sat up from the ground, then tapped his Inventory Bag to take things out from it.

“Did you want spirit stones?” Su Qing held a handful of spirit stones and asked.

“No” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Qing was surprised, muttering to himself: “You don’t want spirit stones, perhaps...”

He took out several artbooks that depicted beautiful women, then said with unwillingness to part: “I collected these for over three years, but I can give it to you as well”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I don’t need them”

Su Qing looked at him strangely and asked: “These are the most precious things I have, what else exactly did you want?”

“I don’t know either, please continue to take things out, I need to see them one by one” Gu Qing Shan answered him

Su Qing turned his Inventory Bag upside-down and shook it.

Clank clank!

A large number of random objects fell out.

The thread on Gu Qing Shan's left hand coiled around one of them.

—it was a fragment about the size of half a finger, made out of some unknown material that was glittering as it shined, very eye-catching.

Gu Qing Shan waved, pulling the fragment into his hand.

Lines of glowing text immediately appeared on the War God UI:

[Discovered a fragment of the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword]

[Attention, you will need to collect every fragment for a possibility of reforging this Divine Sword]

Gu Qing Shan finally understood.

Indeed, this was what it was.

I travelled from the Tomb of Myriad Beasts to this place and finally found the very first fragment of the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword.

Only a fully-reforged Divine Sword would be able to once again suppress the great tomb, saving the Tomb of Myriad Beasts from the threat of the Apocalypses.

“Fellow Dao seeker Su, where did you find this?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“This thing? I picked it up from a nearby river a few days ago. At the time, I thought it was some sort of ore, so I wanted to examine some forging books to see what kind of thing it was, but due to being framed for the last few days, I haven't had the chance to”

Gu Qing Shan said: "Fellow Dao seeker Su, this is exactly what I was looking for?"

"Then take it, I'm about to die anyway, it's useless even if I kept it" Su Qing agreed right away.

"Thank you"

Gu Qing Shan put the Divine Sword fragment away.

The black thread on his left hand faded away like mist, then once again reformed into a thread.

This time, the thread pointed towards the huge city from before.

—then, the next fragment should be inside the city.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Su Qing a bit, then clasped his fist: "Then... fellow Dao seeker Su, I bid you farewell"

"Hm, go ahead and return to your business, I'm going to die now" Su Qing replied.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and turned to leave.

Behind him, Su Qing once again raised his dagger and thrust it into his chest.

Gu Qing Shan only took a few steps before he blinked and suddenly said:

"Stop him"

—K-L-A-N-G!

A loud metallic sound.

An autumn water-like blue steel sword had caught the dagger.

Su Qing asked in surprise: "Fellow Dao seeker, what are you doing?"

Gu Qing Shan stood still, then sighed after a long while.

He returned and looked at Su Qing.

"Fellow Dao seeker Su, in truth, you won't be able to take your revenge on those people like this"

"But why?" Su Qing asked.

"Because they originally hoped to remove you, didn't they?" Gu Qing Shan asked in return.

"But my death would be a great loss to the academy" Su Qing insisted.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "But a dead person cannot create any value—once you die, you will have lost your value, and no one would make a big deal out of anything for a dead person, aside from your family members"

"I... no longer have any family members. Everyone from my father's generation lost their lives during the previous wraith operation" Su Qing said.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed, then concluded: "If that is the case, your death would be nothing but a useless death"

Su Qing appeared lost.

Gu Qing Shan then suggested: "Since you gave me a treasure, I will help you once to repay the favor, what do you think?"

Su Qing shook his head: "Their forces are considerable, some of them were even young masters who came down from heaven, so I couldn't do anything against them"

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

He patted Su Qing's shoulder and said: "Against hurtful words and actions from others, some people will become broken, forever living in the pain of their past memories. But others will use this pain, endure this humiliation, then finally become a strong person who can decide their own fates"

Su Qing looked at him in surprise: "So you were someone who's used to enduring humiliation?"

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit embarrassed and pondered before replying:

"Well, that's just the dogma that's taught. Don't judge me from how I look — I'm actually quite a violent person, not someone easy to pick on. I've not once held back when killing people"

Chapter 1397

Translator: La0o9

Violent?

Doesn't hold back when killing people?

Hearing Gu Qing Shan, Su Qing couldn't help but ask: "Fellow Dao seeker, may I ask your name?"

"Gu Qing Shan"

That's an unfamiliar name.

...I haven't heard of any new murderous demons popping up either.

Su Qing silently thought, then asked: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, I saw that you were using a flying sword earlier, might you be a sword cultivator?"

"I am" Gu Qing Shan admitted.

Su Qing appeared to understand and nodded: "You sword cultivators are famous for being ready for a deathmatch as soon as you find something you don't agree with, of course, no one would offend you, but I'm a technique cultivator, my expertise lies with creating new techniques, not with fighting. That's why people bully me easily"

Gu Qing Shan chuckled.

Sword cultivators had a unified belief that the best method to resolve a problem was for others to shut up and pull back.

And there were many ways to force people to do such a thing.

The sword cultivator's way just happened to be the most direct one.

He just didn't think it would also be the same in this world.

Gu Qing Shan said: "Fellow Dao seeker Su, what do you plan on doing now? Tell me and I'll help you come up with a solution"

Su Qing sighed, then explained: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, I no longer intend to die as I heeded to your words, but I don't have any way to resolve my current circumstances"

"What kind of circumstances? Being berated by the Elder?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Su Qing replied: "Indeed. Right at dawn, the Disciplinary Elder will host an academy-wide meeting, where everyone at that the academy will be present, they will surely expel me from the academy"

Gu Qing Shan appeared serious and asked: "Who exactly was it that tried to frame you?"

"I'm not sure, I just know that they're envious of me, and they have considerable force backing them" Su Qing replied.

"How are they related to the Disciplinary Elder?" Gu Qing Shan then asked.

"Who knows, I've never paid attention to such things before" Su Qing answered.

"Then, other than the Disciplinary Elder, what do the other elders think about this matter?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

"I usually do nothing but focus all my effort in studying new techniques, how could I know such a thing?" Su Qing shook his head.

Gu Qing Shan's mouth twitched, but ultimately decided not to say anything hurtful.

You don't know anything.

How am I supposed to resolve an issue like that?

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

Su Qing then said: "Brother Gu, I also know that this is a very tough issue. Perhaps it's best that I just die and redo everything in my next life, I'm definitely going to do better next time"

He raised his dagger again after saying that.

"Wait a moment" Gu Qing Shan stopped him.

The other party had given me a fragment of the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword, and I've already offered to help him in return.

Furthermore, by infiltrating a cultivation zone, I'd be able to understand the circumstances of this world in the shortest time.

—let's think about this a bit more.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit, then said: "Right now, the two of us are basically blind, we don't know anything, so that does make the situation tougher, but I do have one final solution..."

"What would that be?" Su Qing asked.

"To collect information on the spot, then deal with each problem as they come while knowing the full picture" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Qing wasn't truly stupid, so he asked after thinking for a bit: "You mean, think of a solution right on the venue of my judgement?"

"Indeed, since it's hosted for the specific purpose of kicking you out of the academy, a lot of things will be revealed right when it's time for the finishing strike" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Qing appeared troubled and replied: "I don't think I'll be able to handle that"

Gu Qing Shan looked at him from top to bottom and said: "You're a cultivator focused on nothing but research, you've never paid any attention to these shady details, nor care to do so. Meanwhile, the other party had already prepared numerous means in order to kick you out from the academy, so you'd definitely not be able to handle it"

Recalling something, he appeared reminiscent and continued: "Furthermore, you're used to playing around with flowers and grass, while you don't hold any malicious intent through it, such behaviors are certainly prone to being criticized, this part is a bit like my senior brother— hah, my senior brother is actually a good person, but he doesn't like to cultivate— very well, I'll save you once"

"Then, what should I do?" Su Qing asked.

“Tell me the basic circumstances, I’ll take your place” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Qing froze, then finally spoke up again after a while: “You?”

“Hm, if you were to go, you’d come out either dead or heavily injured, so I’ll do it” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

“What... do you plan on doing?” Su Qing asked.

“How would I know? I don’t even know who framed you, so I’ll have to see when I’m there” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Qing looked at him, only to see a completely relaxed expression as if he was talking about going out to eat instead of being publicly condemned.

“Then... fellow Dao seeker Gu, I will remember your help today and definitely repay you later” Su Qing clenched his teeth before saying that.

...

In the middle of the endless wilderness, there was a huge city called Kunlun.

This city was truly huge, as Gu Qing Shan’s inner sight couldn’t even reach the edges of the city.

Aside from the city of Kunlun, there was also a palace in the sky called Jasper Pool.

The Jasper Pool palace was where all heavenly beings resided.

While mortals resided in Kunlun and were collectively referred to as the living beings of Kunlun.

If the living beings of Kunlun wanted to ascend, they could only spend their efforts to cultivate and display their talents above all the other mortals before they were granted a heavenly residence and were allowed to ascend.

This was the iron-clad rule of this world.

Even the descendants of a heavenly being of the Jasper Pool must descend into the mortal world and cultivate until they achieve the peak of their cultivation and reach a profound realm before they were allowed to ascend once more.

There were seven academies in Kunlun city, which were respectively Tianshu, Tianxuan, Tianji, Tianquan, Yuheng, Kaiyang, Yaoguang, which were all training grounds for the living beings of Kunlun. ¹

At dawn.

Gu Qing Shan stood at the gate of the Yuheng academy, silently recalling what Su Qing had explained to him.

At this point, he had fully taken on Su Qing's appearance, his height, inner sight, and bloodline, not a single bit was different.

Looking at the jade talisman in his hand, he saw a few words:

[Magic – 5th place]

—this was Su Qing's identification badge, representing his status among the technique cultivators of the Yuheng academy.

Su Qing had joined the academy for a total of nine years.

To be able to reach the fifth overall position within nine years, he could be described as truly talented.

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However, the reason why he was ranked too highly wasn't due to his strength, but rather because he had achieved several breakthroughs upon the art of magic, making numerous things that even the Elders had no choice but to recognize as beyond their understanding.

For example, the Early Death technique.

To some of the academy's elders, this technique had no value and even went against the order of life, a blasphemy to Dao.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't see it the same way.

He had been through many worlds, witnessing numerous abilities and spells, grasping the cultivation knowledge of numerous past worlds, so his discerning eyes were far beyond that of a normal person, which was why he was able to recognize how profound this technique was.

If viewed purely from the perspective of techniques, they would find that this Early Death technique had in fact broken the Laws of Life and Death, capable of allowing one to willingly die a bit earlier than they were supposed to.

It was, for all intents and purposes, an ability that allowed one to gain control over one's death.

Although it was completely useless in its current form, if this technique was further researched, it might be able to also give its user control so that they don't die.

—-it would then become a technique that would allow one to prolong their life by breaking the limits of Life and Death, a true Divine Skill.

The reason why Gu Qing Shan decided to help Su Qing was partly because he gave him a fragment of the Delimitation Divine Sword, but it was also because Su Qing's circumstances were similar to his past life. Both of them were lonely people who became isolated, so he couldn't help but feel obliged to help.

Gu Qing Shan held the jade talisman and silently waited.

It should be any moment now...

As he was thinking, the jade talisman abruptly lit up.

A solemn voice sounded from inside the jade talisman:

“All Elders and disciples, please proceed to the sparring ring. Today, the Disciplinary Elder will conduct a lecture on the academy’s rules and disciplines, at the same time, hand out the final verdict on technique cultivator, Su Qing’s matter”

This message was repeated three times before it stopped.

Following that, two middle-aged cultivators descended from above, landing in front of Gu Qing Shan.

“Tsk, Su Qing, while everyone is in the middle of cultivation, you went out into the wilderness for the entire night, you’ll get what’s coming for you today!”

“Let’s go, the Disciplinary Elder is waiting for you at the sparring ring!”

Declaring that, the two of them came up to escort Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t resist and let them take him all the way towards the sparring ring.

Everyone had gathered around the stands; the entire student body and staff of the academy were here.

In front of everyone, Gu Qing Shan was pushed onto the sparring ring by the two escorts, causing him to roll on the ground before standing back up.

A series of jeers and mocking laughter could be heard from below.

It was only after the Elders glanced at everyone with a stern expression did these noises disappear.

Everything became silent.

Silent enough for the drop of a single pin to be heard

At this point, a solemn voice declared from above:

“Su Qing, do you know your crimes?”

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes wide and spoke with an innocent expression: “My crimes? What crimes?”

The voice in the sky didn’t think he would react that way, so he scoffed and declared: “Your cultivation was stagnant, your behaviors are absurd, ruining the reputation of the academy— even now, you still won’t admit?”

Gu Qing Shan took out his jade talisman and displayed it for everyone to see, then loudly called out: “This humble one is the 5th ranking technique cultivator in the entire academy; if stagnant cultivation is able to achieve this, what would that make the other cultivators?”

The voice in the sky spoke: “Your situation is——”

Gu Qing Shan cut him off and shouted again: “I’ll fight anyone who doesn’t think I deserve this status. Right here, right now, I’m going to prove that I’m in fact the number one in the entire Yuheng academy!”

He pointed down at everyone, then continued: “Cease your schemes and plots, if you don’t agree with me, come up here and fight, I’ll beat you until you agree from the bottom of your hearts”

The entire academy became loud.

Everyone was so shocked that some of them even forgot to breathe.

The situation... seems to be completely different from the original intent!

This was supposed to be the verdict of him going against the academy's discipline, so why did it suddenly turn into Su Qing wanting to beat up everyone?

He's trying to flip the entire table!

Perhaps... he really does have something up his sleeves?

The sky above stayed silent for a bit.

And then.

The solemn voice from before became colder, once again resounding throughout the academy with dignity:

"Su Qing, you are always outside playing around with flowers and grass, having no drive to improve yourself at all, a disgrace to the academy! We don't need you to spar with other disciples right now, we're here first to make your disciplinary issues clear!"

Everyone turned to Su Qing.

As they say, the older the ginger, the stronger the taste, the Disciplinary Elder is resolutely not giving Su Qing any chance to rise up and deal with him where he stands.

— who cares what kind of fortuitous encounter you might have, or what kind of technique you're hiding? He's going to only consider the academy's discipline and kick you out for going against it, what can you do?

Sure enough, Su Qing's face turned red, temporarily unable to say anything.

"I want to know— is the academy Dean present?" Su Qing loudly asked.

The voice in the sky replied: "Hmph, of course, the academy Dean is present, but the Dean will not be helping you with—"

Gu Qing Shan cut the voice off again and loudly called out: “The Disciplinary Elder had bypassed investigations and openly suppressed this Su Qing before the Seven Institutions’ debate. This Su Qing beg that the Dean will help me restore my honor for the sake of the academy itself”

“This Su Qing’s heart points at none other than Dao, my normal behaviors are to merely experience the Dao of mortals¹ to ponder my magic and sword techniques, I hope that the Dean can judge with an open eye!”

The entire school became silent again.

No one expected Su Qing to say such a thing.

Restore your honor?

Do you really think no one knows about the things you normally do?

Sword techniques?

Do you think sword techniques are things that you can joke about? If even you can draw your sword, do you think the sword cultivators sitting in the stands will remain still?

Everyone couldn’t help but become rowdy with discussions.

This time, not even the Elders could tell the disciples to remain still anymore.

The voice in the sky also stayed silent, seemingly pondering something.

Right now, no one could tell what kind of medicine Su Qing was selling in his gourd.¹

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan felt someone’s inner sight passing through his body.

Suddenly, a gentle female voice suddenly sounded from the depths of the academy:

“This one had examined him. Su Qing’s body is still pristine, he had definitely not been guilty of playing around with flowers and grass, you all have been mistaken”

Chapter 1398

Translator: La0o9

Still... pristine?

All the elders and disciples were completely stunned.

Gu Qing Shan was also the same.

How did—

The situation suddenly turn out to be this?

Based on the Disciplinary Elder’s usual style, he would present a large amount of factual evidence and combine them with the rules of the academy, using indisputable logic to expel a disciple with a terrible reputation from the academy.

In everyone’s mind, Su Qing’s outcome had already been decided, and there would have been no room for reconciliation.

And yet his body is still pristine?

That’s impressive.

From another perspective, this meant that he had only been acting like he immersed himself in lust and pleasure all this time.

This result had proven that he was truly walking the Dao of mortals to train his Dao heart and still maintained a clear Dao heart even after all this time.

In that case, Su Qing shouldn’t be expelled, but rather praised for his actions!

However...

He has joined the academy for nine years and still remained pristine.

— that’s completely unbelievable.

How did you endure that level of boredom!?

Everyone slowly regained their senses and gave Gu Qing Shan a multitude of different looks.

After Gu Qing Shan stopped being shocked, he also returned to pondering the situation.

—according to my original plan, after I call upon the Dean, I would have unleashed a few advanced techniques, then use a few sword techniques to prove that Su Qing's fascination with 'flowers' was only for the sake of entering the mortal world and train his Dao heart, with the ultimate goal being to improve himself.

It would then be much easier to persuade them, I'll just beat up anyone who isn't willing to accept, if I keep that up until no one dares to go forward again, it would prove that my words were correct.

—as the strongest disciple, no one would be able to criticize Su Qing, nor expel him.

However, the situation had changed in a completely different way from what Gu Qing Shan had planned.

The academy's Dean directly bypassed the entire process and looked at the very essence of the matter.

Not even gods above could have predicted this sudden change.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, slowly calmed himself down, then faced the gaze of the Elders and disciples.

—it's fine, although this is a bit different from my assumptions, it's less work for me.

—but then, why do I not feel glad about this?

Gu Qing Shan controlled his emotions, lifted his head, then imitated Su Qing: "This Su Qing's talents are both varied and well-developed; my looks and talents are both top-level; my knowledge unrivalled; a crane among chickens; as pristine and pure as jade; and yet you claim that I only play with flowers and grass, disobeying the discipline of the academy? How ridiculous!"

While talking, Gu Qing Shan made his way towards the edge of the sparring ring.

He was purposely walking very slow.

Right now, the academy's Dean had spoken up for his sake.

The people who framed Su Qing would no longer be able to use the excuse that he disobeyed the academy's discipline.

If someone truly wished to maliciously harm Su Qing, they would have to quickly come up with another measure while all the Elders and the Dean were still present.

Otherwise, once Su Qing leaves the sparring ring, all of their preparations would have been for naught, no longer able to do anything to Su Qing.

Gu Qing Shan walked forward step by step, silently counting each step.

Five, four, three—

He would leave the sparring ring after just two more steps.

Suddenly, a male voice called out: "Su Qing! You said that you were using the Dao of mortals to train your Dao heart and improve your comprehension, claiming that you'd be able to defeat everyone, I can't accept that!"

Everyone looked back to see that a cultivator had leapt onto the sparring ring, shouting at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

—finally.

“Why can’t you accept?” he looked to the other party, asking with a bit of excitement.

“I am the 1st ranking technique cultivator among the disciples of the academy. You claimed that you’d be able to defeat me, so I feel annoyed” the other cultivator replied.

“Ah, is that so”

Observing the other party, Gu Qing Shan didn’t feel like fighting.

He didn’t carry a single bit of killing intent, only pure rage and irritation.

This person is probably not the one who tried to frame Su Qing.

As the 1st ranking disciple in techniques, his status was higher than Su Qing, so he had no conflict of interest with Su Qing.

—there’s no need for me to compete against this person.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively: “My words earlier were nothing but nonsense, there’s no need for you to take it to heart”

“Are you really saying that?” he asked.

“Ahaha, of course I am. This Su Qing isn’t an arrogant person, just that sometimes I can’t contain my anger or my mouth, I hope everyone can forgive this humble one for that”

Gu Qing Shan smiled dismissively, apologizing to everyone in the stands.

The cultivator didn’t expect him to say such a thing, so his anger subsided somewhat and now appeared hesitant.

Earlier, Su Qing claimed that he could beat everyone up, but now with this apology, everyone’s annoyance has been slightly relieved.

At this moment, a cold snort came from the stands.

Someone called out: "So the 1st ranking technique cultivator was this soft-bodied, easily appeased by a few words"

Gu Qing Shan followed the voice to find that it was a male cultivator carrying a blade on his back.

As soon as he said that, several people followed along.

More and more people were agreeing with him.

After stating that, the male cultivator didn't even look at Gu Qing Shan, only staring at the cultivator facing Gu Qing Shan with a mocking expression.

—so it was this person?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

This style of provocation and stringing someone along is quite interesting.

Sure enough, the 1st ranking technique cultivator couldn't help but be provoked by the discussions of everyone below.

He took out a long-handled scepter with faint starlight drifting around it and wielded it.

An invisible magical fluctuation abruptly expanded.

A second later.

A hole was abruptly opened in the clouds above, pure starlight radiated from deep above the clouds, illuminating the entire sparring ring.

Being enveloped by the starlight, Gu Qing Shan instantly felt different.

— as if a threatening power had been prepared above, that was ready to unleash.

Loud gasps and discussions could be heard from below the sparring ring.

As Gu Qing Shan looked below, he saw quite a few disciples completely speechless, even the Elders couldn't help but exchange glances with each other.

— *seems like this technique is very powerful.*

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

The cultivator facing him maintained the technique and wiped the sweat from his forehead, shouting: "Su Qing, this is our academy's 4th ranking technique, [Dipping Yaoguang], its power can instantly eradicate you without leaving even your bones behind"

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Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a short moment.

At this point, all I need to do is praise him and give myself a way to retreat, the entire situation will be resolved.

However—

His gaze turned to the blade cultivator on the stand.

That cultivator was also observing him.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned a bit before telling the technique cultivator facing him:

"Give me"

The man was surprised and asked: "What did you just say?"

Gu Qing Shan put up a finger, pointing at the scepter he was wielding: "It's only a technique of that level, as long I can borrow your scepter, I'd be able to perform it"

The cultivator was shocked.

[Dipping Yaoguang] was a first-rate technique within Kunlun as a whole.

For every 10 people who could learn this technique, 8 of them were able to successfully ascend.

And yet Su Qing claimed that he'd be able to perform it as well.

How could anyone believe him?

Never mind this cultivator, even the disciples sitting around the stands were completely stunned by his declaration.

"You— fine, I'll give it to you. I also want to see the extent of your skills" that cultivator replied.

He handed the scepter to Gu Qing Shan, then reminded him anxiously:

"Be careful with it, this is a treasure of the academy, I'm merely borrowing it to comprehend the techniques inside"

“Don’t worry” Gu Qing Shan replied and received the scepter.

Lines of text immediately appeared on the War God UI:

[Star Congealing Light Scepter – advanced-level scepter]

[This scepter is a unique casting catalyst for ‘Star Techniques’, capable of drawing the circulatory cycle power of the stars, unleashing attacks of mass power. Absolute caution must be kept when using]

[This scepter had performed the following techniques:]

[#1: Dipping Yaoguang]

[#2: Rising Typhoon Soars to Heaven]

[#3: Star Soul Mortal Form]

[Details are as follow]

[Dipping Yaoguang is the basis of all Star Techniques; its effect is the same as numerous fallen stars...]

[Rising Typhoon Soars to Heaven is...]

[...]

[In consideration that you’ve obtained the advanced-level cultivation knowledge of the past worlds, fully comprehending them as your own to use, the Soul Points required for you to comprehend the three Star Techniques above have been drastically reduced]

[To comprehend all three techniques, you will expend 100,000 Soul Points]

[Would you like to comprehend them?]

Gu Qing Shan didn’t hesitate.

—I can help Su Qing now, but not forever.

So it’s better to completely remove the threat now.

This would also force everyone who wishes to mess with Su Qing from now on to carefully reconsider.

100,000 Soul Points isn’t much.

“Comprehend them all” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Instantly, a warm flow travelled along the scepter into Gu Qing Shan's arm, gathered all at once, then slowly settled into his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan lightly wielded the scepter.

Like flowing water, the layers of clouds above scattered away.

The series of palaces in the sky would be seen clearly.

Above the numerous palaces, the light of several stars abruptly flew up, gathered into an intense sphere of light, then descended.

Gu Qing Shan caught the intense sphere of light in his hand.

The intense starlight gave off power capable of destroying everything.

"So? Did I lie to you?" Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

The cultivator in front of him opened his mouth wide and finally spoke up after a long while: "This is... [Rising Typhoon Soars to Heaven]"

[Rising Typhoon Soars to Heaven] was one of the most advanced Star Techniques, which made it extremely hard to comprehend, hardly anybody in the entire Yuheng academy knew how to perform this technique.

Including the Elders.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand to dispel the technique before handing the scepter back.

He clasped his fist: "This humble one may act frivolously to result in today's matter, but this humble one's heart has always been focused on nothing but Dao, and definitely not harming other people. If this

one had offended anyone in any way, it was surely due to carelessness, this humble hopes that fellow Dao seekers do not mind it”

The cultivator received the scepter, then clasped his fist in return, asking: “How long did you use to learn [Rising Typhoon Soars to Heaven]?”

“Very quickly” Gu Qing Shan replied.

That cultivator sighed: “It is my loss”

After saying so, he leapt down the sparring ring.

Only Gu Qing Shan remained on top of the ring.

Everyone silently observed him.

“From this point on, he is the 1st ranking technique cultivator” someone muttered to themselves.

—this Su Qing, truly... cannot be described with words.

Could it be, is the Dao of mortals truly so potent?

All the disciples had the same thought, asking themselves if they should traverse among mortals once during their cultivation.

Perhaps I might become the second Su Qing?

Even if I can't achieve the same level as him, it would be a good thing to improve my cultivation even a little bit.

Quite a few made up their minds right then.

—afterwards, Su Qing's matter would slowly spread outside, becoming a subject of discussion among everyone in all the seven academies.

Around a year later, the total population of Kunlun city would increase by a large margin.

If one did not fully understand everything that had happened, they wouldn't be able to connect Su Qing to the population of the world.

Of course, this was a matter of the future, a different story altogether.

In the stands under the sparring ring, the blade-carrying cultivator continued to observe Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan turned around, once again moving to leave the sparring ring.

He was only a few steps away from going down the stairs away from the sparring ring.

If that happened, this matter would end today, the Dean and Elders would all return, and it wouldn't be so easy to cause trouble with Su Qing again.

The blade-carrying cultivator raised his brows, then slowly drew his blade.

Gu Qing Shan had been paying constant attention to him, so he slowly stated right at this moment: "If there is nothing else, this Su Qing would like to return. I hope that the Disciplinary Elder does not easily believe the malicious words of others, or suddenly summon everyone like this again to ruin someone's reputation"

After saying so, he began walking down the sparring ring.

The entire venue was silent.

Suddenly, the blade-carrying man leapt onto the sparring ring and shouted: "Wait!"

Chapter 1399

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

Finally, the other party couldn't hold themselves back anymore.

"Fellow Dao seeker, what's the matter?"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the other party and asked.

That cultivator held up his blade and said: "Earlier, you said that you cultivate the sword— do you really think that any random person can claim to cultivate swordsmanship? Draw your sword"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Why should I draw my sword?"

"Because I suspect that you're just spouting nonsense and haven't practiced swordsmanship at all, you're arrogantly running your mouth" the blade-wielding cultivator said.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "But that doesn't seem to concern you"

"I cultivate the path of the blade. The blade requires one to follow the heart, and what you did several days ago irks me, so I want to see for myself whether you're a fraud and cheat or if you are a man of true talents" the cultivator replied.

What Su Qing did several days ago?

Which matter?

Su Qing hadn't mentioned a word about this.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned quickly before replying: "Follow the heart? So you're saying that if someone irked you, you'd want them dead?"

“No need to weasel your way out of this, as long as you face me, I can naturally see through your background—-- come, show me your sword” the cultivator declared.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his hands and remained silent.

What exactly is the situation here?

While he is giving off some killing intent, most of it feels more like anger and disdain.

Did Su Qing truly do something that cannot be forgiven?

Gu Qing Shan recalled Su Qing’s words before he left:

...

“This Su Qing doesn’t really have any deathly enemies, the reason that they’re framing me is simply to expel me from the academy”

“So if the other party seeks conflict, there’s no need to kill him, just help me teach him a lesson”

...

—no need to kill him, huh?

Gu Qing Shan wondered and asked: “Then, you want to fight me to the death?”

“With everyone here as witness, by our own abilities, we shall fight to the death” the cultivator replied.

He clapped his hand into the void of space, summoning a full suit of armor that scattered into components that wrapped around his body.

The cultivator swung his blade full of fighting spirit.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan hesitated.

—this place is a cultivation world, so I can't use my swords. After all, there would be no way to explain any of the four sword's backgrounds with Su Qing's status.

Heaven, Earth, Chao Yin, and the Six Paths Great Mountain sword are all Divine Armaments.

Any of them can cause a great disturbance.

Furthermore...

Even as Su Qing was willing to stab himself with a dagger to cause others to think that the Elder forced him to death, he still insisted that I don't kill the other party.

Could it be because the other party's forces are so great that he was afraid there would be repeated retaliation if he committed murder?

That makes sense, since Su Qing will have to continue cultivating in the academy, he can't keep getting involved in trouble.

But then, what exactly did Su Qing do a few days ago?

While Gu Qing Shan was pondering, the blade-wielding cultivator believed him to be fearful.

The blade-wielding cultivator grinned: "What? You dare to run your mouth without anything to back it up?"

This time, he truly had the intent to kill.

Sensing that, Gu Qing Shan's gaze became focused.

Suddenly, the Dean's voice sounded in his heart:

"You can fight him, and you can surrender, but you definitely cannot harm his life. His clan descends from heavenly beings, so if you kill him, that will be a great disaster, you will also be eliminated by the heavenly being"

"Furthermore, you were the one in the wrong during this matter, Su Qing, you know that better than anyone else"

In the wrong!

Gu Qing Shan's mind became sharp.

The words of an academy's Dean naturally hold weight.

It seems there are still hidden elements in this matter.

No wonder Su Qing insisted on not killing the other party despite how resolute he was.

With his decision made, Gu Qing Shan told the opposing blade-wielding cultivator: "We can simply spar, there's no need for a deathmatch"

"Everyone knows that a deathmatch is the shortcut to improving a cultivator's strength, or are you afraid?" the blade-wielding cultivator coldly said.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and sighed: "Insisting on killing anyone that goes against your will won't improve your cultivation at all; instead, as you kill more and more people, your killing heart will simply grow into a demon, tempting you into mindlessly killing living beings until the backlash eventually kills you"

The cultivator mocked: "Then try telling me, what kind of deathmatch would be able to improve one's cultivation?"

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at him.

Something seemed to have happened in that instant.

Immediately, the blade-wielding cultivator felt a sudden warning of death, then found himself completely unable to move.

Shu!

Blood spilled from his forehead.

Gu Qing Shan's voice explained:

"The blade dies for Dao, single-minded but undefeatable—-- murder won't improve your skills, only those who disregard one's life to challenge cultivators stronger than oneself are truly walking the path to becoming strong faster"

Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

As the blade-wielding cultivator heard that, he slowly looked down at the armor he was wearing.

Following his gaze, the full set of armor broke off into pieces, fell to the ground, and crumbled into dust.

A gust of wind blew past.

The dust was blown away.

—-[Forgetting River Severance]!

Gu Qing Shan had finely controlled this Iris Sword Divine Skill so that it was significantly weaker and only briefly unleashed it, which resulted in this situation.

Watching the numerous sword marks on his body, the blade-wielding cultivator sighed.

If the other party wanted to kill him, he would have already been cut into pieces just now.

He looked at Gu Qing Shan and said: "An Iris Sword technique... no wonder I've never seen you practice the sword; did you complete this during your immersion in the Dao of mortals?"

"Indeed" Gu Qing Shan admitted.

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The blade-wielding cultivator asked: “Why didn’t you kill me?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “If I had killed you, people would definitely come to take revenge, that would waste my cultivation time”

After a moment of silence, the blade-wielding cultivator asked: “You’re worried that you’ll waste time?”

“Indeed”

“So you were one immersed in Dao, now I know why you were able to maintain an undisturbed heart during the Dao of mortals”

After saying that, the blade-wielding cultivator leapt down the platform and left.

Gu Qing Shan stood on the ring and called out to the other party: “Hey, can we not just let it go?”

This statement was a hook.

Regardless of what Su Qing did before, after hearing this statement, they would equate it to the matter of a few days ago.

This way, Gu Qing Shan would receive more information.

——furthermore, as long as this grudge was let go, Su Qing would be able to peacefully cultivate.

I now only need to teach him about the intricacies of those Star Techniques and I would have paid his favor back.

Two birds with one stone.

The cultivator stopped, then spoke without turning around: "If you were so powerful, you shouldn't have hidden that fact before, causing others to misunderstand you"

"Furthermore, since you are still pristine, it's clear that nothing happened between you and my younger sister during that night a few days ago, I would naturally not hold anything against you"

The blade-wielding cultivator turned around and judged Gu Qing Shan: "Your talents can also be considered to be the cream of the crop; I hope that you'd continue to cultivate yourself well. After ascending, you'd be able to become acquainted with her the proper way and not sneak around at night"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

So that was what it was...

This person came from the Jasper Pool.

So his sister would naturally also be a descendant of a heavenly being.

No wonder he was able to easily convince the Disciplinary Elder to openly deal with Su Qing and expel him from the academy.

—damn you, Su Qing!

So that's the reason he was acting so meek, he knew exactly what he did!

Gu Qing Shan dispelled his internal killing intent, barely maintaining a smiling expression and awkwardly replied: "I know"

"Do your best to cultivate"

The cultivator nodded towards him, then disappeared without a trace.

...

Noon.

Gu Qing Shan was finally able to get a moment of freedom and slipped out of the academy while no one paid attention to him.

At a certain scenic building in the city, he found Su Qing.

“That person was a descendant of a heavenly being”

“That was the entire story. In the end, the academy Dean said that she hoped you’d be able to cultivate well and earn a good ranking in the Seven Institutes’ debate three days from now, then she’ll personally summon you again”

Gu Qing Shan handed him a jade tag and continued:

“Your issue has been dealt with. I’ll personally teach you several Star Techniques, their intricacies are written within the jade tag, so you need to quickly comprehend them, lest you’d expose this matter”

“And also, you had better not get involved with that person’s younger sister again for now, try again once you’ve ascended”

Su Qing received the jade tag, closed his eyes, then read through the jade tag once.

“So it was [Rising Typhoon Soars to Heaven]... I’ve been through so many years between life and death, never did I think that such a day would arrive”

Su Qing’s expression was complicated, his tone a bit strange.

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

This Su Qing seems to be hiding quite a few things.

But since he had specifically told me not to kill someone, it has at least proven that he knows his bottom line well.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Fellow Dao seeker Su, it seems your suicide wasn’t simply due to being framed by someone, was it?”

Su Qing didn’t answer him and remained with a heavy expression.

—-alright, this is his own matter, if he doesn’t want to talk, why should I probe his secrets?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan continued: "Fellow Dao seeker Su, I still have something important I need to do, so I'll be leaving first, farewell"

As he was about to leave, Su Qing caught his arm.

"Wait, fellow Dao seeker Gu, do you still remember what I said before?" Su Qing said.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "You said quite a lot of things"

"I once said that I would remember your help today and definitely repay you later" Su Qing replied.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and quickly remembered.

At the time, when I said that I'd take his appearance and enter the academy, Su Qing did say that.

Gu Qing Shan chuckled and replied: "You've given me that fragment, that's more than enough, there's no need for you to repay anything"

Su Qing shook his head: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, you actually came from the world outside of Kunlun, didn't you?"

Gu Qing Shan stopped smiling.

"How did you know?" he asked.

Su Qing made an indiscernible expression and muttered: "Don't worry, brother Gu, no one would be able to discover your identity. Only I would, and that was because I've continuously died, but you suddenly saved me"

Gu Qing Shan looked at Su Qing and signaled him to continue.

“Do you know why I researched the Early Death technique?” Su Qing asked.

“Why?” Gu Qing Shan asked in return.

“Because all of us cannot die. Every day, we would repeat the same fate without any exceptions”

“Brother Gu, take this, it will help you”

Su Qing secretly handed another jade tag to Gu Qing Shan, then continued: “Ever since an impossibly long time ago, I would have to commit suicide every day, become a ghost without a place to go, then watch everything within this Kunlun city repeat itself over and over, all the way until noon of the next day”

He looked up at the sky, then said: “It will be time soon, everything will reset, but you’ve already changed my future”

“I can finally die”

After saying so, Su Qing formed a hand seal.

The Earth Death technique.

His body collapsed, his soul abruptly flew towards the horizon and disappeared.

This time, he was truly dead.

Holding the jade tag, Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

All of a sudden, the sky became darker.

The river outside began to flow upstream.

Chapter 1400

Translator: La0o9

As soon as Su Qing died, Gu Qing Shan discovered something.

The river stream was flowing backwards.

Gu Qing Shan was absolutely sure that there was no one unleashing any techniques around him.

He looked up at the sky.

It was currently midday, but the intense sunlight was quickly setting to the East.

The sky was becoming dark.

Time was reversing from midday to dawn.

Then dawn was swallowed up by the darkness.

Under the shade of the night, the waxing moon appeared from among the clouds, illuminating the ground below with its faint light.

The moon rose, then set.

The darkness once again receded.

A beautiful twilight.

Right at sunset, the orange sun filled the sky with its hue, but the radiant sunlight was flying back up the sky, becoming brighter and brighter, eventually reaching the center of the sky as it became the brightest.

The middle of noon.

Once again, the middle of noon.

Gu Qing Shan stood still without moving, cautiously observing his surroundings.

The river flow had returned to normal, once again flowing downstream.

Su Qing's body had abruptly disappeared.

A flare talisman arrived from afar, hovering in front of Gu Qing Shan.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan accepted this communication talisman, an anxious voice sounded from within.

“Su Qing, it's already been confirmed. Tomorrow at dawn, the Disciplinary Elder will publicly evaluate your matter!”

Su... Qing?

How did I actually turn into Su Qing now?

Gu Qing Shan put the communication talisman away, then looked at the jade tag in his hand.

—this was the jade tag that Su Qing had left me before he died.

According to Su Qing, this would help me.

Gu Qing Shan circulated some spirit energy from his Dantian to activate the jade tag.

A second later, Su Qing's voice sounded from the jade tag:

“Fellow Dao seeker Gu, you must listen carefully to what I have to say now”

“For the past countless years, the world of Kunlun had experienced the same day over and over, from noon of the first day to noon of the second day, repeating every event without exception”

“Almost no one had discovered this, I’m the only exception”

“Because on this day, I was the only cultivator who chose to commit suicide. As if some sort of technique was broken whenever my soul leaves my body, which allowed me to always remember how I died whenever the day has reset”

“I don’t know why this world has turned into this form, but I’ve remembered every repetition of this single day for all these long years. After every death, I would enter Kunlun city as a soul to look through every person, every event, everything, and I still couldn’t find an answer”

“Only very recently, when I died once again, a fragment fell from the sky in front of me”

“Indeed, it was the fragment that you wanted”

“As it descended, a strange phenomenon occurred: the heavenly beings of Jasper Pool all abruptly disappeared, only after I hid the fragment did the heavenly beings returned”

“Perhaps this is the key”

“Regretfully, I am helpless to do anything but die day by day, continuously enduring this suffering, unable to even change my fate, let alone achieve ascension”

“But now, I can finally rest, leaving you in this world to fill my place”

“Think of a way to travel to the Jasper Pool Heavenly Palace, there is a method of ascension in all Seven Institutes, it’s just that there is no one capable of achieving complete cultivation and achieve the conditions of ascension within a single day”

“But you came from the outside world, and are very powerful, you surely have hope to resolve this world’s secret”

“I... can no longer endure this world, farewell”

The voice stopped here.

After a few moments of silence, Gu Qing Shan glanced at the black thread on his hand.

The black thread was still there, pointing towards a different location in the city.

Regardless, let’s retrieve the Delimitation Divine Sword first before thinking about anything else.

Having decided, Gu Qing Shan's figure flashed and flew towards where the black thread was leading him.

A minute later.

He stood in front of a tattered Buddhist temple, solemnly evaluating it.

This temple was already terribly tattered, but it still took up a large amount of space, while there were numerous people all around, no one even bothered to look at the temple, let alone enter it.

The black thread attached to Gu Qing Shan's hand went through the ancient formations on the walls, reaching deep into the temple towards the unknown.

The entire temple was covered in a strange power, which nullified inner sight as one entered a certain range of it.

"This is the power of Buddhist scriptures... it's truly been a long time since I met a monk"

Gu Qing Shan muttered, walked up to the gate of the temple, then loudly called out: "Is there anyone inside?"

No answer.

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Gu Qing Shan's figure flashed and he entered the temple.

There was dust everywhere.

It had been a very long time since someone came here.

Gu Qing Shan calmed down.

No visitors meant that the fragment was intact and hadn't been taken by others.

Since inner sight wasn't usable, he could only walk through the building bit by bit.

Stepping on the long steps, crossing several corridors, and across the main temple hall, Gu Qing Shan reached the deepest part of the temple.

He stopped in front of a certain hall.

A hole the size of a small fist had been broken through the roof of the hall, allowing sunlight to pour in, illuminating the statue of a single monk.

This monk statue was smiling sincerely, gentle and intimate, his body covered in dust as if it hadn't been cleaned for many years.

A sharp fragment lay in the hand of the statue.

— the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword fragment.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell onto the fragment.

He thought briefly then clasped his fist towards the statue: "Fellow Dao seeker, that fragment in your hand is greatly beneficial to me, I wish to exchange something else for it with you"

The monk statue trembled a bit, shaking off the dust on his body.

"Amitabha... I've finally waited to this day"

The statue opened his eyes to observe Gu Qing Shan, then slowly turned his gaze to the fragment.

The monk statue held the sharp fragment of the Divine Sword in his hand and asked: “Benefactor, may I ask, who went into reincarnation within Kunlun city?”

— he actually came back to life.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched this, then quickly pondered the implications.

“Su Qing” he replied.

The monk statue said: “Then, benefactor had now turned into Su Qing?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Indeed”

The monk sighed, then told him: “We made numerous calculations many years ago, discovering that while the world of Kunlun had become abandoned and would no longer draw the wraiths’ attention, as time went by, the wraiths would also grow increasingly more powerful, more resolute on achieving their goal. At that point, they would eventually decide to destroy the world of Kunlun that is an annoyance in their eyes”

“—-but right before the time of destruction, a unique object would fall into Kunlun”

Their gazes both fell onto the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword’s fragment.

“You mean, this thing can save Kunlun?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“No” the monk statue replied, “it is merely an opportunity”

“An opportunity?”

“Indeed, as you can see, it had led you to Kunlun, and also allowed the very first person in countless years to escape this suffering”

Knowing that the other party was referring to Su Qing, Gu Qing Shan asked directly: “You want me to help you?”

The statue raised the fragment and asked him in return: “Benefactor, do you want this?”

The statue flicked the fragment forward.

It fell into Gu Qing Shan’s hand without trouble.

“Thank you very much” Gu Qing Shan swiftly put it away.

The thread on his hand disappeared.

This meant that there were only two fragments of the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword within the world of Kunlun.

Understanding this, Gu Qing Shan wanted to leave this world right away.

—-but now that he had replaced Su Qing, he would have to repeat this day indefinitely. How should he escape from this state?

While he was thinking, the monk statue continued: “The wraiths will soon arrive. You will need to quickly ascend and reach the Jasper Pool Heavenly Palace”

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

At some unknown point, a black thread had appeared from his hand, reaching through the sky and infinitely far away from Kunlun city.

The other party wasn't wrong, something was indeed hot on his pursuit.

The shadow of death slowly appeared in Gu Qing Shan's spirit sense, giving him an unknown sense of urgency.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Did your grace not need my help saving Kunlun? Why do I need to ascend?"

The monk statue was completely emotionless and calmly replied: "You will need to quickly escape, and take the entire world of Kunlun with you while you do"

"Do you think that I'm not a match for the wraiths?" Gu Qing Shan laughed and asked.

The monk statue chuckled, then put his hands together in a praying posture: "Amitabha, benefactor's killing intent is truly immense, this monk appreciates that"