

Apocalypse 1651

Chapter 1651

Translator: La0o9

“I don’t know how to explain it either. Simply put, when I first entered the Dusty World, I was given this initial Title”

Gu Qing Shan answered without changing his expression.

—--That’s right, how could I possibly know why I received this Title?

At this point, the girl had already regained her calm and lightly leapt onto the tree branch, neatly sitting there as she looked down at the two of them below.

『 ‘Pure’ is a very unique Title, having such a Title represents the fact that you are an ally, a comrade that we can trust 』

The girl continued: 『 I do not know who was the esteemed one who made that promise, I can only hope that you do not waste their goodwill 』

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and understood.

—-this must have been that esteemed lady who secretly helped me from the shadows.

“I will not waste her goodwill” Gu Qing Shan sincerely replied.

The girl nodded, then finally smiled towards him.

Laura took that chance to ask: “Can you help us? We want to get rid of those monsters”

The girl calmly replied: 『 In truth, if no one had come at all, I would have disappeared eventually— but at these final moments, you have appeared 』

『 If you wish to get rid of those monsters, you will first need to do something 』

“What’s that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Under the cathedral, there was a prison that was meant to exclusively contain blasphemers called the Blackwater Underground Prison 』 the girl explained: 『 You will need to make your way into the Blackwater Underground Prison and retrieve the fragment of the Holy Relic buried within the Judgement Room for me 』

“The fragment of the Holy Relic?”

『 Indeed, that is the only Holy Relic fragment that hadn’t been discovered by the monsters, it is safe and would be able to help me recover my power 』

“What does it look like?”

『 It looks like this— 』

The girl placed both hands in front of her chest.

A small bit of light appeared from the chest and fell into her hands.

As Gu Qing Shan took a closer look, he found that it was a page of a book.

The girl explained: 『 The relic was a holy scripture, of which I only possess a single page. This page is already on the verge of collapse, and once that happens, the darkness will have triumphed and I will no longer exist 』

“How should we enter the cathedral?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 You can only fight your way inside, it will be a battle that risks your very lives—— your only advantage would be the fact that the monsters do not know your goal. That's why you have to retrieve the holy scripture and immediately retreat to my side 』 the girl explained.

“But that way, wouldn't we also draw the monsters to you?” Gu Qing Shan said.

The girl shook her head: 『 As long as I have the holy scripture, I'd be able to recover a bit of my strength and protect you 』

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and said: “Very well, then we have a battle in front of us”

As he was about to take Laura and leave, Laura stood still without moving.

“That is... please wait a moment” Laura said.

『 Huh? Is there anything else? 』 the girl's impression of her had been very good, so she smiled and asked.

“Can you let me touch that page for a little bit? If I can do that, we might not have to fight or even alert the monsters in order to retrieve the holy scripture” Laura said.

The girl looked at her.

Laura appeared incredibly sincere.

After a while, the girl said: 『 Can you guarantee that you will not damage this page? You should know that once it is damaged, I will also disappear with it 』

Laura replied: “I can guarantee it”

The girl nodded: 『 You are a truly virtuous princess, proven by your character and daily behaviors that we have witnessed earlier, I shall trust you 』

Standing next to her, Gu Qing Shan felt like his face was getting hot.

The girl lightly waved her hand and sent the page drifting towards Laura.

Laura took out a pair of silk gloves and wore them before carefully receiving the page.

She carefully examined the page for an entire minute before closing her eyes and silently sensed it.

“Please take it back” Laura said.

The page flew back up and entered the girl’s chest.

Laura then took Gu Qing Shan’s hand and told the girl: “We’ll be going now, wait for our good news”

『 Hm 』 the girl smiled and nodded.

The two of them left this small forest of withered trees and went back into the fog.

“Are you confident?” Gu Qing Shan silently asked

“This kind of artifact is very rare, not to mention that it carries the holy attribute, I think you’ll have to prepare some high-nutrient dishes for me in order to have enough strength to collect them”

“High-nutrient dishes? Alright, I’ll prepare them” Gu Qing Shan said.

The two of them followed the path as they made their way towards the outside of the cathedral.

The sky was still completely dark.

The cold rain was miserable.

The entire monastery seemed to be inexplicably eerier compared to before.

Most likely, the news of a living person entering the monastery had spread, as Gu Qing Shan saw a lot more armored monsters compared to before.

They were patrolling the grounds, searching for any traces of the two of them.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura made sure to avoid them and stopped at a silent corner right next to the cathedral.

“Let me give it a try first, I might be able to succeed right away” Laura said.

“Do your best!” Gu Qing Shan encouraged her.

Laura rolled up her sleeves and reached her hand into the void of space to search.

She gradually furrowed her eyebrows.

“How was it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Not good—I couldn’t collect anything of value” Laura seemed dejected.

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Gu Qing Shan was a bit puzzled: “The scripture should currently be in an ownerless state, so your ability should have worked without any issues”

“My ability [Vagrant Treasure Collector] is indeed working without issues, but every building here has been encompassed in a unique barrier, they represent a zone of wealth and influence, which means everything inside is currently recognized as treasures with ownership, and my hand couldn’t reach them” Laura explained.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

Very quickly——

He made a certain decision.

This decision was considerable enough to be recorded into the history books of infinite civilizations, enough to shake all the worlds in the void. This day would be eternally cursed by the owners and guardians of all wealth in existence, fearful because of what it could entail.

“Laura, let’s give it another try”

“Huh?”

Laura looked at Gu Qing Shan with a puzzled expression.

A sword then appeared behind Gu Qing Shan.

It was a sword that gave off an icy chilling gleam, the blade of which was similar to the flowing water of autumn.

“Shannu, help Laura out a bit” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Yes, gongzi” Shannu’s voice was heard from the sword.

At the next moment, the sword flew next to Laura's arm and lightly pressed itself on top of it.

"What is this for?" Laura curiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms: "I was thinking just now— as long as a barrier cannot exert its power, wouldn't all protected treasures be considered to be ownerless?"

"Strictly speaking, any treasure would be protected by some sort of power by its owner, so if you can remove that protective power, a treasure would naturally be considered ownerless— but unfortunately, my ability cannot remove defensive techniques, that's why it's called [Vagrant Treasure Collector], and not simply [Treasure Collector]" Laura honestly explained.

Gu Qing Shan grinned.

"Give it another try" he said.

"With this sword?" Laura moved her arm up and down, asking him.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword was currently pressed against the outside of her arm, moving along with her movements.

"That's right, she's capable of breaking all Laws and cutting through all techniques" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Then I'll give it a try" Laura replied.

She took a deep breath, then put her hand into the void of space again.

A second later.

Laura suddenly appeared to be startled, followed by surprise, then finally hysteria.

“What’s the matter?” Gu Qing Shan asked out of concern.

Laura couldn’t even speak properly: “I- I seem to be able to reach anything, even the treasures that currently have owners, I can still...”

Gu Qing Shan was stunned as well.

She can reach anything?

Wouldn’t that mean—

From now on—

The two of them exchanged glances and instantly understood the look in the other party’s eyes.

“This is our combination technique, as well as an absolute secret. We cannot tell anyone at all, otherwise, we’d always be suspected” Gu Qing Shan said.

“I agree” Laura replied.

She couldn’t contain her emotions and suddenly said: “There was a golden spring in the pixie kingdom, according to rumors, there was a rock inside the spring that was incomparably miraculous, but no one had ever been able to take a look”

She continued: “Deep within the lava world, there was an altar that was the Elemental race’s place of origin, in which the ultimate elemental Divine Artifact is being worshipped”

“The background of the Night Ghost race had always been a secret, but they remain eternally within the Extreme Frost Galaxy to protect three legendary Divine Artifacts that were said to be capable of reenacting secrets of the past”

“I don’t want any of these artifacts, but I want to see the secrets that they hide!”

The more Laura spoke the more hysterical she became.

“Calm down, Laura. Stay calm, we cannot greed over treasures that weren’t originally ours, we must maintain a leveled mind” Gu Qing Shan told her in a solemn voice.

Meanwhile, Gu Qing Shan had taken out his cooking utensils and prepared all of his cooking ingredients in mere seconds.

He moved like a bolt of lightning or a blurred shadow, swiftly cooking an entire table full of steaming hot food.

One minute had just passed.

Laura was stunned.

She swore that she hadn't ever seen someone preparing such a large table filled with food in such a short period of time.

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hands and sincerely reminded her: "Keep in mind, all of those things belong to other people, we cannot keep them, only taking a look or borrowing them for temporary use, do you agree?"

"I completely agree!" Laura swiftly agreed.

"Good, now let's eat" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"Wait a moment——"

While they were talking, Laura suddenly pulled her hand back out from the void of space.

She was now carrying a relatively baggy white robe in her hand.

The robe was intensely struggling in her hand.

“Hurry up and help me, this is one of the Divine Artifacts in the monastery!” Laura was using both of her hands to hold the robe back.

Gu Qing Shan immediately stepped forward and caught the robe in one hand.

After being caught by him, the robe instantly calmed back down and silently radiated holy light.

“Again!”

“No, eat something first!”

“Alright”

...

“Again!”

“Again!”

“Eat something”

“Again!”

“—Got it!”

Laura suddenly pulled out a book.

As soon as it appeared, the book emanated a glorious golden glow..

Chapter 1652

Translator: La0o9

“Hurry, hurry, hurry! Gu Qing Shan, help me!”

Laura screamed.

The golden book was desperately struggling within her hand, wanting to escape her grip and was about to fly away.

Fortunately, Gu Qing Shan reacted quickly and caught the book tightly.

The book calmed down as well.

It began to give off a gentle golden light that enveloped Gu Qing Shan's body.

While breathing heavily, Laura begrudgingly asked: "Because you're a Pure person again?"

"Seems so"

Gu Qing Shan put the book away.

"Aren't I Pure as well? Why did they all avoid me?" Laura complained.

She picked up a large plate of desserts and began to wolf them down.

—-collecting treasures consumed a lot of energy, so she had to replenish her strength.

"Eat slowly; don't choke now"

Gu Qing Shan handed her a cup of milk and watched as she finished the entire plate of desserts by herself.

Having finished her meal, Laura wiped her mouth: "Now that we've retrieved the holy scripture, let's go look for that girl again and see what else she needs us to do"

"Don't be in such a hurry" Gu Qing Shan said.

“What is it?” Laura asked.

“Take a look, this cathedral is the most magnificent among all the buildings in the monastery, so how could it only hide a robe and a book?” Gu Qing Shan slowly guided her thoughts.

Laura pondered: “Do you mean...”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Perhaps the more artifacts we retrieve, the stronger that girl would be, which is nothing but a benefit to us”

“Ah, you’re right”

Laura reached her hand back into the void of space and searched again.

...

At the end of the fog.

A corner of the monastery.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura returned to the location of the withered trees again.

Laura put her flower umbrella away and told the tree: “We’re back”

With a puff of smoke, the girl reappeared.

She looked down at the two of them and said: 『 You were gone for very long, you must have faced a considerably desperate battle 』

“It wasn’t that desperate, my hand is just a bit tired”

Laura rubbed her hands and honestly replied.

The girl flew down from the tree and sighed: 『 Regretfully, since my powers are much too weak at the moment, I have no way of fighting alongside you 』

Gu Qing Shan took the golden book out and asked: “Please take a look, is this book the Holy Relic you wanted?”

The girl turned her gaze to the golden book and muttered: 『 It was indeed this holy artifact. It is the last remaining hope of the monastery, as well as the only hope for you to defeat those monsters 』

Gu Qing Shan handed her the golden book.

The girl received the golden book and recited an incantation.

The golden book gently flew into the girl’s chest and vanished without a trace.

The girl sighed: 『 Originally, I would have disappeared into nothingness, but thanks to your help, I’ve obtained more power and would be able to continue existing 』

The fog around her body slowly receded and made her figure distinct, her face had also become a lot definite as her entire body radiated holy light.

——she was a blond-haired girl with an expression full of pity.

The blond girl slightly bowed towards the two of them: 『 I thank you both 』

“You’re welcome. I haven’t been able to defeat those monsters even a single time while I fought against them. If you’ve recovered even a bit of strength, I would like to ask the mysteries behind it” Gu Qing Shan solemnly said.

The girl smiled.

She stepped forward and placed her hand over Gu Qing Shan's chest, closing her eyes: 『 I can sense the killing intent you hide in your heart—— you want to eliminate all wickedness, but feel angry towards the fact that you do not possess enough power, a rage as bright as a burning flame 』

“I've walked between the line of life and death twice, almost being killed by the monsters in this city, but I still couldn't find a way to defeat them” Gu Qing Shan said.

The girl appeared to understand and replied: 『 You and your comrade have saved me, so I will definitely help you 』

She took a few steps backwards and walked around the withered trees while reciting an incantation.

Wherever she walked past, layers of white fog would manifest from the ground below, gradually forming an enclosed wall of fog that encircled this entire area.

The girl looked at the wall of fog and muttered to herself: 『 Unfortunately, my power can only achieve this much at this point in time, if only we have other Holy Relics 』

Gu Qing Shan and Laura exchanged glances.

“So... you need the other Holy Relics inside the monastery as well?” Laura asked.

The girl nodded, then shook her head: 『 It is actually enough already that you retrieved the holy scripture. After your battle earlier, those monsters have surely gotten cautious, I cannot let you take another risk 』

Gu Qing Shan replied: “...Actually, we also happened to take a few more things, so I wonder if you'll need them”

Hearing that, the girl turned to him and gently said: 『 Let me take a look 』

Gu Qing Shan opened his Inventory Bag.

Clak clak— — —

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With a loud noise, numerous treasures fell onto the ground into a miniature mountain that gave off an intense fluctuation.

The girl was stunned.

After a long while, she finally asked: 『 Did you clean out the entire cathedral? 』

“More or less, after all, we only returned once I started to collect nothing but trash after several tries”
Laura replied.

The girl circled several times around the small mountain of treasures, unable to hide the look of delight on her expression.

『 Now we can truly retaliate— but before that, I need to explain how to bridge the great gap in power and truly damage your foes 』 the girl said.

“I’m respectfully listening” Gu Qing Shan replied.

『 Firstly, do you know the power of the world’s Laws? 』 the girl asked.

Laura cut in: “I know. The foundational power of the world would manifest into various Laws, the Laws would then manifest into visible elements, invisible Fate, as well as Space-Time and others— living beings of a world would then take advantage of those Laws to survive, or rather, all living beings have always been surviving within countless Laws, but they do not realize it themselves”

The girl nodded: 『 Indeed, the Laws are the manifestation of a world's power. Sometimes, they could even convert into higher-ranking Laws, or even rare Mysteries 』

『 As Professionals hold a grasp over the Laws, by combining them with an individual's attributes, they would be able to utilize Soul Points, Prayers, or other basic powers to wield the power of the Laws, exerting even more unbelievable strength 』

『 ——But here lies the problem. If the Laws originated from a world's foundational power, then where do the world's foundational powers originate from? 』

Gu Qing Shan and Laura were both stunned.

Usually, by being able to grasp the use of the world's Origin or Soul Points, one would have already been able to explain the world, all living beings, and all things.

But now there was a question of where these foundational powers originate from.

——where does the world's foundational power originate from?

Who knows?

The girl approached Laura and carefully examined her with her eyes before shaking her head: 『 Your path is still exceedingly long, you will not reach this level for now 』

She then walked up to Gu Qing Shan and said: 『 Out of the two of you, you've already gotten very close to that level, this was because you managed to obtain a certain qualification 』

“Qualification?” Gu Qing Shan parroted her words.

The girl affirmed: 『 Indeed, you've obtained a nearly nonexistent qualification that you alone possess. For that reason, at a certain point in the future, you might be able to surpass the world's foundational power and bridge the great gap that blocks the way of countless heroes 』

『 ——as long as you can actually survive the competition 』

“I don't understand what you mean” Gu Qing Shan said.

The girl paused briefly before asking him: 『 Did you come from outside the Dusty World? 』

“I did” Gu Qing Shan replied.

『 No wonder... I was wondering why you didn't know so much, it turns out you actually are from the void of those broken worlds 』 the girl muttered.

“Can you elaborate?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

『 Of course, but I must first tell you a certain fact: worlds do not exist alone by themselves, they must all belong to a certain world system, which would possess their own systematic order and can cause positive reactions among one another 』

“Then the Space Vortex——”

『 As I've said, they are broken worlds that can no longer form world systems 』

Gu Qing Shan was surprised and suddenly thought of a certain term.

He blankly muttered: “World jurisdiction...”

『 Jurisdiction? That is certainly one correct way to put it 』 the girl continued: 『 The power of both the world and its living beings originate from the systems they belong to and to bridge the great gap of power, you must wield the power of a world system 』

“The power of a world... system?” Gu Qing Shan parroted.

The girl nodded: 『 If you use the power of a living being's soul, or their prayers, or even the Laws of a world to fight those monsters, it would be equivalent to using a drop of water to fight a river—— 』

『 The natural difference in these kinds of powers have determined them to be impossible for you to defeat 』

Gu Qing Shan was still puzzled: “What exactly are the powers of a world system?”

『 It’s like this, let me give an example——- 』

The girl explained: 『 Living beings are able to use the powers of various type, which is similar to how the world has the power of Laws——- can you understand this? 』

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The girl continued: 『 But other than their basic powers, living beings can also obtain unbelievable abilities like Thaumaturgy due to their own unique characteristics, can you understand this? 』

Gu Qing Shan nodded again.

The girl smiled and said: 『 World systems are the same. They gather all the Laws within the worlds in their systems to create powerful and unique abilities 』

Gu Qing Shan remained silent for a brief moment.

He thought through everything that he had gone through up until now, then suddenly began to radiate a faint yellow glow.

“Earlier, when you said that I had a unique qualification, were you referring to this?” he asked.

『 No, there is still a bit missing from this qualification. You still need to compete against others in order to get a chance to wield the power corresponding to that world system 』 the girl shook her head.

The yellow glow around Gu Qing Shan’s body disappeared and he instead started to glow in a different color.

This second glow carried a sense of profound darkness, but also contained a crimson light from within the shadows.

— the Wraith realm's power.

The girl reached her hand forward and pressed it against his chest.

『 And now, let me help you spur it to see what this is— —— 』

A holy white light appeared on her hand and silently entered Gu Qing Shan's chest.

Instantly, the whispering voices of countless ghostly women could be heard, chanting an unclear message with a desperate tone in their voices.

They almost seemed like they were trying to inform Gu Qing Shan something.

At first, Gu Qing Shan furrowed his eyebrows, then gradually relaxed them again while his expression turned solemn.

Lines of glowing text appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan's vision:

[You've received the aid of the saint spirit and found out the Samsara's secret]

[The Samsara has completed its evolution]

[The victorious Chosen Saints of the Samsara Clash for Supremacy will be granted the power of the Samsara after its evolution]

Chapter 1653

Translator: La0o9

The girl pulled her hand back.

Immediately, the whispering voices of countless ghostly women faded away and were no longer audible.

『 From the looks of it, you seemed to have understood something 』 the girl said.

“I did, thank you” Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and bowed.

『 All things and all living beings belong to a world, while a world belongs to a world system, this is the power level moving from weakest to strongest—— and those monsters wield the power belonging to a world system 』 the girl explained.

Gu Qing Shan said deprecatingly: “Because I was using a weak power to fight against the power of an entire world system, I was unable to win against those monsters, is that it?”

『 To win, you must wield the power of a world system, which is commonly referred to as Realm Force 』 the girl replied.

“A river in the North cannot douse the fire in the South, I still do not possess the Realm Force of the Wraith realm, so how would I be able to defeat those monsters now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 What comes next is a decisive moment for our survival 』 the girl answered.

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

The girl explained: 『 You are a natural-born warrior, so if you can wield Realm Force as soon as possible, you’d be able to change the fate of the monastery, which is why you must conduct a Saint Selection battle—— 』

Gu Qing Shan’s heart jumped slightly.

Saint Selection again.

So it wasn’t just the Samsara, but other world systems must conduct a Saint Selection battle as well?

While he was silently pondering, the girl took the golden book out.

The book began to flip through its pages without any wind, displaying numerous mesmerizing short visions on each page.

『 This is the historical records of the monastery, which had recorded many critical historical moments of this entire world 』

『 You must proceed to those crucial moments and obtain the recognition of the Saint Artifacts before they were destroyed by the wicked beings, thus gaining the Chosen Saint qualifications and ultimately obtain the Realm Force of our world 』

The girl continued: 『 Pay attention, as soon as I open this book of historical records, I must continuously maintain the holy power to remain with you in the past—- 』

『 This level of technique fluctuation would surely draw the monsters' attention, so your companion must remain here to protect our bodies 』

Laura panicked and hurriedly said: “But I don't know how to fight at all! I don't know how to protect you”

The girl then recited an incantation.

The small mountain of treasures began to radiate golden light.

The girl looked at Laura and explained: 『 Those treasures have manifested a kind of temporary Realm Force, which I will now bestow upon you. You must remain here to protect me and his body 』

With a point of the girl's finger, the golden light flew into Laura's chest.

『 This way, no matter what kind of attack you use, you'd be able to deal the largest possible amount of damage to those monsters 』 the girl said.

“Really?” Laura asked hesitantly.

『 Really, it will persist for at least five hours— if we still haven't returned after five hours, it means that we have failed and you should run for your life on your own 』 the girl replied.

Laura's eyes were shocked, her expression filled with unease and hesitation.

Gu Qing Shan briefly thought.

He handed something to Laura, explained to her how it works in a whisper, then said: "You will definitely be able to defend us"

Laura silently listened to his explanation and gradually displayed resolve in her expression.

"Alright, if I can defeat those monsters simply by attacking, I will definitely be able to defend this place" she clenched her tiny fists and said.

The girl smiled, then opened the golden book to a certain page.

『 The moment of the first Holy Relic's destruction was also the day of our utter defeat. We will have to return to that day 』

The girl placed her hand on top of the page.

Fwoom——

A golden pillar of light reached all the way to the clouds, piercing through the shroud of darkness.

This level of magic fluctuation could clearly be felt by everything inside the monastery.

Gu Qing Shan's soul flew out of his body and was directly sucked into this golden pillar of light.

『 Keep your guard up, those monsters will be here soon 』 the girl finally left some words of warning.

“Hm! Just leave it to me!” Laura replied.

The girl stood still and closed her eyes.

Her soul flew out from her body and entered the golden light as well.

Only Laura remained there all by herself.

She looked up at the golden light, then tilted her ears to listen.

—in the distance, the screaming and howling of numerous monsters could be heard from all around the monastery.

Laura nodded and muttered to herself: “First defend, then attack”

She approached the wall of fog and took out something from her backpack.

It was a door.

— the Divine Gate that Gu Qing Shan had obtained during the Age of Immemorial.

As long as it was provided with gems, it would be able to tightly protect an area without letting anything go through.

A voice spoke continuously from the door:

「 Lookie here, a little girl 」

「 I really don't know why Rhode had handed the precious me to someone like you 」

「 I warn you, I'm the most Divine Gate in the realm, don't put me on the ground and drag me around or I'll get dirty 」

「 Hey little girl, are you listening? 」

Laura placed the door up against the wall of fog, then stepped back and started searching inside her backpack.

“...Where did I put that ring? I remember there was a period of time where I liked collecting gems, so I specifically had one made to store them all”

Outside the wall of fog, heavy footsteps could be heard approaching closer and closer.

The monsters had arrived!

Finally, Laura took out a small silver ring out of her backpack.

“There it is!”

Laura put the ring on and lightly rubbed it.

Claaaaaa!!!

Numerous gems of different colors filled the entire region within the wall of fog, gradually piled up and increasingly higher, some of the gems were even falling outside the wall of fog.

Laura hurriedly pulled Gu Qing Shan’s body and the girl’s body up on top of the gems.

“Alright, let’s just put out this much for now, it should be enough to defend”

After doing this, she turned to the door and asked: “Oh right, what were you saying just now?”

The Divine Gate was hysterical: 「 Yo-yo-yo-yo-yo-your Majesty, from today on, I am your servant! No, I am your eternal loyal slave! 」

Laura stepped onto where the gems had piled up the highest and used her hand to push the fog away in order to look outside.

Group after group of terrifying monsters were swiftly making their way towards them.

She took a deep breath and propped the bazooka on her shoulder.

“Brother Cannon, are you there? After this matter, this empress shall provide you all the upgrade components that you desire” she said.

A heavy low voice could be heard from the bazooka: 「 Your Majesty, it is my pleasure to serve you 」

“Fire” Laura declared.

—-boom!!!

A resounding flame erupted through the fog and darkness, blowing all the monsters on the outside road to kingdom come.

...

At another location.

Gu Qing Shan and the girl were flying through the golden light.

A thick and heavy shadow could gradually be seen getting clearer ahead of them.

Screams, cries, and desperate howls.

Countless bodies.

The two of them landed on top of the burning city wall.

“Where is this place?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 The border town—— according to history, when the monastery was breached the first time, the first Holy Relic was destroyed at this point in time. You need to march forward and triumph against all the monsters in order to save the Holy Relic within the monastery 』 the girl explained.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression became stern.

He looked down at the city wall, only to see numerous monsters standing in a formation, taking up all the space until the very end of his vision.

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The entire city was burning.

Some of the especially bigger monsters were rampaging as they wished through the city, casually grabbing people as they wish to devour.

——the monastery was still quite a bit of distance away.

“My only question is whether those monsters——“

『 At this point in time, all the Holy Relics were still intact, so they had no way of obtaining any wicked Realm Force 』

“Then I feel assured”

At this point, under the city wall, the numerous monsters had noticed him.

Roar!!!

They turned around and began climbing onto the city wall.

『 I can only maintain the technique that's allowing us to travel back in time, you will have to fight on your own. If you fail, both of us will die here 』 the girl leisurely told him.

“Then let's finally fight a proper battle”

Observing those monsters, Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He adjusted his footing and shifted into a dance pose——

A second later.

A clear voice sang:

[Let's learn to meow like a cat]

[Let's meow meow meow meow meow together]

[Acting cute in front of you]

[Oh my, meow meow meow meow meow]

[My heart is thumping thumping]

[I'm infatuated with your smirk]

The girl's expression became strange as she looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the void of space.

Lines of glowing text had silently appeared in the void of space:

[Your footwork wasn't up to standard, so your theme song had become distorted...]

Gu Qing Shan awkwardly cleared his throat and explained: "I'm sorry, let me try again"

He shifted into a dance pose again.

Instantly, all the music stopped.

New lines of glowing text appeared:

[Indeed, this is the feeling]

[—-to sate the desire for slaughter, that itself is saintly]

[The Deathmatch Dance has begun!]

At this point, a monster had already reached Gu Qing Shan's leg.

It opened its mouth, trying to bite his leg off, only for its body to be blown away by a gust of wind that appeared out of nowhere, leaving behind nothing but a smear of blood.

Buun buun buun buun doong!

A desperate sound of drumming echoed.

At an unknown point, Gu Qing Shan had already wielded the Earth sword.

He leapt away from the city wall, flying down towards the horde of monsters below, erasing all the monsters he flew past with the sword-infused wind he generated.

Flashes of bloody light danced across the sky.

Numerous monsters turned around towards Gu Qing Shan.

A leader-looking monster shouted out loud: 「 Kill him! 」

Roar!!!

The monsters swiftly heeded the order and charged towards Gu Qing Shan.

With a slight smirk, Gu Qing Shan approached the torrent of monsters step by step.

Behind him, one skeleton descended after another and entered his body.

A total of three skeletons each wielded a sword, facing his left, right, and back with half of their body fusing with Gu Qing Shan.

——the Four-sided Demon King!

A short rap could be heard from the void of space:

“Yo~ ladies and gentlemen, everybody at the scene, you gotta listen to what I have to say!”

Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding!

Gu Qing Shan’s figure flashed and crashed directly into the horde of monsters.

Like a meat grinder without any gaps, numerous sword phantoms appeared all around his body.

The sound of rapping followed his steps:

“...You make a show at the scene, using the same unfair standards as the human realm, with a sword in my hand and a sword in my other hand, I’ll use the sword of my tongue to get rid of you, tsk!”

The sword phantoms were erratic, unpredictable like sparks of flames, like a flower dancing in the rain, blooming as he continued forward, slicing down almost all the monsters without fail.

Wherever Gu Qing Shan went by, the path was cleared without leaving any room for disagreement.

After a few moments.

He had literally cut open a path of blood!

A furious voice echoed from deep among the horde of monsters:

「 Everyone retreat. Knights of Decadence, crush him! 」

All the foot soldiers swiftly stepped aside to make way.

Hundreds of fully-armored cavalry knights appeared on their horses.

While they were still a few hundred meters away, they had already begun to unleash a ferocious wave of attack against Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan turned his hand and drew the Heaven sword from the void of space.

The three skeletons around him also imitated his gesture and pulled another sword out from the void of space.

Four directions, eight arms, sixteen swords.

Buun buun buun buun doong!

Doong doong chaa! Doong doong chaa!

The sound of rapping continued:

“I’d say you’re already done for, then you’re really done for, even if [Chaos], [Order], Apocalypses, and the Samsara all head into the world, even if the journey is tough and hard with many obstacles, with our swords and our guns our right, we will level it all without fail!”

In the darkness, all that could be seen was a lone figure clashing against a torrent of metal.

All the monsters were simply erased.

The sword phantoms had left out a gigantic bloody mark on the ground.

Wielding his sword, Gu Qing Shan whistled towards the ones standing in the middle of all the monsters.

It was a declaration, a provocation, as well as an invitation.

「 NO! Damn you! It seems the Wicked Giants must be sent out to deal with him! 」

The voice from earlier called out again.

All the giant monsters in the city swiftly gathered together.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

With every step they took, the ground intensely trembled.

Observing the giant monsters from afar, Gu Qing Shan cracked his neck.

“Forward”

He curtly shouted.

The three skeletons emerged from his body and flew towards those giant monsters in a flash.

Gu Qing Shan remained still and clenched his hand.

The rapping instantly stopped.

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

[Your Deathmatch Dance is growing stronger]

[You can now awaken your Murder Dance Troupe to participate in this Sacrificial Dance]

Chapter 1654

Translator: La0o9

The girl flew down from the city wall and landed next to Gu Qing Shan.

She smiled: 『 What an interesting style of combat, it seems we won't have to head into the other points in history 』

In the sky.

The three skeletons were moving in circles around the giant monsters.

—they were flying through the night sky.

There were four swords floating behind each of the skeletons, closely following them and attacking the giant monsters following their will.

Gu Qing Shan had four swords.

So the skeletons also had four swords—

The only difference was that their swords didn't possess the power of Divine Artifacts.

Watching the battle in the sky, Gu Qing Shan asked: "Don't we need to change history?"

The girl replied: 『 We do not have the power to play around with history, not to mention, changing history can easily cause other problems 』

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and agreed.

—the power of [Distortion] is unique, it wouldn't be common no matter what kind of world we're in, and even those Apocalypses felt that it was something difficult to deal with.

If we aren't here to change history, what are we here for?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking this, the girl had spoken up again:

『 As I had said before, shortly after this, for the very first time in history, the first Holy Relic would be destroyed, in other words— 』

Gu Qing Shan followed up: "All the Holy Relics are currently intact"

The girl confirmed: 『 Indeed, we are merely going to obtain these Holy Relics' recognition before they are destroyed— as soon as even one of the Holy Relic recognize you, we would be able to immediately return to the future 』

Gu Qing Shan said: “I have a question, has anyone awoken Realm Force during this era?”

『 If such a person existed, the city would not have been enveloped in darkness 』 the girl replied.

Gu Qing Shan nodded in an understanding manner.

The girl confirmed the shade of the sky and said: 『 The time of the first Holy Relic's destruction is about to come, we need to hurry up and make our way there 』

“Alright”

Gu Qing Shan replied.

He raised his hand and suddenly clenched his fist.

The sorrowful and ancient music once again drifted throughout the night sky.

In the void of space.

Skeletons emerged one after another.

They descended from above and landed behind Gu Qing Shan, neatly lining themselves into a formation.

“Forward”

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hands.

The skeletons roared a unified roar, then flew past both Gu Qing Shan and the girl, rapidly charging forward.

Each of the skeletons was holding a heavy black tube-shaped object in their hands.

『What is that?』 the girl suddenly asked.

“A type of antique machine gun, a Technological product” Gu Qing Shan replied.

As soon as he said that, the night sky was illuminated.

Tak tak tak tak tak tak tak!

A huge number of bursts of flames descended from the sky, sweeping across the ground below like a waterfall of flames that tore the battlefield apart.

The skeletons continued to fly forward maintaining their formation.

The original three skeletons who were fighting against the giant monsters had also stopped moving and retrieved the long artillery tubes from their backs, aiming at the direction with the most number of monsters.

—-boom!

Deafening explosions resounded all over the city, drawing the monsters' attention.

The girl frowned: 『If this continues, we would be held up here』

“We're not the side that is being held up, the monsters are”

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan sheathed his swords and told the girl:

“Alright, let them fight, we’re going into the monastery directly”

『 How do we do that? 』 the girl asked.

“Give me your hand”

The girl then held his hand.

A mass of white fog manifested and swirled around the two of them.

They then swiftly vanished.

...

At another location.

The monastery.

The same secluded corner from before.

A mass of white fog manifested.

The two of them appeared.

The girl looked around and said: 『 We came here at just the right moment, if we made it in time, the Holy Relics shouldn’t have been separated yet 』

“Separated? Were the Holy Relics originally left in the same place?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Indeed. Because it was impossible to win against those monsters, in order to preserve the Holy Relics, the Pope had ordered for them to be separated and kept in different locations 』 the girl explained.

At this point, the sound of uneven footsteps could be heard from outside, followed by someone's shout: "Who's there? Human or monster?"

"Captain, it's probably not one of us"

The sound of weapons being unsheathed could be heard.

"All guards stay prepared, we're going to check the situation!"

"Yes sir!"

The sound of footsteps became increasingly closer.

A layer of holy light suddenly radiated from the girl's body to illuminate Gu Qing Shan's body as well as hers.

『 This is our home field, so I can ensure that we're completely undetected by our allies 』 the girl explained.

"That'll save us a lot of trouble" Gu Qing Shan shrugged.

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A group of fully-armored knights appeared at the end of the path.

As they approached this location, they looked around in confusion.

—there was nothing here.

“Come! Let’s go reinforce the team at the main gate” the knight captain ordered.

They had left.

“Alright, where are the Holy Relics?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 The main cathedral 』 the girl replied.

The two of them exchanged glances before heading towards the cathedral.

The cathedral was currently brightly lit.

The twelve Bishops, four Cardinals, and the Pope were all gathered here.

Gu Qing Shan and the girl walked past these people, heading behind them and looked towards the four Holy Relics being worshipped on the table.

A pure-white fabric crown adorned with gems.

An ancient ceremonial shroud.

A grain beater with some blood on it.

A golden apple.

As they stood in front of the Holy Relics, the girl started giving off a holy glow that enveloped the four Holy Relics.

She clearly sighed in relief and said: 『 Your combat prowess was quite considerable, it was so much beyond my expectations that we made it in time before any of the Holy Relics were moved away 』

“What do we do now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The girl turned to him and solemnly explained: 『 Whenever someone comes into contact with Realm Force for the very first time, they would only be able to awaken a single kind of Realm Force 』

『 At this point, the four Holy Relics have focused their attentions on you, they represent four different world spirits, which corresponds to four different kinds of Realm Forces 』

『 The Holy Crown represents the power of salvation; the ceremonial robe represents sacrifice; the grain beater would help you connect with the world and grant you the holy power to kill; and the golden apple would grant you a unique evasive power 』

『 At this moment, you will need to firmly state your mind in front of them 』

『 Because you can only awaken one kind of Realm Force, the four Holy Relics would discuss among themselves to choose one to resonate with you and open a path of cultivating a Realm Force unique to yourself 』

『 Let us begin! 』

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and hesitantly said: “I want to become stronger and defeat the Apocalypse”

『 Just... that? 』 the girl asked.

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan answered honestly.

A second later, something unexpected occurred——

All four of the Holy Relics began to vibrate.

They all floated into the air and danced around Gu Qing Shan’s body.

The girl was stunned.

She muttered in shock: 『 That is impossible... no matter who they are, an individual can only open one path of Realm Force cultivation the first time they come into contact with a world's Holy Relic. What exactly are you—— 』

While saying that, signs of caution were evident in her expression.

Gu Qing Shan understood that it wasn't a good thing.

If the other party doesn't trust me anymore, the ritual would be interrupted, and I wouldn't be able to gain any Realm Force.

“You can tell whether or not a person was lying. Come here, please put your hand on my chest again, I can tell you my conjecture” he sincerely told her.

The girl then placed her hand over his heart.

“I have never come into contact with Realm Force before” Gu Qing Shan said.

The girl nodded.

“I suspect—— the reason that this had occurred was that my soul is in a released state, capable of practicing any kind of power” Gu Qing Shan continued.

The girl nodded again but then shook her head: 『 What you said was the truth, but a released soul only exists in legends. Mortals cannot possibly release their souls on their own, so how did you do it? 』

Her eyes had returned to normal.

—it seems this man in front of me had indeed received some sort of unique opportunity.

This was relatively normal.

To continuously survive and live to the point where they are qualified to awaken Realm Force, which Combatant wouldn't have obtained one or two unique opportunities?

Seeing how she had regained her trust, Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied: "During a certain battle, I awoke a vision left by the God who created that world, it was that God who released my soul"

Originally, this would have been the end of it.

The girl didn't want to ask any further, but her lips twitched as she finally continued:

『 That isn't correct 』

"Hm? What do you mean it isn't correct?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

『 Gods are simply beings manifested from Laws. They might have a superior beginning compared to other living beings, but they would still be unable to grant a mortal the ability to practice four different realm Forces— in other words, your soul being released was true, but it wasn't a God who bestowed you a released soul 』 the girl solemnly explained.

Gu Qing Shan's expression suddenly changed.

—Not a God?

Then what kind of entity actually released my soul?

Noticing his emotions, the girl continued: 『 Rather than thinking about that entity who masqueraded as a God, you should be thinking about something else 』

"What's that?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The girl looked at him with a questioning gaze and muttered: 『 A released soul is no small matter, so then, who exactly are you? 』

Having been asked such a difficult question, Gu Qing Shan really didn't know how to answer this.

He stood there like a man standing on a deserted island.

It was as if nothing in the world had anything to do with him.

—-who knew something like this would happen?

I originally came here just to learn Realm Force, but I instead discovered a question.

A question that practically couldn't be answered.

The girl had continued to keep her hand over his heart and only pulled back now while nodding her head.

『 I trust that you are honest— you do not know your own background or anything else at all, so the current situation wasn't a result of wicked thoughts from you 』

The girl's voice turned gentle and continued: 『 As your companion, I can only remind you to think about this as carefully as possible— before or after your soul became released, did you encounter something eerie or strange? 』

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent.

Something strange or eerie.

That's right.

I had gone to meet the giant corpse.

After that... a monster who knew my name that not even the giant corpse could deal with appeared—

Following Gu Qing Shan's remembrance, the scene at that time resurfaced in his mind.

—--that monster.

When its head rolled on the ground, it gave me an inexplicable look.

It said:

“Pitiful...”

Chapter 1655

Translator: La0o9

“War God UI, I remember you said that it was a Creator God at the time” Gu Qing Shan silently asked.

[Indeed, the other party’s bearing was exactly what a Creator God would be like, so there was no issue with that description] the War God UI replied.

“But what if they weren’t? Why were you so sure?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

The War God UI indifferently replied: [You surely still remember what that God told you at the time, think back on it now, do you realize anything out of the ordinary?]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised, then quickly thought back to it.

—-since the heroic spirit girl had pointed out that the God was fake, a certain veil that had fogged over those particular memories was gradually lifted.

Gu Qing Shan felt a cold sweat on his back.

So much time has passed since then.

If I hadn’t already been through so much, if I hadn’t grown to the point I am today, if I hadn’t been made to rethink that moment—--

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t believe that such a terrible secret could still be hidden behind that event.

“There were two statements that now seemed to be suspicious” he silently replied to the War God UI.

[Which ones?] the War God UI asked.

“ 「 If you put in enough effort, shed enough blood and sweat, you will become the now-multi-talented owner of the War God Authority 」 and 「 We hope this blessing will help you, owner of the War God Authority 」 ” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Do you understand now?] the War God UI asked.

“A little bit, it was definitely not a God” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[It never was. But you were so weak at the time, what else did you expect me to tell you?] the War God UI curtly said.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

——after going through many worlds and fighting many battles, never before had anyone known about the existence of the War God UI.

Not even [Order] and [Chaos] realized the existence of the War God UI.

However.

That ‘God’ had somehow directly called out the War God System’s name!

That ‘God’ knew that I carried the War God UI!

[Do not concern yourself with what it was, this isn’t the time for you to get distracted—— you’re standing at the separating line of power, it is now a deciding moment of your advancement, finish the business at hand first, then consider other matters!] the War God UI reminded him.

Gu Qing Shan had calmed down.

The girl had also taken a few steps back.

『 Let us begin. As you are an individual with a released soul, you should borrow the power of the Holy Relics to guide the world system to helping you open your cultivation path of Realm Force 』 the girl said.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and turned to the four Holy Relics in front of him.

The Holy Relics were all resonating with him.

— they each represent a different Realm Force with unique power, and Gu Qing Shan was capable of obtaining all of them!

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and prepared himself to respond to the Holy Relic's resonance, but he suddenly heard a voice calling out:

『 Wait a moment! 』

The Condemnation Codex flew out from his person and opened by itself.

A Card appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

— the beautiful woman with closed eyes.

The Master of the Blood Sea Valhalla!

No one expected her to appear at this crucial point in time.

“What's the matter?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Did you know that once you choose one of these four paths of Realm Force cultivation, you'd form a permanent bond with this city? 』 the woman asked.

—she still existed only on her Card without appearing in person.

The Card was still giving off an unstable glow and scenery as if the conversion still hadn't been completed.

“Why does that matter?” Gu Qing Shan seemed confused.

The woman scoffed and explained: 『 Of course it matters. You are already the Death God of the Twin Rivers of Life and Death, as well as the Samsara Devil King of Huang Quan. As someone who belongs to two world systems, do you think you will be able to resolve the troubles of being arbitrarily involved in a third world system? 』

The girl spoke up from one side: 『 That is no matter, our city requires his salvation, I welcome him 』

The woman continued to keep her eyes closed, but her expression was prideful and replied: 『 He can save your city, but he cannot use your Realm Force. Otherwise, he must come to your city's aid in the future whenever you're in trouble. Even after his death, the three world systems would still compete over who keeps his soul—- which world system wouldn't want a Combatant capable of cultivating Realm Force like him? This cannot be done! 』

The girl didn't say anything in return.

Gu Qing Shan just shrugged and asked: “Your excellency, have you awoken Realm Force before?”

The woman answered: 『 A very long time ago, I've already lost my Realm Force 』

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

This statement had already encompassed plenty of hidden past and secrets.

『 It is fine, even if I do not possess Realm Force, since these four Holy Relics had all been activated, I would be able to borrow your power to help you awaken a unique Realm Force of the Twin Rivers of Life and Death 』 the woman continued.

She silently sent her voice: 『 You are the Death God of the River of Death, combined with my guidance and support, you'd definitely be able to awaken an extraordinary path of Realm Force cultivation 』

『——I've already witnessed your battles and recognized you as a comrade that I had stepped out like this to guide you, otherwise, I wouldn't have cared about some normal person 』

Unlike the girl, the Master of Valhalla had already entered the Condemnation Codex, who would continue to travel with me, not to mention how she was the master of the Blood Sea.

She has an irreconcilable grudge against the Apocalypse.

She is my natural ally.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, the woman continued: 『 Or perhaps you've already taken a fancy to that little girl? Hmph, she's the last hope of this world, so once you've obtained this world's Realm Force, you'll become the one she relies on, her fate would be forever bound to yours. Hah, men... 』

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Realizing some sort of danger, Gu Qing Shan instinctively sent his voice: "Thank you, your excellency! I want to awaken the Twin Rivers of Life and Death's Realm Force"

The woman sounded pleased: 『 That is a truly smart choice. The Twin Rivers of Life and Death world system includes the River of Life, River of Death, as well as the Blood Sea, they are three parts of the same Saint Realm Halo, which is significantly better compared to this world system that had already been crippled by the Apocalypse to the point that it only had one final city left standing—— now go and tell her clearly 』

Gu Qing Shan explained to the girl.

The girl appeared a bit nervous and hurriedly asked: 『 I can let you utilize the power of the Holy Relics, but after awakening Realm Force, can you help remove the wickedness from my city? 』

“I vow that I will definitely do it” Gu Qing Shan sincerely said.

『 Very well! 』

The girl took a few steps back to express that she would no longer interfere with this.

The eyes-closed woman remained in her Card, but she then pulled out another Card from within her hair.

This was a blood-colored Card with the surging Blood Sea on the back while the front was empty.

The woman held the Card with two fingers and curtly grunted: 『 Retrieve! 』

The Holy Crown, the robe, the grain-beater, and the golden apple each gave off a glow before being sucked into the Card.

The four lights became linked into one, forming a moving cycle.

The woman casually said: 『 Gu Qing Shan, when you fought against the Apocalypse in the past, you were very brave, but you actually did not realize what had happened during each of your battles from that point up until now 』

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised and said: “I’m sorry, I don’t understand what you mean”

The woman giggled, then explained: 『 When you fought against the Apocalypse, there were billions of heroic spirits aiding you in the shadows, even the Tianma were fighting alongside you with all their strength, but you simply couldn’t see it 』

『 Additionally, ever since you entered this city, countless virtuous spirits had continued to fight with you, allowing you to turn the repetitive dangerous situations into a safe one. Of course, it was also because of your own superior combat skills, but in the end, you still do not know anything at all about Phase Realms 』

“What is a Phase Realm?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 An outer world hidden within another world. It exists together with the main world, but would only ever manifest at certain moments, otherwise, they do not interact or interfere with one another 』 the woman explained.

While speaking, she took out a dagger to score her finger and lightly tapped the center of the Card.

A drop of bright red blood fell down.

The four lights from before circled around it.

The woman lightly chanted an incantation.

Under the incantation, the light and blood fused together.

『 In many world systems, there are other powerful paths of Realm Force cultivation that doesn't concern Phase Realms 』

『 But not for us of the Twin Rivers of Life and Death 』

『 This was because our world system's unique characteristic was related to Phase Realms 』

『 —being capable of seeing a Phase Realm is a representation of strength, suggesting that you were at least close to reaching Realm Force 』

Gu Qing Shan suddenly thought of something.

At the time, Shannu remained in the underground of the Wraith realm to summon Li An.

She later reported how Li An said something at the time.

...

『 A barren desolate place in your eyes, to me, was actually a site of inheritance of the Tianma Saint Lord 』

Perhaps——

That was also a Phase Realm?

If that was the case, could the Tianma be significantly more powerful than what I've seen suggests?

Gu Qing Shan made a note to be more cautious.

Suddenly, the Master of Valhalla said:

『 It is done 』

Her face seemed quite tired as she displayed the Card for Gu Qing Shan to see.

The Card now depicted a single bloodshot eye.

『 By using this Card, you will be bestowed the unique characteristics of the River of Life, River of Death, and the Blood Sea 』

『 Your path of Realm Force cultivation will be opened 』

She handed the Card to Gu Qing Shan and flew back into the Condemnation Codex by herself.

『 I'm going to rest for a while, do not disturb me 』

Her voice disappeared.

The Condemnation Codex returned to Gu Qing Shan's hand.

He put the book away and turned to the Card———

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

[You've received a Realm Force catalyst:]

[Spirit Eye of Blood Realm]

[After a countdown of five, the world system: Twin Rivers of Life and Death will awaken and bestow you your initial Realm Force]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[You've been recognized by the world system: Twin Rivers of Life and Death, officially releasing your initial Realm Force]

[By using the catalyst Card 'Spirit Eye of Blood Realm', you've unconditionally awoken the World Technique: Phase Sight]

[Phase Sight: You can observe the worlds hiding behind the main world any time you wish]

[Your initial Realm Force is:]

[Realm Spirit Descent]

[This is an extremely unique Blood Sea Realm Force; I hope that you will cultivate it to the best of your abilities and swiftly evolve it into a more powerful Realm Force]

[Attention:]

[You have bridged the gap of strength and officially stepped on the path of the 'strong' within the infinite worlds]

Chapter 1656

Translator: La0o9

The monastery.

A certain secluded corner.

Numerous gems piled up to form a small mountain, on top of which a soft sofa rested. Laura was currently half-kneeling on the sofa as she rubbed her sore shoulders.

“We still have to defend for over four hours; I wonder when Gu Qing Shan would return”

She muttered.

On the sofa lay a shiny metal bazooka that gave off a cold gleam.

A low voice could be heard coming from the bazooka:

「 Your Majesty, those monsters have gathered again. This time, there are a few giant ones as well, please prepare for battle 」

“Alright”

Laura stood up on the sofa, propped the bazooka on her shoulder again and aimed outside the wall of fog.

She then lightly pulled the trigger——

Boom!!!

A jet of lightning shot out from the bazooka, flew through the wall of fog, and struck the monster, clearing out a large chunk of land.

The intense impact turned into a storm that blew the surrounding monsters away as well.

A flattering voice echoed from within the pile of gems:

「 Ohoho—— Your Majesty, you've cleaned out the house again! No one can stop you at all, how magnificent, how—— I am your devout worshipper! 」

Laura rubbed her shoulder again.

「 That bootlicker is barking again 」 a voice scoffed from within the bazooka.

“He certainly is, I really don't understand why Gu Qing Shan would possess such a door” Laura also commented.

「 My words all originate from the bottom of my heart! 」 the Divine Gate refuted.

Both Laura and Canon Brother scoffed.

Suddenly, some noise could be heard from within the pile of gems behind them.

Laura instantly stood up to take a look, only to see that Gu Qing Shan and the girl had both regained their consciousness as they stood back up.

“Wah! You're back!” Laura called out happily.

“Hm, the process was relatively smooth, so it went faster than expected” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Did you succeed?” Laura asked.

“Hm” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Laura tossed the bazooka on her shoulder on the sofa and jumped into Gu Qing Shan's arms, happily saying: "I knew you would be able to eradicate them all, Gu Qing Shan! No one could stop you; it was regrettable that I couldn't be there to witness your awesome figure!"

Canon Brother: 「 ... 」

The Divine Gate: 「 ... 」

"The real battle had only just begun" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The girl walked in front of the wall of fog and pushed it open to take a look outside.

More monsters were gathering towards them.

The girl turned around and told Gu Qing Shan: 『 Those attacks earlier were only a temporary form of Realm Force. The truly powerful enemies all know this, they're silently observing the situation without any intention to fight directly—— this is a chance for you to get accustomed to your new power 』

『 Please help our world triumph against this evil 』 she implored him.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then suddenly looked around himself.

——*something seemed to have appeared around me.*

Lines of glowing text suddenly appeared on the War God UI:

[A Phase Realm is currently overlapping with the main world]

[Overlap duration: seven seconds]

[As you hold the power of 'Phase Sight', you are able to observe entities within the Phase Realm and sense their actions]

[Starting from this battle, the War God UI shall begin to record information of Phase Realms]

At the very next moment——

Humanoid figures made up of nothing but light appeared one after another.

They swiftly appeared around Gu Qing Shan, taking up every bit of space there was.

“Hurry, we only have seven seconds!” a woman wearing ceremonial clothing called out.

The others all began to chant their incantations and cast their spells.

One after another, flashes of light appeared around Gu Qing Shan’s body.

Faint and blurry lights as small as beads appeared all around his body, which made him appear like some sort of mysterious deity.

The woman made of light spoke up again:

“Let’s go!”

“He is the final hope for this entire world, the only thing we can do is hope that he will be able to triumph against evil!”

Everyone stared closely at Gu Qing Shan with hope in their eyes.

“You have to win”

A little girl made of light clenched her tiny fists tightly and softly muttered to Gu Qing Shan.

Hoh——

All the people made of light disappeared without a trace.

Seven seconds were over.

The overlap of the Phase Realm and the main world had ended.

——it was as if that was only an illusion, and those people never existed in the first place.

However, the War God UI had recorded several lines of notifications:

[You've received the phase blessing: Ferocity]

[You've received the heroic prayers: Anti-evil]

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[You've received the passive reinforcement: Sharp Weapons]

[You've received elemental affinity; your coordination with regards to elemental abilities have been improved by three steps. When attacked by the elements, they will not harm your body if possible]

[You've received soul protection, your soul's tenacity has been improved, your soul will not be easily damaged]

[Furthermore, Fate Ability: 'Trans-Phase Protection' has taken effect]

[Trans-Phase Protection: 35 dead heroic spirits have connected their Fates to you, they will share the damage you receive while both you and your enemy would not notice anything]

[——Aid from a Phase Realm]

[While you fight against evil, all of those who are dead shall stand by you]

Gu Qing Shan silently skimmed through.

Suddenly, a small hand grabbed his hand.

When he looked down, he saw that it was Laura.

She didn't say anything and only looked at him with a bit of concern in her eyes.

Gu Qing Shan lightly hugged her and said: "I'm fine"

Laura slightly nodded.

Gu Qing Shan swiftly headed into the wall of fog and spoke to the girl as he walked past her: "Don't worry, everyone will be fine from now on"

His body flashed—

He flew out from the wall of fog and landed on the road full of rotten dark blood.

Countless monsters stood before him.

A monster dressed in sharp spike armor that looked like a liger tried charging forward.

「 BLOOD! FRESH LIVING BLOOD! 」

It howled and leapt up high, opening its bloody jaws widely to bite at Gu Qing Shan's neck.

A cold gleam flashed.

The monster was flung away by the slash and rolled on the ground.

It shook its head back and forth, then stood back up.

「 You dare face us with such insignificant power? Your blood and flesh will be mine to devour 」

The monster stared closely at Gu Qing Shan and spoke in a mocking tone.

More of the monsters behind it also saw this happen and leapt into action.

—-their enemy was a mortal who couldn't wield Realm Force.

Which meant he was already as good as dead.

Gu Qing Shan's expression didn't change at all and simply looked at the Earth sword in his hand.

A faint bit of light drifted around his sword.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Blood Sea Realm Force: Realm Spirit Descent has been activated]

[During combat, whenever you attack your enemies a certain number of times, you will be able to summon a Blood Sea Realm Spirit of varying levels of strength to eradicate the enemies in front of you]

[Current number of hits: 1]

[When you strike an enemy 3 times, the first Blood Sea Realm Spirit will descend]

[When you strike an enemy 27 times, the second Blood Sea Realm Spirit will answer your summon and appear]

[When you strike an enemy 133 times, the third Blood Sea Realm Spirit will manifest]

[...]

Gu Qing Shan clenched the twin swords Heaven and Earth tightly, took a deep breath, then turned into a long black thread that cut straight into the horde of monsters.

The gleams of his sword illuminated the night sky.

In an instant, 3 attacks had hit.

The illusion of a blood-colored giant appeared around Gu Qing Shan's body.

「Insects...」

The giant scoffed.

His hands clasped together and violently struck the ground.

The entire world seemed to tremble!

Dozens of monsters were smashed to a pulp with this attack.

Gu Qing Shan's expression remained the same as the two swords in his hand flew into the nearby horde of monsters like two flashes of chaotic light.

He has reached 27 attacks!

—without waiting for the giant's illusory figure to disappear, another illusory figure appeared.

This was a large leech made of nothing but liquid blood.

「Your blood belongs to me!」

The leech roared and leapt into the horde of monsters.

Like a tidal wave, the liquid blood enveloped all the monsters.

Wherever the leech washed through, everything was turned into liquid blood that swiftly evaporated into visible smoke as they fell to the ground.

Finally, everything disappeared into the wind.

The leech also faded into the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan stood still and looked around.

The monsters in the distance had already stopped.

They no longer dared to arbitrarily approach him, their expression became that of concern and wariness.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and closed his eyes, silently sensing the battle just now.

A few moments later.

A dark river appeared from the void of space behind him, followed by a river filled with radiance.

They flowed towards each other and eventually manifested as the crimson Blood Sea.

The vision of the Blood Sea persisted for a while, illuminating the entire night sky without disappearing.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and muttered: "I.. Am a world"

Chapter 1657

Translator: La0o9

The boundless Blood Sea eventually faded away from the night sky.

This was the manifestation of a world system's power, representing the fact that Gu Qing Shan had truly grasped how to utilization of Realm Force.

The monsters slowly retreated step by step.

Suddenly, a voice spoke from deep inside the monastery:

“How surprising—”

At some unknown point, an old man in black formal clothing had appeared.

He was standing in front of all the monsters with his hands on top of a cane, his eyes staring closely at Gu Qing Shan.

“For a Pure person to not only survive up to this point, but to also learn how to use Realm Force”

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand into the air and clenched.

Three skeletons descended from the sky and entered his body, then emerged from his back.

“From the very moment you failed to kill me, you should have already known what you were about to face” Gu Qing Shan said.

The old man coldly chuckled and shook his head: “Those hidden spirits consider you the very last straw for them to grasp at, but they fail to realize that no matter how hard they try, the most they’d be able to do was allow you to learn the shallowest method of using Realm Force, and that doesn’t matter to me at all”

He lit a cigarette and slowly took a drag.

Gu Qing Shan simply stood still.

The old man breathed out some smoke and asked: "Don't you have anything else to say to me?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I'm just waiting for your barrier to finish erecting"

The old man was surprised: "You knew?"

"I already knew that you had such an ability from our previous fight, but this barrier doesn't only trap me in, it also traps you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The old man's gaze turned as sharp as a blade.

Various shrouds of darkness gradually appeared around them from the void of space, trapping them as well as Laura and the girl inside.

"So, you have no intention of running away" the old man threw the cigarette on the ground and snuffed it out with his feet.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "I've only just learnt how to use Realm Force, so I need a target to train with"

The old man replied: "My fees are quite exorbitant; you're going to have to pay for it with your life"

A second later.

A giant black mouth suddenly appeared behind Gu Qing Shan.

That's fast!

Gu Qing Shan's pupils become dilated.

The skeleton behind him flew out to intercept the mouth.

Cra-rack—

As soon as the skeleton tried swinging its sword, it was already swallowed by the mouth.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan had reappeared in another location and looked at where he originally stood.

Only to see a black ghostly shadow hovering right there.

Countless faces continuously appeared from the void of space; men, women, old, young, beasts, birds, all of which had an expression of despair.

The ghostly shadow slowly stood up and manifested into an eerie burning rune.

The old man's expression became even grimmer as he told him in a tone that wasn't too fast or too slow:

"In reality— I never intended to kill you, otherwise, you wouldn't have made it to the monastery in the first place"

"Oh? So you were holding back? Why?" Gu Qing Shan appeared surprised and asked.

The old man smirked, silently chuckled, then displayed a look of ferocity and madness on his face.

"My Realm Force had entered a unique state where I just happened to need to devour a Saint spirit in order to advance to the next step"

His gaze skipped past Gu Qing Shan and turned to the girl a bit further away.

“All the living people in this world were already dead, and she was hiding in a place I couldn’t possibly search for, willing to let herself die off rather than for me to find her—-- but right at that moment, a Pure person appeared”

“A Pure person represents hope, and only when there was hope would she appear for me to devour her”

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: “So you had always planned to devour her”

He also turned to the girl.

The girl’s expression remained calm and simply clenched her fist tightly as she looked at Gu Qing Shan.

He was hope.

He was—

The very last hope in this entire world.

Laura angrily shouted: “You shameless bastard!”

“Shameless?” the old man displayed a mocking expression: “So what if I was shameless?”

Gu Qing Shan also told her: “Laura, you’re wrong about that, you need to apologize to this old mister”

Laura and the girl were both stunned.

The old man was only surprised and turned to look at him as well.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “In truth, this is an excellent tactic, and this old mister successfully lured the spirit into showing herself”

“That’s why when you make all the considerations, this is merely a tactic, and there is no such thing as a shameless tactic”

Hearing him say that, the old man couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Well said. So, you've realized the stark difference in power between you and me, youngster who had only just awoken his Realm Force?"

"Before this, I hadn't been using my real strength— even now, with your primary-level Realm Force, you're still insignificant to me"

"Kneel in front of me and I shall spare your life. Later on, I'll give you the authority to manage the monastery for me"

He used his cane to point at the muddy ground in front of himself.

Laura glared at Gu Qing Shan and shook his head: "I don't believe that—"

The girl also appeared mournful.

Only to hear Gu Qing Shan musing: "I am certainly not his match"

He swiftly approached the old man.

Laura finally couldn't take it anymore and cried out sorrowfully: "Gu Qing Shan, are you really going to surrender?"

"Surrender? Why would I do that?" Gu Qing Shan replied.

At the same time, a prideful squeak could be heard from within the void of space.

—*Xiu!*

Gu Qing Shan suddenly turned into a large orange cat and seamlessly vanished without a trace.

[Ghostly Shadow of Night]!

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—he had borrowed Adorable’s [Spotless Jade] and vanished in front of everyone!

Immediately after that, the old man abruptly grunted full of pain.

A manifestation of the Blood Sea instantly filled the entire area.

The blood-colored giant once again appeared and grabbed the old man with both hands, smashing him into the ground.

「 Detestable bastard! 」

The giant roared.

After that, a large leech appeared from within the Blood Sea.

「 A high-rank evil entity, I will accept your blood 」 the leech reached out with its tongue.

The old man suddenly looked up and shouted: “Scram!”

The burning eerie rune turned back into a monster and knocked the leech away.

「 How regrettable— 」

The leech stared regretfully at the old man and disappeared back into the Blood Sea.

But immediately after that, countless sword phantoms suddenly appeared from the void of space and struck the old man's body.

[Realm Spirit Descent] had been activated again!

Numerous bloody glows abruptly appeared from the void of space and immediately leapt onto the old man's body.

“AAARRRGH!”

The old man desperately screamed.

The bloody glows were all blood insects with exceptionally tough shells!

They were happily eating away at the old man's body.

“Night Beast, kill these bugs!”

The old man called out.

The ghostly shadow enveloped his body and flung all the insects away.

The old man's entire face had already been eaten away.

“Hoh— hoh— hoh—”

He breathed heavily and roared out of anger: “Get out here! Pure person!”

Completely silent.

No one responded to him.

A gust of wind suddenly blew past.

The old man abruptly turned towards the gust of wind and pointed at it.

The ghostly shadow leapt towards that part of the void of space.

———but there was nothing there, so the ghostly shadow only lingered for a bit before being forced to return.

“Damn you! I am a second stage Realm Force Combatant, you are definitely not my match, so get out here!”

“Show yourself if you’re a man!”

The old man continued to shout.

And still no response.

The orange cat was simply seated in a secluded corner as he narrowed his eyes at the old man again——
—

[Forgetting River Severance]!

Instantly, 36 sword phantoms appeared out of nowhere and violently slashed towards the old man!

“Dream on!”

The old man roared.

The ghostly shadow turned into a large shield that blocked these 36 sword phantoms.

— but the orange cat had already changed his directions and glanced at him again from his back.

Offering Iris Technique: [Mountain Wraith]!

An arc of lightning struck the old man's body and caused him to become stunned.

A wraith made of lightning descended from the sky and entered the old man's body.

The orange cat looked at him again.

— [Forgetting River Severance]!

This time, it struck him enough times to summon another Blood Sea Realm Spirit.

A feminine figure surfaced from within the illusory Blood Sea and silently recited an incantation.

Countless ferocious bloody glows shot forward!

The old man was struck by the bloody glows that left no openings and crashed into his own dark barrier; it wasn't until several breaths' worth of time later that the attacks finally stopped and let him fall back down.

Poom!

A heavy dull sound.

The ghostly shadow had returned to protect his body.

— but what would that achieve?

As long as Gu Qing Shan didn't show himself, the old man couldn't find him at all, he also couldn't defend against his iris techniques, and was definitely unable to stop him from summoning the Blood Sea Realm Spirits.

For the next while, the old man was struck continuously for a dozen more times.

— even if he had one higher level of Realm Force, he was still unable to endure this kind of attack.

The old man coughed up some blood and shivered with his entire body: "Get... get out... here..."

As if he had gone berserk, the old man controlled the ghostly shadow to aimlessly attack his surroundings.

"Show yourself, fight me fair and square!"

"You're no Pure person, YOU'RE THE MOST MALICIOUS AND SHAMELESS PERSON THERE IS!!!"

While madly shouting, he continued lashing out towards the void of space around him.

Unfortunately.

That did no good at all.

...

Watching this from a distance, Laura finally sighed and muttered to herself: "No wonder Gu Qing Shan didn't want me to call that old man shameless..."

『 Why did he make excuses for that wicked man? 』 the girl asked out of confusion.

“Just take a look, he doesn’t even give the old man a chance to hit him, he doesn’t even let the old man see him—— relatively speaking, he’s much more shameless compared to that evil old man”

After explaining this, Laura suddenly smiled.

“——But I like it”

Chapter 1658

36 sword phantoms struck the black shield to give off a series of slashing noises.

At that very next moment, another 72 slashes appeared, followed by 144 slashes, striking the shield in a systematic manner.

The old man suddenly turned around and shouted: “I’ve caught you!”

Numerous shadows gathered around his body, preparing to shoot forward——

But the old man was stunned.

The one facing him wasn’t Gu Qing Shan at all, but a skeleton.

The skeleton simply opened its mouth, almost as if to silently mock him.

“SCRAM!” the old man furiously shouted.

Right as the old man was about to act, an intangible sword phantom appeared from the void of space and pierced directly through his head.

——Bygone Era Swordsmanship, [Causeless]!

The old man was paralyzed.

The skeleton performed a blurry sword dance with the two swords in its hand, all of which struck the old man's body.

[Realm Spirit Descent] was activated once again!

An illusory Blood Sea manifested once again.

Masses of bloody fog flew down and continuously circled around the old man.

Some of these masses of bloody fog turned into beasts, some into beautiful women, some into skeletons, as well as some unprecedented evil creatures.

The old man didn't receive any sort of attack in the middle of the bloody fog, but he continuously uttered resounding desperate screams.

After a while.

The old man's soul emerged from his body, whisked away by the bloody fog into the Blood Sea.

The orange cat remained sitting in a secluded corner, observing this scene with a cold expression.

These continuously shape-shifting bloody fog had the capability to attack an enemy through their soul.

—this was so astronomically stronger compared to the blood-colored skeleton that he summoned in the beginning!

After fighting for a while, Gu Qing Shan had basically managed to grasp the ability [Realm Spirit Descent].

—as long as he continued to strike his enemies, he would be able to continuously summon more realm spirits to fight with him.

The more times he struck the more powerful the summoned realm spirits would become.

Of course, there was also a limit to this ability.

——it can only activate when he actually hits an opponent.

Compared to that, the sword technique [Causeless] will begin to formulate a Causality Law as soon as he begins to attack.

However, [Causeless] was unable to kill the old man, while the realm spirits had a possibility of killing the old man simply because they contained Realm Force.

I wonder if I can grant Realm Force to my sword techniques as well later on——

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking about this, a black shadow shot into the sky.

The black shield had turned back into the shadow monster that continuously attacked in the air, forcing the bloody fog away from the old man one by one.

The old man's soul immediately fell back down and entered his body.

"Hoh—— hoh-- hoh!"

The old man fell to his knees, breathing heavily.

I clearly wield the more powerful Realm Force.

I clearly have numerous techniques of boundless power.

But——

He doesn't show himself at all!

I can't even attack him!

"Devil... you're a devil in a 'Pure' disguise!" he cursed while his face was soaked in cold sweat.

The orange cat remained absolutely still.

He was looking at the old man with an emotionless gaze, the same kind he would show a suitable experimental subject.

—after over a thousand strikes, I managed to summon the bloody fog that could directly attack the soul.

What's next?

What would be the next thing to appear?

The orange cat turned his gaze to the void of space.

Two lines of glowing text were hovering there:

[Current number of hits: 1999]

[When you strike the enemy 2333 times, a new realm spirit will heed your summon and fight your enemy]

—over 300 attacks left.

The orange cat's tail swung back and forth, feeling that things had gotten very interesting.

Is there no limit to this summoning?

Then what kind of realm spirit would I summon after striking an enemy over 10,000 times?

...If it was truly infinite summoning, then even if this was only the very first Realm Force, it would still be fearfully powerful.

The orange cat turned his gaze away from the void of space and turned to the old man.

— the old man's cane had already been broken for a while, his formal clothing was also ripped all over the place, only barely hanging onto his body right now.

He seems to be in quite a desperate state.

The orange cat couldn't help but clench its paws, silently rooting for the old man.

Do your best.

You need to hold out for a bit longer.

I really want to know what kind of powerful realm spirit would appear after I attack 10,000 times.

The orange cat raised his tail.

Following this gesture, three skeletons flew down from the void of space, each wielding two swords in their hands while surrounding the old man in the middle.

The old man was still breathing heavily but still shouted in anger: "Do you think I don't have any subordinates!"

His hands began to move.

The orange cat's eyes became sharp.

— *You want to undo this barrier? Dream on!*

Offering Iris Technique, [Mountain Wraith]!

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A flash of light-blue lightning flickered in the orange cat's eye and instantly struck the old man.

Being restrained in place, the old man's hand gestures were also stopped.

A wraith made of lightning appeared from the void of space and entered the old man's body.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, the three skeletons came forward to fight against the ghostly shadow.

The orange cat stood up and headed to a different location.

—constantly remaining in the same place would also increase the chances of him being discovered.

While moving about, he also glanced at the old man a few times.

Divine Skill, [Forgetting River Severance]!

Divine Skill, [Forgetting River Severance]!

[Forgetting River Severance]!

[River Severance]!

[Severance]!

Numerous layers of sword phantoms appeared from the void of space around the old man's body to attack him.

——in reality, these sword phantoms couldn't hurt him at all, unable to leave even a scratch on his body, but it had fulfilled the required number of hits!

Lines of glowing text appeared again:

[Current number of hits: 2333]

[By striking an enemy 2333 times, a new realm spirit is heeding your summoning]

[—the new realm spirit has arrived and is summoning its Phase Realm]

[Attention!]

[Attention!]

[A Phase Realm is overlapping with the main world.

Suddenly—

The entire world became empty.

The world was dyed in a heavy shade of red.

The orange cat looked around, only to see that the world was now filled to the brim with numerous people.

These people were all wearing a blood-colored robe while devoutly praying on their knees.

“With the power of his sacrifice, may the Blood Sea remain eternal”

Everyone was chanting this same prayer.

Above everyone, the old man was chained up on top of a bloody glowing guillotine.

He was desperately struggling but couldn't do anything about it at all.

His Realm Force— the shadow demon, wasn't present in this Phase Realm.

The orange cat's expression turned solemn.

The realm spirit summoned this time is really impressive, being able to isolate the other party from their power.

But what exactly was the summoned spirit this time?

The orange cat thought briefly before turning his eyes to the guillotine.

Could it be this entire guillotine?

At this point, the old man seemed to have realized something.

“No... NO!”

He suddenly became panicked and hurriedly shouted: “I surrender, I surrender! Please spare me, I swear to immediately hand over my wicked Holy Relic!”

Ch-cak ch-cak— — —

What responded to his plea was the guillotine that rapidly descended from above.

Kack!

The old man’s head was cut off.

Everyone cheered and raised their voice in declaration: “The eternal Blood Sea!”

At the very next moment.

The old man’s head as well as his body turned into a mass of blood that flew into the sky and disappeared.

Hoh— — —

The entire Phase Realm abruptly disappeared.

The orange cat noticed that he had returned to the main world.

The old man was now truly gone from his sight.

The orange cat felt a bit regretful.

The more expectant, the more disappointed.

The old man only managed to endure up until the guillotine was summoned when he died.

I've already lost this chance to see what kind of realm spirit would be summoned after 10,000 strikes.

The shadow monster was continuously shrieking in a sharp voice, moving erratically on the ground and sky trying to find the old man.

A few moments later.

The shadow monster's movements gradually slowed down and eventually grinded to a halt.

All of its power disappeared.

Its figure crumbled into dust and vanished into the night.

The only thing it left behind was a shadow beast statue the size of a hand.

『Hurry and destroy it, it's the origin of all evil!』

The spirit girl hurriedly called out.

Gu Qing Shan returned to human form and asked in confusion: “This statue should be the evil Holy Relic, which was also a central artifact of this world, so why destroy it?”

『 Because our world system hadn't been complete for a very long time, and the virtuous Holy Relics were already destroyed. If we don't destroy this evil Holy Relic, the world would not change, and all wicked existences will continue to persist 』 the girl explained.

“Oh, so that was it”

Gu Qing Shan approached the shadow monster statue.

As he stood in front of the shadow monster statue, lines of glowing text rapidly appeared one by one:

[You've discovered a central Holy Relic of a world system]

[You can now utilize the key mold to forge it into a new part of the Traveler's Proof]

[Furthermore, you've once received a secret]

[It was the secret protected by the frozen corpse that Shroud had handed over to you]

[You will need the Traveler's Proof in order to trigger this secret!]

Chapter 1659

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan's emotions were fluctuating.

He hadn't forgotten about the secret that Shroud entrusted to him.

—on Dream Island, before Shroud proceeded with his Apocalypse homology, he had entrusted that secret to me.

The scene at the time was still fresh in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

...

"I'm not sure what it is either, apparently it was something that the frozen corpse found within the Reality Gate before it was sealed away—I've tried everything I could but still couldn't open it, but I can recall crucial portions of the frozen corpse's memory— this object is extremely important, even more so than any other treasures"

...

These were Shroud's words at the time.

In other words, this secret didn't actually belong to Shroud!

It originally belonged to the unspeakable secret Apocalypse, the Eradicator of all things and all living beings—

The frozen corpse.

—-even as the overseer of the seal, Shroud hadn't been able to unlock this secret either!

"Gu Qing Shan, what's the matter? Why do you look so worried?" he suddenly heard Laura's voice.

Gu Qing Shan regained his calm.

Just in time to see Laura and the spirit girl approaching him.

"It's nothing, I'll get rid of this evil Holy Relic first" Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

Picking up the shadow monster statue on the ground, he entered a mass of white fog.

"Don't worry, I'll return right away"

As the white fog scattered, his voice could be heard again.

—-since this was related to many things including that secret, it's best that as few people know about it as possible.

There are some secrets that put people in danger simply by knowing them.

A certain corner of the city.

The white fog scattered.

Gu Qing Shan quickly arranged an isolation formation before carefully examining this shadow monster statue.

A fragment...

As Gu Qing Shan stayed silent, he heard his father's message replaying by his ears.

...

[---You must seize your time and search for worlds with the Jurisdiction attribute]

[The key mold is capable of manifesting, fusing, and forging the core of those worlds into a part of the Traveler's Key]

[Once you've obtained the complete key, you'd be able to flee]

[---Head to the Dusty World, that location is the gathering place of many worlds with the Jurisdiction attribute]

...

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

---right now, there's a secret that belongs to an Apocalypse before my eyes.

At the time, the War God UI had described this secret.

...

[The most precious secret within the Reality Gate]

...

What kind of secret could be described as 'precious'?

Gu Qing Shan absentmindedly thought this.

However, since a fragment of the Traveler's Proof was able to unlock this secret, then let's cast a fragment into the mold first!

Having decided this, he took out a metal mold from his chest.

— the casting mold of the Traveler's Proof

As soon as the mold appeared, the evil Holy Relic on the ground sensed it and began to tremble terribly.

The entire evil Holy Relic flew into the air and fell onto the metal key mold, then gradually melted into a liquid that poured itself into the opening of the mold.

This liquid moved along the opening and eventually stopped right below the key handle that was created from the three coins, lightly attaching itself onto it.

The liquid quickly solidified and formed a short piece of the key's body.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but shake his head.

— *the part of the key casted by this evil Holy Relic is too short, it's not even 1/5th of the entire key.*

It seems I'll need to find more jurisdiction worlds in order to completely cast a Traveler's Key using this mold.

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

[Attention]

[Something is about to occur...]

A mass of translucent light emerged from Gu Qing Shan's chest, hovering above Gu Qing Shan's hand right in front of the key mold.

—-this was the secret that Shroud entrusted to him at the time.

A voice could suddenly be heard from the translucent light:

[After betraying the Apocalypse Sequences, as well as numerous battles and fleeing, I finally found this Reality Gate]

[Other than me, no one would notice any issues with it]

[—-because it was exactly the same as the other Reality Gates]

The voice paused shortly before continuing:

[Without having the key...]

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[Even if they capture me, they would still not be able to find out this secret]

[In short, my secret cannot be told to anyone, even I will forget it as well— up until the day when I find the Traveler's Key]

[The entire secret lies within this thought, waiting for a day in the future...]

At this point, the voice suddenly disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

—so, this mass of translucent light was originally just a thought in the frozen corpse's head.

What kind of secret was hidden within this thought?

A few lines of glowing text quickly appeared in front of his eyes:

[Attention, half of the secret's sealing technique that is beyond your understanding had been released]

[You must be very careful with listening and talking about it]

Gu Qing Shan instantly became fully focused and prepared himself.

Very quickly, the voice continued from the translucent mass of light:

[—With the last of my power, I discovered an absolute ‘Effect’ among the numerous undetermined futures]

[At a certain point in the future, everything within the Reality Gate would no longer be salvageable]

[At the very moment that the Samsara Clash for Supremacy begins, the Apocalyptic Envoys hidden among the six realms will also awaken]

[The Apocalyptic Envoys will summon 99 Apocalypse Sequences to directly break through the Reality Gate and destroy everything within]

[Because of this, if I can find the Traveler’s Key, I must flee this Reality Gate before the Samsara Clash for Supremacy begins!]

[Do not stall, hurry up!]

[The true... is at...]

The voice stopped once again.

The mass of light became a bit dimmer and returned inside Gu Qing Shan’s body.

Gu Qing Shan inhaled a cold breath.

The Samsara Clash for Supremacy absolutely cannot begin!

As soon as it begins, the Apocalyptic Envoys hidden within the Samsara will immediately summon the Apocalypses.

The Samsara was the ultimate weapon of all living beings, but if no one could once again take control of it, how could they fight off the Apocalypses!?

Furthermore, there was clearly a very crucial matter that hasn’t been mentioned, why didn’t it continue?

Gu Qing Shan recalled everything that happened just now and muttered: “War God UI, did you say that this secret was only unlocked by half?”

[Indeed. The Traveler's Proof you obtained wasn't complete, not even half of it was present, so you can only listen to part of the secret. This is the rule established by the frozen corpse, no one would be able to break it] the War God UI replied.

"In order words, I can only learn the entire secret after I obtain the complete Traveler's Proof"

[Correct]

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

The further one proceeds into the Dusty World, the slower time would flow relative to the outside world until it eventually stops.

This is fortunate.

At least I won't have to worry about the Apocalypses suddenly breaking through the Reality Gate.

But the Samsara Clash for Supremacy definitely cannot begin.

Should I give up on the Samsara?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head unwillingly.

The esteemed lady of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance had said that the Samsara was a rare evolution-type jurisdiction world, and only by holding the six realms in one's hand would we have hope.

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

The options in front of me are nothing but absolute certain death.

Firstly, the Samsara Clash for Supremacy definitely cannot begin, otherwise, 99 Apocalypse Sequences will appear to destroy everything.

Secondly, without completing the Samsara Clash for Supremacy, the Samsara would not be able to reforge itself, and not being reforged means the power of its evolution would not be usable.

Thirdly, the Samsara cannot be given up on because it is the only hope to defeat the Apocalypses.

It's impossible.

—then, should I quickly complete the Traveler's Proof and just run?

But then a fourth point would appear:

Shifu's soul fragment remained inside the Samsara, would I be able to give up on Shifu and flee on my own?

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and sighed.

Without Xie Dao Ling, how would I have advanced so rapidly during this life and obtained the Earth sword?

She was an orphan, so she treats us all like her family.

Suddenly, a conversation from the Age of Old resurfaced in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

...

"...bring her to the lower realms, shelter her, and take good care of her for me"

"She is... Xie Dao Ling"

...

This was what Xie Gu Hong said at the time.

—how did I answer him?

...

"Xie... Dao... Ling, I will make sure to remember it"

"Please don't worry, Master, as long as I'm alive, I will definitely protect her"

...

Gu Qing Shan's expression became stiff.

Indeed.

As long as I'm still alive, I will definitely protect her!

Even a death trap...

Doesn't necessarily mean there isn't a solution.

Gu Qing Shan silently put the key mold away and stepped back into the white fog, disappearing from sight..

Chapter 1660

Translator: La0o9

The white fog scattered.

Gu Qing Shan once again appeared in front of Laura.

Although Gu Qing Shan's expression seemed normal, Laura suddenly felt a sense of heaviness appear in her mind.

—what happened?

Or rather, what kind of problem did Gu Qing Shan run into?

After thinking for a bit, Laura felt a bit dejected.

What good would it do even if I asked?

He had already awoken a Realm Force, while I still haven't been able to help at all.

"Is everything done?" Laura asked only that.

"Hm, don't worry" Gu Qing Shan nodded and smiled.

The heroic spirit girl said: 『 Indeed, I can no longer sense that evil Holy relic 』

Gu Qing Shan turned to her and asked: "Something so serious had happened in your city, how come none of the other locations in the Dusty World reacted towards this at all?"

『 Interference with other world systems is absolutely forbidden—— this is the rule that the entire Dusty World adheres to 』 the girl explained.

Laura and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances.

“That can’t be right. With all the people of your world dead, the world would fall into the complete control of evil, someone should have come to help you” Laura couldn’t help but say.

The girl smiled.

『 Considering that you are newcomers, you’ve most likely misunderstood something 』

“What do you mean?”

『 The Dusty World is the fusion of numerous world systems, all of which fought against the Apocalypse and failed, having left with no choice but to flee from their own Realities and gather here. This created the Dusty World 』

“WHAT!?”

『 Even the city under your feet once belonged to an independent world system, regretfully, it was attacked and destroyed until there was only a single city left when it managed to flee from the Reality it existed in and entered the Dusty World 』 the girl explained.

Gu Qing Shan calmly said: “If you’ve already joined the Dusty World, why was it that no one came to your aid?”

『 It is only fair, after all, no one came to help the old man from earlier either 』 the girl replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

The girl continued: 『 To let each world system naturally develop by themselves, this is a strict rule that all world systems must adhere to— in other words, if Evil had been able to triumph, it would only prove that it was the suitable choice for the world system as a whole, allowing the Dusty World to become stronger 』

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: “So that’s what it meant”

There was no distinction between good and evil.

It all boiled down to natural selection.

Only those who survive and become stronger would be recognized, as they were the kind of power that the Dusty World currently needed.

Sure enough, the girl continued: 『 Even without considering that, there are many world systems that simply can’t come to mutual understanding, and no one had the capability to arbitrarily interfere with someone else’s world— 』

『 Because of this, the most crucial rule within the Dusty World was absolute non-interference between world systems, but when it is the time to fight against the Apocalypse, all world systems must not hold anything back 』

Glancing at the two of them, she added: 『 Of course, the situation would be very different for newcomers like yourself— I’m guessing that Laura’s ancestral spirit will arrive very soon 』

A small blue bird flew down from the sky and landed on Laura’s shoulder.

It intimately rubbed its head against Laura, then spoke in human language: “[Returned Bramble Blood], the Gloomy City world system had been changed by you and your warrior’s actions. You have now obtained the qualifications of the past and can continue to wield the Realm Force of the Bramble Bird race”

A glowing covenant suddenly appeared.

Laura nervously asked: “This is...”

The bird turned to the girl and spoke: “Saint heroic spirit of Gloomy City, are you willing—“

『 I’m willing 』 the girl cut its question off and replied.

The small bird then said: “Very well, then the covenant had been formed”

Instantly, the glowing covenant flew in front of Laura and unraveled itself.

Several lines of text were inscribed on it quite neatly.

[The two sides of the covenant:]

[Bramble bloodline: Laura]

[Saint heroic spirit girl: Tear]

[Agreement:]

[The wealth of the Bramble Birds will provide the means of revitalizing the Gloomy City, while the saint spirit will be ready to answer the empress’ summon at any time and fight along her side]

[Witness:]

[Pure Man: Gu Qing Shan]

The covenant hovered in front of Laura, Gu Qing Shan, and the young girl, Tear, respectively.

The small blue bird explained: “Our Bramble Bird race had already disappeared from the Dusty World a long time ago, but the Dusty World as a whole continues to remember us without fail—“

“Laura, you have obtained the first Bramble Realm Force, and the further you venture towards the center of the Dusty World, the stronger your powers will grow!”

The small blue bird turned into a streak and light and flew into the sky, quickly disappearing without a trace.

Laura looked at the girl with a strange expression.

She hesitantly asked: “That is to say...”

The girl smiled and walked forward, curtsying to greet Laura: 『 I am Tear. From now on, you can summon me to fight any time you wish. Of course, you do not need to pay anything else other than a bit of wealth to help our world 』

Gu Qing Shan commented: “In other words—- Laura’s Bramble Realm Force is her paying money for you to help her fight, is that correct?”

『 Indeed. According to the legends, whenever the Bramble Bird King wanted to fight someone, countless spirits from many Realities would have to compete with one another to answer their summon, so it is my honor that I can become her very first summoned spirit 』 the girl smiled and nodded.

Laura hurriedly asked: “Can I ask how much wealth I would have to give up every time I summon you?”

The girl pointed at the tattered dark city behind her and replied: 『 Currently, I will require a few rare plants and dirt in order to help the city regain its initial vitality 』

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Laura sighed in relief: “That isn’t much at all”

The girl continued: 『 As the city gradually regains its vitality, I will also grow stronger, so I will most likely require more wealth and treasure 』

“For example?” Laura asked.

The girl waved her hand.

One of the gems from the mountain of gems just next to them flew into her hand.

『 You will probably need to provide a few gems every time you want to summon me 』 the girl said with an embarrassed tone.

“Just that?” Laura relaxed her hands and asked.

『 Just that 』 the girl nodded.

Laura sighed in relief and muttered: “Then I can keep summoning you until the end of time...”

Gu Qing Shan slowly became speechless as he listened to their conversation.

Realm Force——

In order for me to obtain Realm Force, I had to venture into the past and fight a horde of monsters, then even needed the help of the Master of the Blood Sea Valhalla in order to awaken [Realm Spirit Descent]

It was said that Realm Force represented a limit of power, the symbol of the ‘strong’.

——but this limit doesn’t seem to affect Laura at all.

All she had to do was sign a contract...

At this point, Laura pulled a large bag out from her backpack and handed it to Tear.

“This is Wood Spirits dirt that I’ve collected, there should be around 300,000 hectares here, quite enough for you to use”

She then took out a small box and explained: “There are seeds of powerful war plants in here that can turn the entire city into a war fortress— they can usually grow anywhere, but they particularly like Wood Spirits dirt”

“And also——”

Laura then took out another large trunk and placed it on the ground with a thud, then explained like she was used to it: “I can see that you’re a spirit who trends towards the good and holy attributes, so this entire trunk is full of Eternal Holy Light Originites, it’s very precious, but I’ll give it all to you”

Bam!

The trunk was opened.

The night was illuminated by the gems so brightly that it practically became daytime.

Staring at the trunk full of gems, Tear muttered while flustered: 『 There's no need, that is too much 』

Laura clenched her small hand and said: “What do you mean there's too much, you can seize this chance to get stronger even faster. I don't want to just sit back and watch in a battle— I want to fight alongside Gu Qing Shan!”

『 Even so, there's no need for so much 』

“Take it”

『 It's really too much 』

“Take it”

『 I can't take all of this 』

“Take it”

『 ——thank you, empress 』

Tear accepted Laura's present and solemnly bowed: 『 Don't worry, I will grow stronger very rapidly, you can summon me in battle at any time you wish 』

“Hm, that's much better”

Laura waved her hand and finally felt assured.

Gu Qing Shan said: "This place is the border of the Dusty World, so the time difference between it and the outside world isn't very pronounced, we need to quickly move further inside"

The girl understood and pointed her hand into the void of space, mumbling some incantations under her breath.

Holy runes of light suddenly manifested out of nowhere and formed into a temporary teleportation circle.

『 I've visited a nearby world system in the past and had kept the teleportation circle they provided at the time; I'll send the two of you there now 』 Tear said.

"Thank you"

She and Gu Qing Shan both stood onto the teleportation circle.

Before the circle was activated, Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked:

"Tear, do you have a teleportation circle into the inner regions of the Dusty World? Can you send us there directly?"

The girl giggled and answered him: 『 A nearly-destroyed world like the Gloomy City can only fuse with the border of the Dusty World. We don't even have the courage to approach the center, let alone obtain a teleportation circle from them 』

"Why not?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Because the power fluctuations there are so powerful that they could destroy the entire Gloomy City 』 the girl answered.

She then recited another incantation.

The teleportation circle gave off a blinding flash of light, taking both Gu Qing Shan and Laura away.

Only the girl remained here.

Looking at the items on the ground, she sighed in satisfaction.

This world will be rejuvenated.

Since I stand by the side of the Bramble Bird Sovereign, I would naturally grow stronger as time goes by.

Not to mention that [Pure Man].

I've seen that battle earlier with my own eyes.

It was originally supposed to be a desperate battle of the weak against the strong, but it ended so swiftly and one-sidedly.

He isn't a normal person either.

—throughout my entire life's memory, I've never seen such a shamelessly despicable person before.

Of course, calling him shameless and despicable is a bit too much, perhaps it's better to call it...

Tactical?

The girl couldn't help but giggle.

『 I hope that you will truly be able to reach the center of the world... I will also seize my time to grow stronger as well... 』

She told herself..

Chapter 1661

Translator: La0o9

The sun was scorching in the sky.

On top of the cracked and dried ground, a flash of light appeared.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura appeared.

“This looks like a barren wasteland” Laura commented.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes and observed their surroundings.

Although in reality, he was reading the lines of text in the void of space:

[You’ve killed the spirit contained within the evil Holy Relic]

[You obtained 100 Realm Points]

Realm Points?

Gu Qing Shan looked below on the UI and found that the original space for ‘Soul Points value’ has disappeared, now replaced by ‘Realm Points’.

“Hey, aren’t you going to calculate Soul Points again from this point?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God UI replied: [You’ve bridged the gap in power and stepped onto the stage of those universally recognized as ‘strong’. From this point, the System will use Realm Points as statistical value]

[You still cannot use these Realm Points yet, but it can be stored and left for later]

[Note: 1 Realm Point is equivalent to 1 million Soul Points]

[Note: 1 million Soul Points cannot be converted to 1 Realm Point]

After that, Gu Qing Shan’s Realm Points were deducted by 1.

—[Remaining Realm Points: 99]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised and said: “You’re going to charge me 1 million Soul Points for answering one question?”

The War God UI replied: [Have you forgotten? You still owe me for answering your questions while you had no Soul Points, and you haven’t paid me back]

Gu Qing Shan refuted: “Even so, my debt was nowhere near 1 million”

[They were on loan, interest got accumulated upon interest, combined with answering these questions just now, which finally got rounded down to 1 million Soul Points] the War God UI calmly replied.

Gu Qing Shan tilted his head, too lazy to continue arguing with this miser.

This time, he was truly observing his surroundings.

Unfortunately, even after fully releasing his inner sight, all he found in any direction was barren land, he couldn’t even find the limit of the wasteland.

“—I wonder which we’re going to have to move forward now” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Laura giggled: “Have you forgotten this empress’ Title?”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, then laughed as well.

—*Laura’s Title was [Returned Bramble Blood].*

Under her ancestor spirit’s aid, she would not get lost and would be able to head straight towards the center of the Dusty World.

Relatively useful.

While my Title can—

Hah, ok, let's not talk about that.

While Gu Qing Shan was retorting himself, a blue figure flew down from above and landed on Laura's shoulder.

—it was the same small bird from before.

“Laura, and the [Pure Man], listen to me carefully”

It looked a bit anxious.

Laura and Gu Qing Shan both became serious as they noticed this.

“A certain event is about to occur in this world, an unexpected event—”

“The worlds of other Realities had just decided to name this place as the venue of competition for a Dusty Qualification”

“A battle is about to begin”

The two of them were surprised.

Other Realities?

Competition for a Dusty Qualification?

The small bird quickly explained: “With your current knowledge, it will be difficult to explain it clearly— just know that the Dusty World doesn't only exist within your Reality, but other Realities as well”

Gu Qing Shan asked immediately: “If our Reality – our Space Vortex is destroyed by the Apocalypse, what would happen to the Dusty World?”

“It will close the Phase Realm connected to your Reality, thus disappearing from within your Reality Gate” the small bird answered.

“In short, Laura was originally a pure-blooded Bramble daughter, so she was born with the qualifications to enter the Dusty World, as for you, [Pure Man]— you are also a rare first-rate dancer— no, you might have qualified to be a lead dancer, you have also received the qualifications granted by that personage”

“For that reason, neither of you need to compete for the qualifications to enter the center of the Dusty World”

“But the others aren’t the same, they must all try their best in random worlds around the border of the Dusty World to complete for a qualification to simply head deeper into the Dusty World”

“What I’m saying is—”

“The two of you need to avoid any and all competitors and quickly make your way through this world system”

“There is no need to compete with them, nor let anyone discover Laura’s true identity”

“Why is that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“The competitors all came from outside. Unlike the entities of Dusty World who are still influenced by the covenant of the original Bramble Birds, there’s no telling what kind of thing they would be capable of if they knew Laura’s true value and capabilities”

“By the way, they are all very powerful, both their comprehension and usage of Realm Force far surpass newcomers like the two of you”

“Gu Qing Shan is also powerful though” Laura was unconvinced.

The small bird said: “Powerful? You two younglings have only just come into contact with the concept of Realm Force. Currently, you don’t even know how to use Realm Force to protect yourselves, so you’d only be killed if you get hit by your enemy, understood?”

“I understand” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He had truly understood.

This was basically 'being rich is a sin'—

Laura is the owner of wealth, but she doesn't have enough power to actually protect herself.

Once people found out about this, there would only be one outcome for her.

While I'm clearly her danc— sword cultivator bodyguard, anyone would naturally try to kill me first.

The situation is truly a bit dangerous.

"Very well, since you've already understood, I won't remain here any longer, otherwise, those people will notice something as soon as they enter this world" the small blue bird said.

It then suddenly vanished.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a little bit and turned to Laura.

"It put the map into my head just now" Laura said.

"Alright"

Gu Qing Shan picked her up and placed her on his shoulder.

"Where are we heading?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"That way"

Laura pointed in a certain direction.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and shifted into a running stance: "Hang on— I'll be moving at maximum speed to leave this world system as soon as possible"

"Regretfully, no matter how fast you run, we would still need five days to leave this place" Laura replied.

Gu Qing Shan was about to run, but almost tripped over himself when he heard this.

“How long?”

“Five days”

“Do you know how fast I can run?”

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“No, it’s because this world accounts for travel distance by time. We need to go in that direction for five days before we can leave”

“...Adding rest time into that, wouldn’t that be around six days?”

“Yeah”

Gu Qing Shan looked ahead.

A clear blue sky.

No clouds as far as the eye can see.

The sun brightly shone from above their heads.

A vast expanse of barren wasteland.

Five days...

“Then if we go slowly——”

“It’ll be the same, we will leave this world after five full days” Laura replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

What an unexpected world system, completely inexplicable.

Now I understand what the saint heroic spirit girl said.

...

『...There are certain world systems that simply can't come to a mutual understanding, and no one could easily influence another person's world——』

...

Other than that, the Dusty World and the Doomsday Necropolis are also two polar opposites.

The Doomsday Necropolis was a gathering place of worlds that were already completely destroyed.

While the Dusty World houses world systems that had managed to survive their respective Apocalyptic war long enough to flee.

And since these world systems had gathered together, they were more powerful compared to any individual world systems!

But what about the Samsara?

Even that esteemed lady had said that the Samsara was the final hope...

Gu Qing Shan temporarily stopped thinking about this.

He simply stepped forward and slowly began walking.

“Laura, from this point, you will need to continuously maintain [Infinite Worlds Shelter], or not expose any of your abilities at all” he told her.

“Continue to use [Infinite Worlds Shelter] for five days? I’ll be exhausted to death. I choose to not do anything” Laura replied.

“Alright, then I’ll carry you like this, just sit and rest” Gu Qing Shan said.

“—I can just take out one of my vehicles for us to use instead of walking, it should be fine” Laura suggested.

“No, you shouldn’t do anything at all. Since we don’t know what any of these people are capable of, it’s best that we remain cautious” Gu Qing Shan carefully reminded her.

He also took off the rings on his hand and carefully concealed them.

In Dream Island, those mercenaries recognized his Bramble Bird ring.

Although he no longer has the Bramble Bird ring, the ring he was wearing was even more precious.

“Hey— if I got kidnapped, would you feel sad, Gu Qing Shan?” Laura snuck a glance at him.

“Of course” Gu Qing Shan seriously nodded.

Laura lifted her chin: “Then this empress shall restrain myself for now, I’ll be relying on you for the next five days”

“Don’t worry” Gu Qing Shan said.

As soon as he said that, his expression slightly changed.

Far above the sky, near the horizon, bright bursts of light descended from above like a beautiful meteor shower.

“Gu Qing Shan” Laura called out.

“Hm, they all feel very powerful” Gu Qing Shan commented.

—-the competitors for the Dusty Qualification have arrived.

They will fight one another to death in this world for a single qualification to head deeper into the Dusty World.

Laura was a bit concerned: “We still indeed have no idea how to defend ourselves with Realm Force, what now?”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t answer and simply grasped two swords from the void of space in each of his hands.

Suddenly.

A scorching burst of light flew straight towards the two of them from the sky far above.

This burst of light swiftly landed a bit away from them.

Boom!

The impact caused dust and sand to be blown in every direction.

When the aftermath of impact had subsided, they saw a bull slowly standing up from the crater.

It turned to Laura and Gu Qing Shan.

「 Two similarly smelly humans, it’s a shame that you ran into me before anyone else 」 the bull declared.

Killing intent burst out!

Gu Qing Shan immediately raised both hands: “Wait! We surrender, we’re actually just bystanders, we don’t have the qualifications to participate”

The swords in his hands fell down and caused a metallic clanging.

As the bull looked at the two of them, it confirmed that the little girl indeed didn’t pose any threat—— while the human man had already dropped both of his weapons, even his legs were trembling.

What a spineless fellow, even his eyes are popping out.

The bull scoffed at them but also sighed in relief.

——they really were just bystanders.

Seems like I’m quite lucky this time.

It’s quite opportune as well, I can use these two to warm myself up and let the smell of blood drift a bit.

That’ll act as a deterrent as well.

The bull grinned: 「 I’m still going to kill you both, just in case 」

As soon as it said that, a flash of lightning struck its body, followed by a lightning wraith that entered its body, and finally numerous sword phantoms.

Realm spirits appeared one after another without pausing, pounding the bull for three minutes straight before they finally stopped.

The bull laid motionlessly on the ground.

Oong——

The two swords that were originally on the ground lazily hovered back up, each of them tapping Gu Qing Shan's shoulder a single time.

「Yup, excellent act」

“You're really fast to enter that state huh”

After leaving these comments, they disappeared into the void of space behind Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan brought Laura up to the bull's body and explained:

“I've thought about it earlier. Since we don't know how to defend, let's just not give them the chance to attack”

“Also, to serve as a threat, we're eating beef tonight”

Laura cheered: “That thing had the gall to call this empress smelly, let's eat it!”

Chapter 1662

Translator: La0o9

The sun was setting to the west.

Laura sat on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder as the two of them made their way towards the setting sun.

“Hah, Gu Qing Shan, it tastes so good!”

She excitedly said while holding several large skewers of meat in her hand.

“It would be even better with some beer, but since we might have to face a lot of issues, we can't drink alcohol”

Gu Qing Shan commented while handing a bottle of fruit juice to Laura.

In the sky, an occasional shooting star could be seen descending.

However, those shooting stars all landed very far from where they were, unlike before.

“It’ll be great if we get something else like a lamb or chicken”

“No worries, the amount we currently have is enough for quite a while”

“Whoa, I just knew that traveling with you is a great thing, Gu Qing Shan. Big sis Anna is so fortunate”

“...”

— we still need to travel for another five days in order to leave this world system.

Running into a competitor isn’t a big issue, since we can fight or leave as we wish.

— it’s not like there are any rules saying that we can’t flee if we can’t beat them.

But what should we do if we run into an organized group?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly had such a thought.

He paused briefly, then continued to head forward.

“Whoa, Gu Qing Shan, look at how beautiful that sun set is, we should run towards it!” Laura excitedly said.

“Alright” Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and answered her.

Let’s deal with the issue as they come.

This world is extraordinarily large, so much so that my inner sight can't even reach the border of the wasteland, so Laura and I shouldn't be so unfortunate that we run into a whole group of competitors.

Gu Qing Shan's steps became wider as he began to run towards the sunset.

On his shoulder, Laura's cheers could be heard.

"Forward!"

...

The wasteland.

Still a barren wasteland.

The location where Gu Qing Shan and Laura fought the bull.

Numerous people were gathered here.

They were all fully armed and standing in formation, each of them carrying themselves with a considerable degree of skill and experience.

Suddenly, all of them appeared startled.

A voice announced:

"Attention all hands present!"

"The guard group has met up with the leader and is currently heading towards us, they'll arrive in three minutes!"

"Remain vigilant, keep up your fighting spirit, don't displease the leader"

The atmosphere of the camp became even sharper.

A few minutes later.

Cha-clak! Cha-clak! Cha-clak!

A man covered from head to toe in metal entered the camp with two groups of Professionals around him.

“Hm, your spirit is decent, that’s exactly how you all should be”

The man commented with a pleased tone.

His hair was fashioned into a mohawk, he had a cigar in his mouth, and was wearing black sunglasses.

—other than his head, his entire body seemed to have been made out of metal, rather than covered in it.

“Boss, we discovered something very unusual, would you like to take a look?” someone reported.

The man replied: “Of course I do. Now that the qualification battle has begun, we can’t arbitrarily let any bit of information pass”

Still surrounded by his subordinates, he approached a mound of dirt.

“Now what do we have here?” the man asked with interest.

Behind him, a subordinate stepped forward and clapped his hands: “[Olfactory Rewind]!”

A thick but pleasant fragrance filled the entire area.

The metal man's nose twitched slightly: "This... could it be the smell of braised beef?"

The subordinate earnestly reported: "Not only that, but there was also beef shoulder roast, grilled beef liver, peppered beef willow, beef meatball curry, braised beef sauté with vegetables, wine-poached beef tongue, stir-fry sliced beef, smoked beef tail, as well as black pepper beef steak"

The man chuckled: "It seems we have a chef among our competitors this time"

"Leader, we've used technological cross-referencing to confirm that the bull was Sitar" the subordinate continued in a whisper.

The man's smile disappeared completely; his entire metal body gave off a small grinding noise.

A terrifying wave of killing intent erupted from his body.

"What— did you— just say—?" he practically emphasized every word.

"Leader... it truly was Sitar" the subordinate knelt down and reported once again.

The grating noises coming from the metal man's body became increasingly louder and more rapid.

His surroundings became completely silent, everyone was holding their breaths while silently lowering their heads.

"If it was killed, why didn't you continue to investigate?" the metal man asked with an unchanged expression.

"Because to activate the temporal reconstruction machine, we will need to expend 3.5% of the Society's entire wealth. Without your permission, we didn't dare to activate it on our own" the subordinate continued his report.

“—Ahahahaha!”

The metal man suddenly laughed hysterically.

“That damned thief Sitar, legends had it that he would always be attracted by wealth and subconsciously approach places with boundless treasure— I couldn’t believe that he would be the one completely devoured by someone else!”

“How very interesting”

“Relay my orders and activate the temporal reconstruction machine. I’d like to see just who it was that killed him!”

With the metal man’s order, the entire camp moved into action.

After not too long, a large machine had been assembled in front of the metal man.

The machine appeared almost like a giant cannon, but also similar to a thin and long washing machine.

“Activating in T minus five!” someone loudly declared as they operated the machine.

“Four!”

“Three!”

“Two!”

“One!”

Spiraling ray emerged from the nozzle of the cannon to strike the small mound of dirt.

Instantly, a 3D simulation image of Sitar descended from the sky in front of them.

「 Two similarly smelly humans, you must be quite unfortunate that you ran into me before anyone else
」 the bull declared.

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Gu Qing Shan and Laura both appeared in the vision.

How he tossed his swords aside, unleashed his Realm Force, and killed Sitar was perfectly replicated for the metal man to see.

Followed by the process of them making food.

“Enough”

The metal waved his hand dismissively.

The entire vision vanished in a flash.

His subordinate cautiously asked for orders: “Boss, what do you say I organize some brothers and...”

The mental man tossed his cigar away and impatiently said: “Stop with the nonsense, that person’s combat instincts and skills aren’t normal. If you guys followed me, he’ll probably notice before you even come close, so——”

“You’re going to go by yourself?”

“Naturally”

A jet-black metal helmet suddenly emerged from his metal body to cover his entire head.

His eyes began to glow in blue.

[Discovered crime scene, confirming the target to be wicked]

[Causality Law has been established]

[Initiating Judgement of the Saint Cavalry]

[Begin!]

Boom—

The metal man shot into the air like a blurred image and vanished from everyone's sight.

After he left, everyone sighed in relief.

"It's time for the Boss to pass this judgement again"

"Indeed, as long as he had witnessed the process of the crime, unless they honestly answered all of his questions, they would surely die"

"Against a criminal, the Boss' strength would be increased by 200%, no matter how sly that person earlier was, they wouldn't be able to win against the Boss"

"Naturally, no one had ever been able to defeat the Boss after he activates his ability"

"Alright, let's clean up and wait for the Boss to return"

...

At another location.

Gu Qing Shan was running towards the sunset while carrying Laura on his shoulder.

He suddenly sensed something and stood still.

What is this feeling?

Someone seems to be approaching—

How fast!

"Gu Qing Shan, why did you stop running?" Laura asked.

"...Someone is pursuing us"

After answering, Gu Qing Shan drew his twin swords and shifted into a fighting stance.

He could sense that the other party would appear in about half a minute.

Suddenly, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've been affected by a Causality Law]

[You've been confirmed as wicked]

[This Causality Law is infallible, a judgement passed through justice, you cannot avoid it]

[Attention: The other party had become 200% stronger]

[Additionally, during the questioning process, you must honestly answer all of their questions, otherwise, you must follow an order from the other party—-- this order cannot be refused, even if they ask you to commit suicide, you must immediately suicide as well]

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

Such a Causality Law exists?

If I don't answer honestly, I'll die?

He didn't have time to think anything else before the War God UI produced more lines of glowing text:

[In consideration that the other party has determined you to be a wicked target, your Title 'Pure Man' has been automatically activated]

[Your Title ability: 'Innocent' has been activated]

[Innocent: The entire Dusty World stands witness to your innocence, no one would be able to badmouth or accuse you without reason]

[—Whenever you do anything or get caught in any incidents, keep in mind that you are innocent]

[Combat results: Innocent has triumphed over the other party's Causality Law]

[You now have two choices:]

[Firstly, using your innocent, immediately break free of the Causality Law's restrain and make it so that they do not become 200% stronger, but the other party will immediately realize this result]

[Secondly, accept the other party's question and let them become 200% stronger, but you can choose not to tell the truth without the other party realizing it]

Right after Gu Qing Shan finished reading, a figure suddenly appeared from the horizon and reached him in mere seconds.

The figure had shown itself.

—-a metallic humanoid monster!

"Brat, who exactly are you?" the humanoid monster grinned and asked.

Immense killing intent radiated from its body, clearly targeting Gu Qing Shan without any intentions of hiding it.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes.

If this was the case, then naturally—

He cleared his throat and answered with a serious expression:

"I am the disciple of the number one Combatant from the Dusty World. My master has given me the qualifications to return, so I'm currently heading towards the center of the Dusty World"

Complete silence.

A gust of wind blew past them.

——the metal monster was stunned.

My Causality Law...

Is working normally.

The metal monster looked at Gu Qing Shan again.

This guy was actually telling the truth.

In order words——

He's the disciple of the number one Combatant of the Dusty World?

Then——

After not even a second of being stunned, the metal monster suddenly took off its helmet as well as its sunglasses to display a wrinkled smiling expression.

“Good brother, I’ve witnessed your grand figure from afar, so I wanted to come closer to say hi. After all, it was definitely predestination to meet one another in a vast wasteland like this!”

He lowered himself to greet Gu Qing Shan, then stepped forward and offered him a cigar.

“Ah? Weren’t you full of killing intent earlier?” Gu Qing Shan accepted the cigar and asked curiously.

The metal man puffed his chest out and answered like he was surprised: “How could that be! You must have been mistaken; I was just excited!”

“But this cigar——”

Click!

Before he even finished his words, a lighter had already lit the cigar.

“This cigar is from my personal stash. I’ve never shared it with anyone before, but since I can feel a sense of connection between us right as we meet, like heroes who happen to become acquainted among the masses of mundane people, I can’t help but be emotional— just take a drag and you’d understand the emotions that it represents”

“Really?”

“Enjoy it! Please, I insist!”

Chapter 1663

Gu Qing Shan took a deep drag from the cigar and breathed out a puff of smoke.

Without mentioning anything, this cigar is truly extraordinary.

“From now on, you’re my sworn brother. Whoever tries to offend you, just tell them my name, I guarantee it’ll be useful” the metal man patted his chest loudly.

—his entire body was made of metal, only his head still looked humanoid.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Good brother, who exactly are you?”

“Liao Xiao Pao, but to my good friends throughout the infinite worlds, I’m known as Ironman”

“Niao Xiao Pao?”

“—Liao Xiao Pao!” the metal man waved his hand and produced a few words written in common human language.

“Then should I call you brother Iron, or brother Liao?”

“Either is ok”

“Brother Iron, why did you suddenly arrive to pass judgement on me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Liao Xiao Pao opened his eyes wide and refuted: “Judgement? I’m hardly qualified to use that word, by the way, did you get hurt at all?”

“I didn’t really get hurt, I just had an inexplicable hunch—— as if I was caught in some sort of Causality Law, unless I answer your questions honestly, I’ll be ordered to do something” Gu Qing Shan answered while weaving truth and lie.

Liao Xiao Pao was silently startled.

This person is truly impressive, being able to guess 70-80% of my ability even without noticing anything.

“Oh, that’s a misunderstanding, nothing but a misunderstanding. I’ll be honest, this is because I like to play game” he hurriedly said.

“Game? You’re telling me that this is a game?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

“That’s right” Liao Xiao Pao answered with a serious expression: “Good brother, you probably don’t know, but this is one of the trendiest games recently. It’s called Truth or Dare, if you can’t answer the truth, you’d have to take a dare—— that’s why you felt that way”

Gu Qing Shan silently looked at him.

A line of glowing text hovered in the void of space:

[Causality Law: Judgement of the Saint Cavalry has disappeared]

——*who are you trying to deceive, ‘truth or dare’*

If it wasn’t for the Title [Pure Man], I might actually have already fallen victim!

However, since he couldn't actually say that; Gu Qing Shan simply complained to himself.

"Alright, brother Iron, I'll be heading off to leave this world system now" Gu Qing Shan said.

"You're leaving already?" Liao Xiao Pao asked in surprise.

"That's right. There's nothing in this world at all, not even a single living being. I'm on my way to the next world system, then make my way further until I reach the central region of the Dusty World" Gu Qing Shan answered with half the truth.

Liao Xiao Pao observed the direction he was heading in, then lightly pressed his hand on a card reader inside his sleeves.

Tick!

A voice sounded from his mind:

[Boss, we've finished the cross examination, this person's name isn't on the list of competitors this time]

[—Furthermore, the Bell Tower world doesn't allow anyone to arbitrarily walk around during the daytime, yet not only did he manage to appear out of nowhere, but no one had even tried to stop him. Most likely he had received a different authority from ours—-]

[But other than qualification competitions, the Dusty World usually doesn't permit entry unless someone from the inside had granted him the qualifications]

[Boss, please don't kill him arbitrarily, this brat might have quite the background]

Liao Xiao Pao listened to the entire report with an unchanging expression.

Seems like it was the truth.

I can't possibly fight him, or rather, I won't fight him again for the rest of my life as long as I'm not an idiot.

But should I really just let him go?

“I think I still haven’t asked your name yet”

“Gu Qing Shan, this is my younger sister, Gu Laura”

Laura smiled at Ironman.

“You two, it’s not a good either to keep heading out like that since it’s almost night time already”

“What would happen at night?” Gu Qing Shan asked, seemingly interested.

“Didn’t your master tell you?” Liao Xiao Pao asked.

“This is my first time in the Dusty World. I got directly transported here from another world system, so of course I wouldn’t know” Gu Qing Shan answered like it was obvious.

Liao Xiao Pao narrowed his eyes.

That’s true.

It makes sense.

—people who have directly obtained their qualifications usually make their way into a world system on their own.

The bigshots will grant them qualifications but wouldn’t tell them anything else.

There are no issues with this youngster!

More importantly, he said that he wanted to head deeper into the world.

This is the center of the Dusty World we’re talking about!

Liao Xiao Pao was terribly shocked.

“Brother Gu, there’s no issue with the direction you’re heading in, but you’ll need to travel for five days straight before you can leave, did you know that?” he patted Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder and intimately asked.

“I know” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Then how about coming with your brother here? It’s already late, so let big brother take you to a place you can enjoy yourself in” Liao Xiao Pao offered.

Gu Qing Shan appeared troubled: “But I need to hurry up and head out——”

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“Ahaha, don’t worry, I know a certain kind of item in this world that can reduce the required time and let you leave this world a lot quicker. If you come with me, I’ll help you get one of them, how’s that?” Liao Xiao Pao said.

Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit hesitant.

At this point, it was nearly nightfall already, but a bit of commotion could suddenly be heard from afar.

“What’s that noise?” Gu Qing Shan became cautious.

“It’s nothing, they’re my men. They were helping me prepare a gift earlier, so it’s just about time that they arrived” Liao Xiao Pao said.

Gift?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, a spaceship rapidly approached them from the sky.

Fwoom——

The spaceship had landed in front of the three of them.

Professionists disembarked from the spaceship one after another.

The Professionalist who came down first was carrying a box with him and respectfully presented it to Ironman Liao Xiao Pao.

Ironman Liao Xiao Pao opened the box and explained:

“This thing right here is the universal encyclopedia of cooking recipes in our Reality. I noticed that brother Gu seemed to be someone who knows how to enjoy himself, so I’d like to give you this chip as a present”

He handed a computer chip to Gu Qing Shan.

This time, Gu Qing Shan was truly interested. To be able to cook food that he had never seen or thought about before was truly an interesting thing to him.

“Thank you, brother Iron, I like this gift a lot, but I don’t think I have anything to give you in return” Gu Qing Shan said.

Liao Xiao Pao put up his hand and told him without concern: “There’s no need to be so formal like that. When night time comes, I’ll take you to where you can find that item”

“You mean the item that can reduce our remaining time?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That’s right, it can probably reduce your time by four and a half days” Liao Xiao Pao replied.

—*—in order words, I’ll only need to walk for half a day before we can leave!*

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

If something like that does exist, I naturally need it.

“Alright, then we’ll wait here until nightfall” he finally said.

Liao Xiao Pao appeared delighted and ordered: “Men, prepare some alcohol, let me and brother Gu enjoy a few drinks while we wait until nightfall”

— — —the sun had already set.

Gu Qing Shan and Liao Xiao Pao drank a few large bottles of alcohol, while Laura also got to enjoy a few new kinds of fruit juices.

One of his subordinates stepped forward and reported in a whisper: “Boss, it should be soon”

Liao Xiao Pao then said: “Brother Gu, we’ve only known each other for a short time, but I can feel a clear connection between us. The members of our Ironman Vengeance Corps are all hotblooded young men, so if you have anything you need later on, just come to us”

Gu Qing Shan laughed and replied: “Very well, then if brother Iron has something you need help with later on, you can come to this Gu Qing Shan as well”

Liao Xiao Pao’s eyes lit up briefly in joy, then put down his glass and laughed heartily: “Come, let big brother show you the true face of this world”

He took out two pairs of metal glasses from behind his back, handed one of them to Gu Qing Shan and put one on himself.

“Little sister Gu, I’m sorry, but these things are too precious, and I only have two of them with me, so if you want to take a look, you’ll have to borrow it from your brother”

Laura pursed her lips, a bit displeased.

As Gu Qing Shan accepted the metal glasses, lines of glowing text appeared in the void of space:

[You've obtained a pair of Void Phase Realm Glasses]

[Through these glasses, you will be able to observe Phase Realms that overlap with the main world, continuing this effect for two hours]

[After two hours, the Void Phase Realm Glasses will be completely broken]

Skimming through this, Gu Qing Shan handed the glasses to Laura.

"Big brother, you can use it, no need to care about me" Laura was naturally considerate and hurriedly refused.

"It's ok, I can already see it" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Complete silence.

"Brother Gu, what did you just say?" Liao Xiao Pao asked.

"Phase Realms, I can see them" Gu Qing Shan explained.

Liao Xiao Pao remained silent a bit and explained: "... That is... Brother Gu, mortals cannot possibly observe Phase Realm with their naked eyes——"

He suddenly stopped talking.

Gu Qing Shan was pointing at a certain point in the sky.

In that place, a city was slowly appearing from the void of space and gradually turned from incorporeal to solid.

The city gave off a mystical light that fully illuminated the night sky.

“There’s a city there, isn’t there?”

Gu Qing Shan simply commented.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You’ve discovered the Void Phase Realm: Utopia of Sins]

[This is a world with the dream and death jurisdiction, please be prepared to protect your life]

Chapter 1664

Translator: La0o9

“How unexpected, you actually manage to observe the Utopia of Sins” Liao Xiao Pao sighed.

This person’s actions have proven his status time and time again.

“Why is it called the ‘Utopia of Sins’?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“The characteristic of this world system is that it is friendly to any and every type of ‘spirit’ — meaning that no matter what kind of spirit they are, they would be able to utilize the simplest mean to arrive at the Utopia of Sins”

“What does ‘sin’ mean here?” Gu Qing Shan then asked.

“— ‘spirits’ are varied and irregular, they do not care about good and evil, so a lot of their actions can be considered sins to us”

While explaining, Liao Xiao Pao also observed Gu Qing Shan and couldn’t help himself asking: “You seem to have only awoken Realm Force not too long ago, how can you observe a Phase Realm without aid?”

“What’s wrong with that? From your expression, I assume it’s very surprising?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked in return.

Liao Xiao Pao’s expression became solemn.

There’s really nothing that can’t be said right now.

After all, the other party had only just entered the Dusty World for the very first time, while his master seemed to have not explained the situation clearly for one reason or another.

—this is the exact time to get acquainted with him!

Liao Xiao Pao answered without holding anything back: “It’s extremely rare to be able to directly observe a Phase Realm, only extremely rare legendary jurisdiction worlds would be able to grant such an ability”

Extremely rare?

Gu Qing Shan silently parroted these words.

For some reason, he recalled what the Master of the Blood Sea Valhalla had told him:

...

『...The Twin Rivers of Life and Death world system includes the River of Life, River of Death, as well as the Blood Sea, it is three parts of the same Saint Realm cycle... 』

『You are the Death God of the River of Death, combined with my guidance and support, you’d definitely be able to awaken an extraordinary path of Realm Force cultivation 』

...

So, what exactly is going on with the Twin Rivers of Life and Death?

Apparent, it had already existed from before the frozen corpse used its blood to create the Deities?

After some thinking, Gu Qing Shan realized that there was too little information to draw any conclusions, so he had to let this thought go.

While he simply stood there without responding, he had instead caused Liao Xiao Pao to consider him even more mysterious.

“Alright, brother Gu, after this I’ll head into the Utopia to find you the item that lets you leave this jurisdiction world in half a day” Liao Xiao Pao said.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a brief moment.

Originally, this qualification competition had nothing to do with him or Laura, so he didn’t need to care about it at all.

But he still remembered a certain thing.

During my battle against the two Unfathomable Apocalypses, the esteemed lady of the Sacrificial Dance had exchanged a painting I was carrying for power for me to actually fight that battle.

A certain illusory vision had manifested at the time——

Thinking back, perhaps that was a Phase Realm as well?

In that painting, a blurred figure had said: 『... But this painting’s power is very limited, it could only allow a tiny bit of your spirit to descend... 』

Then, was that esteemed lady similar to a ‘spirit’ as well?

Even while she couldn’t completely descend, she was capable of summoning skeletons out of nowhere to help me block a combined attack from the two Unfathomable Apocalypses, displaying her unimaginable strength.

Furthermore, my first Realm Force was [Realm Spirit Descent]

In other words——

‘Spirits’ are the keys to Realm Force?

And the Utopia of Sins was a Phase Realm that belonged to spirits.

Shouldn’t I come with him to take a look and better understand what ‘spirits’ were?

“Brother Iron, can I come with you to widen my perspective a bit as well?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked.

Liao Xiao Pao cracked his neck a bit and laughed heartily, answering:

“Without an invitation, no one would be able to enter that city, I think you should just remain here and wait”

At this point, several fully armed subordinates approached Liao Xiao Pao and reported in unison:

“Boss, the qualification competition is about to begin’

“Hm” Liao Xiao Pao affirmed.

He turned to Gu Qing Shan and smiled wryly: “Good brother, your brother very unfortunately does not have as much status as you do, that’s why I had to participate in this deathmatch in the Utopia”

“Deathmatch? To obtain the qualification to enter the Dusty World, you need to fight in a deathmatch?” Gu Qing Shan was confused.

“That’s right. While we fight to the death in this ‘ring’, the various spirits will observe us from the stands— if someone was fortunate enough to be recognized by a spirit, they would obtain a temporary qualification to remain in the Dusty World” Liao Xiao Pao explained.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “With brother Iron’s strength...”

Liao Xiao Pao’s expression became even more complicated and explained: “This isn’t related to strength; the key is to get a spirit to recognize you. The deathmatch is only a means to an end”

They both looked up at the sky.

Various streaks of light began to fly up from the ground, heading towards the shining illusory city.

“I remember a certain year when none of the winners managed to obtain the favor of the spirits, while a young boy who had been hiding in a secluded corner was selected by a spirit and got to enter the Dusty World. You really can’t make sense of such things”

Liao Xiao Pao swiftly finished his explanation.

Suddenly, an illusory figure appeared in front of everyone.

A cute young girl with colorful hair dressed in a short skirt.

Liao Xiao Pao’s expression changed, swiftly stopped his explanation, and bowed: “Your excellency, thank you for coming to receive us”

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Is she also a spirit?

Gu Qing Shan looked at the girl and silently thought.

The colorful-haired girl was reading from a leaflet in her hand.

『 Ironman Vengeance Corps, total quota: 6 people— have you prepared yourselves for both living and death? 』

Liao Xiao Pao respectfully answered: “We are ready, we would not retreat no matter what”

『 Very well, you may participate in this deathmatch, now we shall—- 』

While the cute girl was speaking, she suddenly noticed Gu Qing Shan and Laura.

『 Huh? It’s you two! 』 the girl appeared startled.

A powerful and ferocious Realm Force emerged from her body but was instantly pulled back.

Everyone exchanged glances.

Laura held tightly onto Gu Qing Shan's hand, preparing herself to activate [Infinite Worlds Shelter] at any moment.

Gu Qing Shan squeezed her hands gently to assure her, then smiled: "Excuse me miss, I believe we've never met before"

The cute girl's gaze fell onto Laura and observed her for a while, then as she turned to Gu Qing Shan, her expression became more serious.

『 This really is the first time you two came here, hah, it's been too many years ever since excellent existences like yourselves come to join us 』

She thought briefly, then pulled out two fluorescent invitations and said: 『 The Utopia is open, we welcome you to pay a visit 』

Complete silence.

Liao Xiao Pao was practically screaming in his mind.

I KNEW IT, I KNEW I WASN'T WRONG!

While we have to fight people to death out here, he got invited to pay a visit, his entity is definitely genuine!

Gu Qing Shan accepted the invitation and smiled: "Then thank you very much"

...

At another location.

A certain Huang Quan world.

On top of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, inside a lonely wooden house.

“New Deity, get out here!”

Someone shouted.

Demon Dragon pushed the door open and emerged from inside, then observed his surroundings.

Several Deities of Huang Quan had also stepped forward to surround him.

“I’m just a small new Deity, is there a reason why you’ve all come here with so much ferocity?” Demon Dragon curtly asked.

A Deity swung the chained blade in his hand and furiously spoke: 「 You call yourself a new Deity, but you always refuse to heed orders and always act defiant, so we’re here today to show you exactly where you stand! 」

Demon Dragon stayed silent for a bit, then continued: “I just wanted to do my own things, I’m sure I didn’t bother any of you, isn’t that enough?”

Another Deity scoffed: “Everything within the Hall of Reincarnation is decided through us, so how dare you defy our authority as a Deity of the Hall?”

Demon Dragon sighed and shook his head: “So you’re saying that it’s unrealistic for me to just stay a recluse and cultivate by myself”

『 Naturally, like how there is a Heavenly Emperor in heaven, there is also a Huang Quan king in this Huang Quan 』 another Deity replied.

“Has it always been like this?” Demon Dragon asked.

『 This has never changed 』

“Thank you everyone, I understand now” Demon Dragon clasped his fist and sincerely said.

The Deities exchanged glances.

“Then are you willing to obey now?” a Deity asked.

“No, I’m merely thanking you for explaining the rules of the Samsara for me”

Demon Dragon grinned and curtly continued: “It seems mutual understanding between us is impossible, unless I beat up all hundreds of you garbage and become your king!”

“What gall!”

『 How brazen! 』

「 Kill him——」

Boom——

Overwhelming Huang Quan Origin power emerged from Demon Dragon’s body, practically blowing those Huang Quan Deities away.

“Kill me? I think you’re dreaming...”

Demon Dragon’s eyes became filled with killing intent, then——

He took out a pair of pink gauntlets and equipped them.

The battle has begun!

Chapter 1666

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan stood in front of the door, a bit hesitant.

There were all sorts of buildings throughout the streets of the city, but they were all enveloped in darkness without any visible entrance.

Other than that bar, the only place he could observe and enter was only this Song and Dance Troupe of Sin.

“——-Laura, how many buildings can you see?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“All of them” Laura answered.

Gu Qing Shan paused.

That's true, money was the root of all sins, and this place was the Utopia of Sins...

“So this place is where you have an affinity with?” Laura pointed at the Song and Dance Troupe of Sin's building and asked out of interest.

“That's right...” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Laura thought briefly and said: “For the sake of safety, how about I cover you with the flower umbrella and the two of us enter together?”

——the flower umbrella was the manifestation of [Infinite Worlds Shelter, capable of obscuring them from anything and everything.

“It’s ok. We don’t know any of the spirits here, so that would be quite impolite” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He pushed the door open and entered.

A milk cow with a slightly nervous expression was sitting in front of the reception desk.

Gu Qing Shan and the cow stared into one another’s eyes.

The cow looked at Gu Qing Shan for a while, then looked behind him, finally letting out a sigh of relief.

“Scared me to death— here I thought our esteemed guests have arrived, who knew that it was only a smelly brat”

The cow sat down on her chair and took a sip of tea.

“Sorry about that, were you waiting for someone?” Gu Qing Shan tried asking.

“Of course, our legendary little elder sister Cai Zang met the heir of the Sacrificial Dance and the Lord of Wealth in the main world, so little elder sister invited them” the cow casually replied.

She was then startled.

“Brat, what are you asking so much for? You’re crazy!”

“Ahaha, I’m just curious” Gu Qing Shan smiled to smooth it over.

“Don’t ask too much even if you’re curious, asking too much is the same as asking for death, got it?”

“Got it”

“Ah, so why did you come to our Song and Dance Troupe?” the cow asked.

“I have an affinity with this place, so I came to take a look” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“You have an affinity? You must be joking. Our Song and Dance Troupe stands at the peak of sin, usually, only three kinds of people will ever see us: geniuses in song and dance, madmen, or idiots. Do you think you’re a genius or a mad person? ———you seem like neither of them to me” the cow commented.

The corner of Gu Qing Shan’s lip twitched a bit.

Laura whispered: “I kind of want to eat beef again, Gu Qing Shan”

Gu Qing Shan nodded slightly.

——should I head into the bar of sin and get that bunch of murderous spirits to kill this cow?

This thought only appeared in his mind for a brief moment before going away.

“Sorry for wasting your time, but I don’t know why I can see the Song and Dance troupe, so please help me take a look at what kind of person I am—— after learning this, I won’t bother you again” Gu Qing Shan smiled amicably.

This time, the cow appeared a bit surprised.

“You’re quite the decent person aren’t you? Alright, I’ll give you a chance”

She took out a coin and slammed it on the table with a ‘bam’.

“According to our rules, anyone who can see our Song and Dance Troupe will be given a coin to test your luck” the cow said.

“What should I do with it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Go in and you’ll find out” the cow said with an impatient tone.

“...Thank you”

Gu Qing Shan took the coin, smiled at the cow, then headed inside.

On the way, Laura sent her voice: “Hey, aren’t you being a bit too nice today?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “We came here to learn, so of course we need to maintain a good attitude. The foundation of cultivation is respect for one’s teacher and their teachings”

He walked through a long hallway and finally arrived at a great hall.

This great hall was about as large as a couple of football fields, which was filled with all sorts of facilities.

Gu Qing Shan walked through the entire great hall, seeing boxing machines, a balancing bridge, dance machines, a beast taming cage, karaoke booths, several trapeze bars, a diving board and a pool, then finally stopped in front of a burning ring of fire.

A voice spoke up from the ring of fire: [One coin in exchange for one chance—- jump through me and I will burn your soul, causing you to undergo either qualitative change or die from it]

“I haven’t learnt how to jump through a fire hoop” Gu Qing Shan said.

[Then the chances of you succeeding are very small, but you can give it a try] the ring of fire said.

“Never mind then”

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and walked back the way he came, stopping in front of a dance machine.

A voice spoke up from the dance machine:

[Give me a coin and I will play a random song, if you perform following this song, I will grade your performance— the higher your score is, the more chances you have to join the Song and Dance Troupe, you might even be able to exchange a Spirit Art through me]

“What’s a Spirit Art?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[A certain spirit granting you permission to use their unique ability— that is called a Spirit Art] the dance machine replied.

“Sounds decent enough”

Gu Qing Shan put the coin into the dance machine.

Ka-ching!

Several icons appeared on the screen of the dance machine.

These icons rapidly flashed in front of Gu Qing Shan, then gradually slowed down until one of them stopped in front of him.

It was a dark red icon with a musical note painted in several different colors.

[You are quite unfortunate, drawing Medley Dance like this] the dance machine commented.

“What is ‘Medley Dance’?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[The music will continuously alternate and change, so you must fluidly change your motion following several different styles of music to complete your dance] the dance machine explained.

“Wouldn’t hurt to give it a try I guess”

Gu Qing Shan rolled up his sleeves and said.

Laura had already jumped down from his shoulder and stood on one side.

A faint sound of music began to play.

It was a solemn and dignified holy aria.

In that instant, the entire world disappeared as Gu Qing Shan found himself standing in the middle of a vast expanse of emptiness, continuously descending.

[Attention, the other party had already begun to score you!] a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and formed a strange seal in his hand.

Both of his arms continuously formed one seal after another, his movement was so fast that it left afterimages, almost as if he had grown several extra arms.

At the same time, his footsteps were as firm as rock, each of his steps perfectly suited to the beat of music.

He appeared almost like a dancing demon god!

“Sacrifice!”

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Gu Qing Shan curtly uttered a shout.

He then stepped backwards.

A vast expanse of land appeared out of nowhere to firmly support his feet.

Dance of the Earth God——

Where the Earth God stands, there is surely ground!

Due to the existence of the earth, the void turned into a true world.

The sky, the cloud, the sun, the moon, and the stars had all manifested!

Standing on the firm solid ground, Gu Qing Shan’s footwork followed the beat of the dignified holy aria while his hands formed one strange seal after another, seemingly attempting to summon the world spirit.

The music suddenly changed.

The sound of the organ stopped fluidly like a flowing river.

An upbeat folk tune resounded throughout, the background hums of the aria abruptly faded away.

A heavy thumping noise suddenly began to beat.

Bu-cshu bu-cshu bu-cshu bu-cshu!

A loud electronic synthesizer—

The dance must also change!

Gu Qing Shan instantly waved his hands to the sides, summoning two humanoid figures next to him.

Another six figures swiftly appeared as well.

A total of eight figures stood paralleled with one another behind Gu Qing Shan, all of which were following his beat.

Just by standing there, they gave everyone a feeling of unification.

A shriek was suddenly heard echoing within the music:

“DANCE! DANCE! DANCE IT OUT!”

Almost instantly after the voice resounded, Gu Qing Shan and the figures behind him had already begun to perform a neat street dance.

“Whoa! That’s awesome!”

Laura couldn’t help herself exclaiming.

Fortunately, she was still under the effects of [Infinite Worlds Shelter], so no one could hear her voice.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then pointed downwards.

All the figures instantly became overlapped with his own, and as soon as the exciting beat dropped, he wiggled his finger in a dismissive manner.

Right away, all the figures spread out again.

Followed by---

Shaking hip!

Spin! Spin! Spin!

A violent belly dance!

---the second stage of the official Sacrificial Dance!

All of a sudden, the sound of music changed again, turning into the harmonious sound of a bamboo flute.

Gu Qing Shan immediately clapped his hands.

All the figures vanished.

He suddenly pulled the twin swords Heaven and Earth from the void of space and wielded them.

With the Heaven sword, he drew several graceful arcs of light---

Sacrificial Sword, [Shatter Heaven].

Like a strong gust of wind, but also a flowing wave of light, the sword phantoms scattered.

Dozens of shadows had overlapped on top of the Earth sword, which had stabbed into the ground.

Rumble rumble rumble—

The earth cracked open.

Countless souls emerged from below, circled around Gu Qing Shan, then uttered the same howl.

Sacrificial Sword, [Earth's Burial].

From the bamboo flute, a chiming but melancholic female voice also began to hum.

Letting go of the two swords, Gu Qing Shan lightly clapped his hands following the female voice's hums.

The Heaven sword continued to fly like a brilliant cold arc of light, circling around the Earth sword time and time again until it had drawn a complete full moon.

The sound of music changed again.

This time, the music had slowed down.

—it was about to end!

Without being flustered, Gu Qing Shan put both swords away, slowed down his movements, and once again started to twist his body.

Glittering light moved following his dance.

He shook his head from left to right.

Puckered his lips.

Spread out both of his arms.

Then perform a 720 degree spin on the spot.

Followed by a fluid series of hip shaking, twerking, and kicks.

Ending with a simple piece of tap dancing.

Both his feet touch the ground at once.

And once again stood up straight.

His dance has been completed.

This was the opening dance of the Sacrificial Dance, which was originally used as a warm-up, but Gu Qing Shan had used it here as an ending instead, making for a godly performance.

At the very moment he stopped, the sound of music also ceased.

Perfectly timed!

But Gu Qing Shan was still quite unsatisfied.

Earlier, he only managed to perform the opening dance, the official dance, the Earth God Dance, and the Sword Dance, he still hasn't had the chance to perform the Dance of Three Lives and the Deathmatch Dance.

I'm feeling good right now.

The illusion around him disappeared together with the world he was standing in, replaced by another world that took Gu Qing Shan back in.

—the great hall of the Song and Dance Troupe of Sin!

Since he had completed his dance, he returned to the great hall.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Congratulations, you've successfully conquered all of your observers]

[This was a Sacrificial Dance that they've rarely had the chance to witness in their eternal lives]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

Suddenly, a resounding sound of clapping was heard from all around.

Numerous spirits had gathered around the entire hall, all of which were cheering at Gu Qing Shan.

Chapter 1665

Translator: La0o9

Four Huang Quan Deities laid sprawled on the ground moaning in pain.

Demon Dragon coldly stared down at them.

“Should I throw all of you into Huang Quan to reincarnate, or should I kill all of you right here? That’s the question”

He slowly said.

A pinkish sharp glow suddenly began to extend from the cat paws, glittering in a cute and translucent glow.

“—Stop! Don’t kill them!”

A graceful voice called out from afar.

Demon Dragon followed the voice.

A girl was hurriedly flying towards him.

The girl was dressed in a traditional white outfit, her features were graceful, both of her hands were covered in several layers of illusory feathers.

She landed in front of Demon Dragon in a hurry.

“I’m sorry! Truly sorry!”

The girl quickly explained: “They had discovered that the Divine Artifact you were wielding had emerged—- but I didn’t think that they would come here to threaten you just to flatter me”

She took two steps back and respectfully bowed, then said: “I truly am sorry, but please do not kill them. If you had been damaged in any way, I can reimburse you”

Seeing that her attitude was both sincere and earnest, Demon Dragon asked: “You are—-”

“I am the Reincarnation Bao Lord of Reincarnation Hall, Liu Ye” the girl introduced herself.

Demon Dragon thought briefly, then answered: "Only just once. If they come to offend me again next time, don't blame me for being crass"

"Thank you, your grace" the girl bowed again.

Demon Dragon turned around and prepared to head back into his house.

"Wait!" the girl called out.

"Is there something else?" Demon Dragon replied without turning around.

"As your grace is a new Deity of Huang Quan, there should be a lot regarding our cultivation that you are not used to, nor should you be too familiar with the various knowledge of Huang Quan. I can personally teach you" the girl offered.

"I like to explore by myself" Demon Dragon replied.

Seeing how he wanted to leave, the girl hurriedly called out again: "But I really like this pair of cat paws in your grace's hands, I would like to ask for a fair transaction and exchange another Divine Artifact for it"

Demon Dragon stopped.

"Changing Divine Artifacts is the same as changing your deific authority, don't you know that?" he asked.

"I know, but I really like that pair of cat paws" she insisted.

Demon Dragon pondered briefly before turning around to look at her: "Your deific authority——"

The girl tapped the void of space three consecutive times and released three Divine Artifacts.

A thin, glowing yellow book;

A pair of ferociously dark and sharp devil claws;

And a battle axe with a long bone handle.

“They respectively represent the authorities of Reincarnation Hall’s Reincarnation Bao Lord, Gloom Shadow Night King, and Hell Bone Demon. I’m willing to exchange your cat paws with one of them” the girl explained.

Demon Dragon’s eyes were instantly drawn by the pair of devil claws.

Yes.

—*this is exactly the appearance of this type of weapon!*

The dark devil claws seemed to be drawn to Demon Dragon as well and gave off a continuous loud shriek.

Observing this, the girl said with a complicated expression: “Just look! It likes you! You surely like this pair of Gloom Shadow Night Devil Claws as well... it truly is predestined by the heavens...”

Right at this moment, the pink cat paws Demon Dragon was wearing seemed to have realized his thoughts and began to sob, seemingly unwilling to leave him.

The girl came closer and gently stroke the pink cat paws: “I know that you were lost outside for such a long time that you aren’t willing to leave him— but it is ok, the Gloom Shadow Night Devil Claws was actually part of a couple with you, the two of you would not be separated”

The pink cat paws’ sobbing stopped.

It flew out from Demon Dragon's hands and continuously circled around the dark devil claws.

A few moments later, the dark devil claws seemed to have been drawn to it as well.

The two pairs of claw gauntlets started chasing and playing with one another, flying around in the air.

"What's going on here?" Demon Dragon asked.

The girl's expression became a bit flushed before answering in a whisper:

"They were originally spouses, and the Deities who wield them must also be spouses in order to fully exert their powers"

Demon Dragon was stunned.

— and I was wondering why the cat paws always felt slightly awkward to use somehow!

— but could such a setting be possible?

The girl silently tilted her eyes to look at him, then said: "However, exchanging deific authorities is a very severe matter, and it requires my mother's permission. You will need to come with me to see my mother"

"Your mother? Why would we have to meet your mother?" Demon Dragon instinctively sensed a certain kind of approaching danger.

"My mother is the Hall Master of the Reincarnation Hall" the girl answered.

"Wait a moment—"

“Why wait? These are the only two claw-type Divine Artifacts within the Huang Quan realm, we should quickly settle this matter in stone”

“But then——” Demon Dragon solemnly tried to refute.

The girl had caught his hand.

The two girls of claw gauntlets immediately returned and hovered in front of each of them.

Observing the dark devil claws hovering in front of him, Demon Dragon was a bit speechless.

—this is truly a weapon that's suitable for me!

—but why does it have such an unusual prerequisite to use?

The girl continued: “I’ve already observed the scene of your death, I really must say, you’re worthy of this young lady’s respect—— how about this, I will stay by yourself whenever you cultivate from now on, you can ask me anything you don’t understand”

“But I’ve always been by myself!” Demon Dragon finally managed to utter a complete sentence full of frustration.

The girl looked closely at him: “If you had been playing around with other women before, do you really believe I’d be so reasonable?”

“From now on, as long as you remain in the Huang Quan realm, just use my name and no one would dare offend you”

“If your behaviors are decent, this young lady doesn’t mind becoming your spouse”

“After all, you don’t have it in you to actually bully me”

Demon Dragon was led by this girl to another path on the mountain.

Fortunately, he still managed to remain calm and think about the current circumstances thanks to his vast experience up to now.

What exactly is happening?

Why did the situation suddenly come to this?

I'm alone all by myself, so what exactly does she want from me?

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He turned to look at the devil claws.

It's fine.

I'll just deal with any issues as they come.

This Demon Dragon had never feared anyone before!

With that in mind, Demon Dragon thoroughly calmed back down.

The two figures disappeared into the depths of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

...

While examining the fluorescent invitation in his hand, Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows suddenly became relaxed.

"What's the matter?" Laura asked.

"It's nothing. I just felt with my spirit sense that a huge issue I had left in the past just resolved itself" Gu Qing Shan smiled and answered.

Laura was clearly excited and asked: "Are we going to head into the Utopia and take a look?"

"Of course we will, but we need to be careful. After all, you can't forget the 'of Sins' portion of the Utopia's name, we need to stay cautious" Gu Qing Shan told her.

After saying that, he and Laura both disappeared from the camp.

A second later.

They reappeared at another location in the wasteland.

“Why did we have to leave Ironman’s camp?” Laura curiously asked.

“Because I need to discern the situation ahead of time, and I don’t want them to see my ability”

While answering her, Gu Qing Shan pulled out a colorful rooster statue from his chest.

He pulled on the rooster’s comb.

The colorful rooster then came to life.

“Ba-gawk, old Gu, so you finally remember me” the colorful rooster smiled flatteringly.

“That’s right, I have something that I want to ask” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The colorful rooster put up its wings into a heart shape again: “Same rules as before, you understand”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “But I only have Realm Points now”

“No problem, I’ll accept Realm Points as well, in fact, it’s even more valuable compared to Soul Points!” the colorful rooster called out.

“How much?”

“I won’t ask for too much, 1 Realm Point will be enough”

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes.

1 Realm Point is equivalent to 1 million Soul Points.

—I was wondering why this chicken acted so cheerful today, so it was just waiting to get my Realm Points.

However, this rooster was actually the embodiment of [War God Information], it knows many mysteries, and I really do need to rely on it to collect information a lot

Gu Qing Shan swiftly made the payment.

Receiving Gu Qing Shan’s Realm Point, the rooster heaved a heavy sigh.

Wiping the sweat on top of its comb, the rooster muttered in a low voice: “Finally got some money to pay them back, on the last day no less...”

“Is there any information related to the Utopia of Sins?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Ah, let me take a look”

The rooster narrowed its eyes and looked towards the city in the sky.

“A Dusty World qualification competition is being conducted there. It was because you got acquainted with one of the participants in time that the spirit responsible for overseeing this event noticed you and gave you an invitation”

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan confirmed.

The rooster continued with a stern expression: “Listen, the Utopia is a venue of entertainment for sinful spirits. You can only arrive in front of these spirits if you have the affinity corresponding to them”

“What is affinity?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“It is the spiritual quality and talents that you were born with, combined with your achievements in life so far” the rooster answered.

Gu Qing Shan hesitantly said: “If none of the spirits has an affinity with me——”

The rooster replied: “Then you won’t see anything at all within the Utopia, only a desolate empty city”

It cleared its throat, then silently explained: “I’ve taken a peek into the Utopia and found two locations that are suitable with your affinity. One of them was glowing in black, while the other was glowing in a bright pinkish red”

“The black light is the bar where the most ferocious spirits gather. With the number of lives you’ve taken, they will most likely compete among one another to become your exclusive spirit”

“Because they take joy in killing”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan scowled.

“Don’t like that?” the rooster asked.

“Of course, I don’t like it. I don’t kill people for fun” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright, then you’d better head towards the bright pinkish red glow” the rooster continued: “By the way, a little reminder that your little friend here absolutely cannot reveal herself—— if she showed up, the entire Utopia of Sins would go crazy—— after all, the root of sin is wealth, and she holds the authority over all wealth—— if something happened that throws the entire Utopia into chaos, a great danger would befall you, got it?”

“Got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The rooster nodded, then turned back into a statue.

Gu Qing Shan turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Laura sighed regretfully as she looked at the Utopia.

“Want to go?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“...It’s ok” Laura replied.

“It only said that you can’t reveal yourself— so it’ll be fine as long as you come with me and don’t stay for too long. In that short amount of time, you can use [Infinite Worlds Shelter]!” Gu Qing Shan smiled and told her.

“Wah! That’s great!” Laura cheered.

A few moments later.

Laura opened her umbrella and sat on Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan then used his finger to tap the invitation.

The glow of the invitation immediately surged forward to envelop him and Laura, taking both of them into the city in the sky.

Their landing was very gentle.

Gu Qing Shan saw two bursts of light almost immediately.

A black mass of light had enveloped a certain building that was a few hundred meters away from him.

Various howls and malicious laughter could occasionally be heard from that building, as well as some desperate screams and begging to be left alive.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and turned in the other direction.

He soon reached a building that was enveloped in pinkish red light.

There was a signboard hung outside the building:

[Song and Dance Troupe of Sin]

Chapter 1667

Translator: La0o9

『 Without a doubt, you must be the heir to the Sacrificial Dance 』

An alluring woman in a skintight suit of black leather clothing and a whip in her hand commented.

When she spoke, all the other spirits kept their mouths shut.

“I have certainly practiced this Dance, it was because of this that I became attracted to your Song and Dance Troupe, and why I’m standing here right now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The woman nodded, then smiled: 『 Was it miss Cai Zang who gave you the invitation? 』

Gu Qing Shan took out his invitation.

The woman looked at it, then doubtfully asked: 『 In reality, we’ve been expecting you this entire time—— but how did you enter without anyone’s knowledge? And you were using a tourist coin as well! 』

Numerous regretful sighs were heard behind her.

All the spirits looked at Gu Qing Shan with an extremely regrettable look.

“A tourist coin? Is that a problem?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 According to the rules of affinity, as you entered our Song and Dance Troupe using a tourist coin, you can only sightsee without being able to communicate with us spirits in any meaningful manner, hah——
』 the woman also sighed.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Does that mean I won't be able to learn anything here?

The woman saw the look on his face and felt even more regrettable, asking him further: 『 Your excellency, who exactly was it that gave you a tourist coin? 』

Gu Qing Shan showed his palms and replied: “The cow at the reception desk gave me that coin, saying that I can go in and try my luck”

The woman's smile instantly froze.

The whip in her hand instantly grew numerous sharp spikes and gave off a cold glow.

『 Take my whip and deal with that cow 』 the woman coldly declared.

Two beautiful girls appeared behind her, received the whip, then began to head outside.

“Let me get a crack at it as well!”

「 Me too! 」

『 That damned cow's head isn't fitted on correctly, let me give it a thorough fix 』

「 Let's go! 」

Numerous spirits also called out and followed the two girls.

A few moments later, various desperate screams could be heard resounding from outside the door.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and asked: “Esteemed lady, are there really no remedies for this? I truly want to join the Song and Dance Troupe to learn some knowledge regarding spirits”

The woman shook her head: 『 There is no remedy for it this time around. We have no choice but to wait for you to visit again before you can join our Phase Realm 』

“Me? But I’m not a spirit, can I really join you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Indeed you can. As long as you sign a spirit contract with us, you’ll be able to summon us in battle, and once you’ve become stronger in the future, you would even be able to summon the entire Troupe! 』 the woman explained, then felt even more regrettable about this occasion.

——to be able to fight alongside the heir of the Sacrificial Dance, any spirit would receive immeasurable benefits.

What a great opportunity that would have been!

How truly regretful...

The woman clenched her teeth and shouted to the spirits behind her: 『 All of you go as well, make sure to whip it thoroughly! 』

“Yes ma’am!”

Seeing how they couldn’t do anything even if they remained here, those spirits swiftly made their way through.

The woman looked at Gu Qing Shan and said: 『 For this occasion, I can only do two things—— 』

She approached the dance machine and pressed a button on it.

A large line of text instantly popped up on the screen:

[100 points! A truly perfect Dance!]

The machine then began to transform and turn into a raffle box.

The woman patted the raffle box and explained: 『 Your excellency, the dance machine is nothing but a small game made for our tourists, even the prizes inside are only meant for fun 』

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “Can’t you win a Spirit Art from it?”

The woman chuckled: 『 It’s nothing but a party trick, but since you’ve displayed the Sacrificial Dance to us, I must provide a reward appropriate to the Sacrificial Dance—— I will now exchange my very own personal Spirit Art for the original prize 』

She continued: 『 My Spirit Art is so aggressive that people wouldn’t normally be able to resist it, so now it’s just the appropriate time to grant it to you 』

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist: “Thank you very much”

The woman smiled, then put her hand into the raffle box: 『 As this is my personal Spirit Art, there’s a possibility that you won’t be able to pull it by yourself, so I will pull it out for you—— 』

She then took out a small doll from the raffle box.

——the doll was highly realistic and looked exactly like her!

『 Take it, this is a representative doll of our Song and Dance Troupe. When you return, simply use Realm Force to envelope it and you'd be able to comprehend the unique Spirit Art it contains 』

The woman handed the doll to Gu Qing Shan.

As soon as the doll came into contact with Gu Qing Shan's hand, it instantly turned into his appearance.

The woman seemed to have noticed something and said with an irritated voice:

『 Oh no, the amount of time that a tourist can remain is nearly used up... 』

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan silently made a gesture towards Laura.

Understanding what he means, Laura lightly leapt up and landed on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

At this point, the woman took off a watch from her wrist and helped Gu Qing Shan put it on.

『 This is a Phase Watch, it can tell you what kinds of Phase Realms are around you 』 the woman explained.

Gu Qing Shan was grateful: "That is too precious, not only did your grace give me a Spirit Art, but you're also giving me this watch..."

The woman continued: 『 It has another function, that is if you and our Song and Dance Troupe is ever in the same main world of a world system, it will invite you directly into our Phase Realm 』

Gu Qing Shan instantly realized and asked: "Then I wouldn't be a tourist anymore, would I?"

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『 Of course, this is the highest treatment, it isn't the method of entry for any tourist—— in reality, I had wanted to give this watch to you from the very beginning 』

As she said that, the woman suddenly paused.

She appeared regrettable once again and said: 『 Time should be up soon, so I hope to meet you again next time—— ah right, a small issue had appeared during this qualification competition, so a war is currently occurring in the main world. Please be careful after you return 』

“What happened?”

『 Originally, no one managed to be selected during this occasion—— but at the very last moment, an extremely powerful evil spirit had declared that if someone can eliminate all the other competitors, it would grant them the qualifications to enter the Dusty World and even arrive at the world system it belonged to 』

The woman didn't continue, but Gu Qing Shan already understood.

——those competitors must have already pulled out all the stops to eradicate all the other competitors.

Gu Qing Shan bowed: 『 Thank you, your grace, I will keep that in mind, and I also hope to see you later 』

As soon as he said that——

Gu Qing Shan felt a flash of light enveloping him.

At the very next moment.

The light encased him inside, and flew through the roof of the Song and Dance Troupe building, heading directly to the ground.

...

The wasteland.

A secluded corner.

Gu Qing Shan appeared, followed by Laura.

"I still haven't played enough yet, it was all that cow's fault" Laura complained.

"Yeah" Gu Qing Shan also agreed.

"That's right, so why did it think that you were some random newcomer and not the heir of the Sacrificial Dance?" Laura asked curiously.

Gu Qing Shan thought about it for a bit and analyzed: "At the time, it looked behind me first—— it had probably learned that two people would show up together; since I also have a beefy scent on my body, it probably irritated the cow"

Laura pursed her lips: "Then there's no other way"

Suddenly, a loud explosion resounded from afar.

Fluctuations of battle erupted from every direction, causing immense pillars of light all over the ground.

The massacre had begun!

Gu Qing Shan and Laura were both silent for a while.

"Hey, Gu Qing Shan" Laura suddenly called out.

“Yes?”

“That Ironman was already very powerful, so why did he still want to enter the Dusty World?”

“...The Dusty World has the most powerful spirits”

“How do you know that?”

“Other than this place, I can’t think of any other locations that would be able to gather so many world systems”

“Hah...” Laura sighed.

Gu Qing Shan looked down to examine the doll in his hand.

Lines of glowing text appeared from the void of space:

[You’ve obtained the Song and Dance Troupe of Sin’s rare doll item]

[You will need to imbue it with 5 realm Points in order to activate the personal Spirit Art sealed within this doll]

[Would you like to imbue it?]

“Of course” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Imbuing complete, remaining Realm Points: 93]

The doll suddenly sat up on Gu Qing Shan’s hand, looked up at him, then vanished.

New lines of glowing text appeared:

[The Song and Dance Troupe leader has granted you permission to use her personal Spirit Art]

[Each time you use your personal Spirit Art, you will expend one Realm Point]

[You've obtained the unique Spirit Art: Manipulator of Song and Dance]

[This Spirit Art is equivalent to a high-level Divine Skill, and since it originated from a spirit, you must perform it once in order to fully comprehend this Spirit Art's innerworkings]

All the text then disappeared.

Laura suddenly pulled on Gu Qing Shan's sleeves.

"What's the matter?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Someone is attacking the Ironman Vengeance Corps, should we interfere?" Laura asked.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and scanned towards the Vengeance Corps' direction.

The entire camp had already been leveled.

Almost everyone was dead.

Only Liao Xiao Pao remained, struggling to endure the other party's attacks.

His opponent was a burly man with numerous visions circling around his body. He seemed to be capable of manifesting Phase Realms and absorbing Realm Force from them to attack.

—that is quite a potent Realm Force.

Liao Xiao Pao was practically unable to retaliate at all, having no choice but to endure the barrage of attacks with his metal body.

“Ahaha, even if you pronounce me as wicked, even if you’ve become 200% stronger, you’re still no match for me!”

The burly man laughed hysterically.

Gu Qing Shan pulled his inner sight back and mused:

“Let’s go help him”

Chapter 1668

Translator: La0o9

“The opponent is really strong, Gu Qing Shan, are we really going to get involved?” Laura asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “After all, we ate his food, drank his drinks, received a cookbook from him, then was noticed by the Utopia thanks to him and received that invitation—— all in all, we owe Ironman a favor”

Laura said: “Then——”

Gu Qing Shan followed: “Let’s go!”

The two of them suddenly vanished.

...

The Ironman Vengeance Corps’ camp.

The burly man was moving at a rapid pace around Liao Xiao Pao.

He continuously attacked Liao Xiao Pao from various angles, attempting to look for Liao Xiao Pao’s weakness.

Each of his attacks carried numerous overlapping illusions that made it difficult to discern them.

———this was a result of Gu Qing Shan awakening [Phase Sight] that he managed to see those overlapping powers, other people wouldn't even see the attacks.

Standing in a distance, Gu Qing Shan could even see hundreds of armored monsters attacking Liao Xiao Pao at once.

That illusion only lasted for a brief moment before it vanished.

Liao Xiao Pao was sent flying into the sky.

"Too slow! Too slow! Liao Xiao Pao, you don't even have a chance to attack, so how are you supposed to fight me now?" the burly man mockingly laughed.

Liao Xiao Pao remained silent.

He was using his metal fists to protect his vitals, gritting his teeth while enduring the barrage of attacks.

Laura raised her umbrella and commented.

Both of them were still under the effects of [Infinite Worlds Shelter].

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything.

Lines of glowing text had appeared in front of his eyes:

[You've prepared to activate Spirit Art: 'Manipulator of Song and Dance']

[You've discovered four prerequisites for activating this Spirit Art]

[Prerequisite 1: Silence. To perform this Spirit Art, you must currently be in a moment of absolute silence]

[Prerequisite 2: Passion. To perform this Spirit Art, you must first attack 999 times]

[Prerequisite 3: Anticipation. To perform this Spirit Art, you must fully draw the other party's attention to yourself and your actions]

[Prerequisite 4: Focus. To perform this Spirit Art, you cannot use any abilities that requires Realm Points before this one on your opponent]

[All four of these conditions must be achieved in order for 'Manipulator of Song and Dance' to activate]

Gu Qing Shan was silently surprised.

Silence, Passion, Anticipation, and Focus, all four of these conditions are quite harsh.

Why are there so many prerequisites?

—perhaps, this Spirit Art was exceptionally powerful?

Feeling curious, he couldn't help himself: "Laura, stand aside for now, I want to try something"

"I'll immediately move away when you attack"

Laura lifted her flower umbrella, preparing to jump down from his shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan warmed up his hands a bit, then grasped the twin swords Heaven and Earth from the void of space.

He equipped the War God Title: [Shen Wei General], which would increase his attack speed by 20%.

Everything was ready.

Three skeletons descended from the sky and landed behind him.

Four-sided Demon King!

At this point, the burly man was still immersed in his attack, loudly laughing: “Don’t even think about hitting me with any of the attacks you’re famous for, but all I need to do is continually hitting you like this to torture you to death!”

Bam——

Liao Xiao Pao was struck by an airborne attack into the ground, forming a large crater.

The burly man stood at the edge of the crater and grinned: “Next up is the final attack”

A glowing illusory world started to manifest from the void of space behind his back——

In that instant, Gu Qing Shan moved.

Laura leapt back while he rushed forward, the 16 swords around him moving to unleash dazzling sword phantoms.

Clang clang clang clang clang!

Numerous sounds of defense could be heard.

Numerous soldiers appeared behind the man, each of which wielded a shield to protect him.

They were spirits from a Phase Realm!

They ensured that the burly man would not suffer any ambushes!

“Hah? So there’s still an insect remaining?”

The burly man didn't turn around and only grinned even brighter.

Gu Qing Shan's expression was unchanged, but he had instantly changed his strategy.

An autumn water-like blue steel sword flew into the sky and transformed into Shannu.

"COME!" Shannu loudly shouted.

She had activated the Title Skill, [Star Flame War God]

The fluorescent soldiers were unable to help themselves heading into the sky to attack Shannu.

—there was no one left behind the burly man.

"Huh?" the burly man exclaimed in surprise.

Gu Qing Shan gazed at him.

A flash of lightning!

The burly man was struck by the iris technique, then was restrained by the embrace of a wraith that prevented him from moving.

The remaining 15 swords around Gu Qing Shan left afterimages all over as they swung over a hundred times in a split second.

Suddenly, a spirit with a water vase in their hand appeared from the void of space.

This spirit held onto the vase while light emerged from the vase to illuminate the burly man's body.

The burly man instantly regained his freedom and angrily roared:

“Scram!”

Gu Qing Shan's pupils became dilated.

His attacks are very fast!

He only managed to put up a sword in front of himself before being sent flying by the burly man.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've fulfilled the conditions to activate 'Realm Spirit Descent', but you didn't activate it]

[You've struck the enemy a total of 996 times, you still need to attack another 3 times in order to fulfil the second prerequisite of 'Manipulator of Song and Dance': Passion]

Gu Qing Shan called out without hesitation: “Go!”

Instantly, the three skeletons around him flew out and reappeared next to the burly man.

The three skeletons clung onto the burly man and bit him.

997,

998,

999— —

The prerequisite: Passion has been fulfilled!

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With a 'pop', the burly man had broken all three skeletons with a shake of his body.

"Such a weak attack, are you looking down on me? Die!"

He rushed towards Gu Qing Shan again, only to receive his gaze once again——

[Forgetting River Severance]!

The burly man waved his hand to block the first few sword phantoms, then numerous spirit images emerged from his body to stop over a thousand attacks that followed.

Gu Qing Shan sheathed his sword and silently stood a bit further away, waiting.

Once the burly man had completely blocked all of his sword phantoms and rushed forward again, Gu Qing Shan suddenly entered a mass of white fog and vanished without a trace.

"Fled?" the burly man was surprised.

At the very next moment, a mass of white fog emerged from another direction.

Gu Qing Shan stepped out from it.

"...A World Technique" the burly man muttered and narrowed his eyes.

"Let's introduce ourselves, I'm a passing stranger, who are you?" Gu Qing Shan said.

The burly man scoffed and replied: "You think you're worthy to know my name? But when you said you're a passing stranger——"

"That's right, I came from Gloomy City and am merely passing by here" Gu Qing Shan said.

The burly man raised his eyebrows out of surprise.

“You aren’t a qualification competitor? Strange...” he muttered.

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: “Yep”

“What do you mean ‘yep’?” the burly man asked.

“I mean you’re correct, I’m not a qualification competitor. I have a master, I’m heading straight into the center of the Dusty World” Gu Qing Shan said.

The burly man became solemn and closely observed Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan remained silent without saying anything.

The battlefield became silent.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI once after another:

[Prerequisite: Anticipation has been fulfilled, the other party had focused all of their attention to observe you]

[Prerequisite: Silence has been fulfilled, it is currently as silent as could be]

[Prerequisite: Focus has been fulfilled, you had not previously unleashed any abilities that required Realm Force]

[Silence, Anticipation, Passion, Focus have all been fulfilled]

[You can now activate ‘Manipulator of Song and Dance’]

While Gu Qing Shan was reading these notifications, the burly man seemed to have received some sort of hint.

He laughed: “You’re bluffing! If you really are that strong, you wouldn’t fail to beat even me, I’m going to kill you first——”

“Or I might kill you first” Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

“Self-righteous bastard!” the burly man roared.

Boom!

The ground underneath his feet was blown away as he charged like a bolt of lightning towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan simply prepared to receive the other party without attempting to retreat at all.

As the two of them were about to clash, the burly man raised his fist, while Gu Qing Shan——

He had activated the unique Spirit Art, [Manipulator of Song and Dance]!

In an instant, the situation changed——

The entire world fell to silence.

The two of them were clearly about to clash in the middle of the battlefield, but no flashy scenes or impressive noises could be heard at all.

A breeze of wind blew past them.

The ground was completely unharmed.

Gu Qing Shan was unharmed.

Even the burly man was unharmed.

They just stared at one another without saying a single thing for a while.

Finally, the burly man struggled to speak: "This... is your Spirit Art?"

Gu Qing Shan struggled even more to nod.

"AAAAAARRRRRRRRHHHH!"

The burly man tried to shout and struggle free, but found himself unable to move at all.

Even after several more attempts, having used up everything he had, he still couldn't move a muscle, unable to do anything except breath heavily while sweating bullets.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "Give it up, even I can't move right now, how could you?"

The burly man stared straight at him: "How long do you intend on staying like this?"

"In any case, it's going to remain like this for now"

Gu Qing Shan turned away and replied.

—both of them were currently sitting motionlessly on the ground in a front split posture.

Their postures were exactly the same.

Lines of glowing text had appeared on the War God UI to explain the Spirit Art:

[Through activating it, you've understood the characteristics of 'Manipulator of Song and Dance']

[Manipulator of Song and Dance: While you're doing a split, your opponent must also do a split, they will be unable to escape from this state, as well as unable to use their Realm Force]

[Description: This is the opening ceremony of the Song and Dance Troupe of Sin, the troupe leader's declaration of victory. Ponder it carefully, as you might be the one to perform the opening ceremony for the Song and Dance Troupe next time, young man!]

[Additional note: This kind of embarrassing skill would only appear in the Song and Dance Troupe, it's extremely rare!]

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

Very— good—

After a lot of planning, effort, and improvisation, I finally understand this ability's characteristics.

It was certainly exceptionally powerful, not even that ferocious enemy managed to escape from having to do a split with me.

But...

I really don't want to use it ever again...

While Gu Qing Shan was dejectedly thinking this, the burly man shouted in irritation: "Brat, even if you won't dispel this Spirit Art, can't you at least change the posture? Fucking hell, I've been a murderous demon for my entire life without fear of anyone, and now you're forcing me to sit in a front split with you like this!? Fucking damn it!"

Change the posture?

You think I don't want to?

Gu Qing Shan felt annoyed, so his expression remained completely cold.

While maintaining the split, he crossed his arms and indifferently said: "You're the one who got affected by the ability, stop complaining"

The burly man appeared angry and seemed to want to argue again, but another voice had sounded from behind him:

“———And you’re about to die”

Liao Xiao Pao!

His body was covered in wounds as he staggered in front of the burly man.

“So—— you said I can’t hit you?”

Liao Xiao Pao looked at his own fist and asked.

The burly man began to be soaked in cold sweat and tried smiling amicably: “I’m sorry, Ironman, you’re a man of great kindness, please forgive———”

Bam!

Ironman threw a punch towards his head with all his strength!

Chapter 1669

Translator: La0o9

Liao Xiao Pao’s punch was heavy.

A giant solid metal mace appeared behind him, which depicted an armored knight.

“DIE!”

Liao Xiao Pao shouted.

The burly man was being restrained by Gu Qing Shan without being able to use Realm Force, so Liao Xiao Pao easily struck his head without any issues.

His head exploded into a mass of white and red, then vanished due to the excessive force without leaving anything behind.

Only a headless body that was doing a split remained.

— the headless body twitched a few times before going completely limp.

After unleashing his attack, Liao Xiao Pao also collapsed on his knees next to the corpse, breathing heavily:

“Hoh— hoh— thank you for helping, otherwise, I would already be dead”

“It’s ok, you’ve helped me a lot as well” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He slowly closed his legs while propping his body up with his hands, then gradually stood back up.

— he was a sword cultivator with extreme skill, but he had never practiced something like a split before.

Combined with how he was a bit nervous earlier and had been constantly using Realm Force, his legs were feeling a bit sore.

Gu Qing Shan had silently made judgement on this skill.

Laura approached him while holding in her laughter and appeared concerned.

Gu Qing Shan silently sent his voice: “This ability doesn’t suit me”

“I think it’s great” Laura grinned mischievously and showed him a picture.

In the picture, Gu Qing Shan and the burly man were sitting on the ground facing one another while doing a split.

—how embarrassing.

Gu Qing Shan’s face was completely flushed red.

It’s best that I don’t use the Spirit Art [Manipulator of Song and Dance] if I really don’t have to.

—-I’m supposed to be a hard-headed straightforward sword cultivator, so if I suddenly do a split together with an opponent while I fight later on—-—

What kind of fight would that be?

While they were talking, a flash of light emerged from the city in the sky and slowly descended to the ground, landing in front of Liao Xiao Pao.

The light scattered to reveal a black piece of paper.

The three of them examined the paper, only to see the following words written:

[Conditions for achieving qualifications: Be the last survivor]

[Remaining members in the Qualification Competition: 1]

[The conditions have been fulfilled]

[—Although you’ve fulfilled my conditions, your affinity contradicts with my own, so you have no way of obtaining my power’s protection]

[This Qualification Competition is officially over]

[Number of individuals who obtained spirit favor: 0]

Looking at the piece of paper, Liao Xiao Pao blankly knelt on the ground.

“Dead... they’re all... dead...” Liao Xiao Pao muttered in shock.

The city in the sky continued to give off an opaque light that indifferently illuminated the ground.

Numerous corpses littered the barren wasteland, further emphasizing its silence.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

So many Combatants who can wield Realm Force just died without any value.

Even though Liao Xiao Pao managed to fulfil that evil spirit’s conditions at the very last moment, he had no affinity with the evil spirit.

When he first faced Gu Qing Shan, he used an ability called [Judgement of the Saint Cavalry] to pronounce him to be evil; and earlier, he unleashed a punch that carried the holy attribute.

He was definitely unsuitable with the evil spirit.

That’s why the evil spirit still refused to bestow the power of their world system to Liao Xiao Pao.

Or rather—

The other party had been playing around with these competitors in the first place.

After all, they were an evil spirit.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a few moments, then suddenly asked:

“Ironman, I can see that your attacks carry Realm Force, so you actually have a spirit already— why do you want to look for another spirit from the Dusty World?”

Liao Xiao Pao shook his head: “My spirit is incomplete, and I’ve already explored their powers to the limit, unable to advance any further”

“Then the Dusty World——”

“With the Apocalypse in front of us, there were already very few complete world systems remaining in the Boundless Void, but the Dusty World consists of only world systems! Only such worlds would be able to give birth to truly powerful spirits!”

Laura pulled on Gu Qing Shan’s sleeves a bit and raised her thumb to him.

——earlier, Gu Qing Shan had already made a guess that the Dusty World had the most powerful spirit.

Liao Xiao Pao looked at the corpses all around him, then rubbed his eyes.

“All world systems that could flee had already fled to the Dusty World, this place is the natural nurturing ground for spirits, so it has the most powerful spirits”

“That was why we had come here in search of hope... but now...”

He sighed, then stood back up.

“This is for you” Liao Xiao Pao tossed him a certain item.

Gu Qing Shan caught it, only to find that it was a small alarm clock.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Temporal Artifact: Silver Clock Tower]

[By wielding this Clock Tower, your time within this world system will be greatly reduced]

[After only half a day of travel, you will be able to leave this world system and head into the world system that it's connected to]

While Gu Qing Shan read these notifications, Liao Xiao Pao was also carefully explaining to them the way to use this alarm clock.

After he finished his explanation, it was time to say goodbye.

Liao Xiao Pao waved to Gu Qing Shan and Laura, barely able to squeeze out a smile:

“Alright, I think it's time for us to say goodbye, I hope that you'll grow stronger in the future and help out a brother”

Gu Qing Shan slightly scowled, thinking about something else.

“Brother Ironman, wait a moment”

“Huh? What's the matter?” Liao Xiao Pao asked.

Gu Qing Shan was evaluating him.

—this person is quite strong, and his understanding of Realm Force is quite a bit deeper than mine.

If he comes with me, I might be able to ask him more about spirits and the corresponding knowledge.

He's most likely someone who trends towards Holy and Good. For the most part, he wouldn't be a horrible person, otherwise, he wouldn't be able to exert the power of a Holy-attribute spirit.

“Gu Qing Shan, what are you thinking of?” Laura approached and asked.

“What do you think about having Tear become his spirit?” Gu Qing Shan said.

Laura was a bit surprised, then evaluated Liao Xiao Pao and replied: “Then should I summon Tear to ask?”

“Sure, but how are you going to summon her?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

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“I just need to call her name, since she has signed the Bramble covenant with me” Laura replied.

She closed her eyes, then muttered: “Saintly heroic spirit of Gloomy City, by the Bramble covenant, I call upon you”

Layers of white holy light began to envelop Laura.

A few moments later.

The girl appeared in front of them.

Compared to their first meeting, she was now giving off more profound pressure.

Her white ceremonial dress was now covered in a suit of light silver armor, the girl wielded a scepter in her hand and smiled towards the two of them.

『 Gu Qing Shan, Laura, I've arrived 』 the girl said.

Liao Xiao Pao was stunned.

This beautiful girl—

Could she be a spirit?

She must be, being able to heed that little girl's summon, she must be a spirit of the Dusty World!

“How's your world currently, Tear?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Thanks to what Laura gave me, the world had once again returned to its original cycle. More and more trees have regained their vitality, after this, insects and small animals should also reappear as well 』 the young girl, Tear, answered.

She looked around and asked: 『 Are we preparing to fight? 』

“No, I called you for another reason” Laura replied.

She then explained the entire situation.

Tear turned her gaze to Liao Xiao Pao.

『 In consideration of you, it’s not impossible, but I must examine his affinity first 』 Tear solemnly explained.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura both nodded.

Tear walked in front of Liao Xiao Pao and gently said: 『 Please give me your hand 』

Having reached his place today, Liao Xiao Pao was naturally not an idiot and had already understood the current situation.

He earnestly put his hand forward.

Tear gently lifted his hand and whispered: 『 Discernment of Good and Evil! 』

Layers of holy white light, as well as bloody light, erupted from Liao Xiao Pao’s body to illuminate their surroundings.

Tear slightly frowned and said: 『 He has an affinity with me, but he had committed a bit too much murder 』

Liao Xiao Pao stuttered: “If you don’t like it, I can give up on killing people from now on”

Gu Qing Shan and Laura were both surprised.

Not killing people from now on?

That’s extremely difficult.

『 Are you serious? Will you truly no longer commit any murders? 』 Tear looked straight at him.

Liao Xiao Pao nodded heavily.

Tear observed him for a few moments, then said: 『 Very well, then I shall be your spirit, but there are certain things that I must tell you ahead of time 』

“Please go ahead”

『 Firstly, while Laura has summoned me, you cannot summon me 』

“I understand”

『 Secondly, as we said earlier, you cannot commit murders 』

“I can do that”

『 Thirdly— you must help me collect more resources and help me reestablish the Gloomy City world 』

“No problem”

Tear looked closely at him and said: 『 You are a brave knight, you can surely keep to what you've promised, I assume? 』

Liao Xiao Pao knelt on one knee and swore: "I will definitely do so"

Tear finally smiled and reached out her hand, placing a small dot of light on top of Liao Xiao Pao's forehead.

『 Very well, then as long as you call my name, I will appear to fight by your side from now on 』

After saying that, she nodded to Gu Qing Shan and Laura, then disappeared into the void of space.

—she had returned.

Liao Xiao Pao continued to sit with one knee on the ground and a dot of light in front of his forehead, still trembling without stopping.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura exchanged glances, smiling as they waited.

After a few moments, the dot of light disappeared.

Liao Xiao Pao continued to kneel on the ground, still trembling nonstop.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura continued to wait.

One minute.

Five minutes.

Ten minutes.

“Hey, what kind of ritual are you undergoing? Why are you still trembling even now?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

“Let me try to examine him, I have a covenant with Tear as well” Laura suggested.

She closed her eyes and briefly examined him, then said confusedly: “The ritual is already complete, it hadn’t and wouldn’t cause any stimulations to his body, so I have no idea why he’s still trembling”

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit uneasy.

There wouldn’t be any issues with Tear.

Nor would there be any issues with Liao Xiao Pao.

Could there be another spirit who did this from the shadows?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan stepped forward and shook Liao Xiao Pao’s shoulders, asking him: “Brother Ironman, what’s wrong? Hurry and tell me!”

Being asked by Gu Qing Shan, Liao Xiao Pao suddenly snapped out of it.

He breathed a heavy sigh, then held Gu Qing Shan’s hands tightly without being able to say a word.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed.

Something isn’t right.

Four swords instantly appeared behind him.

He was ready to kill!

“Tell me, what’s the situation?”

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked while using his inner sight to examine the wasteland around them.

Liao Xiao Pao muttered something under his breath, which made it nearly impossible to hear.

He seemed to be in a bit of discomfort as his face was completely flushed.

“Say it clearly!” Gu Qing Shan held tightly onto Liao Xiao Pao’s shoulder and shouted.

Liao Xiao Pao paused briefly before loudly answering:

“I... I love her!”

Chapter 1670

Translator: La0o9

Nighttime.

Liao Xiao Pao had finished burying all the corpses and returned, sitting down in front of their campfire.

Gu Qing Shan tossed a potato that he had just finished baking to him.

“What’s this?”

Liao Xiao Pao cautiously asked.

“It’s called a potato——- don’t worry, it’s not meat” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Liao Xiao Pao began to eat, feeling assured.

Laura couldn't help but comment: "Hey I'm telling you, all you need to do is not commit murder, there's no need for you to be so careful even while eating"

Liao Xiao Pao replied with a solemn tone and attitude: "Since I've made a promise to Tear, I'll definitely be able to keep it—-- starting from my meals themselves"

Laura and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances, then shut their mouths in a coordinated manner.

"A man in a one-sided love is quite scary"

Laura sent her voice.

Gu Qing Shan was thinking about a different matter: "Liao Xiao Pao is human, while Tear is a saintly spirit, can they actually be together?"

Laura's expression became flushed and replied: "Who knows, this is my first time in the Dusty World as well"

Gu Qing Shan helplessly shrugged.

It wasn't only Laura that was clueless, he also didn't know.

Alright, let's just ask about some important matters first.

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and asked: "Brother Ironman, do you know how to defend yourself using Realm Force?"

Liao Xiao Pao was still chewing the baked potato when he answered in an unclear voice: "Busing bealm borce buu befend—--"

He sat still, but a metal shield suddenly appeared from the void of space and landed inside his body from the sky.

Liao Xiao Pao swallowed the potato and explained: “There’s a different means of defense for every distinct Realm Force. Mine is to directly reinforce it upon myself, while that guy earlier had a bunch of entities from a Phase Realm defending him. Only you would know for sure what kind of measure you’d be able to use through trial and error”

Seeing Gu Qing Shan’s disappointed expression, he added: “Of course, the first stage of Realm Force should still be unable to help you with defense. You first need to use it a lot more and explore it to the very limit, from which you’d comprehend the second stage of Realm Force and naturally understand how to use Realm Force to defend yourself”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “In other words, I need to at least reach the second stage of Realm Force before I can even consider defense?”

“Exactly” Liao Xiao Pao replied.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

To explore and exert Realm Force to its even limit——

My Realm Force is [Realm Spirit Descent], it originated from the Twin Rivers of Life and Death, a unique type of Realm Force.

It most likely isn’t simple to exert this kind of Realm Force to its limit.

Even during my time in the Gloomy City world, I only managed to perform 2333 attacks to summon the Blood Sea Realm Spirit: Guillotine before that old man died.

I still have no idea what kind of Realm Spirit would appear after the Guillotine.

In that case...

To exert [Realm Spirit Descent] to its very limit, I would have to find an opponent who can seriously take a hit?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, a slugging female voice sounded in his ears:

『 He isn’t correct 』

Ah?

Isn't this the voice of the Master of the Blood Sea Valhalla?

“Have you awoken?” Gu Qing Shan immediately asked.

The Master of Valhalla yawned, then tiredly replied: 『 I haven't—— I just snapped out of my sleep for a bit, I'll be returning to slumber soon enough 』

『 Listen, Gu Qing Shan, the reason why they could exert the power of their spirits to their limit was because their spirits were incomplete, and you are completely different from them 』

『 ——Your Spirit Art originated from the Twin Rivers of Life and Death, the complete Saint Realm Halo, even if you manage to reach 10,000 attacks, the number of spirits you can summon would still actually be infinite 』

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

That is—— that—— powerful?

He hurriedly asked: “Then how should I cultivate this type of Realm Force for it to become even more powerful?”

The Master of Valhalla scoffed and replied: 『 I've already told you before, our world system is closely related to Phase Realms, and so... 』

Gu Qing Shan focused on listening to her, but her voice got cut off here.

A few moments later.

Still nothing.

——so, what?

“Esteemed lady, just now you were saying——” Gu Qing Shan tried asking.

Still no response.

“Please, can you tell me how I would be able to use Realm Force to manifest a type of defense?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

No response.

“...” Gu Qing Shan.

He silently took out the Condemnation Codex and opened it to the page with the Card.

The woman continued to keep her eyes closed, seemingly still asleep.

Gu Qing Shan was puzzled.

——if it wasn't her who spoke just now, who was it?

Without any options, he could only ask: “War God UI... was it her who talked to me just now?”

[Indeed, she was talking in her sleep just now] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

He looked closely at the woman on the Card——

——Are you serious?

Even while sleep talking, you managed to teach me?

Gu Qing Shan sighed helplessly and closed the Condemnation Codex, carefully putting it away.

At the time, the Master of Valhalla had said that she is not to be disturbed during her sleep.

—then it's best that I don't disturb her.

After all, the very first lesson that Shifu taught me all those years ago was that I can't offend beautiful women with considerable strength.

Shifu...

Hah, Shifu's soul fragment is still trapped within the Samsara, she can't run even if she wanted to.

I need to try even harder, taking this chance to grow stronger, then come up with a way to save Shifu.

Gu Qing Shan was plagued by his worries but still returned to the words that the Master of Valhalla said just now.

If her sleep talking wasn't just nonsense—

Then [Realm Spirit Descent] didn't have a limit, it would be capable of summoning infinite spirits to fight with me.

In that case, Liao Xiao Pao's method is completely useless for me.

But the Master of Valhalla had given me a hint, saying that 'our world system is closely related to Phase Realms'

Perhaps the point of breakthrough lies with Phase Realms?

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled the Phase Realm that suddenly appeared during his battle with the old man.

At the time, a total of 35 fallen heroic spirits had connected their fates to mine, sharing any damage I would receive.

—how could that be a coincidence?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan turned to Liao Xiao Pao and said: "Ironman, I don't know if I had done the right thing by introducing Tear to you"

Liao Xiao Pao opened his eyes wide in disbelief: “The right thing? How could it have been anything but the right thing? I, Liao Xiao Pao, will forever remember what happened today. I will never forget that it was your help that allowed me to personally meet a spirit of the Dusty World!”

“In that case, do you think that I’ve done the bare minimum to show my sincerity?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Liao Xiao Pao replied: “No! Not ‘barely enough’! You’ve really shown your sincerity more than enough! Brother Gu, if you have something you need me to do later on, even if this Liao Xiao Pao has to go to hell and back, I would not refuse!”

He patted his chest, loudly making metallic clanks.

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Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Perfect---

He stood up and drew his sword, telling Liao Xiao Pao: “Then there’s something that I happen to need your help with”

“What is it?”

“Let me slash you a few times”

“---Huh?”

“...You didn’t mishear, I want you to help me confirm something...”

“You aren’t trying to kill me, right?”

“Of course not!”

“Then why do you want to slash me?”

“I’m thinking of summoning my spirit to ask about how to advance”

“...An interesting idea”

A few moments later.

Liao Xiao Pao stood still and started circulating his Realm Force.

The illusion of a metal shield descended from the sky and entered his body.

“Are you ready?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I’m ready, please do it gently!” Liao Xiao Pao took a deep breath and braced himself.

Laura was a bit speechless as she watched this.

— you still haven’t even begun, how come you’re already breathing so heavily?

“Don’t worry, I’ll be very gentle—”

Three flashes abruptly appeared from his sword.

Clang clang clang!

Three consecutive slashes!

Instantly, the illusion of a bloody giant appeared from Gu Qing Shan's body.

「 Someone with a death wish! 」

The giant grinned and caught Liao Xiao Pao.

Liao Xiao Pao loudly called out: "We're allies——"

Gu Qing Shan also hurriedly said: "Wait——"

Before he even finished his words, the bloody giant had already started thrashing Liao Xiao Pao all over the ground.

"Don't kill him!" Gu Qing Shan called out.

The giant stopped and asked in a strange tone: 「 Aren't you fighting? 」

Gu Qing Shan said: "I actually summoned you because I wanted to talk"

Looking at the beat-up Liao Xiao Pao, the giant gently placed him on the ground and complained: 「 Why didn't you say it earlier? 」

"Hah, I couldn't speak fast enough, how much longer can you remain here?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Not very long, I've already attacked, so I'll disappear soon enough 」 the giant replied.

After thinking briefly, the giant said: 「 Even if you summon the other spirits after me, they would still attack first—— how about this, don't hit him for a while and do something else, then summon me again 」

“Got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The bloody giant nodded and vanished from the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly got closer and helped Liao Xiao Pao stand up: “Are you ok?”

Liao Xiao Pao wiped away his nosebleed, speaking with a slightly fearful tone: “That giant was so powerful, it’s a good thing I made sure to defend my vitals”

Seeing that he was fine, Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief: “I’ve already talked to him, so when we summon him again later on, he won’t attack you”

“Hm”

Liao Xiao Pao had also seen their conversation just now, so he nodded while feeling assured.

At this point, Laura silently sent her voice: “Gu Qing Shan, I need to remind you about something, many giants are prone to be forgetful”

“It’ll be a very short time, he can’t be that forgetful” Gu Qing Shan was a bit unsure.

Laura replied: “Let’s hope not...”

A few minutes later.

Three cold gleams appeared and lightly slashed Liao Xiao Pao.

In an instant, the bloody giant appeared around Gu Qing Shan’s body again.

「 Pitiful fool, I'm gonna beat you out of this world! 」

The giant grinned.

He caught Liao Xiao Pao and sent him flying with a single strike——

“Don't kill him! He's an ally!” Gu Qing Shan loudly called out.

The giant immediately recalled what just happened and hurriedly flew up into the sky, striking Liao Xiao Pao back down.

Boom!

Liao Xiao Pao crashed into the ground and formed a large crater.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly ran up and ran into the crater.

Only to see that Liao Xiao Pao's face was completely swollen, spitting out a bunch of rocks in his mouth while pointing at the giant:

“Didn't you... say you... wouldn't attack me?”

The giant scratched his head and apologized in a loud voice:

「 Sorry about that, I forgot 」

Laura was facepalming while watching from the side.

The giant turned to Gu Qing Shan and helplessly told him: 「 After attacking, I will have to return, so we're going to have to do this again 」

Gu Qing Shan turned to Liao Xiao Pao, then at the giant.

“Please don’t hit him again this time” Gu Qing Shan sincerely said.

The giant looked at Gu Qing Shan, then at Liao Xiao Pao, trying to remember their appearance.

「 Got it 」 the giant affirmed them.

—this matter was decided here.

“Wait a moment!” Liao Xiao Pao suddenly called out.

The giant and Gu Qing Shan both turned to him at the same time.

Liao Xiao Pao looked at the giant then at Gu Qing Shan and asked with difficulty: “You guys... are you sure you aren’t... just cooperating to beat me up?”

“ 「 Of course not! 」 ”

Gu Qing Shan and the giant both replied.

Chapter 1671

Translator: La0o9

Nighttime.

Somewhere in the barren wasteland.

A campfire was silently crackling as it burned.

Gu Qing Shan, Laura, Liao Xiao Pao, and the bloody giant all sat together around the campfire.

「 Thank you for the treat, that was very delectable 」

The giant wiped its mouth and heartily said its thanks.

A complete set of bull skeletons was sitting behind it.

“You’re welcome, the main reason why I summoned you this time was to ask you about how I should proceed from now on”

The bloody giant was surprised: 「 The Twin Rivers of Life and Death’s Realm Force is very unique. It has a deep connection to Phase Realms, so it’s imperative that you have someone to guide you—— why is there no one acting as your guide? 」

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

——the Twin Rivers of Life and Death is very deeply connected to Phase Realms.

This was the same as what the Master of Valhalla had said.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “The Silent Light Apocalypse had destroyed the Blood Sea Valhalla, the Master of Valhalla is still in slumber, so I had no other choice but to directly summon you and ask what I should do”

Hearing that, the bloody giant shook its head: 「 So that was the case... even the Saint Realm Halo of the past had fallen to this degree, it truly makes one sigh in regret 」

It adjusted its posture, then solemnly explained: 「 From this point on, you will need to firmly grasp every aspect of [Realm Spirit Descent], if you can thoroughly get accustomed to it, you’d be able to improvise in many situations, not even this hunk of metal next to you should be able to do anything against you 」

Gu Qing Shan and Laura both turned to Liao Xiao Pao.

Liao Xiao Pao was unconvinced: “I was passively defending just now, I still haven’t displayed any killer techniques yet”

The giant looked at Liao Xiao Pao and spoke in a profound tone: 「 Your opponent can summon infinite spirits, the longer you fight, the more powerful the spirits he summon would become. How long do you think you can last against that? 」

「 ——Furthermore, the one he killed to reach this world was a realm spirit, but you’re just a mortal. Do you think you can actually win against him with your incomplete spirit? 」

Liao Xiao Pao couldn’t say anything to refute that.

But he quickly thought about how he now had a complete spirit.

——the saintly heroic spirit girl, Tear!

That girl... truly does tickle my fancy...

I need to help her repair her world system and gradually gain her affection.

Then, how exactly should I do that?

Liao Xiao Pao had fallen into thought.

The giant slowly stood up and looked at Gu Qing Shan, telling him: 「 If there is nothing else, I will return first 」

“Wait a moment” Gu Qing Shan said.

「 What is it? 」

“I still want to better grasp Realm Force—— because I have a lot of matters that I must quickly attend to and have to grow stronger as fast as possible”

The giant shook its head: 「 It is still too early for you to be thinking about such matters. If you insist on trying to enter the next step, you will face extremely dangerous circumstances 」

It reached out and pointed to the world below with its long finger:

「 This world... is actually very dangerous. If you further comprehend the mysteries of power, you will be able to witness more secrets, and there are no guarantees that you'd be able to survive when that happens 」

Gu Qing Shan was stunned and exchanged glances with Laura.

At this point, the sky was completely dark, the wind was gently blowing through their camp.

Other than the crackling of the campfire, everything around them was completely silent.

For some reason, Laura suddenly felt a chill run down her spine.

She habitually stuck closer to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan lightly patted her head to console her, then continued to ask the giant:

“I would be in more danger if I awakened a new Realm Force? Why is that?”

The giant slowly explained: 「 You are currently still a mortal. Even if you have deific authority, you're still only a higher form of living being that remains under a world's jurisdiction; but if you continue to further grasp Realm Force, you will be considered a 'spirit' instead of a living being 」

「 Spirits and living beings have a 'summoner and summoned' relationship, so normally, living beings are safe under these circumstances; but if you also become a spirit, you would no longer be under any protection 」

Gu Qing Shan carefully digested these words.

The giant continued: 「 To gradually get accustomed to [Realm Spirit Descent] or to take a risk of death and further explore Realm Force. You must quickly make a choice between one of them because I cannot remain here for too long 」

“You said— that this world is very dangerous, are the worlds further inside no longer dangerous?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The giant replied: 「 They would be even more dangerous— that is why I suggest that you first leave the Dusty World and thoroughly grasp [Realm Spirit Descent] first, improving your strength step by step, then attempt to explore Realm Force again. This is the relatively most stable method 」

“Only time in the Dusty World would remain relatively stationary. I don’t have the time to go slowly” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 It would be a shame to die when you’ve reached this level of cultivation, are you sure you want to take such a risk? 」 the giant asked.

“I didn’t want to take the risk either, but there are already no other options” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The giant grinned and muttered: 「 ...As long as you’re already fully aware of the possible risks 」

He walked in front of Gu Qing Shan and lightly tapped each of Gu Qing Shan’s shoulders with one finger.

Two bursts of light suddenly appeared on Gu Qing Shan’s shoulders.

「 This is an attempt at premature comprehension, so it will be very dangerous 」

The giant explained: 「 After one minute, your Realm Force will be stimulated and cause you to fall into a temporary state of spiritualization 」

「 For you personally, this is truly too soon, so you don’t need to think about anything else... 」

「 Just try your best to survive 」

「 Remember, you can summon us to fight any time you wish 」

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After saying that, the giant then disappeared.

Only Gu Qing Shan and Laura remained, together with Liao Xiao Pao who was smiling stupidly.

Laura held Gu Qing Shan's hand and said: "I'll come with you"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Lines of glowing text appeared in the void of space:

[You've come into contact with 'spiritualization' ahead of time]

[In 30 seconds, you will be temporarily become a spirit, please take care of your own safety]

Safety...

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking that, a flash of light appeared from the watch he received from the leader of the Song and Dance Troupe of Sin.

The flash of light turned into a small humanoid figure and loudly spoke: [The Phase Realm: Clock Tower has sensed your spiritualization]

[In 20 seconds, it will overlap with the main world and take you inside]

[Attention! This might be a spirit realm war!]

The small figure bowed to Gu Qing Shan before it snuck back inside the watch.

Gu Qing Shan let go of Laura's hand.

“What’s the matter?” Laura immediately caught his hand again.

“I might have to go somewhere that only spirits can enter” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Laura hurriedly called out: “But that giant earlier said that you might run into danger, if I don’t come with you, how can you be safe?”

She thought about it briefly, then clenched her teeth: “Take my umbrella with you”

A small flower umbrella appeared from the void of space, being held in Laura’s hands.

She handed the umbrella to Gu Qing Shan.

Lines of glowing text immediately appeared on the War God UI:

[Laura is presenting ‘Infinite Worlds Shelter’ to you]

[If you accept it, you will obtain this ability, whereas she will lose it]

Gu Qing Shan felt moved because of her feelings, but didn’t accept the umbrella and simply stroked Laura’s head.

“Don’t worry, that giant was only exaggerating. I’ve been through plenty of dangerous situations before, I can feel that there won’t be any big issues this time around as well”

He lightly told her.

A vision of light slowly manifested in front of him.

A certain Phase Realm had manifested here and was rapidly approaching Gu Qing Shan.

A sky-high clock tower stood at the very middle of that world.

Numerous souls were being pinned to the outside of the clock tower, continuously moaning and screaming.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly noticed the burly man from before.

That man was killed by a single attack from Liao Xiao Pao, so Gu Qing Shan didn't expect that his soul would be trapped in a Phase Realm.

He was being tightly pinned to the outside of the tower by a long black spike, some weak light could be seen slowly seeping out from his soul.

Whenever a bit of light seeped out from his soul, the burly man would utter a horrifying scream.

Gu Qing Shan had already awoken [Phase Sight], so he naturally saw this clearly, but Laura and Liao Xiao Pao were both completely clueless.

Noticing that he was looking into the void of space, Laura was a bit startled:

“That’s right, you can see Phase Realms—— will there really be no issues?”

A burst of shrill laughter suddenly erupted from the clock tower.

「 A spirit! A newborn spirit! 」

「 I will definitely not let any part of you go to waste; be it skin, bones, or otherwise! 」

「 ——I will completely devour you whole! 」

Gu Qing Shan’s expression remained unchanged and continued to stroke Laura’s head: “Yeah, I can already see that world. It’s a Phase Realm under the rule of a high-class chef, and he has issued a challenge for me to compete in cooking skills against him”

“Is that so? I think you’ll win against him very easily” Laura sighed in relief and smiled.

In the Phase Realm, numerous terrifying monsters emerged from the ground all around the clock tower.

Their bodies were already rotten, exposing their bones in numerous places.

These monsters were staring closely at Gu Qing Shan, silently waiting for the two worlds to overlap.

——there were 5 seconds left!

“I’m very confident in my skills, but the other party seemed to have prepared ingredients ahead of time. Regardless, we have to compete first before anything can be concluded” Gu Qing Shan sincerely replied.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You’ve temporarily become a ‘spirit’]

[You’re about to enter the Phase Realm: Clock Tower]

“Do your best!” Laura nodded with confidence.

Hoh——

Gu Qing Shan suddenly vanished without a trace.

He had entered the Phase Realm..

Chapter 1672

Translator: La0o9

The nighttime barren world flashed out of existence and travelled increasingly far away.

Meanwhile, the Phase Realm in front of Gu Qing Shan was approaching and would soon envelop him.

But everything paused right at this very moment.

—everything had stopped right at the border between the two worlds.

An old man with a wrinkled face appeared directly in front of Gu Qing Shan.

He observed Gu Qing Shan and suddenly asked: 「 I know it was you who killed the old man in the Gloomy City 」

“It was me, and you are——?” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

The old man followed up: 「 In the past, I had actually fled to the Dusty World together with him. He was too weak, but I am not the same 」

The old man became increasingly hysterical as he talked: 「 I know that you know the Sacrificial Dance. Originally, I had no intentions of doing anything to you and would have just let you go, but very unfortunately, you committed a mistake that you shouldn't have 」

Gu Qing Shan looked at him and asked with a smile: “What's that?”

「 You shouldn't have converted yourself into a spirit within my world system 」 the old man declared.

“Oh? What's wrong with that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 The ironclad rule of the Dusty World—— no one is allowed to interfere with someone else's world system, especially not during a war between spirits within the same world system 」

「 And I have already issued a declaration of a spirit realm war! 」

The old man's murky eyes were filled with greed.

「 From this point on, even if I kill you, it would still adhere perfectly with the Dusty World's ironclad rules, no one and nothing would be able to hold me responsible! 」

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "I'm only here to experience the power of a spirit. There's no conflict between us, so how about we just call a truce?"

「 Naïve! 」

The old man laughed: 「 You're going to die very soon—— I will devour you and take your everything for myself! 」

He began to chant an incantation.

A large clock suddenly appeared behind him.

Lines of glowing text quickly scrolled across Gu Qing Shan's eyes:

[The other party had given up the use of all other Spirit Arts to perform the exclusive Spirit Art: Imprisonment of Myriad Spirits]

[The other party had placed a seal upon your soul, temporarily restricting the use of several abilities]

[Attention: your opponent has chosen a total of 12 abilities to seal away]

The old man pointed at Gu Qing Shan continuously from the distance while continuing his monologue:

「 Even the bigshots of the Dusty World don't dare to mess with me, do you know why that is? 」

Gu Qing Shan felt something disappearing from his body.

Several lines of glowing text swiftly appeared:

[Your ability 'Realm Spirit Descent' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Living Being Sacrificial Dance' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Conquer' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Mountain Wraith' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Fog Realm Descent' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Causeless Sword' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Manipulator of Song and Dance' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Ethereal' fist techniques have been sealed]

[Your ability 'Forgetting River Severance' has been sealed]

[Your ability 'Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon' has been sealed]

[Your dragon hexes have been sealed]

[Finally, your acting skills have been sealed]

The old man looked closely at Gu Qing Shan, wanting to see some sort of shocked expression from him.

But Gu Qing Shan simply stared coldly back at him.

—it couldn't be helped, his acting skills have been sealed.

"Are we really going to do this?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The old man grinned to reveal his mouth full of rotting teeth and laughed: 「 You can only use the power of mortals now, and I've sealed even the few exceptionally powerful mortal abilities you possess 」

"But you also can't use Spirit Arts" Gu Qing Shan shrugged.

The old man replied: 「 But I have a clock tower base! As well as numerous subordinates! I don't need to act by myself at all, they can simply do it all for me, and so— 」

「 ——say your last prayers, because you're going to die 」

After saying that, the old man disappeared.

At the very next moment, the Phase Realm fully enveloped Gu Qing Shan.

...

A zone of complete darkness.

Gu Qing Shan found himself hovering in the air, so he silently examined his current state.

I'm currently a spirit.

What's the significance of a spirit to the world?

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Attention, your opponent has declared a spirit realm war]

[The victor in this war will inherit this entire jurisdiction world, the loser will be completely at the victor's mercy]

Gu Qing Shan didn't care about that at all.

He simply touched the ring on his finger and randomly selected a suit of armor inside.

It was a crimson red suit of armor that instantly separated into numerous components before donning itself onto Gu Qing Shan's body.

——this was one of the many Divine Artifact-grade suits of armor that the Bramble Bird Empress Laura had in her personal collection.

Gu Qing Shan landed on the ground and stood still.

Numerous monsters charged forward to attack him——

Gu Qing Shan grasped the twin swords Heaven and Earth tightly.

A strange power followed his hands to enter his swords.

Some notifications appeared on the War God UI:

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[You cannot perform the two Spirit Arts that you possess]

[However, your attacks will be imbued with Realm Force, as this is the most basic characteristic of being a spirit]

[The Realm Force utilized during this spirit realm war originates from the current world system]

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

—-it seems the primary means of combat after becoming a spirit was by using Realm Force.

The reason why I couldn't do anything to the old man in the Gloomy City, in the beginning, was because the other party was using Realm Force.

And now I've become a similar existence.

From all around him, numerous monsters charged at him from every direction.

Suddenly—-

A gust of wind manifested from the ground.

The intense gust of wind rampaged and howled as it instantly flew all the way to the sky before vanishing without a trace.

A large chunk of the horde monsters had been erased, leaving the ground behind empty.

Gu Qing Shan stood in the middle of the empty field, the armor on his body had been completely broken as it fell to the ground in pieces.

From the faraway clock tower, the old man's hysterical laughter could be heard again:

「 Fool, you're a spirit, how could mortal armor endure the force of a spirit realm war? 」

Gu Qing Shan wholeheartedly agreed and nodded: "That's true, it only managed to shield me for a single second before it was obliterated"

He completely ignored armor and let go of his swords, allowing them to disappear behind himself.

More monsters were rushing towards him——

But Gu Qing Shan simply stood there.

He seemed to be silently examining the power of a spirit.

The monsters surrounded him once again——

Four swords appeared from behind Gu Qing Shan and scattered to protect him from every direction.

Slash!

Blinding sword phantoms erupted out of nowhere, leaving terrifying gashes of light on the ground.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his hands behind his back while casually strolling forward.

Slash slash slash slash slash slash slash!

Every weapon, every monster was like paper in front of him.

He was like a deity walking through the darkness while eradicating all wickedness from the world.

「 NO! YOUR ABILITIES SHOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEALED! 」 the old man angrily howled.

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: “You’ve sealed away a lot of my abilities, but very unfortunately, my old expertise was killing enemies on a battlefield”

「 Don’t act high and mighty with me, I have a weapon of war! 」 the old man scoffed, then placed his hand against the walls of the clock tower and shouted: 「 Tolling Bell of The End, awaken! 」

Boong—

A loud chime rang out from the clock tower.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan instantly vanished.

By the time he reappeared, he was already at the bottom of the clock tower.

He was now also wearing a pure-white mask.

—the Samsara Wicked Mask.

Lightly placing his hand on the clock tower, he said:

“Want to go on a rampage? That’s not going to happen”

Instantly, numerous patterns of various colors appeared all over the white mask, depicting a wicked mask of Occultism.

Cracks started to form all over the clock tower, which rapidly climbed up to fill the entire structure.

[Jade Cultivation Profound Shadow]!

The clock tower's abilities had been absorbed by the Samsara Wicked Mask and upgraded by one step.

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and waved.

The Earth sword flew out from the horde of monsters and landed in his hand, asking with a mountainous heavy voice:

「Crush? 」

“Crush” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Wielding the sword with both hands, he heavily slashed the clock tower a single time before retreating several dozen meters away.

Baam—

The entire clock tower was completely destroyed and fell to ruins.

Numerous glowing souls emerged from the clock tower, crying loud tears of joy.

These souls drifted for a few moments before they started to fly into the sky as if they sensed something.

The old man appeared in front of the clock tower ruins.

He stared with his dead eyes towards Gu Qing Shan and questioned with a hoarse voice: 「 How many abilities do you actually have? 」

Gu Qing Shan sighed and replied: “There’s no such ability, I simply enjoy such scenes of bloody carnage”

「 Such scenes of bloody carnage? And you like them? 」 the old man exclaimed in disbelief.

“That’s right. I’ve always had to face enemies that are overwhelmingly powerful, so I’ve come to particularly enjoy these normal battle scenes”

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan casually brandished his sword and approached the old man..

Chapter 1673

Translator: La0o9

With every step Gu Qing Shan took forward, the old man retreated a step.

The distance between them hadn’t been reduced at all.

「 Wait... 」 the old man called out.

Gu Qing Shan stopped and looked at him.

「 Spare me 」 the old man said.

“Ah? Didn’t you say you wanted to devour me?” Gu Qing Shan seemed surprised.

「 That was my mistake, I shouldn’t have arrogantly attacked the heir of the Sacrificial Dance, please be merciful and spare my life 」 the old man begged.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and said: “It’s not impossible— hand over the manifestation of this world system’s essence and I’ll forget what happened here today”

The old man’s expression changed and unwillingly said: 「 If I hand that thing over to you, it would be the same as handing the entire world system to you 」

“You’re allowed to remain in this world, and your life will also be spared, it’s a very profitable offer” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The old man appeared conflicted.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him and chuckled: “You know what they say about not being a sore loser. You’re the one who declared the spirit realm war, and now you’re refusing to give anything up to end it? That’s not how things work”

The old man’s expression became cold and muttered: 「 You have no idea how much effort I’ve put into this world! 」

He slightly twitched his fingers.

The ground underneath Gu Qing Shan’s feet suddenly erupted as numerous sprites of light flew out from below.

Souls!

They were all the souls of the dead, overlapping with one another, trying their best to restrain Gu Qing Shan.

『 REMAIN! STAY AND ENDURE THIS ETERNAL PAIN WITH US! 』

The souls shrieked in chaotic unison.

The old man loudly laughed: 「 How naïve! To even think about sparing your enemy's life in a war, I truly don't understand why that personage chose you as an heir—— 」

He looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan was still being restrained by numerous souls, but not a single bit of nervousness could be seen in his expression, he was even sighing out loud.

「 Bastard—— our positions have been switched, now it's your turn to die! 」

The old man shouted out loud, then clasped his hands together and rapidly recited an incantation.

Shu!

A tiny slashing sound curtly interrupted his incantation.

The old man's lips twitched and slowly looked down towards his chest.

A sword had been plunged through his body with over half of it sticking out in front of his chest, liquid blood was continuously dripping from the tip of the sword.

Behind him, a small and graceful orange cat hovered in the air.

The orange cat transformed into an aloof girl who wielded a sword in her hand.

“Somebody actually thought that my gongzi was naïve...”

She shook her head and said nothing else.

While Gu Qing Shan was talking to the old man just now, she had already transformed into the orange cat and used [Ghostly Shadow of Night] to hide behind the old man.

The old man's complexion changed several times before his knees collapsed and he prostrated on the ground:

「 Sp—spare me—」

But Shannu wasn't so soft-hearted.

A cold gleam flashed by.

The old man's extremities were all sliced off, leaving only his torso behind which rolled down at Gu Qing Shan's feet.

Seeing that, the souls behind Gu Qing Shan instantly scattered away and flew back into the ground without having the courage to remain.

「 AAAAAAAAA! 」 the old man shrieked terribly.

But he quickly went quiet again.

Because a sword that gave off a frigid sensation had been propped right against his neck.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down and sighed: "Just take a look, what was even the point of that? It would have been so much better if you had just accepted my offer"

The old man stared at him with eyes full of grudge.

"You dare look at my gongzi with such eyes— gongzi, there's no need to talk to him so much, isn't it quicker just to cut him down in a single strike?" Shannu asked while exuding killing intent.

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer her, his expression was a bit complicated.

This old man in front of me.

Was a spirit who wielded Realm Force.

But he had given up all Spirit Arts on his own accord.

Just to fight me fair and square!

What kind of words can you use to describe such sportsmanship?

It would be so much easier if all of my enemies are similarly naïve from now on.

Gu Qing Shan was savoring this precious moment.

Lines of glowing text appeared from the void of space one by one:

[The spirit realm war is over]

[You've obtained victory in war]

[This entire world spirit now belongs to you, and you have the freedom to do anything to the opposing spirit who lost]

A crimson pocket watch flew out from the old man's body and hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

—*—the manifestation of this jurisdiction world's essence!*

More lines of glowing text appeared from the void of space:

[You've discovered a world essence Holy Relic]

[You can use the key mold to forge it into a new portion of the Traveler's Proof]

Gu Qing Shan took out the Traveler's Proof mold right away.

As soon as the mold appeared, the crimson pocket watch immediately began to shake.

It then flew into the air and landed into the key mold, slowly melting into a liquid and pouring itself into the gap of the mold.

The crimson liquid moved along the crevice on the key mold before fusing with the small piece of the key's body.

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—it then solidified.

The key now consisted of three different colors, which were respectively bronze at the key base, black at the beginning of the key body, and the newly forged crimson key body.

They represented the three coins, the evil Holy Relic of Gloomy City, as well as the Clock Tower world's pocket watch.

Perhaps it was because the Clock Tower world was a lot more complete, the key's length had reached 2/5th of the key's entire length, which was much longer compared to the previous time.

Gu Qing Shan put the key mold away in satisfaction.

If I can continue like this, I'll be able to make the complete Traveler's Key very soon.

—this is the literal key to our escape!

"Do you have any last words?" he asked the old man.

With him saying that, the old man knew that any further hope of survival was wishful thinking.

His expression stayed sullen briefly before suddenly breaking out into laughter:

「 Bahahaha, I know that you're only a temporary spirit—— you originally had the power to control this entire world as a mortal, but you've instead erased the manifestation of the world essence, so the only thing remaining for you is death! 」

「 Stinking brat, the underground of this entire Clock Tower world is filled with grudgeful souls who signed up for the Dusty World qualification competition—— for countless years, every single person who died here had fallen into my hands! 」

Gu Qing Shan winced.

——so the evil spirit that made all the competitors kill one another was this old man.

The old man's face had become terribly distorted as he continued to scream: 「 Without the world's manifestation relic, how could a mortal like you possibly deal with billions of wicked souls? 」

「 I've already released them all 」

「 As soon as your spiritualization state ends, billions of wicked souls will come to kill you, mortal. This is my final curse on you 」

「 ——Prepare to be devoured by billions of souls and die! 」

A layer of greyish dusty light appeared around Gu Qing Shan.

The curse!

A notification popped up on the War God UI:

[You've been inflicted with the curse: devoured by wicked souls]

[This is a curse performed by an evil spirit using up the last of its power]

[You must defeat the souls of all dead people, otherwise, you will be continuously haunted by the wicked souls]

Gu Qing Shan sighed regretfully and lightly plunged his sword down.

——the malicious laughter abruptly stopped.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Obtained Realm Force: 150]

Gu Qing Shan stood up and cracked his neck, preparing to face the billions of grudgeful souls.

Suddenly, an anxious voice called out from the sky:

“What did that old man say just now?”

This was Laura’s voice!

Gu Qing Shan turned around, only to see Laura descending from the sky together with a cute girl in a miniskirt.

The girl’s long hair was full of colorful hues.

——it was her who gave them the invitation the previous time.

I believe the cow of the Song and Dance Troupe of Sin called her ‘little elder sister Cai Zang’.

“Huh? How did you come in?”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised to see them.

Laura explained: “I still felt worried, so I summoned Tear and asked her to visit the Utopia to help me ask if anyone could take me in to look for you. Since little elder sister Cai Zang said that she could, I signed a Bramble covenant with her”

The cute girl next to her smiled and said: 『 I can indeed freely travel between other people’s Phase Realms. I am honored to become the contracted spirit of the Bramble bloodline 』

Gu Qing Shan understood and smiled in return: “Thank you”

——most likely, it was the dream of all spirits to sign a Bramble covenant with Laura.

The fact that Laura thought about having Tear ask around for information while she hid away also showed how much she had matured.

While he was thinking of that, Laura ran up and caught his sleeves, nervously asking: “That old man just now seemed to have cursed you, what exactly happened?”

Gu Qing Shan just chuckled: “It’s nothing, he was only an adorable innocent old man, we were having a cooking competition——”

While Laura and Cai Zang were listening to him, numerous souls suddenly appeared all around them.

Dreadful howls resounded throughout the entire world.

All the souls that had ever been buried here escaped from the ground and flew around in the sky.

In just a few moments, the entire world had already been surrounded by these grudgeful spirits.

『 DIE DIE DIE DIE! 』

『 DON’T YOU DARE RUN! 』

『 YOUR SOUL WILL REMAIN HERE AND SUFFER WITH US FOREVER! 』

『 EAT YOU! EAT YOU! 』

They sharply shrieked and howled, rapidly rushing towards Gu Qing Shan.

Looking at those grudgeful spirits, Cai Zang then turned to Gu Qing Shan and asked: 『 ——You call that cooking? 』

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer her and simply stared into the void of space.

Several lines of glowing text had appeared on the War God UI:

[The spirit realm war had officially concluded]

[You've become the master of the Clock Tower world]

[All of your sealed powers have returned]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through the messages and raised his hand, clenching his fist.

“Sacrifice”

He uttered a single word.

An invisible fluctuation erupted from his body that swept over the entire world.

In an instant, all the grudgeful spirits became frozen in place, having no courage to even twitch.

Gu Qing Shan then turned Laura and Cai Zang again, finishing up his explanation:

“That's right, that old man competed with several dishes against me, but I still won in the end”

“He lost wholeheartedly, so he blessed me, saying that——”

“Happiness will come knocking”

Gu Qing Shan took out a jet-black scepter with a horned skull adorned on top, then tapped it on the ground..

Chapter 1674

Translator: La0o9

Two lines of glowing text appeared in front of his vision:

[You've won against all the wicked souls]

[The curse has disappeared]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through it, then looked at the grudgeful souls that were silently sneaking back into the ground in a bored manner.

Perhaps it was because he had killed so many dead people, or perhaps it was because of the Devil King Warden Rod in his hand—— but he had absolutely zero interest in dealing with these dead souls.

In this battle, I've gained a bit more Realm Force and even forged a bit more of the key, so I've truly benefited a lot, but——

My goal was supposed to be to further comprehend Realm Force!

I haven't actually comprehended anything even after the entire battle.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, feeling a bit dejected.

At this point, the cute girl with colorful hair took Laura's hands and said: 『It's time, we should step away for a little bit 』

Laura was surprised and asked: “Step away? Big sis Cai Zang, why do we have to step away?”

Cai Zang glanced briefly at Gu Qing Shan and explained: 『He was the victor of this spirit realm war, so after this, the current world system will come to see him, we should go away for now. He'll return to the main world soon enough 』

“What would happen if you remain?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 I don't know, but it's never been a good idea to displease any world system 』 Cai Zang answered, looking a bit wary.

Displeased?

In that case, do world systems also have consciousness?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled the incomplete world spirits that he had met in the past.

Wait—

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked: “I've used up the world essence relic, would the world system punish me for that?”

Cai Zang replied: 『 Don't try to guess, since I don't know either— as a mortal, you have no idea how ancient a world that had formed its own system would be, nor what it could be thinking. But I do know that a world essence relic is indeed the most crucial object in a world system 』

She then began to retreat with Laura.

“Would something bad happen?” Laura tried asking.

Cai Zang glanced at her, then explained: 『 The situation of every spirit is unique to themselves, and the various jurisdiction worlds had never been prone to interfering with other worlds. Furthermore, since he was only a mortal, no one could say for sure what exactly would happen 』

A barren wasteland began to manifest in the void of space behind her.

—-it was the main world that corresponded to the Clock Tower Phase Realm.

Laura was clearly worried, but since Cai Zang felt that they shouldn't remain, she took Laura with her and disappeared in a flash.

Only Gu Qing Shan remained here.

He carefully recalled and finally understood the words of the bloody giant.

“It turns out... the comprehension of Realm Force would only begin after the highly dangerous spirit realm war...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

At the very next split second, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[It is here]

His surroundings abruptly became dim.

The ground and the sky both disappeared, everything vanished from his sight.

Standing in the void, Gu Qing Shan felt like he was hovering in a lightless ocean.

— he could faintly sense that something seemed to be appearing.

What exactly is it?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe his surroundings, but found nothing at all.

A certain sensation was growing increasingly stronger in his spirit sense.

Above!

Gu Qing Shan suddenly looked up at the void darkness.

But there was nothing above him.

[Behind... you...]

Such a thought was transferred directly into Gu Qing Shan's mind.

Gu Qing Shan instinctively tried to turn around.

Right in this split second, a certain thought appeared in his mind.

If you really are behind me——

Why did you make me feel that you're above me in the void?

As soon as this thought appeared, it uncontrollably filled his entire mind.

Indeed, this was such a minor detail that no one would ever pay attention to it.

There was also the possibility of it rapidly descending from above to appear behind him.

But then why did it have to descend from above?

——Another question that he couldn't shake off.

[Mortal... I order... you to turn around... to see me...]

The consciousness spoke to him telepathically again.

Gu Qing Shan remained standing still without moving.

Cai Zang said that she doesn't know what would happen as every jurisdiction world was different from one another.

Then...

Why—

Why is it so hung up on getting me to turn around?

But then again, when meeting someone for the very first time, turning around to see them was simply one of many methods of communication for a normal living being.

As he thought of this, Gu Qing Shan almost wanted to turn around, but he continued to remain still.

The other party is an ancient world system, so it shouldn't take too much effort to kill me...

No, that isn't correct.

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It fled to the Dusty World from a distant Space Vortex.

Who knows what kind of state it is actually in right now?

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan recalled the bloody giant.

At the time, the bloody giant pointed at the ground under us and said:

...

「This world... is actually very dangerous. If you further comprehend the mysteries of power, you will be able to witness more secrets, and there are no guarantees that you'd be able to survive when that happens」

...

Survive—

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

Could it be that the danger wasn't the spirit realm war, but rather right now?

I can feel a horrifyingly dangerous presence behind me.

—right, when the giant said that, it was pointing down.

The ground!

While the clock tower had appeared to me from the front.

In that case, if there was any danger, it should appear from below, not above or behind.

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and said: “Esteemed judicial lord, I need to explain— according to our world’s etiquette, the method of expression utmost respect for us was actually to turn our backs towards the other party”

No response from behind him.

It seems the other party didn’t expect him to say something like that.

Gu Qing Shan was sweating bullets right now.

Right at this moment of struggle, Gu Qing Shan felt something moving in his chest.

『 Do not move, absolutely do not move at all, I’ll show you... 』

The Master of Valhalla’s hushed voice could be heard from inside the Condemnation Codex.

—she has awoken.

Following that, a Card appeared in Gu Qing Shan’s Thought Sea.

As Gu Qing Shan looked at the Card, he found that it was a crudely drawn Card depicting a blurry figure being surrounded by numerous shadows from behind.

Deep inside the darkness, numerous vertical irises were staring closely at the figure, exuding cruelty and indifference.

Meanwhile, there was a giant maw full of teeth underneath the figure.

Gu Qing Shan understood.

That figure surely represents himself.

Even though the Master of Valhalla had lost her Realm Force, she was still capable of observing my surroundings and depicting the actual situation.

『Hurry and think of a solution』 the Master of Valhalla anxiously said.

This was the first time Gu Qing Shan had heard urgency in her voice.

A solution—

What kind of solution would there be at this point in time?

Behind him, the voice became cold and impatient:

[Turn around... or... die eternally]

A shadow of darkness as heavy as the ocean abyss was pushing down on Gu Qing Shan almost to the point of collapse.

Gu Qing Shan's mind was quickly turning.

Hurry.

I need to think of a solution now!

The other party is requesting me to turn around, which means it can't simply crush me to death.

Being weakened to that degree...

Evidently, the fact that I had used up its world essence relic had quite an effect on it.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled something else:

...

「For you personally, this is truly too soon... Remember, you can summon us to fight any time you wish」

...

—almost instantly, Gu Qing Shan turned the ring on his finger and abruptly shouted:

“Shannu, do not look behind me— turn your back to me!”

Shannu instantly appeared in front with her back facing him, then was swiftly covered in a suit of armor from inside the ring.

Gu Qing Shan drew the twin swords Heaven and Earth from the void of space—

In an instant, the twin swords were swinging at an insane rate, leaving numerous afterimages and a continuous sound of striking on Shannu's armor.

Clang clang clang clang clang—

Being surrounded by the sound of numerous strikes, Shannu was completely unharmed.

Gu Qing Shan didn't put any strength into his swings at all, focusing on nothing but speed, and thanks to the Heaven sword's [Heaven Choice], he had unleashed hundreds and thousands of strikes in an instant.

——the first to appear was the bloody giant, who looked behind Gu Qing Shan and sighed: 「 Good! Good! Very good! To be able to survive while facing this type of unknown entity, it seems my worries were needless 」

Poof poof poof poof poof!

Numerous realm spirits appeared from the void of space one after another.

They took up every last bit of space there was.

Gu Qing Shan didn't put any attention into that at all.

He didn't know what would happen next either.

He was simply swinging his swords.

——continuously swinging his swords without pausing.

It might seem slow, but by the time that the bloody giant appeared, over ten thousand strikes had already been unleashed!

His surroundings became dyed in a bloody red color.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Attention]

[Phase Realm: Blood Sea is about to manifest]

Chapter 1675

Translator: La0o9

The Phase Realm was nowhere to be seen.

The main world had also disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan continued to swing his swords all the way until he could no longer summon anything that he gradually stopped.

On the Card in his Thought Sea, increasingly more vertical irises had appeared on the shadow that surrounded Gu Qing Shan, almost to the point where they filled the entire Card.

[Death... wish...]

The monster spoke in a violent tone.

But Gu Qing Shan still insisted on not turning around.

When the numerous realm spirits appeared, he had also sensed himself receiving some sort of protection.

No matter how ferocious that monster was acting behind him, the suffocating sensation of dread in Gu Qing Shan's spirit sense had disappeared—

The bloody giant appeared a bit solemn and muttered: 「 I had already sensed that something was wrong at the time, and sure enough, things are like this... 」

“Big guy, what's the situation now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 We are spirits, but it is the owner of the world system's foundations, so we can't do anything to it 」 the bloody giant replied.

Gu Qing Shan's heart felt a bit heavy and asked: “You mean, there's nothing we can do?”

「 No, this matter will need to be resolved with your intentions—— what exactly do you want to achieve? Whether it is to flee, to defeat it, or anything else 」 the bloody giant said.

Gu Qing Shan solemnly replied: “If possible, I naturally want to eliminate it”

“——after all, I nearly died just now”

Hearing his words, the spirits all went silent.

A faint sound of the Blood Sea’s waves seemed to be audible from the void of space, gradually approaching them.

Lines of notifications popped up on the War God UI:

[Phase Realm: Blood Sea has manifested!]

Instantly, a blood-colored palace that was floating in the middle of a vast sea of crimson appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

This blood-colored palace had practically been destroyed already, there were only a few broken walls left standing in the gusts of wind.

Even the Blood Sea appeared slightly dim and lightly, with numerous corpses drifting through, devoid of all living beings.

What kind of power would be contained within such aftermath of destruction?

——what meaning was there even if it had appeared now?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking that, the Master of Valhalla’s voice sounded by his ears:

『 When the Silent Light Apocalypse was about to destroy the Blood Sea, it was fortunate that you managed to save me, otherwise, things would not have been so easy today 』

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

The Master of Valhalla replied: 『 If the Blood Sea had been completely destroyed, where do you think you have been summoning these spirits from? 』

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

The Master of Valhalla recited an incantation.

Before Gu Qing Shan could react, an abrupt change had occurred——

All the liquid within the Blood Sea erupted like a reverse waterfall that flowed into the sky.

Wind.

The storm-force wind caused everything around them to become unclear and obscured.

The entire world had practically disappeared, leaving only a giant pillar of liquid blood that stretched across the void, so enormous that its ends couldn't be seen at all.

Those spirits quickly flew towards the giant pillar of liquid blood, turning into glowing patterns before attaching themselves to the pillar, which resulted in a strange kind of resonance.

——at a glance, one might even think that they were originally patterns that had been carved onto the pillar.

Gu Qing Shan was completely stunned by this.

Sensing something, he turned back to the Card in his Thought Sea.

Only to see that the shadows around the figure seemed to have receded in an attempt to flee, but a massive bloody fog had appeared all around the darkness to trap it here, ensuring that it couldn't go anywhere.

『 Gu Qing Shan 』 the Master of Valhalla's voice carried a complicated tone.

“What is it?” Gu Qing Shan replied.

『 You managed to survive, so this will be the moment for you to obtain a more profound level of Realm Force 』 the Master of Valhalla said.

“I don't understand what you mean” Gu Qing Shan said.

『 You will understand very soon—— just listen to me carefully. For now, as soon as you notice a certain Title or name in your mind, you have to call it out immediately 』 the Master of Valhalla told him.

“What would happen then?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Everything was currently unknown to him, not even the War God UI had given any hints.

The Master of Valhalla's voice abruptly became raised: 『 Everyone experiences very different things, so I don't know—— pay attention, it has already begun! 』

While the two of them were talking, a drop of blood flew down from the sky and lightly attached itself to Gu Qing Shan's forehead.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked into standing still.

He suddenly felt like his surroundings had been completely enveloped in the color of blood, other than the giant pillar, he truly couldn't see anything else.

The color of blood grew thicker and thicker to create an increasingly higher platform right beneath his feet.

The various spirits cheered and called out in joy, as if they were all waiting for this exact moment.

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan found himself standing at the foot of the bloody pillar.

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He instinctively put his hand on the pillar.

A certain thought immediately appeared in his mind.

This thought can sometimes be recalled, but sometimes would disappear without a clue, making it indiscernible and unpredictable.

Gradually, this thought became stronger and more intense, eventually forming into a few worlds.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt a sense of understanding.

These words actually presented something, a unique form of address, a forgotten secret, an unspeakable...

—Title.

Recalling the Master of Valhalla's words, Gu Qing Shan immediately called out loudly: "Heed my summon, once again appear in this realm—"

That name lingered at the very tip of his tongue, but was finally called out with considerable trouble:

“Devil of True Antiquity, Overlooker of Myriad Realms!”

Before he finished calling out this name, numerous pale things fell down from the indiscernible bloody void at the top of the pillar.

These pale, milky-white things poured down upon the Blood Sea like rain.

At that moment, everything was white except the Blood Sea itself.

Finally, the entire world began to be filled with these pale objects——

They were the skulls of numerous species, including but not limited to humans, devils, demons, beasts, demonic creatures, and so on and so forth.

Some of these skulls had grown long horns, some were stuck to one another, some had also been broken and were incomplete.

A desperate scream suddenly echoed behind Gu Qing Shan:

[No... it should have... already... perished...]

Clamor!

The numerous bones fell down and buried the world underneath it, not even the darkness monster full of vertical irises managed to escape.

Gu Qing Shan was standing on the only part of empty ground at the foot of the blood pillar.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly pulled his hand back.

He noticed that a bloody shadow had appeared on the part of the pillar touched by his hand.

This bloody shadow was even more gigantic compared to the giant, it was continuously changing, shifting, turning into horrible monsters that Gu Qing Shan had never seen before.

An eerie rune appeared in the middle of the gigantic bloody shadow's forehead.

A voice called out in Gu Qing Shan's mind:

「 I'm going to start eating it now, so I will be sending you back first 」

As he heard this voice, a sharp shriek resounded from around him——

His surroundings instantly changed.

The Blood Sea, the pillar, the eerie shadow, the numerous bones, all of them had disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was standing on black earth once again.

——the Phase Realm: Clock Tower.

It was as if everything that happened just now was a mere dream.

Another voice spoke up in his ears:

『 So it was the Overlooker of Myriad Realms, I didn't expect that you would be able to awaken them! 』

——this was the Master of Valhalla's voice.

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and asked: "What exactly happened just now?"

The Master of Valhalla answered: 『 The realm spirits had helped you establish the Saint Realm Halo, from which you managed to summon that entity from the Saint Realm to devour your enemy 』

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "How... could that be..."

『 ——Your enemy was merely the Judicial Lord of an incomplete world, so everything had already been decided when you summoned the Saint Pillar of the Blood Sea 』

The Master of Valhalla's tone suddenly became hurried:

『 Hurry and take a look at your hand—— what did that entity bestow upon you earlier? 』

Gu Qing Shan opened his hand and looked at his palm.

A dimly glowing rune was silently sitting in his palm.

As he looked closely at the rune, it abruptly gave off a crimson glow that filled this entire world.

『 AAAAEEEEERR! 』

Billions of voices screamed out.

From under the ground, the grudgeful souls that had hidden earlier flew back out once again.

They all uttered horrified howls while flying through the air, attempting to escape from this world.

But it was useless.

Under the illumination of the bloody light, these grudgeful souls were all absorbed into the rune.

In an instant, all the grudgeful souls in the world had already been absorbed.

The rune silently hovered before jumping into Gu Qing Shan's chest like an arc of lightning.

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

[You've received the Devil of True Antiquity, Overlooker of Myriad Realms' bestowal]

Chapter 1676

Translator: La0o9

"What is this?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 A bit of time is necessary. Once it had thoroughly become your power, you will only need to carefully examine it to understand what it is 』 the Master of Valhalla yawned and answered him.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the void of space, only to see a notification pop up:

[Please wait]

The Master of Valhalla's tired voice continued:

『 Gu Qing Shan, my injuries haven't fully healed, and I'm still undergoing conversion into your Card, so to summon the Saint Realm earlier, I've exhausted all of my power— 』

"Wait!" Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked: "Please tell me, who exactly was that personage, the Overlooker of Myriad Realms? And what is the Saint Realm?"

『 During this era of Apocalyptic rampage... other than the Dusty World, there exists another secret location that could not be discovered by the Apocalypse—— it is called the Saint Realm of the infinite worlds, and we of the Twin Rivers of Life and Death have a unique means to communicate with it. That is also the reason why the Twin Rivers of Life and Death was also known as the Saint Realm Halo 』

The Master of Valhalla's voice slowly became weaker as if she was falling into sleep——

『 As for the Overlooker of Myriad Realms—— they were hailed as an entity of extreme power and terror in the legends. We only know of their name, but what they exactly were... who would know for sure? 』

『 After all... not even the Apocalypses managed to find the Saint Realm... so who would be able to find this terrifying enti... ty... 』

Her voice became cut-off.

“Master of Valhalla?” Gu Qing Shan called out.

No answer.

Feeling a bit worried, Gu Qing Shan took out the Condemnation Codex and drew her Card.

On her Card, the Master of Valhalla's eyes were still closed and she was completely motionless.

A notification appeared on the War God UI:

[In slumber]

Gu Qing Shan sighed, having no choice but to put both this Card and the Condemnation Codex away again.

Who would have thought that other than the Dusty World, there was another location that was unaffected by the Apocalypse?

—*the Saint Realm!*

How exactly did it achieve this?

And where was it hiding?

Gu Qing Shan's feelings were complicated, and also a bit confused.

However, one thing was clear.

If such a place existed, then it isn't a location where regular people would be able to enter.

Suddenly, the ground began to tremble intensely.

Large patches of rotten mud and dirt began to collapse around him, crumbling into the void of space and quickly disappearing without a trace.

This entire world was falling into destruction.

—-the Phase Realm: Clock Tower will soon cease to exist.

Gu Qing Shan simply stood still for a few moments and discovered that everything around him had vanished.

His vision became blurry for a split second.

—-he found himself standing in the middle of a barren wasteland once again.

Laura and Liao Xiao Pao were both sitting in front of a campfire, silently waiting.

"Gu Qing Shan!"

Seeing him appear, Laura was delighted.

Liao Xiao Pao also stood up and asked: "Are you ok?"

"I'm fine, what trouble could there be in a cooking competition? It's a small matter" Gu Qing Shan said with a relaxed expression.

He sat down next to Laura and stretched his back.

A spirit realm war, killing that old man, the appearance of the world's Judicial Lord, summoning the real spirits, summoning the Saint Realm Halo, and the appearance of the Overlooker of Myriad Realms...

This entire series of events had left Gu Qing Shan feeling highly pressured and focused unlike never before, and now he finally had some space to breathe again.

Dawn has arrived.

The light of the Utopia in the sky was slowly fading.

It then abruptly vanished in front of the trio's eyes, going somewhere unknown.

Among the first rays of light of dawn, a light breeze brushed past them.

It was a new day.

Gu Qing Shan rested himself briefly before standing back up and said: "Let's go"

Laura lightly leapt onto his shoulder and made herself comfortable.

Liao Xiao Pao hesitated a bit and asked: “Brother Gu, can I come with you?”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Aren’t you going to return to your world?”

Liao Xiao Pao sighed: “All of my followers are already dead, I’m now all by myself, so what good would there be in returning?”

Gu Qing Shan told him: “You can come with us if you want, but I need to tell you something clearly first, I can’t guarantee your safety at all”

Liao Xiao Pao patted his own metal chest and said: “I now have a complete spirit, so I’m completely unlike my past self and would not so easily—”

“Stop right there!” Gu Qing Shan immediately cut him off.

“What’s the matter?” Liao Xiao Pao was a bit confused.

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“There are certain things that you simply can’t arbitrarily say, otherwise, the outcome would not necessarily be pleasant” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright...”

The three of them regained their bearings, then began to brace the morning breeze and flew.

Thanks to the time-shortening artifact that Liao Xiao Pao found, the three of them would only need to head in the same direction for about half a day until they can leave this world.

Even so, they didn’t slow down at all.

After all, having reached their level of cultivation, maintaining regular flight speed wouldn't cost them much, if any stamina at all.

Half a day soon came to an end.

At a certain point.

Gu Qing Shan and Liao Xiao Pao both stopped.

A bit further ahead of them, the void of space had parted ways to reveal a limestone cave.

"It looks like a cave of some sort" Liao Xiao Pao commented.

"Hm, let's take a look" Gu Qing Shan said.

They moved forward and quickly stepped onto the limestone cave.

The barren wasteland immediately disappeared behind them.

———only a naturally smooth stone wall remained behind them.

"Is this also a completely new jurisdiction world system?" Laura curiously asked.

"It should be" Liao Xiao Pao replied.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped.

"What's the matter?" Laura asked out of concern.

“Wait a moment, I have something I need to take care of” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Lines of glowing text quickly appeared in front of his eyes:

[You’ve received the grace of the Devil of True Antiquity, Overlooker of Myriad Realms]

[The other party had bestowed the power of a spirit to you]

Billions of malicious grudgeful souls suddenly appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan’s vision.

These glowing souls were all moving around the eerie rune from below, continuously crying, moaning, screaming.

But right at the very end, all the souls abruptly crumbled into countless luminous sprites that were absorbed into the eerie rune.

The rune flashed and vanished deep inside Gu Qing Shan’s Thought Sea.

Instantly, new lines of glowing text appeared:

[You’ve grasped the unique Mystery: Overlooking Soul]

[Overlooking Soul: Whenever any being in your vision have emotional fluctuations, you can see the secret hidden in their souls]

[Furthermore, you’ve drawn the gaze of the Overlooker of Myriad Realms]

[You do not know what they are thinking, but they are truly paying attention to you. Perhaps they will grant you aid at certain moments in time, or request your assistance at other moments, or simply waiting to personally take your soul away from the mortal realm at the time of your death]

Gu Qing Shan silently read through everything and fell into thought.

Laura suddenly called out: “What’s the matter Gu Qing Shan? Are we going to head forward again, or remain here to rest for a bit?”

Gu Qing Shan turned to her.

A few lines of text written in Bramble Bird language appeared above her head:

[What's going on with Gu Qing Shan? I feel like he doesn't want to go forward... Don't tell me he's taken a fancy to little elder sister Cai Zang— no, I'm definitely never summoning little elder sister Cai Zang again, hmph!]

What? What's that?

Could it be what Laura was thinking about?

Is this the 'secret hidden in their souls' that was mentioned?

So this was what it meant?

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, but his expression remained indifferent as he turned to Liao Xiao Pao.

To determine this ability's use, I need to give it another try---

Liao Xiao Pao seemed absentminded like he was thinking about something.

But Gu Qing Shan couldn't see anything at all.

Ah, right, I can only see if they have emotional fluctuations...

Clack!!!

Gu Qing Shan tapped Liao Xiao Pao.

"Huh? What is it?" Liao Xiao Pao regained his senses and turned to Gu Qing Shan.

“What are you thinking about? You look completely lost in thought” Gu Qing Shan said.

Liao Xiao Pao was a bit startled.

Some text written in human common language appeared above his head:

[I wonder if miss Tear will like a man like me, perhaps I should ask her about it]

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

—-*alright then.*

So the Devil of True Antiquity had such an ability.

No one's thoughts would be able to escape its sight.

If this ability was used in combat, wouldn't it be completely broken?

Chapter 1677

Translator: La0o9

An underground limestone cave.

Gu Qing Shan, Laura, and Liao Xiao Pao were walking along a limestone cave as they made their way up the silent underground.

It was completely silent around them, not a single noise to be heard.

Laura looked up at the cavern ceiling and couldn't help but whisper: “Gu Qing Shan, I'm scared”

Gu Qing Shan and Liao Xiao Pao looked up.

The two of them looked up and once again examined the stone ceiling.

—ever since the start of their journey, they've discovered a few statues hanging upside down on top of the ceiling.

These statues included humans, beasts, elves, elementals, and various other species of the void. All of them had shocked expressions on their faces, clearly struggling to run towards the small path the trio were walking on.

However, their feet were solidly stuck to the top of the limestone cave, making it impossible for them to move, being forced to remain still.

If it was only that, Laura wouldn't have been scared. The main issue was that they'd already been walking for a few hours already, but there wasn't a single living creature in sight. The only thing above their heads were these statues, and the further they walked, the more of them they saw, making it impossible for her to not be scared.

"Say, do you think they used to be alive or were they carved this way?" Liao Xiao Pao asked, feeling a bit interested.

—as a Combatant who had awoken Realm Force, he wouldn't feel scared just because of some eerie statues.

"Since they were all making the motion of fleeing, they must have experienced the same thing" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Corpses, souls, dead people, ghosts—

All of this was so mundane for Gu Qing Shan, in fact, he was the one who governed over them in two different world systems, so he didn't really feel interested in them at all.

It was only now when Laura felt a bit scared that he intended to take a closer look.

"—What exactly did they experience then?" Liao Xiao Pao asked.

“These statues are already too old, we wouldn’t be able to guess what happened to them in the past”

Gu Qing Shan put Laura back down on the limestone cave then jumped up, silently hovering in the air in front of one of the statues.

The man’s facial muscles were heavily distorted due to extreme fear, his mouth was opened wide as if screaming or crying hysterically.

He was using both his arms and feet, making a mad dash downwards, trying to land on the limestone cave on the path.

——but he had already been frozen completely still.

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out to touch the man’s statue.

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

[Human remains, left behind 30,000 years ago]

So it was a real corpse!

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the two below.

Liao Xiao Pao had his arms crossed, obviously bored.

But Laura was still shaking a bit, even her face had gotten a bit pale——

“They’re only statues, but they look very lifelike!”

Gu Qing Shan praised, then flew back down.

Putting Laura back on his shoulder, he smiled: "I've seen some carve marks, their knife skills were seriously impressive, conveying such clear emotions"

Hearing that, Laura patted her chest and sighed in relief.

"It's a mystery, who would be so bored that they would carve such things in a cave? Some huge pervert for sure" she muttered.

—she was no longer shaking.

Gu Qing Shan silently winked at Liao Xiao Pao.

Liao Xiao Pao was about to ask something, but immediately stopped after seeing that.

His expression became serious.

"So they were statues, I'm quite interested in statues as well—- alright, I'll take a look at them as well"

Liao Xiao Pao casually said.

Gu Qing Shan looked to see a line of text in common human language appearing above his head:

[This path gives off a very uncomfortable feeling, and there's no telling where the exit would be— let's try digging a path straight to the surface and take a look]

—these were Liao Xiao Pao's thoughts.

He flew up, examined those statues for a little bit first, then moved through the statues and pressed his ear against the ceiling.

“What are you listening for?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I have an ability to hear any sound in the ground, so I’m just giving it a try” Liao Xiao Pao replied.

Another line of text appeared above his head:

[This great one’s ability can bypass all obstacles to hear anything on the surface—— but I’m not going to tell you about it, lest you keep relying on this great one for everything, hmph!]

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

He and Laura silently stood on the limestone cave to wait.

Laura had relaxed, so she took out a bag of snacks and began to eat.

She first gave Gu Qing Shan a piece——

“Gu Qing Shan, open your mouth”

“Is it good?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

“It’s very good” Laura affirmed.

Gu Qing Shan took a piece.

Laura took out another piece and put it into Gu Qing Shan’s mouth.

Gu Qing Shan ate it.

—she then gave him another piece.

While eating that, Gu Qing Shan turned to her.

She was smiling happily: “Is it good? Eat some more”

A line of text in Bramble Bird language appeared above her head:

[Whoa, why does this feel like feeding a pet? It’s nice!]

Gu Qing Shan silently read it and didn’t even want to respond to that.

—however, I can now clearly see anyone’s thoughts at any point in time, this [Overlooking Soul] ability that the Devil of True Antiquity gave me is truly potent.

While chewing on the snacks, Gu Qing Shan turned to Liao Xiao Pao.

Only to see that Liao Xiao Pao continued to stick close to the ceiling, silently listening to any noises on the surface.

Various lines of text in common human language continued to appear above him:

[Fucking hell, what kind of noise is that?]

[...Motherf***... that can’t be right...]

[!!!!]

Liao Xiao Pao landed back down on the limestone cave right next to Gu Qing Shan.

“What’s the situation?” Gu Qing Shan sent his voice and asked.

Liao Xiao Pao used telepathy to respond to him: “I’m not sure, but I feel like we should keep moving along this path, it’s safer this way”

He seemed to be full of worry and walked ahead of them following the underground path.

Gu Qing Shan looked at his back, only to see another line of text:

[Such a terrifying place... it’s a good thing that there was an underground passage like this...]

This statement gradually faded away.

This time, Gu Qing Shan was thoroughly concerned.

—-even Liao Xiao Pao with his strength felt that it was terrifying.

But Liao Xiao Pao hasn’t said anything at all.

For what reason?

Gu Qing Shan followed Liao Xiao Pao and sent his voice again: “Are you not telling me something?”

Liao Xiao Pao just laughed it off: [It’s nothing, I just feel that there’s something not right on the surface, so it’s best that we continue following this path]

Another line of text appeared above him:

[I can’t say it]

[...I can only endure for a bit longer and see if there's a way to change the situation]

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched.

What exactly can't be said?

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All of a sudden, Liao Xiao Pao abruptly stood still after a few steps and declared: "Holy heroic spirit, fight along my side!"

A holy glow began to appear around his body.

The heroic spirit girl Tear appeared.

As soon as she appeared, she frowned:

『 Hm? What happened to the two of you? 』

"Who?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Them! 』

Following Tear's words, he saw that Laura and Liao Xiao Pao's expressions were slowly becoming solid as they turned into grey statues.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

It's not strange for only Liao Xiao Pao to be affected, but why has Laura been affected as well?

—what triggered this?

『 Anti-demon Holy Wings! 』

Tear uttered a curt shout and wielded her scepter.

The holy light erupted in the darkness to illuminate Laura and Liao Xiao Pao's bodies, enveloping them like a pair of wings.

“What exactly is going on?” Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask.

Tear maintained her spell and answered with a solemn expression: 『 This is most likely a highly potent curse, or a kind of power that not even I can comprehend 』

“Can you help them?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 I can only make sure that their vitality doesn't disappear, but I don't know how to turn them back to normal 』 Tear answered.

Gu Qing Shan drew the Heaven sword.

Even if it's impossible for other solutions, the Heaven sword would definitely be able to!

“Bing Li——” Gu Qing Shan silently called out.

“I'm ready!” Luo Bing Li responded.

Gu Qing Shan swing the sword——

A sword phantom manifested, passing through Laura's and Liao Xiao Pao's bodies.

The two of them instantly returned to normal.

“Scared me to death” Laura patted her chest, and commented, still frightened.

“Me too” Liao Xiao Pao also sighed in relief.

“What exactly happened to the two of you?” Gu Qing Shan asked in a heavy voice.

Right as Laura was about to say something, Liao Xiao Pao shouted: “Don’t tell him!”

Laura was stunned, then realized something and quickly handed something to Gu Qing Shan.

But the situation didn’t turn better——

The greyish hue that had just disappeared once again appeared and spread all over their bodies.

They had turned into statues again!

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

He looked at the Heaven sword in his hand.

Luo Bing Li had fallen into slumber.

In other words——

[Chaotic Flow] did, in fact, work just now.

But they were instantly affected by the same thing after returning to normal!

They had been traveling with me this entire time, why were they the only ones who suddenly got affected by something?

『 Anti-demon Holy Wings! 』

Tear shouted and wielded her scepter to once again release holy power to protect them.

Gu Qing Shan calmed himself down and looked back at Laura's hand.

Laura was carrying a pair of yellow glasses.

When Gu Qing Shan touched it, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Rare Artifact: Mind Vision Glasses]

[While wearing this, you will also be able to see what others sense through their abilities]

Gu Qing Shan realized what had happened.

Laura must have used these glasses on Liao Xiao Pao just now, thus seeing what Liao Xiao Pao had seen.

— —that's why she was affected as well.

The issue lies with what Liao Xiao Pao had sensed!

『 Gu Qing Shan, I can only keep them alive temporarily, hurry up and think of something! 』 Tear urged him.

Right as Gu Qing Shan was about to speak, he looked up.

The statues above were returning to life one by one.

“Not dead?”

“Not dead?”

“Not dead?”

“How come...”

The statues moved their bodies and ferociously glared towards the trio on the limestone cave.

They were gathering from every direction.

Gu Qing Shan sheathed the Heaven sword and quickly considered his options.

— the surface is definitely off-limits.

Laura and Liao Xiao Pao had both fallen into this deadly situation because they saw something on the surface.

Liao Xiao Pao had even stopped Laura from telling me what it was.

Furthermore, there were no clues in the path behind me.

Then the only option is—

Forward!

“Shannu”

“Gongzi, I’m here”

“I can see that these remains cannot use Realm Force. Remain here to protect Tear, Laura, and Liao Xiao Pao”

Shannu appeared from the void of space.

She wielded the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and stood shielding the group, quickly asking:

“I’ll protect them, but what about gongzi?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “— I’ll find a solution”

As soon as he said that, his figure flew like a bolt of lightning towards the end of the passage.

Only Shannu remained here, protecting everyone with her sword.

Tear looked at Gu Qing Shan who had disappeared into the distance, then turned to Shannu.

『 There are too many enemies, I can only maintain Laura and Liao Xiao Pao’s vitality, so you will have to fend the enemies off 』 Tear said.

At this point, more and more statues were coming to life on the ceiling all around them.

“DIE!”

“DIE!”

“DIE!”

They all screamed out loud as they gathered around the small passage, surrounding everyone within.

They were all ready to attack!

Suddenly, Shannu reached her hand up and clenched her fist.

“Sacrifice!”

She uttered a single word.

Three skeletons descended from the sky and fused together onto her back and sides.

The skeletons each drew a sword and prepared themselves for battle as well.

“—Don’t worry, leave the battle to me, we will wait right here for gongzi to return”

Shannu swung her sword and shifted into a stance.

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan only flashed forward a few times in the passage before he reached the end.

—it turns out they were already close to the exit.

A large metal door stood at the very end of the passage, solemnly blocking the way forward.

Gu Qing Shan wielded the Earth sword as he flew forward..

Chapter 1678

Translator: La0o9

As Gu Qing Shan came closer, a cold, mechanical voice resounded from inside the metal gates:

[Detected target, identified as a human]

[Access granted]

The gates gave off a loud noise.

—it was opening by itself.

Looking through the gates, Gu Qing Shan could see that these gates could only be considered a small entryway, as there was an entire destroyed world behind the gates.

Ruins.

Ruins as far as his eyes can see.

This underground world could be estimated to be around several million square meters in total, judging by its structural layout and concentration, anyone could imagine how prosperous this world used to be.

—unfortunately, there were already no longer any living beings here.

There was nothing but a gigantic black demonic egg covered in numerous mysterious ruins that were making things either go dark or light up as it flickered.

It was hovering by itself above the ruins.

The demonic egg was giving off immense pressure, as whenever it moved forward or backwards, space around it also trembled.

[Welcome, you are the 8952nd visitor to the Nurture Ruins, human male]

The demonic egg hovered towards Gu Qing Shan and spoke with a gentle voice in common human language.

—*this guy is very powerful.*

Gu Qing Shan silently thought to himself, then spoke: “Some of my friends have been petrified, do you have a way to save them?”

[My apologies, I have no such solution] the giant demonic egg replied.

Gu Qing Shan's heart was feeling heavy as he silently gazed upon this demonic egg.

—lines of text written in a strange language had appeared above it.

Quite obviously, it was thinking something.

—-Gu Qing Shan had travelled through the 900 million World Layers, learning the language of countless civilizations from the scholars of the Spire, which included many common languages as well as exotic ones, he then studied even more languages during his time in the Hitman Guild of Void City.

But Gu Qing Shan still doesn't recognize this type of scripture at all.

Staring at the line of text, he felt a bit troubled.

—what kind of language is that exactly?

Egg language?

I've never even heard of eggs having a unique language of their own.

Feeling unsure, Gu Qing Shan asked: "I've never met an existence like your grace before, may I ask who your grace is?"

The giant demonic egg replied: [I am the spirit of this world, my responsibility is to guide all future visitors of this realm towards the entrance of the next world]

"But I don't want to head into the next world right now, I want to save my companions" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Then please continue to think of a solution on your own. If you want to leave this world, you can come to see me at any point] the giant demonic egg replied.

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at the egg and saw another line of text appear.

—still don't understand it at all.

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly drifted.

There are many ruins on the ground, perhaps I might be able to find a few clues there.

He silently released his inner sight to search the ruins below.

Huh?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly found something relatively new.

It was a broken piece of female armor. There weren't any blood marks on it, but Gu Qing Shan could almost guarantee that this armor hadn't been broken for very long.

He continued to search with his inner sight, but didn't find anything else suspicious.

A certain thought slowly appeared in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

"Pardon me, may I ask if all the Combatants who arrive here would head towards the next realm?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The giant demonic egg answered: [Indeed. In the past, my world system had already been crippled by the Apocalypse, so there is nothing left here except these ruins. For that reason, when explorers like yourself arrive, I can only guide them towards the next realm]

Gu Qing Shan's expression didn't change at all as he continued to search through the ruins.

Soon, he leapt upward and landed into one of the ruins, from which he picked up a stone slab.

This stone slab was carved full of a foreign scripture that Gu Qing Shan couldn't understand, most likely recording some sort of unknown history.

—the reason why he specifically picked this stone slab up was because the scripture written on it looked exactly the same as the language that the giant demonic egg's thoughts were displayed in.

Gu Qing Shan didn't try to pick up any items that were left by other Combatants, as that would easily alert the giant demonic egg.

On the other hand, since this stone slab was part of this world's ruins, it wouldn't draw any suspicions.

[What are you doing?] the giant demonic egg asked.

"Nothing much, I'm just interested in this kind of script, I feel like it has a certain sense of indescribable beauty" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The giant demonic egg paused briefly before asking: [You said that you can see the beauty of this script— are you perhaps a treasure hunter?]

"I am"

Gu Qing Shan admitted.

Lines of glowing text appeared in front of his eyes:

[Magisapien civilization stone slab (incomplete), contains the following knowledge:]

[Magisapien script recognition]

[To comprehend this type of script, you need to expend 1 Soul Points]

So little?

Right as Gu Qing Shan was about to sigh in relief, another notification appeared:

[Attention, you no longer possess any Soul Points, please use 1 Realm Point to exchange for Soul Points]

[This exchange is a laborious task that will cost you 30,000 Soul Points]

[Would you like to conduct the exchange?]

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched.

—and here I was about to ask why it was so cheap, as expected, it was all a ruse.

How can I not exchange in his situation?

What kind of time is this that you're still taking royalties?

He silently gritted his teeth and said: "Exchange!"

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

[Good choice, exchange complete]

[You've spent 1 Soul Points and comprehended the Magisapien script]

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit of warmth appearing in his Thought Sea before new knowledge appeared in his mind.

He had become fluent in Magisapien script.

"Why does your grace have to remain in these ruins? Can't you leave with me?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The giant demonic egg answered: [Although I am a spirit, my situation is a bit unique. Since I haven't actually hatched, I can't leave]

Two more lines of text appeared above it:

[Can this guy really do it?]

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[—Alright, he seems a bit suspicious, so it's better just to ambush and sent him directly to the surface]

I see, so it was like that.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts circled several times in his mind before he suddenly chuckled and said: "Perhaps you didn't know, but before coming to this Dusty World, I was one of the most famous treasure hunters in the infinite worlds"

The giant demonic egg paused briefly.

A group of text written in Magisapien script appeared above it again:

[...It's a rare chance, I might as well test him once, there's no loss either way]

Finally, it spoke: [If that's the case, then please help me take a look at this—]

An irregularly-shaped grey piece of rock scale flew up and hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan caught the scale.

Lines of glowing text instantly appeared in front of him:

[Apocalypse Envoy Mixed-blood Scale]

[This is a mutated scale that was grown from the body of a Magisapien after an Apocalypse Envoy descended on their body]

Gu Qing Shan finally understood what was going on.

He commented: “How strange, this seems to be the scale of some creature, but I think it has been corroded by something and became irreversibly mutated”

The giant demonic egg stayed silent for a little bit.

More text appeared above the egg:

[So he really does have some skills, perhaps I should have him take a look at a few more things before transporting him to the surface]

[This way, even if he manages to decipher something, the secret would still be kept with his death]

The giant demonic egg then spoke: [You must be someone with quite the sharp eyes, I want you to help me take a look at something else, we can discuss payments later]

Rumble rumble—

The ground began to split.

A large arm that was several dozen meters in size flew out from the crevice and floated towards Gu Qing Shan.

[Please help me discern exactly what this is] the giant demonic egg told him.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking about what to say, the world suddenly vanished in front of his eyes.

A misty fog of blood drifted around him.

「 ...So it was this... 」

A voice softly sighed.

Hearing this voice, Gu Qing Shan instantly realized what was going on.

——this was the voice of the Devil of True Antiquity, Overlooker of Myriad Worlds!

Who would have thought that this giant arm would be able to draw their attention to the point that they personally show up?

A second later, he can clearly sense the other party shifting their attention to him.

「 Death God of the River of Death... 」

「 Only considering power, the demonic thing in front of you is five times stronger than you are—— if you are able to kill it, I will grant you a chance to make a transaction with me—— this chance can save your companions 」

After they said this, all the bloody fog disappeared.

Everything returned to normal.

Gu Qing Shan's expression while looking towards the giant demonic egg slightly changed.

Stronger than me?

Five times?

This egg-shaped fellow?

Let me think a bit about how I should get rid of this egg...

The giant demonic egg seemed oblivious about everything that just happened and continued: [You are a treasure hunter, so help me take a look at this]

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and said: “I can do it, but I want my payment first”

[What do you want?]

“Can you save my companions?”

[No, I do not have that ability. I suggest that you also give it up, otherwise, the only outcome for you will be death] the giant demonic egg immediately answered.

“Then, can you help me heal my left arm?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Your left arm?]

Gu Qing Shan raised his left arm and clenched it to form a fist, explaining: “That’s right. It was afflicted by some sort of curse, so it’s been unable to even perform the simplest punch”

[Let me take a look] the giant demonic egg said.

“Look here” Gu Qing Shan threw a punch from afar.

——-[Ethereal – Grand Mountain]!

Those struck by this punch would have their thoughts shattered, everything in their minds will become blank.

In an instant, the giant demonic egg fell into a blank state.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then drew the Earth sword and Chao Yin sword, unleashing numerous strikes into the void of space.

Clang clang clang clang clang!

Numerous chiming strikes could be heard all over the giant demonic egg, but it wasn't chipped or cracked at all.

— that outer shell was truly sturdy!

In an instant, 999 attacks had been unleashed.

Gu Qing Shan sheathed his sword and waited for a few moments.

Time quickly passed.

The giant demonic egg slowly regained its senses and focused its attention on Gu Qing Shan.

[Pitiful fellow, you dare attack me?]

It spoke with a mocking tone.

Gu Qing Shan put up a finger in front of his mouth to signal silence, then pointed at the giant arm and said:

“Actually, about that thing over there— I have something that I wanted to tell you first—”

The giant demonic egg looked closely at him, waiting for his next words.

At this point, the entire ruined world was silent.

Lines of glowing text instantly appeared on the War God UI:

[Prerequisite: Anticipation has been fulfilled. The other party had fully focused their attention on you]

[Prerequisite: Silence has been fulfilled. It is currently as silent as could be]

[Prerequisite: Passion has been fulfilled. You've attacked the other party a total of 999 times]

[Prerequisite: Focus has been fulfilled. You have not utilized any other ability that required Realm Force]

[Silence, Anticipation, Passion, and Focus have all been fulfilled]

[You can now activate 'Manipulator of Song and Dance']

Gu Qing Shan coldly grinned, then muttered: "I originally didn't want to use this technique—"

Sha!

He had done a split in mid-air!

Beautiful!

Chapter 1679

Translator: La0o9

[Beautiful!]

That comment appeared on the War God UI, followed by a long notification:

[Your movement was swift and flexible, ensuring that 'Manipulator of Song and Dance' was perfectly performed]

[Thanks to that, as well as your original status as 'Actor', 'Manipulator of Song and Dance' had successfully been upgraded into 'Performer of Song and Dance']

[Performer of Song and Dance: After the first successful split, you can perform two more splits of different postures]

[Note: This is your personal declaration of performance— Run towards the rising sun, young man!]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through it and turned his eyes towards the enemy in front of him.

[AA—aaarrahhh—]

The giant demonic egg's scream was of considerable decibel, anyone can instantly feel its pain just by hearing it.

Crack!

Crack!

Two cracking noises were then heard.

Two large holes had appeared on the underside of the giant demonic egg, leaking a viscous liquid that poured on the ground like rain.

[NO! No! You're dreaming if you think you can use this to force me—-]

Glowing runes manifested on the outside of the giant demonic egg.

These runes were glowing increasingly brighter as if to complete some sort of spell.

As Gu Qing Shan took a closer look, he saw that the two holes under the egg were being refilled.

—it was trying to fill those two holes back in!

Gu Qing Shan's gaze became cold.

Don't joke around!

Attempting something like that, did you think I'm not here or something?

He turned his gaze to the War God UI again to check the description of [Performer of Song and Dance]

I can perform two more splits!

But they must be different kinds of splits!

What now?

Gu Qing Shan looked down at his legs again.

I'm currently doing a front split, which only requires me to sit on the ground with one leg to the front and one leg to the back.

This wasn't particularly difficult.

—then, should I attempt a side split?

To do a side split, I must first spread my legs, then use my hands to prop myself up into a straight posture and put my weight onto my legs, causing them to spread straight into a '—' shape on the ground.

That's much more difficult.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant, as he had never tried doing a side split ever before.

With my Impossibly Unknown realm cultivation, doing a side split like that wouldn't hurt, but it would still be uncomfortable.

But he then thought about Laura and Liao Xiao Pao who were trying their best to maintain their vitality, struggling between the line of life and death.

How could doing a split be compared to what they're going through?

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and slowly put his legs back together.

The giant demonic egg also imitated his actions, gradually moaning less.

Suddenly!

Gu Qing Shan spread his legs to both sides and performed a perfect side split in an instant!

Crack— crack—

The giant demonic egg's right side and left side also broke open, spilling more of the viscous liquid outside.

[RRRAAAAAAAAAAAWWR!!!!]

The giant demonic egg once again uttered a scream of extremely high decibel.

—-the sheer loudness of the scream was more than enough to tell just how much it was hurting.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze became sharp.

Strike while the iron is hot, since I've already decided to do this, I might as well do it to the very end and complete the third split as well!

His hands were then propped on the ground, bracing himself while twisting his hip to perform a handstand and split his legs again—

A spinning split!

He was already experienced with dancing thanks to the Dance, as well as being an expert actor, so with his greatly bolstered comprehension of the split, he started spinning like a top with his legs outstretched in the posture of a split, continuing without stopping.

This time, the giant demonic egg couldn't endure it anymore.

Numerous cracking noises rang out from all over the eggshell.

The shell was now so ruined that it practically wasn't an eggshell anymore.

Bang!

A tiny noise.

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And the giant demonic egg was completely broken open!

Let's slow down time right at this moment——

Each of the shell pieces slowly fell down and fluttered with the wind as they descended.

The content of the egg was fully revealed to Gu Qing Shan.

It was a mass of substance made of nothing liquid that hasn't fully manifested into form, which left the liquid slightly opaque with a large skeleton and some flesh stuck on top of it.

——the skeleton and flesh were barely in the shape of a 'person', which was currently under Gu Qing Shan's control, trying its best to struggle while maintaining a split posture.

The strange 'person' attempted to person some sort of spell and shouted: [You——]

"Shut up!" Gu Qing Shan immediately cut it off by shouting back.

A flash of white and blue lightning appeared from his left eye and instantly silenced the monster.

—Sacrificial Iris Technique, [Mountain Wraith]!

As soon as the technique was completed, Gu Qing Shan vanished.

He turned into a blurry image and darted several times in mere seconds around the opaque liquid monster while slashing it with his sword.

Sword phantoms flashed all over the sky.

His strikes were as rapid as they could ever be, summoning the realm spirits one after another, starting from the bloody giant, but none of them attacked right away.

In a few seconds, the realm spirits had already taken up every last bit of space around the monster.

After that short moment—

When the monster finally regained its senses from [Mountain Wraith], it suddenly discovered that it was standing in the middle of numerous spirits from the Blood Sea.

“You can attack now”

Gu Qing Shan pulled his sword back and retreated.

The bloody giant glanced at him a bit and mumbled: 「 All day long, only thinking about how to look cool 」

Bam!!!!

Immense sounds of blunt force impact, ripping noises, growls, slashes, metallic clangs, magical explosions, all of which became mixed with one another and persisted for over 5 seconds straight.

The world regained its silence.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

A while later.

Thud!

A heavy dull noise resounded from the ground.

—-the only thing left of the monster was a mass of pulpy flesh that formed a shallow crater on the ground as it fell.

A breeze of wind blew past.

Gu Qing Shan casually said as he observed the pulpy flesh from above: “You can’t dance and can’t even do a split, yet you’re trying to fool someone?”

Lines of glowing text then appeared on the War God UI:

[Congratulations, you’ve triumphed against a powerful opponent and obtained an abundance of Realm Points]

[After calculations, your remaining Realm Points are: 400]

[Attention!]

[The Devil of True Antiquity, Overlooker of Myriad Realms had recognized the combat results and will once again contact you]

Right after Gu Qing Shan finished reading these notifications, the scene around him changed.

Bloody mist filled every part of space.

Everything around him was obscured.

A thought appeared in Gu Qing Shan's mind:

「 You truly are a natural hunter... 」

「 Following our agreement, I will now grant you an opportunity to make a transaction with me 」

「 Listen carefully. On the surface of this world system, there is an exceptionally rare Apocalyptic monster 」

「 Simply by existing, this monster can cause the world that it resides in to fall to destruction, as its name cannot be spoken or heard. If anyone hears of it or speaks its name, they will immediately die 」

「 Its voice also cannot be heard, its presence cannot be described, as those with that knowledge will also die 」

「 Additionally, its physical form also cannot be seen, otherwise, your soul would also be consumed 」

「 This world system you're currently in was destroyed by it— it had always loved to eat these Magisapien, furthermore, it isn't naturally wary of any kind of magic or spells, nor would it be damaged by any creation of living beings」

「 It had destroyed countless world systems, and it wasn't until it tried to destroy this current world system that the final spirits of this place had led it to the Dusty World and trapped it here 」

「 And now, I require this Apocalyptic monster's corpse 」

「 If you can give its corpse to me, I will awaken your companions 」

Gu Qing Shan solemnly listened to the very end, then hurriedly asked: “Please wait, does this Apocalyptic monster have any weaknesses?”

「 Weaknesses? 」

The other party paused briefly before continuing: 「 No one knows its weaknesses, or rather, every being who had ever learnt of its weakness are already dead 」

「 However, the hand had been taken out before indeed belonged to the monster 」

「 ——Go now, kill it for me 」

Chapter 1680

Translator: La0o9

This Apocalyptic monster is one that cannot be heard, cannot be spoken of, and cannot be described.

It isn't afraid of any spells and can't be injured by the creation of living beings.

——how is such a monster supposed to be killed?

Gu Qing Shan thought for a little bit and thought about the Apocalyptic monster's hand.

Since the Apocalyptic monster's hand could be severed, it's clear that it wasn't impossible to kill it.

Now I just need to take a closer look at the ha——

Huh?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to search, but couldn't find the fleshy pulp that fell out of the giant demonic egg anywhere.

“Strange, where is that hand just now?” he couldn't help but question himself.

「 I ate it all 」 the Overlooker of Myriad Realms answered him.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

Ate it all?

Are you a hungry ghost or something?

I still need to rely on that hand to come up with a solution, can you not be in such a hurry to eat?

Perhaps feeling a bit awkward, Overlooker of Myriad Realms explained: 「I've always wanted to consume these Apocalyptic monsters, but if I directly descended upon your location, that Apocalyptic monster would detect me and escape as far as it possibly could」

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Oh well.

After all, it's impossible to use [Mystery of All Beings Equal] on it anyways—

The other party was a true Apocalypse, while this Mystery can only be used to transform into living beings.

I only wanted to take a look at how that hand got broken off and get some information from it.

Now that I no longer have the hand, what else can I do?

Gu Qing Shan thought for a few moments.

—I have literally zero solution!

As soon as I saw the other party— no, even just hearing its sound would mean I'm already dead.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: “Pardon me for asking, what exactly is the structure of this world system? I need to at least know that much”

The Overlooker of Myriad Realms answered: 「The ceiling is a barrier, you will immediately reach the surface after going through it, after which you would be able to encounter that monster at any moment」

「I can't remain for too long in this world. After you kill it, I will return」

The world returned to silence and the bloody mist faded away.

The Overlooker of Myriad Realms had left.

Only Gu Qing Shan remained standing blankly in the middle of the sky.

He looked up at the sky-high ceiling.

—there is only one barrier above the ceiling that separates this world from the main world that had been destroyed by the Apocalypse.

Thinking back, it was actually very dangerous earlier for me.

If the giant demonic egg had suddenly attacked and sent me away from the ceiling, I would have been discovered by the Apocalyptic monster right away.

I would have immediately died as soon as I saw that monster without knowing anything at all.

But now, the only thing left of the giant demonic egg was a mass of pulp flesh, while I'm alive.

I truly am fortunate.

If I had acted a bit slower or heard anything I shouldn't have, I would have already been dead.

Gu Qing Shan felt a chill down his spine, then quickly stopped thinking about it.

He began to think about how he should deal with that Apocalyptic monster.

—the other party only needs to growl just a bit for me to die, literally killing me with a single noise.

How am I supposed to fight that?

I can't even use the split here.

Gu Qing Shan remained silent briefly before he thought of something.

[Ethereal – Null Tribulation]!

[Null Tribulation] was an ability that originated from the Apocalypse, so I would definitely be able to injure it that way.

—-but I can only use fist techniques when I'm directly facing an enemy.

Even if I close my eyes to prevent eye contact, in order to accurately grasp the other party's movement and position to unleash this punch, I must sense their location.

This situation...

Liao Xiao Pao's outcome is a prime example.

I can't use fist techniques.

Furthermore, no magic would be able to injure it.

...Under the circumstances where I have to kill something while not seeing or hearing it, there's only one solution available to me.

Flying swords.

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

The Earth sword and Chao Yin sword sensed his thoughts and slowly appeared from the void of space, hovering in front of him.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head slightly.

The method to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth might have originated from Shroud, but they were forged by the hands of humanity from the Age of Old, so they're both considered 'creations of living beings'

Then---

The Chao Yin sword?

The Chao Yin sword was forged by the Gods.

Although, I've learnt after arriving in the Dusty World that even Gods are nothing but a type of living being, to be exact, Law-based living beings.

In that case, the Chao Yin sword wouldn't be able to do it either.

---creations of living beings cannot harm that monster.

Only one sword remains.

Gu Qing Shan silently said in his mind: "War God UI, let me see the Six Paths Great Mountain sword's basic description again"

Lines of glowing text appeared in the void of space:

[Six Paths Great Mountain sword]

[Sword of the world's worship, Divine Artifact of the Huang Quan realm]

[This sword was the manifestation of the Laws of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain belonging to the Huang Quan realm]

[Its power manifests as Invincible, Law Breaker, Living's Wisdom, and Divine Protector, which are as follow:]

[...]

Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword——

This sword wasn't created by living beings, but a manifestation of the Samsara's Laws!

This sword can injure that Apocalyptic monster!

Gu Qing Shan calmed down.

I have a sword now.

The only issue left to resolve is also the most crucial one.

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——how could I fight against that monster while being unable to see or hear it!

Gu Qing Shan pondered the entire matter from beginning to end several times in his mind.

He turned his gaze towards the distance.

The gates where he entered from were still open.

Gu Qing Shan leapt up and flew through the metal gates again, heading back the way he came.

He flashed several times and quickly arrived at Shannu's location.

In the narrow passage, the saintly heroic spirit girl was still maintaining her holy technique to preserve Laura and Liao Xiao Pao's vitality.

Shannu was standing in front of the three of them, silently shielding the trio.

Around them, corpses had practically filled everyone's vision, extending into the distance.

— all the reanimated statues were already dead.

They died at Shannu's sword.

"Gongzi, why have you returned?" Shannu looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked in surprise.

"There's a monster that you and I need to defeat together in order to save Laura and Liao Xiao Pao" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Understood" Shannu happily replied.

Tear hurriedly asked: 『 What about this place? 』

Gu Qing Shan replied: "You can't move any further than this, that is my battlefield, which will become extremely dangerous later"

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan took out a formation plate and rapidly operated it.

Faint layers of light appeared all around them before fading away.

Dozens of defensive formations had just been arranged!

Gu Qing Shan then took out a door and plopped it on the ground, explaining: "This door will be able to temporarily protect you"

A voice spoke up from the door: 「 Indeed, there would be no issues while I'm here 」

『 Does it have powerful defensive capabilities? 』 Tear doubtfully asked.

"You will need a few gems to activate its power" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Gu Qing Shan took off the 'Bramble Bird Duke Ring' on his hand and searched for a few moments, after choosing a long and thin length of golden chains from it, he handed the ring to her.

"There are quite a few gems in the ring, that should be enough" Gu Qing Shan said.

『 Does it only need gems? 』 Tear was still unconvinced.

Seeing the ring, the door excitedly declared: 「 Don't worry lassie, as long as there are gems, there would be no problem. No matter how many enemies, no matter what kind of formation they use, it would all be useless 」

Tear then grasped the ring tightly.

Seeing that everything had been properly arranged, Gu Qing Shan put the golden length of chain away and nodded to Tear: "I'll be going now"

『 Please hurry, I've been continuously using this technique, so I won't be able to hold out for much longer 』 Tear told him.

Turning his gaze towards Laura and Liao Xiao Pao, Gu Qing Shan noticed that their vitality fluctuations had been reduced by a considerable amount.

They would be thoroughly petrified very soon!

Gu Qing Shan's expression became even more solemn.

Shannu glanced at him and softly said: "Gongzi, don't worry, I will kill the enemy by your side"

She entered the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and silently fell behind his back, disappearing into the void of space.

"...Don't worry, Tear, I will resolve this matter very soon!"

As soon as he said that, Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

He flew back towards the ruined city, flashing several times in the air and soon arrived at his destination.

Flying through the sky, Gu Qing Shan descended towards the ruins.

While flying, he explained the situation to Shannu.

"Gongzi, how will we be fighting?" Shannu asked.

"With this"

Gu Qing Shan lifted the gold chains in his hand and replied.

“What is this?” Shannu curiously asked.

“A Divine Artifact, part of Laura’s personal collection. It has the characteristics of Absolute Discretion and Infinite Extension” Gu Qing Shan explained.

—-nothing that was part of Laura’s collection could be a mundane item, they’re all true treasures beyond any doubt.

“But this is a creation of living beings. Not only would it not be able to kill that Apocalyptic monster, but I don’t think it would even be able to restrain it” Shannu voiced her concern.

Gu Qing Shan lightly grinned and replied: “Of course, I don’t intend on relying on it to kill the enemy”

“Then—-” Shannu felt confused.

“I don’t hear or see that Apocalyptic monster, otherwise, I will surely die” Gu Qing Shan explained.

At this point, he was already on the ground.

—standing right next to the giant demonic egg’s dead body.

Looking at the corpse on the ground, he continued: “That Apocalyptic monster had already been trapped for countless years, nobody had learnt of its weakness, but the Overlooker of Myriad Realms had explained a certain thing— that the monster likes to eat Magisapiens the most”

Shannu said: “But all the Magisapien in this world are already dead, only this final one remains”

“I’ve thought this through several times, and there would only be a single ancient method for me to have a chance to eliminate that monster without having seen or heard it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“What is that?” Shannu asked.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the pulpy corpse and slowly uttered the word:

“Fishing”