

Apocalypse 1711

Chapter 1711

Translator: La0o9

“Did he really say that?” the County Magistrate asked.

“He did, sir. He said he didn’t know how to read, but he had told me earlier that his cooking skills were learnt from a cookbook” Officer Liu reported.

The County Magistrate chuckled and asked: “What do you think is going on?”

“This subordinate doesn’t know either” Officer Liu said.

The County Magistrate stroked the bow in his hand and casually said: “As soon as he arrived, he volunteered to donate all of his bounty rewards, he was also an obedient person, as well as a considerate one. Most likely, he had purposely said that for you to not feel awkward”

Officer Liu sighed: “His archery was truly impressive. Even I felt a bit shocked when I saw it on the riverbanks”

The County Magistrate sounded surprised: “Distorting arrows isn’t an uncommon technique, so why do you feel that he’s impressive?”

Officer Liu wondered for a while before finally answering: “I don’t know either. I just felt like his killing intent was so heavy that I felt a chill”

The County Magistrate pondered this matter.

Even now when everyone’s strength has been limited, this person could still cause old Liu to feel shaken.

That’s not a simple matter.

The County Magistrate mused: “Then it seems his original strength was quite considerable—— perhaps I should join your banquet tonight as well”

“Understood, sir” Officer Liu said.

...

At another location.

A small courtyard house.

Gu Qing Shan had taken out the Reincarnation Gloomy Orchid and activated [Moon Invitation]

Lines of bright red text appeared in front of him:

[Because the living beings connected to you are all still in slumber, you cannot specify any individual to summon]

[One living being with relations to you will be randomly awakened and manifested here]

[They will lose all of their powers, keeping only one ability]

All the bright red text then disappeared.

A thin line of bright red light descended in front of Gu Qing Shan and opened to both sides like a gate.

A mature man of over 50 years old appeared.

His facial expressions were profound, his gaze filled with maturity and vicissitudes, currently wearing an expensive black suit with a cigarette in his mouth and a number of gem-ornate rings on his finger.

——a dandy old man.

But as soon as he opened his mouth, his image shattered like glass:

“What the hell!? I was still studying the mysteries of androgyny during my slumber, why did you suddenly wake me up?”

Seeing the other party, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh.

“Liu Xing, long time no see” he greeted him.

“Long time no see. Don't worry, everything in the home world is completely fine, your brother has been watching over it in your stead” Liu Xing said.

Indeed, this person was the most famous scientist of the Confederate who faked his death to avoid the Nine Lords' pursuit and fled into space, Liu Xing.

Afterwards, he was 'persuaded' by Gu Qing Shan to return and worked with him on more than one occasion.

Liu Xing offered a cigarette to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan didn't accept it, so he started smoking it himself.

After Gu Qing Shan had finished explaining the circumstances, Liu Xing appeared interested: “Although you've forgotten a lot of things, I can infer from your current state that all you Chosen Saints have gotten your powers sealed away, with only your original bodies and some basic abilities remaining”

“That's right” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Speaking of this, he felt a bit grateful to Lin.

Not only was the martial scripture that Lin taught him quite mysterious, it was also exceptionally powerful. As long as one recited it before each cultivation session, one would continuously strengthen their body and improve their comprehension of martial arts.

He had never skipped out on reciting this martial scripture even once.

“I’ve left our home world for too long—— which cultivation realm are you currently at?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Rejuvenation realm” Liu Xiu answered.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “That can’t be, you’re an accomplished scientist, your thought process should already be meticulous with peerless comprehension, you should have gotten into cultivation much quicker compared to anyone else”

Liu Xing’s face became a bit embarrassed and answered: “In truth, I originally wanted to catch up to you, but when I reached Rejuvenation realm, my lifespan was already a few thousand years and my body had gotten much healthier, so I couldn’t hold myself back”

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

Liu Xing seemed to be thinking about something and answered: “I’m the entire world’s leading scientist y’know, there are countless beauties who want to get close to the bleeding edge technology through me, there are long-haired, lively, big-eyed, thin hips, black stockings, matured, graceful, pure—— tsk tsk, I’ve already achieved my life’s goal”

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his temples and asked: “Didn’t you already have a lot of children?”

“Life is about continuing to strive forward and always be ready to face new challenges” Liu Xing shrugged.

Gu Qing Shan stared straight at him, almost ready to kick him back.

But [Moon Invitation] wasn’t something that could be used as he wished, it could only be activated once per day.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan asked directly:

“Old Liu, I’ve already informed you of the situation, do you have anything you can help me with?”

Liu Xing mused: “After you guys left, I’ve done some more research on Warp Bombs, I have a few of them with me here, enough to blow up a few planets”

“...No need, I want something that’s a little bit smaller in caliber” Gu Qing Shan said.

“How small?” Liu Xing asked.

“Enough to blow a structure that’s about two football fields in size” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Liu Xing asked: “—That small? I don’t have anything like that at hand, the only one that would barely fit your need is a time bomb”

Gu Qing Shan said: “Give it to me, then you can go back to sleep”

Liu Xing hurriedly said: “Wait a minute! Let me stroll around this world a bit, I want to take a look at this world’s native characteristics”

Gu Qing Shan said: “You actually just want to see the women of this world, don’t you?”

Liu Xing awkwardly replied: “Ahaha, old Gu, you understand me well”

“—Give me the bomb” Gu Qing Shan put out his hand.

“Here”

“Alright, bye bye”

Gu Qing Shan dispelled [Moon Invitation].

Liu Xing’s figure vanished from the courtyard as if he had never been here in the first place.

But Gu Qing Shan now had a square-shaped bomb that he didn’t possess before in his hand.

Gu Qing Shan was originally a mechanical scientist as well, so he put out a bit of time to study the bomb’s structure.

“A relatively perfect mechanical construct— why would such a talented person let his progress be stopped by women? I really don’t understand”

He sighed, put the bomb into his bag, then left the courtyard house with his bow and blade.

...

Sunset.

The lanterns had just been lit.

The entire restaurant was lively like never before.

This couldn’t be helped, as the County Magistrate himself was participating in today’s banquet, the scale might be completely different from normal and the entire restaurant had been bought out.

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Big merchants all kept their heads lowered without looking up, their gifts and red packets were all ready to be offered one by one.

Before the banquet, all the higher officials no longer kept their stern expressions and were happily gambling away.

The County Magistrate had also let go of his usual pride and enjoyed his tea with a smile.

Some girls with mundane beauty were all smiling as best as they could, trying to hide the nervousness in their expressions to serve the officials while also enduring the small bits of sexual harassment from them.

Without anyone noticing, it was time for the banquet.

The dishes had all been prepared.

The County Magistrate was the first to stand up.

The gambling immediately stopped, everyone hurriedly invited the County Magistrate to the host seat.

“Where is Officer Gu?”

The County Magistrate casually asked.

Officer Liu answered: “I think he still hasn’t arrived, perhaps still sleeping. Let me go fetch him”

“Very well, let us begin the banquet first” the County Magistrate declared.

Suddenly, a deafening bang resounded across the world.

The entire restaurant was shaken, causing quite a few cups of liquor and tea to fall.

Everyone was startled and panicked.

Not too far away in the sky, a bright red glow could be seen illuminating the night sky.

Fire and smoke were intertwined with one another, swirling towards the sky like a ferocious beast.

—fetch water!

This was everyone's first reaction.

The County Magistrate's expression then changed.

All the officials also became pale.

That direction—

The administration office!

"Everyone, return with me!" the County Magistrate shouted.

"Yes!"

Everyone hurriedly ran downstairs and headed straight for the administration office.

In no time at all, they had all arrived.

Other than a few surrounding walls that had been charred, the entire admiration office had already been levelled.

The fire continued to burn.

Thick smoke swirled all the way to the sky.

One person was already standing with his arms crossed in front of the administration office, wielding a bow in his hand while looking at the group.

“Officer Gu! Did you see what happened here!?” the County Magistrate loudly shouted in question.

Gu Qing Shan happily laughed.

He looked at the fire and smoke behind him and explained with an introductory tone: “I saw everything. It was actually like this—”

“I just blew up the administration office”

The County Magistrate suddenly halted his steps.

Everyone else’s expressions also changed.

“How dare you!” the County Magistrate furiously shouted.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively: “No need to be worried sir, I’ve already collected all the seals that the royal capital distributed to the various villages”

Everyone sighed in relief.

The County Magistrate suppressed his anger and gritted his teeth, questioning: “Gu Qing Shan, what exactly are you doing?”

“Nothing much. I’ve been travelling along various mountain villages so I ran into wraiths very frequently. And I discovered traces of the wraiths in the administration office” Gu Qing Shan replied.

—wraiths?

For some reason, a cold gust of wind suddenly blew past them.

Gu Qing Shan was standing in front of a collapse wall, constantly exuding an unseen suffocating eeriness.

Everyone couldn't help but recall the day he arrived and breathed in a cold gasp.

That day, Gu Qing Shan came in from afar and stood in front of the administration office with nine severed heads in his hands.

"So you're saying that there were wraiths in the administration office?" the County Magistrate asked with a grim expression.

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Where are those wraiths then? Don't tell me you blew them up?" the County Magistrate coldly mocked.

Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit troubled: "I didn't, but it's fortunate that I'm about to blow them out of hiding"

"What do you mean?" the County Magistrate questioned.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "I've done some investigations and found that none of the villages in a hundred-mile radius around the city is being protected by a seal, causing monsters to constantly attack them. Being driven by fear, everyone had no choice but to come to the county city in search of a roundabout way to survive"

"So after this, I'm going to head to each and every village in order to release the seals, anchoring the Five Elements there to ensure their safety"

He patted the bag on his waist and curtly continued: "Every seal represents the lives of countless innocent people, and lives are bigger than heaven itself— I believe that only wraiths in human skin would come out to stop me at this urgent point in time"

Complete silence.

No one said a single word.

So this was what he meant.

The County Magistrate's expression trembled intensely as he started to exude immense killing intent.

"Gu Qing Shan, you have a death wish" the County Magistrate said.

"The only ones who will die here today are wraiths, anyone who's still human will live" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Officers, servants, as well as officials exchanged glances.

Several people sighed, then retreated far away.

The County Magistrate's expression changed again.

"Get me my bow" he ordered.

The bow was quickly brought to him.

The County Magistrate grasped the bow tightly and shouted: "All men, forward! Anyone who kills him will get a big reward!"

“Yes sir!”

Everyone rushed forward straight at Gu Qing Shan.

The County Magistrate stood behind everyone else, slowly waiting for an appropriate chance to attack.

Gu Qing Shan tossed the bow aside and tightly grasped the blade.

While standing still, he stared straight at the group of people and muttered to himself:

“One-directional yet unbeatable... I can kind of sense the joy of using a blade”

“...When it comes to killing wraiths, I definitely like it”

Chapter 1712

Translator: La0o9

The blade gleam was snow white.

The white gleam shined brightly, as it followed the wind, drawing several blooming flowers of blood as it moved.

Numerous screams resounded.

The people who had charged forward slowly fell all over the ground turning into warm dead bodies.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression remained unchanged.

Although he couldn’t use swords, his fighting spirit, his killing experience, and his improvisation in battle were still all there.

Throughout his entire life, he had been through numerous dangerous situations and had gotten used to fighting insurmountable enemies.

And currently, this wasn't even considered a dangerous situation.

He was simply swinging.

And swinging.

And swinging.

And swinging.

And swinging!

The wave of enemies couldn't even endure for three breaths' worth of time before they all fell on the ground.

Kih!

An arrow drew a streak across the sky like a blurred image, aiming for Gu Qing Shan at an extremely sly angle, but he still managed to deflect it with his blade just in time.

"Quite the nice shot"

Gu Qing Shan praised and looked into the distance.

The County Magistrate was standing a few hundred meters away from him with his bow raised and angrily said: "You killed so many people so openly, the Samsara would not forgive you"

Gu Qing Shan ignored him and simply stood still as if fallen into thought.

Various images appeared in his mind.

As he fought, memories continued to resurface in his mind.

Unfortunately, a little bit is still missing...

He moved his gaze around himself.

There was still one person left alive.

Officer Liu.

This person is the County Magistrate's close aide who had closely followed me from beginning to end in search of an opening.

Gu Qing Shan wielded his blade and approached Officer Liu.

"Brother Gu, don't, please don't kill me, I beg you!"

Officer Liu was now missing a leg, loudly begging for his life while crawling away on the ground.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: "Brother Liu, do you remember how I invited you for a meal?"

Officer Liu nodded: "I remember! I still remember! Your cooking skills were indeed impressive"

"That's right, the relationship between us can be considered to be decent" Gu Qing Shan said.

"We do, please spare me brother, this brother begs you" Officer Liu said.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and said: "Don't worry"

A blade gleam flashed.

His head went flying high into the sky and landed several meters away.

Gu Qing Shan brandished the blade to fling off the blood on it, then reversed his grip on the blade and stood still.

...Not enough.

I'm still a little bit away from completely recovering my memories.

Tsk!

Sneaking through is such an annoying thing.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit agitated as he turned towards the County Magistrate.

It should be just enough for me to recover all of my memories after I kill this guy, right?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan wielded his blade correctly again and slowly approached the County Magistrate.

The County Magistrate's expression became panicked as he continuously shot arrows towards Gu Qing Shan.

"You devil, you didn't even spare old Liu!" the County Magistrate shouted.

Gu Qing Shan casually flung his arrows away and answered indifferently: "A meal is a meal, a kill is a kill, it's not right to miss the big picture for such a small detail"

The County Magistrate's expression changed several times in short succession.

He didn't think he would run into such a ferocious fellow.

He suddenly stopped shooting and said in a solemn tone: "Let me be frank, you're actually a Chosen Saint as well, aren't you?"

"You're right" Gu Qing Shan didn't deny it.

The County Magistrate continued: "Now that the Samsara has been reset, it requires us Chosen Saints to stimulate its development until the final clash once again. This entire process will actually require the cooperation between many Chosen Saints"

"That isn't incorrect either" Gu Qing Shan lowered his blade and agreed.

The County Magistrate continued: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, you and I are both Chosen Saints, although we've both lost our powers, we would eventually regain it, don't you think?"

"Indeed, I can faintly sense that this was indeed the case" Gu Qing Shan agreed again.

The County Magistrate took a deep breath and sincerely said: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, both you and I are Chosen Saints, those who stand above and represent the future of the Samsara, why should we fight to the death here for the sake of these ant-like living beings?"

"Ant-like... living beings..." Gu Qing Shan chewed on these words and slowly appeared nostalgic.

He suddenly said: "In the past when my Shifu was renowned throughout the entire world, there were always those willing to kneel in front of her to request favors whenever she went out, but she had always made sure to step aside to not accept their kneeling, do you know why that is?"

The County Magistrate asked: "Why?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Living beings are equal"

The County Magistrate was stunned.

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Gu Qing Shan continued: "Even if you're the Heavenly King's father, you're still only a living being. You've merely obtained your position through your accumulation of karma. What right do you have to keep the seals for yourself and force innocent people to drift aimlessly, face countless calamities, and cry tears of sorrow from loss?"

The County Magistrate felt some sort of omen and couldn't help but mock: "You speak pretty words, but do you dare say you've killed fewer people than I?"

Gu Qing Shan sincerely answered: "This humble one has naught but one obsession: to bring justice to places of unjust. For that reason, I have certainly killed more than anyone else, that much I am ashamed for"

He drew his blade once again, manifesting an almost solid mass of killing intent.

Seeing that, the County Magistrate no longer hesitated and took out something from his chest, immediately crushing it.

Jiu~~~~ bang!

A flare flew far into the sky and exploded in a colorful burst.

"Gu Qing Shan, I've just called for reinforcement, and the upper brass will soon send experts to deal with you, you're dead!" the County Magistrate shouted.

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the fireworks and muttered: "So he was backed into a corner..."

Once someone from the upper brass arrived, they would only need to ask around a bit to learn about how the officials here have been keeping the seals for themselves.

Since the County Magistrate has asked for reinforcement, this meant that he really has no other choice, as well as the fact that he was confident that his reinforcements would arrive very quickly.

They might be even faster than I can imagine!

I can't keep stalling, the County Magistrate must be killed right now!

Gu Qing Shan advanced even faster towards the County Magistrate.

The County Magistrate continued shooting arrow after arrow while retreating backwards.

Gu Qing Shan advanced while dodging and knocking the arrows away.

The distance between them was getting shorter.

The County Magistrate suddenly blew a loud whistle.

A horse neigh echoed across the entire area.

From a corner of the street, a healthy horse charged out of nowhere and galloped past the County Magistrate.

"Ahaha, Gu Qing Shan, we will meet again!"

The County Magistrate laughed as he jumped onto the horse.

Not good.

Gu Qing Shan's heart became heavy.

Since everyone hasn't regained their strength, it's still possible for me to give chase in a short period of time through overexerting my physical strength, but my endurance couldn't possibly compare to a horse.

“Trying to flee?”

Gu Qing Shan shouted and immediately exerted strength on his legs to rapidly catch up to the horse.

The County Magistrate also understood what people like them were capable of, so before he even settled himself on the horseback, he drew another arrow and shot.

Shu!

This arrow was shot straight towards Gu Qing Shan’s chest, perfectly taking advantage of the situation.

If Gu Qing Shan doesn’t dodge, he would be struck by the arrow.

But if he avoided it or tried to parry it with his blade, he would slow down and wouldn’t be able to catch up to the horse.

In that instant, Gu Qing Shan suddenly saw a vision in his mind.

It was one of his memories.

A memory of a girl.

Standing in the middle of an empty field, she wielded her blade and recited: “The blade lives and dies for Dao, moving only forward to become unbeatable!”

The vision went as rapidly as it came.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t hesitate at all to rush forward at the horse.

He put up one arm in front of his chest, which had now been pierced by the arrow, while he raised the blade high into the air with his other arm.

Slash!!!

The cold white gleam flashed, carrying with it a bloody splash of blood.

The County Magistrate was cut in half by the blade, his bloody body fell off his horse.

An unnatural sight occurred right at this moment.

The scenery around them suddenly changed as a dark mountain manifested in the darkness covered by faint yellow fog, followed by the Forgetting River, the Lethe bridge, and the Gates of Hell.

A soul was sucked into the vision, begrudgingly glaring at Gu Qing Shan with the unwillingness to accept.

“You forced me to fall into Huang Quan and ruin my Saint Selection, this won’t end here!”

The soul howled ferociously.

In an instant, the entire vision faded away and the scenery of Huang Quan was nowhere to be seen.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was now sitting on the horseback.

And the horse was rapidly galloping forward.

Suddenly, he felt a persisting sharp pain.

“AAAARGH!”

Gu Qing Shan clutched his head and tried to remain as stably on the horse back as possible and not fall down.

Countless chaotic images flashed through his mind, finally piecing together to form a complete uninterrupted memory.

The pain was washed away like the tides.

A line of bloody red text appeared on the void of space:

[Congratulations, you've fully regained your memories]

Gu Qing Shan swiftly skimmed through that and wiped the sweat from his forehead.

I finally remember everything.

He sighed, sheathed his sword, and took hold of the reins.

“Yah!”

The horse instantly began galloping even faster, heading outside the county city and disappearing into a barren field..

Chapter 1713

Translator: La0o9

In front of the county administration office.

Corpses were laid neatly in a row on the ground.

The County Magistrate's body had also been put back together, cleaned up, and laid with his head slightly perking up.

Several men in official clothing were carefully examining the corpses.

"Most of them were killed in a single strike, swift and nimble" one of them commented.

"As far as I've heard, the culprit was an Officer. He was alone, but he blew up the administration office and killed so many people, quite the ferocious one" another person added.

"But he only did what he did because of the County Magistrate's actions" someone else said.

All the officials fell silent.

For the past few years, the County Magistrate hadn't reported any village in this county being destroyed.

Everyone thought that everything had been normal, but after careful investigations this time, they discovered that the Five Elements Seals that were provided from above had been embezzled by the County Magistrate without distributing them to the various villages.

And now, several of them had already been destroyed.

With that in mind, the officials couldn't help but turn towards the County Magistrate's body.

One of the forensic officers sighed and said: "Cutting someone in half with a single slash, what a fast blade and ferocious blade will..."

"You're wrong" an official refuted him.

"Sir, where did this humble one make a mistake?" the officer respectfully asked.

The official didn't answer at all.

— he was originally a cold weapon user, as well as a Chosen Saint who was hiding in the Human realm. Although he had temporarily lost his powers, his discerning eyes and experiences were still far beyond normal people.

He reached his hand out to feel the cut on the County Magistrate's body.

This was indeed a wound caused by a blade.

But it doesn't carry any sort of blade will.

The other party's original weapon... was most likely not a blade...

This is a suspicious point.

There was another suspicious point—

While the County Magistrate was in power, he didn't recruit anyone with talent nor did his job to rule and govern the people, he simply recruited a number of thugs to fill up the positions, suggesting that he didn't care about anything.

If one went so far as to be so extreme as to assume the worst, the County Magistrate had purposely tried to destroy all the villages.

For what reason?

The official was a bit hesitant.

He silently formed a hand seal within his sleeves but didn't activate it right away.

— after the Samsara reset, everyone had lost their original strength, but as time went by, some Technique Users had gradually begun to regain their ability to cast spells.

This was a favor from the Samsara itself.

After all, Technique Users weren't normally experts in close combat, so if they didn't possess even a little bit of power, they wouldn't be able to survive at all during this period.

—of course, spells were still highly restrictive, so it wasn't something one could use arbitrarily.

Many spells required a long period of cooldown time to recover energy before they could be used again.

The official stared closely at the County Magistrate's body, greatly tempted to discern the entire truth.

Gritting his teeth, he finally activated the spell.

—*Metal-Wood-Water-Fire-Earth, manifest!*

He lowered his head and turned his back to everyone else as a flash of golden light appeared from his eyes, purposely avoiding everyone else's gazes.

The official stared closely at the County Magistrate's body for a few moments before the golden light in his eyes gradually faded away.

He appeared relieved and muttered: "...A Chosen Saint from the Beast King realm, as expected, an animal in human skin. He doesn't care about the troubles of our Human realm at all, exactly the same as those Heaven realm bastards..."

The official felt angry and stood up, mounting his horse without a word.

"Sir, where are you going?" the others hurriedly asked.

"I'm heading back" the official said.

"How will we deal with the situation here?" one of his subordinates asked.

The official smirked and said: "With this one's strength, this one wouldn't be able to kill all of these people while fighting them all at once"

The subordinates were all shocked.

Not even the commander will be their match?

"Then— what should we do now?" his subordinates asked with a slightly concerned tone.

"Report up and ask for support from the superiors" the official casually replied.

Everyone exchanged glances.

At this point, another report would cost an extreme amount of time. After the reports climbed up the ranks and orders would be issued again for expert Combatants to be chosen, who knew how long would have already gone by?

By that time, the rogue Officer would have already disappeared completely.

After mounting his horse, the official declared: "Leave some people to watch over the corpses, the others will return with me"

Since their superiors have already issued an order, who would dare to resist the order?

"Sir, yes sir!"

The subordinates could only respond in this manner.

...

Three days later.

Nighttime.

Gu Qing Shan was sitting by a campfire, once again observing the wound on his arm.

The arrow had already been extracted and the wound had already begun to form scabs, but the pain he felt from his arm only became more intense.

Inhaling a cold gasp, Gu Qing Shan took out some dried rations and a bottle of fresh water to slowly eat.

He had always been a picky eater, but if the situation was dangerous enough and all he had were rations to fill himself, he wouldn't refuse to eat either.

“Strange...”

While eating, Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit puzzled.

In theory, reinforcements should have arrived very quickly after the County Magistrate fired that flare.

But it's already been three days.

There isn't even a shadow of someone chasing after me.

Initially, Gu Qing Shan had specifically chosen arduous mountain paths to traverse, but after two days of not seeing any pursuers, he had slowly returned to a more levelled path.

— and there were still no pursuers.

At this point, he even had the courage to light a fire.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and casually adjusted his campfire for it to burn a bit more intensely

After killing that County Magistrate, I've finally regained all of my memories.

When I left the Space Vortex behind, I only had seven seconds, and the situation was especially dire.

To lead everyone through that Reality Gate, I had to make everyone fall into a state of slumber.

—so even now, everyone who had connected to [Order] continues to remain in a delirious state.

When would I be able to awaken everyone?

Gu Qing Shan thought about it for a long while but couldn't come up with anything, so he took out the Gloom Orchid again.

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“Perhaps I should just call someone else out...”

He muttered and used [Moon Invitation] again.

A thin red line of light manifested in front of him from the void of space, then transformed into a gate of light.

A shirtless man emerged.

He was wearing a pair of long white pants and barefooted with a pair of long boney wings behind his back.

Ye Fei Li.

“Ahahaha... sleeping felt so itchy, I've finally been let out to work my muscles again!”

He laughed hysterically, then flew around in the sky for a while before landing back down to fist bump Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan also smiled: “I also hope that you’d all be able to come out and help me, but even I don’t know the exact situation right now”

Ye Fei Li noticed the wound in his arm and asked out of interest: “I’ve heard Lady Darksea explain the current situation somewhat— how come you’re hurt? Who managed to injure you?”

Gu Qing Shan explained the entire matter from the beginning and asked: “How come you’re not even fully clothed?”

“It couldn’t be helped, I was in the dressing room on the Temporal Oasis at the time” Ye Fei Li answered and casually took out a bottle of coke from his pants pocket.

He took two sips and replied: “So your strength has been sealed, I should be able to perfectly fill in that strength”

Gu Qing Shan reminded him: “In this world, you’d only be able to use one ability, all of your other powers will be sealed away as well”

Ye Fei Li appeared startled and hurriedly said: “Oh no”

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

“I just used my flying ability just now” Ye Fei Li dejectedly said.

“...” Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

Ye Fei Li is a World Destroyer, so any of his abilities would have been able to easily deal with those monsters and help me greatly.

But he now accidentally used his flight ability.

“Hah, how about I return now so you can summon the others?” Ye Fei Li apologetically said.

“That’s impossible, I can only summon someone else after 24 hours” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He thought for a while and said: “Flying isn’t exactly a useless ability either. I’ve already travelled to the surrounding villages to distribute the seals to them, but the seals can only temporarily anchor the Five Elements, but not completely dispel the threat”

“So?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“I’ve asked the villagers and found out that there were some flightless monsters, we can challenge them together” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Alright, that’s easy to solve, I can just carry you and fly over” Ye Fei Li said.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent briefly and couldn’t help but look at Ye Fei Li.

This guy isn’t wearing his shirt right now, so he’s going to be carrying me around while shirtless?

Ye Fei Li still hadn’t realized Gu Qing Shan’s concerns and excitedly continued: “We can fly everywhere, so as long as we fight flightless monsters, we’d essentially be unbeatable, in a game, this would be called a BUG”

Gu Qing Shan was very hesitant.

Will this really be fine?

I’m going to be carried into battle by a shirtless man?

What would happen to my reputation if this goes out?

But time doesn’t wait for people.

I’ve already arrived later than the rest of them, so if I keep stalling here, the others would only further extend their leads.

— I still don’t know how I’d be able to earn Merit.

I need to seize every second I can.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and asked: "How's your flight speed?"

"Completely unaffected!" Ye Fei Li replied.

He opened his boney wings and flew across the sky like a blurry image, his actions completely indiscernible to the naked eye.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit more assured and followed up: "Alright, let's first head towards a village Southeast of here, it isn't very far away, so we should be able to reach it soon"

"Let's go!" Ye Fei Li said.

...

A while later.

Under the night sky.

A shirtless man was carrying a man wearing leather armor, slowly and stably flying forward.

"Hey, Gu Qing Shan"

"What is it?"

"Y'know, the two of us can form a battle team and name ourselves"

A name?

If a name can become recognized by the world and living beings, it would certainly contain unique power.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit tempted, but was troubled: "... Naming things make my head hurts, let's not"

“I actually have an idea already” Ye Fei Li said.

“Huh? What’s that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“You don’t even have time for love, while I’m faithful to a single person— so we can both be considered good men, wouldn’t you say?”

“Makes sense, so what do you think we should name ourselves?”

“The [Pure Love Gang]” Ye Fei Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan paused.

Being carried in flight like this is already suggestive enough, if I get associated with this kind of name, even if it becomes renowned later on, nothing good would come out of it.

“...Alright, let me think about it” Gu Qing Shan said.

“How long do you want?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“Give me three years” Gu Qing Shan carefully said.

...

Ten minutes later.

The [Pure Love Gang] flew into a mountain valley.

The two of them both looked down.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "Be careful, this fellow doesn't know how to fly, but it's still very strong compared to you and me currently"

"It'll be fine, I can fly" Ye Fei Li confidently boasted.

A few hundred meters below them, a reptile as large as a small mountain slowly opened its eyes.

As the reptile silently listened to their conversation, a hint of sarcasm flashed across its violent-filled eyes.

It suddenly looked up and spat out a dark green cloud of smog.

The smog rapidly ascended as it shot towards the two of them.

Gu Qing Shan instantly noticed something wrong as soon as he saw that dark green smog.

Both of them currently had their strength sealed away, one of them only knew how to fly, the other could only fight in close combat, so they could literally die on the spot if they came into contact with that smog.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly said: "Hurry hurry hurry! Let's run! That smog is poisonous!"

"@#%@^&! That monster is a fraud!"

Ye Fei Li shouted out loud and hurriedly carried Gu Qing Shan up into the sky again..

Chapter 1714

Translator: La0o9

A streak of light rapidly dashed through the sky.

When it stopped, the silhouette was discerned to be a shirtless man that was carrying another man.

— the two members of the [Pure Love Gang]

“If you hang onto my waist like that, I can’t shoot my arrows!”

Gu Qing Shan raised his bow and loudly called out.

“Then what now!?” Ye Fei Li shouted in return.

The two of them had already circled several times in the air but still couldn’t find an appropriate opportunity to attack.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and said: “Let’s change positions!”

“Alright, I’m changing!”

Ye Fei Li tossed Gu Qing Shan up and caught him again in another position.

— he was now carrying Gu Qing Shan on his back.

“What about now?” Ye Fei Li maintained height and asked.

“No, I can’t put in any strength this way!” Gu Qing Shan raised his bow before lowering it again and said.

Ye Fei Li: “Alright, I’m changing again!”

Gu Qing Shan was tossed into the air again.

When Ye Fei Li caught him again, he found himself being caught in Ye Fei Li’s embrace.

——the legendary princess carry.

The two of them continued flying for a short distance before Ye Fei Li hurriedly asked: “This is a classic posture, is it fine?”

They looked straight into each other’s eyes.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

Ye Fei Li: “...”

“Definitely not” Gu Qing Shan stated very resolutely.

Suddenly, lines of bloody red text appeared in the void of space:

[With the reset of the Samsara, all things have changed, and you two are the very first to be in an all-male combat group, your Title has been recognized]

[Title: Pure Love Gang]

[Title Skill hasn’t fully manifested, please continue trying your best]

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

——*this was possible?*

Do I really have to use this Title whenever I fight with people from now on?

Gu Qing Shan had never been someone who cared for minor details, but even he was feeling hesitant from this.

Ye Fei Li didn’t see the floating text in the void of space, so he got busy thinking for a few more minutes before he tossed Gu Qing Shan into the air again.

This time, he changed his position from vertical flight to horizontal flight.

Gu Qing Shan landed on his back and stood firmly.

“What about now?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“Good! Let’s charge, make sure to avoid its attacks, I’ll look for any chance to fire arrows at it” Gu Qing Shan loudly responded.

“Got it!” Ye Fei Li answered.

He sped up to the limit to make sure that the lizard couldn’t catch up to his location.

Gu Qing Shan wielded the bow in his hand and held his breath, and silently waited.

After drawing a huge arc in the sky, Ye Fei Li made a U-turn and got around to the back of the large lizard’s neck.

Right at this moment!

Gu Qing Shan’s hands moved like blurred images and fired off the entire content of his quiver in the blink of an eye.

Dozens of arrows flew like shooting stars that drew hyperbolic arcs as they fell towards the lizard’s head.

At the same time, the lizard had just opened its mouth to bite both of them.

“GO!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

Ye Fei Li once again sped up and rocketed through the clouds, causing the lizard to miss.

Roar---

The lizard's pained and furious roars resounded from the ground.

"How was it?" Ye Fei Li loudly asked.

"Not good, it's too big that the wounds we were able to cause weren't enough for us to kill it" Gu Qing Shan regretfully answered.

He had run out of arrows.

Putting the bow away, he drew the blade on his waist again.

"That blade isn't imbued with anything, it probably won't be able to hurt it either" Ye Fei Li said.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Unless we are able to find its weakness right away"

"Or if it was like us and had lost all of its powers" Ye Fei Li added.

Lost its powers?

Wait a minute---

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

Instantly, a golden light emerged from his body and fell into his hand.

The Coin of the Earth.

The coin began to ring with a clear chime and talked to Gu Qing Shan.

“What? I’ve already used you when I fell into this world?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ching ka-ling!

The coin affirmed.

Gu Qing Shan continued to think.

If the Coin of the Earth can't be used here, then——

Gu Qing Shan put the coin away and called out to the void of space: “Book of the Sea, are you here?”

[I’ve always been here]

A black book appeared out of nowhere and fell into this hand.

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“Please tell me what you can about that lizard” Gu Qing Shan said.

[You already owe me 3000 years’ worth of wealth] the Book of the Sea appeared a bit troubled.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t change his expression at all and said: “Brother Book, didn’t you want my help to find the Pendant of Fire? This is the point in time you need to support me the most in order for me to help you find that pendant”

The Book of the Sea sighed: [Fine, then from now on, you owe me 3000 years and one day's worth of wealth]

“What a ridiculously high price--- deal!” Gu Qing Shan agreed.

The Book of the Sea flipped open by itself to display the text contained inside:

[Lizard of Three Yin]

[This monster was manifested from the Elemental Earth of the Five Elements, capable of spitting out poisonous fog, fire, and lightning from its mouth, its entire body is as tough as stone. As long as it doesn't move away from the earth, it will continue to exist. Each time it is killed, it would only grow stronger, unless the Earthen Elemental Core that manifested the monster is damaged, it cannot be killed for good]

[A reminder, the Earthen Elemental Core is usually hidden in this monster's mouth]

The Earthen Elemental Core!

So this monster was actually a manifestation of Elemental Earth!

Wait---

Li An had said that the Five Elements haven't been established, causing the Human realm to become unstable.

Could it have been because of these Elemental monsters' rampage?

Then, would Merit be earned from eliminating these Elemental monsters?

Gu Qing Shan instantly became focused.

“Fei Li, we need to make our way into the monster's mouth” Gu Qing Shan said.

“What!? It can spit poisonous fog from its mouth at any moment, do you have a death wish!?” Ye Fei Li exclaimed.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “There is an Earthen Elemental Core in its mouth, if we destroy that Earthen Elemental Core, the monster would also be destroyed”

Ye Fei Li thought about it briefly and clenched his teeth: “Let me give it a try!”

Gu Qing Shan tightly grasped the blade and said in a deep voice: “Alright, I’m ready”

Ye Fei Li began descending and flew in circles around the lizard.

He specifically flew around the lizard’s limbs, controlling his speed so that it barely missed them every time.

The lizard was led around so much that it furiously roared and abruptly opened its mouth to spit out scorching hot flames that turned the entire mountain valley into a sea of fire.

“What!? It can breathe fire as well!” Ye Fei Li exclaimed.

“Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!” Gu Qing Shan reminded him several times in a row.

Ye Fei Li abruptly sped up and flew away from the valley before abruptly spinning around in the air.

— a few moments later, the flames went out.

The lizard’s gaping maws slowly closed back up.

Right at this moment!

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li both noticed the opportunity.

Ye Fei Li abruptly shot back down like a red streak of light.

Right as the lizard closed its mouth, the two of them had just managed to slip inside.

Ye Fei Li looked behind them.

The lizard's jaws had already closed down, shutting out all the light and causing everything to go dark.

Meanwhile, from the throat of the monster, an intense mass of white and blue light was being concentrated.

Obviously, the lizard had realized what happened and was preparing to kill the two of them——

“Gu Qing Shan, hurry!”

Ye Fei Li roared.

Both of them currently had their powers sealed away, so if they actually died in this monster's mouth, Ye Fei Li wouldn't be able to die with his eyes closed.

Gu Qing Shan immediately noticed the Earthen Elemental Core as soon as he looked inside the monster's mouth.

It was a piece of faintly glowing yellow rock hidden behind the lizard's sharp teeth.

“Leave it to me”

He replied, then leapt into the air while brandishing his blade——

A cold gleam flashed through the air.

Lines of bloody red text suddenly appeared in the void of space:

[You've killed the Lizard of Three Yin]

[You've resolved the Five Elements calamity in this location]

[You've earned one point of Merit]

Foo!

The surging electricity at the back of the lizard's throat abruptly vanished without a trace.

The monster's body shattered into pieces and disappeared bit by bit into the void of space, vanishing completely.

It's dead!

Gu Qing Shan lightly sighed in relief while falling back down.

So one really does earn Merit through this method!

As he was thinking that, a figure appeared in front of him.

Ye Fei Li had caught up to catch him as he fell.

"Fucking hell, I thought we were dead" Ye Fei Li exclaimed, still feeling fearful.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything and simply looked back towards the void of space.

[—The Pure Love Gang had achieved victory in your opening battle, earning a little bit of power for your Title Ability]

[Please continue doing your best so that your name of Pure Love becomes renowned throughout the realm]

[You will surely obtain a powerful Title Ability]

[Continue heading towards the new rising sun, pure men!]

The corner of Gu Qing Shan's mouth twitched slightly.

"...Fei Li, I have something I need to discuss with you" Gu Qing Shan said.

"What is it?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"From now on, please don't use the princess carry with men" Gu Qing Shan firmly told him.

"Ah, sure" Ye Fei Li replied.

He changed the carrying posture.

— then lightly put Gu Qing Shan on the ground.

=====

Hey guys, I'm back with translations, the upload pace will be a bit slower compared to before in the beginning (one chap/day), but consistent uploads will resume. I'll attempt to go back to the previous upload schedule (2 chaps/day) as soon as possible, but I can't make any solid promises..

Chapter 1715

Translator: La0o9

Merit—

What can it be used for?

Gu Qing Shan silently asked in his mind.

But no red text appeared to answer him.

The Highest Sequence didn't answer his question.

The Sequence was still in a slumbering state that can only randomly appear to inform him with some basic knowledge.

In that case, the only other choice is---

Gu Qing Shan took out the Book of the Sea again and asked it the same question.

The Book of the Sea said: [This is a very crucial question, I can only tell you the current usage of Merit, which will cost you another day's worth of wealth]

"Then, I'll owe you 3000 years and two days' worth of wealth?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Correct] the Book of the Sea answered.

"Deal" Gu Qing Shan readily agreed.

After all, I already owe it so much, one more or one less day of wealth is nothing.

Lines of text written in common human language then appeared on the Book of the Sea:

[The Five Elements are rampaging, the ten spirits became demons, the Human realm had just been established, and the Samsara had begun]

[After Chosen Saints accumulate a certain amount of Merit, they will awaken their own Samsara Divine Skills and cause it to undergo new changes]

Samsara Divine Skills?

Gu Qing Shan's eyes suddenly became sharp as he quickly recalled this matter.

The first step of participating in the Samsara Clash for Supremacy was to achieve Impossibly Unknown realm.

Once they reached this realm, each Chosen Saint would be able to convert one of their Thaumaturgies into a Samsara Divine Skill.

—indeed, a Samsara Divine Skill!

When I gave up on choosing the Huang Quan realm to choose the Wraith realm, my fully evolved [Dreamjolt] Thaumaturgy had fused with the unfathomable ultimate Guise Hex [Past Wraithy Form] to create the Wraith realm Samsara Divine Skill: [Mountain Wraith]

At the time, the UI had reminded me that since I was the only Chosen Saint of the Wraith Realm, this Iris Technique was a Divine Skill that the Wraith realm's essence had fully supported to manifest.

Under the current circumstances, all of the Chosen Saints' powers had been tightly sealed away, so if I could awaken the Wraith realm Divine Skill [Mountain Wraith], I would be able to win no matter who I face!

Gu Qing Shan then started making more considerations.

—strange.

That County Magistrate was clearly a Chosen Saint, so why didn't he use Merit to awaken his original Samsara Divine Skill?

While he was thinking that, another line of text written in common human language appeared on the Book of the Sea:

[Every Chosen Saint will need 100 points of Merit in order to awaken a Samsara Divine Skill]

[This is a secret that cannot be arbitrarily revealed, revealing it would result in the total subtraction of one's Merit]

100 points!

Gu Qing Shan was completely speechless.

Killing a Lizard of Three Yin only earned me one point of Merit.

Without Ye Fei Li, as a Chosen Saint whose power had been sealed away, what kind of price would I have had to pay in order to kill that lizard?

— I wouldn't have been able to.

I might have even lost my life.

It was only because I had Ye Fei Li carry me around that I managed to evade its attacks so easily, and it still ended with our lives barely hanging by a thread when I managed to kill it.

This single point of Merit was obtained through braving indiscernible danger, and you're telling me a total of one hundred points would be necessary?

— in other words, I need to kill one hundred Lizards of Three Yin.

That's an impossible mission.

But only by completing such an impossible mission would one be able to awaken their Divine Skill!

No wonder that County Magistrate was no match for me.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something.

From the looks of it, there had actually been many Chosen Saints who were already eliminated at this step.

— only those who had awoken Samsara Divine Skills would be qualified to kill more powerful monsters, stabilize the rampaging Five Elements, and settle the chaos in the Human realm.

As time goes by, the strong would only grow stronger, while the weak would remain weak.

Comparatively.

If the County Magistrate had earned a hundred points of Merit and was successful in awakening his Samsara Divine Skill, what chance would I have against him?

I would have been killed as soon as I saw him!

Other than that, there is another crucial point.

I only managed to learn of this secret through the Soul Artifact of the Water Pillar of the Four Saint Pillars— the Book of the Sea.

— how many Chosen Saints would be clueless about this secret itself?

After all, anyone who knows about this secret would have to give up all of their Merit in order to reveal it to someone else.

This represents the fact that the Samsara forbids anyone from arbitrarily discussing the topic of Merit.

— not to mention how no one would ever discuss it!

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt his back being drenched in cold sweat as he silently felt relieved, then heavily sighed.

“...Who would have thought? So it has already begun” he muttered.

“What?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“It’s nothing” Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

The Samsara has been reset.

The Human realm has yet to be settled.

But the Samsara Clash for Supremacy has already begun.

It was using an exceptionally harsh method to filter out the majority of Chosen Saints, leaving only the exceptional seeds and candidates behind.

This entire process was silent, without any warnings, cold, and cruel.

Only the tiny portion of those who are truly exceptional would be able to obtain an almost insurmountable advantage from the very beginning.

Those who had awoken Divine Skills would wield the right to kill in their hands and command all other Chosen Saints.

While other Chosen Saints would still be obscured in the fog, clueless of what they need to do.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan felt some clarity.

Just as Li An had said, I already arrived late, so if I can’t immediately set out and move forward, I wouldn’t have a chance.

I need to seize my time...

As he was thinking this, Ye Fei Li suddenly asked: “What are we eating tonight?”

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and asked: "Are you hungry?"

Ye Fei Li rubbed his belly and grinned: "Not especially hungry, just that I want to eat something since it's rare for me to be awake"

Gu Qing Shan checked his rations bag and said: "I have a few steamed buns here, let's have one each, then we're heading out to kill the next monster"

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"In such a hurry?" Ye Fei Li was surprised.

"Hm, I arrived in the Human realm a bit late, so I'm quite behind the other Chosen Saints" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ye Fei Li was about to say something else when he suddenly appeared startled.

Gu Qing Shan also noticed something and drew his blade.

The two of them were standing on the side of the mountain, currently looking down towards the other side of the river at the bottom of the mountain valley.

There was a small rocky path that crossed a small stream, which was connected to the main road leading towards the county city.

There was a middle-aged man wearing court official clothing riding a horse who had just arrived from the main road.

The middle-aged man was carrying a spear on his back with one hand on the reins, currently steering his towards the small rocky road at high speeds.

“Must have been alerted by the commotion of the battle earlier— seems like your murder of the official has been found out”

Ye Fei Li sarcastically teased him.

—there is only one pursuer, and they're still over half a mountain away, so it would still take quite some time for them to actually reach this place.

Not to mention the one they're pursuing is Gu Qing Shan and me. With our battle experience, it isn't particularly hard to ambush a pursuer in return.

Gu Qing Shan took a short glance and noticed that the other party had also noticed the two of them.

He reached his hand back to grab his spear.

Gu Qing Shan's expression immediately changed and said: “We're leaving! Hurry!”

Ye Fei Li was startled and asked: “How fast?”

“As fast as possible, we're running for our lives!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

As they spoke, the middle-aged man had already grasped his spear.

Ye Fei Li's boney wings abruptly spread out widely.

He caught Gu Qing Shan and shot into the sky, flying towards the far distance like a bolt of lightning.

In an instant, the two of them had already gone far away.

Seeing this, the middle-aged man appeared surprised.

“So your senses are sharp, but did you think that was enough to flee?”

He pointed his spear forward.

Invisible fluctuations emerged from his body, gradually being infused into the spear.

On the other side.

Ye Fei Li had carried Gu Qing Shan and fled a few hundred miles away from where they previously were.

“Don’t all Chosen Saints have their powers sealed away?” Ye Fei Li loudly asked.

“Their powers have been sealed, so he definitely wouldn’t be able to catch up—— but we still need to flee as fast as possible, speed up more if you can!” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Why are we running away?” Ye Fei Li was very confused.

“That person was still in the stream, over half the mountain away from us, but he already drew his spear. This meant that he wanted to attack” Gu Qing Shan firmly explained.

Ye Fei Li thought back and confirmed that the middle-aged man was indeed drawing his weapon when he was still within the stream.

——if he couldn’t attack from that distance, why would he have drawn his weapon from so far away?

Thinking of this, Ye Fei Li suddenly felt a chill run down his spine.

The Samsara is too eerie.

Thank god that Gu Qing Shan was here and noticed the other party’s intentions———

Without waiting for him to continue thinking, Gu Qing Shan suddenly shouted: “Evade!”

Ye Fei Li turned around, only to see a giant spear that eclipsed the sky appearing far behind them in the air.

The spear exuded a harrowing ancient presence as it flew towards them at unimaginable speed.

“@#@\$!”

All of Ye Fei Li’s hair stood up on their ends as he exerted every last bit of strength he could muster in his body to flap his wings.

The spear was flying too fast to outrun, so the only thing he could do was move out of its way.

It’s a good thing that I flew so far ahead, otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to avoid it at all.

Ye Fei Li drew a large arc across the sky, after which the spear howled deafeningly as it barely brushed past the two of them.

The spear almost managed to graze them.

— it was only a hair’s breadth away!

Fortunately, the two of them still managed to avoid the spear and watched as the layers of clouds in the sky were erased by the flying spear while the ground and mountain below were removed without a sound.

The spear was so fast that it had already gone out of sight in an instant.

Ye Fei Li’s heart was beating rapidly and exclaimed: “What kind of technique is that!?”

Gu Qing Shan tightly kept his mouth shut without answering.

The two of us couldn't even try to resist such a technique.

If we were struck, we would have lost our lives without question.

—-a technique of this level of power must be a Samsara Divine Skill without question.

The pursuer has already awoken a Samsara Divine Skill!

Against such an enemy, Ye Fei Li and I don't stand a single chance.

Unless...

Gu Qing Shan said in a harrowing low voice: "We're going"

"Go where? Do what?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Towards the East. Before that person catches up, we need to continue killing more Elemental monsters" Gu Qing Shan calmly explained.

"WHAT!?"

Chapter 1716

Translator: La0o9

It was now morning.

Ye Fei Li was still flying through the sky.

Gu Qing Shan was standing on his back.

Neither of them said anything.

Although they'd both witnessed plenty of shocking and magnificent sights, in the instant that the spear appeared, the two of them had almost lost their lives.

If they hadn't evaded immediately....

"Can he really not catch up to us?"

Finally, Ye Fei Li couldn't help but ask.

— *—that technique was too terrifying.*

If the other party actually gave chase, the two of us wouldn't be a match.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "He has only awoken that Divine Skill in particular, all of his other powers and abilities are still sealed away"

Ye Fei Li sighed in relief and muttered: "Good, that's great to hear"

"Yeah" Gu Qing Shan continued to console him, "Although he's riding a horse, he wouldn't be able to catch up to us while you're flying at full speed"

At this point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly went quiet.

He can't catch up...

That much is true.

But that technique doesn't need him to approach us at all, it was a bona fide long-distance attack.

Every monster manifested from the Five Elements is gigantic and ferocious.

If I fought those monsters, the power fluctuations created would be so severe that they can be detected from a long distance.

If that pursuer sensed the fluctuations and unleashed that Samsara Divine Skill from hundreds of miles away—

Would I be able to flee in time?

“Fei Li, let’s land for now”

“Alright”

The two of them landed in the middle of nowhere.

It was completely silent around them without any unusual signs.

Gu Qing Shan had already used a seal to anchor the Five Elements of this location, so these monsters wouldn’t arbitrarily come out.

— unless someone purposely provoked them.

Gu Qing Shan threw away the empty quiver on his back and took out another quiver full of arrows from his bag.

— this was the last quiver of arrows he had with him.

He turned around and picked up a rock, then threw it away with all of his strength.

Plop!

The rock fell into a swamp in the distance.

A few moments of silence.

A pair of flaming vertical irises emerged from the swamp.

— it belonged to a giant snake that was over a hundred meters in length and exuded a magma-like red glow.

As soon as it appeared, the air became distorted and temperature abruptly soared.

Gu Qing Shan pulled an arrow from the new quiver on his back and nocked it onto his bow.

Piu!

The arrow drew an unusual arc as it was shot straight towards the giant snake.

The giant snake twisted its body—

Despite its gigantic body, it moved around very nimbly.

With a 'tock', the arrow flew across the entire swamp and struck a large tree.

The giant snake's vertical irises abruptly opened wide as it exuded a ferocious will.

—two insignificant pieces of food are provoking me.

Hissss!

The giant snake hissed, then opened its large mouth and breathed out.

A torrent of magma emerged from its mouth to quickly surround Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li.

Without saying a word, Ye Fei Li picked Gu Qing Shan up and flew away.

The two of them looked back down on where they previously stood.

The entire barren wilderness was now filled with hot flowing magma as if a volcano had just erupted, which continued to spread without stopping.

Thick clouds of black smoke rose to the sky.

Such a commotion was already quite considerable, enough for even people, a long distance away to notice the battle that was occurring here.

“Alright, let’s retreat” Gu Qing Shan said.

“This guy might be hard to deal with, but it’s not to the point where we need to flee as soon as the battle begins, right?” Ye Fei Li asked in confusion.

“That direction—— we’re going to flee—— hurry!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

Ye Fei Li immediately sped up and started flying into the far distance under the giant snake’s watchful gaze.

One breath.

Two breaths.

The two of them had flown a few dozen miles away from that location like a bolt of lightning.

Suddenly, an unfathomable presence could be felt in the air.

“This feeling is...”

Ye Fei Li's expression changed and he once again sped up, only sneaking a single glance backwards.

A spear that eclipsed the sky was flying towards their location from the faraway sky.

The spear exuded a harrowing ancient presence, leveling all things in both the sky and on the ground.

A sharp and loud howling noise could be heard from the air.

Within the intense wind, the spear flew over the billowing black smoke of the erupting volcano.

The giant snake of fire coiled its body around itself, seemingly attempting to resist the spear, but was summarily eliminated.

——the entire mountain was also leveled.

“How are we supposed to kill any monsters with such an enemy pursuing us?” Ye Fei Li couldn't help but ask.

Gu Qing Shan silently observed this scene without answering him.

The villages around the county city aren't particularly far from one another, so if I fought against any of the monsters in this area, that person would surely notice and pursue us.

That Samsara Divine Skill isn't just a front.

I need to be constantly cautious of that Samsara Divine Skill.

Then...

Should I leave this region?

That's not a good idea either.

After fleeing earlier, the other party must have assumed that I have the advantage of speed.

If they somehow found a way to overcome this advantage and Ye Fei Li has fallen back into slumber, what can I do next time?

Gu Qing Shan blinked a few times, then suddenly noticed something unusual.

“Ye Fei Li, take a look” Gu Qing Shan said.

Ye Fei Li followed where he was pointing.

Only to see that after the giant fire snake had been erased, a weak burst of flame was slowly falling towards the ground.

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“Ah? That burst of flame looks like it’s sentient— did the snake not die?” Ye Fei Li asked in surprise.

“It’s probably capable of reviving” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He recalled the Lizard of Three Yin that they killed earlier.

According to the Book of the Sea, every time that this kind of Elemental monster dies it would grow stronger; and unless the Elemental Core that manifested the monster was destroyed, they couldn’t be permanently destroyed.

By this point, all the fluctuations had disappeared.

There aren’t any ferocious monsters and no fluctuations of battle, so the pursuers shouldn’t act once again.

He would instead come to take a look at the situation.

In other words—

If I want to destroy the Elemental Core, I need to take advantage of the time when the monster hasn’t revived and before the pursuer arrives.

—this is exactly the best opportunity!

Gu Qing Shan took out the Book of the Sea and asked: “Book of the Sea, when I came here to release the seal in the past, you should have seen the monster from afar as well, please tell me where its Elemental Core was hidden”

The Book of the Sea answered him: [Then you will owe me 3000 years and three days’ worth of wealth]

“Why is it still 3000 years and three days?” Hasn’t it been many days since that time?” Gu Qing Shan asked confusedly.

[Only a day that you earn some wealth would be considered a legitimate ‘day’, your grace the Earth God] the Book of the Sea answered.

Gu Qing Shan really had nothing else to say and sighed: “...No wonder that Highest Sequence of mine tried to learn how to earn money from you”

—fine, it’s already gotten to this point, how can I just give up?

“We have a deal, now tell me where the weakness of that monster earlier was” Gu Qing Shan said.

The Book of the Sea opened by itself and started to display information in common human language:

[Earth Elemental Flame Demon Snake]

[This monster, manifested from the magma of Elemental Earth, clad in flames, wherever it walks, all land turns barren and all things are burnt to nothingness]

[Its Elemental Core is hidden in its eye, you must destroy its eye in a single strike in order to completely kill it]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through the text and suddenly shouted: “Fei Li, fly closer to the ground, we’re heading in!”

“Got it” Ye Fei Li replied.

He flew at an extremely fast speed towards the little burst of flame.

Gu Qing Shan drew another arrow and nocked it onto the bow.

The burst of flame had already started to elongate like a length of rope even before it fell onto the ground.

Scales began to grow from the rope, manifesting into the shape of a head, visibly forming a simple outline of a flaming snake.

As the wind howled by his ear, Gu Qing Shan held tightly onto the tense bowstring as well as his own breath.

A few moments later—

Right as a pair of vertical irises grew from the head of the snake, Gu Qing Shan abruptly let loose.

The arrow flew like a blurred image and accurately pierced through the giant snake’s eye.

Right before the giant snake was about to take form again, it was frozen stiff in mid-air by this arrow.

Boom!!!

Its newly-grown body abruptly exploded into fire that swiftly faded away and vanished.

Lines of bloody red text quickly appeared in the void of space:

[You’ve killed the Earth Elemental Fire Demon Snake]

[You've resolved the rampaging Element of this location]

[Merit: +1]

[Current Merit: 2]

Right as Gu Qing Shan was reading this, he noticed a profound and deep red glow becoming intertwined on his body.

The profound glow flickered for a few times before it disappeared into his body again.

Ye Fei Li looked at him and asked in surprise: "What's going on here?"

"I don't know either" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Lines of bloody red text quickly appeared in the void of space:

[Attention!]

[Attention!]

[An unexpected situation had occurred]

[You are a Chosen Saint of both the Wraith realm and Huang Quang realm]

[You are the only Chosen Saint of the Wraith realm]

[You possess the Wraith realm Divine Skill: Mountain Wraith]

[Your status, as well as this Divine Skill, have both awakened the origin power of the Wraith realm]

[The Wraith realm's origin power is currently activating the Samsara]

[Everything is currently undergoing changes to facilitate you, the only candidate of the Wraith realm]

[...]

[The following changes have occurred:]

[When your Merit value reaches '3', you will unlock the Five Element war mode]

[Attention, this is an absolute secret of the Samsara, it cannot be revealed to other parties, otherwise, severe consequences would follow]

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

[Mountain Wraith] was a Samsara Divine Skill with considerable background, this was something he already knew very well.

When he obtained this Divine Skill, the Sequence UI had already given him a clear description:

...

[This is an exclusive Divine Skill at the very top of the Wraith realm with the potential to further evolve]

[This Divine Skill is divided into a total of 9 stages, each stage containing a different level of power]

[When you evolve this Divine Skill to its 9th stage, you will learn the secret of the Wraith realm's destruction]

[Note: This Divine Skill originated from the Wraith realm's Origin itself, carrying a profound implication, you must carefully place your mind into experiencing it in order to learn of the Divine Skill's power]

...

How unexpected for me to obtain origin power from the Wraith realm at this location of all places...

It seems there are still many secrets within the Samsara that haven't been revealed.

While he was thinking, Ye Fei Li suddenly said:

“Gu Qing Shan, I think my time is about to run out”

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and said: “Huh? Ah right, it's almost an entire day already, it's certainly about time for you to return”

Ye Fei Li firmly told him: “That pursuer isn't simple to deal with, but your powers are currently sealed away— you should seize your time to summon another person for support, if possible, someone like Shroud”

Gu Qing Shan smiled wryly: “I can only summon randomly, and everyone would only be able to utilize one ability”

“Worst-case scenario, just avoid them” Ye Fei Li suggested.

His body slowly became transparent as he was about to fade away.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “Don’t worry, of course I won’t be risking my life against a Samsara Divine Skill”

Ye Fei Li faded into the void of space with a worried look on his face as he disappeared.

He had returned to the Sequence and has fallen back into slumber.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t waste any time in taking out the Reincarnation Gloom Orchid once again.

Right as he was about to activate [Moon Invitation], a voice called out to him from not too far away:

「 Is that your Samsara Divine Skill? 」

Gu Qing Shan abruptly turned his head.

Only to see a monster standing within his vision.

This monster looked similar to a tiger, but in addition to having a horn on its head and five tails, its entire body was also glowing with golden light.

The monsters stood up and gradually turned back into human form. It took off the horn on its head, which slowly turned into a spear.

—it was the middle-aged man from before.

The monster was the person who was pursuing Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li earlier!

“You moved too quickly, so I had no choice but to use my true form to catch up” the man slowly said.

He pointed his spear straight towards Gu Qing Shan..

Chapter 1717

Translator: La0o9

Gu Qing Shan remained still.

The other party was clearly pointing the spear at him as a form of warning.

If he made any extreme reactions, the other party would immediately activate the Samsara Divine Skill.

“Are you here to kill me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That’s right, it’s because you killed the County Magistrate and so many others” the middle-aged man answered.

“Then why haven’t you acted?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

“Everyone’s abilities have been sealed, but you managed to avoid my Divine Skill twice, that could only mean one thing, you——” the middle-aged man said.

“Indeed” Gu Qing Shan immediately followed up: “I’ve awakened my Samsara Divine Skill”

——*not*

But if I don’t follow up with him, the situation would only get more complicated.

Let’s first relieve myself of danger and activate Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist at the same time!

The middle-aged man examined the Gloom Orchid in Gu Qing Shan's hand and felt like he understood something.

"I saw earlier how you can summon supporters out of thin air—— which realm does that Divine Skill belong to?" he tried asking.

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan immediately understood his intentions and answered: "Of course, it would be the Huang Quan realm. I'm a Deity of Huang Quan, it's impossible to mistake that"

"Huang Quan?" the middle-aged man cautiously observed him.

"That's right" Gu Qing Shan grinned and replied: "So you're pursuing me because I killed the County Magistrate? I actually killed him because I couldn't stand him hiding many secrets and even pledging himself to the Wraith realm"

The middle-aged man appeared surprised and muttered: "Pledging himself to the Wraith realm?"

"Of course, I wouldn't have personally acted for no reason to strip him of his Chosen Saint qualifications and banish him to Huang Quan" Gu Qing Shan casually waved the Gloom Orchid while speaking with a displeased expression.

The middle-aged man looked doubtfully at Gu Qing Shan.

——This man had just exposed a lot of information, I need some time to digest them all.

Gu Qing Shan didn't give him the time to think about that and continued: "The Wraith realm only has a single Chosen Saint, so he has received the full support of the Wraith realm's origin. During this excursion that I did following orders, I discovered that the County Magistrate had actually pledged himself to the Wraith realm and was helping the Wraith realm's Chosen Saint contact the Tianma"

"The Tianma had already met the Chosen Saint of the Wraith realm"

"To prevent the situation from escalating, I quickly decided to eliminate him, but it's a shame that the Wraith realm's Chosen Saint had fled again"

"I was pursuing him when I unexpectedly ran into you and was stopped here"

While explaining, Gu Qing Shan even scoffed with an irritated tone.

— the provided information was akin to dropping a bomb onto a breakfast plate.

Furthermore, at least 70% of the information was actually true.

The middle-aged man was stunned.

He stood still for a long while before finally speaking up again: “The Heavenly Palace had placed a bounty on the Wraith realm’s Chosen Saint for quite a long time, how unexpected for him to show up at this desolate place”

The Heavenly Palace.

Gu Qing Shan silently parroted that word, then coldly snorted: “He was also quite smart, knowing that only a desolate barren place like this would be considered safe, so he came here to meet up with the Tianma”

The middle-aged man scowled: “The Tianma are indeed troublesome existences— right, did you manage to discern the true name of the Tianma overlord?”

True name—

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a short moment.

A lot of past memories rapidly flashed through his mind.

The Tianma hate the Samsara to their bones, so much so that they were willing to watch as the Apocalypse destroyed the Samsara.

They demanded that I make a pledge with the Tianma and promised to enter the Samsara Clash for Supremacy with them in order for them to help me.

It seems they've been able to keep themselves hidden very well.

—does the Heavenly Palace not know of even Li An's name?

A name is a very mundane thing, so perhaps this person is trying to probe me?

If they really are just probing me, how should I answer?

On the other hand, if the Heavenly Palace really doesn't know Li An's name, how should I answer?

There is no perfect answer to this question, so if I wanted to arbitrarily gloss this over, it would only draw more suspicion.

—regardless, I can't reveal Li An's name.

If her true name does carry some sort of property that allows the Heavenly Palace to discern and pursue her, it would be very bad.

This entire discussion only took a split second in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

He answered: "Wait a moment, what status are you using to ask me that question?"

Without waiting for the middle-aged man to speak, he coldly scoffed again: "This official is currently under orders from the Heavenly Palace for this secret mission, having the authority to exert my influence and mobilize numerous men, while you're here to pursue a wanted criminal, what right do you have to question this official?"

The middle-aged man became stunned.

—this time, it was his turn to make a choice.

If what he's saying isn't true, how should I respond?

On the other hand, if the other party really is a superior official who's on a secret mission, what right do I have to stop and question him?

This was also a question without a perfect answer that couldn't be arbitrarily glossed over.

The middle-aged man was deep in thought.

If the other party was an impersonator, then I would at most only be releasing a wanted criminal.

But if he really is a superior——

The Chosen Saints of Huang Quan aren't just for show, if I offend him, I might not fare very well later on.

Who could guarantee that they would never die?

Especially during the Age of Apocalypse in the past and during the current reset of the Samsara, there was a not inconsiderable chance for anyone to go to Huang Quan.

If there was a Deity from Huang Quan who holds a grudge against you and waits for you to die...

That isn't going to be pleasant.

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The middle-aged man sighed and replied: "It couldn't be helped. The Tianma are formless and traceless, only their true names would be able to expose their locations. I was merely in too much of a hurry, I hope that your grace wouldn't take it to heart"

He then changed the subject: "I was also following orders to pursue a culprit, never did I think that there would be a secret related to the Wraith realm involved, so how should I report this matter?"

——good, the ball is back on this side of the court.

Gu Qing Shan understood this well, so he didn't continue to act high and mighty: "There are secrets that would only bring you closer to death the more you know about them, that's why such matters are left to us people of Huang Quan, understood?"

The middle-aged man nodded and waited for him to continue.

Gu Qing Shan silently made some considerations and said: "You don't need to know the Tianma's name, you only need to know that I'm currently pursuing that Chosen Saint of the Wraith realm. How about you accompany me during this mission? When we finally catch that person, it'll be a great contribution, then you can return to the Heavenly Palace with me and I'll report your contributions in this matter as well, how's that?"

The middle-aged man was stunned.

—-is he conscripting me?

Wait a minute.

Wait wait wait wait.

Didn't I come here to catch him? How did I get conscripted instead?

The middle-aged man was unsure of what to do. He was partly afraid of releasing an important wanted criminal, but he was also afraid of offending this Chosen Saint of Huang Quan, so he didn't know what to say.

Gu Qing Shan understood what he was thinking right away just by looking at him.

“Ahaha” Gu Qing Shan laughed: “I understand your worries, but this matter was originally top secret and the two of us are several levels apart, so it's normal for you to not know about orders from higher up. Perhaps we should spar first and talk with our fists”

The middle-aged man looked at Gu Qing Shan in disbelief.

—-if this was the real criminal, he would have retaliated right away after seeing me.

But he decided to tell me so much before saying that we should fight.

If he isn't a superior, why did he have to tell me so much?

After revealing so much, in the end he still wanted to talk with our fists in a fight.

Isn't that just drawing legs on a snake?

It seems he really is a superior.

The middle-aged man appeared a bit more respectful and tried saying: “Sir, I can't hold back the power of my Samsara Divine Skill”

Gu Qing Shan rolled up his sleeves and said with a slightly troubled expression: “No need to worry about that, you won’t be able to kill me, but there’s a very high chance of you dying instead— what should I do if you end up dead as well?”

“Sir, then you mean...” the middle-aged man asked.

“Let’s go with one move, you’re more likely to survive if it’s only one move” Gu Qing Shan said.

One move?

The middle-aged man was further convinced.

—if he isn’t supremely powerful, how would he dare say such a thing?

That would only make his death quicker!

If he really could beat me in a single move, he would have proven his identity as well.

The middle-aged man lowered his spear and bowed, then respectfully said:

“Sir, I’m going to act now”

“Hm, make sure to do your best” Gu Qing Shan said.

—it’s only one move.

After Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist activates and turns his spear on himself, I will be able to take advantage of that opportunity to kill him.

Even if I can’t kill him, that’ll be fine as well, but he would definitely not be able to injure me with a single move.

It’s best that he survives.

I will be able to take advantage of him to help me kill more Elemental monsters.

While Gu Qing Shan was making these considerations, his eyebrows suddenly twitched.

The middle-aged man seemed to have noticed it as well.

Both of them turned in the same direction.

There wasn't anyone there, but an extreme amount of killing intent could be felt.

"What terrifying presence, are they your subordinate, sir?" the middle-aged man asked.

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer.

If he had to ask, then that definitely isn't his reinforcement.

Who would it be?

While he was thinking this, a horse could be seen galloping towards them from the far end of the mountain road.

A woman sitting on top of a horse.

She raised the blade in her hand!

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed and shouted out loud: "Stay your blade!"

The woman scoffed.

The blade in her hand vanished.

A gust of wind blew towards them that carried with it a lonely sensation.

Shu!

A severed head was sent flying.

As soon as the middle-aged man raised his spear, his headless body had already fallen on the ground.

From afar, the woman's voice was heard:

"I came to save you and you're here being a fraud again?"

Chapter 1718

Translator: La0o9

A severed head flew into the sky.

In that instant, the surrounding scenery abruptly changed.

Gloomy grey clouds.

The sky was as dark as the deep abyss.

A dark mountain manifested in the darkness, winding on the banks of a faint yellow river.

Yellow fog drifted above the river as the water carried the dead into their reincarnation.

The Huang Quan realm had manifested!

Gu Qing Shan focused his vision and understood.

—*this was the same as when the County Magistrate died.*

Whenever a Chosen Saint dies, Huang Quan would manifest to receive the soul of the Chosen Saint.

The middle-aged man's soul swiftly manifested from the void of space.

He stared deeply at the blade-wielding woman and declared full of grudge: "Damn you! Despicable! I've already awakened a Samsara Divine Skill, but you ruined my Saint Selection opportunity. Once I reincarnate, I will definitely not let this pass!"

Hearing that, the woman suddenly chuckled and let go of her blade.

The blade scattered in mid-air, turning into pieces of bones that each manifested into a number of skeletons, then further manifested into—

Seven women in black palace clothing.

As the soul saw these seven women in black palace clothing, he seemed to have recalled something and exclaimed in shock: "The Tianma Blade of True Soul! Wait— don't kill—"

His voice was cut off.

The seven palace maids chanted in unison from the distance: 『 The path to Huang Quan is far and forgetful, reincarnation is full of suffering, let's stop where you are 』

In that instant, the entire vision of Huang Quan seemed to have been frozen solid, not even the middle-aged man's soul could move at all.

At this point, the woman on the horse finally leapt off and landed in front of Gu Qing Shan like a dancing heavenly figure.

She caught the severed head just as it fell from the air and muttered: 『 I've never been afraid of people getting revenge, but you won't even have that opportunity 』

The woman closed her beautiful eyes and took a deep breath towards the middle-aged man's severed head.

Something immediately changed——

The soul that was already heading into Huang Quan was sucked away from the vision of Huang Quan by the woman's inhale.

The soul went back into the head, then turned into fine smoke as it entered the woman's body through her nose before it disappeared.

Instantly, everything stopped.

The vision of Huang Quan became transparent and faded away from the world like a dream.

The world returned to normal.

The seven palace maids bowed towards the woman before turning back into bones and reforming into a blade, deeply stabbing itself into the ground.

The woman put the blade away and looked at Gu Qing Shan.

『 My bad, I bothered you during your scam 』 the woman sarcastically said.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: "Li An, you acted too quickly, I was originally going to dig more information from him"

The woman's eyes lit up and hurriedly asked: 『 You remember me? 』

“Hm” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

『 What about your memories? 』

“I’ve recovered them all”

Li An sighed in relief and muttered: 『 I knew it, not even the two Unfathomable Apocalypses managed to do anything to you... of course... there is still hope 』

Gu Qing Shan looked at the body on the ground and regretfully said: “It took so much effort to find a lackey... this was someone who managed to awaken their Samsara Divine Skill, he would have been a lot of help but you killed him just like that, hah!”

Li An glanced at him a few times before laughing: 『 Why are you acting so petty for such a minor matter? I immediately came here from thousands of miles away to save you as soon as I found out about your situation—— fine, since I killed one person, I’ll give you back one person 』

She put the severed head back on top of the headless body, then leapt forward and vanished without a trace.

Li An had disappeared, but the body on the ground opened its eyes.

The middle-aged man slowly stood back up and told Gu Qing Shan: “I also need a body to conceal my movements, after all, the Heavenly Palace is after my head”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “Did you possess him?”

A transparent image of Li An appeared behind the middle-aged man.

The image slowly became opaque and turned back into Li An.

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She put her hand on the middle-aged man's shoulder and explained: 『 I'm now his master, I know everything he knows, I can use all of his abilities as well as being capable of controlling his body 』

She continued: 『 Now, you won't need any subtleties or think of an excuse for him to work for you—I'll tell you whatever you wish to know and fight along your side 』

『 ——So? 』 Li An lifted her chin and asked.

“Impressive, but I've been constantly changing the direction of my movement, so how did you find me?” Gu Qing Shan praised her and asked.

Li An emerged completely from the middle-aged man's body, then walked around Gu Qing Shan while answering him: 『 I could sense the activated power of the Wraith realm emanating from your body... Since you're the only Chosen Saint of the Wraith realm, you might have had some sort of unique opportunity that I didn't know about, but the gist of it was that you activated the Wraith realm's power and initiated the hidden secret of the Samsara 』

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “How do you know that?”

——the Highest Sequence had informed me that when my Merit value reaches '3', the Samsara would unlock the Five Element War Mode for me.

The Highest Sequence had especially mentioned that this was a secret of the Samsara, so it couldn't be revealed or there would be disaster.

But Li An knew about it!

Li An looked straight at him and answered: 『 Of course I would know, we Tianma... are the only surviving race of the Wraith realm, it's natural that we know a lot of secrets 』

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of silent pain from her tone.

The Wraith realm is already empty with nothing but the Tianma race left.

The Tianma race has always been extraordinary.

——their perception of the Samsara is surely beyond that of the living beings of other realms.

Gu Qing Shan said: “I can’t go into details regarding this matter or there might be a disaster”

Li An nodded in understanding: 『 Indeed that is true, this is an unspeakable secret. For a certain while, I will remain by your side and fight with you 』

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at her and didn’t say anything.

Li An looked straight at him in return and asked: 『 Or do you wish to go back on your pledge? 』

—when he fought against the two Unfathomable Apocalypses, Gu Qing Shan had made a vow that if the Tianma race came to his aid, he would lead them into the Samsara Clash for Supremacy, going through thick and thin together.

“This Gu Qing Shan had never gone back on a vow” Gu Qing Shan sternly answered her.

『 But you’re more of a fraud than any of us Tianma 』 Li An said.

“—So are you here to help, or to sabotage me?” Gu Qing Shan asked in return.

Li An scoffed, but let that matter slide.

Gu Qing Shan told her: “Right now, I need to kill an Elemental monster in order to initiate some sort of change”

『 Very well, I’ll come with you 』 Li An replied.

She twirled her body and went back into the middle-aged man’s body, vanishing without a trace.

The middle-aged man then turned around and headed towards the horse.

“We’re going to take a ride, it’ll be faster” the middle-aged man said.

“But there’s only one horse, there’s not enough room for two people” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“We can ride together, don’t worry, this is a very good horse” the middle-aged man said.

Gu Qing Shan appeared hesitant.

The middle-aged man glared at him and shook his hip: “What? We’re both men here and you’re going to act embarrassed?”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t have the courage to offend this girl, so he could only take out the Gloom Orchid and gloss it over: “Wait a moment, let me summon a supporter”

Hearing him say that, Li An could only sit still and wait on one side.

Gu Qing Shan lifted the Gloom Orchid and activated [Moon Invitation]

Red threads manifested from the void of space and formed into a gate of light in front of the two of them.

Lines of text quickly appeared in front of his eyes.

[The method of summoning for Moon Invitation is currently random]

[Attention: As you have a common Title with a certain sleeping person, the chances of you summoning them would be increased]

[Through the name of the ‘Pure Love Gang’, you’ve once again awakened another member of this group]

The gate of light opened.

A shirtless man appeared.

He was wearing a white pair of pants, barefooted, but the pair of boney skeletal wings on his back was nowhere to be seen.

As soon as he appeared, he exclaimed in surprise: "Why me again!?"

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly said: "Don't fly, definitely don't fly!"

The man answered: "Of course, I wouldn't waste another chance"

He reached into his pants pocket and pulled out a cold metal can, boasting triumphantly:

"—This time, I brought the highest quality healing beverages!"

Chapter 1719

Translator: La0o9

"—Let me introduce you, this is Li An and this is Ye Fei Li, both of you are my trusted companions so you can trust one another" Gu Qing Shan said.

Ye Fei Li exchanged glances with the middle-aged man and nodded.

"So you've taken control of this body?" Ye Fei Li asked with interest.

"That's right, I'm now currently using his body to fight along your side" the middle-aged man pointed at himself and said.

"Do you know how to use that Samsara Divine Skill?" Ye Fei Li asked.

“Of course” the middle-aged man answered.

Ye Fei Li sighed in relief and said: “That’s great. Later on, when we kill the Elemental monsters, you can act as the main damage dealer”

Gu Qing Shan followed up: “Indeed, I also think the same”

The middle-aged man glanced at him a bit and proudly said: “Time for you to be carried again...”

He lifted his chin, showing off his thick beard.

...

An hour later.

Boom!!!

The monster’s body collapsed on the ground.

The middle-aged man lowered his spear and said: “Gu Qing Shan, it can’t move any longer, hurry up and kill it”

Gu Qing Shan walked forward and swung his blade towards the monster’s neck.

The monster was already on its deathbed, so it immediately died after receiving the slash.

“How is it?”

The middle-aged man and Ye Fei Li both asked.

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand, signaling them not to speak yet.

After a moment of silence.

An intense flash of red light emerged from Gu Qing Shan's body like a pillar that shot up into the sky.

"Gu Qing Shan, that's too flashy!" Ye Fei Li hurriedly told him.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at him with a pained expression on his face.

The bone-piercing pain caused him to be unable to help himself from screaming.

"AAARRGGHH!"

The red light slowly turned into a thick dark glow that completely enveloped him.

—-the pain became even more severe and more intense!

Gu Qing Shan fell to his knees, both of his hands violently punching the ground.

Bam!

The ground became cracked!

He spat up a puff of blood, trying to vent the unimaginable pain:

"AARGH—"

Ye Fei Li was worried and wanted to help him stand up, but the middle-aged man stopped him.

“Don’t!” the middle-aged man sternly said.

“But he’s——” Ye Fei Li refuted.

The middle-aged man solemnly answered:

“He’s the only Chosen Saint of the Wraith realm, he is currently being imbued with the Wraith realm’s origin power, helping him would do more harm than good”

As soon as she said that, the dark glow that filled the air completely vanished.

As if the supernatural phenomena just now hadn’t actually existed at all.

Gu Qing Shan was now kneeling on the ground while soaked in sweat and breathing heavily.

The pain caused by the overflowing Origin power was subsiding.

Only he, whose body had experienced absorbing the power of several dragons in the past, would have been able to accept all that power so simply.

“Are you ok?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“I’m fine” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He turned his attention towards the void of space.

Only to see lines of bloody red glowing text quickly appearing:

[Your Merit value has reached ‘3’]

[You've unlocked the Elements War Mode]

[—You can now utilize your Samsara Divine Skill]

[In anticipation of the war, the Wraith realm has imbued its Origin power within your body to help you reinforce your Divine Skill ahead of time]

[This reinforcement has affected your Samsara Divine Skill: Mountain Wraith]

[Divine Skill: Mountain Wraith has begun to evolve, evolution will end in three seconds]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[You've obtained the Wraith realm Divine Skill: Lightning Wraith(incomplete)]

[Lightning Wraith(incomplete): Your entire body will turn into lightning, gaining the capability to instantly move away from danger through extraordinary speed, unhindered by any barriers]

[Attention: This is the incomplete form of Lightning Wraith]

[As your Merit value has not reached '100', your Samsara Divine Skill has been upgraded by one step, but you can't completely wield its power]

[Only by obtaining 100 points of Merit or by completing the Elements War would your Divine Skill 'Lightning Wraith' evolve into its complete form]

[Keep trying your best!]

[Additionally:]

[You can initiate the Elements war zone in three minutes]

[—progress doesn't stop for anyone]

Gu Qing Shan silently read through everything.

[Mountain Wraith] has evolved, but into an incomplete form.

But there's nothing to regret.

Originally, I would have had to accumulate 100 points of Merit in order to awaken a Divine Skill.

Not only have I prematurely awakened the Divine Skill, but it has also evolved— the Samsara Wraith realm's Origin has helped me to the best of its ability.

Although, it seems like this skill is primarily used for avoiding death....

While he was thinking, the middle-aged man suddenly said: “The supernatural phenomenon just now was too flashy, this place is no longer safe, we need to leave”

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and said: “There’s not enough time. We only have three minutes, after which I will initiate a unique event”

“What is it?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“I’m not sure either” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The middle-aged man stood still, but Li An appeared behind him and formed a seal with her hands, lightly murmuring: 『 Wicked and evil creatures, heed my call 』

Various gloomy shadows emerged from the void of space, occasionally manifesting into strange shapes before they returned to being shadows that drifted and circled around Li An.

Li An changed her hand seal and shouted: 『 Thousand Demon Obstruction! 』

In an instant, all the shadows scattered in every direction.

Their bodies faded away as they disappeared into the void of space, resulting in various invisible fluctuations.

“What’s going on?” Ye Fei Li asked.

『 I’ve created a temporary Phase Realm that wouldn’t be discovered by anyone 』 Li An answered.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed a bit, muttering: “Li An, everyone had lost their powers but you seem to have full access to your abilities”

The Tianma's blade from earlier, the possession technique, or the summoning of evil creatures to create a Phase Realm, any of them could be considered a Divine Skill.

What's going on?

Li An casually explained: 『 During the countless years of the past, we of the Tianma race had faced countless obstacles, all to make the preparations for this chance. As soon as you showed up, we've gathered all of our powers into me, which allowed me to retain 30% of my power, a lot more compared to other Chosen Saints 』

“Does the Samsara allow this? Will there be any issues?” Gu Qing Shan worriedly asked.

『 If I fail, the Tianma race will go completely extinct, no longer existing in any Realities—— that is the price we paid 』 Li An muttered in reply.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a bit and gently told her: “Don't worry, we will definitely succeed”

Li An nodded.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly sensed something.

He looked around and said: “Wait... I can sense... a special place is calling me”

Li An immediately asked: 『 Can you bring us with you? 』

“Doesn't seem so” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Ye Fei Li immediately took out a bag and began throwing canned energy drinks into it.

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Li An flew up and pressed her finger against the middle-aged man's forehead, muttering: 『 Disperse Form! 』

In an instant, the middle-aged man's flesh completely melted away followed by his bones, leaving only a faint bloody rune behind.

『 Give me your hand 』 Li An said.

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan to answer, she pulled his hand and pressed the bloody rune on Gu Qing Shan's palm.

Prick.

Gu Qing Shan looked down and saw that there was a pattern of a monster on his palm.

— the same monster that the middle-aged man turned into earlier.

『 I've completely condensed the power of that individual's soul, but you need to be careful when you unleash the second Divine Skill 』 Li An told him.

At the same time, Ye Fei Li handed the bag full of canned drinks to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the two of them and nodded: "Don't worry"

Suddenly, a gigantic hand descended from the sky, falling through the Phase Realm and lightly landed in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The hand then opened its palm in front of the three of them.

— each of its fingers was easily over a hundred meters in length, its skin was engraved full of tattered ancient runes, soaked in an opaque liquid blood that made them impossible to discern.

Ye Fei Li looked at the giant hand in shock.

Li An slightly bowed towards the gigantic hand before silently retreating a few steps.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and lightly leapt onto the hand.

The hand lifted him and silently ascended far above the sky, quickly disappearing.

“What happened just now? Whose hand was that?” Ye Fei Li couldn’t help but ask.

『 Don’t ask, it’s not necessarily a good thing to know too much 』 Li An answered.

Ye Fei Li took a closer look at her, only to see that her expression seemed indifferent and not at all worried, but her hands were clenched so tightly that they were already pale.

Ye Fei Li sighed and said: “He’ll be ok”

He handed her a canned drink.

『 Yes, the Wraith realm’s Origin has fully supported him, all we can do is hope that he’ll come out alive 』 Li An accepted the canned drink and replied.

...

Gu Qing Shan was taken away by the gigantic hand through numerous indiscernible visions until he reached a closed-off fortress wall.

After putting him down, the hand swiftly went off.

Gu Qing Shan looked around as he stood on top of the fortress wall.

—there was nothing but a barren wasteland around him.

From the void of space, bloody red text continued to appear bit by bit:

[You've entered the Elements War Zone]

[Aside from Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist and Lightning Wraith, all of your other abilities are still in a sealed state]

[Death can arrive at any moment]

[The Sequence is still within deep slumber, unable to support you]

[The only reminder: You can only receive temporary safety and shelter once you've found the clues of the past Wraith realm]

Death can arrive at any moment?

Gu Qing Shan's eyes flickered and got his bow ready in his hand.

There wasn't anything on the fortress wall, while the only thing around him other than the barren wilderness was the gloomy sky.

—this looks a lot like an abandoned world.

Gu Qing Shan felt unsure, so he silently stood still for a while, waiting.

Silence.

It was as if no one had come here for a very long time.

Gu Qing Shan's heart slowly calmed down.

He then abruptly looked up at the sky as if he felt something.

Far above the sky.

Five gigantic heads emerged from the sky and looked down around him.

The monster had bright red long hair, a ferocious humanoid head in the middle, and four other heads that floated around the middle one.

They noticed Gu Qing Shan almost right away.

「 A... mortal... 」

The monster looked down at Gu Qing Shan and commented with some interest.

Gu Qing Shan looked up at it and felt an indescribable sense of pressure.

This ridiculously violent presence...

Compared to it, the Elemental monster I fought earlier felt like a docile pet.

“Ah, I am a mortal, may I ask who your grace is?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

—Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist!

The five-headed monster spoke: 「 I am a Samsara Old God, you cannot hear my name, but I need your power 」

“What do you need me to do?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The five-headed monster abruptly broke into laughter.

Behind its main head, one of the heads suddenly opened its mouth and breathed out grey fog towards Gu Qing Shan.

Instantly, the grey fog turned around and surrounded the five-headed monster.

—Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist!

The five-headed monster was surprised.

Its main head muttered: 「 So you know a few minor tricks... but that is useless. As soon as you appeared within this prison, your fate has already been determined 」

As it spoke, one of its other heads had already inhaled the grey fog.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched it, then abruptly opened his palm and pointed the pattern towards the monster.

The monster noticed his gesture and reached one of its heads into the void of space, pulling out a black bamboo shield.

Its main head displayed a hint of fighting spirit as it commented: 「 Shishishi, a Samsara Divine Skill? Unfortunately, it's much too weak, not even enough to tickle me 」

Gu Qing Shan hesitated for a split second.

As experienced as he was, he had witnessed countless entities, thus he was able to generally sense how strong this monster actually was.

...The difference between us is too great, even if I use the middle-aged man's Divine Skill, I wouldn't be able to kill this guy.

Furthermore, I'm completely in the dark right now, unable to dig any sort of intel from the other party through talking.

Then...

Fine.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and didn't unleash the spear Divine Skill.

He waved his hand to the monster: "How unpleasant, goodbye"

「 Bahahaha! YOU are trying to bid ME farewell!?! 」

The five-headed monster laughed hysterically and spoke with a mocking tone: 「 You want to run? I've already established 29 layers of restraining hexes, you have no option other than becoming my food! 」

"That's not necessarily the case"

As soon as he said that, Gu Qing Shan activated the Wraith Divine Skill, [Lightning Wraith]!

His entire body abruptly transformed into a bolt of lightning and shot away from the fortress wall, instantly traversing a large distance over the barren wasteland.

In the blink of an eye, his figure had already vanished from the horizon.

Only now could the sound of his figure vanishing be heard, resulting in a total of 29 distinct booms.

The five-headed monster was completely stunned as it stood on top of the sky, unable to process what had just happened.

Suddenly!

A flash of lightning was seen at the edge of the horizon.

Gu Qing Shan once again appeared on the fortress wall.

He shrugged and spoke to the monster in the sky: “Sorry, since you said that you wanted to eat me, I seemed to have forgotten my line——”

“——I’ll be back”

After declaring that, he turned back into a bolt of lightning and shot away from the fortress wall, instantly traversing the vast barren wasteland towards the setting sun at the horizon.

The five-headed monster was stunned again, then it abruptly uttered a resounding howl of anger.

But Gu Qing Shan had already travelled so far away that he couldn’t hear its howl anymore..

Chapter 1720

Translator: La0o9

A bolt of lightning streaked across the ground, rapidly flying into the distance.

After a certain point.

The lightning dispersed to reveal Gu Qing Shan.

He took advantage of the inertia in order to run for a bit longer before stopping in front of a tall cliff, looking forward.

“Truly a barren place...”

The world was desolate.

Snowflakes slowly drifted along with the wind.

Below the cliff, there was a vast icy river that stretched all the way towards the faraway snow peaks.

Gu Qing Shan carefully observed the surroundings as his expression gradually became solemn.

The banks of the icy river weren't empty but instead it was littered with a number of ruined palaces.

Despite being tattered and covered in snow, these palaces still exuded an indescribable violent presence.

—*—what exactly is the Elements War?*

Gu Qing Shan continued to think about this as he tightly grasped his bag, secured his bow and blade on his body, then gradually climbed down the side of the cliff.

Despite losing all of his powers, he still had the physique acquired from regularly practicing the martial scripture that Lin had taught him, so it wasn't an issue for him to climb a cliff.

Not too long later, he was now standing on top of the snowy ground.

The snowfall had gotten even more severe.

Gu Qing Shan looked forward with narrowed eyes, noticing that the snowy weather had obscured everything that was more than 10 meters away, making it impossible for him to see anything with his naked eye.

Various strange cries and howls could be heard coming from the distant palace array.

Gu Qing Shan had never heard anything quite like that before.

—*—they sounded like they originated from some sort of mysterious being.*

Suddenly, he noticed something and abruptly turned around.

“Ah...”

Other than this indescribable sigh, Gu Qing Shan couldn't utter anything else.

He was stunned by the realization——

It turned out that the cliff wasn't actually a cliff, but instead a gigantic statue.

Due to his proximity to the statue, Gu Qing Shan couldn't observe exactly what the statue depicted.

He retreated away from the statue as far as possible until he witnessed the statue in all of its glory.

——so it was actually a stone giant with its eyes closed.

The giant seemed to be completely motionless, almost like it was already dead.

Gu Qing Shan silently examined it for a few moments.

That's right, almost as if it was already dead.

——no wonder I couldn't sense anything wrong before noticing it earlier.

He looked at the giant and tried calling out to it.

The stone giant didn't respond.

Gu Qing Shan drew his blade and swung with some strength towards the stone giant's feet.

The giant remained motionless.

Gu Qing Shan tried swinging with more power.

Sparks flew from the impact, accompanied by a chiming striking noise.

—still no reaction.

Is it sleeping so deeply that it can't wake up?

Or is this guy actually just dead?

He put his blade away and tried placing a hand on the stone giant without any good reason to do so.

He felt an indiscernible sense of familiarity.

—as if this giant somehow had a close relation with him.

Standing in the snowy wind, Gu Qing Shan silently examined the stone giant.

A large portion of the stone giant's body was being obscured by snow, only a general silhouette could be discerned, but its entire body was still hidden.

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze towards a certain point.

The part where he had struck the stone giant with his blade.

A tiny crack had broken off from the outer stone shell, revealing a metallic sheen.

Could it be...

Gu Qing Shan crouched down and began to rub his blade against the stone like a file.

More metal was being exposed to him.

—this wasn't a stone giant, but a wrought iron giant!

Gu Qing Shan felt shocked and couldn't help but mutter:

"Who exactly are you?"

Only the sound of howling wind and snow could be heard between heaven and earth.

If this was any other point in the past, Gu Qing Shan would have been able to blow the snow away with a hand seal.

This way, he would have been able to carefully study the giant and find clues before he proceeded with anything else.

But now with his powers sealed, he could only look up at the stone giant, unable to remove even the outer layer of snow from the giant.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and thought back to how the five-headed monster had referred to this place.

—it said this place was a prison.

Then what was the prison holding captive?

How are the giant and the prison related?

There's too little information, and I can't afford to make random guesses.

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze back to the snowy wind.

On top of the cliff earlier, I saw a tattered palace array right ahead of this location.

Perhaps I should take a look at it first.

Not too long later.

Another large silhouette could be seen ahead of him.

—another stone giant.

Although a large portion of it was still being obscured by snow, its identity could be discerned by the portion that was exposed.

Gu Qing Shan was quite a bit surprised.

This stone giant seemed to have gone through quite some intense battle, as it had now been greatly damaged.

It laid silently on the ground, completely motionless.

“Huh? Is that—”

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Gu Qing Shan noticed something and hurriedly ran forward, rubbing the snow away.

Some text written in common human language were engraved on the outside of the giant's outer shell.

[A creation of the Human realm]

A creation!

It was forged from wrought iron!

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

Could it be...

He suddenly felt invigorated.

“So such things used to exist within the Samsara?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered and circled around the giant until he found a certain destroyed region.

A large hole had been broken into the giant's body from this region, but the snow had hidden what was inside.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly ran towards it and dusted the snow away.

Red cable wiring!

Looking at the cable wiring, Gu Qing Shan's eyes practically lit up.

As expected!

This is most likely—

Suddenly, hysterical laughter was suddenly heard in the wind:

「Bahahaha, someone actually came here. It's like you went straight to hell despite the gates of heaven being right next to you!」

Gu Qing Shan didn't even pause to think about who it was and immediately answered: “That's right, I came here, what does your grace have to tell me?”

Red Dragon Origin Hex – Twist, activated!

After answering, Gu Qing Shan turned around towards the snowy wind.

The ground shook intensely as a snake-headed humanoid monster emerged from the ground, its body being restrained by several lengths of black chains.

The humanoid snake didn't bother to chat and immediately drew a sharp dagger.

Raising the dagger, it grinned: 「 Although I've been imprisoned for quite a while, I can still attack without issues— go! 」

The dagger audibly ripped through the air.

And then it ripped back.

The humanoid snake was surprised and slowly looked down.

The dagger was now stabbed in its chest.

Very deeply.

Blood flowed down in a visible stream.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and silently muttered: “You're bleeding, hurry and wipe it”

「 You bastard— 」 the humanoid snake furiously roared.

Boom!!!

It exuded immense killing intent and gritted its teeth: 「 I'm going to kill—— 」

Before it finished its words, Gu Qing Shan had already used the Wraith realm Divine Skill, [Lightning Wraith]!

His entire body turned into a bolt of lightning that rapidly moved backwards through the snow, traversing across the snowy ground and moving up the cliff before vanishing without a trace.

The humanoid snake was only halfway through its threat, having concentrated all of its spirits, but its target had already vanished before it could unleash the attack.

It blankly stood in the snowy wind and slowly retracted its fighting spirit, muttering blankly: 「 Did he... just... run? 」

Again, before it finished its words.

With a flash of light, Gu Qing Shan reappeared in front of it.

He raised his blade——

Sha!

His blade slashed across the monster's neck.

A bloody mark appeared.

The monster roared: 「 You have a death w——」

Gu Qing Shan had already activated [Lightning Wraith] again as soon as he swung his blade.

Once again, he turned into a bolt of lightning and rapidly moved backwards through the snow, traversing across the snowy ground and moving up the cliff before vanishing without a trace.

The monster's fighting spirit was once again stifled, leading to it being stunned.

At another location.

A bolt of lightning traveled rapidly across the barren wasteland and ran up the fortress wall, stopping as he reached the top.

Gu Qing Shan reappeared.

“Hoh—- that attack just now was dangerous, I sensed the danger of death from that. Good thing I ran quickly”

He spoke to himself and knocked a brick off the fortress wall using his blade.

He first cut the brick thinly, then carved out two eyes, a nose, and a mouth from it.

A simple mask was made.

From the sky, a resounding voice echoed:

「 What are you doing? 」

The five-headed monster appeared and curiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan had already noticed it peeking at him from above the clouds as soon as he returned.

Unfortunately, whenever it exposed even the littlest bit of killing intent, an arc of lightning would appear around Gu Qing Shan's body like he was prepared to run.

This made it so that the five-headed monster could only give up on that idea.

—this brat is too sharp, I wouldn't be able to do anything before he runs away, and I can't catch up.

—but what is he doing?

Gu Qing Shan took out a string and tied it on the mask, securing it on his face.

"How does it look?" he asked the five-headed monster.

「...Terrible」 the five-headed monster had no idea how to respond, so it coldly replied.

"You don't get it, this is my mech helmet visor from the past, it's styled to be slightly Gothic. Even though I don't use mechs anymore, I can still remember it clearly, just look at how cool these curves are" Gu Qing Shan explained.

The five-headed monsters stared straight at him.

Who cares about your curves, I'm trying to look for an opening, bastard!

「What are you afraid of that you're wearing a mask?」 the five-headed monster asked.

"That's right, I'm about to do something a bit humiliating, but I don't want anyone to know that it's me—"

「So you're wearing a mask just because of that?」 the five-headed monster asked, seemingly interested.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and helplessly said: “I don’t have any powers right now, so certain things are difficult to achieve. I have no choice but to ignore my dignity and reputation to finish them first”

“That’s why I’m wearing this mask to hide who I am”

Chapter 1721

Translator: La0o9

The bolt of lightning was too fast.

Like a blurry string, it drew a blue arc across the ground.

All of a sudden.

A resounding voice echoed:

「 I give up! I surrender! 」

After this declaration, the bolt of lightning finally disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan continued to take a few more steps due to the inertia before slowly stopping in the snow.

He was still wearing the mask from before——

The mask with a stupefied face.

“Are you really giving up?”

His voice sounded from behind the mask.

「 Hah... hah... yes, I surrender 」 the humanoid snake breathed heavily and said.

Its body was riddled with countless tiny wounds that were continuously bleeding, simply terrifying to look at.

Gu Qing Shan had been continuously attacking it while using [Lightning Wraith].

The humanoid snake was being restrained by several lengths of black chains, so it was unable to dodge at all and was now completely unable to retaliate.

“Very well, then tell me, what is in the palace array up ahead?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The humanoid snake carefully observed him while breathing heavily and tried asking: 「 You aren't afraid that I'll deceive you? 」

Gu Qing Shan casually waved he blade in his hand and answered: “You're going to give me the most accurate possible information in exchange for your life—— your powers seemed to have been sealed and you can't stop my blade, so I suggest that you make the right decision”

In the snowy wind, the snake monster fell into silence.

——this brat's forte is running away.

If he doesn't die and comes back here for revenge, I'll really be in danger.

「 I don't remember much, but I'm confident that the palace array in the distance was called the Palace of Fear 」 the snake monster answered.

“Palace of Fear... why does it sound like some sort of Apocalypse?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 You're right, every individual who enters this world will face an Apocalypse—— this is part of the Samsara's trial 」 the snake monster explained.

“The Samsara’s trial? Why would there be a trial?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 I don’t know either. When I woke up, I’d already forgotten everything. I was also heavily wounded, trapped within this snowstorm; almost every fellow who’s a survivor in this place is the same as me 」 the snake monster said.

Gu Qing Shan was still hesitant.

*—how did this snake monster end up the same way I did, heavily wounded with no memories at all?
Although it’s a good thing that I’ve regained my memories.*

“So you’ve forgotten everything else, but still remember the Palace of Fear” Gu Qing Shan tried confirming.

「 That’s right, that was the only thing I remembered clearly 」 the snake monster answered.

“Tell me about it in detail” Gu Qing Shan said.

The snake monster answered in a harrowing tone: 「 It is a unique Apocalypse. Everyone who enters the palace will face billions of terrifying matters, and as soon as a single bit of ‘fear’ emerges in their heart, they will be stripped of their capabilities one by one. Once they lose even their ability to speak and walk, unable to retaliate in any way, shape, or form, true terror would then begin—— 」

“What’s that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 The entire palace array will begin to consume your soul and body at an extremely slow pace. The entire process will take an extremely long time without you being able to do anything to resist, having no other choice but to feel yourself being consumed bit by bit 」 the humanoid snake explained.

Gu Qing Shan was wearing a mask, so his expression couldn’t be discerned at all.

He was standing completely still as if he was deep in thought.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan finally asked: “You said that every individual who enters this place will have to face an Apocalypse?”

「 Correct. Your greatest fortune was the fact that you decided to head in this direction 」 the humanoid snake coldly scoffed.

“Why do you say that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 ——because you did not run into the kind of Apocalypse that instantly consumed your life 」 the humanoid snake answered.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “If that’s the case, I really am fortunate”

He sheathed his blade and started walking past the humanoid snake.

He was going further and further away.

The humanoid snake shouted from behind: 「 Are you really not going to kill me? 」

Gu Qing Shan didn’t turn around and answered: “I said I wanted information in exchange for your life—
— if you were lying, it wouldn’t be too late for me to come back and kill you”

His figure disappeared into the snowy wind.

...

A minute later.

Gu Qing Shan was now standing in front of a large palace array.

So this is the Palace of Fear?

I've never faced such a strange Apocalypse before.

While he was thinking that, a small door suddenly appeared on the bright red palace wall.

The door was tightly shut.

In the snowy wind, countless moans and cries for forgiveness could be faintly heard.

Gu Qing Shan didn't proceed forward right away.

He stood outside and shouted: "Excuse me, what is this place?"

Instantly, all the moans and cries vanished.

[Ahahahahahahaha!]

Numerous sounds of laughter resounded instead.

This laughter contained a sort of malice that could not be described by words.

Normal people would feel utter dread just by hearing this laughter.

Suddenly, lines of bloody red text appeared in the void of space:

[Attention, you've entered the vicinity of the Palace of Fear]

[This is the beginning of the Elements War]

[From this point onwards, you cannot hold any sort of emotion that encompasses ‘fear’, otherwise, you will fall into an irreconcilable position]

[Attention:]

[Nothing can harm a brave individual]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through the message and appeared surprised.

—I haven’t even entered the palace and it’s already begun?

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He suddenly turned towards the door on the palace wall.

A skeleton had just jumped over the wall and landed in front of the door.

The skeleton had a dry layer of skin on the outside, its ‘skin’ was full of cracks and holes that exuded a sensation of rot.

Countless human heads emerged from the ground for the skeleton to step on.

The skeleton stood on top of the heads and wiggled its finger towards Gu Qing Shan.

[You want to come in? You need to move past me first!] it spoke in a low tone.

Gu Qing Shan stood still without moving.

The skeleton laughed: [Scared already? Mortal?]

Gu Qing Shan sternly answered: “Not at all— you still haven’t told me what exactly is this place”

The skeleton picked up a head from the ground, ignored the head's plea for mercy and began to eat it a little bit at a time.

When it had eaten over half, the head was still crying for forgiveness.

The snowy wind finally came to a stop at this point.

Heaven and earth itself was silent.

Only the sound of the skeleton crunching and eating the head could still be heard, which would easily strike dread into a human's mind.

After the skeleton finished eating the entire head, it spoke at a stable pace: [This is the garden of the Infinite Worlds Demon Kings. The great palace of all living beings' fears, where the malicious and wicked come to grow infinitely stronger, would you like to come in and try?]

"Alright" Gu Qing Shan answered.

The skeleton suddenly picked up another head from the ground and threw it.

The head spun several times in the air as it flew towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan was wearing a mask so his expression wasn't revealed and simply asked: "What are you doing?"

[These heads taste quite fine, so I'm giving you one of them to eat] the skeleton laughed.

Gu Qing Shan took a few steps back, then suddenly drew his bow as the head approached him.

Puu—

An arrow was let loose and squarely struck the head, pinning it on the wall of the palace.

The head continued to scream and cry in agony before it eventually disappeared into the wall of the palace.

Clak!

The arrow was thrown back out of the wall and fell on the ground with a chiming noise.

[What? You can't even eat a human head? Afraid of something?] the skeleton chuckled in a low tone.

Gu Qing Shan calmly replied: "You piece of garbage, how dare you give me something you've stepped on to eat. Your legs are so slimy it's impossible to tell when you last took a shower— is this how you treat guests? You think I don't have the courage to kill you?"

The skeleton was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan drew an arrow and nocked it onto his bow, instantly letting loose.

Bam!

The door of the palace was struck open by the arrow, revealing the profound and stifling darkness inside.

The skeleton had already disappeared without a trace.

As Gu Qing Shan entered through the door, his entire body was swallowed by the darkness and vanished as well.

As for the door——

It was also nowhere to be seen as if the wall of the palace had always been seamless without any sort of opening.

Gu Qing Shan continued to move through the darkness.

His surroundings were currently narrow and gloomy, constantly exuding a sense of indescribable chill almost as if it was an underground tunnel, and not any sort of palace.

As he proceeded forward, the sound of crying echoed into his ears.

This crying was sometimes in front of him, sometimes behind him, which made it impossible to discern where it was actually originating from.

Gu Qing Shan stood still and shouted out loud: “Who is it? What’s the matter?”

The crying grew even more harrowing.

Gu Qing Shan hung his bow and drew his blade, carefully proceeding forward.

After he went forward for a while, the crying became increasingly louder and more erratic.

The silhouette of a woman could be seen just a bit further away.

She had her back towards Gu Qing Shan, sitting crouched on the ground while crying sorrowfully.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan quickly approached the woman and asked: “What’s the matter?”

The woman suddenly turned to him, revealing that her eyes and nose had long been dug away, leaving empty holes that continuously shed blood.

Her torso was also bloody as all of her innards were nowhere to be seen, even her ribs were missing.

What remained of her bloody insides were writhing intensely, exuding a sort of distinct malice.

[I died so horribly—]

Before the woman even finished talking, she noticed that she was now wearing an extra layer of clothing.

Gu Qing Shan had taken off his coat and carefully covered the woman with it.

“You’re a woman, so why are you not wearing any clothes and sitting here crying for everyone to see?”

He scolded her.

The woman’s eyes bleed out and continued to speak: [I died so horribly—]

Before she could finish, she was already pulled over to a corner of the path by Gu Qing Shan.

“Listen” Gu Qing Shan sternly told her: “Running around on the streets without wearing clothes is called streaking, which is a crime. Seeing how you’ve clearly been in some sort of car accident, I won’t call the police to take you in, but—”

His voice became even more stern: “If you do it again, I won’t give you my clothes again. Be careful of the ones bearing ill will, they’re always ready to take candid pictures”

“Take care of yourself now!”

Gu Qing Shan patted the woman’s shoulder and turned around to leave.

The woman was stunned, then suddenly realized.

She grabbed Gu Qing Shan's hand and howled in a harrowing voice: [I am a ghost! The most ferocious kind of revenant!]

Sure enough, Gu Qing Shan stopped.

He crouched back down and asked sternly: "Which realm do you belong to? The Huang Quan realm? Or the Wraith realm?"

The woman's entire body exuded a bloody red glow with a terrible expression as she shouted: [I am from the Hell of Maggots, the most ferocious among the 18 layers—]

"I'll give you some advice" Gu Qing Shan cut her off and casually said: "No matter which layer of hell you came from, going outside means you're a representative of Hell as a whole. I won't allow it if you're doing things that harm Hell's image and reputation—"

"I won't forgive you next time, keep that in mind"

After saying that, he seemed to have lost interest in asking and pried the woman's hand off, quickly making his way deeper into the darkness..

Chapter 1722

Translator: La0o9

The dark tunnel was already behind him.

The exit was right ahead.

As Gu Qing Shan walked forward, he found himself standing in front of a cave entrance.

There was a graveyard right in front of him with gravestones located closely by one another.

He needed to walk through the graveyard and follow a small path before he could finally reach the actual palace array.

The sky was gloomy.

There wasn't a single soul here.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and continued heading through the graveyard.

While proceeding forward, he glanced at the numerous gravestones.

Only to see that the tombstones were engraved with strange and unfamiliar letters, none of which did he recognize.

—like this, he wouldn't be able to know who or what was buried underneath these graves.

Very strangely, every time he looked towards one of the gravestones, the sound of knocking could be heard coming from beneath.

「 Summon me 」

A voice rang out from inside Gu Qing Shan's mind.

As his vision scanned across the numerous gravestones, the sound of knocking became increasingly more rapid:

「 Summon me 」

「 Summon me 」

「 Summon me 」

「 ... 」

Chilling voices echoed in Gu Qing Shan's mind as if countless dead people were trying to climb out from under their graves.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

It seems these guys need living people to summon them in order to appear.

—I'm not actually going to summon any of them, so what do I have to be afraid of?

Gu Qing Shan turned his vision away and quickly made his way through the graveyard.

Time slowly passed.

He quickly arrived at the center of the graveyard.

Here, there was a huge grave the size of a small mountain.

Gu Qing Shan originally didn't have any intentions of stopping, but he happened to see the text engraved on the tombstone.

—it was engraved in human common language:

[Here lies the Samsara War General]

Gu Qing Shan stopped right away.

War General.

That Title sounds strangely similar to [War Shaman].

Wait a minute!

I only managed to inherit [Ethereal] after triumphing against the Samsara War Shaman in the Great Tomb.

So what's up with this Samsara War General?

Why is this tomb still here?

— the Samsara has clearly been reset already!

Numerous thoughts raced through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

He thought back to the snake monster that was trapped outside, the five-headed monster in the sky, as well as the wrecked wrought iron giant—

It was a [Human realm creation]!

Everything had started to piece together to form a great mystery.

This mystery was so crucial that the Samsara had to utilize this place as a trial for Chosen Saints.

What exactly... had happened...

Gu Qing Shan had practically forgotten where he was, falling deep into his thoughts.

[Summon me]

Suddenly, a voice coldly called out in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

Gu Qing Shan became hesitant.

On one hand, he really wanted to know the secrets involved here; but on the other hand, he also understood the eeriness of the situation.

After a moment of hesitation.

Gu Qing Shan put up his hands and bowed towards the mountain-like tomb.

“Hi, my name is Gu Qing Shan”

The sound of knocking could then be heard coming from inside the tomb, causing the ground below to also tremble.

[Gu Qing Shan, hurry and summon me, then I will fulfill all of your desires]

The cold voice said.

“Ah, I don’t mind doing that at all, but I want to ask you one thing first” Gu Qing Shan replied.

All the engraved words on the tomb disappeared, but new words began to appear.

[Samsara Contract]

[The Samsara War General will answer Gu Qing Shan’s question, Gu Qing Shan will summon the Samsara War General into the present]

[Violators will have their bodies and souls destroyed]

After Gu Qing Shan skimmed through the new engravings, the cold voice spoke: [Seal the contract with your fingerprints then I will answer your inquiry]

“Alright”

Gu Qing Shan happily pressed his finger on the tombstone.

The cold voice spoke: [Very well, you may make your inquiry]

“After the Samsara resets, all the Chosen Saints had their powers sealed away and are currently settling the chaos of the Five Elements, so why are there still tombs that entrap existences like yourself?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The cold voice answered: [During the Samsara’s re-fusion, the Great Tomb within the Beast King realm contained an uncountable number of unrivaled Apocalypses. As the Samsara could not immediately get rid of them all, it could only temporarily quarantine them inside various Phase Realms]

Gu Qing Shan immediately recalled the Tomb of Myriad Beasts.

Indeed, when the shattered Delimitation Divine Sword was stolen by the Wraith realm, the entire Tomb of Myriad Beasts as well as the Space Vortex itself was under the threat of destruction by the countless Apocalypses.

At the time, I had to summon help from numerous parallel worlds in order to temporarily suppress the Great Tomb.

I didn’t consider that the Samsara fusing together would completely release all the Apocalypses inside the Great Tomb!

Who would be able to resolve that!?

[Very well, hurry up and release me, otherwise you will suffer the torture of having your soul burned away by the Samsara Contract] the cold voice spoke.

“Wait a minute, I was asking you why you were being trapped here” Gu Qing Shan said again.

The cold voice paused, then answered with impatience: [After such a long time, I’ve already become one with the Apocalypse, the Samsara couldn’t risk releasing me!]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “So that was the reason”

He suddenly felt an imminent sense of danger.

The contract on the tombstone began to glow intensely like it was ready to trigger at any moment.

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Gu Qing Shan immediately declared: “Samsara War General, I summon you!”

—*boom!!!*

The tombstone immediately cracked open to release a shadow that shot into the sky before diving down towards Gu Qing Shan at full power.

Gu Qing Shan stood still.

Suddenly, lines of bloody red text appeared in front of him:

[The other party was too powerful]

[Your Red Dragon Origin Hex was halfway broken through by the other party]

[You and your opponent are both under attack from their Samsara Divine Skill: ??????]

[You both will suffer imminent mutual death!]

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed.

After so long, this was the first time that someone had been able to break through a Dragon Hex with their sheer power.

That shows just how powerful he really is!

Gu Qing Shan immediately shouted: “Fool! You’ve triggered my defensive treasure tool! Hurry and retreat or both of us will die!”

The shadow in the sky had also recognized that it was on a path of mutual destruction with the mortal below and hysterically shouted: [NO! I refuse to accept this! I spent so—]

Gu Qing Shan grumbled: “I don’t know what you’re doing. You want to escape, while I only want to obtain more information, how about you go back in and answer another question from me? We’ll sign another contract and I’ll summon you again!”

“HURRY UP! I don’t want to die with you here, and I’m sure you don’t want to die such a meaningless death either!” he impatiently shouted.

The shadow naturally didn’t want to die, so it had no other choice as it gritted its teeth: [Very well!]

In an instant, the shadow vanished all at once.

The tomb closed back up.

His surroundings became silent and returned to how it was before.

Gu Qing Shan wiped the cold sweat from his forehead.

That was too dangerous!

I was relying on Red Dragon Origin Hex, but a portion of the Dragon Hex was bypassed.

— the other party’s level of strength would only be comparable to the Samsara War Shaman that I had met in the past.

While he was thinking, the sound of knocking emerged from below the tomb once again.

The cold voice echoed in his mind again:

[Very well, let us do this again— no matter what kind of information you wish to know, I can give it to you, but you need to release me]

As it spoke, a new Samsara Contract appeared on the tombstone.

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through it.

Then.

He turned around.

And walked past the tomb.

He had left.

The cold voice continuously echoed in his mind:

[Hey, where are you going?]

[Why did you leave? Don't you need information?]

[You said we'd redo this!]

[Come back here!]

[Come back, I can grant you more treasures! Secrets with more value!]

[...]

Gu Qing Shan silently listened without answering.

He quickly walked past the entire graveyard and arrived at the small path leading outside.

A sense of eerie silence was draped over this path.

This was sheer horror being mixed within the atmosphere.

Gu Qing Shan simply walked forward without looking around, up until he saw a woman with a bloated stomach.

『 I'm hungry... so hungry... 』

The woman was sitting on top of a corpse, ferociously gnawing on the corpse's arm.

She was sitting in the middle of the path, her mouth soaked full of blood from what she was eating.

Seeing the woman, Gu Qing Shan's tense mind slowly calmed back down.

This tone, it should be a product of the Palace of Fear.

The Samsara War General was significantly stronger compared to the Fear Apocalypse!

—--and was much more terrifying!

Before I regain my strength, it's best that I don't come into contact with those people again.

One day, when I'm strong enough, I'd be able to go back and have a proper talk with it.

While lost in thought, Gu Qing Shan continued walking down the path.

He arrived in front of the woman.

『 Young man, would you like some as well? It tastes very good 』 the woman offered him a piece of human bone, her face still smeared with blood.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down and looked at the other party.

“Sister, you're pregnant right?” he asked.

The woman was a bit stunned, but still nodded.

Gu Qing Shan earnestly told her: “——one needs a lot of nutrients during pregnancy, so I won't take your food from you”

“Slowly enjoy yourself”

He stood up, patted her shoulder, then quickly proceeded forward again.

The woman was shocked, then suddenly called out grudgefully:

『 Did you think this was the Fear Apocalypse? 』

『 It wouldn't be until you've truly entered the palace, only then would everything officially begin! 』

『 Go ahead, go face true fear and horror, I guarantee that you will regret it! 』

Gu Qing Shan didn't turn again and just put up one hand to wave: “Call me when you finally give birth, I'll send a gift”

He walked down the small path, moving forward on the stone material step by step.

The Apocalyptic palace was right in front of him.

Suddenly, a confused voice echoed in his mind:

「 Ah... these Apocalypses... and the War General... have we returned to the Great Tomb? 」

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

This is an unfamiliar voice, I'm sure I've never heard it before.

Who——

Suddenly, a few lines of bloody red text rapidly appeared in the void of space:

[Attention!]

[The Delimitation Divine Sword's spirit has awoken!]

[Special note:]

[All of your sword techniques and abilities have been sealed by the Samsara]

[But you can still carry two things without issues]

[The first is your incomplete Title Quest: Void War God]

[The second are the fragments of the Delimitation Divine Sword]

Chapter 1723

Translator: La0o9

「 Don't stop, they're observing you, keep walking 」 the sword spirit's voice echoed again.

Gu Qing Shan understood what it meant.

He continued to follow the path and headed towards the entrance of the palace.

At this point, he had lost all of his powers and was unable to even send his voice, but the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword's spirit had actively formed a telepathic connection with him.

The sword spirit— seemingly sensing something, started speaking rapidly: 「 So it was the Palace of Fear. With your current strength, you wouldn't be able to resist it at all— the situation has gotten extremely dangerous, you're at risk of being devoured at any moment! 」

Gu Qing Shan's expression remained unchanged and silently asked: “Then what should I do now? Wait, do you know about everything that happened up to this point?”

The sword spirit replied: 「 Not at all 」

“Should I tell you everything that has happened until now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 No, there's no time for that 」 the sword spirit hurriedly continued: 「 Since you were able to save all of my blade's fragments, I'll save you in return for now 」

Sha sha sha.

His surroundings had gone extremely quiet, to the point that not even the wind could be heard, the only audible sound was Gu Qing Shan's own footsteps.

There wasn't anyone on his way, no strange or unusual monsters blocking his path.

——there was only a short distance left from the palace.

The sword spirit's voice became even more hurried:

「 My power has been practically drained, I will soon fall back into slumber 」

「 Take this 」

「 No one would be able to help you, even I can only provide a little bit of support—— if you can survive through the Palace of Fear, we will have a chance to meet again 」

The sword spirit's voice disappeared.

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan felt something cold in the palm of his hand.

He didn't look down to see what it was and instead maintained a calm expression, as if nothing had actually happened at all.

Lines of bloody glowing text were scrolling through the void of space:

[You've received a Delimitation Divine Sword fragment (1)]

[This fragment contains the following unique power: Govern Spirit]

[Govern Spirit: You can die at any moment you wish, up until the moment you want to revive]

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned.

This ability... seems to carry some sort of implications...

He continued to ponder the ability's use as he quickly made his way forward along the stone path.

The flight of stairs leading up to the entrance of the palace wasn't very long, so he soon reached a floating piece of paper.

Gu Qing Shan approached it and read what was written:

[Palace of Fear]

[Those who enter this palace will instantly lose their body and soul if they feel any hint of fear in their hearts]

[Special note:]

[Without a proper reason, you cannot refuse anything within the Palace of Fear, otherwise, your body and soul would also be confiscated by the palace]

After Gu Qing Shan finished reading, the piece of paper immediately burst into flames.

—so the difficulty has increased.

Originally, the rule only stated that I can't feel fear, but now there's also another rule that forbids refusal unless I have a proper reason.

Gu Qing Shan silently sunk into thought.

All of a sudden, his surroundings changed.

The entire world had vanished.

When Gu Qing Shan regained his senses, he found that he was standing on the side of the road with a tombstone as tall as a mountain sitting right behind him.

A long horse carriage being pulled by four skeletal horses was rapidly approaching him.

The carriage door opened.

A skeleton with a whip in its hand turned around and looked at Gu Qing Shan.

「 Get on the carriage, I will take you to the village 」 the skeleton said.

Gu Qing Shan looked at it, then behind it——

There was another group of skeletons sitting behind the skeleton in front, all of which were staring straight at Gu Qing Shan.

Only a single metal seat remained.

There was a pile of burning coal right beneath the seat, heating up to the point of glowing red.

The seat itself was also filled with green glowing spikes.

Several winged black snakes were also flying around the seat like a bunch of flies.

——*if I sit on that, I can forget about leaving alive.*

Gu Qing Shan went silent and tried to think of a proper reason to refuse it, but the coachman skeleton had already spoken up ahead of him:

「 This carriage is the only one allowed to enter the village, if you pass up on this chance, you will be swallowed up by the darkness 」

「 Hurry up and get on 」

Gu Qing Shan was instantly speechless.

The darkness around him immediately began to creep closer, almost like it was ready to cover this entire space at any moment.

—no matter what kind of reason he gave, none of it would be as important as his survival, so the skeleton had preemptively cut off all of his excuses.

Should I really sit on that seat?

But what other proper reasons would there be for me to not board the carriage? Or not sit on that seat?

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a split second before drawing an arrow from his back.

“This is a robbery”

He spat out those words.

As soon as he did, a thunderous boom resounded from his bow.

Gu Qing Shan’s hands moved like afterimages, emptying the entire quiver on his back in a mere breath’s worth of time.

Clatter—

The skeletons were completely decimated by the arrows and broken into pieces.

An entire carriage filled with skeletons had been killed.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

It's still early so these guys are all weak, that's the only reason I was able to do this.

With my powers sealed away, what should I do if I run into something I can't defeat?

He looked up, only to see the darkness from above was creeping increasingly closer to him.

Something seemed to be continuously moving in that darkness.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate any longer and stepped onto the carriage, picking up the whip and snapping it towards the horses.

"Yah!"

The carriage slowly moved forward.

A line of bloody red text appeared in the void of space:

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[You've used the proper reason of a 'robbery' to replace the coachman]

Gu Qing Shan glanced through it and smirked: "How interesting..."

The four skeletal horses began to pick up speed and carried the carriage away from the darkness.

...

“How was your trip?” a coachman-looking individual asked.

“Quite uneventful” Gu Qing Shan answered.

—–the other party must be assuming me to be a peer that they’re chatting me up like this.

Gu Qing Shan disembarked the carriage and looked towards the outside of the village.

Only to see that the outside of the village had already been covered in darkness with various howls and screams echoing from it, followed by heavy cries and shrieks.

Even while standing in the village, he could feel the ferocious aura within the darkness.

Gu Qing Shan silently evaluated for a brief moment before drawing a conclusion.

—–if I want to live, I need to remain within this village.

The other coachman called out: “It’s been an entire day of hard work already, let’s go for a few drinks at the bar”

“Alright” Gu Qing Shan answered.

He didn’t have a clear destination, so this was an opportunity for him to stay here for a while as he slowly came up with an answer to how he would be able to leave this Palace of Fear.

The two of them parked their carriages next to the village carriage lot, then followed a straight path before turning at a certain corner.

There was a relatively peaceful bar here.

The bar was lit with candles, there were several guests enjoying their drinks while chatting at their tables.

Gu Qing Shan and the coachman both came in and sat down at the bar counter.

“I’m seriously bummed out” the coachman complained.

“What’s the matter?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked.

“—Give us two shots of your best liquor, and not the diluted one!” the coachman called out.

The bartender was a young man with a full beard and a complexion as pale as wax, who began preparing their drinks as soon as he heard that.

The coachman sighed and began to explain: “Today’s my birthday, so I originally wanted to go back home to celebrate it with the missus and the kids, but with the mountain path collapsing, there’s no way I’ll make it back”

Gu Qing Shan followed up for him: “That really is something to feel bummed out about, what a huge delay”

“Here are your drinks”

The bartender gently placed their drinks in front of the two of them.

The coachman raised his glass and loudly called out: “Come, it’s my treat today, care to join this brother for a drink?”

Gu Qing Shan answered: “Then I wish you a happy birthday!”

He glanced at their glasses.

Only to see that the glasses were filled with writhing colorful insects of all kinds.

The coachman finished his entire glass in one gulp before putting his glass back down: “Bottom’s up!”

Gu Qing Shan turned to the coachman.

Only to see that the coachman’s facial muscles began to heavily distort, the insects from the glass crawled out of his eye sockets before crawling back inside through his nose, ears, and mouth.

His features also began to rapidly distort as well, turning into a monster whose face was full of parasitic creatures.

『 Brother, didn’t you say you were going to wish me a happy birthday? Why haven’t you touched your drink? 』

The monster spoke.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent briefly before having no choice but to pick it back up.

The monster smirked: 『 That’s right, you need to finish that drink for this to be a proper congratulation 』

Gu Qing Shan held the glass in his hand before suddenly answering: “I can’t drink this”

The monster stood up and solemnly questioned: 『 Why not? Give me a reason 』

The others around the bar immediately came closer to surround Gu Qing Shan.

In an instant, masses of dark fog began to swirl and coil around his body like snakes.

A frigid presence blew in from the dark fog, practically trying to freeze Gu Qing Shan into a block of ice.

Lines of bloody red text rapidly appeared:

[You need to give a proper reason to refuse the liquor, otherwise, your soul and body will both be confiscated by the Palace of Fear!]

[Hurry up!]

Gu Qing Shan glanced over the message and calmly answered: "I need to embark again tonight"

『 What does that have to do with wishing me a happy birthday? 』 the monster solemnly questioned.

Gu Qing Shan earnestly answered: "Don't drink and drive if you want to live a long life"

He lightly placed the glass back down.

Fwoom!!!

The dark fog around him was instantly dispersed.

The surrounding mob begrudgingly retreated.

The monster was stunned, still pointing at Gu Qing Shan with its hand, unable to say anything in retaliation.

Suddenly, the bartender tapped the bar counter with his hand.

“Sir——”

He put a well-made small cake in front of Gu Qing Shan and spoke: “A certain lady is treating you to this dessert”

A bit further away, a mature woman with alluring charm emerged from the crowd of people to approach Gu Qing Shan.

“You said that you didn’t want to drink, yes?” the mature woman asked.

“That’s right, I won’t drive if I drink, and I won’t drink if I drive” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Then I’d like to treat you to a small piece of cake, I hope you won’t refuse me” the mature woman answered.

Gu Qing Shan picked up the plate, seemingly interested in it.

The plate was clearly plated with a pair of human ears, decorated with five bloody fingers.

The fingers had gone completely black, seemingly rotting away.

Gu Qing Shan picked up a small fork and pierced it into the ‘cake’, asking:

“I’m touched, but why did you want to treat me to a cake?”

The mature woman gave him a seductive look and gently said: “Young brother, I’ve had my eyes on you as soon as you walked in, but since you refuse to drink a drop of alcohol, this one had no choice but to treat you to cake instead”

Everyone turned to Gu Qing Shan again.

The dark fog that had just disappeared once again surged forward, trying to envelope Gu Qing Shan.

The mature woman's expression slowly became ferocious, long thick yellow fur also began to grow all over her body, even her voice gradually became thicker: 「Hurry and eat it, young brother, this cake represents my sincerity towards you」

Gu Qing Shan threw the cake back onto the bar counter.

“Trying to chat me up with a shitty cake? I'm worth a lot more than that” he scoffed..

Chapter 1724

Translator: La0o9

Hoh—

The dark fog disappeared once again without a trace.

It was completely gone.

In the bar, everyone's appearance became normal once again, but they were still staring at Gu Qing Shan with a discontented expression.

The mature lady scoffed and asked: “Are you saying that you're actually worth a lot?”

Gu Qing Shan answered: “Of course, I'm the wealthiest person in the Club, the others have to rely on me so that they do not have to put their names on tabs everywhere”

The mature lady stepped forward and sat down in front of the bar counter, then stared excitedly at Gu Qing Shan: “In this world, there is no going back on any words that came out of one's mouth, did you know that?”

“Indeed, everyone would have to take full responsibility for anything they've said” Gu Qing Shan nodded and expressed his understanding.

The mature lady then laughed: “Young brother, since you claimed that you’re worth a lot, that means you have a price—— I’d like to see just how much you’re actually worth, perhaps you can give me an exact number”

“Are you sure you want to do that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“This one has nothing but money, as long as you can give me a number, I’d be willing to pay it—— and you have no proper reason to reject me right now, even if it’s only for a night, I’m going to buy you out!” the mature lady declared.

She stuck out her long green tongue and began licking her lips before laughing maniacally: 『 Someone will eventually pay enough if you keep on selling, and today is the time of your death, ahahahaha! 』

Gu Qing Shan simply smirked.

He took off a bag from his hip and openly placed it on the bar counter.

“Take a careful look, this is my wallet, as long as you can fill it with gold coins, I’ll go with you”

Complete silence.

Everyone exchanged glances, even the mature lady appeared surprised.

He’s actually not trying to give any excuses?

Does he not know how this will end up?

The mature lady observed the bag, then signaled to the bartender: “Check it”

The bartender carefully examined it and replied: “There are no issues”

The mature lady then turned to Gu Qing Shan and spoke with a specious smile: “Young brother, you’re going to die”

Gu Qing Shan smiled in return: “In our business, the customer is God; as long as you pay enough, that is”

The mature lady purposely sighed in regret and spoke: “Young brother, money is no subject, the problem is that you’re going to lose your life”

She took out a large number of gold coins and began pouring them into the bag.

Clink clink—

A clear chiming metallic noise was heard as the bag was gradually filled up.

Under everyone’s watchful gaze, the bag was clearly beginning to fill up—

But then it all suddenly disappeared!

The bag shrunk back down in an instant.

The mature lady was shocked.

“Bartender, didn’t you say that there were no issues with the bag?” the mature lady asked.

The bartender picked the bag up and took a closer look, then carefully examined Gu Qing Shan before finally answering with a heavy tone: “There were indeed no issues with the bag, but this individual has most likely signed a money-lending contract with some entity. All the money he earns will be used to pay that entity back— as long as he doesn’t fully pay back his debt, this bag will not fill up”

The mature lady suddenly turned to Gu Qing Shan with an angered expression: “You dare mess with me!?”

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "I've already told you before, as long as you can fill this bag with money, I will go with you— I've yet to tell you a single lie"

The mature lady was stunned.

Indeed, he had only said those words.

But who could tell beforehand that he owed money?

Gu Qing Shan's smile completely vanished as he spoke in a curt tone: "What? Don't have enough money? Don't go around acting rich when you're destitute"

The mature lady coldly scoffed with clear impatience: "Alright then, I'll help you pay back the rest of your debt, then I'll slowly think about how to torture you"

She took out more gold coins and started pouring them into the bag.

The bag swelled up, then quickly shrank back down again.

She then took out more gold coins and poured them into the bag.

The bag swelled back, then quickly shrank back down.

She took out even more gold coins, pouring all of them into the bag.

The bag swelled back, only to quickly shrink back down.

The mature lady angrily slammed the bar counter and shouted: "You degenerate, exactly how much money do you owe?"

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: “You’ll naturally find out after you pay it all”

The mature lady glanced at the others.

Everyone understood and took out every last cent they had on their persons.

...But it was still useless.

Even after everyone had taken everything they had and put it into the bag, Gu Qing Shan’s bag stayed completely flat.

Gu Qing Shan glanced towards the void of space and saw lines of bright red text floating there:

[You’ve completed today’s repayment]

[You still owe the Book of the Sea 3000 years and 2 days’ worth of income]

Tch—

Who would have thought being in debt could also be used as a skill to scam people...

Gu Qing Shan thought to himself as he glanced towards the mature lady in front of him.

The mature lady’s face was now dripping with cold sweat, which created a small puddle on the floor in front of her.

She had no choice but to follow the javelin that she had thrown, unable to interrupt this process.

—just now, both parties had already established a verbal agreement and began the transaction, so giving a reason like ‘not having enough money’ to gloss this over would only be considered as a breach of contract.

— in other words, she had no proper reason to escape.

Furthermore, it was none other than her who had initiated this transaction in the first place!

“Forgive me” the mature lady suddenly said.

“Huh?” Gu Qing Shan lazily looked at her and asked: “In this world, there is no going back on any words that come out of one’s mouth, did you know that?”

The mature lady was stunned.

The bystanders also had nothing to say.

These were the words that the mature lady had told him earlier, which he had now just repeated exactly back to her.

In just a few minutes.

The attacker and defender had switched places.

The scales of death had tilted the other way.

In the bar, a layer of dark fog began to manifest.

“I beg you, please let me go” the mature lady hurriedly begged.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: “This entire matter was due to your request, what would I be able to do even if you beg me?”

“You were the one who made the demand! As long as you demand something else, I’d have a way to avoid death for the time being!” the mature lady was now turning hysterical.

—the dark fog was silently creeping onto her body.

“Alright, then my demand is... tell me how to leave this place” Gu Qing Shan replied.

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The mature lady’s expression changed: 『 Change your demand—』

As soon as she said that,

The dark fog immediately rushed upward and enveloped the mature lady.

She uttered a high-pitched shriek, unable to maintain her form any longer and became a burning corpse.

『 AAEEEEEE! NO! I SHOULDN’T BE THE ONE TO BE DEVoured LIKE THIS! 』

The corpse screamed in denial within the intense flame.

Fwoom!

The flames abruptly became larger and formed a large hand full of sharp nails, which grasped the corpse and pulled it into the void of space, vanishing without a trace.

Silence.

Everyone in the bar was dead silent.

“She’s... dead” the bartender muttered.

Gu Qing Shan immediately stood up.

“That shot of alcohol was a treat from my friend over there, it’s his birthday today— so I’ll leave the bill to him”

The bartender turned to the other coachman.

The coachman looked straight at Gu Qing Shan without being able to utter a single word.

Gu Qing Shan quickly got up and headed to the door, before he swiftly exited the bar.

The entire process was so smooth and fluid, done with incredibly swift precision even if it seemed slow, it didn’t give anyone a chance to stop him.

Bam!

The door was slammed shut behind him.

As the cold air of the night rushed towards his face, Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

It’s a good thing that none of them reacted in time.

—two drinks had already been ordered, but I don’t have a single coin from this world’s currency, so if I was asked to pay, the only proper reason I would have to refuse paying would be the coachman treating me.

If the coachman had found a reason to change the payer, I might have ended up like that woman and would have no proper reason to give.

Using the services of any establishment without paying for it is considered fraud, and there’s no such thing as a proper reason for doing that.

—right, that’s my most critical weakness at the moment.

Money.

My greatest weakness right now is the fact that I'm penniless.

There's no time.

I haven't gotten used to this place either.

What reason would I have to bypass this weakness?

Gu Qing Shan walked in large strides as he traveled the main street through the cold wind.

It was already late at night.

There wasn't a single person on the road, only very occasionally a horse carriage could be seen moving rapidly through the street.

Horse carriage?

Gu Qing Shan stopped his steps and changed his direction.

He continued moving as he was deep in thought and quickly went back the way he came to arrive at the carriage lot at the entrance to town.

"Greetings, customer, you only need to pay the parking fees in order to retrieve the carriage you had parked here earlier"

The carriage lot's owner said.

"—Not so fast, I'm thinking of selling my carriage" Gu Qing Shan told him.

"Selling it? Can I ask which carriage is yours?" the owner asked.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him for a bit before asking: "You don't know which carriage is mine?"

The owner shrugged: "Dear customer, there are so many people who arrive here every day, I wouldn't be able to remember them all"

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a few moments.

The carriage lot owner's expression doesn't seem to be an act, he really doesn't know which carriage is mine.

This might mean that---

But I can't draw that conclusion right now, I need to test the waters a bit more.

Gu Qing Shan entered the carriage lot and read all of the 'for sale' and 'for hire' signs, then walked around the carriage lot a few times before calling out:

"Excuse me, can you take a look and see how much this carriage can be sold for?"

The owner turned towards him.

"Are you looking to sell your carriage?" the owner asked.

"I am" Gu Qing Shan answered.

The owner approached him and took a look around the carriage before answering: "10 gold coins, I can't go any higher"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "That's way too low of a price, can't you go higher?"

The owner shook his head and said: "I'm already giving you a very generous offer, my friend"

"I know the market price, you're offering a slightly lower price" Gu Qing Shan insisted.

The two of them continued to talk for a while, but the owner simply refused to go any higher, forcing Gu Qing Shan to accept this price.

Gu Qing Shan sighed deeply, then pointed at another carriage next to that one and asked: “Then what about this carriage?”

The owner glanced at it and casually replied: “This person’s carriage is quite a bit more luxurious compared to yours, its structure is very reasonable and the material is sturdy— if it was me, I’d want at least 15 gold coins and not accept a single coin lower; even then, I’d be selling at a loss”

“Very well, 15 gold coins, we have a deal” Gu Qing Shan told him.

The owner was stunned.

He looked at Gu Qing Shan, then at the two horse carriages.

“Are both of them yours?” the owner asked.

“No, the 15 coin carriage is mine” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The owner pointed at the first carriage and asked: “Then that——”

Gu Qing Shan casually explained: “Ah, that carriage belongs to my friend, he hasn’t come back yet, so I’m asking for him”

“Your carriage—— 15 gold coins is a lot” the owner struggled to speak.

“Not only is my carriage luxurious, its structure is also reasonable and the material is also sturdy. I’m not asking for a lot, only 15 gold coins, you can even say I’m selling for a loss—— but I don’t care about that, since you also need to make a profit, am I right?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

The owner was speechless.

As he said, even at 15 gold coins, I'd be making a profit.

"...Fine, we have a deal" the owner answered.

"Wait a moment. I don't want money right now, so can you give me something else instead?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

—any money that comes into my hand right now would be taken away by that book.

"What do you want?" the owner scowled and asked.

"I need somewhere to stay, three full meals a day, only for a month— you can give me some free carriage tickets to make up the rest of the difference" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Deal!" the owner's eyebrows became relaxed.

Gu Qing Shan silently drew a conclusion.

It seems that the Fear Apocalypse also has a complete set of rules that it must follow.

Although it's cruel and terrifying, it isn't fully hostile towards me.

Like the owner of this carriage lot, he was only focused on his business from beginning to end and hasn't tried anything funny.

In that case...

Only certain special individuals know about my identity and are here to specifically target me.

By investigating the secret behind them, I'd find my way out of here...

Chapter 1725

Translator: La0o9

After the transaction was completed, the carriage lot's owner provided him with some accommodations right away.

— the place was a small building in the corner of the streets, a relatively reclusive place without any other tenants.

This was just what Gu Qing Shan wanted as well.

After all, a room to himself was already the bare minimum level of protection.

In this world, without a proper reason, people wouldn't be able to suddenly barge into another's room.

And the monsters that had targeted him wouldn't be able to immediately barge in to pick a fight.

The night went by.

Early morning.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and stopped his meditation.

After one full night of rest, his spirit had been refreshed.

This room wasn't too bad either—

Just as he thought that, the sound of weak banging could be heard from the corner of the room.

Gu Qing Shan sighed helplessly.

As soon as he entered the room the night before, several bloody heads had popped out in an attempt to scare him.

But hadn't Gu Qing Shan already seen enough bloody heads in his life?

So he simply tied them all up with some chains and casually tossed them on the floor.

But by the middle of the night, they were moaning and clanging around so much that Gu Qing Shan couldn't even get some proper rest.

In his anger, Gu Qing Shan went to get a long wooden stick.

He used that stick to skewer all the heads together through their mouths and placed them in a corner of the room.

Only then did he get some peace and quiet.

And now, it was morning.

“Hah—”

Stretching his back, Gu Qing Shan went to the bathroom and took a morning shower.

Other than some boring things occasionally occurring, this small building was great all-around.

As he was thinking that, he started washing his face, not noticing that a shadow had slowly manifested within the mirror above the sink.

— it was a female ghost whose body exuded a frigid presence.

The female ghost stuck her face close to the mirror, staring intensely at Gu Qing Shan.

Seemingly noticing that, Gu Qing Shan suddenly looked up and noticed her.

“What’s the matter?” he casually asked as he wiped his face.

The female ghost grinned: 『 Pitiful mortal, today will be your death—— 』

“Don’t block the mirror, I’m washing my face” Gu Qing Shan said in irritation.

The female ghost froze.

Fwoom!

A burst of flame erupted from the female ghost’s body as she solemnly spoke: 『 No living person could possibly escape the Palace of Fear. You might be unfazed right now, but it’s impossible for you to never feel fear! 』

The female ghost reached her hand out through the mirror.

While floating, her hand and arm were both reduced to bones as it gave off intense heat.

『 Like this flame that will burn you to nothingness—— both your flesh and soul! 』

Gu Qing Shan thought for a few moments before suddenly placing a cup into the female ghost’s hand.

The female ghost was stunned.

『 What do you mean by that? 』 she questioned him.

As she asked, Gu Qing Shan quickly took the cup back.

Looking at the steaming water in the cup, he answered with a pleased tone: "Making some hot water for myself"

The female ghost completely froze up.

Gu Qing Shan cleanly wiped his face before leaving with the cup of water.

Only the female ghost remained in the bathroom.

Suddenly——

Gu Qing Shan came back in.

"—What's the weather going to be like today?" he asked.

The female ghost remained completely silent before suddenly vanishing from the mirror.

Being ignored, Gu Qing Shan shook his head and returned to the living room.

——if one held any hint of fear or nervousness in one's heart in this world, they would immediately fall into a bottomless pit of no return.

But on the other hand, one would remain fine as long as they remain without fear.

——unless they ran into malicious monsters.

While standing by the window sill, Gu Qing Shan's eyes suddenly became focused.

Everyone on the streets held an expression of wariness as if they were in a hurry to disembark, even the stores on both sides of the street were quickly closing up.

In just a few minutes.

The street had become completely empty.

All the stores were completely closed, no longer open for business.

The dim sunlight illuminated the empty street, highlighting a sense of ridiculous horror.

Gu Qing Shan frowned.

—my spirit sense is flaring, something is about to happen.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

Heavy noises echoed from outside the village.

From the window a gigantic shadow could be seen entering the village.

This shadow was the darkness that had surrounded the village this entire time, and only after it had manifested a proper form that the scenery outside the village gradually returned to normal.

Gu Qing Shan didn't know what this monster was.

*—*but from the villagers' reaction, its ferocity could be assumed without much trouble.

So it's finally here!

Gu Qing Shan was feeling relief instead of panic.

—an Apocalypse that could be imprisoned within the ‘Tomb of Myriad Beasts’ Great Tomb for several ten thousand years without being eradicated, as well as enduring the reset of the Samsara, couldn’t possibly be so docile.

—it surely has means to directly eliminate living beings.

That female ghost in the mirror mentioned earlier that today would be my death.

I currently have no powers.

The only thing I have with me are the fragments of the Samsara Delimitation Divine Sword.

No money.

The weapons I have are a blade and a bow— both mundane weapons.

I don’t even have any spirit energy.

If the approaching monster is too powerful, how would I defend or win against it?

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes and took out a bag.

This was the bag that Ye Fei Li gave me before he left, which was filled with canned energy drinks.

After the one-day limit was over, Ye Fei Li had already returned and only left these canned drinks here.

Gu Qing Shan opened the bag and glanced at them, then carefully secured the bag on his back.

In combat, these items will be relatively instrumental.

—that’s right!

Since Ye Fei Li had already returned, perhaps I should summon another helper!

Gu Qing Shan took out the Samsara Gloom Orchid again without hesitation.

[Moon Invitation] had been activated!

From the void of space, thin red threads manifested in front of him and manifested into a large gate that opened with a bang.

Gu Qing Shan silently prayed.

The very first thing he saw was a bald head.

“Amitabha, benefactor Gu”

Zhao Xiao Sheng appeared.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him with a greatly surprised expression.

Zhao Xiao Sheng was Lady Fusi’s disciple, her student belonging to the cultivation world, it was truly a surprise that he had been summoned instead of anyone else.

Gu Qing Shan greeted him: “So it was you, Xiao Sheng, and here I thought I’d summon Ye Fei Li again—
—”

Glancing at the void of space, he saw more glowing lines of text:

[Moon Invitation’s summoning target is currently random]

[Attention: Due to a shared Title between you and a certain slumbering individual, your chances of summoning him has been increased]

[Through the name of the ‘Pure Love Gang’, you’ve discovered another male who had kept himself pristine, having the potential to join the ‘Pure Love Gang’]

So that was why!

Gu Qing Shan was a bit speechless.

His ideals were to become a monk, but if you try to twist the intention and meaning behind ‘pure love’, then he would indeed fit the criteria, just barely.

However, being the one who watched over the Kunlun world for so many years, as well as someone who is considered a talented individual by Lady Fusi, it's clear that Zhao Xiao Sheng possesses a certain level of ability!

Gu Qing Shan quickly realized this and asked: "Xiao Sheng, you can only retain one of your powers in this world— what did you retain?"

Zhao Xiao Sheng smiled and said: "Benefactor Gu, do you still remember? I have the ability to make an individual's time move forward or backwards a short amount, so I naturally retained that temporal ability"

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tightly and declared loudly: "I knew it!"

— a temporal ability!

Knowing that he would be supported by this kind of ability, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit more confident.

Thump!

Thump!

Thump!

The sky outside gradually became dark, the earth started trembling increasingly more intensely.

The monster was very clearly approaching Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan quickly explained: "Xiao Sheng, listen to me, our current situation is like this..."

As he solemnly explained, Zhao Xiao Sheng earnestly listened.

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A few moments later.

“Amitabha, who would have thought that things would have gotten so dire” Zhao Xiao Sheng sighed.

“With you here, I feel a lot more confident now, let’s split up and act” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Take care of yourself, you need to endure up until I’m finished on my side” Zhao Xiao Sheng solemnly told him.

“Hm, you can leave from the backdoor, I’ll stall that monster” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Got it” Zhao Xiao Sheng replied.

It suddenly became immensely dim outside the room.

A sharp shriek resounded that caused the entire building to shake.

Ash and dust floated down from the ceiling.

Gu Qing Shan opened the window and climbed onto the roof, turning his gaze towards the horizon.

—he saw the monster.

The monster’s entire body was soaking wet, almost like a soft-bodied organism, its eyes were grim and appeared almost human-like at a glance.

Its two giant bone claws were continuously pulling it forward on the ground.

Thump!

The monster stopped at one end of the street.

[Subjects of fear, dedicate your everything to me] the monster declared in a harrowing voice.

Very quickly, the streets began to fill with people.

People emerged from every direction, all of them staggering towards the soft-bodied monster bit by bit.

They seemed to have lost their rationality as they climbed up the bone claws of the monsters before integrating themselves into the monster's body.

As each person entered the monster's body, its nauseating slimy exterior would manifest a face.

There were so many people that they had filled the streets.

They carried expressions of frenzy as they rushed towards the monster with reckless abandon.

The monster suddenly turned its head towards Gu Qing Shan.

[Why are you not coming?] the monster asked.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and asked: "Why should I?"

[Because becoming one with me is the only chance for survival within this Apocalypse] the monster answered.

Goopy liquid fell down from its body one by one, once again manifesting into human forms.

These people stood up from where they manifested and all looked towards Gu Qing Shan.

[Join us]

[Join us]

[Join us!!!]

They chanted in unison.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say a single thing and simply pulled out an arrow from his back.

Pah—

Like a shadow, the arrow flew across the sky and shot straight into the monster's body.

[This is how strong you are?] the monster mocked.

A long feeler emerged from inside its body to pull the arrow back out before casually breaking and throwing it on the ground.

[Become one with my body! That is your only chance to survive!]

The monster ferociously howled.

"I refuse" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[For what reason!? Do you want to be plunged into eternal destruction?] the monster questioned.

"I don't want destruction, but you're too unpleasant to look at" Gu Qing Shan scowled and answered.

The monster scoffed: [Do you think you still have a choice? Swarm him!]

All the people on both sides of the street all roared in unison.

They started running like they were mad, even resorting to running on all fours when they fell down in order to rush towards Gu Qing Shan's little building.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "When it comes to fleeing, none of you can even hold a candle to me"

Sharp lightning sparks suddenly erupted from his body.

—[Lightning Wraith]!

"See you later" Gu Qing Shan declared.

He turned around and prepared to leave the main square.

The monster silently observed this and suddenly spoke up: [Did you think you can still escape?]

Gu Qing Shan suddenly froze on the spot, even the lightning sparks around him started disappearing.

His expression changed and asked: "What did you do? Why can't I move?"

The monster laughed and said: [I've been observing you from the very beginning, just to eradicate your soul and obtain your body— if I hadn't been injured earlier, you would have already been dead!]

It then wiggled its claw like a finger and whispered: [Come here on your own]

Gu Qing Shan looked down to see his legs starting to approach the monster while he couldn't control his body at all.

“What exactly is going on? Why can you control my body?” Gu Qing Shan asked with a heavy tone.

The monster chuckled with a pleased tone and boasted: [I split a small part of my soul and placed it into your body, as long as you’re still alive, I will eventually have a chance to control your body]

Gu Qing Shan slowly approached the monster.

Blobs of sticky liquid had already detached from the monster, condensing into bigger blobs as they fell on the ground.

The monster had already made its preparations.

—preparations to devour Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan silently observed this as it happened and asked: “What exactly is going on here? Before I die, I want to understand everything”

[No, I’d rather you just die as a clueless ghost] the monster replied.

It reached out a feeler and began to control the sticky blob on the ground to fly towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

—this guy is quite unimaginably careful.

But Zhao Xiao Sheng doesn’t seem to have finished with all the preparations yet.

I need to buy him a bit more time!

Gu Qing Shan sighed and began to speak: “Samsara War General, I actually know already, you must have pulled some strings in the back when you formed that contract earlier”

The monster's feeler stopped.

—how could he have known!

Such an insignificant mortal actually saw through my means!

How is that possible!

[Go on] the monster grumbled heavily.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I've already noticed a certain fact as soon as I came to this world—the location I appeared in was on a side road, while your tomb was right behind me—your tomb was the biggest within the entire graveyard so it's quite a landmark, isn't it?"

[...So you realized then?] the monster said.

"I only guessed, but when you said that you can control my body as well as having been injured earlier, I knew right away"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "As for how you were injured, most likely you used some sort of ability to attack yourself and cancel out my Dragon Hex, then purposely let me go, showing me the long path as well as the pregnant female ghost—I really must say, that was indeed very misdirecting, it almost caused me to think that I've actually left"

[And in truth?] the monster asked.

"In truth, everything right now is nothing but an illusion. I'm still right next to your tomb, most likely being affected by one of your techniques" Gu Qing Shan answered.

[But how do you explain this world of fear?] the monster asked again.

"Mister General, I've seen a Phase Realm before" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The monster stayed silent, then suddenly laughed: [Indeed, it's been a great many years since I last saw someone of your caliber, but unfortunately, you are still going to—]

Gu Qing Shan abruptly shouted: “NOW!”

Before the monster finished its words, a voice echoed: “[Time Reversal], activate!”

A blinding golden light emerged from far above the sky and struck Gu Qing Shan’s body.

Countless golden runes continuously circled around his body, exuding an intense pressure that forced the monster as well as the people around him to become stalled.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly regained his freedom.

In an intense, sparks of lightning erupted from his body before he turned into a thin blue line of light that directly vanished from where he stood.

[Lightning Wraith]!

The monster finally realized what happened and shouted: [Trying to run? Don’t count on it!]

At that moment, Gu Qing Shan had already run quite a distance away, standing at the very end of the main street.

Bam!

The carriage lot’s gates were destroyed.

A horse carriage ran out with Zhao Xiao Sheng being the coachman, who called out to Gu Qing Shan: “Hurry!”

Gu Qing Shan quickly jumped onto the carriage before falling limp motionlessly.

He then suddenly stood up on the back of the carriage.

—-from the looks of it, he was about to jump down from the carriage.

The monster had used some sort of unknown means to take control of his body once again, trying to bring him back.

“Are you ok? Should I use [Time Reversal] on you again?”

Zhao Xiao Sheng hurriedly asked.

—-[Time Reversal] was able to revert the state of Gu Qing Shan’s body up to one minute prior.

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: “No need, just drive in the direction I told you before. From this moment onwards, he no longer has a way to control me”

Oooo—

A series of sharp fragments flew out of his body giving off a solemn howl.

[Govern Spirit]!

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and instantly fell back down onto the back of the horse carriage.

He was now dead.

His body could no longer move..