

## Apocalypse 191

### 191

But that wasn't all that changed on the War God UI.

After the notifications on [War God Thaumaturgy] disappeared, a new row of notifications appeared.

[User has successfully broken through to Foundation Establishment peak, maximum Soul Points increased to 40]

[From the user's memory, sword styles that won't lead to the user's body and soul vessel collapsing are as follows]

[Secret Art: Seven Stars]

[Detecting the user to have a deep understanding of all sword styles, the Soul Points cost for awakening old sword styles had decreased as low as possible]

[To awaken Secret Art: Seven Stars, Soul Points cost are as follow]

[First strike: Vacant]

[Second strike: Spur]

[Third strike: Wind Twist]

[Fourth strike: Consecutive]

[To awaken the first three strikes, Soul Points cost is 30 each. To awaken the fourth strike, Soul Points cost is 50]

The first three strikes of [Seven Stars] each consist of a single strike, while the fourth strike [Consecutive] is actually 4 strikes in a row.

When they're all performed in a series, there are a total of seven strikes, thus [Seven Stars].

*[Seven Stars Flowing Dragon]!*

*This Secret Art!*

Gu Qing Shan was so happy that he temporarily forgot all about the harsh conditions for evolving "Smiting".

But despite waiting for a while, the War God UI was unresponsive and didn't show the next strike of the Secret Art.

Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise: "Why is only [Seven Stars] here, where's [Flowing Dragon]?"

[Ting!]

The System responded: [With the user's current cultivation level, you can only use Seven Stars. Forcing yourself to unleash Secret Art: Flowing Dragon will result in serious whiplash on your body]

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

[Seven Stars Flowing Dragon] is a famous series of strikes that when performed together is known as the hardest Secret Art to learn below the realm of Sword Saint.

[Seven Stars Flowing Dragon] is split into the 7 initial strikes [Seven Stars] and the final strike — [Flowing Dragon].

A sword cultivator must be able to perform all 8 strikes to be considered at the level of barely grasping this Secret Art.

This alone stops numerous sword cultivators on their track.

In the entire world of cultivation, the amount of people that can perform all 8 strikes can be counted with two hands.

But being able to perform all 8 strikes doesn't mean much.

Because unlike other Secret Arts, the first 7 strikes of the series are only slightly stronger than a normal attack.

The actual power of [Seven Stars Flowing Dragon] comes from the final strike [Flowing Dragon].

But to be able to guide [Flowing Dragon], all 7 strikes of [Seven Stars] must first hit the enemy.

———this is a series of 8 strikes that must be performed in a certain order, and if even one of them miss, the entire Secret Art will be interrupted.

The real difficulty is being able to perform 7 strikes in a row.

In an intense battle, missing even one strike could mean an opportunity for the opponent to take advantage of.

And if the enemy isn't an idiot, they won't just stand there and take 7 strikes consecutively.

Because if it was any other sword style, being hit by even a single strike could mean your death.

Thanks to that, most sword cultivators in the cultivation world don't bother with this Secret Art.

Even if they do, they're only doing it to experience the Secret Art's difficulty and increase their knowledge of swordsmanship.

A mediocre sword cultivator usually will stop at the 2nd or 3rd strike, unable to go on and just give up.

A slightly talented sword cultivator will probably be able to learn the 5th and 6th strike.

Only a true sword genius who spends both time and effort, specifically for the sake of learning this Secret Art will be able to fully grasp it.

And grasping it isn't even the end, as you must have an exceptional battle sense to be able to pull it off in actual battle.

Because of that, for anyone who knows about [Seven Stars Flowing Dragon] in the cultivation world, the general consensus is that there are only two kinds of people who use this Secret Art.

They're either an idiot that doesn't know the depth of the world, or a true seed on the path of the Sword.

This series of strikes that form a Secret Art is so hard that a normal person can't even learn it; and those who learn it is unlikely to find a chance to use it; even if they find a chance they probably can't hit; even

if they hit once or twice it doesn't show any power. They have to be able to use and hit all 7 strikes on the same enemy, to be able to guide and perform the final strike —[Flowing Dragon].

That's how difficult it is.

But despite all its difficulties, the fame of [Seven Stars Flowing Dragon] that comes from its final strike is genuine.

[Flowing Dragon] is so strong, that it is able to completely trigger all of a sword cultivator's potential and compatibility, turning into a devastating phantom sword in the shape of a dragon.

If anyone is able to pull this Secret Art off, that will most likely also mark the end of the battle with their victory.

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Because of that, [Flowing Dragon] is considered to be one of the four "sure-kill" Secret Arts for those below the realm of Sword Saint.

Only an opponent who faces [Flowing Dragon] know just how terrifying [Seven Stars Flowing Dragon] is.

Even after becoming a Sword Saint, sometimes this Secret Art would still be usable!

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: "Is it possible for me to comprehend [Flowing Dragon] ahead of time as well?"

[Ting]!

The System answered: [The final strike of this Secret Art requires the user to be at Golden Core realm for it to not harm the user]

[Unleashing Flowing Dragon at the user's current stage of cultivation will result in very serious injury]

*So there's hope!*

Gu Qing Shan continued: "What if I insist on learning [Flowing Dragon]? Because if I'm able to grasp it, it could even save my life at a crucial moment"

The System stayed silent for a very long time, it was when Gu Qing Shan was about to give up on the idea that it responded.

[With the user's current cultivation, you must spend all Soul Points to barely be able to comprehend Secret Art: Seven Stars Flowing Dragon]

[Please be advised, using Seven Stars Flowing Dragon under inappropriate situations will carry a certain risk of death]

[Despite knowing that, does the user still want to comprehend Seven Stars Flowing Dragon?]

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan didn't even hesitate.

[User's current Soul Points of 270 has been fully spent, Current Soul Points: 0]

[The user has comprehended Secret Art: Seven Stars Flowing Dragon]

An overflowing river of warmth enveloped Gu Qing Shan's body.

The feeling was similar to dipping yourself in warm water, making the entire body relaxed and felt good.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes for a long time, only when he has completely awoken this Secret Art that he slowly opened his eyes again.

“Finally, a hidden trump card”

He muttered.

On the War God UI, the notification regarding the sword style slowly disappeared.

The Thaumaturgy evolution and Thaumaturgy random gacha circles are still floating in the middle of the UI.

Looking at these two circles, the excitement Gu Qing Shan felt from awakening his Secret Art slowly died down.

This is because the Quest is exceptionally hard.

Three types of Genetic Modification Serum, all 99% purity. Each one could be considered the Confederate’s, Fuxi Empire’s and the Holy Empire’s national treasures respectively.

Normally, the type of Genetic Modification Serums that are on the market are around 50% purity give or take.

Even before the apocalypse, everyone is given access to these types of Genetic Modification Serums. The only obstruction would be their prices ———each vial costs 1 million Confederate Credits.

An average middle-class family in the Confederate makes about 100,000 Credits a year.

An entire middle-class family needs 10 years of constant work to even buy a single vial of these things, and that’s not accounting for their living expenses.

So the majority of citizens basically can’t afford this type of Serum.

The cost to make a single vial of Genetic Modification Serum is around 70,000 Credits.

What insane profit.

And the manufacturing process lies in the 9 Lords’ hands.

These types of Genetic Modification Serum all have a certain percentage to turn a normal person into a Professionalist after injection.

Because the Apocalypse has come, the President wants to truly give access of these Genetic Modification Serums to the populace, to increase the rate of survival for humanity as a whole.

“99% purity...”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, feeling a bit of a headache.

Each 10% purity increased in the Genetic Modification Serums equals a ridiculous amount of money.

And when the purity reaches 99%, it's not a matter of price anymore, due to them gaining a certain side effect.

That is, the one who uses them is guaranteed to be exceptionally powerful in the long run.

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A 99% purity Elementalist Awakening Serum has an extremely high chance for the user to awaken to powerful or rare elements, like Lightning, Fire, Wind, Metal or Dark.

Or a 99% purity God's Chosen Awakening Serum will almost guarantee that users will receive an attack-type God's Chosen Skill ———God's Chosen Skills are known to be random and varied, so being able to limit the awakening to just attack skills is already a very valuable thing.

As for the Martial Potential Enhancing Serums, they grant the user a chance to directly manifest a Thaumaturgy right after they use it and become a Professionalist.

Such powerful side effects are the main characteristics of a 99% purity Genetic Modification Serum.

But to produce such a single vial of them require not only extremely rare and valuable ingredients, but also a certain factor of luck.

It takes a few thousand tries to get a single success.

Thanks to that, even the three large countries very rarely attempt to produce them anymore.

Unless the Fuxi Empire has a new prince, or the Holy Church welcomes a new Holy Apostle, or one of the 9 Lords of the Confederate has a talented first-born son and they're willing to spend a fortune on him.

The recipes for the three types of Serums are national treasures, heavily guarded secrets that are hidden in the deepest and darkest hidden locations, or in the hands of the most powerful and influential people.

The Martial Potential Enhancing Serum is guarded by Impartial Goddess; the Elementalist Awakening Serum recipe lies in the hands of the Fuxi Emperor; as for the God's Chosen Awakening Serum, there has been no news of it after the Holy Empire split into factions.

Rumors say the Holy Church has it, but it's not very believable.

Because if they really have it, they would've openly admitted and spread the news to further solidify their reign.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a while then shook his head.

The hardest part of this Thaumaturgy Quest is that the God's Chosen Awakening Serum and Elementalist Awakening Serums belong to the other two large countries.

Their recipes are top-secret, held by Fuxi Empire's and Orland Holy Empire's royal families.

The Quest is way too hard.

But "Smiting" is such an effective tool for battle that he can't just leave it there without minding it.

Not to mention, he won't be able to get the Thaumaturgy for Golden Core realm unless he finishes evolving "Smiting" first.

He has to think of a way, even if there aren't any.

As for the Martial Potential Enhancing Serum...

"Impartial Goddess"

[I'm here, what do you need sir?]

"What do I need to do if I want to get a 99% purity Martial Potential Enhancing Serum?"

[As a Highest Leader of the Confederate, sir Gu Qing Shan will need to pay with half of his Merit]

Gu Qing Shan breathed out in relief.

He doesn't mind paying for it in Merit, as long as he can get the Martial Potential Enhancing Serum as a starting point.

"Then please deduct from it and help me get a vial of Martial Potential Enhancing Serum"

[Highest quality Martial Potential Enhancing Serum requires immediate injection after production.

Current remaining stock: 0]

[Production will begin in 15 minutes, requesting sir Gu Qing Shan to remain and wait patiently]

"That's fine, I've troubled you"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan already began to think about the other 2 Serums.

The Martial Potential Enhancing Serum is the easiest to get.

But how is he going to go about getting the God's Chosen Awakening Serum and the Elementalist Awakening Serum?

Sighing, he started to walk down the mountain towards the mansion.

When Gu Qing Shan returned to the mansion, Zhang Ying Hao still hasn't returned, while a calming, satisfied snore was heard from Liao Xing's room.

Ye Fei Li was still playing his game.

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When Gu Qing Shan went in, Ye Fei Li turned around to glance at him.

Then did a double take .

This time Ye Fei Li didn't even move his eyes away.

Turning off the game, he stood up and looked at Gu Qing Shan from top to bottom.

"You've become stronger again" Ye Fei Li said, "this is so unbelievable ———seriously, which one of us is the Man Killer Fiend here?"

“It’s probably because I’m hard-working” Gu Qing Shan answered, “I don’t think I’ve truly rested at all”

Ye Fei Li just stared at him in silence, then suddenly said: “Impartial Goddess, where are you?”

[I’m here, Mr. Ye Fei Li]

“Find me a few Man Killer Fiends, I want to be hard-working for a bit as well”

[Very well, I’ve already finished compiling the necessary data. Since you were at an important point in ranking up in the game, I didn’t disturb you]

“I’m more interested in ranking up in real life” Ye Fei Li exclaimed.

Taking his Holo-Brain, he started to leave.

Suddenly, an old voice was heard.

『 People of the world 』

『 The Apocalypse has come, calamities erupting all over the world, your fate is no better than an ant in a tsunami. Insignificantly small and not in your control 』

『 Do you want to change your fate? 』

『 Struggle, keep on moving forward among the bloodshed, as only the strong has the right to survive 』

『 If you wish to become eternal, then challenge it. Once you succeed, you shall gain eternal life itself! 』

『 The second Game of Eternal, will now accept your entrance! 』

As soon as he finished, a large line of text popped up in front of every person in the world.

[Do you want to sign up to gain eternal life?]

[Yes][No]

Ye Fei Li and Gu Qing Shan’s faces changed.

Ye Fei Li commented: “That can’t be right, it’s not time yet”

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: “Impartial Goddess, how much time has passed since the last Game of Eternal?”

[12 hours and 8 minutes, sir] Impartial Goddess answered.

“Only half the time has passed and it already couldn’t wait to open the challenge again. So it wants to cheat huh?” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

“Impartial Goddess, broadcast the last footage of the Murder Clown yesterday across the world again”

[Understood]

Two seconds later.

All the Holo-Brains in the world lit up at the same time.

The Murder Clown peeked out from behind Li Hai's severed head, showing its cold and stiff smile.

[...anyone that enters the Game of Eternal will have but a single fate, and that is ———DEATH!] the Clown excitedly declared.

The planet fell silent.

“That’s right, let me see who still dares ——” Ye Fei Li coldly laughed.

But before he could even finish, the old voice was suddenly heard again.

The Game of Eternal has replied specifically to the Murder Clown.

『 Humans of the world, against the threat of death, you all are still so weak 』  
『 The cruel and malicious minions of evil want to stop you from obtaining your deserved eternal life 』  
『 But I have good news for you all 』  
『 In consideration of our player’s safety, we have created the game’s limited edition! 』  
『 In today’s Game of Eternal, you shall all receive the Masquerade ball effect 』  
『 Every participant that enters the arena will wear a random mask, that way, no one shall recognize who you are 』  
『 And no one shall know where you’re from 』  
『 Even your voice shall be altered 』  
『 Our announcer will also not speak your name 』  
『 After the competition, we shall randomly transport our winner to a random, safe location on the planet 』  
『 Be assured and enter our Masquerade ball, as no one shall recognize your true face, nor will they know on which corner of the world you shall appear 』  
『 ——even the clown, shall have no way to find out anything about you 』  
『 This will be an extremely safe venture 』  
『 The winner of this round shall receive eternal life, as well as never-before-seen rewards 』  
『 Thus, the game shall begin accepting your participation! 』

A few seconds later.

The first person appeared on the arena.

As soon as he appeared, he hurriedly touched his face with his hand.

Sure enough, he was already wearing a goat mask with horns at the forehead.

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A mirror very conveniently appears in front of him.

Looking at his face in the mirror, the Professionalist sighed in relief.

“I... am..... a Professionalist”

He very carefully only said one word at a time to check that it wasn’t his voice.



After a full sentence, he noticed his current voice was very strange, not at all like what he really sounds like.

And this was seen by the entirety of humanity.

*If there's no way to recognize his face as well as his voice, then how would that terrifying Murder Clown ever find the target?*

*Maybe, just maybe, the winner will be able to escape from the Murder Clown's pursuit.*

*And the reward for the competition is eternal life.*

*Having such a method to become anonymous, many are willing to risk it once for the sake of eternal life.*

As they kept watching, they found that no one else appeared in the arena.

The only participant was the one that wore the goat mask, standing there alone.

He looked around, then couldn't help but muttered: "If I'm the only one here, what's the competition going to be like?"

Outside of expectation, the old voice replied

『 Brave warrior, if you are the only participant, then the right of eternal life belongs to you alone 』

"Is that so? Ahahaha!"

The man became excited and began to pray that others are too frightened by the Murder Clown to participate.

Seeing that, many people in the world had the same thought.

*That's right, many Professionals are hesitant about the game right now, if I join, I might just be able to become the winner!*

Having such a thought, many were beginning to waver.

As time passed, more and more people appeared in the arena.

They all wore masks of different shapes that hide their real faces.

But to compare to previous times, there's far less people participating.

That made even more people waver and wanted to join.

To be able to hide your identity and still receive eternal life, this is a great allure to famously strong figures as well.

Not just because they'll be able to escape the Murder Clown's pursuit.

Even in society itself, this type of hiding is a great means of personal security, they'll be able to hide themselves from the eyes of their own country and other organizations, allowing them to continue their lives without any pressure.

Just think about it, no one knows that you have eternal life. While you are able to keep on protecting yourself in the rapidly changing world, enjoying a long and easygoing life.

What a thing to be excited about isn't it?

More and more keep appearing in the arena.

『 That's right, that's right, I can see more and more participants are joining us 』 the old voice spoke excitedly.

Ye Fei Li looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked: "What do we do now?"

"Seems like it's also trying its hardest to retaliate" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The Game of Eternal needs to feed on souls to be able to evolve and gain more features.

Only two rounds have passed, so it wasn't able to accumulate much power yet.

And yet, it's already changing the rules of the game, even giving free camouflage devices for participants. Even for it, this is a lot of effort.

It probably had to spend energy equal to half the souls it had eaten for this.

Bam!

A door swung opened.

Liao Xing was wearing a gaudy pajamas, still sleepy, walked out while cursing: "This motherfucker, not only does it kill so many people, it doesn't even let me get a good night's sleep, let's go rough it up!"

"You have an idea?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"I don't, I'll just follow your lead" Liao Xing yawned.

Ye Fei Li rolled his eyes, then looked at Gu Qing Shan: "What do we do now?"

Gu Qing Shan answered: "We actually have two good experts at finding people here"

"Who?"

"The Goddess and Zhang Ying Hao"

[I'll contact and have him return immediately] Impartial Goddess said.

Not long after, Zhang Ying Hao went in through the front gate.

"The hell, why is that damn teleportation port of yours inside a garbage dump? Is this your fetish?" he complained at Liao Xing.

"What? Do you want me to put it at the police HQ's doorsteps? So that the police can figure out how the girls went missing?" Liao Xing coldly scoffed.

"Why are you in such a hurry to call me back?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"The Game of Eternal, it's using special effects to hide the participants, I want you to use your black cat to look for them" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhang Ying Hao said: "We'll have to try first"

He knelt down and knocked gently on the floor.

A round hole opened up as a black cat jumped out.

Zhang Ying Hao cradled the cat in front of his chest and said: "Precious, we need your help"

The black cat meowed back softly.

Zhang Ying Hao continued: "The Game of Eternal, after the round is over, we want to know who and where the final winner is"

The black cat shook his head, occasionally meowed something.

"What's it saying?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Black cat says that those people are in a different world so it can't feel them" Zhang Ying Hao answered.

"Seems like this game found a way to evade even our methods" Ye Fei Li commented.

"That's right, if we're unable to locate the winner, it will have won" Liao Xing said.

"What happens if it wins?" Ye Fei Li asked.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "After that, Professionals will enter the Game of Eternal one by one, doing everything they can to kill each other"

"After pretty much all of the Professionals have died, normal people will also go in to try their luck, and then humanity's civilization will slowly move towards collapse"

Everyone there gasped.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: "Black cat, if we know more details about that person, can you find him then?"

The black cat listened, looks around for a bit, licking his claws, then started to claw the air.

Zhang Ying Hao answered: "Black cat says, the more he knows about the target, the more likely he'll be able to find them, he can try it once after the target returns to reality"

"With both Impartial Goddess and the black cat to look for them, we might still stand a chance" Liao Xing commented.

As they were discussing, the old voice was heard again.

『 A total of 961 warriors has decided to join us today 』

『 Now, let the intense battle begin! 』

Ye Fei Li commented: "The amount of participants has clearly decreased from last time, there's only a bit over 900 people joining now. Seems like the Murder Clown plan is actually working"

"We'll have to see about this round's results. If we're able to catch the champion again, I think there won't be many that's willing to participate next time" Liao Xing said.

"I agree, this will be a very crucial battle for us" Gu Qing Shan followed up.

In the arena, the killing has already begun.

The tiles of the arena flipped around to reveal all sorts of weapons and armor on the ground.

Over 900 Professionals instantly moved into action, they all made a mad dash to look for the weapon that's most suitable for themselves.

In this process, a few dozens were killed by sneak attacks.

And the ones who scored the kills all got rewarded with powerful equipment for it.

What came next was a bloody and chaotic battle.

No one was able to just concentrate on themselves, they all went into a frenzy, killing the person before themselves while taking notice to avoid others' attacks.

The arena became a slaughterhouse.

The Professionals who killed the most people occasionally receive some new equipment that appear on their bodies, obviously things that the Game of Eternal rewarded them for killing a certain amount of people.

Numerous people fell in the frenzied killing, as more and more bodies fell down on the floor of the arena, their blood flowed and painted it red.

While the people alive are roaring and screaming while looking for their next target, all doing their best to drive their weapon into the bodies of their opponents.

"He's wearing a milky white Fuxi Empire-style soft armor, black pants, and black shoes" Gu Qing Shan suddenly spoke.

The other three opened their eyes to look at him, a bit unclear.

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Gu Qing Shan continued: "About 1.77 meters tall, left-handed"

The black cat seems to understood and nodded.

Gu Qing Shan kept going: "He has two throwing knives tied to his left leg, a dragon tattoo on his right arm"

[Recording] Impartial Goddess replied.

"Awakened Lightning element, an Elementalist, but it's not all he has" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Begin filtering?] Impartial Goddess asked.

"Let's look for a bit longer" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"What are you talking about?" Liao Xing asked.

"I'm analyzing the bodily features of the winner" Gu Qing Shan said.

“The battle isn’t over yet, there’s still over 100 people still fighting, how are you sure he’s the champion?” Liao Xing couldn’t understand.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li both closed their eyes and quickly found the person that Gu Qing Shan was talking about.

“He has no wounds” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“Still has a lot of stamina left, he’s able to maintain normal breathing after killing two in a row” Ye Fei Li also commented.

“Another kill, very smooth movement” Zhang Ying Hao went on.

“After killing he backed away a few dozen meters and mixed himself in with a group that’s fighting chaotically, seems like he’s a very careful person” Ye Fei Li also kept going.

“Two slit throats in a row, the opponent couldn’t even react” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“He’s been found, ah? The game rewarded him a halberd, he only used it to skewer the opponent before running away” Ye Fei Li said.

“This time he’s hiding within range of a group of five, only focused on blocking, seems like he’s trying to recover stamina” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“That’s right, his attacks are as sharp and critical as a viper, but he’s much more careful than an actual viper” Ye Fei Li agreed.

“He might be the one that’s killed the most, but no one really took notice of him yet” Zhang Ying Hao praised.

“How did you notice such a person?” Zhang Ying Hao asked Gu Qing Shan in confusion.

“I’ve looked at over all 100 people in the arena, he’s the only one that carries no killing intent and gathers no attention” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhang Ying Hao looked at him again, muttering after a short pause: “What a brilliant assassin”

“What does carrying no killing intent mean?” Ye Fei Li was confused.

“That means he doesn’t mean to kill” Zhang Ying Hao answered.

“But he’s in the middle of killing right now” Ye Fei Li asked.

“That’s why he’s so scary” Zhang Ying Hao explained, “killing is the same as eating and drinking to him, it’s a natural part of his life, which is why he carries no killing intent”

Ye Fei Li licked his lips and said: “Such a high quality prey, very suitable for my tastes”

Gu Qing Shan interrupted: “This person is very dangerous, although you might be stronger, he’s more skilled and knows more about how to kill”

“Not to mention, he probably has a few more tricks that he hasn’t shown yet” he added: “If we’re able to find him, I’ll go with you”

“Do we need to? Going by myself is much simpler and quicker” Ye Fei Li asked.

“Let’s observe a bit more” Gu Qing Shan thought about it a bit more and said.

There’s not many people left on the arena at this point.

Their target was no longer hiding his strength and threw his halberd down, instead pulling two short swords from his thighs, moving around the arena like a phantom.

No one was a match for him, most only managed to face him before their throat was slit.

“What insane speed” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“He must be using some method to trigger his body’s potential, probably with a Lightning Thaumaturgy” Gu Qing Shan also commented.

Finally, a strong Martial Artist noticed him, focused his Martial Thaumaturgy on his body, roared and rushed him.

They faced off, only after 3-5 strikes, the person has already been knocked away by the Martial Artist.

Even though he has lightning to reinforce himself, his opponent was wearing an antique-looking armor and his face hidden by a Hanya helmet and mask, as well as icy gauntlets on both hands.

This equipment were all rewards from the Game of Eternal after he killed enough people.

The man looked at the Martial Artist, then back at his own wounds. This was the first time he actually got wounded in the battle.

Suddenly, he waved his hand to throw a throwing knife upward, and then the knife disappeared without a trace.

The knife reappeared right behind the Martial Artist, piercing into the gap between his armor on his neck.

““A God’s Chosen Skill!”” Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li both said at the same time.

The Martial Artist pulled the knife out and threw it downwards.

“You damned sneaky rat!”

The Martial Artist roared, jumped upward and rushed at him again.

The man took the Martial Artist head on, took a hit on purpose to knock away his helmet.

Being affected by poison, the Martial Artist’s strike wasn’t as strong as before, but it got taken advantage of by the man to take distance from him.

He drew his second throwing knife and flung it towards the air.

The knife once again disappeared and reappeared right below, piercing into the Martial Artist’s throat.

The Martial Artist held his neck and slowly kneeled down, but didn’t die just yet.

The suddenly drew the knife out, controlling his neck muscles to close in on the wound.

Being able to control his muscles to stop the bleeding, this Martial Artist is no amateur either.

The Martial Artist showed pride, about to say something, but then his expression changed.

“No!”

Clang!

The knife and the Martial Artist dropped down almost at the same time, his eyes bulged out and died.

His face was being eroded by a green color.

It was now that the man quickly moved to pick up his throwing knives.

Suddenly, a jet black dagger appeared in the air.

An old voice was heard from the dagger: 『 Very good job, this is your reward for killing 193 people 』

The man took the dagger in hand, tried it out a bit and happily sheathed it.

“Main expertise is using short throwing knives and daggers; he also has a Thaumaturgy to activate his body” Gu Qing Shan said.

[Recorded, would you like to begin filtering now?] Impartial Goddess asked.

“Yeah, begin filtering” Gu Qing Shan answered.

[Please compile your search keywords] Impartial Goddess spoke.

“A Professionalist, Elementalist that awaken Lightning power”

[There are a total of 23 people with Lightning power in the three big countries]

“Male, about 1.77m tall”

[Found 16 match, search eliminated 13]

“Has a tattoo, left-handed, a space-type God’s Chosen Skill”

[Found 3 match, search eliminated 3, 0 match remaining]

[This person is not within the records of the three great countries] Impartial Goddess concluded

It was only the first few steps and they’ve already lost the clue.

Zhang Ying Hao thought about it then said: “From the looks of it, he must be a person of the underground world”

Many fugitives, illegal immigrants, gang members and other people of the underground world has already renounced the registry in their Holo-Brains, thus being a person without an official record.

As well as a few others who needs to do sensitive jobs like assassination, so they purposefully hide their abilities away and doesn’t report it, at the same time doesn’t receive the Professionalist treatment from any countries.

Impartial Goddess has no way to find such people.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "What does black cat say?"

Zhang Ying Hao laughed happily and spoke with pride: "With such detailed descriptions, black cat has no problems finding him"

They all looked at the black cat.

The black cat was lifting his chin up, first shook his head, then put both front legs to his mouth, making a chewing and licking gesture before nodding his head.

"My precious says that he hasn't had strawberries in a while" Zhang Ying Hao spoke.

## **Chapter 194**

"You mean there's some hope?" Liao Xing glanced and asked.

"Of course, just wait until the guy returns to reality and my black cat will most likely be able to find him" Zhang Ying Hao answered.

All of them breathed out in relief as they hear that.

Seems like, the Game of Eternal won't be able to achieve the victory it wants like it had thought.

"Impartial Goddess, please bring Zhang Ying Hao somewhere to buy strawberries" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Yes]

After Zhang Ying Hao left with the black cat, Gu Qing Shan looked at Ye Fei Li who was staying silent and asked: "What's with you?"

Ye Fei Li answered: "I suddenly feel like, although I have so much power to use, I'm severely lacking in technique and skills"

Gu Qing Shan patted his shoulder: "Many assassins had to polish their craft since very young, while you just happened to wander onto this road, of course you're lacking compared to them"

"But you've went extremely far on your road of evolution, from strength alone, you've surpassed every one of them, and you still have such a long way to go"

Ye Fei Li silently said: "The first time I met you was the same. I was clearly stronger than you are, but couldn't kill you no matter what I did"

"Should I start learning something now?" he asked.

"No need to rush, just wait a bit later, I have something good for you" Gu Qing Shan smiled and said.

Liao Xing suddenly spoke: "We may have won this time, but if we keep going like this, we might not necessarily be able to overturn every time that the Game of Eternal changes its rules"

Ye Fei Li agreed: "Right, even if we keep killing its champions, we have no real method to stop humanity's desire for eternal life"

"For us right now, all we can really do at the moment is wait" Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms and spoke with a nonchalant expression.



“Wait?” Liao Xing asked.

“That’s right, it’s not enough for us to just kill its champion, we have to wait for that moment when it finally lets its guard down” Gu Qing Shan said.

“The current situation is nothing but a stalemate, we’re both unable to deal the finishing strike, still trying our best to look out for the opponent’s weakness so that we can take advantage of it”

“We can only wait until it makes a mistake, only then can we focus all our power and deal with it once and for all” he spoke very slowly.

Ye Fei Li and Liao Xing both looked at him.

“We... are still holding back?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“Of course we are” Gu Qing Shan squints his eyes, looking like an old tiger that’s acting tired, lying in rest.

Ye Fei Li and Liao Xing exchanged looks.

“I suddenly feel like, coming down from space to do all this with you lot isn’t exactly the best idea I’ve ever had...” Liao Xing mumbled.

While they were talking, the assassin was slowly but surely killing each and every person there and finally made his way to the top.

It was now that Zhang Ying Hao brought the black cat back.

The old voice was heard again.

『 Bystanders, this round of the Game of Eternal has finished 』

『 Our king has been born, for the sake of our king’s dignity, we shall first heal his wounds 』

Everyone closed their eyes and observed the arena.

Almost a thousand corpses were littered around the arena, the only one still standing was a man holding a jet black dagger.

He has wounds all over his body, really frightening to look at, but if you observe clearly, you’d notice none of those are fatal wounds.

He was wearing a wolf head mask.

Following the old voice’s order, he went into the black coffin to recover his wounds.

『 Our king of this round stands right here on our stage, but for the sake of his safety, we shall keep his name a secret between ourselves 』

『 It’s time for the exciting part 』

『 Let us see what rewards he shall receive! 』

A shining treasure chest descended from the sky.

Just like the last two times, he touched the treasure chest.

And it opens.

A black pill and a pair of black shoes.

The man doesn't hesitate one bit to take the pill and put it in his mouth, after chewing once or twice, he swallowed it.

Because his appearance was hidden beneath the mask, no one really knows what his expression was, only that he was clenching his fists and swinging them, running around while screaming in excitement.

『 This round is the most elaborate as well as the most rewarding round ever since the Game has started 』

『 Our champion, please calm yourself down and check the shoes 』

Everyone's sight calm and focused on the pair of ugly shoes.

The winner also stopped celebrating and took the shoes in his hand to observe it carefully.

『 Our champion, this pair of shoes was made specifically for you 』

『 Its ability is when you activate your God's Chosen Skill, the range shall be extended to include yourself 』

『 They also have the ability to change their shapes as you will, definitely unrecognizable! 』

Not a lot of people really understood the meaning of that, most of them didn't really pay attention to him before, so they have no idea what it means.

But the person was trembling when he heard the ability of the shoes, even his hands holding it was shaking.

Since Gu Qing Shan's group has taken notice of him since the very beginning, they knew his God's Chosen Skill and they know just how valuable this pair of shoes is for him.

This assassin has a God's Chosen Skill that is essentially teleportation, he's able to change the location of the things he throws.

It could already be considered a top level attack-type God's Chosen Skill.

But with these shoes, whenever he uses his God's Chosen Skill, he can teleport not just his weapon but also himself anywhere in the range that he picks.

This was exactly the same as the Divine Skill [Ground Shrink].

So you could say, this pair of shoes just made his God's Chosen Skill become as strong as a Divine Skill.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and said in a low voice: "Seems like I'll have to go with you this time"

"Ok then" Ye Fei Li replied.

"To be able to provide such a powerful ability, seems like the game is holding nothing back" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The old voice continued to speak:

『 This round of the Game of Eternal shall end here 』

『 We shall protect our champion's secrets, to make sure those pesky fleas do not bother his life 』

『 At this moment, we shall randomly transport our champion back to Earth. Even we do not know where he will appear on the planet, of course, we can guarantee it will be a safe place 』

The winner suddenly disappeared from the arena.

『 We welcome everyone to enter the next Game of Eternal 』

『 As our game guarantee the champion's secret and safety, you can be assured and enter the challenge 』

『 Let us meet again in the next round 』

The old voice disappeared.

The scene went dark.

The arena as well as the almost a thousand corpses on it disappeared from everyone's sight.

"What does the black cat say?" Gu Qing Shan instantly asked.

Zhang Ying Hao raised black cat up and asked gently: "Precious, do you know where the person is right now?"

The black cat meowed a few times.

"He can feel the person's existence" Zhang Ying Hao said.

Gu Qing Shan breathed out with relief and said: "Impartial Goddess, the world map please"

The screen turned on, showing the map of the world to the black cat.

The black cat extended its claw, stared at the map for a bit, then tapped a place.

"Magnify" Gu Qing Shan ordered.

The map magnified, as the spot that the black cat tapped zoomed up to become a mountainous area with a few dozen cities.

The black cat looked again, then tapped at another place on the map.

The map zoomed in again.

It was a city this time.

The black cat pointed again.

The map zoomed in.

Pointed again.

Zoomed again.

Pointed again.

And then the black cat meows.

Everyone looked.

It was a dojo.

As the apocalypse comes, dojos has become the number one most popular and profitable business.

“Satellite imagery” Gu Qing Shan ordered.

Footage from the satellite surveillance was shown.

On the outdoor training platform, about 10 beautiful girls were stretching and warming up.

This was a martial arts dojo in Fuxi Empire.

And it seems today is a special self-defense course for women.

[Where’s coach?]

[Why isn’t he here yet?]

[I’m only here for him]

The girls were busy discussing between themselves.

[I’m sorry I’m late]

A slender, flexible man slowly walked out to the platform, apologizing on the way.

The complaints all stopped.

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[You’re here!]

[No need to worry, no need to worry, you’re not that late]

[You’re a few minutes late, could it be, a girlfriend?]

[Stop guessing, our coach is still single you know]

The girls looked at his handsome face and spoke one after another.

The black cat pointed at the man on the screen.

“Didn’t they say it was a random transportation? He seems to be this dojo’s master, how did he come back to this exact dojo?” Ye Fei Li asked in confusion.

Zhang Ying Hao just stared at the man without blinking.

“No, the real coach was already killed by him” Zhang Ying Hao had a serious look in his eyes.

“You’re saying this is a fake?” Ye Fei Li was surprised.

Zhang Ying Hao nodded: “This is a professional who knows how to change his face, his voice as well as his bone structure to match someone else’s”

Only now did Ye Fei Li understand.

“He’s really cautious, as soon as he got randomly transported, he has already taken another person’s identity” he shook his head.

In the satellite footage, the man was smiling and apologizing: [Then, let us start with the basic fist techniques]

[Have a drink first, you looked like you rushed here] a girl offered him a drink.

[Thank you]

The man accepted it, but didn’t drink, instead leaving it to one side.

The girl saw that but said nothing, he already took it so he’ll drink it sooner or later.

The man walked in front of the ten girls, took off his coat and began to demonstrate to them how to punch.

The large tattoo that was on his arm has disappeared without a trace, leaving only his bare skin.

His skin was a healthy bronze tan that looks naturally formed from long exposure to hard work under sunlight.

He looked nothing like the assassin in the arena.

The girls looked at his demonstration and began to follow it.

The man looked over the entire room, seeing nothing out of the ordinary.

It was now that he lightly nodded.

[Very well, first, we’ll learn a new fist technique, please watch as I demonstrate it first, then we’ll do it together]

The man began to enter teaching mode and said very seriously.

Space.

The S.W. Divine Temple.

“Good, now it’s time for us to act” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Let me kill him myself, my ears need to evolve” Ye Fei Li said.

Gu Qing Shan advised him very carefully: “You have to use all your strength from the start, otherwise when he escapes from your suppression, he’ll very quickly be able to use Lightning to increase his speed, we might not be able to give chase”

“You’re also there aren’t you?”

“If and when I attack, it’ll also be with my full strength, I won’t necessarily be able to leave him alive for you”

“Fine then, I’ll do my best to kill him right away”

[Sir, do you want to do it live?] Impartial Goddess asked.

“We won’t do it live this time, it’s not too late to broadcast after he’s dead” Gu Qing Shan answered.

About half an hour later.

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li had arrived at their target.

The two of them stood on the building across from the dojo, already worn their armors.

The self-defense course has ended, and all the students had already left, the man stood on the outdoor training platform and waited for the next group of students to begin his next lesson.

[The lesson is finished, how are we doing this?] Ye Fei Li asked.

“Just charge at him, you go first, I go after” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[I thought you’d have some sort of plan] Ye Fei Li glanced over.

“This type of person has a very strong sense of danger, if we use some sort of plan carelessly and he notices, he’ll just run away” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“He looks like he’s a bit anxious right now”

“That means he’s already feeling danger; we have to go now”

“Also, we must finish this in 1 minute, if the battle is drawn out too long, not only will the dojo people notice, but officials from Fuxi Empire will also notice, that’ll create more problems” Gu Qing Shan said.

“I’ll do my best”

Saying so, he swiped the air at the direction of the outdoor platform.

Boom!

A blood glow rose all the way to the sky, devastated the outdoor platform.

A black figure barely escaped from the blood glow and landed on the streets.

The man looked around, then looked up.

He saw a person standing at a high place.

A cold and stiff smile, a jet black suit of armor, and a pair of black wings of light.

“The Murder Clown!” the man shouted silently.

He jumped up and rushed towards Ye Fei Li.

[Brave] Ye Fei Li covered himself in the blood glow and attacked directly towards the man.

Suddenly, he disappeared, then reappeared behind Ye Fei Li, stabbing with his dagger.

Ye Fei Li couldn’t help but stop his charge and turn around to catch the dagger.

In a flash, the dagger disappeared and reappeared behind Ye Fei Li’s head once again.

The brain isn't like other organs; even Ye Fei Li doesn't dare to carelessly take an attack there.

He had no choice but to shift his body to avoid it.

As soon as Ye Fei Li dodged, the man's body let out a small arc of lightning.

This was the Thaumaturgy to increase his body's speed.

The man shifted his body, increasing his speed exponentially and turned into a shadow, heading towards another direction.

The man had no interest in continuing the battle.

This place was close to a densely populated business area, as long as he's able to find a large business complex and hide, the Clown wouldn't be able to find him.

Unless it pursued him inside.

But if it does that, it'll definitely become a huge ruckus, and Fuxi official police as well as other organizations would definitely react right away.

At that point, the Clown will have no choice but to face the Fuxi's war machines while he slips away in silence.

Just when he was thinking that, in front of his eyes was a sword.

The sword was slashing towards him.

The sword appeared at such an opportune moment, which was right as he was about to land and had no way to dodge it.

This sword's speed, angle and time were all perfectly accounted for so that the man cannot stop it no matter what he does.

A 60,000-ton strike.

And he can't even dodge it!

In the line between life and death, the man shouted and the shoes on his feet let out a shine.

He disappeared, appearing a few dozen meters away.

But he didn't have time to feel lucky, because the sword was still right in front of his face, it was even getting closer and closer.

"How!"

The man's expression changed.

He couldn't understand.

He clearly used the shoes' power just now to teleport away, to get away from this sword, *so why is it still in front of his eyes?*

Even a Martial Saint couldn't possibly be this fast.

The sword was still getting closer, and so was the shadow of his own death.

The man gritted his teeth, using all his strength to teleport again.

He once again disappeared and reappeared at another location a few dozen meters away.

But the sword was still right in front of his face!

The man's face paled, about to do something else, then the sword suddenly sped up.

A cold gleam.

The man's head flew into the air.

The headless body was able to take two steps before falling down and permanently stopped moving.

## **Chapter 195**

On the S.W. Divine Temple, Zhang Ying Hao was watching the footage on the screen and whistled.

"From start to finish, he used a total of only 2 seconds, now that's art" he rubbed his chin and praised.

"Art? He kills without batting so much as an eyebrow, and you call that art?" Liao Xing retorted.

"Then what do you call it?"

"I feel it's a bit like cutting fruit, just look, one slice and juice spills everywhere" Liao Xing had an excited look on his face as he says that.

"...I may be an assassin organization's boss, but you're crazy"

"Correction, I am a scientist" Liao Xing then thought of something, then asked: "What about him? What does he do originally?"

"A student? No wait, a professor I think? That can't be it either, I've never seen him teach a single class" Zhang Ying Hao answered a bit uncertain.

[Sir Gu Qing Shan is the Confederate's Highest Leader] Impartial Goddess' voice was heard.

Liao Xing and Zhang Ying Hao exchanged glances and shrugged.

"Not good... I really have to make a choice here..." Liao Xing muttered.

...

In front of the dojo.

[Ting]!

[A successful kill, received 10 Soul Points. Current Soul Points: 10]

Looking at the Soul Points he just gained, Gu Qing Shan felt better right away.

Shaking off the blood on his sword, he said: "Sorry about that, seems like your ears can't evolve just yet"

Ye Fei Li just stood there, stunned for a few seconds before his mind caught up with what had just happened.



All he saw was that Gu Qing Shan swung his sword, then the man disappeared, then Gu Qing Shan disappeared with him.

When the man reappeared, Gu Qing Shan also appeared where he was and the sword was still swinging forward.

Seeing that, the man couldn't help but disappear and reappear somewhere else.

But Gu Qing Shan still followed, caught up, and lopped off his head with a single strike.

Everything happened so quickly that Ye Fei Li didn't even have the time to react.

He said begrudgingly: "Fine, this guy is too slippery, I can't catch up"

"For you" Gu Qing Shan threw the head to Ye Fei Li and turned to leave.

"Where are you going?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"To watch your live broadcast" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"My ears ——you have to think of a way for me alright?" Ye Fei Li yelled from behind.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand and disappeared at a street corner.

Ever since the end of the Game of Eternal, countless people on the planet were waiting with bated breaths.

A few even put their Holo-Brains on the table, specifically waiting for 'that' to happen.

Time passed by.

Their Holo-Brains were still silent.

Everyone breathed out from relief.

*Seems like, someone really did achieve eternal life this time.*

*— — — and no one saw him, no one knows who he was.*

*To be able to enjoy eternal life in secret, such a thing...*

While everyone was thinking that, their Holo-Brains suddenly lit up.

On the planet, every device that could project a screen all lit up automatically.

Screens projected from the Holo-Brains.

And the Murder Clown appeared on the screen again.

It was carrying a headless body in a princess cradle.

The body was bare to the bone, wearing a pair of black combat boots, the only thing missing was the head.

Seeing such an indescribably eerie sight, everyone held their breaths.

The Murder Clown started to speak.

[Hello everyone, I am your faithful servant, the harvester of your lives and the source of your fears]

[You can call me the Murder Clown]

[I once told you, anyone that joins the Game of Eternal, will only have the single fate of death waiting for them]

The Murder Clown looked at the headless skeleton in its arms and whimpered.

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It spoke with a melancholic tone: [Why wouldn't you listen, why do you insist on being naughty and play that game]

After saying so, it grabbed the boots, let go of the skeleton and shook.

The skeleton got separated and fell down in pieces.

The only thing left in the Clown's hands were the black boots.

The Clown then looked around as if looking for something with its stiff and eerie smile.

Finally, it looked down at its own hands and said as if shocked: [Ah? Where did these boots come from?]

It raised the boots up, making sure to show every detail of it to the screen.

[Ah, such a nice pair of boots...]

The Clown spoke happily, then started to clumsily put them on.

Its feet were clearly a large Mech armor, yet the boots automatically became bigger and easily covered it.

[Not bad, not bad]

The Clown wore the boots and walked around in the air in a funny manner.

Suddenly, the Clown stared at the screen and lowered its voice: [I heard this pair of boots can change appearance at will?]

It slowly pointed its finger at the boots, as if shy.

[Give me a pair of red shoes]

The boots became red.

[No, no, no, I changed my mind, I want a pair of red AND gold shoes]

The red boots turned into a pair of two-colored shoes.

[Then, how about if I wanted a pointy tip shoes]

The tip of the shoes started to extend, then finally turned into a pair of large, noticeable pointy tipped shoes.

The Murder Clown used both hands to cover its mouth, acting surprised.

It suddenly laughed in frenzy and happily declared: [Because someone joined the Game of Eternal, the Clown got a new pair of shoes!]

It raised its foot up, making sure everyone can clearly see the shoes it was wearing.

[Game of Eternal, can you see this?]

[A Masquerade ball, what a wild game you're playing]

The Clown laughed while speaking.

At this moment, the little bit of hope everyone had in their minds got shattered.

Quite a few witty people had the same thought.

*—the Game of Eternal had done such a strict job of security; the Murder Clown couldn't possibly have found the real winner.*

*It's possible that the Clown only used a random skeleton to scare everyone.*

But now that they saw the miraculous pair of shoes, the reward of the champion, they had no doubt that the pile of bones he randomly threw on their ground just before was also the dead champion's.

What the fuck, they have been hidden so well, yet the Murder Clown was still able to find and kill the winner.

That's just too eerie.

There are no explanations for this.

On the screen, the Murder Clown spoke with a very sincere tone:

[It's a nice pair of shoes, but I think I want a bit more]

[Maybe, there are a few more people willing to enter the Game of Eternal and bring me back some more trinkets?]

[Your end will be the same as all the other champions, but rest assured, I will treasure your reward very dearly]

Saying so, the Murder Clown suddenly made a grand gesture and lightly bowed.

After bowing, the Clown burst into laughter as he ascended into the air, disappearing between the clouds.

It was when its body had completely disappeared that all the Holo-Brains and broadcasting devices on the planet stopped at the same time.

A moment of silence.

Then the people began to react.

A man was staring blankly at his Holo-Brain, then sighed: "Alright, eternal life is nothing but a trap, I'm not going to join that Game of Eternal"

Opposite of him, his wife broke into tears and hugged him tightly: "We don't need eternal life, I'll be happy just being safe with you"

The man patted his wife on the back, feeling that he's more relaxed than ever before.

He muttered: "Don't worry, that monster is too frightening, I think any normal person would also give up"

"It's possible that they were on the same side from the very beginning"

## Chapter 196

In the face of that terrifying Murder Clown, many people chose to shut down their Holo-Brain and give up. Some others were still stunned, a few were pounding their chest, gritting their teeth, thinking of ways to join the game without being discovered by the Murder Clown.

Space.

The S.W. Divine Temple.

"This guy sure likes his theatricals" Zhang Ying Hao excitedly commented.

"That's right, I can feel that he's enjoying this" saying so, Liao Xing downed the entire glass of wine in his hand.

He happily declared: "A scientist's job is to study the unknown, but I've never thought there would be a day where we can knock the unknown down on the ground and pummel it"

"Don't let your guard down, it's only a stalemate right now" Gu Qing Shan said.

"You're just too careful, I think there's probably no one else that's willing to participate in that damn game" Liao Xing shook his head.

"I'm just worried that the game might change again" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"Hm? Where's Ye Fei Li going?" Gu Qing Shan asked when he look at the screen.

Right now, Ye Fei Li had already taken off his armor, spreading his wings and flying through the clouds.

From the look of it, he's hurrying somewhere.

[Mr. Ye Fei Li is following my calculated evolution plan and following a certain route to exterminate Man Killer Fiends] Impartial Goddess answered.

"Since the other guy was killed by Gu Qing Shan, our little Man Killer Fiend seems to have been terribly shocked" Liao Xing laughed and said.

"...That's fine then, him becoming stronger is a good thing" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Sir, can you give the pair of shoes to me? I need to study the specimens] Impartial Goddess asked.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Zhang Ying Hao.

"Not useable for me" Zhang Ying Hao answered.

"Very well, then after Ye Fei Li returns, you can take it for research" Gu Qing Shan said.

“What a waste, a staff, a pair of gauntlets and a pair of shoes, all these champion rewards are being given to a machine” Liao Xing mumbled.

[Mr. Liao, my research is exceptionally important, please be assured of this] Impartial Goddess protested.

“Fine, fine, I can’t use them anyway, so do as you like” saying so, Liao Xing went to continue his research on the warp devices.

And then, Impartial Goddess reminded: [Sir, it’s time, your personal transport has been prepared for take-off]

“Good, then we’re leaving now” Gu Qing Shan stood up.

“Zhang Ying Hao, you’re coming with me” he said as he walked passed him.

“Where to?” Zhang Ying Hao was confused.

“Where do you think? This was your request to me, wasn’t it?” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Ah, nice! Then I’ll need to go take a shower, shave and change into a nice suit” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“Do you really need to do so much?” Gu Qing Shan said, a bit uncertain.

“You’re joking! Of course I need to! At a time like this, the first impression is extremely important” Zhang Ying Hao’s voice suddenly raised.

He clearly looks nervous.

“What are you doing? Going to a sorority party without this old man?” Liao Xing cautiously asked.

“We’re not” Gu Qing Shan patiently explained, “we’re going to the United Nations conference, so personal appearance is indeed quite important”

“What conference is it?” Liao Xing asked.

“One regarding the Genetic Modification Serums” Gu Qing Shan explained, “if we’re able to convince other countries to make them available to the populace, our game System will have a class-system as well”

“Injecting a specific Genetic Modification Serum according to the selected class?” Liao Xing asked.

“That’s right” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Liao Xing gasped, then muttered: “Really, we’re looking more and more like a real game”

“The game is nothing but the outer appearance, the true meaning is to enable everyone to evolve and become stronger” Gu Qing Shan answered.

He continued: “I still have a lot of ideas, but we can’t bite off more than we can chew, let’s just take the first step with the Serums”

An hour later.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao both wore suits, stepping out of the small-sized sport shuttle.

This is the capital.

The Freedom Confederate's International Conference Center.

The Holy Empire, the Fuxi Empire, the Freedom Confederate, these three great countries as well as numerous smaller countries are gathered here to begin a discussion that'll affect humanity as a whole.

"You two there"

A few elite black ops walked forward, about to stop them.

Suddenly, the large screen on the walls of the conference center lit up, showing Gu Qing Shan's picture.

Lines of description showed up next to his profile.

[The Freedom Confederate's Mobile Mech scientist]

[Creator of the Mobile Mech's Life Algorithm]

[Patent owner of 37 pieces of Mobile Mech technology]

[The first person to discover and identify the Man Eater and Man Killer Fiend viruses]

[Setter of Man Eater and Man Killer Fiend defensive protocols]

[Capital's Military Academy's special professor]

A voice also narrated the information to the black ops' earpieces.

Their attitude instantly changed, stepping to one side and welcomed him in.

"Please come in" the leader of the group spoke.

After they walked far enough, Zhang Ying Hao asked in a low voice: "Impartial Goddess?"

"Hm" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhang Ying Hao exclaimed: "With you, Impartial Goddess and the President's support, I don't think there's anyone else in the entire Confederate that can stop us"

They continued to walk until they reached a small guess reception room.

A few minutes later, the President brought 4-5 secretaries with him and entered.

"This is?" the President asked.

"He's my business partner, Zhang Ying Hao" Gu Qing Shan introduced him.

Zhang Ying Hao quickly stood up and shook the President's hand.

"I know you, you're the rebel kid of the Zhang family" the President looked at Zhang Ying Hao and said while laughing lightly.

"How embarrassing, it's just the lack of sensibility of youth" Zhang Ying Hao answered.

"What were you thinking at the time?" the President asked, a bit interested.

“No one is born noble, what Aristocrats must pass on isn’t only the power and authority, but the spirit of the being the leaders of human society” Zhang Ying Hao spoke slowly and clearly.

“Well said, no wonder you’re able to become Qing Shan’s partner”

While still shaking his hand, the President also patted him on the back.

Zhang Ying Hao was honored.

After a bit of chatting, they sat down.

“Qing Shan, today we’re discussing the matter of the Genetic Modification Serums, but most are still a bit hesitant, I want you to come up there and see if you can persuade them” the President said.

“That’s fine, there won’t be any problems, but before that, there’s something I must talk to you about” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Ah? Please do” the President said.

“About this, only you can know” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

The President then ordered his secretaries outside.

Gu Qing Shan then put the black suitcase he was bringing with him on the table and opened it.

He took out a silver bracelet from inside, giving it to the President.

“What is this?” the President asked.

“A personal battle assistance System, it can incorporate the Genetic Modification Serums as well as helping the user quickly master battle techniques”

“At the moment, it’s still a work in progress, but you can try it out first” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

About ten minutes later, the President left with his secretaries.

“Are you the President’s illegitimate child?” Zhang Ying Hao asked, a bit hesitant.

“You’re joking, of course not” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“But then why is he so friendly with you, not to mention so supportive only right after you showed it to him?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“He also has the Highest Leader authority, so everything I do he already knows about, including the matter regarding Ye Fei Li” Gu Qing Shan was also a bit unsure about this.

“Perhaps, with his vision, he’s able to recognize the benefit this will bring to humanity as a whole” he thought about it for a bit and said.

Aside from that, there’s no other explanation.

Zhang Ying Hao muttered: “Why do I feel like he’s even more excited about this than you are?”

It was now that the antique grandfather clock of the conference center started to chime.

“There’s still some time left, looks like we’re early” Gu Qing Shan checked the time and said.

Zhang Ying Hao retorted: "You're the one that wanted to get here as soon as possible"

At this moment, there was a knock on the door.

"Please come in" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

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A feminine figure walked in, then quickly closed the door behind her.

Long crimson red hair, a slender figure, as well as a delicate and beautiful face.

Anna.

Anna Medici.

"I want to talk to you alone" she looked at Gu Qing Shan and said.

"Very well" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhang Ying Hao left the room, then locked the door behind him.

"I need your help" Anna went straight to the point.

"What kind of help?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I know you're the inventor and creator of the Blazing Angel. I also know that you seem to have a unique power, and Impartial Goddess especially favors you" Anna quickly listed.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

"I also have to thank you for dealing with Holy Apostle Hill"

"No need, I'm very willing to kill him on my own"

Anna then went silent, as if she wanted to say something but couldn't quite arrange her words.

As hot-headed as she was, she was still a bit hesitant.

Squinting her eyes, she was a bit annoyed with herself.

*The hell, I already thought of everything I need to say, as well as how to negotiate this, why did I get so hesitant at such a point in time?*

Gu Qing Shan only observed her silently.

*She's much more haggard now, although she's keeping up her appearance, but the fatigue on her mental health isn't something you can hide easily.*

The girl's eyes didn't contain the same clearness and pureness she had before, instead it was filled with a sense of complication and exhaustion.

After waiting for a while, not hearing her say anything, Gu Qing Shan asked: "You came here with the King and Queen of Fuxi Empire, correct?"



"I did" seeing him actively asking her like that, Anna sighed in relief.

"How have you been in the Fuxi Empire?"

"I've been fine; my aunt looks after me so there hasn't been any problems" Anna replied.

"Really?" Gu Qing Shan walked closer to her and asked.

Anna stayed silent for a bit, then laughed bitterly: "I have to say, there are a few things that didn't quite go as I thought it would"

"Then what can I help you with?"

Gu Qing Shan actively asked her about it.

"I... want to reclaim my country" Anna looked down and said.

"Isn't Fuxi Empire about to declare war on the Holy Church?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Anna showed an expression of self-ridicule, answering him: "I want to reclaim my country, but unless there's no other way, I'm not willing to become a puppet for Fuxi"

"Then what do you want me to do, seeking me out like this?" Gu Qing Shan asked further.

This time, Anna looked up, stared straight at Gu Qing Shan without dodging his eyes and spoke with all her courage.

"I need your Mech technology, and I want to request you to help me contact Impartial Goddess and have it arrange war strategies, according to the International Foreign Aid Law"

"The President is quite close to you, and you also seem to know the Confederate's Martial Saint, so I want you to help me meet them, and better yet form a good relationship with them"

Gu Qing Shan only listened to her silently.

Anna continued: "If you're willing to provide me with help, I promise you'll receive corresponding returns"

Perhaps feeling like she wasn't being sincere enough, she very serious added: "By the honor of our Medici clan, I solemnly swear that as long as I'm able to reclaim my country, I agree to do one thing you desire, no matter what it is. If needs be, I will use the power of my entire country to provide help for you"

"I know that we're not close, and I'm in no position to ask for your help right now" Anna slowly spoke, "And ever since we've known each other, you've not owed me anything"

Saying so, she breathed in, seeming to have regained a bit of her sense.

"But I'm still here asking for your help. Any of these matters is a monumental task for me to do alone, but with your help, I may still have a sliver of hope"

"And I will definitely return this favor the same way you help me"

At this point, her voice was already carrying a tone of begging.

“If... you feel that it’s too hard...”

She wanted to stay brave and said something strong-willed, but her mouth already couldn’t help themselves and pursed.

Gu Qing Shan still didn’t say anything, only watched her silently.

*No, I actually do owe you something,* he silently muttered to himself.

*I still owe you my life.*

In that moment, he saw himself returned to the past life.

On a pile of demon corpses.

Gu Qing Shan used his sword to prop himself up, barely standing: 「Thank you for saving me」

「Why are you here? With your level of cultivation, being here is the same as suicide」 the red-haired girl asked.

「To pick some spirit herbs」 he answered.

「Spirit herbs?」 the girl was a bit shocked, finally noticing there was a few strands of spirit herbs on the ground.

Although they can be sold for a bit of money, the girl still found his suicidal actions a bit unexpected.

Looking at the man, he was wounded all over, and bleeding profusely.

The girl felt like she should do something.

「Fine, you’re such a brave guy. Since I’m about to return anyways, come with me」 she said.

「...Thank you」

At a small campfire.

They were eating, chatting.

「I’m Gu Qing Shan, what’s your name?」

「Ah, such a normal way to start a conversation, how unexpected of a brave person like you, I’m Anna」

「Thank you for saving my life, I’ll remember your name and definitely repay you for this in the future」

「Repay me? What’s there to repay, this is just something I happened to do」

She waved her hand, dismissing it.

「For you it’s something you just happened to do, but to me it was the greatest danger of my life. I’ve never owed someone so much before」

「Ahaha, so you’re really serious about that? What a cute guy」 she laughed heartily.

「That's not funny」 Gu Qing Shan looked down and complained.

She rolled her eyes, then suddenly said: 「Then, how about you do something for me?」

He looked up: 「Of course, as long as it's within my abilities」

「Then find me the strongest, most delicious wine in the world」

She clicked her tongue then continued: 「If you're able to find me something like that, then consider your favor paid off」

「My life is only worth a glass of wine to you huh?」 he said deprecatingly.

「No, it has nothing to do with your life, it's because wine is my life」 the beautiful girl shook her head.

「Why?」 he couldn't help but ask.

「Because only when I am truly drunk, I'm able to feel that I'm still alive」 the girl's tone dropped, in her eyes was endless pain and sorrow.

The scene stopped here.

A few years later.

The searing flame rose to light up the night sky.

Gu Qing Shan stood still on top of a giant tree, looking as if he had lost his very soul.

Looking at the rising flame, he knew that he was too late.

In his hand was a bottle of wine that was tightly wrapped.

The wine inside was a spirit wine that he personally brewed, something that numerous Spirit Master Chefs held nothing back while praising.

He used 5 years to complete her request.

Full of confidence, he went to find her.

But the spirit energy waves from afar was telling a very clear story. Her fire-like life force was being burned away to nothingness at this moment.

The searing flames stopped.

Everything went silent as the cold wind stole away the heat, turning into a breeze as it reached him.

The night sky had already returned to darkness.

The little warmth that he originally could've seeked out were no more, the signs of her life could no longer be found by any spells or techniques on this world.

「Why does a person like you, also have to die...」

He whispered, then let go.

The wine fell from atop the tree, breaking to pieces.

## Chapter 198

“Go, I’ll wait for you here”

Anna hung her head, as the long red hair covered her expression.

“Brother, there’s only 5 minutes left until you need to come up” Zhang Ying Hao continued to call him, very reluctantly.

“Then wait here for me” saying so to Anna, Gu Qing Shan hurriedly left.

Right after he left, a shadow moved inside the room from the door.

The shadow turned into Feng Huo De as he immediately asked: “Your Highness, how did it go?”

“I’ll have to stay by his side, you’ll need to return to the Holy Empire alone” Anna replied.

“Hm, fine ——WAIT! Your Highness, please say that again!” Feng Huo De screamed.

“Huo De, the remaining forces in the Holy Empire will need you to hold them together, I’m going to come with him” Anna answered very seriously.

“Your Highness, I understand that the bloodline of the empire needs to continue, but isn’t this a bit too soon? Then again, how many princes do you intend to birth?”

“Go back the Holy Empire, NOW!”

On another side.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao quickly headed towards the elevator.

“Who was the previous speaker?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“The President, as soon as he finished his speech, he seemed to be a bit tired so he already returned to his room upstairs” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“Is that so?” Gu Qing Shan felt that wasn’t quite right.

*What’s wrong with the President?* He silently thought.

“For your speech, have you thought of what you need to say?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“There’s more sea creatures invading land every day, the Man Killer Fiends are becoming stronger and stronger, when faced with these kinds of situation, all you need to do is tell them the harsh truth” Gu Qing Shan stopped his thoughts and answered.

“Hm, no need to feel too pressured, I just met a few of my friends in politics and asked for their help, if something happens in the conference, they’ll follow up for you”

“Very well”

While they were walking and talking, both of their faces changed as they stood still.

The ground was shaking a little bit.

Bang!

As soon as they stopped, a dull sound of impact was heard from outside.

This sound seemed to have marked the start of something horrible.

Somewhere on the higher floors of the International Conference Center, screams and cries were heard.

Something extremely horrifying must've happened, as every person at the conference couldn't help but shout in fear.

"What happened? That was a gun shot, could it be, assassination?" Zhang Ying Hao very calmly assessed the situation.

"Could you tell which kind it was?" Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe the surround and quickly asked.

"It sounded like a Railgun, this type of weapon has doubled the range compared to traditional firearms, as well as overwhelming power" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"It's too far from where we are" Gu Qing Shan said.

They both ran to look outside the window panes.

A few dozen Assault Mechs were roaring their engines, rushing out of the conference center in a certain direction.

Immediately after, groups of soldiers appeared out of nowhere and quickly surrounded the conference center.

A few people who wore officer clothing were also chasing after the Mechs.

They weren't losing to the Mechs in speed as well.

They were all very powerful Professionalists, Special Ops with very high ranking in the military.

A loud engine sound was heard in the sky.

What appeared was a large-sized Interstellar Warship, hovering above the conference center.

Three groups of fighter shuttles got off the Warship and headed towards the same direction.

"Impartial Goddess, what happened?" Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice.

[The President was attacked, currently pursuing the culprit] Impartial Goddess answered.

"What!?" Zhang Ying Hao exclaimed.

"What happened to the President?" Gu Qing Shan quickly asked.

[Unsure, all the surveillance devices in the conference center was affected by an electromagnetic field for a few seconds, I wasn't able to issue a warning in time] Impartial Goddess replied.

“Where’s the President?”

[The highest floor suite]

Suddenly, they saw someone making their way up the outside window panes through jumping.

Their movements were quick and efficient, only tapping the glass very slightly before they ascended.

In their hands were two daggers.

Very quickly, they’ve already went past this floor.

[Unrecognizable] Impartial Goddess quickly told them.

Crash!

In a single second, Gu Qing Shan burst through the window like a cannonball, standing in mid-air.

He held the Night Rain in his hand.

*Swish-swish-swish!*

Ten arrows drew unpredictable trajectories, all heading upwards.

That wasn’t the end either, as Gu Qing Shan stowed the bow away, he grabbed a sword from mid-air, shifting his body and flew upwards close to the wall.

“He’s... flying...” Zhang Ying Hao was stunned beyond words.

Above Gu Qing Shan, the person quickly turned around and hit the arrows away with his daggers.

The arrows were a bit too strong, so despite his quick reaction being able to stop them all, he couldn’t help but feel numb in both hands.

And then Gu Qing Shan came.

The Earth Sword drew a very simple arc across the sky.

The person wanted to block with his daggers, but got bisected together with his weapons.

The body split into two as a rain of blood burst in front of the window panes.

[Diagonally above, sir!] Impartial Goddess’ voice was heard.

Gu Qing Shan looked up and sure enough, another assassin was using both hands to climb up the wall like a gecko.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away, took out the bow and knocked an arrow.

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[Sharpshooter]!

[Riding Wind]!

[Bombardment]!

This shot was like a cannonball, blowing both the assassin and the wall to smithereens.

“Are there anymore?” Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice.

[None outside, but there’s one more inside, currently heading towards the highest floor] Impartial Goddess answered.

Gu Qing Shan crashed through the window and headed up the stairs.

*I have to make it in time!*

Gritting his teeth, he flew upwards as fast as he could.

Gu Qing Shan’s body turned into a grey streak, following the stairs up. Occasionally there were people in his way, got blown over by the wind, but couldn’t see anything else once they regained their senses from shock.

[Thick beard, sunglasses, a pipe in one hand, wearing a green military coat, grey pants, black leather shoes, currently on 11th floor] Impartial Goddess described him.

Gu Qing Shan made it to 11th floor.

His inner sight has already locked onto the man.

The assassin was the best of the people sent this time, as soon as Gu Qing Shan arrived, he noticed how dangerous he was.

He quickly turned around.

In his sight was a figure flying towards him.

The figure was extremely young, but his face contained nothing but coldness, calmness and focus, not a single bit of excitement or feeling of luck.

This was the last thing he ever saw.

An intense pain came as the world around him turned black.

Blood spewed everywhere.

Gu Qing Shan put away his sword.

The assassin got sliced into pieces by the sword qi on his sword, when he died, both his hands were letting out a chilling frost.

Obviously he died while he was still preparing to attack.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t bother to look at the results and quickly asked: “Are there anymore?”

[Currently undetected] Impartial Goddess answered.

“President...” Gu Qing Shan moved up the stairs towards the top floor.

When he got there, the special services members guarding the door were trying to break it down.

“Quickly, quickly, quickly!”

“Use more force!”

“God damnit!”

They were screaming.

The highest floor’s doors were sealed shut, this was the highest quality suite of the entire building, so the security measures taken on the door were also the highest of quality, but it backfired this time.

Another special services member and a medic arrived at the same time.

They exchanged looks, then locked onto Gu Qing Shan.

After that, the special services members look a bit shocked, seems like they just receive the information on who Gu Qing Shan was and put down their guard again.

“Get away, I’ll do it”

Taking the Earth Sword in hand, he was about to break down the door, then stopped.

A sound was heard from inside.

And then the door opened.

The President walked out unscathed, his expression calm.

“Mr. President!”

The special service member gestured, then the medic came forward.

“I’m fine, just go catch them quickly” the President waved his hand.

The door was closed behind him.

The medic didn’t bother to listen to him and started to scan him with the devices he brought.

A few seconds later.

“The President is unhurt” the medic reported.

*It’s great that he’s ok!*

Everyone was able to sigh from relief.

Gu Qing Shan also put the healing pill back in his Inventory Bag and sighed.

The President is one of the few people that Gu Qing Shan respect, so he doesn’t want him to have any problems.

“Sir, do we not need to clean up inside?” a special service member asked.

“It’s just a broken window, I’m dealing with some important work inside, so it’s not exactly convenient to let you in, I’m also unhurt, so you can come check it again tonight”

The President’s expression was cold, his tone also chilly: “To dare to attempt an assassination at an International conference, make sure you catch this assassin”



“““Yes sir!””” the special service members agreed

As more special service members came, they all saw that the President was fine and sighed from relief.

Immediately, a special service member came out to take control, leaving only a few people at the scene while other went to protect important chokeholds.

The President looked at Gu Qing Shan and spoke in a soft voice: “Qing Shan, sorry for making you worry”

“It’s good that you’re fine” Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to scan him.

No wounds, his body was completely normal.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

“For such a thing to happen, the official conference might have to stop here...” the President contemplated.

After a bit of thinking, he suddenly said: “How about we make an unofficial meeting then, you, me, the Fuxi Emperor and the representative of the Holy Empire”

“I have no problems with that, let’s do as you suggest” Gu Qing Shan agreed.

“Very well, then you can return first to rest, I’ll call you later” the President said.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and left.

When he couldn’t be seen anymore, the President looked at the special service members and started giving out orders.

They were all a bit surprised.

Normally the President only asks about safety and let them do their jobs, but he’s actively delegating roles right now.

But if you think about it, this is an International conference hosted by the country he headed, yet in broad daylight, in front of everyone, the President himself got attacked!

Of course the President would be angry about it, so wanting to actively delegate jobs like this is very understandable.

The special service members of course wouldn’t say anything to that, they followed his orders and began to deal with matters one at a time.

Finally, when there were only a few special service members left as guards, the President finally returned to his room.

The door was shut tightly behind him.

## **Chapter 199**

After meeting up with Zhang Ying Hao, they went back together.

“How’s the President?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“He’s safe”

Zhang Ying Hao also breathed out in relief and asked: “What you did just now, was that a God’s Chosen Skill?”

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

“I mean how you flew in the sky after crashing out the window” Zhang Ying Hao explained.

“That’s not really flying, at most it could be considered a hovering trick”

“You call that only a trick? Do you think I was born yesterday or something?”

“It’s really just a trick —you want to learn? I can teach you”

“Of course I do! This is flying we’re talking about”

“It’ll probably take a really long time for you to be able to do that”

“No matter how long it takes, as long as I’ll be able to fly in the end, I’ll definitely keep training!” Zhang Ying Hao excitedly said.

“Now that you mentioned it, I can probably use that as a selling point of Protector of the Planet”

They made it back to the small reception room.

Anna greeted them and asked: “What happened outside?”

“They tried to assassinate the President, but it failed”

“Then what do we do now?”

“Let’s wait, the President said he has something else to talk with me about, we’ll leave after that”

“Fine”

Seeing how Anna was hesitant about saying something, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask: “What is it? If you need something just say it”

“Before we go, can you come with me to meet the Fuxi Emperor and Empress?” Anna then asked.

Gu Qing Shan just now realized.

Anna had just requested the Fuxi Empire to take her in, the Empire also made a world-wide official statement about it. If she arbitrarily ran away so soon, that’ll be the same as slapping the Fuxi Emperor’s face.

If this isn’t dealt with correctly, a lot of problems will arise.

“No problem, we can go now if you want” Gu Qing Shan said.

Anna smiled brightly as she looked at him.

A few minutes later, Gu Qing Shan followed Anna to meet the Fuxi Empire’s Emperor and Empress.

The Confederate's International Conference Center is an oval-shaped structure, the inner ring of the structure is outdoors, where a few giant old trees were planted together with a large field of grass.

Fuxi Empire's Emperor wasn't residing at the Freedom Hotel currently, instead he built a temporary resting area here.

From his own words, "freedom" is a bad word that makes him angry.

To have freedom means the country is not under control.

Normal citizens are nothing but headless sheeps that don't know where they should be heading.

If every sheep is given the right to freedom and can run wildly wherever it wants, then the herd isn't a herd anymore at that point.

And a country's Royal family is considered the herd's shepherds.

The shepherd's role is to guide the herd of sheep forward, make sure they don't fall under any danger and keep living their peaceful lives.

Because of that, the word "freedom" contains nothing but malice and danger wrapped under a pretty coat.

It's because of that, that the Emperor refuses to stay in the Freedom Hotel.

The Fuxi Empire's Emperor and Empress brought over 1000 servants and subordinates to stay at the outdoor inner ring of the conference center, having raised a few large tents.

When Gu Qing Shan and Anna arrived, a ball was taking place here.

Exciting songs with upbeat rhythm were being played one after another without any pause in between.

Under the large tent, there were people performing fire eating, others doing animal circustry, 80 or so dancers were moving to the beat, 16 people formed an orchestra, using different instruments together with the dancers, doing their best to perform.

"Over there" Anna pointed at a certain direction.

Following where she pointed at, Gu Qing Shan saw one man and women, sitting in the middle of the people like bright stars in the sky.

The man was wearing a luxurious baggy coat, wearing a solid gold crown with twelve corners, having been engraved with 5-colored jewels each.

In his hand was a scepter, also made of solid gold. On top of the scepter was a human skull, as the skull was looking forward, staring.

The skull belonged to the Fuxi Empire's founding Emperor.

When the founding Emperor died, he had asked for his skull to be combined with his own scepter, coated with a layer of gold and passed down to later generations of emperors as the Royal Scepter.

This was meant to symbolize that even though he's already gone, he was still watching each and every one of his descendants, to judge whether or not they're being a suitable Emperor.

This was the origin of the famous Fuxi Empire's Royal Scepter.

The man wearing the crown had a very plain face, but you can recognize him immediately even if he's in the middle of a crowd.

Because no normal person could ever imitate the expression of coldness he held.

Despite how merry the entire tent was, the man stayed absolutely calm without a single smile on his face.

He sat there very nonchalantly, but he exuded a feeling of sitting on a towering throne that nobody can simply reach out to get to.

The Empress sat beside him, carefully peeling the fruits for him while talking about interesting rumors in the Confederate, occasionally looked up to glance at his face.

No one dared to sit around where they sat.

Everyone was either standing, bowing while doing their best to smile, or kneeling on the ground.

Gu Qing Shan and Anna headed towards the Emperor and Empress.

"The Fuxi Empire had only just announced their protection of me, if I were to leave right now, the Emperor will definitely be angry, and aunty won't have it easy" Anna said in a low voice.

Anna's aunty is the Fuxi Empress.

"Then what do we do?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

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"I'll be using the simplest method to resolve this situation, however I'll need your cooperation" Anna glanced at him.

"Of course I'll cooperate with you" Gu Qing Shan said without any hesitation.

"Then..." Anna bit her lip, "as the price for me joining your group, you'll do as I say for now, that way there won't be any hostility"

"No problems" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He can understand at least that much.

There's many things to consider while doing diplomatic relations, and Fuxi's Emperor is known to be a prideful person. Not only is Anna currently under his protection, she also has blood relations with the Empress, so the complication only got increased. It's best that a person who doesn't know what he's doing don't arbitrarily do anything on his own.

It's best to just leave this to Anna.

While he was thinking, a pair of warm and soft small hands took his and lead him forward.

Pulling him through the crowd of people, Anna headed straight for where the Fuxi Emperor and Empress is.

Right at this moment, everything seems to have changed.

When Anna took his hand, although the music was still playing and everyone was still making merry, Gu Qing Shan could still feel everyone's gazes locked straight onto him.

He felt like a model who suddenly appeared on the runway, having to place to sit or hide, while everyone was scrutinizing every little detail on his body.

Of course, the Emperor also noticed this.

He frowned as he evaluated Gu Qing Shan.

As the Emperor moved ever so slightly, the Empress also noticed the changed atmosphere, following the Emperor's line of sight as her eyes also evaluated Gu Qing Shan.

Although she was a bit surprised, she quickly smiled and nodded to greet the two of them.

Since Anna brought Gu Qing Shan with her, everyone made a path for them to head straight to the Emperor and Empress.

Anna pushed Gu Qing Shan in front of the Emperor and Empress, then kneeled down as per etiquette and said: "Your Majesty the Emperor and Empress, this is my boyfriend"

Aside from the orchestra and dancers who weren't allowed to stop, everyone else stopped what they were doing.

This time, they didn't bother to hide their gazes anymore and locked tightly on Gu Qing Shan, seemingly wanting to see through him.

*This is Anna's boyfriend.*

*The Holy Empire's princess, Anna Medici's boyfriend!*

The Emperor sat still, unmoved.

The Empress glanced at the Emperor, moved her mouth like she wanted to say something, but stopped herself.

Seeing how the Emperor's brows knitted even tighter, having no intention of speaking, Anna quickly added.

"Ah, right, his name is Gu Qing Shan"

"Gu... Qing Shan?"

The Emperor suddenly stopped, seemingly recalling something.

"That is a very familiar name"

He looked over at one of his officials.

The official's sight hasn't left Gu Qing Shan even one, he quickly nodded: "That's correct sire, it's him. The Confederate's number one Mech scientist, the creator of the newest core protocol technology, the first person who found the Man Eater and Man Killer Fiend Viruses, as well as the Confederate's Military Academy's special professor ———although he has yet to go there once"

"Ah? You've been specially invited, so why don't you go to the Confederate's Military Academy to work?" the Emperor looked straight at Gu Qing Shan and questioned.

"I'm currently busy with too many things so I haven't had the chance to go" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Busy?" the Emperor glanced at Anna.

Anna rolled her eyes and looked away without hesitation, seemingly want to express that it had nothing to do with her.

But with how well everyone knew her personality, to be able to make such an action clearly indicated that Gu Qing Shan was really busy with something.

"You're a scientist ———then let me ask you, the Freedom Confederate and Fuxi Empire, which one of these two countries are currently developing better?" the Emperor questioned further.

Anna was a bit nervous.

She didn't think the Emperor would be so belligerent, every sentence he spoke was sharp like a blade, not leaving any sort of dignity for the other party.

She held Gu Qing Shan hand, wanted to signal something, but Gu Qing Shan had already pinched her hand lightly and indicated with his eyes that there was nothing to worry about.

"Fuxi is better" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Ah? Why so?" the Emperor had a look of intrigue.

This young man doesn't look like the sort to butter up to someone, so what he said was definitely not empty words to make him pleased.

"That's what the statistics of the past 10 years has indicated" Gu Qing Shan answered very simply.

"Do scientists like you only look at statistics and nothing else? Wouldn't you usually try and preserve a bit of dignity for your Freedom Confederate and at least say that the two countries were not that far apart?"

The Emperor wasn't pleased with his answer, so he pursued further.

"Science, as well as the very essence of science itself is to see the world as it truly is, not to say things that pleases others"

The frown on the Emperor's brows suddenly lessened, the coldness on his face receded a bit, as the look in his eyes contained a small smile.

Then he suddenly burst into laughter.

With his laugh, the tense atmosphere seemed to have loosened up, as the air began to circulate, the music continued as background for everyone to make merry.

The Emperor looked at his Empress.

“What an interesting young man isn’t he?” the Empress smiled as she spoke.

“Hm, not just interesting, but also not simple as well” the Emperor looked at Gu Qing Shan as if he was looking at a cutting edge Mobile Mech.

He’s very pleased with this young man.

Scientists should all be like this, not wasting their mind on pointless things.

The Confederate had been ahead of the Empire for dozens of years thanks to Impartial Goddess, after how hard the Empire tried to almost catch up, the Confederate suddenly got more advanced cutting edge Mech technology.

According to the estimated data, this set of technology leads ahead the Fuxi Empire by at least 15 years.

And all of them were made by this young man right now.

From the look of it, his and Anna’s relationship is also exceptional.

“From what I can see, being the special professor of the Confederate’s Military Academy is nothing special, so it’s correct for you not to go”

The Emperor looked straight at Gu Qing Shan, then slowly continued: “If you were instead at Fuxi Empire, I would’ve given you the title and treatment of the Royal Scientist straight away, much better than some random title of professor”

## **Chapter 200**

“I thank you, your Majesty, but currently I have something else more important” Gu Qing Shan very quickly glanced at Anna.

Anna was afraid that the Emperor’s mood might worsen again, so she quickly walked up and held the Empress’ hand: “I want to stay with him at the Confederate for a short while”

The Empress gently rubbed her face, asking in a low voice: “Serious?”

Anna’s face flushed, then she nodded.

The Empress smiled wryly: “But the Fuxi Empire had just announced its protection of you, for you to run away too quickly, it’s hard to say”

“It’s fine, isn’t it? I just want to be with him for a while is all” Anna tried to act spoiled.

The Empress could only smile wryly, but couldn’t say anything.

This matter is as big or small as it is made out to be, everything depends on the Emperor’s thoughts.

The Emperor very quickly glanced at his officials.

One of the officials nodded slightly without revealing his movement.

The Emperor was thinking.

A person's emotions can't be faked, she really does want to come with him.

*—seems like little Anna found true love this time.*

*That is to say, Anna doesn't want to leave Fuxi and come into the embrace the Confederate.*

*That's fine as long as that's not the case.*

At this point, the Empress turned around, saying with a hint of consolation and testing at the same time: "Your Majesty, it seems Anna is a bit too naughty"

The Emperor laughed: "I may control an entire empire, but even I can't control the hearts of two youngsters"

"However, I have a little suggestion"

"Please let us hear us, your Majesty" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Anna is my niece, so I can't have you keep her to yourself for too long. After a while, come with her to Fuxi, I'll make sure to give you the best reception you deserve" the Emperor said very peacefully.

Then he glanced at the Empress.

The Empress quickly: "Two weeks later, during the hottest day of the year, we'll let you come with us to our Northern Palace, the weather there is quite fine. You can go hunting in the morning and there's a place for a ball in the evenings, if you're lucky, we might even be able to observe some space monsters with the telescope"

The Emperor was pleased, nodded and asked: "Scientist Gu, what do you think about this suggestion?"

Gu Qing Shan bowed politely and answered: "I heard the Imperial Deer is quite an excellent article, so I must try some at that time"

The Emperor looked at him in surprise and smiled: "You didn't seem it but you're also an expert aren't you, when you leave, you can take a casket of it to slowly savor"

"Thank you, your Majesty"

"Very well, then the middle of next month, both of you shall return together" the Empress very quickly made it an official arrange with a clap of her hands.

"Little Anna, what do you think?" the Emperor tilted his head to her and asked with a smile.

"I also want a casket of Imperial Deer, I'll return to Fuxi after I finish them" Anna licked her lips and said.

The Emperor laughed heartily and pointed at her: "You can forget about it. Do you think I really don't know who took my 80-year Imperial Deer?"

Anna was teased like that by the Emperor in front of everyone, but still lifted her chin without a hint of fear.

"Give me half of what you get" she looked at Gu Qing Shan and declared.



“Let’s drink together, we’ll go to Fuxi after that, I just hope the Emperor won’t run dry because of us” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“I’ll have someone pick you up at that time” the Emperor smiled and said.

Being able to put such a talent into the Empire’s embrace by such a method, the Emperor was in an exceptionally good mood.

At this point, an official came and reported in a low voice: “Your Majesty, it’s time for the night banquet”

The Emperor took the Empress’ hand and stood up, speaking: “You can leave after dinner”

“It will be my honor; may I call a friend over?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Call them, call all of them, the more the merrier after all” the Emperor said and leave first with the Empress.

The crowd also followed after his Majesty the Emperor.

Anna was finally able to breath out, glaring at Gu Qing Shan: “Why aren’t you the least bit anxious”

“The Emperor is also only a human” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“But he’s not just the Emperor, he’s the strongest Professionalist in the entire Empire, perhaps even the world”

“But he’s still human” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He was silently thinking about his Shifu’s prowess in battle.

Anna looked at him to see that he really was very calm, she became even more pleased.

“Did you know? Even the Holy Church’s Pope has to always keep up their guard in front of him”

“I didn’t do anything that would displease him now, did I?”

“Fine, you kept up quite the good act, let’s hope you can keep it up during the banquet as well” Anna pinched his ears and said.

“I’ll call Zhang Ying Hao over first, having to wait for so long, he’s probably hungry” Gu Qing Shan rubbed his pinched ear and spoke wryly.

On another side.

The Emperor was standing in front of a large mirror as two female servants helped him change his clothes.

“Found it yet?” he asked.

“We have, dozens of the core protocols technologies for what’s called the ‘Life Algorithm’ was all created by Gu Qing Shan” an official answered.

“I must say, he’s truly a genius Mech scientist” the official couldn’t help but praised him.

“Such a talent is wasted in the Confederate” the Emperor commented.

A guard quickly walked over and knelt down on one leg to report: “Gu Qing Shan together with Anna brought another man into the banquet”

“Who’s he? His research assistant?” the Emperor asked.

“No sire, it’s a 9 Lords Aristocrat, called Zhang Ying Hao” the guard spoke.

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“9 Lords...” the Emperor coldly scoffed, “he’s someone specially sent by the 9 Lords to win Gu Qing Shan over?”

“He isn’t, this is Zhang Ying Hao’s personal profile, please take a look sire”

The Emperor took the Holo-Brain and quickly scanned over it.

He unexpectedly frowned and said: “A rebel of the 9 Lords? Hitman association? I couldn’t think that such a talent could still be born from those people”

The Emperor gave the Holo-Brain to the official.

The official quickly read through everything and judged: “The fact that they’re acquainted further means that Gu Qing Shan isn’t interested in the 9 Lords”

“Impartial Goddess is nothing but a bright jewel that’s already falling apart” the Emperor nodded, “right now, the cutting edge Mech technology must be held in the hands of the Empire and not those fools of the 9 Lords”

He has already finished putting on his suit, as the two female servants bowed and stepped out.

“Go and prepare” the Emperor said to the official, “after this banquet, we’re returning to the Empire”

The official was a bit shocked: “We aren’t participating in the upcoming conference?”

“We’re not, I only went here because there was something to do, now that I’ve achieved that, there’s no need to stay anymore”

The Emperor added: “As for the matter with the Genetic Modification Serum, the Empire will do as it likes, we have no need to discuss it with anyone else”

“Yes, sire” the official also stepped out.

Now that it was silent all around, the Emperor stared at himself in the mirror and muttered: “As long as they’re useful, they should be serving the Empire, that is the one true destiny of all”

Fixing his collar, a bit, he quickly left.

After the banquet.

Fuxi Empire’s Emperor didn’t stay to participate further with the conference and simply left the Confederate.

Sitting on the Fuxi Interstellar Warship, he left the conference center without paying any mind to the numerous calls from different departments of the Confederate.

The President was now talking with Gu Qing Shan; his tone was a bit tired.

“He probably only came here for the sake of his reputation and benefit, after he’s done with that, he left” the President said.

“That’s right, did princess Anna really stay here because of you?”

Gu Qing Shan glanced over at Anna, then said: “This is her Highness the princess’ own decision, I don’t really have any way to influence her”

The President sighed: “Now that Fuxi’s Emperor isn’t here, there’s no way for us to make this an official world-wide treaty, seems like there’s no way for the conference to continue”

“I also agree with you” Gu Qing Shan said.

After chatting for a bit more, their conversation ended.

After Gu Qing Shan hang up, he looked at Anna.

“Does the Medici clan have no one else left but you?” he asked.

“That’s right” Anna spoke, “because of that, technically speaking, I am the Holy Empire”

Gu Qing Shan asked her: “Does the Holy Empire have any remaining stock for the highest purity God’s Chosen Awakening Serum?”

“We don’t. Making one of them costs over half the treasury, so after I used it for myself, we didn’t make any more” Anna nonchalantly said.

So there aren’t any currently in stock as well, why is the mission for the evolution of “Smiting” so hard?

Gu Qing Shan felt his head hurt.

Thinking for a bit, he asked: “The God’s Chosen Awakening Serum’s recipe was taken by the Holy Church, right?”

Hearing that, Anna’s face finally showed a small change: “At most, they probably have half of it”

“Why so?”

“Because the other half, father has already given to me ——in the entire world, only I hold the other half of the recipe”

“No wonder the Fuxi Emperor was so hurried to get you back to the Empire”

“What is it, do you need that thing?”

“That’s right”

“...You’ll really help me after this is over right?”

Seeing how Anna was a bit hesitant and anxious, Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt that he's done something wrong.

*That recipe is probably the only bargaining chip she has left.*

*But I'm already demanding it right after she made up her mind to stay behind.*

*Idiot,* Gu Qing Shan silently cursed himself.

"Follow me" he walked towards the large window pane in the room.

Anna followed him, also silently stepped in front of the window pane.

"I'm sorry for not noticing your feelings" Gu Qing Shan said.

Anna just stared at him without saying anything.

"Perhaps you're feeling like you're making a final gamble that'll either end really well or really badly. But the fact that you've already made your decision, and yet I'm still making you anxious like this, it's my fault"

"I really should've let you know something about me earlier"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan pointed at the scenery outside the window pane.

The International Conference Center was situated very well; so you can see everything from the city center to the very far edge of the city.

Her sight followed the direction he was pointing at; Anna was a bit confused.

Night has yet to fully arrive, so the entire capital was being enveloped in a dim orange light by the setting sun.

"It's about to get dark, so I'm not really sure where you're pointing at"

Saying so, Anna was still looking out the window, trying to find the thing that Gu Qing Shan was pointing at.

"What I want you to see, isn't a certain place" smiling, Gu Qing Shan continued: "Please give us a bit of light"

Following his voice, from the scenery immediately outside the International Conference Center that they were looking at, past the school, the factory, the government skyscrapers, the Capital central hospital, large restaurants, movie theaters, stadiums, hotels, parks, squares, bridges... all the way until the horizon where the eye couldn't quite make out anymore under the setting sun; no matter what it was, as long as it can emit light, be it streetlights, Holo-Brains, car and shuttle headlights, the outer lights of buildings tall and short, all the lights inside the building themselves, even the Mobile Mechs that were passing by all lit up at the same time.

An endless and intense sea of light.

This was the clearest evidence of humanity's existence on this planet.

## **Chapter 201**

Seeing the sea of light outside the window, Anna couldn't help but gasped, covering her mouth with her hands.

The brilliant light peered in through the window pane, revealing every detail of her stunned expression.

"How is that possible..." she muttered as she couldn't help but look at Gu Qing Shan.

"That's enough for now" Gu Qing Shan spoke again.

In a single moment, as if it was timed, all the lights shut down at the same time.

The orange sun set once again covered the cityscape, the world returned to silence.

With how quickly the lights disappeared, anyone who managed to notice only thought it was some sort of fireworks that went off, or a figment of their imagination.

Zhang Ying Hao poked at Gu Qing Shan and silently asked: "Isn't that too grand of a scene?"

Impartial Goddess quickly explained: [Mr. Zhang Ying Hao, this is nothing but the annual anti-fire circuitry inspection, please do not be surprised]

"What a terrible excuse..." Zhang Ying Hao mumbled.

Just now, Anna couldn't believe her eyes, but now she didn't believe her ears either.

After thinking for a bit, she asked hesitantly: "Just now, because you gave the orders, Impartial Goddess did... 'that'?"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Zhang Ying Hao also patted Gu Qing Shan on the shoulder and said: "That's right, our Ms. Impartial is this guy's love— his companion and friend"

Gu Qing Shan glared at him.

Zhang Ying Hao put both hands up, admitting his mistake.

Anna opened her eyes wide, then suddenly yelled: "Oh my god! So you're the Murder Clown!"

"That's wrong" Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

Zhang Ying Hao quickly fixed her misunderstanding and very grandly explained: "That's right, the Murder Clown is only his subordinate"

Anna stood there, stunned and only managed to mutter: "You guys..."

"We are the resistance against the Game of Eternal, welcome" Gu Qing Shan said.

Anna was not only shocked, she also had an expression of understanding like never before.

The entire world was currently under the fear casted by the Murder Clown, but none actually knows that the true culprit behind that is standing right here. And he's also the man that she's got her eyes on!

*So he's already this impressive huh.*

*—-is there anything else that he's able to do that I don't know?*

*Holding this much power, he really does have the ability to help me reclaim the Holy Empire. And the most important thing is, he's not lying to me.*

For the first time in a long time, Anna smiled brightly again, asking: "Everyone thought that the Murder Clown is the same as the Game of Eternal, something that came from the unknown. Who knew it was actually you that did it"

"After we deal with the Game of Eternal, I'll fulfill the promise I made to you" Gu Qing Shan said very seriously.

Anna's eyes sparkled, but didn't respond to that.

"Be assured, I have the ability to fulfill that promise" seeing her non-reaction, Gu Qing Shan added.

Looking at his expression, Anna's lips slowly curled into a smile.

"Then, what is our little team here called?" she asked.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao exchanged looks and saw the helplessness in each other's eyes.

Just naming the game has already driven the four of them mad, so they didn't have time to think about any team name yet.

Just like how Ye Fei Li said, they can't even introduce themselves properly.

"Hah— about that, we still don't have a name" Gu Qing Shan said, a bit uneasy.

*They don't even have a name yet?* Anna was a bit surprised, then asked: "Who do we have in this team?"

"A very strong Man Killer Fiend..." Gu Qing Shan answered.

"...And a brilliant old pervert" Zhang Ying Hao added.

Anna glared at the two of them, then pursued further: "Do we have a place to stay?"

Not knowing why, both Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao sighed from relief.

"Rest assured, we have an HQ" Gu Qing Shan answered very firmly.

"Right, usually we stay in the sky" Zhang Ying Hao added.

"When we need to rest, we come back down to eat and rest" Gu Qing Shan added more.

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Anna feels that they were becoming more and more unreliable, but continued to ask patiently: "Except for what you said before, what does this team actually get together to do exactly?"

""Making a game"" both of them answered at the same time.

Anna almost felt her head explode from anger, but saw their dead serious expression, she held it down.

But she still angrily complained: "Hah, why do I feel so uneasy about this ——fine, I think I need something to drink first before I can try understanding you guys"

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao were both caught off guard.

“There’s a new member joining you, wouldn’t you normally gather around, drink a little something as a celebration?” Anna raised her eyebrows and questioned.

“Ah, so we should, erm ——so do you drink tea or coffee?” Zhang Ying Hao agreed, nodded and stood up to brew something.

Anna ignored him, instead turning to look at Gu Qing Shan.

“The emperor still hasn’t sent the wine over...” Gu Qing Shan hesitantly answered.

Anna clenched her fist, about to burst.

Luckily, Impartial Goddess interrupted them: [There’s an open bar on the third floor]

“You two wait here, I’ll go get some alcohol” Gu Qing Shan instantly got up and left.

I didn’t prepare any alcohol despite knowing that Anna was here, that really was a mistake.

“I’ll go get some glasses” Zhang Ying Hao left with him.

The door closed.

The silence took over the room, Anna contemplated for a very long time, but still shook her head without understanding.

“Making a game? Seriously, what does that mean?”

Gu Qing Shan was headed to the open bar, talking with Zhang Ying Hao on the way.

“What sort of alcohol does the princess drink? Fruit cider? Champagne? Red wine?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“No, she drinks strong alcohols, whatever we can drink, she can also, and she’s a better drinker than both of us” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Suddenly, the Holo-Brain in his breast pocket lit up.

Impartial Goddess spoke: [Sir, there’s something I’m not sure if I should report to you]

“So there’s still something that you can’t confidently decide for yourself?” Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

[Because this is a personal issue] Impartial Goddess answered.

“Whose?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[The President] Impartial Goddess replied.

“There’s something with his health?” Gu Qing Shan quickly asked.

[There isn’t] Impartial Goddess answered.

“As long as he’s healthy there’s no problem. I don’t really like to peek at other people’s private affairs” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

Then he stopped.

“Actually, tell me, what’s the issue?” Gu Qing Shan was actually a bit interested.

[The President seems to be suffering from short-term memory loss recently, quite a few important issues require my assistance to complete] Impartial Goddess explained.

“Short-term memory loss?” Gu Qing Shan felt it a bit strange.

[That is correct, he only recalls matters that happened within the last 3 years clearly]

“What about before that?”

[I feel that he’s forgotten a lot of things]

“How long has this went on?”

[Five days]

“That’s not a very long time, assign him a professional doctor. The level of medicine in our Confederate has fixed the issues of Alzheimer’s and other old-people mental diseases long ago. No need for you to get his permission, just assigning him a doctor is fine” Gu Qing Shan was relieved and said.

[Yes]

“If that doesn’t work, immediately report to me” Gu Qing Shan added.

[Yes sir] Impartial Goddess replied.

## **Chapter 202**

A bit later in the day, Gu Qing Shan, Anna and Zhang Ying Hao returned to the mountain-top mansion.

“My god! My God! I’ve seen the news, but this is still very unbelievable!” Liao Xing active went to open the door.

He stared at princess Anna, carefully scanned over her beautiful face, then peered all over her gorgeous figure.

He held a rare expression of excitement and declared very loudly: “Princess Anna, your Royal Highness, I shall be your proud protector knight, you can make yourself at home in this humble manor”

“This is my mansion you know” Zhang Ying Hao spoke with annoyance.

Liao Xing ignored him, very gallantly bowed down and held out his hand.

This was perfect hand kissing etiquette of the Holy Empire, except he was supposed to have waited until Anna extend her hand first before trying to take it.

“Pardon me but, this person is?” Anna didn’t immediately put out her hand, instead asking Gu Qing Shan in a low voice.

Before Gu Qing Shan could say anything, Zhang Ying Hao had already explained: “The old pervert we told you about before”



“Ah, then nice to meet you” Anna decided against putting her hand out and smiled.

Liao Xing still kept his posture, as if he wouldn't let go if he didn't get to kiss her hand.

He kept going: “Your Highness, you truly are very beautiful, please allow me to help clean your room and your clothes from now on, I guarantee I'll always do an exceptional job!”

“My room and my clothes?” Anna asked.

“Yes, as your faithful servant, please be assured and allow me to take care of them for you” Liao Xing quickly said.

Anna knitted her brows tightly.

Gu Qing Shan felt his head hurt, about to open his mouth to stop this, but Anna stopped him.

“A servant are you? Very well” Anna squints her eyes, “but if you ever dare to enter my room or touch my clothes, then...”

She casually grabbed the door handle, melted it into a ball of metal, then molded it into a long and intricate metal drill.

As she held it in her hand, the drill got heated so much it was glowing red.

The air was even being bent by the high heat of the drill.

Holding the drill in front of herself, Anna traced it across her tongue before finishing the other half of her sentence.

“...I will personally have you know how it feels to have this drilled into your body”

She was emitting an intense and dangerous pressure.

Liao Xing was shocked stiff.

A cold breeze blew through.

Staring at the glowing hot metal drill, Liao Xing couldn't help but tremble.

His expression changed instantly and very solemnly said: “Your Royal Highness, no person in this world dares to touch your belongings. I swear with my honor, there would be no one in this place that shall ever infringe on your dignity”

“That's great, then we'll have a perfectly fine cohabitation”

Saying so, Anna molded the drill back into the door knob and reattached it.

They went inside.

“Where's Ye Fei Li?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“He left again shortly after coming back, said he'll be killing some more” Liao Xing answered.

“That's great, very hard working of him” Gu Qing Shan praised.

“Killing? You encourage your team members to murder?” Anna asked, very confused.

“Ah, right, he’s the world’s strongest Man Killer Fiend, so he needs to kill to increase his strength”

“So you’re saying we stand on the side of the Man Killer Fiends?” Anna questioned further.

“No, no, no, that’s not correct either”

Gu Qing Shan spend the time to clear all her misunderstandings.

“What you’re saying is that the strongest Man Killer Fiend on the world is the one acting at the Murder Clown, then what about this old pervert?” Anna pointed at Liao Xing.

“His name is Liao Xing” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“The Liao Xing from 30 years ago? He doesn’t look like him at all” Anna didn’t expect to hear that.

“It’s him, Impartial Goddess had his appearance changed”

“Mr. Zhang Ying Hao, I know that you and Gu Qing Shan are good friends, but I still don’t know what you do exactly” Anna looked towards Zhang Ying Hao and asked, her tone head a bit more respect than before.

Zhang Ying Hao threw a coin over.

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Anna caught and looked at it.

Depicted on the coin was an eye with a vertical iris and a number 0 on the back.

Anna instantly recognized the coin’s origin and exclaimed in shock: “The Hunter’s Association No.0, so you’re their boss”

“That’s me indeed” Zhang Ying Hao answered.

Throwing the coin back to him, Anna nodded in contemplation.

“Seems like you’re not just a team of frauds” she spoke.

“Of course not, and I welcome your participation” Gu Qing Shan smiled and spoke.

“What do you need me to do? I’ll say this first, I only know how to fight” Anna asked.

“It’s something to do with the game, I need you to help with changing the power standard of this world from now on” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Power standard? What do you mean by that?” Anna asked with intrigue.

“Do you remember the power standard for Elementalist?”

“Don’t look down on my like that, I already memorized them all you know”

“Is that so? Please elaborate then”

Anna recalled for a bit then quickly spoke: “Normally, all elements have 5 stages”

“Earth element, first stage Movement, second stage Entrapment, third stage Landslide, fourth stage Summon Stars, fifth stage Collapse of All”

“Metal element, first stage Razor Sharp, second stage Metal Thread, third stage Howling Steel, fourth stage World Divisor, fifth stage Weapons Creation”

“Wood element, first stage Life Force, second stage True Poison, third stage The Plague, fourth stage Suffering Souls, fifth stage Life Creation”

“Water element, first stage Water Control, second stage Frost Mist, third stage Return to Silence, fourth stage Unlife, fifth stage Sealed”

“Fire element, first stage Ember, second stage Flame, third stage Magma, fourth stage Burning Sun, fifth stage World’s End”

Anna continued proudly: “And I’m a Burning Sun stage Elementalist”

Gu Qing Shan spoke: “You’re an Elementalist that also has a God’s Chosen Skill. A very good example of a Professionalist, so I want you to learn a few things from me for the sake of a demonstration later on”

“Learn something from you?”

“Hm, what I teach you will have a lot of impact on your personal strength, so it’s a win-win” Gu Qing Shan very sincerely said.

Anna showed a smiling expression, crossed her arms and looked at Gu Qing Shan.

“Dummy, beat me first, then we’ll talk about who teaches who”

Before she even finished, she felt a chill.

A sword was placed squarely at her neck, cold and merciless.

Anna blinked a few times, tracing the blade back to the sword hilt in Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: “You are very strong, and very talented indeed, but you’ve never really went through formal training. No one in this world has ever went through formal training, that’s why I want to teach you about that first”

“That’s not right, I was just letting my guard down, let’s go again”

“Very well” Gu Qing Shan retract his sword.

Anna’s entire body let out an intense heat, creating a Blade of fire in her hand.

“Now, let’s see who teaches who!” she said.

Her neck felt cold, the sword was softly placed at her neck again.

Anna was stunned.

Holding the sword, Gu Qing Shan slowly explained: “Your power isn’t backed up by appropriate energy, plus you’re standing too close to me, so I could’ve easily kill you numerous times over in a single minute”

“How did you do that?” Anna asked.

“If you’re willing to learn from me, you can also grasp such a simple trick”

“Hmph, I wasn’t using my full power just now” Anna was still unconvinced.

She looked around, then said as if provoking: “It’s not very convenient here, how about we take it outside?”

“That’s fine, the first thing you need to know is what the source of power is like anyways” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

They walked outside.

As they opened the door, Ye Fei Li had just landed.

“What’s going on?” he looked at Anna, then at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan introduced the two of them, then told Ye Fei Li: “You can go rest first, we’re just going to spar for a little bit and go back quickly”

“A fight? Can I watch?” Ye Fei Li was interested.

“Do as you like”

Saying so, the three of them left.

Zhang Ying Hao and Liao Xing exchanged looks, then also followed.

### **Chapter 203**

An empty field just outside the mansion.

Gu Qing Shan and Anna stood a few dozen meters away, facing each other.

Anna crossed her arms and spoke: “How about this, whichever one of us wins gets to teach the other how to cultivate”

“That’s fine” Gu Qing Shan said.

“I’ve never once thought about taking you as a disciple” Anna couldn’t help but smile, “but thinking about it now, that’s also quite an interesting thing to do”

She let out flames all around her body and shouted: “Manifest!”

A long black scythe appeared in her hand.

“I will ——”

Before Anna could finish, she already felt a chill on her neck.

Looking down, she saw the same sword was placed squarely on her neck again, while Gu Qing Shan was standing behind her.

——almost in an instant, Gu Qing Shan had moved to where she was and attacked.

Anna stood stunned.

“No, just now I was focused on talking, we’re going again” she was still unconvinced.

“Alright then” Gu Qing Shan walked back.

They both stood facing each other.

Anna drew the scythe again, as an invisible wave spreads around the area.

Three skeletons covered in black flames jumped out from the wave.

Anna was still not assured, so she touched the scythe to the ground and shouted softly: “Flaming Death!”

Boom!

The black flame manifested into a large black skull that covered her inside.

“Come, this time it’s serious” Anna said.

Gu Qing Shan jumped forward, suddenly both him and the sword turned into a white crescent slash, slicing through the air in an elegant manner.

Kchak!

All three skeletons fell to pieces with a single sound as the fierce slash passed them by.

“God of Death! From within the flames, I call you ——!”

Seeing the situation wasn’t favorable, Anna clasped her hands together into a praying position.

The giant black skull that covered her began to shake and rose up.

——the terrifying figure was about to appear.

But a sword had already reached Anna’s neck through the black flames, once again placed just barely touching her skin.

In just a few breaths, the winner had already been decided.

Anna stood stock still.

The black skull that surrounded her also dissipated.

The other three were also stunned.

“How is that possible, the legendary Flaming Death hasn’t even gotten the chance to show its strength and she’s already lost...” Zhang Ying Hao mumbled in disbelief.

This is Anna we’re talking about here, there’s very few in the world that’s stronger than she is.

The highest level dark-type summoning God’s Chosen Skill, together with her Burning Sun stage Fire Element, a mix between dark and fire makes for a very powerful combination.

But this combination didn't have time to even start up when facing Gu Qing Shan.

He won in such a strange manner.

"Tch, this guy is still using the exact same annoying tactics as before, I also felt it when I fought him. No matter how much strength I had, I wasn't able to use it" Ye Fei Li exclaimed full of emotions.

Anna was finally convinced.

She's only a bit stubborn, not stupid.

If it was a real battle of life and death, Gu Qing Shan would've killed her who knows how many times over.

Pulling back all the black flame around herself, Anna asked in surprise: "Just how did you kill all three of my black flame skeletons, I didn't even have time to follow up for them"

Seeing her surrender, Gu Qing Shan silently sighed from relief.

*Anna is a bit too strong, so it's lucky that I had Ground Shrink, otherwise if the battle had dragged on, I wouldn't have been able to hold back, and possibly hurt her.*

"Because the power I use comes from the essence of the world, while your flame skeletons are essenceless flames, it's very easy to put them out" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"Essenceless flame..." Anna was instantly able to grasp the important details and asked: "If it's as you said, then what exactly is a flame with essence?"

Gu Qing Shan put his hand on her shoulder and said: "You can try using that skill again"

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Anna listened and tried, Gu Qing Shan timed it perfectly and infused Anna with his spirit energy

Poof! Poof! Poof! Poof! Poof!

Five black flame skeletons appeared from thin air, they didn't look as bare as they did before, their bodies and their bones were much more sturdy, they even manifested armor on their upper half as well as weapons in their hands.

As the black flame skeletons touched the ground, they looked around for a bit before gathering in front of Anna.

They were extremely animated, as if they actually were sentient.

"It's such a miraculous feeling, as if there's an endless source of power for me to draw from" feeling inside her body, Anna spoke with surprise.

"Right, that's called spirit energy" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"What is spirit energy?"

"It's a type of power ———one that can support your use of skills" Gu Qing Shan explained, "Professionists are like mechanical engines that keeps on upgrading itself. But because there isn't a

sufficient fuel system to support it, they're unable to keep on fighting for a long time"  
"Let's try again, this time, I'll fully release my spirit energy"

"Very well"

Anna once again swung her scythe and cut at the air.

Gu Qing Shan this time circulated spirit energy from all around his body and infused it into her.

Space started to let out a dull humming sound, as the sound of skeletons appearing continued.

One, two, three...

A total of over 30 black flame skeletons appeared on the ground.

Such a force could actually wipe out a small camp in a war.

"How is this possible..." Anna exclaimed in disbelief.

With her abilities, the most she could manage when fully concentrating should be only 4 skeletons.

"This is your true ability" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Why is there such a vast difference?" Anna asked.

"Because I infused my spirit energy into your skill for you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"If spirit energy infusion your God's Chosen Skill?"

"No, spirit energy is the most basic force in the world, the purest form of energy that anyone can learn to use"

Gu Qing Shan continued to explain: "Elementalist, God's Chosen, or even Martial Thaumaturgy, everything requires spirit energy as fuel to truly show its power"

Anna stayed silent, then said: "I've never heard of such a thing before..."

"Have any of you ever heard of spirit energy?" she looked and questioned the other three.

All of them shook their heads, Zhang Ying Hao answered: "This is also the first time we've heard of it"

Gu Qing Shan said: "You can't be blamed for that, since the entire world knows so little about the force driving their power after all"

Anna asked: "Can I really learn how to use spirit energy?"

"Of course, I'll teach you how to feel spirit energy later" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Then, do we need to have you become our master too?" Zhang Ying Hao butted in.

Gu Qing Shan quickly waved his hand: "No need, I won't be your Shifu, and I won't take you guys as my disciples"

"I can't teach you my abilities, but I can teach you other things that fit you better and still allow you to understand the use of spirit energy"

"Why don't you take us as disciples?" Anna was more interested in this part.

“Because I haven’t talked to my Shifu about this, so I can’t do it” Gu Qing Shan answered very seriously.

Taking in a disciple is a very serious matter for a sect.

Secretly taking in a disciple and teaching them the scriptures of the sect before getting permission from their Shifu is a great taboo in the cultivation world.

If someone were to do that, they will be subjected to the harshest punishment from the sect.

This is an iron-clad rule that’s agreed upon by the entire world of cultivation.

Although Bai Hua Fairy is very soft on her disciples so Gu Qing Shan wouldn’t be punished too badly even if he does something wrong, Gu Qing Shan himself as a person doesn’t want to make Bai Hua Fairy disappointed.

“You have a Shifu?” Anna asked hesitantly.

“That’s right” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“If your Shifu strong?” Zhang Ying Hao was intrigued.

“Even if all the most powerful people in the world gather in one place, she wouldn’t need to use more than one hand to beat them all” Gu Qing Shan praised.

The four people exchanged looks, finding this very hard to believe.

“Your... this place isn’t broken right?” Liao Xing pointed at his head.

“Of course not” Gu Qing Shan glared at him.

Ye Fei Li suddenly said: “I believe him”

The three other people looked at him.

“He’s such a fierce guy, if he didn’t have an even fiercer master, how would they teach him?” Ye Fei Li said without a shred of doubt.

## **Chapter 204**

Gu Qing Shan brought the topic back and said: “It’s not just teaching you to use spirit energy, there’s another very important thing to do, and that’s to re-standardize the level of power”

“How do you want to do that?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“We’ll use the degree of usage of spirit energy as a way to standardize power”

“The current power system is also quite useful; do you want to just discard it all?”

“No, if we were to use Fire Element as an example, with the first stage being Ember, second stage Flame, third stage Magma, fourth stage Burning Sun, fifth stage World’s End. These are the standard for the Skills that a Professionalist is able to use”

“But the level of Skills that a person is able to use doesn’t necessarily tell their whole strength, it doesn’t encompass a person’s full fighting power. Once everyone had gotten used to spirit energy, the previous scales will no longer be a base of comparison, instead used as a subclass to divide fighting strength”



“So the main method of categorization would still be spirit energy”

He explained: “The reason is that the more spirit energy a person is able to use, the more powerful their attacks will be”

“If a cultivator reaches the appropriate level on their spirit energy usage, even if they’re only mediocre with their God’s Chosen, Martial Arts or Elements, they’re still able to casually beat those that are lower-levelled than them”

“Let’s say, two people who are both Elementalists at Burning Sun stage, the one that is able to use spirit energy will easily defeat the other without any doubt”

“The way that Professionals are ranked at the moment aren’t exactly strict and reliable, but the ability to use spirit energy will always represent a certain level of fighting power, so we’ll need to use spirit energy as the base for power standard from now on” he concluded.

Hearing that, Zhang Ying Hao was already boiling with excitement and couldn’t wait to ask: “Then can we learn it?”

“Of course” Gu Qing Shan smiled and said.

While they were talking, Gu Qing Shan’s Holo-Brain suddenly lit up.

[Sir, there’s 40 minutes left until the Game of Eternal starts again] Impartial Goddess reminded them.

“It’s almost been 12 hours?”

[Yes]

“Very well, we’ll stop here for now, everyone pack-up, we’re about to leave” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Where are we going?” Anna asked.

“The S.W. Divine Temple Interstellar Fortress”

“...”

“Ye Fei Li, help me out a bit” Liao Xing yelled out.

“Fine” Ye Fei Li answered.

Shortly after, Ye Fei Li carried a trunk out, while Liao Xing packed a small backpack.

“What’s in there?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Some snacks, some spices, there’s also my personal pillow and massaging tools. Hey, don’t look at me like that, the mission to create a miniature warp device isn’t easy, I have to maintain myself you know” Liao Xing spoke.

Anna directly asked Gu Qing Shan for a small-sized Interstellar Warship to pack her stuff.

“How does one person use so much stuff?” Ye Fei Li couldn’t understand at all.

Anna looked at him in surprise, saying: “I’m only bringing the bare necessities you know”

Gu Qing Shan looked at them all and shook his head helplessly.

Suddenly, Zhang Ying Hao tapped him on the shoulder and whispered: "I just got a 40-year old bottle of Royal Fireworks from the auction house"

Gu Qing Shan's eyes lit up, whispering back: "Are you bringing it?"

"If I go get it, Ye Fei Li would notice. The only thing he drinks is the price, I'm afraid he'll chug it all down in one gulp if he knows it"

"In your wine cellar?"

"Yeah"

"I'll go"

Saying so, he made way towards the mansion as well.

About half an hour later, when they were all gathered on the S.W. Divine Temple Interstellar Fortress, the Game of Eternal was just about to begin.

The old voice was heard once again.

『 People of the world 』

『 The Apocalypse has come, calamities erupting all over the world, your fate is no better than an ant in a tsunami. Insignificantly small and not in your control 』

『 Do you want to change your fate? 』

『 Struggle, keep on moving forward among the bloodshed, as only the strong has the right to survive 』

『 If you wish to become eternal, then challenge it. Once you succeed, you shall gain immense strength! 』

Suddenly, the old voice changed its tone.

『 But there is a clown, a pest that won't stop at anything to obstruct humanity's reach towards eternal life, shattering humanity's only hope of escaping from the apocalypse, massacring our innocent warriors 』

『 We will definitely not stand for this behavior! 』

『 To restore order to the Game's challenges, to ensure the safety of our champions' lives, I hereby declare, the Game of Eternal shall begin its update 』

『 The update time is currently unpredictable, estimated to take anywhere from one to three days 』

『 Once the game finishes its update, all our challengers may immediately enter the game and enjoy our newest features 』

After saying that much, the old voice disappeared.

Everyone was stunned.

Nobody expected things to turn out like this.

"What is it doing?" Zhang Ying Hao was confused.

“I’m afraid it’s gathering its power” Gu Qing Shan made a guess.

“In the game community, we call this ‘charging the Ult’” Ye Fei Li tried comparing it.

...

The Freedom Confederate.

Chang Ning County.

Lake Island.

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A huge banquet.

Night had fallen, the clouds darken, the wind was blowing ever stronger, but the atmosphere inside the large banquet hall was beginning to heat up.

There were many famous people here, happily dining and discussing among themselves.

After the night banquet, the most famous orchestra in the Confederate started to play.

The ball that everyone has been anticipating begun.

The musicians played their instruments very carefully, keeping the volume just enough that everyone can hear it, but not enough to interrupt their talks.

Occasionally, a male noble will come to a certain female noble, bowed to etiquette, wait for them to return with a curtsy and join each other in a dance.

Quite a few handsome faces didn’t immediately go and ask for a dance, instead opting to wait and watch.

They were looking for the main protagonist of today’s ball.

However, she wasn’t here.

She was outside the banquet hall, at a secluded place in the mansion, deep within Lake Island. An empty and lonely outdoor training ground.

Su Xue Er was sitting alone at the outer ring of the training ground.

No one was around, no one but her Blazing Angel silently stood next to her.

Su Xue Er didn’t want to participate in the ball, so she sat here by herself, blankly staring at her Holo-Brain.

She watched what was on the screen with intrigue.

Her sight was straight, staring intensely at the headline.

The Capital’s International Conference Center.

Fuxi Emperor’s lavish banquet.

Anna was smiling beautifully, holding Gu Qing Shan’s hand while making their way towards the Emperor.

Su Xue Er had paused the footage on the Holo-Brain, stopping right at that scene for a very long time.

“Blazing Angel, I have a question” she spoke.

[Madam Su Xue Er, please ask] the Blazing Angel responded.

“Can you connect to Impartial Goddess?”

[Normally, I do not connect to the Goddess, but if you make a formal request, I can attempt to connect to her] the Blazing Angel answered.

“Then please, contact the Goddess for me, I have something to ask”

[Yes]

A few moments later, a solemn and melodious female voice was heard.

[I am Impartial Goddess, Confederate Aristocrat lady Su Xue Er, as per your request, I have made my way to the Lake Island]

“Impartial Goddess, I want to ask you something” Su Xue Er said.

[Confederate Aristocrat Su Xue Er is a mainline member of the 9 Lords, as well as a person of interest per Confederate Leader sir Gu Qing Shan’s request, I shall do my best to answer your question]

“What is Qing Shan ge doing right now?”

[Sir Gu Qing Shan’s current work is listed as top-secret; I cannot reveal it. I suggest Su Xue Er ask him directly, this would be the best solution]

“It’s because I’m afraid to ask him that I’m asking you” Su Xue Er sighed.

She silently thought for a bit, then asked: “Why did princess Anna and Qing Shan ge appear together?”

[I believe that is part of their mutual agreement when they entered a professional relationship as business partners] Impartial Goddess casually answered.

“A professional relationship?”

Hearing that, Su Xue Er felt her entire body came back to life.

She quickly pursued: “What kind of business?”

[Anna had joined sir Gu Qing Shan’s team]

Impartial Goddess continued: [In light of your and sir Gu Qing Shan’s relationship, I have answered a question that exceeds your authority]

“She joined Qing Shan ge’s team?” Su Xue Er thought for a bit, then questioned further: “What does Qing Shan ge’s team do?”

[Top-secret, I cannot reveal it] Impartial Goddess spoke.

Su Xue Er contemplated a bit, then said: “Using my status as the eldest daughter in the mainline of a 9 Lords family, I request to see the Holy Empire’s princess Anna’s personal profile”

[Request accepted]

## Chapter 205

Anna's picture and her profile appears on the Holo-Brain.

Su Xue Er stared at them for a while, muttering: "She's been a 4th stage Elementalist much longer than I. She have a Mystic-type God's Chosen Skill, her status is higher than mine..."

"And she even saved my life"

Su Xue Er shook her head painfully, mumbling to herself: "I really can't compare to her at all"

Tears started to drop down together with her every word.

"Not only is she stronger, she could directly go find Qing Shan ge if she wanted to..."

"Right now, I can't even leave home"

"Ah, what a failure..."

At this time, a hurried female voice was heard calling her from afar.

"The entire young generation of the 9 Lords are waiting for you, yet you're hiding here"

Madame Su was slightly lifting her skirt to run, carrying a worried expression on her face.

"Xue Er, you're an adult now, don't be so childish"

Su Xue Er wiped her tears and said: "I'm not being childish, mother"

Madame Su pursued: "Then tell me, why aren't you willing to come out to meet everyone?"

Su Xue Er refused to listen to her, still staring at the screen, unconsciously brought her eyes back to the frozen news footage.

Her eyes were fixed on Anna and Gu Qing Shan, unmoving.

Her mother waited for a while, but got impatient from not receiving an answer from her daughter.

"Xue Er, if you won't come out, I'll cut your cards, that way you won't be able to help those dirty poor people anymore"

Su Xue Er shut off her Holo-Brain and stared back at her mother.

"Mother, what are you thinking?" She asked.

"What am I thinking? That's what I'm supposed to ask you!" Madame Su spoke with annoyance, "All the most influential talents of the 9 Lords are right here, lining up for you to pick, but you wouldn't come out"

"They're here for nothing but the Blazing Angel, the Blazing Angel is Qing Shan ge's masterpiece, yet you're still looking down on Qing Shan ge, why is that?" Su Xue Er asked in confusion.

"Hah... I'm not looking down on him, it's just that you must marry into a mainline of the 9 Lords"

"Why?"

Madame Su was avoiding this topic instinctively: "The people that your father and I invited here are all people who support us, if we're able to enter an in-law relationship with them, they'll support your father to become the next head of the Su family"

"Mother, you'll disappoint Grandfather if you do that"

"Don't mention that old coot, how is he still alive right now, what a drag" Madame Su complained.

Su Xue Er stood up, walking step by step to face Madame Su and said: "Mother, I have a proposal"

"You have a proposal? Ha ha, please, I've learnt how to manipulate people since before you actually know what's left and right"

"It's precisely because of that that there's something you've still don't understand"

Madame Su evaluated her daughter, feeling that she's a bit different from normal.

Su Xue Er continued: "You are looking for support from outsiders left and right, but you keep forgetting the most important thing"

"What's that?" Madame Su's face changed.

"If you yourselves are strong enough, you wouldn't need to sell your daughter for the sake of power"

Madame Su spoke very seriously: "What are you saying! What do you mean selling our daughter! We only want to best for you"

"The best for me?"

"Of course" due to her hurriedness, Madame Su's tone was quickening: "Your father will soon take control of the Su family, and you, as the most desired dame in Aristocrat, will get to marry any of the most influential members of the 9 Lord's family, what's not good about that?"

Su Xue Er fiercely argued back: "I can't even pick what I want to do, what's so good about that?"

Madame Su was a bit angry, loudly shouted back: "Think about it, how many dames in the history of the Aristocrat has the right to choose between any of the entire 9 Lords mainline members, what are you still unhappy about?"

"At that point, we Su family will become the most influential of all the 9 Lords!"

"No, mother, you're possessed by power, all this 'authority' is nothing but an illusion, they mean nothing"

Su Xue Er shook her head and continued: "The two of you have no actual talent aside from knowing how to manipulate people, and your own cultivation is mediocre, that's why Grandfather is still hesitating whether or not to let you inherit the title of family head"

Madame Su laughed pridefully at that: "Unfortunately, in our Su family mainline, the only one left is your father, his only son, even if the old man wants to search the entire family tree to find someone else, there's no time for him to follow the entire process now"

Su Xue Er nodded, angrily snapped back: "Is that so! Fine, I'll just go visit Grandfather!"

Su Xue Er ignored all of Madame Su's shouting and directly left the training ground.

Walking past the courtyard, she passed by the banquet hall and the rowdy bunch of people, ignoring all the men walking up to speak to her on the way.

"Elder sister, where are you going?"

A man walked up and grabbed her wrist.

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Su Xue Er looked back to see it was her father's second wife's son, her younger half-brother, Su Wen.

"I'm going to meet Grandfather, on the other hand, in a situation like this, isn't your actions a bit crude?" Su Xue Er frowned at him.

Su Wen let go, smiling while apologizing: "It's just that you wouldn't show up no matter what, so my friends have been waiting for so long"

He pointed at the Aristocratic young masters behind him.

"Just come with me and meet the others, after all, they're all here to see you"

"No, I have something else to do"

Su Xue Er turned to leave.

"Don't ask for a punishment when you've gotten an invitation, elder sister" Su Wen put his hands in his pocket and casually said: "If you won't come, all the girls that you've saved, I'll just go throw them randomly somewhere"

Su Xue Er stopped.

She slowly turned around to look at her younger half-brother.

Su Wen turned and smiled at the people behind him, gesturing that it's been taken care of.

"Elder sister, come with me"

Su Wen took two steps backward.

Su Xue Er stayed silent and didn't move.

Su Wen was a bit impatient, came back and said: "Right now it's just a few conversations and a few dances with them, just what are you hesitating about?"

Su Xue Er still didn't move.

Suddenly, she reached her hand up and touched her head.

As if she was reminding herself of another moment, when someone was softly touching her head like that.

"How strange, mother is like this, and you're also like this"

Su Xue Er suddenly said.

She was shaking her head, as if to refuse to accept something.

“Just because I save the poor, you think you can use that to control me? Aren’t we family?”

Su Wen laughed, then gestured behind himself.

A servant came up.

“Young master”

“Hm, you’re the one that discovered this, so you get to do this. Lead a few people, go and escort those girls to that nice place”

Su Wen turned to look at Su Xue Er: “Do it until our Lady here agrees to come meet with my friends”

Su Xue Er spoke blankly: “Brother, why do you have to force me?”

“You’re the one that forced me”

Su Wen felt triumphant, laughing proudly and ordered: “Go, do it immediately”

The servant was about to leave.

Bam!

A loud cracking sound, as blood spilled all over the pure white ground, shocking everyone.

The pristine Su family’s main hall that hasn’t even had a speck of dirt for generations was soaked in blood at this very moment.

The servant had a large hole opened in his chest, fell down backwards and died.

The ball burst into an uproar.

Su Xue Er pulled back her hand as tears silently dripped down.

“Why did you all have to force me?” She once again muttered.

Su Wen was stunned.

He has never seen his sister fight before, and he knows for a fact that she hasn’t killed anything or anyone before.

And yet, she killed a person right in front of everyone just like that.

Su Xue Er covered her face with her hand, silently cried to herself for a short moment.

Once she managed to stop sniffing and revealed her brilliant facial features again, she no longer carried any hint of sorrow.

## **Chapter 206**

“Since I’ve already killed someone, I’m not afraid to kill anymore” Su Xue Er muttered to herself.



Su Wen couldn't help but took a few steps back.

Su Xue Er turned her head to look at Su Wen.

"Brother, perhaps you've forgotten, I'm a 4th stage Wind Elementalist"

"What could possibly make you think that I would do as you like?"

"Is it because we're related by blood that you think I won't hurt you?"

"But if blood relations are really that effective, then why do all of you treat me like this?"

The entire banquet went silent.

Everyone stared at Su Xue Er and the corpse on the ground.

"You —You're a lady of Su family, yet you killed someone in front of everybody —"

Su Wen's expression had already changed several times, this completely isn't the sister that he remembers, the sister that's kind-hearted and easy to manipulate.

He took a few more steps back, shaking.

"As the Lady of Su family, what's really unbecoming is not acting despite being threatened"

Su Xue Er continued to speak, seemingly fallen into a strange state of mind.

"Why would you have this illusion that I'm easy to push around?"

"Because my academic records have always been good? Or because I like to support the poor? Or because normally I don't ever do anything except to cultivate myself?" she muttered.

Then she headed towards Su Wen.

Su Wen's teeth were clanking against themselves in fear, when he took a few more steps backward, he fell, and resorted to crawling away.

"What are you doing!"

A dignified male voice was heard.

When they turned back to look, the one they saw was Su family's pillar, Su Xue Er's father, Su Wen Sheng.

"Xue Er, what's going on here? Why did you kill someone in front of everybody!" he coldly shouted.

Su Xue Er looked at her father and casually answered: "Because a mere servant dared to threaten me and have me do as he ordered"

Su Xue Er's father stood blankly, unable to say anything back.

He only just came here so he didn't know the situation was like this.

He originally wanted to use the scolding to gloss over his daughter's wrongdoings, but seems like it wasn't as simple as he thought.

Su Wen Sheng looked at the body on the ground.

———*this is the second wife's subordinate.*  
*How dare she reach for my daughter, despicable!*

Feeling intense anger welling up, he gestured to his subordinate.

Very quickly, people came up to clean the body and the blood, returning the banquet hall to normal, like nothing happened.

All the aristocrats also nodded to smooth it over.

“Well, well, it’s just a small matter after all, Xue Er did the right thing”  
“That’s right, such a daring servant, our family would’ve clubbed him to death long ago”  
“Lady Xue Er certainly does carry the air of true nobility”

Su Wen Sheng nodded to Su Xue Er and gestured for her to come with him.

They left the banquet hall, walked past numerous rooms and finally arrived at Su Wen Sheng’s reading room.

The door was tightly closed behind them.

Su Wen Sheng angrily spoke: “No matter what you want to do, it’s fine if it’s a family matter, but to do that in front of everyone, do you still want to marry or not?”

Su Xue Er looked down and asked: “So father also wants me to marry out? I’m a very powerful Professionalist you know; father doesn’t mind giving me to other people?”

Su Wen Sheng was surprised, then seemed to understand something.

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His expression loosened, his tone also became a bit warmer: “I’m not saying that you have to marry out, but this is what your mother wants. She feels like a girl like you getting her happy ending sooner is better”

“As parents, of course we hope that you’ll have a good future ahead of you”

Hearing that, Su Xue Er looked up at her father.

She couldn’t help but ask: “Gu Qing Shan is a Confederate state scientist, even princess Anna likes him, why do you still insist on not accepting such a person?”

“Foolish daughter, his technology belongs to the Confederate, under controlled usage by Impartial Goddess, even we can’t obtain it easily”

Su Wen Sheng’s eyes then became crafty: “But the Mech he created is in your hand, the technology can easily be dismantled and reversed engineered”

“Which means, he himself isn’t important”

Su Xue Er hurriedly said: “But he has room to improve, he’ll achieve even more in the future, he’ll gain even greater recognition”

“Just who can be sure about the future? He’s just a normal person, he has no authority!”

“Is authority really so important?” Su Xue Er bit her lip.

Su Wen Sheng looked into his daughter’s beautiful face then suddenly sighed.

“Daughter of mine, without authority, your future is very bleak”

“Father, I don’t feel like gaining authority and getting together with him will be mutually exclusive”

Su Wen Sheng looked her his daughter, then remembered how she’s a 4th stage Elementalist and couldn’t help but agree with that.

He dejectedly leaned on his chair and casually spoke: “If you weren’t our Su family’s mainline daughter, I would definitely not stop you and allow you to marry Gu Qing Shan”

Hearing such a strange thing, Su Xue Er couldn’t help but opened her eyes wide and asked: “If I weren’t the mainline daughter? I don’t understand what you mean”

Su Wen Sheng stayed silent for a bit, then suddenly laughed: “That kid is also quite resilient to be able to live that long”

Su Xue Er’s face changed and hurriedly asked: “What do you mean by that? Who wants to kill him?”

“It’s not just ‘someone’, dear daughter” Su Wen Sheng sighed, “at the moment that he confessed to you, not just us, but any mainline of the 9 Lords will consider that to be a provocation and be hostile towards him”

“Why!?” Su Xue Er shouted.

“Because your husband, destined from birth, must be someone from the mainline of the 9 Lords” Su Wen Sheng answered.

“Destined from birth...?”

Su Xue Er slowly digested this information, but still couldn’t understand and stared at her father.

Su Wen Sheng shook his head, sighing.

*I’ve already told her so much, I might as well just tell her everything.*

“Daughter of mine, you also know about this, every mainline eldest daughter of the 9 Lords, according to our laws, can only marry another mainline 9 Lords”

Su Xue Er was stunned, then as she recalled the other eldest daughters of the 9 Lords in history, that truly is the case.

“No... no!” her face paled, “why would there be such a law?”

Su Wen Sheng paced back and forth in his room and angrily spoke: “Originally, this is only supposed to be told to you after you marry, but I’ll tell you this ahead of time so that you won’t elope with that brat”

“The mainlines of the 9 Lords can only marry each other as they reach maturity, using this to ensure that the 9 Lords’ common secret doesn’t gets leaked” Su Wen Sheng answered.

“What secret?”

“Even I don’t know what that secret is, only the main line members are allowed to know about it on the day that they inherit the position of family head”

“As far as I know, this secret has been protected for over 700 years”

“The secret has never been leaked? And you also don’t know about it?” Su Xue Er asked further.

“30 years ago, the Confederate’s most famous scientist Liao Xing was able to enter that secret’s location through warp technology”

“You mean, he succeeded?”

“No, he died the very next day” Su Wen Sheng shook his head, “his body was chopped into pieces, then burned, thrown away somewhere no one noticed”

## **Chapter 207**

Su Wen Sheng’s eyes glowed with desire, saying: “I also really want to know what the secret is. Fortunately, I’ll soon become a Lord myself”

Su Xue Er was contemplating and muttered: “No wonder there were so many ridiculously horrible Aristocrats but still managed to become a Lord, it’s because they were the mainline”

“The banquet we’re holding this time is for the sake of introducing you to a man that’s part of the 9 Lords’ mainlines, unfortunately, your heart was elsewhere”

“And now, I’ve told you everything”

“This is the fate of one born into a 9 Lords family, a fate that can never be violated”

“What happens if someone does?” Su Xue Er still couldn’t accept this and asked.

“The family head has the right to enforce it, and the other 8 Lords will also cooperate with them”

“For the sake of protecting this secret, even if they have to die, a member of the 9 Lords’ mainline must marry each other and no one else”

Su Xue Er was stunned, unable to regain her senses.

Su Wen Sheng sighed: “Give your Mech to the family, after the Lords have it thoroughly studied, you can bring it with you and marry into a Lord’s family, after which you’ll receive wealth like you’ve never seen before —enough for you to live your entire life lavishly from now on”

Su Xue Er bit her lip: “But I like Gu Qing Shan”

Su Wen Sheng showed an expression of understanding, speaking with a tone of one who has been through a lot: “Likes and hates are all temporary, as time goes on, you’ll understand. A single man is nothing compared to power and wealth”

“Listen to your father, give us the Mech, marry into a Lord’s family, it’s even better if you don’t like your future husband”

“It’s better?” Su Xue Er didn’t understand.

“Right, you’re a 4th stage Elementalist, plus you have the Blazing Angel Mech, after marrying in, your words will carry a certain amount of weight, you can slowly take control of the other family’s power,

then cooperate with me”

Su Wen Sheng held an expression of excitement, saying: “I’m about to become Su family’s head, and you, will hold the power in another Lord family, cooperate with me and create a magnificent Su family’s future”

Su Xue Er didn’t mention it before, but suddenly realized and asked: “How’s Grandfather right now?”

Su Wen Sheng was stunned from his grand delusion being interrupted, he was a bit impatient.

“He’s still under constant monitoring, but the doctors said his life is about to run out”

“I’ll go see him for a bit”

“...That’s fine, but remember your father’s words, father also wants nothing but the best for you” Su Wen Sheng spoke very sincerely.

Su Xue Er stared straight into her father’s expression and emphasized every word: “I will engrave them in my heart”

“Hm, the second wife dared to act against you, how despicable, you won’t need to worry about it anymore from now” remembering that, Su Wen Sheng became angry again.

Su Xue Er left the reading room and looked up at the sky.

The sky seems low, the black clouds gathered as a downpour was brewing.

She suddenly couldn’t help but smile wryly.

“For a secret, they’d force me to arbitrarily choose a husband?” she mumbled.

Not knowing why, the scene of Anna pulling Gu Qing Shan by his hand appeared in her mind again.

Su Xue Er pursed her lips right, as her deep dark eyes became blank, no one would be able to tell her thoughts and mood even if they looked.

She reached her hand up to touch her head.

A few minutes later.

She was standing outside a certain building.

This has been, for the last few dozen years, the center of the Su family’s power, as well as the Su family’s head Su Xing Chao’s living space.

Staring at the building, Su Xue Er hesitated, unable to knock on the door.

As the Su family was holding a grand banquet today, there’s barely anyone here, only the occasional nurse or caretaker.

Su Xue Er kept pacing back and forth, reaching for the door a few times, but stopped and dejectedly paced back.

She only needed to knock and a nurse would open the door for her, but she felt as if there was electricity rushing through, stopping her hands.

While she was unable to make a decision, a small delivery drone came and hovered where she was.

[Su Xue Er, your package] an electronic voice.

“From who?”

[From Gu Qing Shan]

“Ah!”

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Su Xue Er exclaimed, then quickly walked forward and took it.

The package was sealed quite tightly, and Su Xue Er was in too much of a hurry to find scissors.

A thin, green blade of wind appeared on her hands, cutting open the package with a gesture of her finger.

After opening, there was a box inside.

Su Xue Er couldn't wait to open the box, inside which she found a small booklet and a jade bottle.

The jade bottle was cool to the touch with a pristine white color, even with Su Xue Er's luxurious upbringing, she recognized this as something that's rare to come by.

Su Xue Er instantly grew attached to the jade bottle.

She couldn't help but smile, holding the jade bottle up and admired it for a while.

After a few minutes, she finally remembered there was a small booklet in there as well.

As she opened and skimmed over it, she saw they were all Gu Qing Shan's hand written notes.

A small card fell from the booklet.

Su Xue Er hurriedly pick it up.

There was something written on the card.

“Chang Ning county has been cleaned about five times over, tomorrow I will have people come over to make sure there aren't any more Man Killer Fiends there, that way, even if you're at home to train, you will still be able to get out for some fresh air”

“The Confederate's internal situation is gradually getting better, but make sure to listen to me and do not join the Game of Eternal, otherwise I'm in for a huge headache”

“Also, use one pill inside the jade bottle once every three days, the booklet is a method to cultivate, it's very important, so make sure to put your mind to it”

“Cultivate well, become strong quicker, the world of the future is bleak, so make sure you can protect yourself”

“Do your best!”

Su Xue Er held the card in her hand, read it over and over for more than 10 times, not noticing how tears were dripping down her cheeks.

She sniffled, wipe her tears and held the card close to her chest.

She carefully put everything away.

Looking up, she smiled brightly.

She finally has the courage, walked up to the building's door and knocked.

Then she walked in.

The medical room.

All sorts of apparatus and machines filled the room.

Many doctors and nurses stood on one side, while Su Xue Er walked in and sat down beside the bed.

Su Xing Chao was lying on the bed, feeble and weak.

His eyes were opened just enough to see a slit, but he didn't blink at all. Only staring at the ceiling, as if he was still regretting something, like he still has something that he still hasn't passed on so he was hesitant to go.

He breathed out, stopped, then finally breathed in again after a long while.

"Grandfather, I'm here to see you"

Su Xue Er gently lifted the old man's hands and held it.

The old man also gently held her hand.

"I'll... be going soon, I can hear... Death calling me..."

The old man's voice was almost inaudible.

"But there's, something I... still can't let go..."

He stared at his granddaughter's face with a questioning look in his eyes.

Su Xue Er stayed silent for a very long time, all the way until the old man was about to give up and close his eyes that she finally decided.

Biting her lip, she said: "I've made my decision"

Saying so, Su Xue Er suddenly became extremely calm.

———there's no more going back.

## **Chapter 208**

The old man suddenly opened his eyes wide and breathed in deeply.

His sickly complexion slowly disappeared, regaining a faint color of red under his skin.

His eyes were shining and animated, as if he was an old lion looking over his territory for the very last time.

“Everyone get out; I need to speak with my granddaughter for a little bit” he ordered.

Seeing that, the doctors realized it was the old man’s last spurt of strength.

They exchanged looks, then silently retreated.

As soon as they left, everyone ran in different directions, reporting to those that have been eagerly waiting for this news.

“Tell me your decision” the old man spoke in a low voice.

Su Xue Er looked straight at him, her voice determined: “I am willing, for the sake of the Su family, to sacrifice my everything, as long as our Su family can keep on being the great figure that we are in the Confederate”

“My desire is to ensure that the Su family become the most powerful family of the 9 Lords”

“So long as I live, I shall keep leading the Su family forward through any struggles, until one day when I finally go to heaven”

Her voice was slow, but determined.

The old man showed a smile, he’s been assured.

He opened his mouth for a while, then finally gathered enough strength to laugh loudly and said: “My eyes weren’t wrong after all, during the past 20 years, you are the only one in our Su family to truly have a leader’s special characteristics”

“Special characteristics?” Su Xue Er asked.

“Smart, determined, and endless courage” the old man slowly listed.

“Courage?” Su Xue Er lowered her head, “I don’t feel like I’m a courageous person at all, otherwise, how would I fall so low”

The old man tried his best to laugh, then spoke: “Courage that is displayed normally isn’t called courage, that’s recklessness”

“So many people have no choice but to bow down under the pressure of fate, but truly courageous people, in the time of need will remove all difficulties in their path, even killing off their old self for the sake of reviving anew”

He looked at his granddaughter like she was his most valuable treasure.

“You have the special characteristic of courage, others might not notice it, but you can’t fool this old man’s eyes”

“A person with such characteristic is only fit to lead the herd of sheep”

“From personal talent alone, you’re the only mainline member of all the 9 Lords who managed to awaken a 4th stage Elemental power in the past 30 years”

“However, Xue Er, you have a critical weakness”

“Please tell me, grandpa” Su Xue Er looked up and sincerely said.

The old man shook his head, seemingly picking his words carefully.



After a moment, he finally spoke: "Sometimes I think, you're so very different from both your father and mother"

"What do you mean?"

"Ever since you were small, until now you've never told a lie"

Su Xue Er was confused and asked: "Isn't that a good thing?"

The old man carefully told her: "You have to understand, for this alone, aristocrats are the exact opposite of you"

"Your parents are typical aristocrats, spewing nothing but nonsense from their mouths, even if they agree to a deal, they would still need to wait to see if their benefits are guaranteed"

The old man continued: "Xue Er, you're truly a brilliant child, but my only concern is that you're much too honest, you'll be pushed around too easily"

Su Xue Er stayed silent for a bit, then answered: "I understand, grandpa"

"Hm, aside from that, I'm confident about your every other aspect, yes, I think I can be assured and take my leave now"

Su Xue Er held the old man's hand tightly, saying nothing.

A rowdiness came from outside, then the door was swung open loudly.

All of Su family's mainline and branch are here, no matter if it's real or not, all of them wore an expression of sorrow and pain.

Following behind them were the other 8 Lords.

Together with Su Xing Chao who was lying in bed, all the 9 Lords of the Confederate were gathered here.

The 8 Lords silently walked over, as each of them were wearing a black cloak with glittering stars, their expressions solemn and serious.

They were the legendary starlight cloaks.

Numerous stars were weaved across the cloaks, giving off a feeling as if they were truly the endless void of space filled with stars and not just a cloak.

If this wasn't a serious occasion, everyone here, including Su Xue Er, would be closely eyeing the cloaks to see the truth.

In the long history of the Confederate, every time such an occasion happens, the other 8 Lords would don this cloak and make their way to the passing's deathbed to witness the ceremony of inheritance.

This has been an iron-clad rule for the 9 Lords of the Confederate for over hundreds of years.

"Old Xing Chao, your choice?" one Lord asked.

"I have decided..."

Su Xing Chao glanced over at all of his sons and daughters.

Even though they know the chance is slim, but every single one of them had the same look of expectation and desire on their faces.

Su Wen Sheng walked forward, taking his father's hand and made a solemn expression, waiting for his father's declaration.

Su Xing Chao didn't take notice of him and only spoke: "...the next family head of the Su family, is Su Xue Er"

The room went silent.

Madame Su was the first to shout: "No, that isn't possible, why would we be skipped to let a child become a Lord?"

Su Wen Sheng had an expression of disbelief, opened and closed his mouths time and time again, but couldn't say anything.

"Is this your final decision?" another Lord asked.

"That's right, only she can bring the Su family forward, side by side with all of you"

"Only she, will be able to maintain the current status of our 9 Lords, so that our hard work for over hundreds of years isn't wasted"

Hearing this, if they didn't know the meaning, they'd think that Su Xing Chao was praising Su Xue Er.

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But the other 8 Lords all went silent as they heard that.

They exchanged looks, then nodded.

"We respect your decision" they all spoke at the same time.

The old man barely squeezed out a smile, then looked at his son and spoke: "Your abilities aren't enough, to inherit the title of Lord isn't a good thing for you, it's ok now, you can live however you want from now on, live happily from now on"

He then looked over to Su Xue Er and reached out his hand: "Come, Xue Er"

Su Xue Er held his hand.

Suddenly, an invisibly quick arc of electricity went from Su Xing Chao's hand into Su Xue Er's.

The arc disappeared into Su Xue Er's body and couldn't be seen anymore.

Everyone in the Su family, including Su Xue Er, no one noticed this.

All the other 8 Lords' expressions changed.

Some of them sighed.

A few had complicated expressions, speaking with each other in a low voice.

Someone turned around and look towards the door.

A few looked over at Su Xue Er and stayed silent.

Only they know, 'that' has been passed on.

Without 'that' to support him, old Su will very quickly pass.

"The Su family, is in your hands..." the old man spoke his last.

Su Xue Er said nothing, she only looked at the old man and nodded strongly.

The old man smiled, then closed his eyes in relief.

Having breathed his last, he no longer moved.

Su Xue Er just stared at the old man's body, tears rolling down her cheeks.

A jet black cloak suddenly appeared from the air and dripped itself over her.

On the cloak was an endless sea of stars.

As soon as Su Xue Er donned the cloak, her entire air and presence changed.

She was regal and mysterious, the pressure she carried didn't lose to any of the other 8 Lords.

"Su Xue Er" the other 8 Lords all spoke.

She turned to look.

"From now on, you are the Su family's Lord"

"Right now, you shall leave with us, to go to the end of the world and complete the 9 Lords ceremony of inheritance"

"As the journey is far, we must quickly be on our way"

The true ceremony of inheritance.

This ceremony has happened too many times to count in the history of the 9 Lords, but only the Lords themselves know what it's about.

Anyone that dared to peek, no matter who they are, are all eliminated without pardon.

As Su Xue Er turned to look at the 8 Lords, the tears in her eyes hasn't stopped.

"Please wait a bit, I want to say goodbye to Grandfather alone"

The 8 Lords exchanged looks, then looked down at the old man's body, also feeling a bit of emotions.

"Then be quick, we will be waiting for you outside"

"Thank you, I won't let you wait long" Su Xue Er nodded.

"Very well, the rest of you should also leave" the Lords spoke.

While the rest of the Su family were still unable to process what had happened and protested, they've all been driven out by the 8 Lords.

The door was closed from the outside.

The medical room regained its silence.

Su Xue Er looked at the old man's face, wiping her tears with her hands.

"Grandpa, thank you for letting me inherit the title of Lord"

"However, there's something that I must tell you"

She spoke very softly, brushing the old man's ruffled hair back and fixed his collar.

After a while, she finally spoke again.

"For my entire life, I've never once told a lie to you. Except today"

"Right, I won't protect the Su family"

"Because I hold each and everyone here in contempt, they all live in a world of darkness and dirtiness, aside from their own benefits, there's nothing else in the world that matters to them"

She kept looking straight at the old man.

"Grandpa, you said I had courage, originally I didn't agree with you, but now that I think about it, I suddenly feel that you're very right"

Su Xue Er pursed her lips, then spoke softly

"I will never let anyone else decide my fate ever again"

"I swear"

She stood up, donning the cloak of stars and walked out.

## **Chapter 209**

Space.

The S.W. Divine Temple Interstellar Fortress.

The screams of pain that filled the entire fortress finally stopped.

Ye Fei Li sat down on the ground, breathing heavily, unable to speak.

Gu Qing Shan put his hand in his shoulder and circulated spirit energy for one cycle around his body.

Ye Fei Li's body was fine, there wasn't any problems.

Gu Qing Shan asked very seriously: "Why did you suddenly feel so uncomfortable?"

Ye Fei Li wiped the beads of sweat on his forehead, barely mustering up the strength to speak speak:

"My ears hurt so intensely that I couldn't bear it"

"Didn't you say your ears were about to evolve?" Liao Xing put his hand around his neck and asked.

"I can occasionally hear strange noises, but it's like there's a layer of something blocking it out, stopping me from hearing the noises clearly" Ye Fei Li spoke, confused.

“If it’s as you said, that’s a little bit like the symptoms before a God’s Chosen Skill awaken” Anna commented.

“Right, I also agree” Zhang Ying Hao said.

Since both the people who have God’s Chosen Skills here said so, most of them believed it.

Man Killer Fiends can awaken a God’s Chosen Skill?

Everyone silently thought about it and become incredibly curious.

“You’ve been killing so many high-tiered Man Killer Fiends and it’s still not enough for your ears to evolve?” Gu Qing Shan asked, surprised.

“I can feel that it’s already enough , possibly even surpassed the amount of energy needed for them to evolve, but I don’t know why it still wouldn’t evolve no matter what” Ye Fei Li said dejectedly.

He rubbed his ears, saying: “Luckily the pain stopped for now, it’ll be a while until the next time it acts up”

“I can think of a certain possibility” Gu Qing Shan said, “after I get a certain item, maybe there’ll be a way to solve your problem”

“What would that be?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“A 99% purity God’s Chosen Awakening Serum’s recipe, both you and I will need it” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

For “Smiting” to evolve he needs three kinds of Serums, and the God’s Chosen Awakening Serum is one of them.

Gu Qing Shan have to be quick and finish the Thaumaturgy evolution Quest before he has to enter the cultivation world again.

Otherwise, he could only wait until the next time he returns to Reality to get the three kinds of Serums.

But that’s too late ——it’ll affect his process of advancing to Golden Core realm and awakening a new Thaumaturgy.

“I’ll take the time that the Game of Eternal not being here to quickly resolve this ——Impartial Goddess?”

[Sir, I’ve finished locating it] Impartial Goddess answered.

A screen was projected to show a map of land and rivers.

Impartial Goddess kept zooming in on a certain point with the satellite imaging, finally stopping at a certain scene.

It was a luxurious manor.

Right now, all sorts of lights were being arranged, countless servants ran around preparing this and that.

This was another political banquet ———one that isn't any less lavish than the one held at the Su family, possibly a bit even more lavish.

"The sea creatures and Man Killer Fiends are still wreaking havoc everywhere and these top-brass of the Holy Empire can still take the time to indulge themselves in such luxury, should I call this a strength or a weakness in mankind's evolution?" Ye Fei Li took a swig of wine and shook his head as he exclaimed.

"Both Fuxi and the Confederate are hurrying to stop the rampage of the Man Killer Fiends, the only one not doing anything is the Holy Empire" Zhang Ying Hao commented.

"The Pope does not act at all, it's like she basically doesn't care about the life and death of the citizens, if my father were still..." Anna shook her head and didn't continue.

She held back her emotions and changed the subject: "This is a banquet hosted by Madame Punta. No matter what the occasion is, as long as she's the host, there's bound to be many participants, most of them being celebrities"

Everyone looked at her.

"You're familiar with her?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Anna spoke with a calm expression: "She's a friend of my father's. I've met her a few times, even rode horses with her once"

"Of the many women that my father has, I feel like she's the most capable and brilliant"

Anna commented very seriously.

Seeing the horrid looks in their eyes, she added: "My mother passed away since I was very young, so my father is very lonely ———it's natural for him to find women to ease that"

"Many... women..." Ye Fei Li repeated in a low voice.

"That's just how high society is" Liao Xing peeked over his shoulder and whispered.

Ye Fei Li took another swig of wine, muttering: "Then high society is so very far away for me"

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"Very well, you guys stay here, if you have nothing to do then try to get a feel for spirit energy, I'll need to make a trip to the Holy Empire" Gu Qing Shan put a stop to that topic.

"Do you have to go?" Anna asked.

"Yes, I need this Serum" he pointed at a certain point on the screen and asked, "You said it was here?"

"No, a bit more to the left" Anna said.

"Here?"

"Yes, right there, third floor, 7th room on the right, the political gift exhibition room"

Gu Qing Shan silently looked at the footage to find the room.

Anna continued: "Go straight in, walk to the very end, you'll see a painting on the wall"

"What's the painting of?"

"Me when I was 10, the scene was father congratulating me on my birthday"

"Your father hid half of the recipe between the two layers of the painting?"

Anna replied: "Yes, the first half of the recipe is hidden between the two layers of the painting, while I have the other half in my hand, this is something only he and I know about"

Gu Qing Shan controlled the screen, locking the scene on the room.

"Impartial Goddess"

[I'm here, all preparations are ready, awaiting your orders now"

"Let's begin"

[Very well, sir, your new identity is the military attaché of the Freedom Confederate Embassy at the Holy Empire, Zhang Ren Jia]

[Today is your very first day at the Holy Empire, as well as your first day on the job]

[You will participate in the banquet as a representative of the Confederate]

[If you want to enter the banquet using an official identity, you will have to hurry]

"How do I get there?"

[Under the premise of avoiding all radars, a quick entry plan is currently being drafted]

[Please inject this Genetic Modifying drug to temporarily alter your appearance]

Gu Qing Shan picked up the small box that rose from the console to find a syringe inside.

"Good, I've troubled you"

As soon as he injected it, Gu Qing Shan's appearance changed completely.

This was a single eyelid masculine man, carrying a stifled sense of dignity, he looks exactly like a military man.

"How long will this appearance last?" he asked.

[Five hours] Impartial Goddess responded.

"That'll be enough"

At this point, Liao Xing struggled to walk over with a barrel-like metal instrument in his arms.

"Hurry and catch, I can't hold it!" he yelled.

Gu Qing Shan took the metal instrument and looked at it.

The instrument was about half a person tall, very hard to carry even with both hands, you can see its weight from just looking.

"A warp device?" he asked.

“A prototype hand-held simplified warp device, the detailed instructions have been sent to your Holo-Brain, so just read it yourself” Liao Xing breathed heavily while explaining.

Gu Qing Shan took out his Holo-Brain and looked at the instructions, using one hand to operate and fumble with the metal instrument.

He said: “This is quite heavy, I can use it no problem, but it’ll be very inconvenient to popularize this”

Liao Xing answered: “I know, this is only the first prototype, as long as it works, it’ll be smooth sailing from now on”

“Very well, good job” Gu Qing Shan said.

Liao Xing suddenly became serious and continued: “This prototype is the most successful one so far, it can warp a total of three times, and only one person each time at most, so you must carefully remember the amount of uses left”

“Three times is enough”

“You’re going alone?” Anna asked.

“Hm, going alone is easier to escape, more people is more inconvenient”

Anna didn’t say anything and only looked at him worriedly.

Gu Qing Shan patted the simplified warp device and smiled: “I have this so I can leave any time I want, don’t worry”

That is indeed correct, since as long as the warp starts, he’ll immediately be transported to the previously determined position without any danger.

Anna bit her lip and spoke without a bit of confidence: “Be sure to look out for the Pope”

## **Chapter 210**

“That is also my only worry” Gu Qing Shan said: “However, from both Impartial Goddess’ and my conclusions, the Pope very rarely appears at such a type of banquet”

Ye Fei Li asked: “How about I go with you? No matter what kind of person the Pope is, if he dares to show us up, I’ll teach him how to be a good person”

Everyone else looked at him with strange expressions in their eyes

“What?” Ye Fei Li was confused.

“I’ll bet 10 Credits that you won’t win against that monster” Liao Xing said.

“You have so little faith in me?” Ye Fei Li said.

“I’ll bet 100 million, you’ll die an extremely horrible death” Zhang Ying Hao said.

Ye Fei Li didn’t believe it and looked at Gu Qing Shan.



Gu Qing Shan patted his shoulder, saying: "Only when you're able to fight on par with Anna, will you be able to even think about fighting with the Holy Apostles of the Holy Church"

"Someday, if you ever manage to beat Anna, and then beat a Holy Apostle, you'll be able to return alive from meeting with the Pope"

"Anna... is only a 4th stage Elementalist peak, but I'm already a 6th stage Man Killer Fiend King" Ye Fei Li was unconvinced.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "I told you already, the current system is unreliable, Anna's Fire element coupled with her God's Chosen Skill makes her even stronger than a normal 5th stage Professionalist"

Ye Fei Li looked at Anna and said: "Then how about we fight it out?"

Anna scoffed: "You just take a look at your glass first"

When Ye Fei Li looked down, he saw that his wine glass has already been half-melted.

"If this was a real fight, you would've already died" Anna lifted her chin and said.

"Just what's going on here?" Ye Fei Li dejectedly hung his head.

He was shocked a bit too badly.

"Actually this is something that can't be helped, Mystic-type God's Chosen Skills don't really conform to normal standards" Zhang Ying Hao consoled him.

Ye Fei Li suddenly asked Gu Qing Shan: "What about you? Your swordsmanship is the best I've ever seen, can you deal with Apostles?"

"I can handle a few Holy Apostles no problem" Gu Qing Shan smiled and said.

"What about the Pope?"

"If I'm unable to get away, of course I'll die"

"You'll die as well?"

"Our strength are too far apart, of course I'll die"

Zhang Ying Hao also agreed: "If the Pope was here, all of us would have died"

Anna suddenly looked at Gu Qing Shan and said: "Then what if I disguise myself and go with you?"

"You can't, it's too dangerous, I won't allow you to come"

Gu Qing Shan was very determined about this.

Liao Xing was listening on one side, then spoke: "Then we have to pay attention to the old hag's movement"

He typed a long string of data on the screen, then gave it to Impartial Goddess

"Draw the central protocol formula from this, then make 30 copies"

[What a wonderful formula, Mr. Liao] Impartial Goddess replied.

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

"Nano-sized surveillance drones, the proudest invention of my life" Liao Xing said with pride.

"You're going to use that to observe the Pope?"

"Of course, I'll just spread them everywhere around the Holy Sanctuary, guarantees no one will ever notice"

"These things, why do I feel like their use isn't limited to just that..." Ye Fei Li was thinking about it as he spoke.

Liao Xing turned around to glare at him, then moved his mouth in a side-to-side motion, gesturing with his eyes 'you're still too green'.

"This way, we can constantly keep track of the Pope and tell you ahead of time" Anna happily patted Gu Qing Shan's shoulder, having her biggest worry off her back.

"Very well, we'll keep in touch" Gu Qing Shan said.

While talking, he was silently thinking about a certain strange occurrence.

In the past life, the Pope was the most mysterious person in humanity.

For a very long time, of the numerous Professionalists that challenged her, the only one that managed to get out alive was the Fuxi Empire's Emperor.

After that, the Fuxi Emperor had to recuperate for over half a year before he fully recovered, then remained extremely tight-lipped about the battle.

Thanks to that, no one knows exactly how the Pope fights or what trump cards she has.

And in reality, thanks to the Seven Holy Apostles, she herself never has to fight at all.

But the strangest thing was that, during the final year of the Apocalypse, the Pope disappeared without a trace.

No one knows where she went, or whether she was dead or alive.

But at that point, the amount of people still alive were so few that they couldn't even protect themselves, so the investigation into where she went quickly went cold without a conclusion.

Impartial Goddess' voice came.

[The flight path has been drafted, sir, you can be on your way whenever you're ready]

"Good, I'll be going"

Gu Qing Shan stood up and gestured.

A Mobile Mech armor rose from the ground and attached itself to him.

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This is a standard Mech that Impartial Goddess normally has in reserve.

As time was a bit short, Gu Qing Shan didn't specifically make a Mech for himself.

[Sir, since we didn't have time to specifically make a Mech, we could only install a miniature cloaking device, at most it's capable of cloaking you for 1 minute] Impartial Goddess said.

"Using my latest technology formula?"

[Yes]

"1 minute is enough to travel from the air to the ground, it's fine even if the time is a bit lacking"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan stepped into a personal shuttle, waving at the four staying behind.

"I'll be back soon" he said.

The airlock closed, the engine flared and quickly started.

The small shuttle was heading towards the planet under the S.W. Divine Temple.

The shuttle quickly entered orbit and circled around a certain height.

[Sir, we're currently at the Holy Church's surveillance perimeter, if we move 100 meters closer, we'll be discovered by the Holy Empire's surveillance system]

"Open the cabin, I'll enter with stealth using the Mech"

The cabin door depressurized and opened.

Gu Qing Shan jumped down.

...

On another side.

The Holy Empire's capital's Grand Holy Church.

A woman clad in a pure white garb, emitting small rays of holy light from her body was sitting on a throne.

Above her head, a shining halo hovered, letting out interweaving waves of strong and weak holy light, emphasizing her likeness of a descended Angel.

This is the Holy Church's Pope.

She was holding a sketchbook in her hand, seemingly drawing something.

While she has nothing to do, she would draw one thing or another, this was a hobby of hers.

"The king wishes to see you" two priests walked up and reported.

"Let him come in, the rest of you leave, I'll have a talk with the king alone" the Pope didn't bother to look up and ordered.

"Yes"

The two priests retreated.

A few moments later, the king came in.

He was whimpering: "Mother, I'm so lonely, why isn't Anna here yet?"

The Pope sigh and said: "Your actions lately has made me so disappointed, anyone can clearly see that you're not the king"

She continued: "Thanks to that, the Holy Empire is slowly falling apart, all due to you"

The king loudly shouted: "I don't care, if you don't give me Anna, I'll keep making an even bigger ruckus!"

The Pope went silent, her tone became cold: "We've talked about this, if you're able to do your job well, I will reward you with Anna, allowing you to use her as food to nurture your soul"

"But not only were you unable to do your job, you're even causing a ruckus in front of me"

"My child, you've been very naughty"

The pope used her hand to draw a line in the air.

The king kept screaming and crying without minding her words, but wasn't able to let out any sounds.

"You need a little bit of rest, some time to reflect on your shortcomings and mistakes" the Pope said.

As the king heard the word "rest", he showed an expression of fear, scrambling to say something very desperately, but was unable to let out any sound.

The king then kneeled down, seemingly trying to beg for forgiveness.

But the Pope shook her head, randomly took her brush and started to sketch something on the paper.

As she was quickly drawing, she whispered: "I'll give you a silent space all to yourself, so that you can reflect clearly, just what have you have done wrong, after this, if I still remember, I'll let you out again"

As the king heard that, his face was overcome with despair and fright.

Suddenly, the king's stomach opened up, as a horribly ugly gnome came out of it and started to run away.

The gnome screamed: "No! I don't want to go back! I want to stay in this world!"

But the Pope has already finished drawing.

On the drawing board was an empty black cage.

The Pope put her brush down, taking the picture down from the drawing board and threw it into the air.

The drawing of the cage suddenly flashed then disappeared, reappearing again right above the gnome.

The paper expanded like a giant mouth, swallowing him.

As the Pope waved, the painting quickly came back into her hands.

In the drawing, an ugly gnome with 10 sharp claws was sitting dejectedly.

He was trapped in the caged.

A few lines of text started to appear on the paper

[Imprisoned Sharp-clawed Gnome]

[The Sharp-clawed Gnome is an expert at controlling dead bodies, simulating the person when they were still alive]

[The Sharp-clawed Gnome is madly drawn to beautiful women who has both the power of the Elements and God's Chosen, evolving and growing stronger through draining their mixed energy]

The Pope rolled the drawing up, then lightly waved it in her hand.

The drawing suddenly became a card.

## **Chapter 211**

The Pope put away the gnome card, then drew another card from mid-air.

Depicted on it was a 5-colored spider, crawling around a skeleton, spinning its web to wrap the skeleton up.

There was a line of description on the card.

[Web Spinning Demon Spider of Dead Souls, will control a dead body following the card owner's will, lasts for 3 days]

The Pope looked at the card, muttering: "Now I have no choice but to use this single-use card"

She sighed, but still threw the card out.

The card disappeared in the air.

A big 5-colored spider appeared in its place.

"Go, that's your new home" the Pope said.

The spider nodded and very quickly crawled to the king's body.

As it entered the king's body, it spat out its web and closed up the opening in the king's stomach from the inside.

The king's lowered head suddenly lifted back up, his eyes were animated once again.

"Master" the king spoke.

"Hm, you'll act as the king for three days" the Pope said.

"Understood, I'll go back first"

After saying so, the king left.

The Pope then took out a black card box, placing the Sharp-clawed Gnome card inside.

The gnome inside the card was screaming, jumping, his face full of fear.

The box seems to be driving him into a frenzy.

The Pope stared at the gnome on the card and said: "Be a good boy and reflect"

Saying so, the card box was closed, the inside become completely dark.

The Pope put the box away.

A few moments later, a black-robed masculine man walked in, kneeling with one leg on the ground: "When I came in, the nun responsible for serving you said that the banquet is about to begin"

"Hmm, I know" the Pope said.

In the Holy Church, the color of one's robe determine one's responsibility.

The white-robed are the Holy Judges, the red-robed are Preachers around the world, while the black-robed are those fully dedicated to the Pope and the will of God.

The man bowed, then silently stepped back to stand on one side.

He's the strongest warrior below the Pope, the leader of the Seven Holy Apostles.

The Pope was contemplating, then suddenly frowned.

"This feeling, something isn't quite right, but where is it coming from?"

As powerful as she is, once she senses a bad omen, something bad is bound to happen.

The Pope instantly got thinking seriously.

"Hurt, as there been any strange occurrences lately?"

"Everything is still under the Holy Church's control, nothing has been out of the ordinary" the black-robed Holy Apostle called Hurt replied.

"What about international matter? Has Fuxi and the Confederate made any strange movements?"

"None"

"This strange feeling, it's definitely not just an illusion..."

The Pope sat on her throne, propping her face on her left hand while her right was tapping on the throne's armrest.

"It seems I have to do a Divination" she said.

Hearing that, Hurt was surprised and looked up: "You want to do a Divination? But wouldn't that put too much of a burden on your body?"

"The burden doesn't matter, it's just a small Divination after all, do not worry"

Saying so, the Pope reached out her right hand and slowly started to draw something from the air.

A card appeared in front of her.

Depicted on the card was a trunk full of shining jewels and a hand reaching towards them.

“Stolen treasure?”

The Pope found that unexpected.

This card can represent too many things, so it's unable to explain her current hunch.

But, as she drew the card, a black chain suddenly appeared out of nowhere and coiled around her left wrist.

The black chain only manifested for a few seconds before slowly disappearing.

The Pope was undisturbed, reached her hand out and made a card drawing action in the air again.

The second card appeared in her hand.

Seeing that, the Pope suddenly sat upright.

“This card...” she muttered in surprise.

The card showed a skeleton wearing armor, holding up a black flag while riding on a white horse.

This card is Death.

“Ahahaha, so death comes to visit? That is to say, a force that can alter the rigid path of destiny has appeared”

The Pope suddenly burst into a frightening laughter.

She put the two cards on one side, letting them float silently.

A loud and heavy sound of chains was heard again as another black chain came and wrapped around her left leg.

This chain also quickly disappeared.

“Seems like I need another card to fully understand everything” the Pope muttered.

“Your power has been sealed quite a bit, please don't do anymore Divination, with me here, no matter what kind of threat it is, it won't harm you, your grace” Holy Apostle Hurt hurriedly said.

“No matter, it's only a few chains, the most they could do is trap me for a bit” the Pope was still undisturbed, “not to mention, in the case that an unexpected situation happens, I can simply pay a price to have them unsealed”

“Now, let me see the last card that foretell destiny”

Saying so, she reached out her hand and lightly drew a card in the air.

The final card was in her hand.

Like before, another black chain appeared and wrapped around her body.

The Pope didn't even bother to look at the chain, only staring at the card in her hand.

There was a scale drawn on the card.

On the two sides of the scale respectively were an ancient but dusty crown and a slowly beating heart.

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The Pope stared at this card and couldn't help but grabbed the armrest of her throne tightly.

"Why did the Divination draw this useless card, isn't the king already dead!?" she couldn't believe it.

This is a special card, specifically made to secretly attack the enemy that holds the strongest Mystic-type power.

When she assassinated the king before, it was thanks to this card that they were barely able to do it.

But receiving the full retaliation of the king, this card also lost all its power and became a useless card.

From then on, the Holy Church's God's Chosen Skill that was on this card could no longer be activated.

But inexplicably, the card appeared during this Divination.

The Pope suddenly stood up, clasping her hands behind her back and slowly paced around the large hall.

*The cards' Divination is definitely not wrong.*

*In which case, the king is still alive?*

*That can't be, that is simply impossible, his body is still in her possession.*

"Stolen Jewel... Death... Useless card..."

The Pope muttered.

The feelings of unease she felt were becoming greater.

Suddenly she raised her voice: "Hurt!"

The black-robed Holy Apostle said: "I'm here!"

"Summon the Seven Holy Apostles, have them stationed around all the crucial points of the capital, once you discover something abnormal, report it to me right away"

"Yes!"

Seeing how Hurt still wanted to say something but didn't, the Pope asked: "What is it?"

"I just feel that you might not want to worry too much about the Divination, because an existence that could threaten you hasn't even been born yet on this world"

"No, you don't understand. I have to peek into the flow of destiny because destiny is very hard to change no matter what you try to do"

"But you've been sealed three times now"

"It's nothing once a really dangerous situation arises, I can unlock the seals at anytime"

It was at this moment that a nun came and reported: "The Madame's banquet is about to begin"



The Pope was busy thinking about this, so she casually said: "It's a non-crucial event, send Holy Apostle Ivan to show up in my stead, have him report if any suspicious person appears at the banquet"

"Yes"

The nun retreated.

...

The Mobile Mech was flying through the night sky, heading towards the Holy Empire's capital.

At the time the Mech was about to reach its target, Impartial Goddess' voice was heard.

[Sir, a Holy Apostle has brought over 200 Paladins to the banquet's vicinity, his mission seems to be eliminating any suspicious personnel]

"Understood"

Gu Qing Shan made a turn, then suddenly headed downward.

The Mech quickly sunk into a lake.

A few minutes later.

Gu Qing Shan came out of the lake, the spirit energy around his body slightly shook and dried himself.

"Did anyone notice?" he asked.

[I have to say, this was a perfect infiltration, it didn't trigger anything in the Holy Empire's surveillance network] Liao Xing's voice came from the Holo-Brain.

[On the other hand, the Pope is still staying in the Holy Sanctuary, she's not participating in the banquet] he added.

"The Pope won't be participating? Very good, that's the best news I've heard so far" Gu Qing Shan commented.

A screen was projected to show where he was.

Impartial Goddess's voice came: [Sir, you need to head 2km Southwest, the Confederate's official entourage will pass by that location in one minute]

"I'll be on my way" Gu Qing Shan shut off his Holo-Brain and started to fly and glide towards the location.

One minute later.

A car with the Confederate flag waving at the back was quickly passing through.

As the car passed by a curve, a black figure came in right as the car door opened.

Two people immediately pointed their weapons at Gu Qing Shan, while another used a measuring device to scan him.

[Identity confirmed] an electronic voice came from the device.

Everyone in the car sighed in relief.

The look in their eyes as they saw Gu Qing Shan was full of admiration and respect.

Usually, Confederate top-secret missions are handled by large teams of Professionals, specifically drafted for that mission.

But this time there was only a single person.

Which means he's definitely not a normal person.

They quickly pulled out a trunk from below the seats and opened it in front of Gu Qing Shan.

"Military garb"

"Marching boots"

"Military belt"

"Personal identification"

"Wallet"

"Guns and swords aren't prepared because you're coming to join a banquet"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the things placed before him and quickly changed into them.

The ambassador very carefully took out a silk handkerchief and opened it up.

A silver white medal was revealed inside, offered to Gu Qing Shan.

"The First-class Medal of Freedom?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Yes, only such excellent military achievement can explain your age and current position"

"Please try it on and get used to wearing it" he very solemnly gave the medal to Gu Qing Shan.

"Thank you" Gu Qing Shan said.

He quickly finished changing into the military wear and asked: "How is it?"

Everyone observed him for a bit.

The ambassador contemplated: "Your air is a bit lacking, as a Confederate military man, you can act a bit more arrogant"

Gu Qing Shan then straightened his hips and changed the entire air around himself.

He's been struggling between life and death in both his lives, so many demons and beings has been killed by his sword, so it's not hard for him to act like a military person.

"That's right, even a real military general couldn't do better than that" an embassy personnel praised him.

"Do you need us to do anything else?" the ambassador asked.

"No need, once we go in, all of you don't need to worry about me" Gu Qing Shan answered.

The embassy group nodded and silently sighed.

The car became silent.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the jetting scenery outside, then suddenly felt a sense of unease without any reason.

## **Chapter 212**

As soon as he got that feeling of unease, Gu Qing Shan instantly became cautious.

The stronger a cultivator is, the stronger their spirit sense becomes, if they happen to sense something, it is almost always a feedback from the cracks of fate, which means it'll actually happen soon.

Of course, that being the case, they very rarely get premonitions.

Very coincidentally, this time both Gu Qing Shan and the Pope just happened to receive a premonition at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan was uneasy, so he suddenly spoke: "After we go in, as soon as the banquet is over and the ball begins, all of you should immediately leave the area and go back to the embassy"

Everyone looked at him in confusion.

The ambassador asked: "Are there some danger?"

"Not necessarily, but it's better for everyone to leave first"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Impartial Goddess"

[I'm here]

"There's been a change in plans, I request that you arrange for some high-speed shuttles at the embassy, as soon as the embassy personnel arrive, take them away"

[I will begin the arrangements]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the ambassador and said: "I apologize for this, but try your best to move quickly later on"

The ambassador nodded while still thinking.

*This special agent is able to directly contact Impartial Goddess, which means the mission is time is exceptionally important, so much that his temporary personal authority got elevated extremely high.*

Then the ambassador said: "You should also be careful, if the situation becomes too dire, no need to put up a tough front, once we get back to the Confederate, I'll be your witness"

Gu Qing Shan didn't expect to hear him say that, only smiled and said: "Very well"

Right here, the car slowed down, because the other cars ahead of it were also slowing down.

*What's going on ahead?*

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight, extending it far forward, all the way until the toll gates.

Numerous Paladins were surrounding an empty area.

A white-robed Holy Judge stood in the middle of the area, observing the tied-up Professionists.

He looked over at each of them, then said: "The lot of you have two choices, one is to immediately go to prison and wait for your punishments; and the other is to spar with me"

He suddenly smiled softly and warmly, muttering to them: "If you manage to win, I'll order them to release you"

"Is what you're saying true?" the Professionists hesitantly asked.

"A Holy Apostle never lies; this is something all of you should know"

Although he was smiling and addressing them with a gentle tone, the look that the Holy Apostle had while looking at them was like that of a butcher looking at his cattle.

The Professionists all exchanged looks, seeing hope in each other's eyes.

"Then we'll spar with you"

"Very well, release them"

"Once you're ready, you're free to begin"

The 5-6 Professionists there stretched their bodies, then gestured to each other to prepare their tactic and began a relentless assault.

The white-robed Holy Apostle only stood still, arms crossed, letting the barrages of attacks fall onto himself.

His robe has already been fully ripped apart, himself naked, still under the attacks of ice, fire, firearms... all sorts of attacks.

A few breaths later.

"Die!"

"Just die already!"

"Why aren't you dead!?"

A few people in the group that were attacking him were close to breaking into tears.

Because there wasn't even a scratch on the white-robed Holy Apostle's body.

During the barrage of attacks, the ones that were being hurt the most were the Professionist, as each of them got hurt more and more for unknown reasons until all of them fell.

The white-robed Holy Apostle looked over at the people on the ground, ignoring the attacks on himself, stepped forward and broke the neck of a wounded person with a single kick.

His eyes squinted, carefully looking at the body that slowly lost its life, as if observing his masterpiece.

He nodded, pleased.

"Monster, you're a monster!"

A Professionist that was still alive was already scared witless.

The white-robed Holy Apostle looked at him and said: “To attack me is to disrespect God’s spokesperson on Earth, atone for your sin with your deaths”

His cold voice carried a deep sense of cruelty, as a shining holy pattern begun to draw itself beneath his feet.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan’s inner sight passed through, he understood the meaning of the pattern.

This is the Holy Church’s signature Mystic-type God’s Chosen Skill, [Repentance].

Facing the God’s Chosen Skill, [Repentance], anyone that attacks him will receive twice the damage they dealt.

While the Holy Apostle that is has [Repentance] will receive no damage what-so-ever.

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The Holy Church’s actions have always been cruel and without any semblance of humanity, but one thing that every Professionist had to admit without a doubt was that the Holy Church’s God’s Chosen Skills are disgustingly strong.

In the past, the Holy Church had always been a dependent of the Holy Empire’s Royalty.

The Holy Empire’s Royalty provided the Holy Church’s seeds with God’s Chosen Awakening Serum, while the Holy Church was tasked with protecting both Royalty and the Holy Empire as a whole.

But today, the royal line has been murdered by the Holy Church almost to extinction, the only person left is Anna.

A masculine man lifted a heavy battle-axe, emitting intense layers of Martial Thaumaturgy and directly headed for the Holy Apostle.

“Beheading!”

The man shouted, as the battle-axe cleaved open the wind, attacking the Holy Apostle with reckless abandon.

Under such fierce attacks, the Holy Apostle was still standing in place, crossing his arms and didn’t even bother to block.

“An axe? What rubbish weaponry” he scoffed.

Following the screaming sound of the wind, the sharp battle-axe cleaved into his body, but let out a very dull sound ——as if something just hit a very dense layer of rubber.

The white-robed Holy Apostle stood still, unharmed.

He was able to take a full-powered attack directly with his body.

This was completely inconceivable.

“Impossible!”

The man shouted desperately, then coughed up blood.

The white-robed Holy Apostle swatted his hand away and grabbed his neck.

“That didn’t even tickle, how disappointing”

Gently saying so, he put force into his arm.

With a ‘crak crak’ sound, the man’s head was bent at an unimaginable angle.

The bulky man instantly lost his life.

“The sparring is over”

The white-robed man threw the body to the ground and declared, unamused.

A few Paladins quickly brought a giant barrel of water over in front of him.

One person laid directly on the ground, the second laid and bent their knees, the third was half-crouched.

They were creating a human ladder.

The white-robed Holy Apostle stepped on their backs, leaving bloody footprints.

Then he entered the bath.

A few minutes later, the Holy Apostle wore a completely new white robe and remain as dignified as ever.

“Sir, do we bring the last remaining person alive back to interrogate?” a Paladin asked.

A heavily wounded Professionalist was still laying on the ground, like a dying fish, he was trying his best to breath.

“No need, they’re nothing but trash, execute him on the spot” he coldly declared.

“Yes sir!”

A muffled sound of gunshot.

The Holy Apostle ordered: “Don’t let your guard down, keep filtering out suspicious people”

“Make sure that everything goes well tonight”

“”“Yes sir!”””

Gu Qing Shan retreated his inner sight and silently contemplated.

One of the Seven Holy Apostles, the Judge of Repentance, Ivan.

A cruel and dangerous person who likes to kill people under the premise of sparring.

Ivan’s strength is about the same as a Golden Core realm early stage cultivator, luckily he doesn’t know how to cultivate spirit energy, otherwise he’d be as strong as a Rejuvenation realm!

In the Holy Church, aside from the Pope herself, the Holy Apostles are the strongest fighting strength they have.

During Gu Qing Shan's visit this time to the Holy Empire, the only people he's worried about are the Pope and the Holy Apostles.

Gu Qing Shan took the time and used Presence Concealment on himself.

One second later, his vague radiance was completely concealed.

From just looking, no one could tell his true mettle.

Very quickly, the embassy car slowed down to a stop.

The ambassador went out and looked forward to see what happened.

On the street, at least a dozen cars heading for the banquet were stopped in place.

### **Chapter 213**

Everyone got out of their car and couldn't help themselves looking ahead.

They saw numerous black-robed Holy Church's priests.

The ambassador glanced at the driver and gestured with his eyes.

The driver went ahead, then came back after a bit.

"The Holy Church is currently filtering out suspicious characters and managed to find a few members of the revolution"

"Did they get caught?" the ambassador asked.

"They got killed by the Holy Apostle"

Everyone went silent.

After a while, the road started to clear up as more and more cars were able to pass the checkpoint.

The ambassador waved his hand to signal everyone to get in the car, following the flow of vehicles forward.

The stream of cars moved very slow, occasionally there were screams and sounds of gunshot from afar.

At which point, the stream of cars stopped again.

The ambassador sighed and muttered: "It seems that there's quite a few organizations that want to ruin the banquet"

"The internal situation of the Holy Empire has become so chaotic already?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Three different factions are all trying to take over, the Fuxi Empire is silently supporting the conflict from outside, Man Killer Fiends and sea creatures are wreaking havoc without anyone to control them" the ambassador answered him.

“Currently, the Holy Empire is nothing short of hell on Earth” another embassy member added.

Gu Qing Shan had already known about all this before, but still couldn't help himself sighing as he heard so.

In the car, everyone's expressions became sullen.

Finally, it was Gu Qing Shan's group's car turn to pass the checkpoint.

Someone from outside reported: “Report, this is the Confederate's embassy car, sir”

“The embassy's entourage... Let them pass” a hard and cold voice ordered.

Everyone looked outside.

Both sides of the road were full of Paladins.

A masculine man wearing a white robe was crossing his arms, evaluating the car.

Holy Apostle Ivan.

He was squinting his eyes, his body slightly leaning forward, like a fierce beast, ready to pounce on its prey at any time.

From the other side of the window, Gu Qing Shan glanced at him.

“Ah?” the Holy Apostle noticed.

He tapped on the window.

Gu Qing Shan rolled down the car door and asked: “What is it?”

The Holy Apostle glanced at his military outfit, then at his Freedom Medal and spoke: “I was wondering what's going on, so it's a Confederate military officer”

“What do you want?” Gu Qing Shan asked coldly.

The Holy Apostle had a cruel look in his eyes and said: “I've yet to have the chance to fight with a Confederate officer yet, would you like to spar for a little bit?”

Everyone in the car became tense.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and said: “You must be a Holy Apostle. So you stopped my car just to spar with me?”

He appeared very motivated: “Quite fitting, I've always wanted to have a taste of your Holy Church's God's Chosen Skills”

He opened the car door as was about to get out.

Holy Apostle Ivan was staring at him intensely, then reacted with disappointment as he saw such a reaction.

Gu Qing Shan was quickly pulled back in by the ambassador.



The ambassador peeked his head out and coldly asked, facing the Holy Apostle: "Are you sure to want to fight with our officer? At such a place like this?"

The embassy's entourage were guests that were invited to join the banquet, being stopped on their way like this is already a very rude thing to do, and then a subordinate of the host provoked the party and wanted to have a match on the side of the road ———if something like this truly happens, this would become the greatest joke in the history of the Holy Empire's diplomacy.

And this will also be treated as a provocation towards the Confederate as a whole, with unpredictable consequences.

Because of that, even though the ambassador is only a normal person, Holy Apostle Ivan doesn't dare to respond to his question.

The Holy Apostle stepped back, too annoyed to deal with Gu Qing Shan and waved his hand: "Let them pass, let them pass"

The checkpoint was opened up.

After a few miles of driving later, an official was about to say something, but Gu Qing Shan swung his hand and pointed at his own ear.

As people capable of working in the embassy overseas, everyone here was extremely perceptive.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan's gesture, the person instantly stopped.

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After a while, when the car arrived at the manor's gate, Gu Qing Shan spoke: "As per how we discussed before, I'll handle the ball alone, the rest of you will take orders from the Goddess"

Everyone understood as they heard that, kept silence and got out of the car.

Very quickly, a valet came to take their car for parking, and then a butler-looking person came up, very politely greeted them and lead them into the banquet hall.

This was a very grand banquet.

Society's celebrities, important officials of the country, as well as national and international guests were all gathered here.

Everyone were lead to their pre-arranged seating and sat down, waiting for the banquet to begin.

It's not yet time to act as any empty seats will draw the attention of the banquet waiters and waitresses.

If Gu Qing Shan wants to go upstairs to the third floor to look for the Serum's recipe, he has to wait and look for a chance after the banquet.

The ambassador was sitting in the front row, next to Fuxi Empire's ambassador.

As a military officer, Gu Qing Shan was seated at the third row.

The people sitting here were all those that didn't have too important a role, or mid-ranged Holy Empire's nobles.

Since they don't have much official business to do here, they're able to not mind their language too much and were a bit more relaxed.

Two of Fuxi Empire's military officer were interested in Gu Qing Shan so they actively made conversation with him.

Gu Qing Shan didn't mind it too much, and he actually knew more about the Fuxi Empire than the Confederate in the past life, so he was able to mingle with them after just a few sentences.

Not too long after, a graceful sound of the piano started.

The performance was gentle, audible, but not too loud, enough to not affect everyone's conversation while remaining as background music.

At this point, the host of this banquet, Madame Punta appeared.

She was certainly an elegant lady, each of her gestures and actions held a hidden allure and grace.

As she appeared, many important guests came and greeted her with a smile.

After some small talk, she sat down at the front seat of the banquet, sitting on her left was a Fuxi Empire's prince, while on her right was the masculine white-robed Holy Apostle from before.

"Are you looking at Ivan?" one of the Fuxi military officers noticed Gu Qing Shan's sight.

"That's right, a Holy Apostle of the Holy Church, it's hard to not notice him even if I wanted to" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"They are certainly strong, not to mention total maniacs that aren't scared of death, very hard to deal with" the Fuxi officer commented.

At this point, Madame Punta's welcoming speech had ended.

The rowdy chatting air in the banquet hall stopped, as dish after dish was brought up.

The banquet has officially begun.

Right now, the only thing Gu Qing Shan can do is sit still and finish this meal.

Ever since the apocalypse of his last life, this has to be the most lavish meal he's ever had.

Shark fin boiled in white wine, decorated with chilled oysters, shrimp and other seafood on the side. Each guest is served with a roasted pigeon; smoked chicken; beefsteaks; chunky potatoes stew; iced citrus fruits; freshly baked white bread and sweat butter with jam; jellied fruit served in fruit punch; fancy cakes and ice-cream.

There were also many kinds of alcohol, as the ladies were drinking Champagne or fruit-based wine, while the men drank stronger, distilled spirits.

As Gu Qing Shan picked out a bottle, a servant immediately came up to help him open it and filled up his glass.

The spirit was clear and pure with excellent quality, refreshing to the taste.

While eating and drinking, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but feel emotional.

Numerous normal people are still struggling between the line of life and death, yet many people here are still enjoying themselves with the highest standard of the peaceful era.

As everyone enjoyed their meals, they occasionally discussed one thing or another, letting out soft laughter.

It's such a well-organized banquet this is that even the pickiest Aristocrat wouldn't be able to find any fault with it.

Everyone enjoyed the meal very heartfully, even Gu Qing Shan who was under pressure with this and that couldn't help but admit he was very satisfied.

Next came the ball.

At first, it will just be some gentle tunes to help people accommodate to the relaxing atmosphere.

The ambassador brought his entourage and silently left.

Gu Qing Shan himself stood up, very politely asked for the location of the toilet and stood up to head there.

As he made his way into the toilet, Gu Qing Shan closed the stall door, tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the 'handheld' simplified warp device.

"Liao Xing, time to work" he said.

[I'm here, hm, this distance is good, won't be any mistakes. The warp will start in about 30 seconds, so wait a bit] Liao Xing's voice came from the warp device.

After 30 seconds.

[Current coordinates set, target set, begin warp] Liao Xing spoke.

Looking down, Gu Qing Shan saw that the warp device has started to operate.

One second later, both him and the 'handheld' simplified warp device disappeared without a trace.

## **Chapter 214**

In a certain room on the third floor, a figure suddenly appeared holding a strange metal device.

Gu Qing Shan put away the 'handheld' warp device away, using his inner sight to scan the entire room.

All sorts of valuable and memorial items were here, being exhibited in sections.

The entire exhibition room was silent, giving off an air of solitude.

"Found it" Gu Qing Shan spoke in a low voice.

There was only one painting being hung in the room.

The painting was of Anna's 10th birthday.

The king was rubbing Anna's head with one hand, the other holding a tiara and was about to put it on her.

The little girl Anna was looking at the king with an expression of bliss.

Gu Qing Shan walked up and admired the painting carefully.

"A beauty in the making"

He commented, looked at it a few more times before taking it off the wall.

Taking the painting off the frame, he quickly felt something behind the canvas.

Checking it, Gu Qing Shan saw that it was a thin, long box.

The box wasn't booby trapped or locked, it opened quite easily.

Inside the box were two items, a blueprint, and an opaque crystal ball.

Gu Qing Shan rolled the blueprint out to look, seeing that it was a detailed description of ingredients and concoction ratios.

*Yep, this is it.*

Glancing over it, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Holo-Brain and put the blueprint away.

He was about to check the crystal ball as well, but it suddenly exploded with a 'bang' and fell to pieces.

The crystal ball was no more.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned, released his inner sight to search around, but found nothing.

The Holy Empire's king would not put a useless item at such a well-hidden place.

But the crystal ball broke and disappeared as soon as he held it in hand.

There are simply too many items in this world that have the same capabilities, so he can't guess what it was from just that.

After Gu Qing Shan waited for a few more seconds, nothing happened at all.

*Could it have lost its power after being hidden away for so long?*

He didn't wait any longer and very carefully put the painting back into the frame, then replaced it back onto the wall as before.

Everything has been put back exactly the same, no one would ever suspect that anyone ever came here.

*How unexpectedly easy.*

*I got the 99% purity God's Chosen Awakening Serum recipe!*

This doesn't only mean he's one step closer to evolving "Smiting".

As he gives the recipe to Impartial Goddess, she'll easily be able to work out how to create diluted versions of this serum.

Which means the System he's making will be able to include an option to class-change to God's Chosen.

After being able to pick God's Chosen and Martial Artist, the only one left to worry about is Elementalist awakening.

Which means the work for the class system is already 2/3rd of the way done!

Gu Qing Shan took out the 'handheld' warp device again and was about to leave.

Liao Xing's voice came from the warp device.

[Coordinates locked, Impartial Goddess is prepared, you'll be warped away in 30 seconds]

[The Pope is still inside the Holy Sanctuary, everything else is also normal —ah shit, Holy Apostle Ivan just left the party, he's patrolling] his voice suddenly raised.

"No worries, I'm about to leave anyway" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Ah, right] Liao Xing seems to also be surprised at his sudden burst of emotion and was embarrassed.

"Pay attention to the warp device data, work hard" saying so, Gu Qing Shan's mood was exceedingly fine.

After having a fulfilling dinner, he very easily took the Holy Empire's national Serum, Gu Qing Shan felt this evening was quite perfect.

While waiting to leave, he suddenly sensed something was off.

As he looked up, Gu Qing Shan saw a person standing in the air, silently watching him.

He was an old man, a thin, fatigued old man.

The old man's body was incorporeal, his eyes locked onto Gu Qing Shan.

"Who are you?" the old man asked.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

"Where's Anna? Where's my little Anna?" the old man muttered in disappointment.

"How unfortunate, after the soul vessel gets triggered, I can only exist for 10 minutes, yet I can't meet Anna"

He lowered his head, showing an expression of ultimate regret.

"Your Majesty!" Gu Qing Shan almost shouted.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized, this was the Holy Empire's king's soul!

"Why!? Why are you hiding here!?"

He couldn't help but ask: "Hiding in such a secluded spot, how would Anna find you?"

The old man was still thinking out loud, muttering: “She would definitely come, the God’s Chosen Awakening Serum is the cornerstone of the empire, as long as she’s alive, she would definitely come here”

Gu Qing Shan was still not convinced and used his inner sight to scan it.

—*—this really is the king’s soul!*

*But after death, it’s impossible for a human soul to remain in the world for a long period of time.*

*Did he say that unassuming opaque crystal ball was a soul vessel?*

It this isn’t a dream, then that means the Holy Empire’s king has already prepared for this since a long time ago, knowing that he might one day die at the hand of the Pope.

The king wanted to see Anna again for a final time.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but thought.

—*—in the past life, after the king died, did Anna ever get to meet the king’s soul?*

This painting was a gift from the king to Madame Punta.

After the king’s death, Anna was immediately caught and used as the midget’s source of nutrient, getting her power sucked out of her day by day.

During that time, she was imprisoned, so she didn’t have the freedom or the mind to go and find this Serum’s recipe.

When Anna was able to reclaim her country under the help of Fuxi Empire, the Holy Empire was already in ruin, Madame Punta also lost her life in the chaotic power struggle, and this painting was simply unfound.

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—*—no matter if the king’s soul managed to stay sealed or was found, either way the clues regarding the Holy Empire’s God’s Chosen Awakening Serum was lost from then on.*

Which means, in the past life, Anna definitely missed her chance to meet the king.

Gu Qing Shan helplessly sighed, then said: “Please wait for a bit, I’ll get Anna to come here right away”

The old man lifted his head again, his eyes regained a bit of liveliness.

“Can you really?” he spoke, almost with a trembling voice.

“Of course”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan changed a few settings on the simplified warp device.

[Hm? What happened? We lost the data connection from your side] Liao Xing’s voice was heard.

“Is Anna there?”

[She is]

“Then send her over here”

[Ah? But the warp device can only be used a total of 3 times, and you’ve already used it once]

If Anna is warped here, after everything’s done, only one person will be able to get away with the warp device.

The other person will have no choice but to leave with a different method.

Gu Qing Shan very seriously said: “Just send her over immediately, it’s an emergency here!”

[Fine, fine, she said she’s done preparing, warping in 30 seconds, wait a bit]

Liao Xing’s voice disappeared.

30 seconds is quite short, but also quite long for those counting.

Since Anna isn’t here yet, Gu Qing Shan asked first: “Your Majesty, you’re clearly already dead, but your soul is still able to exist in the living world, how is this possible?”

The Holy Empire’s king looked at him and answered: “I guess it’s fine that I tell you, I broke the iron rules of life and death, contained myself inside a soul vessel with ample energy, enough to remain in this world”

“Then how did you break the iron rules of life and death? As far as I know, humans can’t do that” Gu Qing Shan pursued further.

“Because the price I paid was high enough”

“Add what price would that be?”

“After this 10 minutes, my soul will dissipate completely”

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

After a few seconds, he managed to pull himself together and said: “But that is too big of a price to pay, why would you do such a thing?”

“Because I wanted to meet Anna” the king answered.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t understand it: “But this way, you’ll disappear permanently, you won’t be able to exist in any world, unable to get any sort of reincarnation”

The king was sorrowful and spoke with a low voice: “If I forgot about Anna, then I’m already another person, no longer the real me”

Gu Qing Shan was stunned again.

The king sighed: “Anna, my child, after I dissipate, she’ll be left alone with no one else on this cold world, this is my fault”

“No, father, this isn’t your fault” Anna suddenly appeared in the exhibition room.

She bit her lip, tears flowing down her cheeks as her hands reached out to touch the king’s face.

But the slender finger went through the ethereal soul, unable to touch anything at all.

“Father, what are you doing?” she cried loudly, “you should’ve passed on to the next world, that way I can at least live on in peace. But now, even your soul can’t be saved anymore”

“No, you won’t live on in peace. I know you very well. You will definitely place our clan’s shackles of fate entirely on your shoulders”

“My daughter, you need not do such a thing”

The king looked at his daughter, seeming to want to carve her appearance into his very being.

“Anna, I’ve always been so strict with you, all of it for the sake of training you, making sure that one day you’ll be able to inherit our Holy Empire”

“But now, I have to tell you, if I’m able to do it all again, I would rather that you didn’t have to learn so many things. As long as you’re alive, as long as you’re not hurt, even if my soul is no more, I’ll be able to be happy for you”

Gu Qing Shan’s Holo-Brain suddenly lit up.

[Sir, it’s an emergency, someone is moving upstairs] Impartial Goddess said.

“Who is it?”

[One of the Seven Holy Apostles, Ivan, leave now!] Liao Xing hurriedly said.

[Gu Qing Shan, there’s no time, move quickly] Zhang Ying Hao’s worried voice was also heard.

All of their expressions changed.

“You’re not his opponent, forget it, leave quickly” the king said.

“Then what about you?”

“I’ve already met Anna, I’m satisfied, I’ll naturally dissipate as time passed anyways”

“Both of you, leave, no need to throw your life away because of me, this isn’t what I wanted” the king also urged him.

Anna couldn’t control her tears flowing down her face, dripping to the ground.

She was already trying her best not to sob or break down crying.

She looked up, showing a deep sense of pain and unwillingness in her eyes.

“Leave, now!” the king urged them again.

“I—” Anna tried her best to speak, but only managed to say one word before she was unable to go on.

She was already struggling to stand, couldn’t help but hang on to Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder to manage to prop herself up.

[Sir, Holy Apostle Ivan has already made it to the third floor, I’ll start the warp device for you] Impartial Goddess said.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes, then opened them again and suddenly said: “No need”



[Sir?] Impartial Goddess was confused.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then looked at Anna and said: "Anna, listen to me"

"There's only a few minutes left, I hope you'll be able to spend it with your father"

"If we leave now, you'll keep this pain with you for the rest of your life"

"Don't wait until the world permanently separates you and hold those regrets forever in your heart"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan put the 'handheld' warp device on the ground next to Anna.

"What are you doing?!" Anna couldn't help but ask.

"You don't have to pay attention to what I'm doing, because I would do the same even if it's not for you" Gu Qing Shan said.

He kept speaking while walking towards the door.

"No one gets to interfere with a father during his last moments of reunion with his daughter"

"Not even a Holy Apostle"

He walked out and closed the door behind him.

## **Chapter 215**

"It seems he's normally a very good son" the king commented.

"No, father, he's orphaned, both his parents have been gone since he was six. He's been living alone ever since then until now" Anna said.

The king was a bit surprised.

Then he suddenly asked: "He's your chosen consort?"

"That's right, ever since the first time I met him I've always had my eyes on him" Anna stared straight into her father's eyes and answered.

The king showed an expression of approval, saying: "Daughter, your eyes are quite sharp indeed"

"Anna, I had purposefully tried to test the man you were just with, because I found that he had Death's relic on him"

"I gave it to him, then he gave it back to me, and I gave it to him again"

The king was a bit stunned, asking: "You said he gave it back to you?"

"Yes"

The king was trembling for a bit, then spoke in confusion: "Such a foolish person still exists?"

"He's foolish like that"

The king sighed: "If it's as you said, then your eyes aren't just exceptionally sharp"

Then his expression became solemn: "Before I fully dissipate, there's something I must tell you"

"The tradition and inheritance that our Medici clan has been silently protecting for over 700 years, I must tell you and you alone, to fulfill the Medici's destiny"

“This inheritance, for the past few hundred years, aside from our founding ancestor, no one has been able to inherit it”

“Anna, you are the most talented daughter so far in the long history of our Medici clan, as well as its only remaining member, no matter if you could inherit it or not, do not blame yourself”

The king stared at his daughter, unwilling to look away.

He reached out wanting to rub her head, but then remembered that he couldn't touch anything anymore.

His hand stopped mid-air.

Anna stepped forward, placing her head below his phantom hand.

“I don't know what inheritance you're talking about” she softly spoke.

“O' gods in heaven, please be my witness” the king maintained a solemn expression and started to speak.

“Today, right here, I shall bestow the Medici clan's lineage in the hands of my daughter Anna”

“From now forward, Anna is the new head of the Medici clan”

In the exhibition room, the king's expression was solemn, his tone slow and sure, similar to scene depicted in the painting behind himself.

The young king was touching his young daughter's head with one hand, while the other held a tiara that he was about to put on her.

On the other side of the wall.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan closed the door, he saw the Holy Apostle.

They met once before, at the checkpoint.

Holy Apostle Ivan, wearing a white robe specific to the Holy Judge, half-stripped to reveal his bulging chest and shoulders.

He stood silently at the end of the hallway, looking at Gu Qing Shan.

“You're looking for me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I've been waiting for a while” Holy Apostle Ivan said.

“Tch, what a committed and dedicated employee you are” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Dedication is a joy in and of itself” Ivan showed a cruel expression on his face.

“What are you in so much of a hurry to find me for? Sparring?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Before that” Ivan said: “Following procedures, I have to tell you first, this area here doesn't welcome guests”

The Holy Apostle flashed a smile ———one of a predator that found its prey.

“Is that so? I might've gotten lost”

Gu Qing Shan fixed his collar, combed his hair back, conveniently changing his title to [You Ji General]  
He started to quicken his steps, walking towards Ivan.

“If you don’t mind, please help bring me back to the ballroom” he said as he walked.

“I’ll be very honored to get you out of here” the Holy Apostle replied.

A milky white light gathered, forming a solemn and holy pattern, silently appeared beneath his feet.

The Holy Church’s Mystic-type God’s Chosen Skill, [Repentance]

Any damage dealt will be given back to the attacker two-fold.

Gu Qing Shan only needed to glance to understand.

“Then what are we waiting for, let’s go” he said.

“No, no, no, we still can’t leave just yet” Holy Apostle Ivan shook his head.

As they talked, the distance between them was closing more and more.

“Ah, I understand, my apologies”

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Gu Qing Shan acted like he understood something and took out his wallet.

“I forgot everything in the Holy Empire requires a fee, fine fine —-here’s your tip” he pulled out a wad of cash and waved it in his hand.

Holy Apostle Ivan’s face twisted in anger.

“The humiliation you gave; I will return over a hundred-fold” he shouted in a low voice.

“You don’t need money? Then what do you want me to do?” Gu Qing Shan showed an expression of confusion.

He’s already walked half the length of the hallway, but his steps didn’t slow down, still moving towards Ivan.

“My hearing is very different from a normal person —-in that room you just came out of, I can still hear a heartbeat and breathing”

“And I believe that to be a woman” Holy Apostle Ivan smirked: “How about we wait just a bit more, let’s see who your little lover is”

Gu Qing Shan stopped for a bit, shaking his head: “As the host, you’re much too curious about your guest’s personal matters”

He frowned, then stared at the holy pattern below the Ivan’s feet.

Suddenly he sighed: “Truthfully said, I don’t want to fight you”

Ivan was a bit interested and asked: “Why not? You scared?”

Gu Qing Shan started to explain: "The Holy Church possesses many types of God's Chosen Skill, quite a few are awakened by different people, but [Repentance] is such a rare God's Chosen Skill that not many have it"

"This generation, I'm the only one" Ivan pridefully responded.

"That's right, it's very rare" Gu Qing Shan nodded in agreement and continued

"Tsk, tsk, standing in place while letting others attack as much as they like, ignoring even if your clothes are ripped and torn off, yet still begging them to keep attacking" he exclaimed, "there's quite a few masochists in the world, but to take it as far as you do... I've got to say nobody can do the same"

Ivan was completely stunned as he listened to Gu Qing Shan, his body shaking in anger.

"I want- I want to kill you!" Ivan's words were also trembling.

"Even though your service sucks, I still have to give you a tip" Gu Qing Shan threw the wad of cash at him.

The money fluttered, blocking Ivan's view.

The distance between them at the moment is just enough.

A sword appeared from thin air.

The Earth Sword.

"A sword? Weak and puny"

Ivan brushed the money away and coldly laughed.

Thrusting the Earth Sword, Gu Qing Shan's spirit energy circulated.

Ivan seemed to notice something, his expression instantly changed.

He very quickly dodged backward, wanting to avoid this attack.

But this attack was too quick, and he's already reacting late, so he was unable to dodge at all.

The air around the sword tip was screaming.

Crak!

The communication device on Ivan's body was singled out, dismantled in mid-air and fell down to the ground as scattered parts.

Gu Qing Shan was able to loosen up a bit.

As long as Ivan is unable to contact anyone else in 10 minutes, then no one will know the cause of this whole thing.

Which means, what he has to do in the next 10 minutes became much easier.

"Guards——"

Ivan shouted, concentrated a white flame in his hand, reaching for Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan shifted his body to dodge, then thrust the sword again.

A hit.

But this attack was very gentle and soft, controlled perfectly so that it wouldn't deal any damage.

The blade of the sword had turned sideways, the tip bent to one side, the only thing that hit Ivan's chest was the shaft.

This thrust will not hurt Ivan even a little bit.

The power of the strike enveloped and transferred its momentum to push him away.

"Good luck on your trip" Gu Qing Shan whispered.

— — —boom!

The entire hallway was blown apart by the remaining sword qi, becoming tattered and broken.

Holy Apostle Ivan was taken by the force of the attack, crashed through the wall and sent flying far away.

Like a meteor, he left an arc of light as he flew across the night sky.