

Apocalypse 216

Chapter 216

At least, for the next 10 minutes, Ivan can't even think about returning.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away.

During the past life, after a lot of thinking and discussion by everyone, quite a few methods of overcoming [Repentance] were devised.

Of course, these methods all require extremely fine control, skill and usage of power to use.

What Gu Qing Shan used here was the simplest method of getting away from him without fighting.

Because all he needs to do is buy 10 minutes for Anna.

Looking at the end of the hallway, Gu Qing Shan saw the large hole opened by himself just now.

Then as he looked down at his shoulder, a milky white bundle of light was silently floating there.

This is what Ivan desperately stuck onto him before he was sent flying.

As soon as the bundle of light was about to touch him, Gu Qing Shan used spirit energy to stop it.

This is a sort of stigma, representing an enemy of the Holy Church. Whenever they get close enough, a high-ranking Holy Apostle will be able to feel this stigma's existence.

Luckily Gu Qing Shan was quick enough to stop it from touching him, otherwise it would bring an endless flow of powerful enemies here.

Below, as people heard Ivan's yell, together with the large impact of his attack, a few church members has already started gathering here.

The sound of footsteps and discussion was coming close.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "Impartial Goddess"

[I'm here]

"I've left the warp device in the exhibition room, 10 minutes later, the king's soul will dissipate. At that time, immediately warp Anna back"

[Understood, Liao Xing wanted to speak to you]

"Connect him"

Liao Xing's serious voice came from the Holo-Brain: [Ye Fei Li wants to go save you]

"Tell him to stay there, if he appeared and his identity gets found out, it'll be even more troublesome"

[I agree, so in a time of crisis, we still need to depend on science after all] Liao Xing pridefully said.

"You have a good suggestion?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Liao Xing quickly explained: [I'm currently replenishing energy for the hidden warp device in the Holy Empire's capital. Impartial Goddess knows where it is, you just need to get there as quick as possible]

Gu Qing Shan said: "If I go there, that warp device will be found out"

[No matter, after you warp, it'll self-destruct]

"Ok then, after Anna leaves, I'll use that method to leave ———on the other hand, where's the Pope?"

Gu Qing Shan asked very seriously.

[The Pope is still at the Holy Sanctuary]

Gu Qing Shan silently breathed out in relief and said: "If she moves, immediately tell me, I will hold nothing back to get out of the Holy Empire then"

[Ok, I'll pay attention]

"Hm, after I return I'll treat you to something sweet"

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan hung up.

A few black-robed church members started to ascend the stairs.

They looked at the large hole at the end of the hallway, then at Gu Qing Shan and shouted nervously.

"Who are you!"

"Do not move, identify yourself"

"Where's sir Ivan?"

"Contact the others, quickly"

While they were panicking, Gu Qing Shan shook his head, lightly took his sword and hit the ground.

As if it was hit by a meteor, the floor in front of him started to collapse.

The floor collapsed beneath the church member's feet as well.

Having no choice, they could only follow the floor and fell, landing on the floor below.

After regaining balance, they looked up to see that he was still standing on the third floor, his sword on his shoulder, looking down nonchalantly.

"Who are you exactly?" one of them loudly demanded.

"Me? Did Ivan not tell you?" Gu Qing Shan very calmly responded.

The church members exchanged glances, then took out a communication device to contact the main church.

But no matter how much they tried, the call won't connect.

"Did you do that?" Gu Qing Shan asked his Holo-Brain.

[I did, sir, I think you might need some time to smooth out the situation] Impartial Goddess answered.

"Smart" Gu Qing Shan praised.

The church members gave up on the communication devices and started shouting for backup while running out.

[Sir, more and more Paladins are gathering there, I advise that you leave immediately] Impartial Goddess said.

“I need to stay here for a bit longer before I can leave” Gu Qing Shan answered.

[According to the Holy Empire’s surveillance system, more and more Paladins are gathering from around the outskirts, the chance of you escaping successfully is rapidly decreasing] Impartial Goddess reported.

Gu Qing Shan ignored that and brought a chair from somewhere, sat down right at the edge of the collapsed floor.

He crossed his legs, putting the Earth Sword sideways on his lap and said: “10 minutes isn’t a lot”

The second floor hallway that was supposed to be empty was quickly filling up with people.

The Paladins had already surrounded the area.

A commander-looking person came out from the crowd.

“Who are you?” he looked up at the third floor and asked.

“I am the Confederate’s Holy Empire Embassy live-in military officer, Zhang Ren Jia”

“What are you doing here?”

“Sparring”

“Sparring?”

“Hm, your Holy Apostle Ivan told me that he very much looks down on our Confederate Professionals”

“What happened after?”

“After that, he invited me to spar”

As they heard that everyone here understood in their minds.

That’s just how Ivan is.

Not just with enemies, even against people on the same side, Ivan likes to use the excuse of sparring to break his opponent’s belief and will, thus creating pain for them.

He enjoys the process.

Hearing that, the officer’s expression loosened, asking: “Then, where’s sir Ivan?”

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“I sent him flying” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The crowd became rowdy.

Everyone couldn't help but burst out in discussion.

Because this is Ivan! The undefeated Holy Apostle Ivan!

"Your actions right now have caused a very serious diplomatic issue" the Holy Church's officer held his emotions down and spoke very seriously.

"You're thinking too much, this is nothing but a little post-meal exercise, it doesn't concern any national business" Gu Qing Shan shrugged, "a powerhouse of the Holy Church challenged me to a duel, then the duel was decided, simple as that"

"What about witnesses?"

"It's a simple sparring match, what witness do you want?"

"That is to say, this is only a match between the two of you, and you don't represent your country's will?"

"Isn't this type of match very common?" Gu Qing Shan spoke matter-of-factly.

That's right, matches between Professionalists are very common, especially in banquets, treated as a form of entertainment, sometimes there's even betting involved.

This type of betting match has existed since the banquets of ancient kings, persisting in form until now.

However——

Everyone looked at the large hole at the end of the hallway, then back at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan very apologetically: "Truthfully, I'm annoyed with him as much as he's annoyed with me, so I didn't really control my strength too well"

[Seven minutes left] Impartial Goddess said in a whisper.

"Since your sparring match had ended, please come down, we need to take care of the aftermath" the Holy Church's officer said without changing his expression.

The reason he's where he is today isn't because of his strength, but rather his wits.

He has a strange feeling about this.

They couldn't contact Holy Apostle Ivan.

There are no witnesses, no one to tell what happened from start to end.

——*that is to say, there's something going on on the 3rd floor?*

The officer's eyes started to look for any anomalies on the 3rd floor as much as his eyes can see.

If nothing comes up during the check, then this really is nothing but a normal sparring match, although it's a bit humiliating for the Holy Church.

But a match is only a match, it doesn't affect anything as a whole.

But if something is truly going on on the 3rd floor, then the Holy Apostle Ivan's disappearance might very well be because he noticed some unbelievable secret.

Which means they have to check the 3rd floor thoroughly!

"Sir, you can come down now" the Paladin officer smiled and said.

"That's no good, I can't leave right now" Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

The Paladin officer's expression changed.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Ivan told me, if I manage to defeat him, he'll call his older brother over" "I'll have to wait to see this older brother of his and have another match"

"Holy Apostle Ivan has no older brother!" the Paladin officer spoke.

"Hm? He doesn't? He said his brother was called Hurt"

The entire crowd went silent, the Paladin officer also shut his mouth.

Hurt is the Great Holy Apostle, the leader of the seven Apostles, the strongest warrior of the Church, second only to the Pope.

Hurt really is Ivan's half-brother of the same father, this is a fact that many high-ranking officials of the church knows about.

But besides from Ivan and Hurt themselves, who even dares to discuss such a thing? Who dares to say that to an outsider?

The previous person that dared to do that was burned by Hurt as a sacrifice to God in front of everybody.

Since the name 'Hurt' has come up, it really could be something Ivan accidentally said.

"You said he doesn't have one, but ———Ivan himself claimed that he does" Gu Qing Shan showed an innocent expression.

The Paladin officer doesn't dare to pry any further.

If this is a match between the two Holy Apostles and another person, then he shouldn't butt in unless he wants to die.

"If that's the case, then please continue to wait here" the Paladin officer said.

He turned and quickly left.

The only thing he can do right now is to quickly report this to his higher-ups.

"Go find the Confederate's ambassador, contact the Holy Sanctuary, contact the Holy Apostles, split up, quickly!" he ordered.

"What's the situation? I heard a large commotion here" a calming male voice was heard.

The Paladin officer turned to look and was extremely glad.

A dignified man dressed in a luxurious red robe was walking here together with the beautiful lady host of today's banquet.

Unlike the white-robed Holy Judges, the red robe represents the administration level of the Holy Church, holding immense authority in their hand.

This is also one of the Seven Holy Apostles, Cardinal Kid.

"Greetings to you sir, this is what happened..."

The Paladin officer quickly told him everything.

"Ah! How could such a thing happen!" the beautiful lady gasped in shock.

"Is that right? Ahahaha, that idiot Ivan got sent flying?" the cardinal laughed.

"Seems like that dumb judge finally hit a hard rock!"

The cardinal shook his head and clapped, showing a clear sense of gloating.

He turned to address the lady next to him: "No worries, it's a simple sparring match"

"But it was such a large commotion, they scared all my guests" the lady angrily complained.

"No way around it, that idiot has never considered other people's feelings when he fought"

The cardinal thought about it, then said: "You should go and calm down your guests, explain the matter to them first, I'll go take a look on this side"

Saying so, he started to walk up the stairs.

Hearing that, the lady couldn't do anything else but headed back to the banquet hall at the front.

3rd floor.

[4 more minutes until the warp device starts] Impartial Goddess said.

"Good" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Impartial Goddess continued: [Sir, news of your battle with Ivan is spreading rapidly, your current estimated rate of survival has become extremely low]

"No worries"

Suddenly, a luxurious red-robed man appeared in his sight.

"Nice to meet you, I am the cardinal of the Holy Church, Kid"

A dignified, masculine man stood on the floor below, looked up to speak to him.

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"That's me"

"Wait, please don't speak yet, let me take a guess first ——" the cardinal suddenly smiled.

Gu Qing Shan leaned on the chair's armrest, looking at him curiously.

Although he doesn't know what the other party wanted, but if they're demanding that, then he might as well sit and let time slowly pass.

That's his intention from the start anyways.

The cardinal started to speak.

"That moron saw that you wore military garb and got excited, came up to provoke you and ask you to spar with him"

The cardinal shook his head, then pointed at Gu Qing Shan: "Did I got that right?"

— — — *ah, he's just showing off*, Gu Qing Shan instantly understood.

He then acted like he couldn't help it and said: "I had no way to refuse, he seemed to like sparring a lot"

"Of course! Of course! The thing that he likes doing the most is sparring, even I sometimes get annoyed with his provocative antics" the cardinal suddenly looked mad.

He then continued: "So after he provoked and asked to spar with you, you couldn't take it and provoked him back, saying that you'll show him his place or something like that"

"Right" Gu Qing Shan followed up with him.

"He was so confident that he'd be able to break your confidence, but instead hit a hard rock and got sent flying"

"Exactly" Gu Qing Shan nodded to encourage him to go on.

"Hm, I must say, you really did quite well, I also despise that bastard" the cardinal sighed.

Gu Qing Shan checked his Holo-Brain.

[1 minute 59 seconds] the Holo-Brain showed.

"I really want to befriend you now" the cardinal extended his hand and said.

"It would be my honor" Gu Qing Shan said.

Suddenly, the cardinal's tone changed, saying: "But no matter what, Ivan and I are both people of the Holy Church. And since you sent him flying, it's regretful but I definitely cannot befriend you"

"Well that's a shame" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The cardinal continued: "It can't be helped. Either way, the Holy Church's reputation has been sullied, so I have to get it back one way or the other. This way, people will know for sure just who is the more reliable Holy Apostle"

A gorgeous dark red pattern appeared at his feet.

Mystic-type God's Chosen Skill, [Holy Spirit]

The cardinal jumped up, his body turned transparent.

He said apologetically: "Seeing how you gave me such a good mood; I'll only take your legs"

The cardinal pulled out a long whip and slashed it at Gu Qing Shan.

“Truthfully, we can keep talking for a bit longer, badmouth Ivan some more” saying so, Gu Qing Shan raised the Earth Sword and blocked the whip.

The whip went straight through the Earth Sword and kept flying at Gu Qing Shan.

Sure enough!

Gu Qing Shan’s body flashed, escaping the attack.

“Ah?” the cardinal was surprised: “You’ve seen our Holy Church’s God’s Chosen Skill before?”

While he was talking, the whip didn’t stop and kept slithering like a poisonous snake, kept on aiming at Gu Qing Shan’s vitals.

Right as Gu Qing Shan dodged, he used his sword to lift the chair and flung it.

The chair flew straight through the cardinal’s body and down to the second floor.

Gu Qing Shan frowned.

This is at least a Fully-awakened stage [Holy Spirit]

[Holy Spirit] is the Holy Church’s Mystic-type God’s Chosen Skill, its power is to allow both the user and their weapons to become incorporeal, capable of ignoring all physical attacks.

At the same time, [Holy Spirit]’s user will be able to affect the world as normal while in their incorporeal state.

Just like how [Repentance] is exceptionally strong, [Holy Spirit] is also really hard to deal with.

The Holy Church is able to grow to where they are today mainly due to these practically unbeatable Mystic-type God’s Chosen Skills.

Anyone that possess these Mystic-type God’s Chosen Skills will automatically become a Holy Apostle.

Holy Apostles are raised from birth using a secret method to make sure that they awaken to these Mystic-type God’s Chosen Skills.

But in that process, they require a certain thing that can’t be substituted. And that’s the Royal Family’s God’s Chosen Awakening Serum.

The Church is able to raise these seeds, while the Royal family has a monopoly on the Serum, which combined to create the glorious history of the Holy Empire.

Gu Qing Shan fell backwards, changing his title to [Sword 15] in the process.

Such a God’s Chosen Skill like [Holy Spirit] truly is the ultimate counter to sword cultivators like Gu Qing Shan.

The only method he has is using the title Skill of [Sword 15], [Sound Shock].

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[Sound Shock (primary): With each attack, your weapon will also disturb your opponent's soul vessel]

This is his only non-physical attack skill.

He's not strong enough yet to become a Sword Saint that can cut through anything.

"I haven't even hurt Ivan yet, why would you want my legs?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Ahahaha, you might not know this, but the Holy Church doesn't allow failures, Ivan will definitely receive heavy punishment later" the cardinal swung his whip again and casually attacked.

Shill!

As the tip of the sword reached forward, the cardinal didn't even bother to look at it and said: "Such an attack won't—"

But he got cut off.

The sword didn't pierce anything, but the cardinal felt pain on his face.

He instinctively reached for his nose.

There was blood.

"You wounded me?" he looked at the blood on his hand and said unconsciously.

Intense holy light began to emit from his body.

Suddenly, Impartial Goddess' voice was heard.

[It's time, the warp device has begun its activation, please be careful sir]

"What's wrong?"

[The other Holy Apostles has received the news and are quickly approaching your location. The Paladin have almost finished assembling as well]

"Ok, I got it"

Gu Qing Shan's expression became solemn.

The cardinal's expression also changed roaring: "Who are you talking to!"

Suddenly, he felt a very light sound from one of the rooms on the 3rd floor.

Clack, clack!

It was a sound of machinery.

The cardinal froze in place, then realized for the very first time that the situation might not be quite what he had thought it was.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and scanned across the exhibition room.

No one was in there.

The king had already vanished, while Anna had also been warped back to the S.W. Divine Temple Interstellar Fortress.

Tapping his Inventory Bag, Gu Qing Shan released the full light gold armor set, attaching to his body with his inner sight.

After the silver mask covered his face, he took a look at the cardinal one last time.

“It’s time to say goodbye, I’ll keep my legs for now until the next time we fight for you to take” he said.

“Just who are——” the cardinal was stunned, speaking blankly.

Not only is the situation not as he thought it was, this person seems to not be a normal military officer of the Confederate as well.

Gu Qing Shan turned around and quickly dashed towards the other end of the hallway.

“Bastard, stay right there!” the cardinal finally regained his senses, shouting while swinging his whip.

Gu Qing Shan ignored him and headed straight towards the window.

The whip struck the You Ji General armor set, letting metal sounds of ‘clink, clank, clank, clink, clank’.

——but apart from slightly increasing Gu Qing Shan’s speed with every hit, the attacks didn’t even leave a scratch on the armor.

The golden light crashed through the window, drawing a beautiful arc flying across for sky for a few hundred meters before landing, then immediately rushed far away.

“He knows how to fly...” the cardinal could only stand watching this blankly.

By himself, he definitely cannot catch up, but——

The cardinal suddenly remembered something and headed towards the room that let out the sound before.

With a single whip strike, the door was broken down.

Running inside, he looked around the room.

Everything was normal.

The cardinal walked around, then fixed his eyes on a certain part of the wall.

From what he remembered the last time he visited this place, there’s supposed to be a painting hung here.

But the wall was empty.

There was no painting.

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Before, Madame Punta had always hung this painting right at the main hall to show her connection to the king, it was only recently that she had it taken down to put into the exhibition room.

The king was famously known as a Casanova, so he frequently gave items that have memorial value to noble ladies as gifts. And this painting is only one of numerous others so no one would ever feel that there's any problems here.

But now, someone had come specifically for the painting.

That means there was definitely something up with it.

Just what secret was the painting hiding?

Why did I not notice it from the start?

The cardinal suddenly began roaring angrily, destroying the exhibition room with his whip.

"Your Holiness!" as the Paladin officer heard that, he came and stood at the door looking at him.

"Go! Quickly inform everyone, that person calling himself Zhang Ren Jia might have something to do with the matter regarding the king, we definitely cannot let him escape!" the cardinal was breathing heavily and shouting.

This has something to do with the king!

As soon as the officer heard that, he hurriedly responded: "Yes sir!"

"Right, Zhang Ren Jia is wearing a full golden armor, he should be extremely eye-catching right now!" the cardinal quickly added.

"Yes sir!"

"Quickly leave, inform all the forces!"

The officer quickly said 'yes' and ran out.

At the same time.

The Holy Sanctuary.

The Pope was still sitting on her throne, using a brush to paint something on the canvas with absolute concentration.

Suddenly, she put down her brush and sighed.

"I can't shake this feeling..."

She quickly didn't hesitate anymore and called: "Come"

Very quickly, a nun came and kneeled in front of her.

"If I remember correctly, you're an orphan adopted by God on Earth" the Pope looked at her and asked.

"Yes sir, if it weren't for the grace of God, I would've died of starvation or sickness long ago" the nun very sincerely answered.

"Is your faith firm?"

"In life or in death, this servant exists to serve you, to save the great God"

“Do you have a person in your heart?”

“No, my heart has always been pure and pristine”

“Then now, that the holy moment has come, do you agree to sacrifice your everything for the sake of the Holy Church?”

The nun looked up, speaking with a fanatic look on her face: “For God, for you, I will sacrifice my everything”

“Hm, very well”

The Pope nodded satisfyingly and took a page off the drawing table.

She threw it out.

The paper silently floated above the nun and took her in.

As the Pope lightly waved, the paper returned and hover right in front of her.

Taking the paper in hand, the Pope shook it lightly.

The paper has turned into a card.

On the card was the same nun that was here just now.

Her pale face was red from excitement, both her hands clasped together, praying.

Two lines of text appeared on the card.

[The devout nun]

[A pure and devout follower, willing to sacrifice everything for her faith, including her soul itself]

The Pope silently stared at the card.

After a while, she placed the card straight at her chest and muttered: “Dispel”

The card suddenly let out an extremely desperate cry of pain.

The nun in the card was screaming while being engulfed and turned into a holy white fire.

One of the chains that wrapped the Pope appeared, coiling around the white fire.

In a single moment, both the nun card and the black chain turned into white dust, scattered on the ground.

The Pope silently watched this.

Then she laughed.

“Hah, how dumb” she said.

“There are two more seals of destiny left”

“Come”

Another devout nun came in.

“If I remember correctly, you’re an orphan adopted by God on Earth” the Pope asked once again.

“Yes, my everything belong to the Holy Church” the nun replied.

“Now that the Holy moment has come, do you agree to sacrifice for the sake of the Holy Church?”

...

Another scream of agony, the Pope has released another one of her seals.

“Soon...”

Feeling the relief after her seal became undone, the unease in the Pope’s mind loosened.

Suddenly, she was surprised, as if she was seeing something strange.

“———ah, where’s Ivan going?”

The Pope asked in confusion, then tried to draw a card from the air.

But she wasn’t able to draw anything.

“Too far away? How is that possible!”

The Pope was very surprised.

Also Madame Punta’s manor is at the outskirts of the capital, but that’s still not very far away.

At first, the Pope didn’t mind it much, but now she can’t help but be cautious.

She thought about it for a bit, muttering: “Ivan went to a banquet... yes, I had him take my place...”

“At the time... I was busy peeking into the path of destiny”

The Pope fell silent.

“Hurt!” she suddenly stood up and shouted.

“I’m here!”

Hurt quickly walked up and kneeled down.

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan was quickly running on the highway heading to the capital.

Suddenly, his body shook, took off the golden armor and put it away in his Inventory Bag.

After that, Gu Qing Shan made a hand seal.

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The Improved Super Presence Concealment Technique was activated and his presence instantly disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan quickly and silently moved to the side of a lake.

There was a large rock right next to the lake, about 3 people tall.

Glancing at the rock, Gu Qing Shan stopped his feet.

He went to the rock, carved out a cave entrance in the rock like it was tofu with the Earth Sword.

Looking at it, Gu Qing Shan was very satisfied.

After cutting it open, the inside was easily enough to hold a single person.

With how careful Gu Qing Shan was, the part that was cut away didn't have so much as a crack or pebble, all he needed to do was slice off a part from the inside and he can put it back in seamlessly.

Just like that, a very inconspicuous hiding place was made.

Having already decided, Gu Qing Shan quickly carved out the inside, then carefully slid the cut portion back in.

Time slowly passed.

A very dignified voice echoed across the night sky.

This is the voice of a Holy Apostle.

"Surround this road, seal off the lake, no one gets in or gets out, violators will be killed without question!"

Following the voice, an endless sea of white light filled the sky.

The light came flying through the sky, descended and hover over the lake.

The light quickly receded to show a black-robed majestic-looking man.

The strongest of the Holy Apostles, the second in command of the Holy Church, Great Holy Apostle Hurt.

He's finally here.

Of the Seven Holy Apostles, he's the only one that can use the endless holy power he possesses to fly in the sky.

Right as he knew about the situation, Hurt had immediately started to come, it was only because the distance was too far that he took so long.

The white holy light gathered behind his back, forming a pair of wings.

He hovered lightly above, circled around the area looking for clues.

———right as he knew Ivan got sent flying, he felt so angry his blood was almost boiling with rage.

Someone dared to disrespect a Holy Apostle on this holy land!

His younger brother was sent somewhere without any news, while he himself can't even find the enemy.

That dumbass Kid couldn't even keep the enemy in place!

Kid couldn't even manage to find out why the other party wanted that painting!

This is a level of humiliation that the Holy Apostles has never felt before.

I definitely can't let him get away! I have to catch him, return this humiliation to him a hundred— no, a thousand fold!

The wings behind him flapped strongly, pushing him around the area with great speed.

According to the Paladins surrounding this place, they found no traces of the other party escaping outside this area.

Which means he could very easily be hiding right here.

But that bastard is extremely sneaky, Hurt had to look for a very long time to be able to track him here.

Hurt's strongest point isn't tailing or gathering information, it's battle.

This process of having to carefully search each and every part for clues is only making him accumulating more and more anger, slowly building up like a volcano that's about to explode.

"That fucking bastard, just wait until I find you, I'll make sure you receive all manners of torture possible on this world!"

Hurt couldn't hold it anymore and shouted.

Suddenly, Hurt stopped moving in mid-air, his eyes focused on a certain point.

Very slowly and silently, he moved toward the giant rock by the lake.

That's right... it's this feeling.

This is Ivan's holy stigma, even though it's already very weak, it was still emitting a faint signal periodically.

Good job, Ivan!

Hurt held his breath and carefully checked the traces on the rock.

Sure enough.

If it weren't for the guidance of the stigma, he would definitely not have found this place.

He kept staring at this giant rock.

Although the signs were hidden extremely well, the very fine trace of a cut was still visible to Hurt after a few moments of searching.

Looking at the intricate cut, Hurt couldn't help but praised him silently.

To be able to cut a rock like this, not only do you need an extremely sharp sword, you also need to have exceptional sword skills.

Ivan got sent flying so far that he's still unable to contact them probably isn't because he was careless, but because his opponent was simply that good.

Such a strong enemy should not be left alive.

After confirming there weren't any other suspicious presence around, Great Holy Apostle Hurt breathed in deeply.

"Very good, I'll let you regret ever being born on this world" Hurt silently decided.

A giant gorgeous and holy pattern started to spread beneath his feet.

The Holy Church's Mystic-type God's Chosen Skill, certified King of the God's Chosen Skills, [Heaven's Judgement]

This is an extremely powerful attacking God's Chosen Skill.

No room for begging or toying around, no room for negotiation, Hurt was determined to use all his power to send this enemy directly to the depths of pain instantly.

As the holy pattern fully manifested, black circles started in the air around Hurt.

Casually picking one of the holes, Hurt reached in to pull out a man on his dying breath.

While Hurt was looking at that man, his body suddenly burst into a white flame.

The flame extended to the man's body, burning everything away only leaving the bones left.

At the same time, the white flame around his body also became more intense.

Hurt muttered to the bones in his hand: "Feel blessed, it's because time is tight that I don't have the leisure to slowly torture you"

Putting the bones back into the hole, he smirked as he walked in front of the giant rock and stood.

"Begin the judgement" he said, "I judge the being of this place to be evil"

Following his words, all the floating holes in the air combined, forming a giant black gate.

"For your unspeakable sins and evil, receive divine retribution" Hurt shouted.

The gate opened, as a giant black hand reached out, floating in mid-air.

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Seeing that, Hurt declared again: "Sinner, receive divine retribution"

But the hands stayed absolutely still without any movement.

Although Hurt has went through his fair share of battles, he couldn't help but be stunned for a bit.

— — — *what's going on, did the God's Chosen Skill lose its power?*

A few moments later.

Hurt's expression changed.

He seems to have realized something.

He created a white flame on his hand and threw it.

The flame flew towards the rock.

The rock was instantly vaporized, revealing the content inside to Hurt.

A full set of green Confederate military garb was folded neatly inside the rock.

Right where the military rank coat of arms was, a small milky white light was floating.

The milky white light was covered by something, only able to let out a faint signal periodically.

Hurt was surprised looking at the white light.

That's indeed Ivan's stigma.

...so I've been tricked.

An angry roar echoed across the entire area.

"I WANT TO CHOP YOU TO PIECES! MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PIECES!"

Gu Qing Shan didn't hear Hurt's roars of anger.

He was still doing his best to run away.

[Go quicker, I can see the Seven Holy Apostles are all on the move] Liao Xing said.

He added: [But there's also some good news, the Pope is still staying at the Holy Sanctuary, she's not commanding the Paladins herself]

"It's fine as long as the Pope herself doesn't come" Gu Qing Shan was able to relax a bit, asking: "I'm already moving as fast as I could, is the warp device prepared?"

[Due to the amount of enemies blocking the way, according to your current speed, the warp device is being recharged right now, it's been set to activate in half an hour]

[After that half hour, you can use it to warp at any time]

[Right after you warp, it'll self-destruct!]

"Alright, I'll time it carefully" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Hahhh] Liao Xing sighed, [truthfully, the Paladins are reacting a bit too quickly, not to mention their formations and arrangements are also very opportune, I'm afraid you won't necessarily be able to escape]

"If I can't escape I'll just cut open a path" Gu Qing Shan coldly said.

Ye Fei Li's voice suddenly came: [I'm already prepared, if worse comes to worst, I'll go rescue you]

"Definitely do not come, you can't deal with any of the Holy Apostles I've met"

The other side became silent.

After running a bit more, Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something was off ———Impartial Goddess hasn't spoken for so long.

He asked: "Impartial Goddess, where are you?"

[Please wait a bit sir, I'm currently in the middle of something] Impartial Goddess' voice came.

"What are you doing?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

But Impartial Goddess didn't answer.

This is the first time she didn't answer Gu Qing Shan's question.

But very quickly, Gu Qing Shan's Holo-Brain lit up, massive amounts of data flowed across the screen like a waterfall.

[All firewalls have been broken through, now commencing remote surveillance of the Paladin control network]

Impartial Goddess was heard once again, dignified as ever.

[Preparations complete, Impartial Goddess has entered war-command mode]

[Enemy intelligence has been received, begin drafting countermeasures]

[With the goal of reaching the warp device safely, a total of 749 measures has been drafted]

[Begin filter of measures with the highest success rate, No. 12, No. 319, No. 628]

[Simulation number 3,268,314 completed. Measure No. 319 has been determined to be one with the highest success rate]

[Measure No. 319 selected, begin drafting real-time map]

[Commence!]

A real-time map appeared on the Holo-Brain screen.

Impartial Goddess' voice came again.

[Sir, the blue dot represent yourself, the green path represents the safest route, red represent the Paladin forces, black represent the Seven Holy Apostles]

[Let us begin; I will be your personal guide]

[Please make a detour towards South-east to avoid a Holy Apostle and 400 Paladins]

"Got it"

Gu Qing Shan stopped, then followed the real-time map shown on the Holo-Brain to keep moving forward.

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[Please continue forward, after 6 minutes, move Westward for 1km to avoid the second Holy Apostle]

Impartial Goddess continued.

Gu Qing Shan followed the directions.

[There's an obstacle 2km away, 700 people waiting for an ambush on the Southern cliffside, please avoid the left road, continue on the second road on the right]

...

Finally, Gu Qing Shan made it to the capital, quickly headed towards the location of the warp device.

Not sure if this is Liao Xing's fetish or hobby, the warp device is hidden inside the Holy Empire's Grand Circus.

At this moment, the circus was in the middle of a show.

Today happened to be the one day of the month when the circus was doing a beast-taming performance.

Animals walked out one after the other, performing unbelievably difficult feats, wowing the audience.

The clowns ——actual clowns, were moving about, keeping up the merry atmosphere in between performances.

Gu Qing Shan made his way in from the back, dodging through the hurried people and entered deeper backstage.

"Where is it?" Gu Qing Shan quickly asked.

[30 years ago, that place used to be the cosmetic room, the place where the beautiful ladies do their make-up, but now I'm not sure] Liao Xing said hesitantly.

"Placing the warp device here, aren't you worried that the circus would close down?" Gu Qing Shan was still quickly moving forward, but couldn't help and retort.

[This is the biggest circus in the world, if it closes down then even I can't help it] Liao Xing answered.

"Which room was it exactly?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[7th room, after you walk in, check the locked closet on the left ———push it out, the warp device is hidden inside the wall!]

Liao Xing's tone became calm: [Something seems to be happening outside, it seems the Paladins have arrived ———but they won't be able to stop you]

[Right] Zhang Ying Hao's voice also came, [when you warp back, they wouldn't even have gotten inside yet]

[Come back quickly, this mission can finally be over] following that was Anna's voice.

She very rarely uses such a soft tone to speak, so Gu Qing Shan felt an unknown sense of warmth as he heard her.

"The 7th" Gu Qing Shan checked the nameplate on each room as he counted.

Wardrobe, Animal food, Prop room, ...

"Liao Xing" Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, "the 7th room is the female changing room!"

[What!] Liao Xing's voice seemed joyful, [you mean, they haven't changed it at all after all these years?]

[Bam!]

A dull sound of something being hit came from the Holo-Brain.

Then a lot of noises.

Finally, was Anna's voice: [Knock first before you enter, ok?]

[Just go in, turn on the device and warp, quickly] Zhang Ying Hao's voice also came.

Suddenly Gu Qing Shan remembered something and released his inner sight towards the stage area.

There weren't any empty seats left, most of them were parents taking their children to the circus, but he could see that many people have already started to leave.

The Paladins stood at each of the entrances to urge people to evacuate.

"Impartial Goddess" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[I'm here, please speak quickly sir] Impartial Goddess answered.

"How strong is the explosion from Liao Xing's warp device's self-destructing?"

[Very strong, but you don't need to worry sir, the Paladins have come and started to evacuate the people already]

[After you finish warping, the guests will have all been evacuated from the effective blast range]

Gu Qing Shan was able to calm down.

He reached out and knocked on the door.

"Please come in"

A female voice came from inside.

Gu Qing Shan opened the door and walked in.

Suddenly, Zhang Ying Hao's hurried screams came from the Holo-Brain in his breast pocket.

[Disappeared! The Pope just suddenly disappeared!]

"I know" Gu Qing Shan very calmly answered, "she's sitting right in front of me"

Chapter 220

She was wearing a white robe, a veil to cover her face while a holy halo floats above her head. Behind her, a pair of phantom divine wings could be seen phasing in and out of existence.

She's one of the most powerful rulers on this world, one of the strongest Professionalist, and the absolutely most mysterious existence.

The Pope of the Holy Church.

At this very moment, she was looking down at the three cards in her hand, speaking as if chanting: "He who is about to take away a valuable treasure, awaken the sleeping dead and brings about the dying future of the Holy Church"

Following her words, the three cards of fate flew up by themselves, then quickly burned to ash.

Looking at that, the Pope spoke softly: "It's good that fate has finally been solved"

Gu Qing Shan looked down at this Holo-Brain, asking in a low voice: "How's that thing?"

[It's time! It's time!] Anna's worried voice came from the Holo-Brain.

[The machine is ready, sir] Impartial Goddess responded.

"Hm? Just who are you talking to?" the Pope looked at him.

"A friend, a cab driver" Gu Qing Shan answered.

The Pope frowned: "Let us not chat for too long, introduce yourself first, young harbinger of death"

Gu Qing Shan went in, closed the door and pulled a chair to sit across from the Pope.

"Hello, I'm the Confederate Embassy's live-in military officer, Zhang Ren Jia"

"What did you take from the exhibition room?" the Pope asked.

"A painting of princess Anna and her father" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Honestly is a virtue, I hope you can keep that up, in order to avoid unforgettable eternal suffering" the Pope said.

Before she was about to ask something else, Gu Qing Shan suddenly spoke up first: "I have a question that I've always wanted to ask you, your Eminence the Pope"

The Pope stayed silent for a bit, then laughed very lightly: "What bravery, it seems I need to show you your place"

"No, no, no, your Eminence, it's like this"

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and said: "This question has always been at the back of my mind, making me ever so uncomfortable. If you're able to answer this, then whatever you need to know, I'll very truthfully answer you"

He continued: "I'll tell you the plan, personnel and objective of this mission"

"Of course, I swear not to tell a single lie"

"Even if you want me to betray the Confederate and join the Holy Empire, I'll do it without question"

"Or perhaps you'd want me to become a spy for the Holy Empire inside the Confederate? That's fine as well, I'll do as you order"

"But please answer this one question, this is my only request"

"How is it?"

Hearing that, the Pope rubbed her chin in thought.

All I need to do is answer a question, not only will I find out about the Confederate's plan, I can also gain a good chess piece without any effort.

If he dares to lie, there are countless forms of torture waiting for him as a consequence anyways.

After a brief moment of thought, the Pope very easily made her choice.

“If you’re able to swear loyalty to the Holy Church from now on, answering a single question of yours is no problem, go ahead” she said.

Gu Qing Shan arranged his words for a bit, then asked: “Why have you never tried to resist the Apocalypse?”

“No matter if it’s the sea creatures, the Man Killer Fiend or even the Game of Eternal. While every other country has at least made an announcement, both the Fuxi Emperor and the Confederate Martial Saint has personally gone onto the battlefield, leading groups of Professionalists to clean up the Man Killer Fiends epidemic, but why have you done nothing?”

“Despite the Holy Empire being on the verge of collapse, the Holy Church has yet to make any actions at all after usurping the power, why is that?”

The Pope didn’t think it would be this question so she gave Gu Qing Shan an unexpected look.

“The Holy Empire isn’t your home country; why do you care about it?” she asked.

“What I care about is this world’s survival”

“Why?”

“Because once this world heads towards destruction, no living being will be able to escape the calamity and the fate of death, not you and definitely not me”

“When faced with the Apocalypse, few can change the situation, but many cannot” Gu Qing Shan continued, “and you, are one of the few that can”

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The Pope found that even more unexpected, then began to half answering Gu Qing Shan, half muttering to herself: “I’ve already seen it all. When faced with a critical conjunction, mankind will always choose first to defend themselves, losing their sense of reason, killing for the sake of killing, falling into madness”

“They will build their own forces, cull the weak, seizing women, plunder resources. When met with trouble, they always push other people up first to face it. When others die, they take everything they can”

“Humans are arrogant, envious, wrathful, lazy, greedy, lustful, gluttonous, an endless, bottomless conduit of sins, they are not worthy of my salvation”

“But you are also human” Gu Qing Shan said.

“I’ll gladly throw away this form of a lowly and sinful creature” the Pope answered.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent.

“You’re contradicting yourself” he continued to ask: “If you hate everything so much, then why did you have to kill the king and take over the Holy Empire’s authority”

“I seem to remember only agreeing to answer one question”

“But your answer is incomplete”

“There are a few things, that a lowly worm as yourself doesn’t have the right to know” the Pope’s tone suddenly became cold, “I’ve lost interest in your allegiance, tell me who you are and your objective, don’t wait until my mood becomes even worse”

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the air.

He was holding the Earth Sword in his hand.

“Tsk, tsk, that’s not the correct answer” the Pope shook her head in regret, “it seems you need to be taught just what hell looks like”

“I’ve already seen many hells” Gu Qing Shan said.

Then he disappeared in place.

“Hm?” the Pope was surprised.

A sword suddenly appeared from thin air slashing at her, but was stopped just one meter away from where she stood, unable to continue any further.

Seven bronze arms also appeared from the air to block the Earth Sword.

Bang!

A dull sound was heard, the full 60,000 tons of force acted on the bronze arms, letting out small ripples in the air.

But the seven bronze arms stayed completely still.

Instantly, the Earth Sword retreated, then turned into dozens of phantoms, attacking 71 times without leaving a single space to breath.

But whenever the sword was about to hit the Pope, one or more bronze arm appeared to stop it.

In the air, more and more bronze arms started to appear, easily numbered over a hundred in just a blink of an eye.

They appeared to stop Gu Qing Shan’s attacks.

When Gu Qing Shan stepped back and stop attacking, the bronze arms all disappeared.

“Great swordsmanship skills indeed, but regretfully weak”

The Pope sat still in place, commenting on Gu Qing Shan’s swordsmanship.

Suddenly, a card appeared from thin air in front of the Pope.

The card was dancing nonstop, seemingly wanting to say something.

Taking the card in hand, the Pope thought for a bit, then nodded.

She looked up at Gu Qing Shan and said: “That’s fine, since you are enveloped in nothing but sin, my Holy Apostle shall cleanse you”

“After being tortured over 300 times in different ways by Hurt, you’ll more or less understand just

where you stand”

“At that time, I shall interrogate you once more”