

Apocalypse 241

Chapter 241

While they were busy chatting, Gu Qing Shan's Holo-Brain lit up.

Impartial Goddess' voice came: [Sir, the System model has been fully drafted, Planet Guardian miniaturization prototype is ready]

"Then please begin production" Gu Qing Shan ordered.

A few hours later.

Two silver white bracelets were brought to the mountaintop mansion for the group to see.

Gu Qing Shan wore one of them, giving the other to Ye Fei Li.

"Initiate Planet Guardian System" he spoke.

The bracelet shined.

"Let us demonstrate from the very beginning" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Hello sir] Impartial Goddess' voice came, [What can I help you with?]

"I'm a first-time user of the System, please explain things to me"

[Are you a Professionalist sir?]

"I just qualified for being a Martial Artist"

[1-star Martial Artist training regimen has been prepared, please take your time and learn, if there's something you don't understand, feel free to ask]

Gu Qing Shan casually practiced a set of basic fist techniques.

[Ting]!

[You made four mistakes in your fist technique, please take a look at the screen]

Gu Qing Shan then said: "There's a Man Eater Fiend 500 meters ahead of me, I can only hide here right now, seeking assistance from the System"

[A Quest has been posted, please wait patiently and don't make any loud movements]

Ye Fei Li's bracelet lit up.

[Emergency Quest]

[According to your power level, you have been determined to be strong enough for this Quest, after the Quest is finished you shall receive a Confederate Freedom Medal, would you like to accept?]

Ye Fei Li felt interested and said: "I accept"

A 'bang' was heard from the bracelet.

Ye Fei Li disappeared from where he was and reappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan then said: “The emergency rescue Quest is completed, thank you System”

The System then spoke: [Player Ye Fei Li, you’ve completed the emergency rescue Quest, received the Confederate Freedom Medal, please prepare to accept it]

Bang!

The bracelet lit up again, a small medal appeared in his hand.

[Energy depleted, please replenish energy for further use] after saying that, the bracelet dimmed.

“Nice, very nice” Liao Xing clapped.

“But energy consumption seems to be an issue” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“What do you know” Liao Xing protested, “warping an entire person would of course use up a huge amount of energy, if it weren’t for this rescue mission, his bracelet would still be usable for quite a while”

“Which means, under normal circumstances, we won’t be able to warp people?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“Correct” Gu Qing Shan answered, “it’s not just a problem of power consumption, only strong Professionals can attempt a non-protected warp, and if everyone warps around as much as they like, it’ll greatly affect the stability of space-time in an unknown way”

“And so — — —” he tapped Ye Fei Li’s shoulder, saying: “Only Professionals above a certain level can warp”

“If that’s the case, what would you do in a situation like the one just now?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“Search for players in the vicinity and post a rescue mission in the local area” Liao Xing answered, “this is only a System, not a god”

Zhang Ying Hao silently nodded.

Liao Xing suddenly laughed and said: “Seems like we’ve carved open the way to a never-before-seen road, and have quite the success as well”

“We’ll have to be quick and have Planet Guardian go online, that way it’ll be more effective as an anti-measure to that Game of Eternal” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“I... actually have a small suggestion” Ye Fei Li commented.

“Go ahead”

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“Normally, when you enter a game you get to choose your class right? Why don’t we have that?” he said.

“That’s because Professionals usually awaken through training and cultivation” Zhang Ying Hao answered.

Gu Qing Shan chimed in: “To trigger a person’s potential, letting even normal people become a Professionalist, you need a Genetic Modification Serum”

“Fuxi Empire has the Elementalist Genetic Modification technology, the Holy Empire has the God’s Chosen Genetic Modification technology and our Confederate has the Martial Genetic Modification technology, all three of these have a certain chance to allow normal people to become Professionalists”

“We have the recipe, so it’ll be easy to figure out the method for diluting God’s Chosen Awakening Serum”

“The Martial Potential Enhancement Serum is the same”

“The only missing link is the Elementalist Awakening Serum —of course we only need the recipe for the normal-type of Serum”

“Which means, our next step is to make the Elementalist Awakening Serum?”

“Right, if we obtain the recipe for that, we can finally give everyone the choice to choose their own class”

Seems like I’ll need to make a trip to the Fuxi Empire, after all, the Fuxi Emperor is still waiting for me and Anna to come, Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

He added: “Aside from that, we also need to arrange lifestyle Professions for those who can’t awaken to become a Professionalists”

“But then, there’s still an extremely crucial problem that we haven’t resolved for our game” Ye Fei Li said.

“What problem is that?” everyone looked at him.

“The Game of Eternal, although in the end there’s only one winner, but you can clearly see just how good the rewards are”

“Right, go on”

Ye Fei Li was a bit worried: “Our game here can help normal people become a Professionalist, and it can help people become stronger, but it still doesn’t have any sort of reward system that’ll make them excited for it”

He shrugs: “What do we have? What are we supposed to give as rewards?”

Liao Xing was a bit caught off guard, but then brushed his hair “I actually didn’t think about that, I’m a scientist, not a game designer”

Zhang Ying Hao thought about it, then asked: “Then, what if we give them Credits?”

“Where will we get that money from?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“No, we don’t need to give them Credits” Gu Qing Shan suddenly said.

Everyone looked back at him.

“Then what do we do?” Ye Fei Li asked.

But Gu Qing Shan didn’t answer, only appeared extremely composed like he already anticipated all this.

Just now, he turned on the War God UI to check his remaining time here.

Last time, since he completed the Quest [Decisive battle (1)] above expectations, the System gave him a few extra days as a reward.

Now, there's less than a day left until he has to enter the cultivation world again.

Gu Qing Shan was thinking about the things of the cultivation world, the formations plates, weapons, armor, pills, spirit cooking, spirit herbs, treasures, talisman, even spirit stones; as well as the cultivation scriptures, Elemental spells, Secret Arts, proper fist techniques, blade styles, sword styles...

——no, all that isn't necessary just yet, right now, even the simplest Qi Training stage scripture is enough to drive the world crazy!

Spirit energy is a completely new aspect that no one knows how to use yet in this world.

One day, when Professionals learn how to collect spirit energy, they'll find that they can use that to fuel and greatly increase the power of their Skills.

As their cultivation increases, spirit energy also has more and more inconceivable uses.

The simplest use is nurturing their body, their elemental root and God's Chosen Skill.

More complex uses include opening up new paths on the road of Martial Artists, creating new Elemental spells, evolving and changing the way their God's Chosen Skill works.

Once they reach a high enough point, there's also the 6 Arts, they'll be able to use spirit energy to create talisman, make formations, forge stronger weapons and armor, concoct pills and even divine the future.

That being the case, even the simplest kind of Qi Training realm scripture is a door.

A door that opens to an entirely new world.

"Just leave that to me" Gu Qing Shan muttered: "I'll make sure to provide a reward that everyone will go crazy over"

Morning of the next day.

While everyone was having breakfast, the Game of Eternal suddenly came.

The old voice came directly from everyone's minds.

『 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! 』

Gu Qing Shan asked: "How long until the supposed time?"

“10 hours” Impartial Goddess responded.

“Seems like it’s in a hurry”

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『 There is an evil clown, it stands in the way of humanity achieving eternal life, it crushes the hope of surviving the apocalypse for the people, it cruelly massacres our warriors 』

『 Aside from that, it also places horrific parasites into the bodies of the innocent! 』

『 This is an extremely malicious behavior that we are highly against 』

『 This time, we will provide the winner with an even better treasure for survival 』

An accessory appeared in everyone’s minds.

It was a necklace.

A long silver string, attached to an appropriate dimly shining medallion.

The medallion itself depicts the face of a monster with two horns.

The old voice came again.

『 This is the Necklace of Teleportation, the upgraded version of the Ring of Teleportation 』

『 When you wear this necklace, the first time you’re hit with an attack, it will automatically create a barrier to protect you from that attack 』

『 That way, you will have ample time to activate the necklace and teleport to the Arena of Eternal 』

The old voice spoke proudly: 『 My friends, what do you think? From now onwards, no evil could ever take away the lives of the innocent ever again! 』

Liao Xing angrily hit the table: “Fuck, it’ll be even harder this time”

Ye Fei Li thought for a bit and muttered: “It won’t be easy to kill them with an automatic barrier like that”

Gu Qing Shan smiled and said: “You don’t have to worry about that”

“Impartial Goddess, take the footage of the Murder Clown killing the monster and broadcast it in slow motion for everyone to see”

[Understood, sir]

A moment later, all the Holo-Brains in the world lit up to show the scene of the Murder Clown ripping apart the Bloodbone Demoness.

“Why do something like that?” Anna was curious.

“If the monster parasite is truly from the Clown’s side, then why would the Clown need to kill one of his own? Wouldn’t letting the parasitic monster kill people from the inside be much more frightening?”

“Right, from a logical standpoint, that doesn’t make sense” Liao Xing said.

“The Game of Eternal couldn’t resolve such a fatal mistake” Gu Qing Shan said, “it has no way to assure that it wasn’t it but rather the Clown that attached that demon parasite onto Liu Shi Man”

“Before there’s a definitive answer, who’s going to risk it? Who’s willing to risk getting a parasite?” Gu Qing Shan said with confidence.

“That’s true, it didn’t resolve that properly” Zhang Ying Hao agreed, “people have always been suspicious of unknown things, not to mention this is something that involves their lives”

“Not to mention, its Champions has never been able to escape being killed by the Murder Clown”

“Not even once!” Liao Xing emphasized.

“If the game is the culprit behind the parasite, then of course people wouldn’t be willing to enter” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“But if it’s the Clown that’s behind the parasites, then the only fate waiting for those who participate in the Game of Eternal is still death” Gu Qing Shan continued.

“You’re either killed or become a host for parasites, those are the only two ends for those who enter the Game of Eternal, who’s going to be willing to participate anymore?”

Anna said: “If that’s the case, the winner between it and us will very quickly be decided”

“Correct”

Gu Qing Shan was still a bit anxious and muttered: “Let’s see how many people are willing to enter the game this time, we’ll see if we’ve won”

As they spoke, the old voice was still announcing things to people of the world.

『 This round’s champion, aside from eternal life, shall also receive the two following rewards 』

『 Firstly, Breakthrough Elixir, as soon as you drink it, you’ll advance to the next stage of your Profession 』

『 Secondly, the Necklace of Teleportation, in the moment of danger, the necklace shall automatically activate a barrier to protect you, giving you enough time to go back to the arena and escape from harm 』

『 At this moment, winning will grant you eternal life, advancement in your Profession, as well as a necklace to allow you to escape from harm at any point! 』

『 What are you still hesitating for? 』

『 This is a never-before-seen opportunity! 』

『 Sign up now! 』

The old voice stopped

It’s now the time for signing up.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and waited.

Liao Xing was clutching his hair.

Zhang Ying Hao lit a cigarette and was smoking it extremely quick.

Anna pursed her lips, occasionally emitting a flame from her body.

Only Ye Fei Li kept a calm face, looking at the ceiling.

But his skeletal wings were spreading by themselves.

It seems he is also nervous.

It's just a few minutes, but it feels exceptionally long, like they've all been waiting for a few millennia.

Then the old voice came again.

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『 Those that wants to become Eternal has been chosen 』

『 From this world, a total of 0 have been randomly selected 』

It sounded incredibly disappointed.

『 Perhaps everyone did not hear what our rewards are properly, let me repeat it again 』

...

It really did repeat again.

The old voice then finished up with an excited tone, luring people

『 After the fierce battle, we shall find the final winner 』

『 The winner shall receive the three most valuable rewards to date 』

『 I repeat, these three rewards are unparalleled treasures, they are the Eternal Pill, the Breakthrough Elixir, and the Necklace of Teleportation 』

『 You may sign up now 』

After another while.

The old voice spoke again.

This time, its tone was clearly disappointed and dejected.

『 Pitiful humans, eternal life is right there for you to grab, yet because of your shortsightedness and foolishness, you choose to ignore it 』

『 In the apocalypse, do you truly believe you can live on without relying on the power of eternal life? 』

Suddenly, its tone was different from before, becoming spiteful and malicious.

『 I will be at the Divine Hall of Eternal watching you all, pathetic humans, for your future is bleak 』

『 One day, you shall remember your choice today, remember just what you have declined 』

The old voice became silent.

At the same time, everyone in the world felt the earth rumbling.

Not just the earth, but the sky itself also seems to be coiling, twisting.

Following the heavy sighs and footsteps in the sky, these phenomena quickly disappeared.

Something enormous but invisible seems to have left this world.

Gu Qing Shan practically jumped from the sofa, clenching his fists in joy.

“We won!” the shouted.

“We won against the Game of Eternal!” Liao Xing raised both hands and yelled.

“Great job, Mr. actor!” Zhang Ying Hao patted Ye Fei Li on the back.

“You also did a great job” Ye Fei Li smiled brightly, showing his rows of brilliant white teeth, looking like a typical otaku.

Anna shouted: “Open the bottle! Open it! We’re gonna go at it until we drink ourselves to sleep tonight!”

Bam!

The cork flew as the smell of alcohol drifted everywhere.

They were cheering, raising their glasses and enjoying the joy of victory, releasing the anxiety and tension that has accumulated.

It began to rain outside.

...

Space.

The S.W. Divine Temple Interstellar Fortress.

Deep inside the fortress, a secluded laboratory.

A long staff that emits fire, a pair of gauntlets that looks sharp, an unassuming pair of black boots, and a glittering golden ring.

These four items all came from the Game of Eternal, the rewards for their Champions.

Right now, they were being moved around by mechanical arms, under all sorts of shock and damage tests.

On a screen, the experiment results are constantly being structured.

And then the conclusion.

[Using the planet’s latest cutting edge technology and weapons, through numerous experiments, no method has been found to break through their defenses]

[Current knowledge is unable to resolve this issue, special program initiated]

[Connecting to ancient spaceship, transferring quantum data archive]

[Corresponding data found, begin extracting relevant data regarding world laws]

The data keeps flowing nonstop on the screen for another 8 hours before it finally stopped.

[Data extraction complete]

[Considering experimental subject's characteristics and structure, it is determined that mechanisms at the level of world laws and power are effective]

[Begin drafting top-secret level scientific research]

[Inform authority level set to: Highest Leader. Numbered: 2]

[According to desired experiment outcome, research project naming scheme has been completed]

[High-ranking world laws and power suppression neutralizing research, initiated]

Chapter 243

The Capital's outskirts.

Mountaintop mansion.

"I've been hesitant about this, but I think I should ask your opinion first," Anna said.

"Is it dangerous?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I'm not sure, but it will definitely be an extremely long journey" Anna said.

"Then it's easy, there's so many of us there, even the Game of Eternal lost to us, so we should all go with you" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Why does everyone need to go" Liao Xing silently muttered.

"Everyone's a team after all" Ye Fei Li said as he patted his shoulder.

"No need" Anna glared at Liao Xing, then addressed Gu Qing Shan: "This road, if a member of the Medici clan so wishes to walk it, it must be walked alone"

"What exactly is the clan bestowal that your father left you?" Zhang Ying Hao was a bit interested and asked.

"I'm also not sure" Anna looked clearly confused, "I've only heard that only our clan's founders used to hold this power"

"If that's the case, it sounds difficult" Ye Fei Li commented.

"Isn't it fine right now? Why do you need to risk it?" Liao Xing chimed in.

"You should go" Gu Qing Shan said.

Everyone looked at him.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "What has happened is already passed, and the future is full of unknown. Only through getting stronger will you be able to deal with everything that comes your way, I truly hope that you will succeed"

He looked outside.

The rain was pouring down without letting up.

Anna's voice suddenly became a bit hesitant: "For the bestowal... I... might need something"

“What is it?”

“Death’s relic”

“Ah, then take it” saying so, Gu Qing Shan took Death’s relic from his neck and put it on Anna’s.

Glancing at him, Anna saw his calm expression without a bit of hesitation and felt a sense of warmth inside herself.

“What! You have Death’s relic!?” Zhang Ying Hao shouted in shock.

He couldn’t believe it: “This is the Holy Empire’s Royal heirloom; how did it get into your hands!?”

“That’s because — — —” as soon as Gu Qing Shan opened his mouth to speak, Anna blocked it.

“You don’t need to know that, unless you want to fight me?” Anna glared straight at Zhang Ying Hao, her face was flushed red, but was still bluffing.

Seeing how she was, Zhang Ying Hao instantly understood.

“Right, arbitrarily peeking into other people’s personal business is unbecoming of an Aristocrat, I’d better not ask about it then” he very seriously answered.

Anna sighed with relief, then peered into Gu Qing Shan’s eyes and said: “Then I’ll be leaving”

“Go, be careful, and try to return as soon as you can”

“Got it”

Everyone left the mountaintop mansion to send Anna away on her Blazing Fire super-speed shuttle.

The shuttle instantly went supersonic and flew South.

“Right, you guys should go settle down for a bit, I have something I need to do” Gu Qing Shan told everyone before he also left.

Bracing the wind and rain, he made his way down the mountain, arriving at a forest.

“Its practically hailing...”

Gu Qing Shan frowned.

“Impartial Goddess, connect to weather satellites around the world, I need to look at the global weather situation”

[Understood, sir] Impartial Goddess responded.

She quickly reported: [The rain is spreading, currently it’s covered 70% of the land surface]

[80%]

[90%]

[Sir, rain is currently falling on all non-oceanic areas of the planet]

“What about the air temperature?”

[There’s fluctuation, but not enough time has elapsed to draw a conclusion]

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and muttered: “What should come will come”

In a flash of light, Gu Qing Shan disappeared from Reality.

...

The cultivation world.

Demon Clouds River bank.

Military camp.

Gu Qing Shan found himself still sitting on his cushion, as if he hasn't left at all.

He silently sat for a bit.

War God UI was still inert.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but asked: “System, where's the Quest?”

No answer.

“Fine, then I'll ask something else, how long can I stay here this time?”

[Ting]!

The System answered: [After user has completed the Quest, he can return whenever he wants to]

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Then where's the Quest?”

Silence again.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't even retort.

Seems like the Quest [Decisive battle (2)] won't trigger as soon as he returns here.

And the sphere in the middle of the War God UI is still not responding.

Both the Destiny Quest and Thaumaturgy Quest seems to require some sort of trigger to activate.

Gu Qing Shan stretched.

He decided to ignore them, tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a jade bottle.

Opening the bottle, he turned it upside down to take a pill out.

“Hm? It's empty already?” Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows unexpectedly.

These are the Healing Pills that his senior brother Qin Xiao Lou made, during the last few days, he's been eating one after another to heal his wounds.

He didn't expect to finish them all so quickly

Gu Qing Shan released inner sight to check his acupoints.

His wounds were still very serious, the recovery rate has actually started to slow down and even stopped from time to time.

He's a bit nervous now.

The cultivation world will begin its assault on Shen Wu world in 3 days.

In this period of time, two very important Quests will be triggered.

But he's so heavily wounded that he can't even fight right now.

After hesitating a bit, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a communication talisman, speaking into it then let it go.

A few seconds later, instead of the communication talisman, Qin Xiao Lou himself came back.

"Junior brother, it was such a big bottle of Healing Pills, I don't believe that you're able to use it all in such a short time"

"You probably took my pills and used them to hit on some female cultivators, didn't you?"

Before he even entered the tent, Qin Xiao Lou was already teasing him.

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Then Qin Xiao Lou entered.

At first he was smiling, but as soon as he saw Gu Qing Shan, his expression changed.

Not saying another word, Qin Xiao Lou went up and checked Gu Qing Shan's situation with his own spirit energy.

Gu Qing Shan let him do as he liked.

"How did you get so badly wounded!" Qin Xiao Lou almost yelled.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "I got careless and practiced too hard"

"Not good, this can't be cured with just pills, I need to find Shifu"

"You don't need to bother Shifu like that"

"What do you know, your current situation is extremely dangerous!"

"Does Shifu understand medicine?"

"Of course! Many spirit beasts come to Shifu for help you know. She'll have to see your wounds herself!"

"But—"

Qin Xiao Lou waved his hand and went out, not waiting for Gu Qing Shan to say anything.

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to wait.

Not long later, Bai Hua Fairy and Qin Xiao Lou both came into his General's tent.

"Foundation Establishment peak?"

Glancing at Gu Qing Shan, she came up, took Gu Qing Shan's hand and sent in her spirit energy to check him.

After a while, she sneered and scolded him: "What did you do to make your body in this much of a mess?"

"I was practicing [Seven Swords Flowing Dragon]" Gu Qing Shan honestly replied.

He once went with Qin Xiao Lou to the sect's library, there were innumerable scriptures and books in there, but most were Martial Arts and Elemental Arts, there weren't many Sword Styles.

After looking through everything, the only one powerful enough that he found was [Seven Swords Flowing Dragon].

At that time, Gu Qing Shan was still only Foundation Establishment early stage, he didn't even meet the requirement to read it, so he just returned the book back to its shelf.

Bai Hua Fairy didn't quite expect to hear that and asked: "Ah? How far have you practiced? Did you manifest a dragon yet?"

"A lightning dragon"

Bai Hua Fairy's frown loosened, instead turned into a prideful smile: "Quite decent, you're already able to use [Flowing Dragon] before you're even 20"

"Of the 3000 acknowledged sword cultivators, who can even compare to my disciple?"

"Sure enough, my Bai Hua Sect is still the best"

Sword qi concentrated to its very limit manifest into sword phantom.

Sword phantoms are able to cut through anything, they're extremely powerful. But at the time they're formed, the sword phantom is similar to a wild horse without reins, exceptionally hard to control.

Being able to tame your own sword phantom and control it to accurately hit a target qualifies calling yourself a sword cultivator.

This bar is set very high, high enough that numerous cultivators who learn the sword couldn't make it.

And to be called an acknowledged sword cultivator, you need to not only be able to form a sword phantom, you must also accurately demonstrate three full sword styles without any mistakes.

This bar is set much higher, and much harder.

In the entire cultivation world, there's only about a total of 3000 people who reaches this height.

But Gu Qing Shan is already able to demonstrate too many sword styles to count.

And now, he's even already learnt one of the four strongest Secret Arts below the realm of Sword Saint, generally considered to be the hardest of them all, [Seven Stars Flowing Dragon].

Even with Bai Hua Fairy's sight that's set higher than the sky itself, couldn't help but admit that Gu Qing Shan is truly exceptional.

“First heat some water for him to soak in, I’ll go get a few things from the old monk” saying so Bai Hua Fairy casually left.

A bit later.

Gu Qing Shan is currently soaking in hot water.

“Shifu said she’s going to Spirit Leaf Temple, what kind of medicine do you think she’ll bring back?” Qin Xiao Lou was curious.

“How would I know that” Gu Qing Shan answered.

But he can actually already guess.

The most powerful Thaumaturgy of Spirit Leaf Temple, Unbreakable Diamond. It’s extremely common to make a mistake during the process of cultivating it, and they’re all exceptionally fatal.

Thanks to that, Spirit Leaf Temple has created a series of medicine specifically made for healing heavy bodily wounds.

But this type of medicine is very hard to get, so Spirit Leaf Temple almost never sell it to outsiders.

In the past, one of Yao Guang sect’s most talented Martial Artists cultivators underwent demon possession during his training and damaged his core, so they couldn’t help but seek help from Spirit Leaf temple.

They had to prepare 10 million low-grade spirit stones, and the sect’s master himself had to beg for a few days for Spirit Leaf Temple to give them a single set of this medicine.

From then on, whenever that’s mentioned, the Great Monks of the temple always regretted it, saying that they sold it for too cheap.

While they were thinking a few dozen ceramic jars flew into the tent, neatly lining up next to the bath.

Bai Hua Fairy’s voice came: “Use 3 jars at a time, 4 times a day, you’ll heal after 2 days”

“Qin Xiao Lou, stay there and watch him, tell me if anything goes wrong”

Leaving that, Bai Hua Fairy left.

They took and opened one of the jars.

Inside was a set of medicine already well-mixed, with a note that says they only need to mix it with hot water to use.

Gu Qing Shan counted the jars on the ground.

There were a total of 30 jars.

“Hah, junior brother, it seems you’ll get well soon enough”

“I know” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

“Why do you seem so down?” Qin Xiao Lou was a bit confused.

“Of course I’m happy, but Shifu took so much medicine at once like that, someone is bound to cry” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Shifu has spirit stones, no need to worry about that”

“There’s a total of 30 jars of medicine here, with Shifu’s personality, I doubt she’ll actually pay that much”

“Ah, right. Well, if Shifu shows up to tell them that she herself took it, that’s already respecting them a lot” Qin Xiao Lou casually accepted that.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t retort, then suddenly remembered and asked: “Do our sect have any Qi Training realm scriptures?”

“We do, when Shifu formed the sect, she spent a bit of effort to collect a few thousand kinds of elementary scriptures in the world”

“That’s great, can I get a copy?”

“Of course, but I don’t bring it with me, so you’ll have to wait. I’ll teleport back to the sect and get you a copy”

“Thank you, senior brother”

“We’re brothers, no need for such formalities” saying so, Qin Xiao Lou left.

Gu Qing Shan was able to let loose a bit, luckily the sect have them, otherwise if he wouldn’t know how long it’ll take for him to go gather the scriptures bit by bit.

For the sake of teaching Reality how to cultivate, he was thinking about spending some effort.

A few hours later, Qin Xiao Lou returned.

He threw a thick white brick over to Gu Qing Shan.

“What is this? A brick?” receiving the white brick, Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

“Didn’t you say you wanted some Qi Training realm scriptures? That’s all of them right there, a bit over 2000 kinds”

“All of them are in this brick?”

“What brick, this is a mega-sized jade tag”

“Alright then”

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TN: There are a lot of puns in this chapter compared to normal, scroll to the end to see the explanations.

Over 2000 types of Qi Training realm scriptures, this should encompass just about every kind of people, and is exactly what Gu Qing Shan needs right now.

He put the jade brick away carefully, ready to put it to use when he returns to Reality.

After that, he keeps bathing in the medicine water again and again.

The secret medicine of Spirit Leaf Temple really is exceptionally potent.

At noon on the second day, Gu Qing Shan can feel himself already getting much better.

Having been inside his tent for so long, he decided to go out for a bit of fresh air.

At the moment, there were numerous tools and materials used for forging littered around the empty area outside his camp.

Qin Xiao Lou was concentrated on making an airship.

Seeing how he's so concentrated, Gu Qing Shan decided not to bother him and walk around the camp instead.

The entire camp was rowdy, full of spirit.

Everyone who saw him greeted him with respect and enthusiasm.

Makes sense, after all, by himself he revealed the spirit beast's scheme, created a sudden attack plan, and helped humanity win a decisive battle like never before.

There were no casualties in that battle, not a single cultivator fell.

Everyone here more and less owed Gu Qing Shan one.

Gu Qing Shan smiled while walking, greeting members of the sects on his way.

He saw that other cultivators are also busy making their own airships as well.

After thinking about it for a bit, Gu Qing Shan understood.

Humanity can no longer trust the spirit beasts.

But flying by their own power is a waste of spirit energy.

It's fine in battle, for the sake of winning, they'd even use 200% of their spirit energy if they could.

But if they have to fly on their own while marching as well, that's too tiring.

If they happen to meet an ambush and wasted too much spirit energy from flying while on the march, leading to not having enough spirit energy to fight, that'll be a really regrettable death.

Another grand battle is about to come.

So everyone unanimously decided to make airships.

Although these things cost spirit stones to operate and fly, that's still much better than having to fly on you own.

Not to mention, you can set up Spirit Funnel formations the airships themselves to help recover and meditate during the march.

While walking, Gu Qing Shan saw a beautifully made airship from afar.

A beautiful “Xi” character was painted on both sides of the ship, decorated with an elegant but less noticeable orchid, but still very eye-catching overall.

Walking up to ask the cultivators making it, Gu Qing Shan found out it really was Ning Yue Xi’s airship.

She just got promoted to Ding Yuan General, so there were many things that she had to do, having to ask others to make an airship for her while she dealt with other matters.

Looking around a bit more, Gu Qing Shan found that all the airships more or less has a signature decoration on them.

Some are patterns, drawings, some are calligraphy characters, either way, they show who the owner is.

That way, it’ll be easy to tell who is who on the way.

Acquaintances can meet up and greet each other, while sects that don’t necessarily get along can tell at a glance and stay away from each other.

Gu Qing Shan returned to his own tent.

At this time, Qin Xiao Lou had finished making an airship, currently contemplating something very seriously.

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

“Hah! Hah!” Qin Xiao Lou sighed, then pointed at the airship and asked: “Do you know about West Mountain Sword sect?”

“I do”

“West Mountain Sword sect has four young famous sword cultivators, they’re respectively Ma Ru Feng, Zhang Xiao Yu, Liu Lei and Wu Zhui Dian”

“Hm, I think I heard people talk about them before”

“They got a title for themselves”

“Ah? So what did they do?” Gu Qing Shan was intrigued.

“Nothing special, they only painted the last character of their names onto their airships, which respectively are Feng, Yu, Lei, Dian; plus since they themselves aren’t weak, they’re now known collectively as the West Mountain Four Swords”

“West Mountain Four Swords?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

“Yeah, Feng Yu Lei Dian, West Mountain Four Swords” (1)

Qin Xiao Lou looked very envious and continued: “The name is so catchy and easy to remember, it probably won’t be too long until everyone knows about it”

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“Ah, Ning Yue Xi also had a ‘Xi’ painted on hers” Gu Qing Shan added.

“Right? I just knew, everyone love things like this recently”

“That’s a really insignificant detail though” Gu Qing Shan still didn’t understand.

“What do you mean insignificant detail? You of all people should know what important a title is, whenever you go out, people will keep calling you with your title; after a while, it’ll stick so that you won’t be able to change it anymore” Qin Xiao Lou explained.

“That’s true” thinking about it like that, Gu Qing Shan did feel that that’s the case.

“Junior brother, the two of us has to get a catchy title as well” Qin Xiao Lou patted his shoulder and said.

“There’s only two of us, how would we get a title?” Gu Qing Shan found that a bit hard.

“So what if we’re only two people, just look at Xia Zong sect’s Shen Yan and Li Xiao Yu. One of them is a Rejuvenation realm beauty, while the other is a Golden Core late stage idol, they respectively drew some wild geese and a small fish on their airships, which people dub as ‘Shenyu Luoyan’” (2)

As they were talking, something happened.

The sky suddenly became dim.

Black clouds gathered and thunder roared.

Flashes of lightning struck a certain part of the camp one after another.

“Is someone facing the Tribulation? Quick, get on the airship, we’ll go take a look” Qin Xiao Lou excitedly said.

Gu Qing Shan then got on the airship as Qin Xiao Lou took a few chunks of spirit stones out and placed them into the engine furnace of the ship.

Under his control, the airship slowly rose to the sky.

When they looked down at the area of the camp, it’s already covered in a rain of lightning.

Innumerable lightning came down, striking at a single person in the yard.

As they looked carefully, they saw it was a pretty female cultivator.

She was concentrating on controlling her personal treasure to resist against the rain of lightning.

Everyone watching were staying as far as they could and even held their breath so as not to break her concentration.

“Ah, it’s Xia Zong sect’s Li Xiao Yu” Qin Xiao Lou sounds a bit excited, “so she was already getting ready to break through to Rejuvenation realm”

While Foundation Establishment had four stages, Golden Core only has three, and you can already attempt breaking through to Rejuvenation realm at Golden Core late stage.

“If she successfully breaks through, then the ‘Shenyu Luoyan’ combo will officially become the title of two Rejuvenation realm female cultivators ——this is Rejuvenation realm we’re talking about, so their title will become official” Qin Xiao Lou praised.

Sure enough, while looking around Gu Qing Shan saw members of Xia Zong sect were keeping order around the area.

Even Xia Zong sect's master was here, carefully looking around to avoid any disturbances.

When facing a Heaven's Tribulation, the cultivator has to concentrate with all they have, which means they won't have any mind to look out for sneak attacks and can easily die to one.

Not to mention, if someone tries to help, the power of the Lightning Tribulation will increase, almost doubling in power.

Which makes the chance of breaking through exceptionally slim.

After watching for a while, the rain of lightning finally stopped, while Li Xiao Yu stood still, eyes closed.

A huge spirit pressure began to emit from her body.

"She succeeded" Qin Xiao Lou was envious.

Golden Core realm cultivators can be considered the main bulk of fighting power for the cultivation world, while Rejuvenation realm cultivators are the high-tiered fighting strength.

There's a very clear line there.

Because the amount of spirit energy that Rejuvenation, Ascended, and Sainted realms can gather and use is incomparable to those in Foundation Establishment and Golden Core.

The airship quickly landed back on the ground.

Qin Xiao Lou went into contemplation again.

"They're now officially dubbed 'Shenyu Luoyan'" he muttered: "As brothers in Bai Hua sect, what kind of title would suit us?"

"You just keep thinking, I'll go take another medicine bath" Gu Qing Shan said and went inside.

That afternoon, when Gu Qing Shan finally came out of the tent again, he saw two airships already made.

Looking at them, Gu Qing Shan's entire body froze.

The two ships both had beautiful calligraphy characters painted on them with a green lacquer.

One of them said "Qing"

The other said "Lou"

Gu Qing Shan's qing, and Qin Xiao Lou's lou. (3)

Qin Xiao Lou stood on one side, admiring his masterpiece.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, silently walked up and very serious said: "Senior brother, if you do this, Shifu will be very unhappy"

Note:

(1) Feng Yu Lei Dian: in order, their names mean “Wind”, “Rain”, “Thunder”, “Lightning”, which goes together well

(2) Shenyu Luoyan: the two girl’s names are Xiao Yu and Yan, which means little fish and goose respectively. Shenyu Luoyan literally translate to be “birds fall and fish dive”, a common way to describe a beautiful woman, so much that her beauty causes birds to fall and fish to dive from staring at her too much. Their sect Xia Zong also happens to mean “down river”

(3) Qing Lou: literally means “green building” or if you remember a certain note I wrote around 100+ chapters ago, a brothel.

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After a lot of convincing from Gu Qing Shan, Qin Xiao Lou finally reluctantly gave up on that title.

And Gu Qing Shan was able to breath out from relief.

For the next period of time, he focused entirely on recuperating his wounds, occasionally came out for a walk.

Many sects’ cultivators all look at him with true respect, so they were more than willing to come and make friends with him as they saw him.

In these two days, he met and got to know West Mountain’s Four Swords, the two female cultivators of Xia Zong sect, as well as a few other notable genius cultivators of the same generation.

At noon on the third day, Gu Qing Shan once again finished a medicine bath, got out and used inner sight to check himself.

After a while, he smiled.

Finally, his wounds are fully cured.

Almost as if waiting for this moment, a flame talisman flew into his camp from outside and landed in front of him.

Taking the communication talisman in hand, Bai Hua Fairy’s voice came.

“Go to the center tent, we’re going to distribute dispatch roles”

Wearing clothes, he got out of his tent.

The center tent.

Bai Hua Fairy, Xuanyuan Tianzun and the Great Monk of Sorrow were sitting in the host seats.

Below, an armored General just finished receiving his role, stood up to bow then left.

Gu Qing Shan walked in.

“How is it, are your wounds healed?” the Great Monk of Sorrow asked first of all.

“Yes, they have. My gratitude to the Saint for rewarding me with the medicine” Gu Qing Shan spoke very formally.

“Amitabha, it’s good that you’re healed, it’s good that you’re healed, all my medicine wasn’t a waste”

His complexion wasn’t exactly good, the corner of his lips were trembling, as if remembering something.

Even as a Saint, he was still shaking a bit when he spoke about this.

Of course, this is understandable, having so much valuable medicine that couldn’t be bought with money taken away, anyone else would’ve already cried tears of blood.

Bai Hua Fairy looked away as if it had nothing to do with her, while Gu Qing Shan very wisely stayed silent and didn’t respond.

They’ve already gotten what they wanted, no need to rub it in.

Xuanyuan Tianzun changed the subject: “The army is just about to attack Shen Wu world, currently we’re arrange the roles for each general, summoned you here because we wanted to hear your thoughts before making our decisions”

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fists: “I’m willing to lead the troops”

This was his literal job during the past life, doing it once again in this life isn’t that hard a thing to do.

Although his cultivation still isn’t much to write home about, his experience with commanding troops on the battlefield is still there, and since the cultivators of the sects all owe him one, he probably won’t receive too much dissatisfaction while commanding for now.

The only worry is Shen Wu world itself.

This is a completely new world.

In the past life, humanity didn’t even manage to counter-attack, let alone going to Shen Wu world.

Gu Qing Shan himself was also only sent to Shen Wu world by Gong Sun Zhi for a really short time before he had to leave.

In that short time, he has no way to investigate clearly just what kind of world it was.

However, it’s this type of unknown challenge that makes one’s blood boil with excitement.

Gu Qing Shan felt he’s already well-prepared.

This will be the battle where he regains his role as the commander of an army.

The three Saints exchanged looks, but didn’t say anything yet.

Bai Hua Fairy was smiling, very satisfied with this disciple of hers.

Many generals who just advanced their ranks would rather choose a dangerous and arduous solo mission rather than leading troops.

Because leading troops also means their responsibility magnifies greatly.

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Every single soldier's life or death depends entirely on the general's competence. Not to mention, they have to arrange the battle plan and marching plan for their troops; once they finished their mission and meet up with other troops, they have to make a quick decision on whether to combine troops for safety or quickly return to report the mission.

Aside from that, once the troops meet an enemy they can't beat with pure force, or while on the frontline, they have to be able to quickly think of the way to break through the situations, otherwise they'll be met with an "incompetent commander" label and gets punished for it via military laws.

That is to say, gaining the title of "General" is easy, actually doing the job of one is very hard.

Xuanyuan Tianzun thought about it, then arranged his words a bit: "Although you've contributed greatly in the previous battle, you're still very young, not even 20 years old yet. If you were to command troops, there's a chance that your subordinates will not listen to you"

"Yes, Saint. Then, at first I'm willing to command just a small amount of troops as well" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Right now, he's thinking of the benefits he has while being in command.

The Destiny Quest given by War God UI this time will probably not be easy.

If he has a team under him, quite a few things can be accomplished through using the power of others.

No matter how hard the mission is, it'll be much easier to do with the help of hundreds of cultivators compared to going at it alone.

While he was thinking, the Great Monk of Sorrow spoke up: "Amitabha, this monk also think young benefactor Gu is much too young. It's better for you to train a little and get used to being a General before we talk about commanding troops again"

Hearing two Saints saying the same thing, Gu Qing Shan was a bit disappointed.

I'm only inexperienced on the surface while I've been through countless battlefields already, couldn't you at least give me a chance to try it?

He then looked at Bai Hua Fairy and said: "I'm willing to command only a team of 10, I don't need more than that"

Bai Hua Fairy also shook her head: "You're inexperienced so even 10 people might be a problem, it's better if you get used to the position first"

Direct refusal.

Bai Hua Fairy sent her voice to her disciple: "What they're saying makes sense, and I also think so. The situation with Shen Wu world is unknown, it's safer for you to travel alone for now. Once you've gotten used to the situation there, I'll provide you with some men"

Fine, since Shifu is being protective like this, I have to at least respect her thoughts.

Not to mention, trying to haggle back and forth with all three Saints is nothing short of seeking death.

Gu Qing Shan could only clasp his fist: "Understood"

Seeing him accepting it, the three Saint slightly nodded.

“Very well, you’re dismissed for now, we’ll discuss about it for a bit more before delegating your role”

“Roger”

Gu Qing Shan retreated from the center tent.

That night, the entire camp got busy.

An air of uncertainty filled the place.

Since tomorrow they’ll officially attack into Shen Wu world, everyone was anxious.

That night, the three Ding Yuan Generals Gong Sun Zhi, monk Sun Ming and Ning Yue Xi will lead their own troops and advance to Shen Wu world first.

They will open up an area within the sea of demons, put down formations and set up camp, preparing to receive humanity’s main army the day after.

Gu Qing Shan was busy painting his airship white to cover up the character “Qing”.

He’ll need to use this tomorrow, if there’s a one in a million chance that people see both his and Qin Xiao Lou’s airships side by side, painted with the characters “Qing” and “Lou” respectively, who knows what everyone will think.

If someone happens to see that and laugh uncontrollably, then die on the battlefield, it’ll be hard to say whose fault it is.

A flame talisman came flying.

Gu Qing Shan received it to hear Ning Yue Xi’s voice.

“I’ll have to leave first, Shen Wu world is extremely dangerous, contact me anytime you need, I’ll go save you”

Hearing the message on the communication talisman, Gu Qing Shan’s expression was a bit complicated.

Tch, the girl is clearly saying it out of good intentions, but why do I keep feeling a bit unsatisfied here?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, then replied: “You also be careful yourself” and let the talisman fly.

He quickly covered up the character “Qing” painted in green, replacing it with a red character “Shan”

Stepping back a few steps, he was able to see the big red character perfectly painted in the middle of the airship on a white background.

It’s done.

Gu Qing Shan nodded satisfyingly.

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At this time, a flame talisman flew over.

The talisman carried an overwhelming presence.

This is the presence of a Saint, cannot be imitated by anyone, used specifically for delegating high-ranked military orders.

Gu Qing Shan instantly became serious ———this talisman would have to mean that his role in the upcoming war has been decided.

Taking the talisman in hand, he infused it with spirit energy.

Xuanyuan Tianzun's voice came: "You Ji General Gu Qing Shan, your order is to inspect the various camps and investigate the frontline military situation"

Camp inspection? Investigate military situation?

Gu Qing Shan fell silent and started thinking.

There's a General specifically stationed at each camp, as well as numerous commanders and soldiers with the appropriate inspection staff under them.

As for investigating military situation, there's a squad dedicated to just that and they're already full of members.

It doesn't seem like I have to do anything.

So what is this role of his supposed to be?

While Gu Qing Shan was still confused about that, another flame talisman came flying to him.

Receiving it, he infused it with spirit energy again.

Bai Hua Fairy's voice came from the flame talisman: "I didn't mind you too much last time, but this time you need to mind yourself, just find somewhere safe and stay there is fine"

Gu Qing Shan's fighting spirit instantly deflated.

He was speechless.

Shifu, you're being overprotective.

Is it because you didn't pay enough attention during the last campaign, which lead to your disciples being pushed around that makes you feel responsible?

But this is protecting me too much!

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then muttered: "That's not right"

It's not that his role isn't right, but this entire situation doesn't seem right.

Bai Hua Fairy isn't someone who would be this protective of her disciples just because they were humiliated just that little bit.

With her personality, she would actually encourage her disciples to go around experiencing even more to train themselves.

Then why?

Why does she feel the need to protect me so much?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, another flame talisman came flying into his hand.

Looking down, it was another talisman from Bai Hua Fairy.

He took it, infused spirit energy and Bai Hua Fairy's voice came from the talisman again.

"After thinking for a bit, I'll just tell you a bit of the truth, otherwise you'd be running around in the dark and might actually lose your life without knowing why"

"The place called Shen Wu world, Xuanyuan, Sorrow and I have all went in there by ourselves to investigate it a bit clearer"

"Even now, the situation surrounding this world is very eerie"

"Both Sorrow and I have a bad feeling about this place"

"You know what, I'll just tell you directly, come here for a bit"

Gu Qing Shan left his tent again.

Bai Hua Fairy's words cast a shadow over his thoughts.

The center tent.

The other Saints were nowhere to be seen, only Bai Hua Fairy was there.

She was silently observing a floating vase.

Looking at it a bit closer, Gu Qing Shan noticed it was the Formless Tianma Saint King's treasure.

At that time, it Bai Hua Fairy hadn't used [Ground Shrink] to steal it, the battle might not have ended the way it did.

"Qing Shan" seeing him arrive, Bai Hua Fairy smiled and said: "Take a guess, what do you think this thing can do"

Gu Qing Shan wasn't quite sure: "It can summon Tianma?"

"That's not correct, its main use is actually to connect two worlds by opening a gate that connects to the Tianma's world in another world" Bai Hua Fairy answered.

"Then, doesn't that mean the Tianma can use this treasure to invade multiple worlds?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"It's not that powerful, all it could do it make a one-way gate" Bai Hua Fairy shook her head regretfully, "this thing is basically useless to us"

She put the vase away and spoke: "Alright, let us speak about the problem of your post"

"Shifu, I really am willing to lead troops" Gu Qing Shan said in a low voice.

"Originally, I also intended to have you lead some troops, but after a bit of thinking, I decided against it"

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“Why?”

Bai Hua Fairy calmly looked at him and answered: “I saw a few signs of myself dying, I’ve also confirmed them through a few Divinations”

“What! How would that be!?” Gu Qing Shan exclaimed, horrified.

Bai Hua Fairy is one of the strongest cultivators of humanity, yet she’s feeling the omen of death!

But being as powerful a person as she is, most of the time, unclear premonitions are common, and almost always accurate

“Out of us three Sainted realm cultivators, my spirit sense is the most powerful, so I’ve already recognized the danger”

“But I hid this from the other two, silently paid the price and made a few Divinations. I even used an ancient reading techniques a few times, but the results have always been the same”

Gu Qing Shan was looking at Bai Hua Fairy in shock, unable to digest such a thing right now.

Bai Hua Fairy just looked at him: “Because of that, you should be extremely careful. When we arrive at Shen Wu world, it’s better that you just find somewhere safe to stroll around and run away if you meet anything abnormal”

“Your eldest brother is a Beast, Qin Xiao Lou still hasn’t truly awoken yet, and Xiuxiu is too young, if I’m no longer here, Bai Hua sect can only depend on you alone, so you have to protect yourself as much as possible”

She then took out a fragrance bag and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

“Our sect’s entire inheritance and knowledge is here, the necessary resources like scriptures and pills for all four of you to cultivate and break through are also in there”

“If I’m no longer here, you have to keep the flame burning, you have to lead them and keep on living”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the fragrance bag to see it was woven from simple 7-colored strings, extremely unassuming and unremarkable.

“Shifu, you told me to run for my life if anything happens. Then why can’t you also run away and not go to Shen Wu world?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Bai Hua Fairy smiled and replied: “Under normal circumstances, it doesn’t matter how lazy or irresponsible I act, but there are certain times that I have no choice but to stand at the very front of it all”

“Why is that?”

“Because there are some things that if I run away from, you won’t be able to”

Those words sound a bit strange, but Gu Qing Shan completely understand them.

“You don’t have to worry about me, Heaven’s Will always leaves a chance of survival, I’m not exactly facing certain death here”

“Shifu also values her life you know; I’ll fight my way to that single chance”

Saying so, Bai Hua Fairy made Gu Qing Shan mark the fragrance's bag ownership right in front of her before she's finally relieved.

"There's one final secret, but don't you go and spread it"

"Yes"

Bai Hua Fairy spoke: "That world has a problem"

"A problem?" Gu Qing Shan was a bit stunned.

"Yeah, it doesn't seem to be under the demon's control" Bai Hua Fairy was also a bit confused as she spoke, "even I have to fear the amount of demons that are there, but they're all mostly non-sentient monsters. There are some that are very strong, but none of them are capable of controlling the masses of demons"

"Overall, it's a very strange and eerie world that I'm still investigating"

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan started to recall what he knows.

At the time he arrived at Shen Wu world for the first time, the very first thing he saw was a rain of fire.

The rain of fire was decimating the earth and was unbelievably powerful.

Luckily, the place that Gu Qing Shan teleported to was very far away from the rain of fire.

He was also in a rush to get out of the demon's encirclement, so he only glanced at the magnificent scene without worrying about it too much.

Thinking back, it really was an unbelievable scene that he saw.

"I'll remember it clearly" Gu Qing Shan spoke in a heavy tone of voice.

"Where's your sword?" Bai Hua Fairy suddenly asked.

"It's here"

Gu Qing Shan took out the Earth Sword, but didn't really understand.

"Let me see it for a bit"

"Ah, yes"

If it was anyone else that tried to borrow Gu Qing Shan's sword, he would've instantly tried to kill them.

But if Shifu wanted to see it, that's a different story.

Bai Hua Fairy is the person he trusts most in this cultivation world.

Gu Qing Shan tossed the Earth Sword over.

Easily catching it, Bai Hua Fairy suddenly had an expression of nostalgia.

"It's a pity that I was too stubborn at that time and couldn't walk the path together with this sword" she sighed.

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Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

“Shifu, you also need to survive” he said.

“Don’t worry, I’m not going to die that easily” Bai Hua Fairy replied fearlessly.

Although she was smiling, the look in her eyes contained nothing but anxiety and confusion.

It’s the first time Gu Qing Shan has ever seen Bai Hua Fairy make such an expression ever since he knew her.

A while later.

Gu Qing Shan returned to his own tent.

Right as he sat down, he heard the collective voice of numerous cultivators ringing around the camp:

“““We bid the Saints good luck!”””

He quickly went outside and looked towards the sky.

The three Saints were leaving.

The direction they were leaving towards was the space vortex behind Demon Cloud River.

Gu Qing Shan could only see Bai Hua Fairy’s back from afar.

The three Saints were flying extremely quickly, enough that their backs also couldn’t be seen any more after a few moments.

Gu Qing Shan stood there silently and didn’t return into his tent for a while.

Suddenly, the War God UI started to light up.

A flash of light appeared on the War God UI, turning into lines of big red letters.

[Detected user to have triggered a special story scenario]

[Current conditions fit the Quest trigger requirements]

[Initiating Destiny Quest]

The Destiny Quest finally triggered!

Gu Qing Shan quickly took a look at the details.

[Destiny Quest: Decisive Battle (2)]

[Breaking the chains of fate, changing the flow of the world, user Gu Qing Shan has triggered the Destiny Quest]

[Quest description: The cultivation world is about to advance to Shen Wu world, what follows will be remembered as a great historical war ———but our Quest has nothing to do with eliminating the demons]

[Quest objective: Why has Shen Wu world not been completely taken over by the demons? How did the cultivation world’s humanity found out about its existence? Please seek out the truth of this world]

[As this is an exceptionally dangerous battle, to ensure that the user does not die prematurely, the

Quest reward War God Title has been granted early]

[If the Quest fails, the Quest reward will be rescinded, the user will not be able to increase their cultivation for 3 years]

Reading through the Quest description and objective, Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

Shen Wu world isn't completely taken over by the demons?

This is a completely new finding that changes the entire truth they've known.

Perhaps that's correct, that's why Ning Yue Xi and Gong Sun Zhi were able to locate it.

But then, the Quest wants him to use this as a basis to search for the deeper hidden truth.

Gu Qing Shan felt like he was suddenly dropped in a completely new environment full of mysteries, not knowing where to even start.

"What should I do now?"

While he was thinking, suddenly the War God UI popped up two new notifications.

[This is a completely new world; the War God System will not be able to predict what will happen at all]

[Please be prepared for anything and everything, hold your weapon tight and be ready to take on this completely unpredictable future]

Right after that, the War God UI flashed again.

The second flash!

The [War God Thaumaturgy] button lit up, following it, the crystal ball that had stayed silent for all this time finally started to let out a dark light.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

More text appeared in the middle of the War God UI.

[Golden Core realm Thaumaturgy Randomizer Quest has officially begun]

[For the next 7 days, the more Quests you complete, the more chances you have to draw different Thaumaturgy]

[Note 1: Borrowing power from the Destiny Quest, the War God UI will do its best to support you with investigating this unknown world]

[Note 2: The unique power inside the crystal ball will be your best support]

What's going on, the System isn't usually this flexible.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit speechless from seeing that.

If the Destiny Quest is an official order from the authorities, then the Thaumaturgy Quest is like the receptionist personally reminding him to be careful.

It's like the War God UI is using the Thaumaturgy Quest to help him in a roundabout way.

Could it be, the System felt something amiss?

Gu Qing Shan read through the Thaumaturgy Quest description.

This time, the Quest isn't a single Quest, but rather a Quest chain.

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He has to quickly complete as many Quests as possible in the next 7 days.

He can already see it, the requirement for completing the Quests will become harder and harder!

7 days.

Which means it's already starting.

Gu Qing Shan quickly looked at the crystal ball in the middle of the War God UI.

It says this crystal ball is the conduit for gathering some sort of unique power.

A thin veil of mist appeared inside the crystal ball.

As he looked at it, lines of glowing text started to appear on the outside of the crystal ball.

[The first Quest has appeared]

[Quest name: Prove your worth]

[Quest description: The System is feeling a unique existence observing you. But do not worry, as the observation isn't malicious, and it isn't towards you alone. From the moment you enter the next world, your every move will be under constant surveillance. Do everything you can to show your talents, only when you appear brilliant enough will you be qualified to finish this task]

[Quest objective: Do everything you can in Shen Wu world to show off your talents, all the way until you pick up a weapon]

[Quest reward: Connected Minds]

[Note: If you're trash, no one will bother looking at you for a second time]

"I have to show off? And pick up a weapon?" Gu Qing Shan didn't understand at all.

And the Quest reward is called [Connected Minds]

— — —that's all it says, there's no other description.

What kind of weird Quest is this, what does picking up something has to do with the war?

And I have to appear bright enough as well?

Gu Qing Shan has never seen such an obscure Quest ever before.

The Destiny Quest requires finding out the truth of the world, while the Thaumaturgy Quest triggered right after it.

Maybe, the System wants to use these two Quests to tell me something?

Reading the description again, Gu Qing Shan only felt more confused.

Outside the tent, voices and noises came.

The sounds of hurried footsteps and large weapons of war moving rumbled, mixed together with the voices of cultivators chatting and discussing.

Generals were yelling, calling out their subordinates to gather.

The hustling and bustling mix of noises and voices created for a picture of the chaos right before a storm arrives, both urgent and hurried.

Then came the sounds of airships taking off and flying away.

Another squad must have left.

Qin Xiao Lou came in and bid him farewell for now.

Qin Xiao Lou's task isn't exactly light, as a person well-versed in all of the 6 arts, he's required for almost every necessity of the frontline camps.

The only thing he had easier compared to other cultivators is that he doesn't need to go out to kill enemies.

Very quickly, the brothers bid their farewell and Qin Xiao Lou left on his airship together with his squad.

While Gu Qing Shan stayed in his own tent.

He has no troops to command, no superiors, and no clear task to do.

He can do anything he likes without anyone stopping him, it's fine even if he decides to stay right here at the backline.

There's no restrictions and no punishments.

He already received orders from the three Saints themselves, allowing him to freely do as he likes.

Shen Wu world is too dangerous, enough that a Saint like Bai Hua Fairy could feel her life being threatened in this war.

Bai Hua Fairy hoped that he'll be able to save his own life, hoping that he'll keep on living and continue keeping the Bai Hua sect lineage alive.

Gu Qing Shan slowly closed his eyes, stayed silent for a while, then finally started to smile.

In the tent, his lonely voice came.

"How pitiful, I didn't even fear the ultimate weapon the likes of the Demon Lord, yet I would have to stay behind here at the backline of the war?"

"I am Sword Saint Gu Qing Shan, and it's been a while since I last walked the battlefield"

He tapped his Inventory Bag, releasing the light golden full General armor set, quickly donning it on himself.

"Die? No one will die, not Shifu and definitely not me, as long as I'm there"

He said that with a very light tone of voice.

Wearing his silver mask, grabbing the Earth Sword from midair, Gu Qing Shan quickly walked out. Not too long after, his airship took off, crossing Demon Cloud River, heading towards the space vortex.

Chapter 248

The ground endured it, but occasionally still rumbled from the impacts.

The demons who couldn't get away would be burned to less than ash under the intense rain of fire.

They were scattered, running away from wherever the rain fell.

Different from the demons and beasts in the cultivation world, instead of being hostile and belligerent, these demons were constantly cautious, taking glances at the sky above.

This has become their second nature.

On a meadow, a human formation array.

The demons have temporarily retreated, allowing the cultivators to get a short period of rest.

At this time, a hole opened in the defensive formation.

The exhausted cultivators all got tense, ready to receive the enemy.

But the one they saw was a cultivator wearing golden armor and a silver mask.

This is the You Ji General signature armor set.

So it's not a special demon, it's a person on our side, everyone was able to sigh from relief.

General-ranked cultivators all have a special formation carved on their badges, allowing them to enter through defensive formations, getting in and out of the camps as they like.

"General, your badge please" one cultivator came up and said.

The general took out his badge and infused it with spirit energy.

The badge then let out an array of light, forming large letters in the air.

"You Ji General, Gu Qing Shan"

Seeing that, no matter how exhausted they were, each and every cultivator stood up and clasped their fists: "Welcome, General Gu"

This is a truly respectable person who decided the victory of an entire campaign by his own wits.

Gu Qing Shan nodded slightly to greet them back.

He took a look around this military camp.

There were a few formation users, the main fighting strength here are Elemental cultivators, there were also a few Martial cultivators, but they're all more or less wounded.

Not too many people here, a typical temporary camp.

“Where’s your commanding officer?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“He lead a team out to rescue some people” a cultivator answered.

“Hm, I’ll rest here for a bit” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Please be our guest” they answered.

Gu Qing Shan said nothing else, found a clean place and sat down to meditate.

After resting here, he was planning to go straight to Gong Sun Zhi’s camp without stopping anywhere else.

With Gong Sun Zhi’s formations, he plans on breaking through to Golden Core realm to be stronger and deal with this war better.

About half an hour later.

He stood up, quickly walked to the West of the camp and silently looked outside.

The two guard cultivators here were a bit confused and asked: “General Gu, what are you looking for?”

“They’re here” Gu Qing Shan said.

They followed his sight.

A cloud of dust was being kicked up from a bit far outside the camp.

A cultivator was seen.

He was wearing a set of Zhao Wu Chaplain armor, one hand holding his bleeding stomach, the other carrying an unconscious cultivator, running here as fast as he could.

Countless demons were chasing behind him, almost like a surging wave.

“It’s Zhao Wu Li, he’s wounded!”

“The demons are coming, get ready!”

The two guard cultivators quickly shouted to the others.

The entire camp moved into action.

But the cultivators were panicking, they took up their weapons but didn’t quite know how to provide help.

The camp’s commander is still outside.

“We’ll go out first” the Martial cultivators volunteered.

“No, let us attack the demons first and create a chance for you to get close” an Elemental cultivator said.

While they were still arguing, a firm voice stopped all the confusion.

“Oy, I’m here, you guys don’t need to argue. I’ll give the orders!”

Everyone went silent.

When they looked back, they saw the one who spoke was Gu Qing Shan.

He's a You Ji General.

His military rank is the highest.

Right, when the commander isn't here, the highest ranking officer should be the one that gives the orders.

Everyone stopped panicking and looked at him.

Gu Qing Shan quickly delegated: "Ignore all the attack formations"

"Roger"

The cultivators in charge of them were a bit hesitant, but decided to just listen to orders.

At a time like this, disobeying orders is punishable by death via military laws.

"Direct all power to strengthen defenses"

"All formation users reinforce the formations"

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"Roger"

"Elemental cultivators, line up in front, 5 per row. Elementalist officers take command, prepare your spells in order, you know what I mean"

"Roger"

"Martial cultivators will hear my command, everyone rush out when I raise my sword, rescue your commander and bring him back"

"Roger!"

All the cultivators prepared as ordered, but were still a bit unconvinced.

He said the Martial cultivators will follow the signal of his sword and dash out to rescue the commander.

But with so many demons, what method is there to bring their commander back with the least casualties?

The cultivators all kept their eyes peeled on Gu Qing Shan, preparing to see what he'd do.

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan left only an afterimage and disappeared from their sight.

"Look, he's over there!" one person shouted.

All the cultivators looked over.

They saw a streak of golden light rushing across the large meadow, charging straight into the group of demons.

“Die!”

He shouted with a booming voice as both his sword and himself turned into a giant crescent slash.

As the crescent-shaped sword phantom passed through, large amounts of demons got chopped to pieces as the stench of their flesh and blood got carried away by the wind.

The dozen or so demons that were the closest got cleanly bisected at their waist, letting out horrid cries before dying.

Gu Qing Shan reappeared.

He was standing in the middle of all the demons, letting one of them freely attack him without defending.

“Clang!”

A chiming sound of impact.

But the armor wasn't even scratched.

With a single slash, Gu Qing Shan sliced that demon in half as well.

At this point, he was already deeper into the wave of demons than the wounded Zhao Wu chaplain.

He raised his sword.

In the camp, while their blood was boiling, the cultivators saw his signal, roared and rushed out towards their commander who was retreating.

Gu Qing Shan already equipped the [You Ji General] title.

He headed straight towards the hundreds of demons.

His sword let out screaming sounds of wind as it moved, consecutively chopping up the demons one after another.

None of managed to even take one strike without dying.

Suddenly, a giant monster about the size of five people appeared, roaring while heading to attack Gu Qing Shan.

Wherever it moved, the earth trembled, the demons quickly dashed out of its way.

This was a giant demon whose strength is comparable to Golden Core realm cultivators.

“I've been waiting for you” Gu Qing Shan muttered in a low voice.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink]

A second later, he already stood on the demon's shoulder, touching it with his hand.

[Stiffness] activated, the giant demon instantly got stunned in place.

Using the Earth Sword, Gu Qing Shan swiftly slit the demon's throat.

A slit with the force equaling 60,000 tons.

The giant demon's head flew, blood spurted out from its neck like a fountain.

The headless body fell to the ground.

Using the momentum, Gu Qing Shan thrust his sword at the group of demons as he descended.

Secret Art, [Water Flow Severance]!

Donk donk donk donk donk!

Numerous sword phantoms flew into the sea of demons, exploding into fireworks of blood and flesh.

Swinging his sword once again, Gu Qing Shan headed deeper into the sea of demons.

Behind him, the Martial cultivators had already received their commander and were retreating.

The demons being held back by Gu Qing Shan were already far enough away from the Martial cultivators. The first wave of prepared Elemental spells hit them in succession, stopping a few in their tracks and killed many more.

Gu Qing Shan himself danced around the sea of demons, killing a couple more waves before nonchalantly retreating back to humanity's camp.

While the demons were still too scared to pursue, they were hit once again with the next waves of Elemental spells and even more died.

Ahead of them was a humanity's defensive array, prepared to face the enemy, an exceptionally hard bone to chew.

Not to mention, they still had to deal with the serial killer of a swordsman over there.

Finally, the demons had no choice but to retreat reluctantly.

It was only then that Gu Qing Shan was able to relax for a little bit, glancing over at the War God UI.

From the very start, a notification has been blinking nonstop on the UI.

[You've perfectly executed three instant kills; each target were enemies stronger than yourself]

[You've completed three instant kills while being weaker than the opponent, unlocking the title: Assassin]

[As this is a rare title, you need to spend 50 Soul Points to unlock it]

Reading the notification, Gu Qing Shan was surprised for a second.

During the last time he was at the cultivation world, he killed Leng Tian Xing's spirit beast giant moth in one strike, then later also killed the Flame-cloud Sky Chasing Crane in one strike. At the time, there was a notification that told him to complete three instant kills while being weaker than the opponent to unlock the corresponding title.

It seems killing the giant demon just now satisfied the conditions to unlocking the title.

Chapter 249

Gu Qing Shan chose to unlock it without hesitation.

Even if the cost is 50 Soul Points, he still needs to unlock it.

After going into Shen Wu world, he's been through a few tough battles already, so he already accumulated quite a bit of Soul Points.

He checked the amount of Soul Points he has.

[Current Soul Points: 230/40]

He defeated demons stronger than himself quite a few times, so the amount of Soul Points has once again went past the maximum of 40.

"Spend Soul Points to unlock the title" he said.

[You've spent 50 Soul Points to unlock the title]

[Title: Assassin]

[Description: You only need one strike to kill an enemy stronger than yourself]

[Equipping this title will grant you the specialist Skill: Harvest (Intermediate)]

[Harvest (Intermediate): Whenever you kill an enemy in one hit, you'll get back 60% of the spirit energy you used]

[Note: If you succeed another 5 instant kill on stronger enemies, you'll unlock the advanced version of this rare title]

Gu Qing Shan could feel his eyes lit up.

This is truly a Skill made for war, greatly increasing his durability in long, drawn out battles against a swarm of enemies.

"Five instant kills on stronger enemies..." he muttered.

Not only does it have to be stronger enemies, he also has to kill them in one hit, an exceptionally harsh condition to fulfil

———I wonder what kind of effect the advanced version of the [Assassin] title would have.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then slowly walked back into the military camp.

All the cultivators looked at him with respect, all clasping their fists.

""Hail the General!""

They loudly declared.

Using to strength of one person to cut off pursuit, it takes more than simply power.

If there were any Rejuvenation realm demons among those just now, doing what he did was basically suicide.

The part of Gu Qing Shan that's worth their respect is being able to instantly recognize that there weren't any Rejuvenation realm demons in the sea of demons, and then trust in his judgement enough to bet his own life and stop the demons in their tracks.

This shows absolute confidence in his own eyes.

Without bravery, without foresight, or without power, it couldn't have been done without any of these.

Gu Qing Shan walked up and talked to the Zhao Wu chaplain receiving first aid: "What's the situation?"

"Thank you General" the Zhao Wu chaplain responded, "I'm fine for now, but this man's mind seems to be a bit hazy"

"Who is he?"

"This is a scout, responsible for investigating the frontline situation"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the other person.

He's currently unconscious, his expression still showing a bit of a fright.

"How did he suddenly fall unconscious? Did he meet a Tianma?" he asked.

"He didn't" the Zhao Wu chaplain's expression was also a bit confused, "he's an expert with the spear, during the last time he went out scouting, he found a long spear at a desolate and secluded place"

"And then what?" Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt some anxiety.

"Then he was curious, picked up the long spear and practiced a few moves, then suddenly fell unconscious" the Zhao Wu chaplain said.

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

My Thaumaturgy Quest requires me to also pick up a weapon.

But a frontline soldier suddenly fell into a coma like this as he picked up a weapon.

Just what's going on?

"Are there any other people who picked up any weapons?"

"There aren't any yet, sir"

"How strong is this man?"

"He's our best scout"

"Is that so; watch him carefully, report if any situation arises"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan made it way out of the camp.

"General, you're leaving now?" the Zhao Wu chaplain was surprised.

"I've already rested enough; I need to keep doing my mission" Gu Qing Shan said.

It was now that the cultivators understood, *so the General only happened to pass by here, he still has his own mission to attend to.*

Everyone silently clasped their fists.

Gu Qing Shan also clasped his fist in response, then left.

General Gong Sun's camp is still quite far from here; he has to pick up his pace a bit.

After moving for a while, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag, took out a map and checked his course.

Suddenly, his eyes saw a certain location on the map.

"How convenient, since it's on the way, I'll just pass by for a bit then"

His figured flashed as Gu Qing Shan disappeared from place.

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Around twilight, he made it to another military camp.

After knowing that he came, Leng Tian Xing quickly went out to welcome him.

"Ah? You're at Rejuvenation realm already?" Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

"That's right, though I ran into some trouble with the Heaven's Tribulation and almost died" Leng Tian Xing wryly smiled.

"What happened?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Hah, during the last moments of the Tribulation, 5 bolts of Searing Flame Lightning appeared, they directly countered all of my Water Element spells and broke my concentration"

"But you still succeeded in the end"

"That's all luck. Seriously, I still feel cold sweat thinking about it"

As they walked and talked, they went into Leng Tian Xing's tent.

"General Leng, how does it feel to command a camp?" Gu Qing Shan teased him.

"Ahaha, it's all thanks to you for bringing me with you during that spirit beast mission" Leng Tian Xing answered.

"What are your official orders?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Form a camp here, dispose of the demons and set up large formations"

"So it's gaining ground to prepare for an extended war"

"That's right, because we found a lot of minerals here"

"Minerals? What kind of ore?"

Leng Tian Xing listed out a few.

"They're all very good materials for Smithing" Gu Qing Shan thought then said.

"That's right, this world is very large, we've only managed to secure a really small area and we already got such a valuable find, so everyone's in high spirits" Leng Tian Xing spoke.

“What orders did you get?” he asked Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan wryly smiled, thought about it, but decided not to tell him about the humiliating orders he got.

He couldn't do anything but answered: “Hm ———-killing demons, the more strong demons I kill the better”

“You're a sword cultivator so this mission seems to be appropriate” Leng Tian Xing nodded, then said: “We caught a few Golden Core realm demons a little bit ago. Just finished studying their signature demonic essence, but we didn't clean them up yet, do you think it'll count in your mission if I let you kill them?”

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised, then happily responded: “It does, of course it does”

“Then that's great, I'll ask my subordinates to see how many of them are still alive” saying so, Leng Tian Xing went out.

A few moments later, Leng Tian Xing came back in and lead him to a secluded area in the camp.

Three demons were lying on the ground, pinned in place by the Demon Binding Chains on their body.

They were struggling as much as they could, but couldn't manage to escape their shackles.

Scanning them, Gu Qing Shan found all three of these demons were Golden Core early stage.

“How did you catch them?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“We dispatched 10 Elemental cultivators, 10 Marital cultivators, 5 formation users and 2 sword cultivators” Leng Tian Xing answered.

“Cheh, it's so much easier to do things when you have subordinates” Gu Qing Shan was a bit envious.

“Can I kill them now?” he turned and asked Leng Tian Xing.

“Of course, a few cultivators wanted to find where they create their miasma from, but failed. They're left here because we haven't gotten to killing them yet”

“Thank you”

Gu Qing Shan walked up, killed all three demons with one slash each.

He also cut off their claws as if he needed proof for military Merit.

A line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[You've perfectly executed 3 instant kills, the targets are enemies at a higher realm than yourself, please do your best to complete 5 instant kills on stronger enemies to unlock the corresponding title]

Only two more times to unlock the advanced version of the rare title!

Gu Qing Shan turned around and looked at Leng Tian Xing.

As a perceptive person, Leng Tian Xing understood as soon as he saw the look on his face and asked:
“Three isn’t enough?”

“It isn’t”

“How many more?”

“Two”

Leng Tian Xing went out, called two cultivators in and ordered.

“The same team as the time before, you guys prepare for a bit and go out again...” his voice came from outside.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and once again admired him greatly.

This is the advantage of having subordinates, he only needs to say a few words and others will quickly deal with it for him, there is no need to actually do it on his own.

This is the exact reason that before, when the three Saints were asking his thoughts, he kept insisting on wanting to lead troops.

Chapter 250

[You’ve perfectly executed 5 instant kills against targets that are stronger than yourself]

[You’ve completed 5 instant skills against stronger enemies, unlocking the corresponding title now]

[To unlock the advanced rare title, you need to spend 100 Soul Points]

“I’ll spend it”

[You’ve spent 100 Soul Points, unlocked title]

[Current Soul Points: 80/40]

[Title: Ace Assassin (overwrote Assassin title)]

[Description: You only need one strike to kill an enemy stronger than yourself]

[Equipping this title, you gain the specialist Skill: Harvest (Advanced)]

[Harvest (Advanced): Whenever you kill an enemy in one hit, you’ll regain all the spirit energy used for that strike]

Seeing the new title Skill, Gu Qing Shan was very pleased.

Although it’s not exactly a Divine Skill, but this is actually more useful than a Divine Skill in war-scale wars.

The next thing he’ll have to do it breaking through to Golden Core realm.

“Thanks, you’ve really helped me this time” he patted Leng Tian Xing’s shoulder.

Leng Tian Xing just waved and dismissed it: “We’re brothers, it’s nothing to talk about”

“Then I’ll be leaving first”

“You won’t stay here for a bit longer?”

“Hm, the mission is a bit rushed”

“Fine then, I’ll see you off”

Leng Tian Xing saw him off until he left the camp, silently watched as he disappeared among the hills.

Leng Tian Xing squinted his eyes, muttering: “How strange, the entire alliance is still not used to this world, everyone is still at the stage of figuring it out”

“The places around here were confirmed by the Saints to not have any monsters that are too strong, so where would an emergency mission come from?”

“He’s in so much of a rush, what kind of trouble is he stirring up this time?”

He shook his head and went back in.

Being alone also has its advantages, Gu Qing Shan was able to go at his own pace, constantly rushing forward without rest. At noon on the second day, he finally made it to Ding Yuan General, Gong Sun Zhi’s camp.

This is a larger military camp than the others, you could even call it an outpost.

Numerous defensive formations covered the over dozen-meter-tall thick outside walls.

The cultivators responsible for guarding were stationed on the walls, standing a few steps from each other. Their expressions were cautious and serious.

Gu Qing Shan went around asking the guard cultivators but all got the same answer.

Gong Sun Zhi isn’t here, he seems to have went out to do a mission given by the three Saints, but haven’t come back.

Gu Qing Shan was a little bit impatient.

He already sent the communication talisman and made an appointment for this, but Gong Sun Zhi is nowhere to be seen even now.

From the looks of it, everything seems to be normal, and the demons of this area doesn’t appear to be that strong.

But Bai Hua Fairy would definitely not tell such a lie just to scare her disciple.

There certainly is great danger here, it just hasn’t erupted yet.

That’s why he needs breakthrough to Golden Core realm as soon as possible to become stronger.

But breaking through a realm is always an incredibly dangerous thing to do, Tianma are always raring to come attack, and there are also countless unknown existences that want to possess your body, eat your soul, eat your flesh, some are even there simply to mess with the breakthrough from sheer malice... all sorts of things will take this opportunity when the cultivators are at their weakest.

That’s why he needs protection.

Unfortunately, back when he was still in the cultivation world, not only were his wounds not healed yet, he didn’t even have Soul Points to spend.

Now that he's in Shen Wu world and has Soul Points to spend, Gong Sun Zhi is not here.

Shifu had also cut off communication, he wasn't able to contact her.

What should he do now?

He just stood there at the camp's gates, ignoring the strange looks people were giving him.

Breathing in deeply, Gu Qing Shan forced himself to calm down.

He can't be too impatient, that only brings harm.

Gong Sun Zhi is a person that keeps his words.

It must have been a sudden mission that he couldn't escape from that made Gong Sun Zhi leave the camp.

If that isn't the case, he wouldn't have broken his promise.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, heaven and earth suddenly became dark.

The rain of fire in the sky disappeared.

Intense spirit waves exploded like a hurricane, strong enough to keep everyone from opening their eyes.

"Amitabha!"

A loud Buddha chant was heard.

This is the Great Monk of Sorrow's voice!

Gu Qing Shan instantly looked up, feeling tense.

He could only see a blinding golden light floating really far above.

The golden light was ramming the sky, but kept being pushed back down.

Boom!

Boom!

The golden light kept ramming it without giving up.

Suddenly, an intricate, unknown rune appeared from nowhere and hit the golden light.

The light instantly became dim, falling down.

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A slender green figure appeared, caught the golden light, broke open space and flew inside.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

Not just him, every other cultivator was the same, stunned in place unable to move.

The golden light was letting out a very familiar gentle spirit energy wave, one that everyone here knew.

It was the Great Monk of Sorrow.

As for the slender green light, they also know it quite well.

Bai Hua Fairy.

Two of the three Saints of humanity had to break open space to flee.

This is completely unheard of.

So even people as strong as they are can fall.

Then, just what is above the sky?

And where is Xuanyuan Tianzun?

One mystery after another rose in their minds, making them all unable to calm down.

“Shifu...” Gu Qing Shan bit his lip.

With Bai Hua Fairy’s personality, unless the Great Monk of Sorrow’s situation is very bad, she would’ve went to fight back against whatever did that instead of fleeing.

Just what happened?

At this time, a loud rumbling wave of noise came from outside the camp.

The earth itself was shaking.

“Demons! Demons!” the cultivators on guard shouted.

“Rain of fire! Rain of fire!” more of them were screaming, looking around helplessly.

Gu Qing Shan went up and looked at the horizon.

And endless wave of demon was heading here, like a real tsunami.

The rain of fire that stopped before had reappeared, falling behind the demons, shaking everyone’s minds.

Gu Qing Shan squinted and found Rejuvenation realm demons, even a few Ascended realm demons among the tsunami.

“What do we do now!” someone shouted from despair.

The only Ding Yuan General Gong Sun Zhi isn’t here.

Without their superior’s orders, the cultivators don’t dare to abandon this outpost that’s already about to finish building.

Deserters in battle are punishable by death, according to military laws.

Two cultivators wearing golden armor quickly came towards him.

One of them was a Rejuvenation realm peak, the other an Ascended realm.

It's rare for cultivators to reach Rejuvenation realm, and being able to reach Ascended is even rarer, there isn't even 50 of them in total.

One of them looked at Gu Qing Shan and said: "I'm good with combat, but I don't know much about strategic decisions, what do you think we should do?"

Gu Qing Shan placed his palm on the ground and felt it for a bit, then his expression changed.

"I think we need to retreat" he said.

Both the You Ji Generals heard him, but didn't say anything.

The Rejuvenation realm cultivator looked at the Ascended realm cultivator.

The Ascended realm cultivator was also hesitant, then looked at Gu Qing Shan and said: "You give the orders"

This is him not willing to accept the responsibility for giving the orders to retreat.

In reality, any half-experience General would know that they should order retreat under such a situation.

The rain of fire is devastating, even the earth itself couldn't handle its power, let alone a little outpost like this.

And there was also a tsunami wave of demons scrambling to run away under that rain of fire.

The Saints were also forced to flee just now.

At a time like this, what are you protecting that you'd be unwilling to run away?

As there's no time, Gu Qing Shan didn't bother to argue with him and flew straight up to the outpost's podium.

He loudly ordered: "Everyone get on your airships, form a straight formation and retreat!"

The cultivators saw his golden armor, but seeing how young he was, they were a bit hesitant.

It took so much effort to make an outpost, yet we're going to abandon it just like that?

This isn't a small issue at all, if someone were to pursue this later, no one would be able to escape taking responsibility.

Seeing everyone was still hesitant at this point in time, Gu Qing Shan was a bit panicked.

If we wait anymore, we won't be able to make it.

Tapping his Inventory Bag, he took out his badge and raised it.

"I am You Ji General Gu Qing Shan, everyone, obey my commands. If anything happens later, I myself will take responsibility for this alone!"

Chapter 251

You Ji General Gu Qing Shan is a direct disciple of Bai Hua Saint.

He has the military rank, he has the status, he already proved his wits through the last campaign, and now he's willingly taking responsibility for this matter if necessary.

Everyone looked over and waited for his next orders.

Gu Qing Shan's tone suddenly became sharp and shouted: "All guard cultivators, get out of line, if anyone dares to waver with the troop's morale, do not report to me. Execute them on the spot!"

As soon as he said so, over a dozen guard cultivators stepped forward.

These cultivators aren't simply just strong, they are also merciless, specifically chosen to enforce military laws.

The rest of the cultivators also neatly lined up as they saw that.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Relay my orders, all airships form a quick-march formation, retreat towards Southwest, your destination is a military camp 2000 miles from here"

One Rejuvenation realm cultivator couldn't help but spoke up: "I don't feel that this ———"

Gu Qing Shan coldly cut him off: "This is no longer an ordinary situation, those that disobey military orders will be executed!"

The guard cultivators curtly went up and surrounded the Rejuvenation realm cultivator.

He instantly shut up.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "All formation users will remain for now to protect the rear; deserters will be executed!"

Hearing the word "executed" so many times in a row spoken with such killing intent, everyone was able to feel the authority of the military law.

Gu Qing Shan shouted: "Move!"

All the cultivators immediately went into action.

Airships were deployed one after another as the cultivators followed their previously arranged teams, quickly but orderly flew away.

Gu Qing Shan then looked over at his two fellow You Ji Generals and said: "The three of us are the only You Ji Generals here, we'll be responsible for holding the rear, it'll be more convenient to observe the situation"

The two cultivators exchanged looks, then looked outside.

The devastating rain of fire that carried a world-ending air was slowly but surely moving towards the direction of the military camp.

Under the rain of fire, the innumerable endless tsunami of demons was approaching, screeching and screaming all the way.

The screams were from demons that wasn't fast enough and got vaporized by the rain of fire that caught up.

Of the two Generals, the Ascended realm cultivator glanced over at the sea of fire, quickly identified a few terrifying Ascended realm demons.

He couldn't help but took a step back and quickly said: "Both you and I are You Ji Generals, you have no authority to order me around"

"I'm the one that gave the order for retreat, so I have jurisdiction over anything that happens during the retreat, this is a military order!" Gu Qing Shan curtly responded.

The Ascended realm cultivator suddenly emitted spirit pressure, wanting to suppress Gu Qing Shan.

With his cultivation, simply his spirit pressure is enough to make sure Gu Qing Shan can't even move.

"You dare?" Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes and said in a low voice.

The Ascended spirit pressure rescinded.

In the sky, the cultivators were retreating in an orderly fashion, everyone was still looking straight at them.

Not to mention, the Saint definitely has methods to find out the whole truth.

"Tch! You and I are the same rank; you have no authority to stop my actions. I will explain the situation to the Ding Yuan General myself later" the Ascended realm coldly said.

He deployed his airship and rose up to the sky.

He was fast enough that the guard cultivators couldn't stop him in time.

Gu Qing Shan then looked over at the Rejuvenation realm cultivator.

"I'll help you with holding the rear" the Rejuvenation realm cultivator answered.

"Your name?"

"Chen Qiao"

"And that other person just now?"

"Wang Lie, his personality is just like that, no need to take it to heart"

"I won't care about a dead person, General Chen, please make sure the formation users are operating all available formations"

"...Roger!"

The young man in front of him is clearly only a Foundation Establishment peak, but the Rejuvenation realm cultivator still couldn't help but feel a chill, quickly received his orders and left.

Layers upon layers of formations were lightning up outside the outpost.

The colors of the 5-Elements rose from the formations, painting the sky with a glorious spectacle of light.

Gu Qing Shan silently counted.

36 attack formations, 72 defensive formations, it checks out with the theorized perfect amount of formations.

As a Grandmaster formation user, Gong Sun Zhi was able to make sure everything was as well-prepared as possible.

The formation users here are also people directly under Gong Sun Zhi's command, so they don't really want to abandon the outpost just like that. At this time, they were all doing everything they can, wanting to show off the power of the formations in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The fact of the matter is, to set up and maintain such a system of formation requires an astronomical amount of spirit stones and manpower, enough to bankrupt even a mid-ranged sect.

To arbitrarily give up and abandon such a military outpost isn't something any single person is willing to take responsibility for.

Normally, this isn't something even the commanding officer of the outpost would be willing to decide by themselves.

Yet Gu Qing Shan ordered them to retreat without the slightest bit of hesitation.

Gu Qing Shan stood on the high walls of the outpost, observing the incoming rain of fire and tsunami of demons.

At a time like this, no one would be paying attention to some dirt on the ground behind a random building.

But, at such a place, a sword silently unburied itself.

As soon as it appeared, the sword looked for a place to hide and hid away silently without anyone noticing.

From where it was, it happened to be able to see the scene of Gu Qing Shan commanding the army.

It silently stayed there and observed him.

Gu Qing Shan was also observing the army while standing on top of the walls.

Suddenly.

The sky above the demons, a black shadow was quickly descending, heading towards the outpost.

As he saw it clearly, Gu Qing Shan's face changed.

It was an airship, painted with a large character "Xi".

The airship was damaged quite badly, wobbling while flying, almost got caught up by the rain of fire a few times.

A few dozen demons saw it, screeched as they flew up and started attacking the airship.

“Formation flags!”

Seeing the situation deteriorating, Gu Qing Shan shouted.

36 black flags, 72 purple flags came flying in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The black flags represent the attack formations, while the purple ones represent the defensive formations.

On the base of each flag, symbols were carved to signify the formation’s Element.

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These are formation flags specifically made for this outpost, controlled with inner sight.

Gu Qing Shan quickly controlled them.

A total of 108 flags started to hover in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan stood against the wind, picked out 16 black flags with his inner sight and ordered: “16 black flags, you guys protect the airship”

Immediately, the cultivators at the 16 attack formations received the order and made their hand seals.

All 16 formations slowly started to move.

A few seconds later, columns of light shot out from the outpost, hitting all the demons around the airship, either killing them, injuring them, or knocking them into the rain of fire behind.

Gu Qing Shan then picked out 27 purple flags and ordered: “Use the long-ranged spirit barriers”

As he finished speaking, a few dozens more lights came out of the outpost and enveloped Ning Yue Xi’s airship.

With the protection of the outpost, the airship was barely able to stabilize and staggered its way into the outpost.

Gu Qing Shan picked the rest of the purple flags and shouted: “All defensive formations, open up to receive!”

In a second, all the defensive formations lit up and formed a gate.

The airship quickly went through the gate, passed by where Gu Qing Shan stood and crash landed onto the outpost’s ground, kicking up dust and sand.

“General Chen, settle their rescue!” Gu Qing Shan kept staring at the demons outside the outpost and didn’t turn back.

“Roger!” Chen Qiao brought a few cultivators over.

At this time, the wave of demons in front were just about to arrive at the outpost.

Gu Qing Shan picked out all 36 black flags and ordered: "At the direction of my inner sight, combine into one, attack with your full power!"

All 36 formations started to move at the same time, enough to send a tremor across the entire outpost.

A second later, all the lights from 36 formations merged into a giant pillar of light.

The pillar followed Gu Qing Shan's inner sight and struck the ground a few miles in front of the outpost.

"Not enough, again!" Gu Qing Shan ordered again.

Another giant pillar of light rose from the outpost, roared as it flew through the air and hit the earth.

"Again!"

Boom!

"Again!"

Boom!

Observing it for a bit, Gu Qing Shan finally jumped down from the outpost wall and headed towards Ning Yue Xi's airship.

On the ground a few miles in front of the outpost, a large crevice about 100 feet thick was formed.

The crevice completely blocked off the demon's path, almost none of them could pass at all, aside from a few high-levelled demons that could fly.

The ones that couldn't stop in time all fell down, while more of them decided to run to either sides of the crevice, running for their lives.

With this violent method, the tsunami of demons got split in two, both sides avoiding the outpost.

But the world-ending rain of fire wasn't the least bit concerned, only continued to head straight for the outpost.

The airship has been broken open inside the camp.

Ning Yue Xi pulled an unconscious Gong Sun Zhi out, looking at Gu Qing Shan worriedly.

"You're the one controlling the formations?"

"Yes"

"Where are the other cultivators?"

"I had them all retreat"

"Retreat where?"

"Leng Tian Xing's camp"

"That's good, that's very good" Ning Yue Xi breathed out from relief, then shouted: "Change airships! Abandon the outpost!"

As a Ding Yuan General, her orders are very quickly followed.

Even the formation user group couldn't say anything to that now.

Because the supreme commander of the camp is now unconscious, there was no other way to overturn this situation.

"How is General Gong Sun?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I don't know either, while we were investigating a ruin, he suddenly fell unconscious" Ning Yue Xi answered.

"Why did this happen? What was he doing at the time?"

"He picked up a formation plate and was attempting to refine it"

"What!?"

Gu Qing Shan glanced over at Gong Sun Zhi to see that he was in quite a deep coma, there's no way to wake him up for the time being.

"It looks like his soul vessel was wounded, we better get him to the rear for treatment"

He then deployed an airship, had Chen Qiao carry Gong Sun Zhi on the ship together with Ning Yue Xi.

"What about you?" Ning Yue Xi stared at him and asked.

Just as Gu Qing Shan was about to jump onto the airship, he saw something at the corner of his eye.

At a certain corner of a random building, a damaged sword was sitting there silently.

Gu Qing Shan also doesn't know why he suddenly noticed such a thing.

His thoughts moved around a bit, remembering the first mission of the Thaumaturgy Quest.

[Quest objective: Show off your skills and talents in Shen Wu world, up until you pick up a weapon]

Pick up a weapon...

Gu Qing Shan quickly decided and said to Ning Yue Xi: "You retreat first; I'll hold the rear"

"Alright, stay safe, we'll meet up later" Ning Yue Xi isn't the kind of person that will decline a meal when she's hungry, so she quickly piloted the airship and flew away.

The other cultivators also quickly retreated.

The entire outpost quickly became deserted.

Gu Qing Shan walked towards the damaged sword.

This is quite a unique-looking sword, an antique from the looks of it.

Carefully observing the sword, Gu Qing Shan could tell both the shape and pattern on the hilt of the sword was very different from the ones in the current era.

One side of the sword was completely flat, as if it was cut away, only half the sword was left while the other half was nowhere to be seen. (TN: imagine Shinobu Kochou's sword)

Gu Qing Shan picked up the sword.

[Ting]!

The System sound chimed.

[The user has picked up a weapon]

[Quest completed]

Chapter 252

Sword spirit

Gu Qing Shan silently waited for a bit.

After the System announced the Quest's completion, it went silent again without responding.

What happened?

Is the Thaumaturgy Quest just picking up some random trash?

That can't be it.

Gu Qing Shan held the sword in hand, felt a bit tempted to try out a few swings.

This is the same for all cultivators, as they pick up a new weapon, their first reaction would be to instinctively try it out to feel the weapon's power.

A conditional reflex.

But as soon as Gu Qing Shan started swinging it, Gu Qing Shan forced himself to stop.

He suddenly remembered, both the people who fell unconscious only did so after using a weapon they picked up.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the rain of fire outside, seeing that it was already closing in on the outpost.

There's no time to investigate now.

He has no choice but to put the sword away and flew his airship.

Not too long after, the rain of fire came down like a normal downpour.

The 72 layers of defensive formation didn't even help a single bit, easily torn apart like paper.

The entire outpost was burning.

The demons that were at least considered a wave were now scattered into smaller groups, still running for their lives.

The rain of fire didn't mind any of this, only continued forward on its predetermined path, pouring down.

A guerilla military camp.

You Ji General Wang Lie was tied up and forced to kneel.

Most of the generals were here.

Ning Yue Xi wore her Ding Yuan General armor set, stood in front of him and coldly questioned: "Why did you disobey military orders and ran off on your own?"

Wang Lie is a Rejuvenation realm cultivator, of course he couldn't bear such humiliation and angrily answered: "He's a mere Foundation Establishment realm, what right does he have to order me around!"

Ning Yue Xi asked: "Then why did you leave the authority to order and command to him when the situation came?"

Wang Lie had no way to respond.

Another Ding Yuan General, Sun Ming monk tried to plead for him: "He's made quite a few contributions already, his mistake isn't as serious as his value, let's just demote him to become a chaplain"

Before he could even finish, a snow white gleam was already swung, the stench of blood filled the room.

Wang Lie was beheaded, his face still showed an expression of disbelief.

Everyone remained silent.

Ning Yue Xi sheathed her Blade, coldly declared: "He got promoted because he made enough contributions, but he disobeyed orders in the time of battle and deserted, he should be executed as per military laws"

"Amitabha, this is an Ascended realm cultivator we were talking about, he still had a lot of uses later on" Sun Ming monk sighed.

"It's because he's an Ascended realm that we can't be lenient. If he acts like that with such a small matter, then he'll definitely ruin more serious matters later on when we need him" Ning Yue Xi insisted without backing down.

She then ordered: "Hang his head up as an example!"

"Yes!"

"Very well, dismiss"

The generals all quickly retreated, as if someone was hitting them with a whip to urge them.

Wang Lie's head was taken away to be hung at the military enforcement area.

At this time, the only people left in the tent were the two Ding Yuan Generals and Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "How is General Gong Sun?"

Ning Yue Xi's eyes softened a bit and said: "A few of our best medics have taken a look at him, they all said he'll need a few more days to wake up"

"What exactly happened?"

“They said his soul vessel was attacked and wounded”

“I’ll go check on him” Sun Ming monk said and left.

Gu Qing Shan took out his map, looked at it before asking: “Why did you suddenly want to do such a dangerous thing as investigating the ruins at this point in time? Didn’t the three Saints say to leave it to them?”

“They were a bit too busy, so your Shifu handed these missions to me” Ning Yue Xi answered.

Shifu handed them to you? Then what was she doing?

Gu Qing Shan silently contemplated this.

Ning Yue Xi then tapped her Inventory Bag and took out a purple glowing talisman to give to Gu Qing Shan.

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“What is this?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

“I met your Shifu before all this, she gave me this Universal Talisman to give to you” Ning Yue Xi answered.

Universal Talismans, contrary to their name, is the hardest type of Talisman to create, an exceptionally high-tiered talisman.

The main reason is because it has to do with the Law of space, but it is more advanced than an Inventory Bag. (1)

They’re different from Communication Talismans, where a Communication Talisman can only send voice, the Universal Talisman usually comes in a pair of two, by which the cultivators holding them can send items through.

One person can put something in from one side, the other can pull it out from the other.

Even the space vortex can’t interfere with this process of delivering something.

Such a pair of talisman takes at least 10 years to make, costing innumerable spirit stones and other valuable resources.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly infused the Universal Talisman with spirit energy to see what Shifu needed to give him that she had to use this.

The Universal Talisman lit up, then a small jade bottle appeared together with a Communication Talisman.

Gu Qing Shan first checked the Communication Talisman.

“I brought Sorrow into the space vortex to heal him, remember to pay attention to safety, if you can’t handle things, run”

“This jade bottle is a Saint Grade Healing item I found in Shen Wu world, they’re much more potent compared to pills of our world, use it”

Holding the jade bottle, Gu Qing Shan felt both warmth and worried inside.

Even the Great Monk of Sorrow was wounded, and Shifu couldn't help but go into the space vortex. They must be in quite the tough situation right now.

At this time, a report came, saying that Leng Tian Xing had brought a group outside and met with some powerful demons, they've already battled for a full day without deciding victory.

Ning Yue Xi quickly left.

Gu Qing Shan followed, but Ning Yue Xi suddenly turned around and stopped him with her hand on his armor.

"Me alone is enough" Ning Yue Xi stared straight at him, but began to blush after a little bit.

"I have nothing to do anyways" Gu Qing Shan insisted.

"It's fine, your sect doesn't have many members so it can't lose any of them. You should just stay here, so that there aren't any concerns" Ning Yue Xi didn't say anything else after that and quickly left the tent.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit annoyed.

I understand Shifu's concerns, but even you act like this, I also participated in the grand war before you know? Do you want me to still call myself a cultivator?

He had no choice but to check the War God UI again. Sadly, the Quest stayed the same without any changes.

Since there wasn't anyone else in the General's tent, he just randomly sat down, took out the damaged sword, but couldn't find anything suspicious or of note.

Then, he recalled the details of the first Quest.

[Quest name: Prove your worth]

[Quest description: Do everything you can to show your talents, only when you appear brilliant enough that you are qualified to complete this task]

[Note: If you're trash, no one will bother looking at you for a second time]

He looked at the sword, then suddenly thought of an unbelievable possibility.

He then cleared his throat, asking the sword very seriously: "Nice to meet you, pardon me asking but is there anything this humble one can help you with?"

Complete silence.

The sword didn't respond.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a bit, then burst into laughter.

Sure enough, it's just my useless thought.

But then, his expression changed.

Because the sword in his hand vibrated just now.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but stand straight up.

This sword has a spirit?

"You — can understand what I say?" Gu Qing Shan hesitantly asked.

The sword flew out of his hand by itself, hovering in the air, the tip was pointing downward, lightly touching the ground.

"You're the sword spirit?" Gu Qing Shan's eyes lit up.

A weapon with a spirit is twice as strong as a normal weapon, practically a treasure of legends.

The sword nodded.

At this point, on the War God UI, the crystal ball suddenly started to let out a dim light as the mist inside escaped and got absorbed into Gu Qing Shan's pores all over his body.

This is the unique power that the Quest mentioned before.

[Ting]!

The System chimed.

[First Quest: Prove your worth (completed)]

[Reward received: Connected Minds]

[Connected Minds: Mental-type God's Chosen Skill, the user can naturally understand a weapon spirit's thoughts]

[Note: This is an extremely awesome Skill that the System paid a great price to get, it will definitely be useful]

Note:

(1) Law of space: I've probably explained this before, but "Law" means the natural law of the universe/world. Usually in novels, being able to utilize the Law means you've reached a very high level of cultivation, since you're basically manipulating the world to do your will while still keeping within the realms of the Law. When you surpass the Law, you can control and mold the law itself so that it affects everybody the way you want it to.

Chapter 253

"You... want me to come with you?"

The sword nodded with its hilt again.

"Where are we going?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The sword stayed in midair without responding.

"You can't tell me yet?"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

Then he looked at the War God UI.

The second Thaumaturgy Quest has appeared.

[Quest name: It's a joy to help others]

[Quest description: Help the sword however you can to gain its affection]

[Quest objective: Complete the request of the sword]

[Note: A good beginning is already half the success, please keep doing your best!]

Gu Qing Shan read through it, then read again, then couldn't help but check for the third time.

Strange, why isn't there a quest reward?

Gu Qing Shan asked: "System, does this step in the Quest chain not have a reward?"

[Ting]!

The System responded: [Please look at the Quest name]

The name is [It's a joy to help others]

...ok fine.

Gu Qing Shan silently shook his head.

After that, being led by the sword, Gu Qing Shan quickly left the camp.

Many cultivators saw this scene with a strange look in their eyes, but no one said anything.

What if this is his special method of sword cultivation?

Not to mention, Gu Qing Shan's mission from the very start has been to inspect the camps and investigate the battlefield —a mission from the three Saints themselves.

No one can really stop him, because no one has a reason to.

So he very conveniently left the camp without being stopped or questioned along the way.

The sword brought Gu Qing Shan away in a hurry, heading on a straight path and finally arrived at a secluded location in a forest.

All the trees in this area have already withered and died, and not much else lived there.

There were no signs of people anywhere, no demons or cultivators.

The sword flew around an empty field, seemingly looking for something.

Gu Qing Shan could only stand and watch.

After a while, the sword found the place, stabbed itself straight into the ground and stayed there without moving.

"So what are we doing?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The sword let out a 'wu wu' sound.

Gu Qing Shan felt like this is the most ridiculous thing he's ever done in both his lives.

He could only ask to confirm: "You want me to hold you... alright..."

He walked forward and held the hilt of the sword.

In the next moment, the earth broke apart as both Gu Qing Shan and the sword fell down below.

Total darkness, there was a heavy smell of sulfur and magma.

Using a basic light spell, Gu Qing Shan lit up the area.

This is an underground lava cave.

The hot air flowed from deep inside the cave and the ground around him, it feels almost like dipping in a hot spring.

Very obviously, there's a place underground that has a very thick Fire Elemental essence.

This isn't too far from the ground, so normal people can still endure the heat.

Gu Qing Shan stood still, looking at the sword.

The sword moved forward deeper into the cave.

Gu Qing Shan could only follow behind.

There were many forked roads inside this cave, about a small cave opening every few dozen meters, and a large cave opening once every few hundred meters.

When Gu Qing Shan tried to release his inner sight, he found that it could only extend as far as 10 meters around himself, so it's not usable as a method of scouting.

About half an hour later, passing through numerous forked roads and caves, Gu Qing Shan already couldn't tell how he managed to get down so deep.

As they went deeper and deeper, the rocks around them were starting to become incandescent.

The power of Fire Elemental here is exceptionally thick, if Gu Qing Shan didn't have spirit energy to protect himself, he would've already burned to death.

"How incredible, who knew there was so much excess Fire Elemental essence underground in Shen Wu world" he exclaimed.

About one hour later, the sword finally stopped.

It pointed ahead with its sword tip.

Following where it pointed, Gu Qing Shan saw a lake of crimson red lava.

The lake of lava was so large that Gu Qing Shan couldn't see the other side with just his eyes.

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White steam was trapped by the hot air, mixing with fragmented rocks and lava, drifting around.

This isn't normal lava, but thick Fire Elemental essence materialized, if a normal person touches it carelessly, even their ashes would be burnt to nothing within seconds.

Gu Qing Shan squinted, carefully observed and finally saw what the sword was pointing at.

Inside the lake of lava, really far away, there was a mound of rock.

A sword was trapped inside the rock, already burnt red hot.

The lake of lava was very close to swallowing it up.

The sword was periodically letting out very minute vibrations, but couldn't pull itself out of where it was trapped.

"You want me to save it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The sword next to him nodded with its hilt to gesture 'yes'.

"How strange, if it's a weapon, why is it left here where it could melt at any time?" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The sword trembled a bit.

"What? You're saying there wasn't any lava here originally?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised, "ah... the rain of fire..."

Gu Qing Shan understood.

Looking at the large expanding lake of lava, then at the sword struggling in the middle of it, he was a bit embarrassed.

Foundation Establishment realm peak doesn't have a way to fly.

At most, he can only use a trick to hover in the air.

But it's too far from where he was to the middle of lava lake, and the hovering trick can't cover such a distance.

Let's say he tries his best to get over there, how does he come back?

What now?

— —if I'm a Golden Core realm cultivator then everything's easy, I only need to fly over there and pull the sword out.

But Shifu isn't here, and Gong Sun Zhi is unconscious. He can't really trust anyone else.

Shifu felt the omen of her own death in this war, I don't even know how she is currently.

I can't even help her with anything.

Gu Qing Shan thought about it for a bit, then sighed.

"Let's go back for a little bit" he said.

The sword stayed behind him, trembling nonstop.

"Don't be in such a rush" Gu Qing Shan said, "I can't fly over there with my current strength"

The sword then began to circle around him over and over.

“My method... I’ll come back after I become stronger”

“It’s already reaching its limit? Tell it to endure for just a bit longer, I’m going to try and breakthrough right now”

“If I manage to breakthrough, I’ll immediately come back to save it” Gu Qing Shan said very seriously.

The sword finally stopped spinning, unwillingly came to the edge of the lava, stood there for a bit, then chased after Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan flew back in a straight line, all the way until he reached a place with bearable temperatures.

As he grabbed the air, he took out the Earth Sword and placed it near his hand.

“Alright, if there’s no one to protect me, then I’ll just have to protect myself”

“No matter if it’s Tianma or any other malicious fiends, I’ll use my own power to kill them all”

He very solemnly took out the colored fragrance bag.

The entire fortune of Bai Hua sect is in here.

Gu Qing Shan lightly touched the fragrance bag.

A jade tag appeared in his hand.

The [War God Skills] icon in the War God UI lit up and a line of glowing text appeared.

[Discovered Foundation Establishment Realm Scripture: Hundred Saints Core Formation Script]

[Your current cultivation is: Foundation Establishment peak]

[To comprehend Hundred Saints Core Formation Script’s Core formation method, Soul Points cost: 70]

[Would you like to comprehend it now?]

“Yes”

[Comprehension complete, Current Soul Points: 10]

A giant flow of warmth came from the jade tag and slowly went into Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

The warmth flowed from his hand to his body, finally reached his Thought Sea and turned into numerous understanding and pictures.

In that moment, Gu Qing Shan has fully understood how to breakthrough in the most efficient and best way possible.

He took out a few spirit energy pills and swallowed them all.

Closing his eyes, Gu Qing Shan began to breakthrough.

The cave was silent.

Suddenly, some light appeared, then a wild, sexy woman figure flew through the layers of rock, descending from above.

The woman looked at Gu Qing Shan with his eyes closed and licked her lips: 『 What a delectable soul, just enough for me to advance 』

Before she could even do anything, the damaged sword suddenly flew up from beside Gu Qing Shan and slashed through the air.

The woman screeched, stepped forward and returned a strike on the sword.

Clang!

The sword was knocked away, stabbing into the rocks around the cave, unable to escape.

The woman turned around alluringly, about to attack Gu Qing Shan, but suddenly got stabbed by a sword.

Before she could struggle, the sword lightly slashed her straight from her head down.

The alluring woman turned into a bunch of bones, dissipated in midair before she would even scream.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes in shock, looking at the sword.

It's the Earth Sword!

Chapter 254

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts quickly cleared up.

Right, this must be the weapon protecting its master —so Earth Sword had a sword spirit from the very start!

Unlike the damaged sword now lodged inside the wall, the Earth Sword floated silently next to him and protected him.

Then a deep echoing voice came from the Earth Sword: 「 Focus your mind on breaking through 」

Gu Qing Shan quickly removed his surprise from his mind, once again returning to a state of breaking through.

Right, this is a very crucial moment.

Everything can be saved for after he broke through.

Gu Qing Shan silently circulated Hundred Saints Core Formation Script and started breaking through to Golden Core realm.

Everything went very smoothly, unbelievably smooth.

Ever since his battle with the Pope, Gu Qing Shan has felt himself reaching the perfected circle of Foundation Establishment.

The only reason he didn't breakthrough before is purely due to being heavily wounded.

Right now that the situation is dire and his body already recovered to its peak, it's the exact time to breakthrough and gain more power!

Gu Qing Shan's spirit energy has already saturated; his mental state was also the best it could be.

Inside the slightly red glowing cave tunnel, a blinding, immense blue light started to gather, giving birth to a change in quality.

The blue light started to change into a bright white lightning spirit energy, manifested as snakes that flew around Gu Qing Shan.

As time passed, more and more lightning manifested as lightning snakes, circling all around the tunnel.

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and made a hand seal: "Merge!"

All the snakes returned, gathered into one and turned into a lightning wyvern.

The lightning wyvern circled in the air, then came roaring down, straight into the top of Gu Qing Shan's head.

This is called a spirit manifestation, signaling a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator reaching his absolute peak.

The Golden Core isn't actually a spherical pill.

At Golden Core realm, the cultivator's spirit energy begins to stop being a vague gathering of energy, instead slowly awakening, becoming a personalized avatar.

These personalized avatars are called spirit manifestation.

A spirit manifestation is much stronger than normal spirit energy, not only can you release it to attack your enemies, it can also form a personal shield, used as a catalyst for Smithing, Pill crafting, Divination, formation arrangement.

Being able to form the spirit manifestation isn't very hard, being able to do this much means you've already half-broken through.

After that, the main problem is to put the overwhelming spirit manifestation into your Dantian.

If you're able to put the entire spirit manifestation into your Dantian and not die, instead being able to call it out and put it back in as will, you will have officially broken through to Golden Core realm.

But this is an exceptionally dangerous process, because it can easily damage the Dantian.

Many cultivators straight up die at this stage.

But even more of them heavily wound their Dantian, unable to attempt breaking through again for a few years while waiting for their Dantian to recover.

Gu Qing Shan very carefully took in the spirit manifestation bit by bit, refining it.

Even if he fully comprehends and knows the method to Hundred Saints Core Formation, he still needs to be extra careful during this process.

At this time, a demonic-faced monster poked its head out.

The monster emitted a grand presence, enough to dye the red glowing walls of the tunnel black.

It stared at Gu Qing Shan while drooling.

『 What alluring flesh... 』

Before it could finish, the Earth Sword flashed.

The monster let out a scream and got poked to death.

The presence in the air disappeared.

The Earth Sword flew back, protecting Gu Qing Shan in front of him.

Gu Qing Shan was still refining the manifestation.

A few moments later.

More and more eerie sounds began to appear, screeching, scratching, discussing, drooling, ripping, chewing, crying, cursing... too many to count, too varied to make out properly.

The Earth Sword flew up, circled around in the air while emitting an invisible presence.

A voice heavy as mountain echoed from the Earth Sword around.

『 Malicious demons and monsters, come any closer and you SHALL die! 』

Hoh!

The wind rose up.

The invisible presence began to form actual hurricane wind, screaming as it rushed through the tunnel.

In the next moment, the hurricane dissipated, everything became silent again, as no more sounds came from the air.

The Earth Sword finally flew back to where Gu Qing Shan was.

Time quickly passed.

A phantom dragon suddenly appeared on Gu Qing Shan's back.

The phantom was emitting a blinding Lightning glow.

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The refining has reached its final stage.

Gu Qing Shan was unfazed, already becoming so focused he lost track of everything else.

He enveloped the phantom dragon with his inner sight, felt it, then quickly and carefully refined it.

As the phantom dragon slowly disappeared bit by bit, Gu Qing Shan's presence also became stronger bit by bit.

When the last of the phantom dragon disappeared, Gu Qing Shan's spirit energy shot up by a large margin.

A crack suddenly opened in space.

Gu Qing Shan felt himself leaving his body, being pulled into the chaotic vortex.

A mysterious force was guiding him, pulling him in a certain direction.

On the way, he saw and noticed all sorts of strange things.

A giant tortoise of time that's even bigger than a mountain, pulling a small island while slowly moving through the space-time vortex.

Dozens of beautifully wild Tianma were controlling a colorful flower, singing a charming song while moving through a shining gate.

A soul, just like how he was right now, with an expression of fear was being pulled into a giant vortex, then disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan could even see a giant black lighthouse, slowly moving across the space-time vortex.

As Gu Qing Shan flew, he felt the similar feeling again.

Instinctively, he knew he has entered the bronze pillar world again.

Inside the space-time vortex, there's no concept of time, so Gu Qing Shan didn't know just how long he drifted, but suddenly the force pulling him increased.

The force felt like a downstream water current, enveloping him, pushing him forward into an unknown world.

A flash in Gu Qing Shan's eyes, then a giant pillar appeared in front of him.

The bronze pillar.

It really was the bronze pillar again!

A giant bronze pillar that connected heaven and earth, both ends unseen.

A 10-story tall corpse was pinned on the bronze pillar.

The corpse was hanging its head, wearing a jet black full plate armor, and seems to have died numerous years before.

Under the corpse was a world full of black skeletons.

The skeletons were trying everything they could to climb the bronze pillar.

It's obvious that they were targeting the corpse.

"Long time no see" Gu Qing Shan said.

"It hasn't been that long, it's only been 1 minute where I am" the corpse inside the black armor responded.

"The question from last time, you didn't finish answering, I need that answer" Gu Qing Shan said.

“Ah, that question. You saw how it was yourself, as soon as I tell you, the Apocalyptic Lightning will strike me”

The corpse changed the subject and asked: “Do you remember our deal?”

“If one day I become strong enough, I will definitely save you” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“That’s good” the corpse’s tone was a bit satisfied, “as a mutual deal, I will answer your question, but it has to be later”

“Why?”

“Because if I start talking about that, I will have to endure the punishment, my powers aren’t enough to keep you here for long”

The corpse stopped for a bit, then said something expected: “You have the scent of another world on you, are you currently at war?”

“Yeah, I’m currently on a different world” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Sure enough, the struggle between worlds has and always will be mutual dispute” the corpse sighed.

Gu Qing Shan was thinking about something so he ignored it and quickly asked: “If a Sainted realm cultivator felt their own omen of death, would that omen definitely come true?”

The corpse answered: “The stronger an existence is, when they have a premonition, the more likely the premonition is to become true”

The corpse continued: “Sainted realm, they can already start to actively peer into the river of fate and see a glance of their own future”

“You mean; it will definitely become true?” Gu Qing Shan still didn’t give up and asked further.

“Not definitely, but there’s an 80-90% chance for it to be true”

“Are there any ways to escape it?”

The corpse stopped for a bit, then said: “Just look at me, I’m at least ten thousand times stronger than a Sainted realm, but even I couldn’t escape from the signs foretold”

Gu Qing Shan went into silent.

The corpse continued: “However, it’s not like there’s absolutely no way to do it”

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: “Then what should I do?”

The corpse started to speak deprecatingly: “Let’s take me for example, the signs have told me of the future, but there’s no way for me to change it, because I didn’t have anyone to help me”

“As strong as I am, I don’t have even a single friend, and that’s why I fell to the place where I am today”

“All you need is a helper? It can’t be that simple” Gu Qing Shan was a bit unconvinced.

The corpse spoke: “This is similar to a powerful current in a flowing river, at the moment where you’re about to be pulled under, someone else has to give you a push for you to be able to escape the predetermined path”

“At the most crucial moment, the most crucial push might be able to change the omens of death”
“But you have to remember, the person that gave the push will definitely pay a heavy price”

“What heavy price? A life for a life?”

“No, not necessarily, there’s no way to determine just what the heavy price will be, but something unpredictable will definitely happen at an unexpected place”

The corpse then added: “I truly hope the one giving the push will not be you, because you’re still too weak, you won’t be able to survive a lot of serious matters”

“...I understand”

Gu Qing Shan carved the corpse’s words deeply into his mind.

Chapter 255

Large arcs of light were appearing one after the other.

The arcs of light seem to be sentient, slowly moving outside the sky itself, wandering in place without any intention to leave.

From the looks of it, they seem to be peeking into the world below.

“What are they?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The corpse sighed deeply, speaking: “Why did they come here, I’ll have to borrow some power to chase away these detestable corpse eaters”

“There’s not much time left, my power isn’t enough to keep you remaining here for too long”

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly: “Then please answer the question, how can I stop the demons from corrupting the world?”

“Of course, you need to collect all the core essence of the 5 main Elements of a world, refine it into a String of Law and bring it to the second world”

“This string will pull and guide its original world ——”

Immense and violent arcs of lightning began to manifest on the bronze pillar.

The corpse’s voice stopped.

Gu Qing Shan loudly asked: “It will guide the world, then what?”

The lightning began to descend!

An extremely violent and devastating lightning of destruction, enough to make even Gu Qing Shan’s soul shake in fear.

In just a few moments, the bronze pillar was completely covered by the lightning.

The skeletons on the ground were also struck, shocked to dust as the entire ground became a sea of black skeleton dust.

The corpse was covered completely by the lightning without even the littlest bit of a gap.

This is not normal lightning, in fact, it already can't be considered lightning anymore.

This is a power that can destroy anything and everything, manifesting as lightning.

The drifting light above the sky seems to be scared, scattering away.

They didn't stop to look back, just quickly escaped without any trace.

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, still insisting on asking further while shouting: "What happens to the world? Tell me!"

Finally, a voice of agony echoed in his ears.

"Will be... absorbed... by the second world..."

The corpse's voice was intermittent, but it kept enduring and spoke: "The second... world's... beings... will... become stronger..."

Boom!

Now, the entire sky was filled with flashes of lightning, an even more intense pillar of lightning struck the bronze pillar again.

The corpse wearing jet black armor coughed up blood.

There was no other sounds or voices in the world except the sound of thunder.

At the same time, an invisible force started to act on Gu Qing Shan's body.

He understood, he'll have to leave right away.

"Thank you for this!"

Gu Qing Shan shouted at the corpse: "I know you've done all you can, one day I'll definitely come save you!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the invisible force became stronger, shooting Gu Qing Shan off this world.

The force this time was much stronger and more merciless than when he was pulled here.

Almost in the blink of an eye, Gu Qing Shan has jetted across the space-time vortex to make it back to Shen Wu world.

In the few moments before he entered the world, he could see a blurry shadow looming over the world.

"What is that?"

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Gu Qing Shan wanted to take a closer look, but there was no more time.

He was sent straight into Shen Wu world, then all the way through the ground.

One moment later, Gu Qing Shan suddenly opened his eyes and found himself still sitting cross-legged in the lava tunnel.

He stood up and patted the dirt off his body.

His sleeves were fluttering without any wind as the excess spirit energy naturally emits from his body, capable of influencing the air around himself.

Gu Qing Shan slightly jumped as his body softly hovered in the air.

His Golden Core is formed.

He has officially escaped from the shackles of the Earth, capable of flying through the clouds and above the sky.

Silently feeling around himself, Gu Qing Shan found his spirit energy was almost erupting from all the pores on his body, with every move he makes, he can easily attack with overwhelming power.

“Such strength... I think the power of my sword phantoms would increase by at least two fold”

Gu Qing Shan smiled, extremely pleased with this breakthrough.

—this is Shifu’s own scripture that she used all those years ago, so cultivating and breaking through with this method will bring about strength unlike normal scriptures.

After he finished observing and checking himself, he clasped his fist at the Earth Sword and said: “Thank you for protecting me”

「 There’s no need, in all our previous battles, you’ve proven to me that you’re a sword cultivator qualified to become my master 」 the Earth Sword’s voice echoed of a heavy mountain.

The Earth Sword then flew at him.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the sword.

The Earth Sword let out a light ‘ong ong’ sound as it sighed and spoke: 「 Ling er is about to die, but you haven’t grown enough yet, I can’t just sit by and watch all this happens 」

「 With the great calamity approaching, I will unleash my sealed power and fight with you 」

As soon as it finished speaking, the War God UI popped up a few notifications.

[Special story scenario has been triggered, user’s attention please]

[Special story scenario has been triggered, user’s attention please]

[Special story scenario has been triggered, user’s attention please]

After three notifications, a line of eye-catching large letters appeared.

[The Earth Sword has fully awakened]

[Note: Through your battles, you’ve gained the approval of the Earth Sword, as it has decided to fight with you with all it has]

[The Earth Sword, weighs 86370 thousand tons, carrying the Sword Spirit Thaumaturgy: I am heavy]

[This sword is a Divine armament from the Age of Old, once used as a ceremonial sword, it is able to contact the Divinity]

[The System can feel the sky is falling and the world is about to collapse, but now that Earth Sword has suddenly awoken, its attitude will influence everything in an unknown way]

After Gu Qing Shan read through the notifications, they disappeared.

After that, a flash cut across the War God UI, forming blood-red letters at the center.

[Detected user to have triggered a special story scenario]

[Current conditions fit the Quest trigger requirements]

[Initiating Destiny Quest]

A Destiny Quest!

Wasn't the Destiny Quest already triggered?

Gu Qing Shan quickly looked down.

[Destiny Quest: Decisive Battle (2) – fixed]

[Breaking the chains of fate, changing the flow of the world, user Gu Qing Shan has triggered the Destiny Quest]

[Quest description: As the fate of the world and the people intertwine, within the brewing storm, you've been accepted by the Earth Sword, changing details within the flow of destiny]

[Quest objective: In the near future, make sure that Shen Wu world will at least stay intact]

[As the Earth Sword has joined in the battle, you will receive a new Quest reward]

[Quest reward 2: Sealed capsule (one-time use)]

[Sealed capsule: The System has sealed something that belonged to you in the past life in the form of a capsule. When you need it, the System will return it to you (Attention, this is a consumable item, you must use it as soon as you open it, otherwise it will disappear completely)]

[As this is an exceptionally dangerous battle, to ensure that the user does not die prematurely, Quest reward 1: War God Title, Quest reward 2: Sealed capsule has been granted early]

[If the Quest fails, Quest reward 1 and 2 will be rescinded, the user will not be able to increase their cultivation for 3 years]

Gu Qing Shan was really shaken from what he saw.

Now that he's gained the Earth Sword's approval, the War God UI doesn't want him to find the truth of the world anymore, but rather want him to keep Shen Wu world intact.

A Quest that's already given suddenly changed, this has never happened before.

Not even in the past life.

And this is all due to the Earth Sword.

From what the System says, this sword is actually a Divine armament.

Even as a Sword Saint in the past life, he has never even touched such a powerful weapon before.