

Apocalypse 374

Chapter 374

The Forgetting River? The Forgetting River!

The empty field on top of the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan's group was looking at a small-sized Interstellar Warship taking off towards the sky.

Liao Xing was heading to the S.W Divine Temple.

As long as Gu Qing Shan grants the authority, he'll be able to start building the evacuation spacecraft.

Zhang Ying Hao spoke: "When the world gets this crazy, maybe being able to face the truth is also a kind of courage"

He patted Gu Qing Shan's shoulder and spoke: "You will have to make the decision soon"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and looked at Ye Fei Li.

Ye Fei Li hurriedly said: "If there's a chance to win against hell, I'm willing to follow you, but if we need to evacuate, take my mother and my wife's tombstone as well, this is my only request"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "I'll need some time to think carefully, if there really is no other way, we'll just have to leave"

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li exchanged looks and said nothing.

Gu Qing Shan went up the top of the mountain alone.

Looking at his back, Ye Fei Li asked: "Will he be ok?"

Zhang Ying Hao took out his Holo-Brain to contact his family members and said: "Regardless of his decision, I'll have to get my sister first"

"You have a sister?" Ye Fei Li was surprised.

"Hm, I also have parents and a girlfriend" Zhang Ying Hao answered.

"I'll have to contact my mother as well" Ye Fei Li took out his Holo-Brain as well.

...

Gu Qing Shan was climbing towards the top of the mountain.

The night winds were slow and cool.

If the mountaintop sky wasn't so clear that he was easily able to see the mass of coffins in the sky above the capital, this would be a very enjoyable night.

Gu Qing Shan sat down leaning on a tree.

He sighed deeply.

Who could've thought this life's situation was even worse than the last.

Even after he announced cultivation scriptures ahead of time and provided the three awakening serums for free, there isn't enough time.

Humanity didn't even have the chance to grow.

Even if I'm a sword saint now, my power alone isn't enough to win against three –no, now it's four hells. I wanted to merge this world with the cultivation world, but there's no time for that either.

Is it really futile?

Is this really the end?

His Holo-Brain lit up.

Liao Xing's loud voice came: [Gu Qing Shan, quickly give me the authority, I want Impartial Goddess to provide me the materials as well as assistance in making the spacecraft!]

"Will you make it in time?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Of course! The last time I had to go back was because of a population problem, I will definitely not make the same mistake again!]

Liao Xing glared and spreads his arms: [I'm going to make it really big; those hell bastards won't be able to even THINK about taking any of us!]

Gu Qing Shan looked at Liao Xing and his spirited figure.

He smiled and said: "Very well, Impartial Goddess, I authorize him"

[Understood] Impartial Goddess responded

Turning his Holo-Brain off, Gu Qing Shan commented: "Mr. Liao really is a man among men"

Impartial Goddess commented: [You want to save this planet sir, he only wants to escape, the pressure is of course very different, there is no need to torture yourself]

Gu Qing Shan smiled back: "I already know that"

He closed his eyes, concentrating to think of a countermeasure.

From his previous life until his return, every war, every battle, every turn-around, every scripture, even every cultivation tool, Gu Qing Shan was slowly retracing them all one by one.

His mind was moving at full capacity, thinking deeply to find that single chance at survival that might exist.

Time slowly passed.

Gu Qing Shan sat still, still thinking deeply.

Against the hells of Huang Quan, both this life and the last, no cultivators of the cultivation world ever had anything to do with it.

This almost seems like a futile attempt grasping at straws.

Without him knowing, nighttime passed.

It was now almost dawn, one of the darkest times of the day.

On top of the mountain, it was pitch black; there were no stars and no moon light.

After thinking for so long, Gu Qing Shan still couldn't come up with anything.

He began muttering to himself.

"Huang Quan... what a completely foreign place, is there anything at all that's related to Huang Quan?"

Suddenly, he remembered something.

The Chao Yin sword once used the spirit Thaumaturgy [Even a sea of suffering will pass] to absorb one drop of Forgetting River water from the black cloaked skeleton.

That was an object from Huang Quan, something that the black cloaked skeleton spent a thousand years to obtain.

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"Chao Yin" Gu Qing Shan called out.

Oong!

The Chao Yin sword appeared from the void of space.

"What can water from the Forgetting River do?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Chao Yin sword began to vibrate.

"You said that you can refine it to make it become a part of yourself?"

The Chao Yin sword nodded with its hilt, then vibrated again.

"The refining is very fast, you'll be recognized by the Forgetting River and able to use [Even a sea of suffering will pass] on the Forgetting River from now on..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He smiled bitterly and shook his head.

Sure enough, the Forgetting River water was a great treasure.

But such a treasure is only usable on the Forgetting River in Huang Quan, there's no way for it to deal with the four hells in the human realm.

The human realm is about to be destroyed already.

Wait a minute...

Wait a damn minute!!

The Forgetting River!

Didn't I check through the entire inheritance of Bai Hua sect when I came back to Reality?

I'm sure I checked through every Divine Skill's jade tags.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly took out the 7-colored fragrance bag again.

He searched for a moment before taking out a certain thing.

A jade tag.

This jade tag records the Six Path Divine Skill, [Forgetting River]

Gu Qing Shan sent his inner sight in and read it carefully.

[Huang Quan path Divine Skill: Forgetting River]

[To start cultivating this Divine Skill, the following prerequisites must be met]

[Female cultivator]

[5th stage Elemental talents]

[God's Chosen Skill: Soul Caller]

[Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift]

[Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes]

[Six Path Divine Contract: Huang Quan Ferryman]

Looking through it again, Gu Qing Shan once again shook his head regretfully.

I can't even qualify for the first prerequisite.

I can still remember giving up instantly as soon as I saw how I don't fit the cultivation requirements.

But I didn't remember wrong!

To learn [Forgetting River], there is a prerequisite of two Secret Arts that left a deep impression.

Gu Qing Shan ignored the other parts of the Divine Skill and went straight to focus on the two prerequisite Secret Arts.

[Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift – You will enter a state of death, not unlike a real dead body]

[Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes – After you die, your soul will be able to enter Huang Quan and return at will]

Gu Qing Shan held the jade tag tightly from excitement.

Within the vast darkness, he seems to have discovered the tiniest bit of light left.

This light was miniscule and weak, to turn it into a searing sun of hope that will illuminate the world, Gu Qing Shan will need to go to an unknown world, risking his life to investigate, search and battle.

But before that, I have to find the two keys that will open the way forward.

The two keys...

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight searched carefully inside the fragrance bag.

After a while, he finally took out two jade tags.

Scanning with his inner sight, he confirmed they were the ones.

That's right. This was the only method he could think of.

The tiny hope for survival that he struggled so hard to find.

[Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift]

[Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes]

Gu Qing Shan held the jade tags like they were the most valuable treasures in the world.

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

[You've discovered Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift. To learn this secret art, you need to be at least Ascended realm, cost 300 Soul Points]

[You've discovered Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes. To learn this secret art, you need to be at least Ascended realm, cost 400 Soul Points]

[Which Secret Art do you wish to comprehend?]

That's good, that's good, I'm already an Ascended Realm, just enough to learn them.

Gu Qing Shan silently felt lucky.

He didn't even hesitate to answer: "I want to comprehend both Secret Arts"

[Are you sure?]

"I'm sure"

Immediately, two warm streams came from the jade tags and flowed into Gu Qing Shan's hand into and around his body before settling at his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes for a bit, silently reviewing the method to use the two Secret Arts.

After a bit, he opened his eyes again.

There were only two lines of glowing text left on the War God UI.

[You've comprehended Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift, Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes, using up a total of 700 Soul Points]

[Current Soul Points: 4100/300]

Gu Qing Shan moved his eyes away, staring at the vast darkness around himself.

From afar, a tiny ray of light was slowly becoming bigger.

The sun is rising.

And a new day has come.

Recalling last night, when I asked about what happened in Huang Quan, the Prayers Trial Machine didn't even dare to say a word.

Because living people can't do anything about Huang Quan, I instinctively gave up asking further.

But now it's different.

Gu Qing Shan stood up, muttering: "If you don't dare to tell me, then I'll go take a look at Huang Quan myself"

Chapter 375

Death

"What! You don't have to seek death like that!" Ye Fei Li exclaimed in shock.

Zhang Ying hao just looked at Gu Qing Shan without saying anything yet.

“Don’t misunderstand, I only found a technique that allows my soul to leave my body and go to Huang Quan” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Zhang Ying hao and Ye Fei Li exchanged looks.

“Is that true?” Ye Fei Li pursued.

“It’s true” Gu Qing Shan sincerely answered.

The two of them were now a bit more convinced.

“What do you need us to do?” it was now that Zhang Ying hao spoke up.

“Protect my body, because if my body is hurt, even if my soul manages to come back, once I can’t enter my body, I will have died for real”

“Can you really go to Huang Quan?” Ye Fei Li was still a bit frightened.

“It’s fine, there shouldn’t be any problems” Gu Qing Shan told him.

“Can we come as well?”

“You need to be at Ascended realm first”

“Hah, I’m at Qi Training stage 7”

“I’ve just reached Foundation realm”

...

“Alright, I’ll arrange some people”

Zhang Ying hao added with a very serious expression: “There are so many weird demonic creatures in Huang Quan, but the hells seems to be forced to run away from Huang Quan that they appear at the human realm. Something very unusual must have happened, make sure to be careful as much as possible”

“Don’t worry, I’ll immediately return if the situation is too much to handle” Gu Qing Shan assured him.

[Sir, please carefully select a location to preserve your body, I will enable the highest safety protocols to protect it] Impartial Goddess also spoke up.

Gu Qing Shan turned around to look at the mountaintop mansion then decided: “In the mansion is fine”

Everyone returned to the mansion.

Zhang Ying hao took out a phone and began to arrange the necessary personnel.

Ye Fei Li also said: “I’ll be here to guard you”

Impartial Goddess: [Currently drafting security measures please wait a minute sir]

“Very well” Gu Qing Shan agreed, and then tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a large amount of common formation plates.

Bai Hua sect has a lot of reserved resources, including a wealth of various kinds of formation plates.

After taking them out, Gu Qing Shan began to set them up according to military standards, finally ending up with a few dozen large-scale formations.

He has so much spirit stones on hand that using this much wouldn't even bother him.

When his soul leaves for Huang Quan, his body will become extremely vulnerable without any means to protect himself.

Arranging these formations properly will directly correlate to his life, so there's no reason to skimp on them.

"I'll make it so that only living people can enter" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He then activated everything.

It was now that Zhang Ying hao's people came.

Zhang Ying hao then began giving the assassins their individual tasks.

Ye Fei Li silently stood by Gu Qing Shan, cautiously paying attention.

Everything has been well-prepared.

Gu Qing Shan sat down cross-legged and began to form the hand seals.

Both [Sealed Body Yin Shift] and [Soul Comes Soul Goes] must be activated at the same time without any pause.

If the caster uses [Sealed Body Yin Shift] first, their body will enter a dead state, unable to activate [Soul Comes Soul Goes].

And if they use [Soul Comes Soul Goes] first, their soul will escape their body, unable to be revived. (1)

Gu Qing Shan formed both seals in his hand, stopping at the very last trigger.

"I'll die now, see you later" Gu Qing Shan said.

He activated his spirit energy and infused them into the two seals.

Instantly, his eyes closed by themselves as both his hands dropped down limp.

Gu Qing Shan's life signs disappeared completely.

"He died just like that? How incredible"

Tong Tong who was watching from the side stuck out her tongue.

"It's only a temporary death, after he goes to Huang Quan to check the situation there, he'll be back" Ye Fei Li emphasized on that.

Everyone who was watching couldn't help but express the strangeness of the scene.

Zhang Ying hao cleared his throat: "Alright, everyone get back to work, although there's a lot of defensive power concentrated here, patrols are still necessary. Make sure to report on any situations, we cannot let anything go wrong"

“This is saving the world, brothers. If the thing called ‘merit’ exists, you’ll probably gather enough after this to go to heaven”

The hit men all received their orders.

They’ve all tasted the benefits of cultivation and even got to watch such an incredible sight, so they’re highly motivated to make sure this unprecedented operation goes well.

They scattered neatly and orderly.

The mansion became silent again.

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Liao Xing has already gone to the S.W Divine Temple to make a new spacecraft.

This place is protected by both Zhang Ying hao and Ye Fei Li.

“What do you think?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“Besides us, Impartial Goddess is also monitoring the sky at every moment, there shouldn’t be any problems” Zhang Ying hao answered.

“Then what about him?”

“He only has himself to count on” Zhang Ying hao sighed.

“That’s true, going to Huang Quan, no one can help him with such a thing no matter what they do” Ye Fei Li commented.

The two of them looked over Gu Qing Shan’s pseudo-dead body, a bit worried.

Suddenly, two swords appeared from thin air.

They are Gu Qing Shan’s personal swords.

They circled around Gu Qing Shan’s body a bit, then started to let out sounds towards another direction.

After a few seconds, the swords disappeared without a trace.

“What just happened?” Ye Fei Li was surprised.

“If I have to guess, they’re probably following Gu Qing Shan to Huang Quan” Zhang Ying hao commented.

Gu Qing Shan slowly closed his eyes.

His senses shut down his body went limp uncontrollably.

First, his breathing stopped.

His heart beat slowed down greatly.

His body temperature dropped.

His spirit energy all went back into his Dantian.

His heart stopped.

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but opened his eyes wide.

He stepped out from his own body.

The other 'him' sat still, cross-legged.

Gu Qing Shan looked around.

Tong Tong looked at the 'him' on the ground in shock.

The group started to speak.

But their eyes stayed on the 'him' that's sitting.

Gu Qing Shan tried waving his hand in front of Zhang Ying hao's face.

Zhang Ying hao didn't react at all to that, only looking down at the other 'him' in worry.

Ye Fei Li also didn't notice him, but a bloody glow fluctuated around his body, clearly anxious.

No one saw the Gu Qing Shan that was standing.

Gu Qing Shan understood.

He's dead.

He's now in his soul form.

A strange power that comes from his hand seal then enveloped him, showing him an invisible crack in space.

This is the power of [Soul Comes Soul Goes]

It's guiding Gu Qing Shan from the human realm into the space vortex.

And the passage to Huang Quan lies in the space vortex.

"So I can go to Huang Quan now" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The Earth sword suddenly jumped out from the void of space and spoke: 「 I'll come with you, the situation over there must be extremely chaotic, and you going alone would be too dangerous 」

"You can go as well?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

As soon as he did, he recalled that the Earth sword has already been to the space vortex as well as the entrance to Huang Quan.

So the Earth sword can come with him!

Gu Qing Shan felt much more assured.

To a sword cultivator, having his sword in hand is already all the assurance he'll ever need.

「 It's not just me, Chao Yin is also a weapon forged by Divinity, it can come as well 」 the Earth sword spoke.

Sure enough, the Chao Yin sword also appeared from the void of space.

The fish from inside jumped out from inside the Chao Yin sword and swam around Gu Qing Shan.

“Chao Yin can come as well? That's great! I'm now a lot more confident” Gu Qing Shan smiled as he said so.

“Let's go!”

Taking his swords with him, he went into the invisible crack in space.

Note:

(1) The combined techniques: the reason why these two techniques need to be used together isn't explained by the author, only implied, so I'll explain them to those who don't understand.

In Chinese folklore, as well as most novels that deals with this subject, the soul will naturally leave a dead body and starts to be summoned to Huang Quan, similar to how Ye Fei Li's girlfriend was, but if they obey this summon, they won't be able to return, thus being permanently dead. A person is understood to be only alive when both their body and soul are alive, so if his soul leaves his body while his body isn't dead, it'll live on in a vegetative state, which is why it was mentioned that he'll be unable to return, since the body isn't synchronized to the soul anymore, same goes with why he needed his body to be protected while he goes to Huang Quan.

So the first technique makes his body dead, allowing his soul to leave his body willingly without being yanked out, while the second technique allows him to return from Huang Quan to enter and reanimate the dead body when it does.