

Apocalypse 376

Chapter 376

Mystery

Indescribable chaos

Both time and space were in chaos.

Everything around was like a vast ocean.

Occasionally some strange creatures would appear, then quickly disappear into the unknown vortex.

This was the space vortex.

Seeing this familiar space, Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

According to the description on the two Secret Arts, the space vortex would only be visible for a very short time.

After that, he should immediately be able to tell where Huang Quan is.

I followed the method on the Secret Art to feel a guiding force towards Huang Quan.

But despite being in the space vortex for so long, I still can't sense any guiding force at all.

Why is that?

Gu Qing Shan forced himself to calm down and think.

Right, maybe the Secret Arts are only supposed to guide you to Huang Quan of the cultivation world, not the Huang Quan of the human world.

The Six Paths of each respective world are different, so the Huang Quan realm is also different?

Perhaps the road from here to the Huang Quan of the cultivation world is exceptionally far.

That's why I couldn't feel any guiding force that was supposed to appear like the technique said.

At this time, a strange force appeared.

The force softly enveloped Gu Qing Shan and guided him towards a certain direction.

Carefully feeling it, Gu Qing Shan understood.

The 100,000 year-old giant corpse!

This was its power!

Gu Qing Shan softly sighed.

The last time we met, it revealed a lot of secrets, told me how to prevent Bai Hua Fairy's premonition of death, as well as the method to combine two worlds.

In turn, it received an intense lightning punishment unlike ever before and hasn't contacted me since.

Has it healed?

Might as well go check on it.

Maybe it'll be able to give me some advice, with how knowledgeable it is.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan let the force freely pull him through the space vortex.

When the force noticed his reaction, it even sped up.

Gu Qing Shan's soul was moving faster and faster.

He went past a black whirlpool, passing through a desolate hill and even an abandoned city.

Countless monsters of all shapes and sizes loomed in space.

Suddenly, a one-eyed giant holding an enormous staff could be seen fleeing desperate.

Before Gu Qing Shan could even look to see what was chasing it, the force has pulled him up and away from that place.

After a long flight, he arrived at the same desolate world.

A bronze pillar that connected heaven and earth.

A giant corpse wearing black armor, pinned on the bronze pillar.

Countless black skeletons standing blankly in the vast empty land.

Gu Qing Shan slowly floated in front of the giant corpse.

"You've come" a voice called out.

"I did, long time no see. How is your wound?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Not enough to die, or better said, I'm already dead, this type of pain can only torture me for a while, not thoroughly kill me off" the giant corpse replied.

"Regarding last time, I have to thank you, I was able to save a very important person to me" Gu Qing Shan told him.

"What? You really did it?" the corpse was shocked.

It was obviously intrigued.

"You managed to wrestle a person out of destiny's grasp, destiny must have also put you through an unimaginable ordeal as revenge. Can you tell me what you went through?"

"Of course" Gu Qing Shan answered.

He then retold what he's been through up until now.

"How interesting, so you said you're going to replace that Zishan young master to return to an ending world" the giant corpse commented.

"That's right, but it doesn't seem like that's the end of it" Gu Qing Shan bitterly said.

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"What else is there?"

“Just look at me now, I’m now in a dead state with my soul escaped from my body trying to find Huang Quan, but could only wander in the space vortex without finding anything”

Hearing that, the giant corpse snickered in a low voice.

“From what I can tell from what you said, destiny’s vengeance hasn’t ended yet. Do you regret saving that person?”

Gu Qing Shan spoke determined: “I don’t regret it at all”

The giant corpse praised: “Very good, come, let me see your state right now”

An abrupt wind then pushed Gu Qing Shan’s soul form forward.

“How fast, you’re almost at Ascended realm late stage already, you’re still very weak, but this speed of growth is incredible”

“Hm, so you chose to cultivate the sword... and you’re already a sword saint, very good, very good, I know I didn’t choose the wrong person”

The giant corpse solemnly commented: “Your growth is fast and your potential is great, I’ll be needing your help quite soon”

“Just ask, I’ll help you” Gu Qing Shan said.

“There might be a bit of danger”

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “Sometimes, even without doing anything, life is dangerous. The most important thing is that you helped me, and I’ll never forget that”

The giant corpse was even more pleased when it felt his attitude.

“Good, the next time you breakthrough to a higher realm, I’ll summon you here again”

“No problem”

The giant corpse stopped for a bit, then asked from concern: “Arbitrarily leaving your flesh behind is very dangerous, why do you have to go to Huang Quan?”

Gu Qing Shan then told it about what happened in Reality and asked: “Regarding Huang Quan, do you know anything about it?”

The giant corpse was silent for a while, apparently finding it hard to tell him.

It considered its words carefully: “The thing called Six Paths of Reincarnation refers to 6 worlds that form a harmonic cycle, so there should be a corresponding Huang Quan realm to the human realm where you are from.”

“What about other human realms?”

“Naturally there would also be other Huang Quan realms that correspond to other human realms, but there are some human realms that are very highly ranked, and thus their Huang Quan would also be unbelievably strong”

“If it’s as you said, the Huang Quan that corresponds to my human realm shouldn’t be too strong?”

The giant corpse couldn't say clearly and only told him: "You should go see it yourself, sometimes the situation is completely different and will turn your common sense on its head"

"But realistically, I don't recommend that you go to Huang Quan"

The giant corpse continued: "Something extremely terrifying must've happened to be able to drive an entire Huang Quan realm to chaos"

"With your current cultivation, you wouldn't be able to do anything against such danger, I recommend that you give up on your world"

"As long as there's hope, I have to try, otherwise my Dao heart will go astray and I will become useless"
Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Is that world so important to you?"

"The world itself is nothing, but there are a lot of people that are important to me in that world, and I don't want to make them drift around in space"

The giant corpse went silent for a long time.

It then abruptly spoke up full of emotions: "Life is unexpected, just like how I never thought I would reach such an end, and you're my only hope right now"

"If you weren't such a person, you wouldn't be worth me putting my hope on you as well"

Saying that, the giant corpse then sighed.

"Alright! Let me think about this carefully..."

After much contemplation, it seems to have decided.

"Because of how excellent you are in both mentality and abilities, I originally wanted to hide you away for a while longer"

"It's still too soon for you to touch upon a few special existences"

"The best choice now would be for me to bestow 'that' to you"

A small, unassuming piece of scale detached itself from the giant corpse's black armor.

This scale flew directly in front of Gu Qing Shan.

"What is this?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"I've fought in too many worlds to count, having been through to many victories, I don't simply rely on brute strength alone, but also a few means to protect my life"

"And this is one of those means, take it and learn it well"

"Is that so?" Gu Qing Shan received the black scale.

The outer layer of the scale peeled off to reveal a shining cryptic rune.

"Countless eons ago, when I was still weak, I found this in a certain ancient ruin"

"It has helped me greatly too many times to count"

"I've completely mastered it, and now I'll pass it on to you. Make sure to learn it well"

"If you decide to go to Huang Quan no matter what, this technique might be useful for you"

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened before looking down at the cryptic rune.

A line of glowing text was flashing on the War God UI.

[Discovered special technique: Mystery of All Creatures Equal]

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Divine power

Gu Qing Shan looked at the line of text on the War God UI in surprise.

Through his two lives, this was the first time he's ever heard of a technique named 'Mystery'

The War God UI was also explaining this special 'Mystery' in the most detailed way possible.

The System has never treated any other techniques with such seriousness before.

[Mystery of All Creatures Equal: You learn the most basic composition of any creature, giving yourself the ability to transform into that creature]

[Note: You have to collect a part of the creature, learn its specific composition and laws before being able to disguise as that creature]

[Attention!]

[Attention!]

[Unique message from the War God System: There are two choices to learn this Mystery]

[First: Using spirit energy as the basis of this Mystery, the user will be able to mimic the creature's appearance, presence and spirit energy waves. The same kind of creature will not be able to distinguish you from the real one]

[Second: Using Soul Points as the basis of this Mystery, the user will in essence become the same creature as that creature]

[Note: A chosen creature must have a soul]

[Note: You must make the decision immediately to determine the source of power for practicing the Mystery]

[Note: Once you've chosen the source of power, you will be permanently unable to change it]

Reading through everything, Gu Qing Shan went silent for a bit.

Realistically, a disguise fueled by spirit energy should be enough.

But Gu Qing Shan was thinking much further and broader down the road.

He asked: "System, what do you mean by 'in essence'? Does that mean I will actually become that creature?"

[Correct, you will temporarily become that creature] the System responded quickly.

Then uncharacteristically, it explained further: [This Mystery is only known to very few existences, but even those existences only know to use their core energy that are the same as spirit energy to practice this Mystery]

[Soul Points are Divine power, the purest form of energy that comes from every world's origin]

[No one in the countless worlds know that the correct way to practice this Mystery is by using Soul

Points]

[The System suggests that you use Soul Points to practice this Mystery]

Gu Qing Shan nodded, this was also his choice after much contemplation.

“I choose to use Soul Points as the source of power” he said.

The System responded: [This Mystery is precious secret hidden deep in the laws that make up the world, to comprehend this Mystery, please spend 2000 Soul Points]

So expensive!

Gu Qing Shan inhaled deeply and gritted his teeth: “I’ll pay it”

[Received 2000 Soul Points, remaining Soul Points: 2100/300]

[Currently comprehending the Mystery with Soul Points]

The glowing cryptic rune suddenly broke into small sprites of light.

These sprites circled around Gu Qing Shan before finally going into his forehead.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and silently felt it.

This technique, the Mystery, is one that encompasses the origin laws of countless worlds. Just by silently feeling it, Gu Qing Shan’s vision was greatly opened.

This is a great gain of knowledge that was born from a fundamental breakthrough of his cognition and perception.

Gu Qing Shan now has a profound understanding of cultivation and usage of power as a whole.

He now deeply understands the law of operation, not for just spirit energy, but all types of power.

The cycle of life and death as well as all living things were also engraved in his mind.

Gu Qing Shan had a realization.

His soul form had reached Ascended realm late stage without him knowing.

He is fully confident in being able to break through to Ascended realm late stage as soon as he returns to his body.

And this was by simply feeling the Mystery!

Even Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

While he was silently feeling the Mystery, the giant corpse was also giving him advice.

“As a cultivator, you can use spirit energy to practice this technique, allowing you to disguise yourself, this will greatly improve your chance of survival in Huang Quan”

Gu Qing Shan noticed that the giant corpse doesn’t know that he has Soul Points, and that he already used Soul Points to practice the Mystery.

“Thank you, I know this must be a very valuable thing, I’ll remember this favor”

He solemnly clasped his fist and bowed.

“No need to thank me, I still need to rely on you becoming stronger to rescue me from here” the giant corpse laughed.

It then added: “The power I stocked up is about to run out so I won’t be able to maintain your stay here, you’ll be ejected soon”

“One last question, I can’t find the Huang Quan realm that corresponds to my world, what do I do now?” Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked.

The giant corpse responded: “No matter how chaotic Huang Quan becomes, it won’t thoroughly lose its connection with the human realm, there should be a guiding force that leads you there”

Gu Qing Shan spoke: “But the force has disappeared”

The giant corpse replied: “In the human realm, this connection might be temporarily covered by a special mean, but within the space vortex, the power of the Six Paths definitely can’t be hidden away, so you only need to carefully feel the connection at the entrance to the space vortex”

“Specifically, you will be able to feel a miniscule connection while in the space vortex, follow that connection to the entrance to Huang Quan, you’ll see a huge dark tunnel that leads downward”

“Make sure to go down only that tunnel and nowhere else ———because if you go into any of the other paths around Huang Quan, you’ll be permanently unable to return”

Gu Qing Shan carefully remembered its words.

He nodded and spoke seriously: “Then I’ll be leaving, if I don’t die, one day I’ll definitely come save you”

The giant corpse abruptly spoke up: “You have to get stronger a bit faster, I can feel some sort of terrifying monster, this monster is even scarier than any other I’ve ever met before, and it’s coming to this world that imprisons me”

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Gu Qing Shan froze.

This was the first time that he heard desperation in the giant corpse’s voice.

Up until now, it’s done so much to help me.

But now it is in danger.

Gu Qing Shan became serious.

He hurriedly asked: “How much stronger do I need to get to be able to deal with the monster you speak of?”

“——-or how much is enough for me to save you?”

The giant corpse sighed: “I’m not sure, because I haven’t seen that monster yet”

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

“Don’t worry, I’ll quickly become stronger and come to save you soon” he spoke with conviction.

The corpse didn't say anything, but Gu Qing Shan could feel that it smiled.

"Let's hope we can meet again" the corpse left those final words.

Hoh!

An immense pulling force came.

Gu Qing Shan was ejected from the world of the 100,000 year-old giant corpse.

Like a shooting star, he was jetting back where he came.

It was even faster than when he came.

The strange sights on the way were zipping away so fast they appeared as warped images.

Almost in the blink of an eye, Gu Qing Shan had returned to the space vortex where he was before.

After thinking for a bit, Gu Qing Shan formed a hand seal.

A crack was opened in space.

He went in and returned to the living room of the mountaintop mansion.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were sitting on his left and right.

They were diligently watching over him.

Gu Qing Shan went into his body from the top of his head.

He opened his eyes.

The two immediately noticed.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "Keep vigilance for me"

Without explaining any further, he went into deep meditation.

After comprehending [Mystery of All Creatures Equal], his understanding of cultivation, of the sword and of the world in general has changed completely.

This was a sublimation of his perception, and through that alone, he already couldn't hold back his advancement of Ascended realm middle stage to late stage.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and circulated the spirit energy in his body to carefully stabilize his cultivation.

As he had only just broken through to Ascended late stage, his spirit energy waves were fluctuating nonstop, extremely unstable.

Gu Qing Shan has to be careful to let his body get used to the sudden jump in power.

Once he's finished settling his cultivation and has made the appropriate preparations, he'll be able to face a Tribulation and break through to a higher realm.

Sainted realm.

The unreachable dream of countless players in his past life.

Time slowly passed, and Gu Qing Shan finally opened his eyes.

“What is it, are you ok?”

“What is Huang Quan like?”

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li asked at the same time.

“Something unexpected happened, I haven’t gone to Huang Quan yet”

Gu Qing Shan took out a spirit replenishment pill and chewed.

His hands formed the seals for the two Secret Arts again.

The seals were formed.

“I’m leaving for real this time” he said.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li exchanged looks and nodded.

Gu Qing Shan stood up from his body, flying into the crack in space.

Chapter 378

Battle of the collapsing world

After Gu Qing Shan left.

The mountaintop mansion became silent again.

“What do you think?” Zhang Ying Hao suddenly asked.

“It’s hard to say” Ye Fei Li answered.

He crossed his arms, and imitated Gu Qing Shan and sat cross-legged, tilting his head to one side.

“I’m a bit unsatisfied, I’m clearly already the strongest man in the wo—-”

Zhang Ying Hao cut him off: “ ———the strongest asides from Gu Qing Shan and me”

Zhang Ying Hao continued: “I’m a bit envious of him, as an assassin, I still don’t know what it feels to be dead”

Ye Fei Li stayed silent for a bit, then couldn’t help but spoke up: “If only I were strong enough, I would be able to go to Huang Quan as well”

“Yeah, such an interesting adventure should include all three of us” Zhang Ying Hao complained.

Ye Fei Li looked at him, then said: “If you want to fight with Gu Qing Shan side by side, go and get stronger ——just look at you, only Qi Training stage 7”

“You’re also only just reached Foundation realm”

“But I’m still stronger than you”

“Foundation realm is still miles weaker than Gu Qing Shan”

“But I’m still stronger than you”

“You damn Man Killer Fiend, can’t we have a proper conversation?”

...

Gu Qing Shan left the human realm and entered the space vortex again.

This time he didn’t look around and only stood still, carefully sensing the change around himself.

A few moments later, a faint force appeared from all sides.

Gu Qing Shan quickly focused on it.

The force was slowly circling him, urging him towards the bottom of the vortex.

Gu Qing Shan stood still without moving.

In his vision, a line of glowing text appeared.

[Detected user triggering a never-before-seen world storyline]

[Detected user cultivation to be Ascended realm late stage]

[Requirements met]

[Initiating Quest: Battle of the collapsing world]

After Gu Qing Shan read them, the text disappeared.

A flash came by the War God UI, forming large blood-red letters.

[Breaking the chains of fate, changing the determined history, user Gu Qing Shan has triggered a Destiny Quest]

[Quest description: The world is at the verge of irreversible collapse, but you are able to travel to Huang Quan to find out the reason for the calamity, giving the world a small and rare hope of turning the situation around]

[Quest objective: Do everything you can to save the Huang Quan realm and human realm]

[After the quest is complete, you will receive the special story Quest rewards: War God Thaumaturgy (Sainted realm)]

[If the Quest fails, the user will instantly be transported away, permanently unable to return to Reality]

Gu Qing Shan stood at the entrance of the space vortex silently staring at the War God UI.

“I’ll be transported away? Unable to return to Reality?” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

[Ting]!

The War God UI responded.

[Correct, once the Quest fails, your only chance at survival will be to return to the other space-time, which is the space vortex that connects Shen Wu world and the unknown world]

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t say anything.

I'll be unable to return if I fail?
Unable to meet those people I know...

He sighed and declared: "I won't fail"

The War God UI spoke up again: [Furthermore, please pay attention, from now on, the user may spend 100 Soul Points to temporarily turn on the Appraisal function]

"Appraisal function?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Correct, there are too many unknown monsters and demonic gods in the space vortex, using the Appraisal function will allow the user to understand the changes to your own situation] the System spoke.

[This function will automatically turn off after you reach Huang Quan]

"That's good enough, I'll pay 100 Soul Points" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Ah right, aside from appraising the, can the System help me kill monsters as well?" he asked.

[Winning against adversaries is something that the user must do by himself, the System cannot do it for you]

[Also, please be careful and have a bit of shame, thank you] the System answered.

"Ah, fine" Gu Qing Shan regretfully spoke.

Gu Qing Shan then began to drift towards where the faint force was pulling him.

As time passed, the force got stronger and stronger, making it easier for him to tell the direction.

The winds of the void faintly formed a path that lead directly downwards.

Gu Qing Shan decided to just jump down and fell deep into the space vortex like a comet.

The process was long.

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The wind around the space vortex became stronger and stronger.

Down.

Even more down.

Gu Qing Shan followed the direction of the wind.

He was gaining speed by the second.

It felt like he was diving down a waterfall.

On the way, countless strange and weird creatures briefly appeared.

But Gu Qing Shan was moving too fast for those terrifying things to block his way.

Gu Qing Shan's mind moved a bit.

The Earth sword and Chao Yin sword appeared from the void of space, circling around him nonstop.

Since monsters have appeared, Gu Qing Shan put up his guard.

He has to be cautious.

Turning into a soul to travel to Huang Quan is a unique experience.

After two hours, Gu Qing Shan finally slowed down.

A several thousand meters wide dark tunnel appeared below.

Gu Qing Shan silently hovered above the tunnel.

As a single soul hovering above this tunnel, he was tiny.

Around the tunnel, a grey liquid stream flowed, there were also a few other tunnels a bit further away.

One of those tunnels had black smoke rising out of them, another transmitted the sounds of creepy laughter and high-pitched howling.

There was even one that flashed a 5-colored glowing cloud and beautiful singing voices.

Gu Qing Shan didn't try to move, nor did he try to look to satisfy his curiosity.

He was keeping extreme caution at this place.

The giant corpse had warned him that he won't be able to return if he goes to the wrong place.

After sensing for a long while, he confirmed that the guiding force does indeed urge him to go down into the dark tunnel.

Even so, he didn't move.

His gaze was fixed on the outer rim of the tunnel.

There was a hand that appeared abruptly.

An enormous hand, one whose a single fingernail was even bigger than Gu Qing Shan himself.

After this hand appeared, another quickly followed.

The two hands grabbed at the edges of the tunnel and begun applying force.

At this time, a notification popped up on the War God UI.

[Discovered Faceless Giant, a demon chaotic species, power level equivalent to an Ascended realm late stage cultivator]

Following that, a head covered in a chaotic cloud appeared from inside the tunnel.

The same appearance as a chaotic species.

——it's a Faceless Giant!

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

This is the entrance to Huang Quan, why would there be a Faceless Giant here!
Furthermore, from the looks of this giant demon, it didn't eject its soul, but actually came to Huang Quan with its real body.

Huang Quan is only supposed to allow entry to souls, how did it come here?

Gu Qing Shan's mind moved.

The Chao Yin sword flew out, greeting the Faceless Giant with a white grand crescent moon.

The crescent moon passed through the Faceless Giant's neck.

The Faceless Giant's head dropped back into the dark tunnel.

Followed by its gigantic body.

Gu Qing Shan didn't show an expression of relief or joy from that.

Something isn't right.

He looked down at the dark tunnel.

In the cave, light and shadows erupted, the air flow was erratic, and various chaotic presences as well as movements came and went.

Something seems to have taken over the tunnel that leads the way from the human realm to Huang Quan.

Chapter 379

The dark tunnel

Sensing the multiple presence inside the dark tunnel, Gu Qing Shan froze.

So that's why, the demons have taken over the pathway between the human realm and Huang Quan...

He said: "System, help me appraise if there are any unknown demons in this tunnel"

[Detected countless unknown demons]

[Individual appraisal is too much of a hassle that will greatly affect battle, if you want to change it to real time appraisal, please pay 10 Soul Points per second] the System responded.

"10 Soul Points a second? That's a bit much"

Gu Qing Shan muses about it.

But what I'm about to face are demons who have never appeared in both the cultivation world and the human world, without any intel on them, it'll be a very rough battle.

Glancing at his total of 2100 Soul Points, Gu Qing Shan nodded and said: "Alright, begin"

Following his words, the War God UI began to let out a 'tick tick tick' sound.

Glowing lines of text scrolled through the War God UI.

[War God UI initiating appraisal mode]

[Synchronizing with your thoughts]

[Constructing intelligence system]

[The user may now begin real-time investigation of the monster's species and power level]

Sensing himself a bit, Gu Qing Shan didn't notice any changes.

He asked in confusion: "How do I investigate?"

[Like normal, use your inner sight to scan them to receive a monster's species and corresponding descriptions] the System replied.

"That convenient?" Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes unexpectedly.

He released his inner sight and began to scan the inside of the dark tunnel.

An ashen white serpentine monster extended its claws, grabbing onto the tunnel walls, silently hiding in the shadows.

The monster didn't have eyes or any scales on its body, instead covered in what seemed like a layer of liquid.

Pointing its head towards Gu Qing Shan's direction, it was trying to sniff something out.

As Gu Qing Shan's inner sight scanned through this monster, a notification popped up in his mind.

[Darkblood Demon Serpent, expert fighter in the space vortex and the Demon realm, power level equivalent to an Ascended realm late stage cultivator]

This Darkblood Demon Serpent is actually the same realm as Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight passed through it and began to move in deeper.

There were demons all over the dark tunnel.

Innumerable, endless, they were literally everywhere inside.

[Bone-Devouring Demon Frog, expert at dealing with Huang Quan path and Hungry Ghost path, capable of spitting adhesive substance, power level equivalent to Ascended realm middle stage]

[Sharp-boned Imp, close-combat demon, its bones are the sharpest, capable of slicing apart 5-Elemental spells, power level equivalent to Rejuvenation realm late stage]

[Hundred-clawed Soft-bodied Insect...]

...

Detailed descriptions of countless monsters appeared in his mind, but didn't affect Gu Qing Shan's thoughts at all.

At this moment, Gu Qing Shan felt like he has fought with these demons over countless years already.

He knew every demon in there like the back of his hand.

"That's quite impressive" he commented.

[You get what you paid for] the System replied.

Inside Gu Qing Shan's inner sight, the Darkblood Demon Serpent was silently moving towards him.

In just a few moments, the demon serpent had made it below where he was.

The demon serpent looked up, staring at him in the shadow.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand and grasped the Earth sword.

With the other hand, he grabbed the Chao Yin sword.

Both swords in hand.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

Slash!

The Darkblood Demon Serpent was immediately hit.

Bring hurt, the demon serpent jumped from the tunnel wall.

In the blink of an eye as it jumped up, it was already dead.

The Darkblood Demon Serpent's body convulsed in the air before being scattered piece by piece, turning into a mist of black blood.

The mist of blood followed the winds blowing inside the tunnel and was washed away.

Gu Qing Shan retracted his swords.

With a single slash, a Darkblood Demon Serpent at the same level as him was killed.

No one would believe it could be that easy if they only look at it from the outside.

Truthfully, Gu Qing Shan was originally an expert sword cultivator in real battles, together with his lightning element spirit energy, he naturally had an edge when fighting demons.

The lightning element is called 'Smiting', when faced with a demon, the cultivator's power would be increased by at least 30%.

At Ascended realm late stage, a 30% increase should be about equivalent to Sainted realm early stage.

That is to say, when facing demons, Gu Qing Shan's true power should be considered at least equal to a Sainted realm sword saint!

Gu Qing Shan stood vertically on the downward tunnel walls.

Black blood was still dripping from the two swords.

This seems to have triggered the other demons.

They rushed in a frenzy towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight passed through the countless demons, learning their characteristics as he fought.

Three monsters followed the vertical walls up, opening their mouth to chomp on him.

Gu Qing Shan's swords moved.

The sword slashes flashed, breaking the darkness of the tunnel.

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The monsters were slashed to bits, scattered away by the intense winds.

A rain of blood started to fall in the jet dark tunnel.

The foul stench of demon blood and corpses triggered the frenzy of even more demons as they began to howl.

Thunderous roaring howl.

Followed by a wave of howls like a crashing tsunami.

The tunnel itself was trembling.

More and more demons came.

The demons felt the presence of Gu Qing Shan's soul.

This was something they desired.

They all began to move.

Demons rushed out of the tunnel like an intense down-river stream.

Gu Qing Shan stood still at the top of the tunnel.

He equipped the title [Ace Assassin], released his inner sight fully and scanned over all the demons again.

There were several dozens of them approaching him now.

"You bunch stand guard at the entrance to hell, how about going to hell to check it out yourselves?"

Gu Qing Shan looked over the monster and spoke.

The monsters only roared in response before quickly surrounding him.

More and more monsters were coming.

All souls that tries to enter Huang Quan are devoured by them within this tunnel.

They were already used to this type of hunting where the prey approached them.

In the shadow.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "Seeing how professional you all are, I'll gladly send you on your ways"

Before he even finished, a black flower bloomed out of nowhere from the wall of the tunnel.

Sword phantoms bloom, Secret Art [Drawn Shadow]!

All the phantom swords scattered, turning into black dancing lights.

As if they were in a meat grinder, the demons were finely chopped and diced to mince meat.

The shower of blood rained down below.

[You received 10 Soul Points]

[You received 17 Soul Points]

[You received 8 Soul Points]

[Confirmed instant kill, spirit energy refunded]

[Confirmed instant kill, spirit energy refunded]

[Confirmed instant kill, spirit energy refunded]

...

Gu Qing Shan put his swords away and looked down below at the tunnel.

The tunnel was several dozen thousand meters in diameter, but it was filled to the brim with demons.

While they were soaked in blood, they were still eager to rush forward and devour the delectable soul that was him.

Gu Qing Shan's mind moved and released the Earth sword.

He changed his equipped title to [You Ji General]

"Go to town on them, I don't believe any demons would be able to stop your attacks" Gu Qing Shan said.

「 Very well 」 the Earth sword responded with resounding voice.

Like a comet, the sword flew straight into the horde of demons.

In reality, without a sword cultivator to control them with sword techniques, normal flying swords aren't able to attack enemies.

The only exception is a sword with a spirit, as the spirit can control the swords for very simple actions like swings or thrusts.

The Earth sword controlled itself to fly forward with very simple movements.

Swing.

Swing.

Faster swing.

Aside from swinging, the Earth sword didn't do anything else.

But none of the demons in the dark tunnel could stop a strike that weighed 86,370,000 tons!

Gu Qing Shan stood in the air.

He calmly watched as the Earth sword killed the demons.

On the War God UI, the battle notifications continued to pop up.

[You received 17 Soul Points]

[You received 11 Soul Points]

[You received 21 Soul Points]

...

Even though he needed to spend 10 Soul Points every second to appraise the demons, after killing for one hour straight, Gu Qing Shan's Soul Points still increased by an impressive 3000 points.

Gu Qing Shan was very pleased with his harvest.

After a while, he suddenly pulled the Earth sword back.

There were no more rowdy demons.

This caused some of the more hidden presences within the void of space to show themselves a little bit.

Gu Qing Shan's expression turned serious.

At some unknown point, the dark tunnel went completely silent.

Gu Qing Shan was very sure that he didn't kill all of the demons.

Within his inner sight, there were still a few weak demons sticking closely to the tunnel walls, standing absolutely still.

From their frightened appearance, he probably only need to move a little bit for them to start running with all their might.

Gu Qing Shan jumped lightly, heading straight down towards the dark tunnel.

This time, the darkness swallowed him completely.

Chapter 380

Meeting

Gu Qing Shan stuck close to the tunnel walls as he descended.

The cold wind filled the entire dark tunnel, occasionally air currents would even break out from beneath the walls, blowing towards the center.

Gu Qing Shan kept feeling a dark shadow over himself.

A notification telling him of his current situation appeared on the War God UI.

[Currently passing the Huang Quan tunnel]

[There are demons blocking the path ahead, please wait for reaffirm before moving forward]

[Reaffirmation complete, the highest level of demons ahead is Ascended realm late stage, prepare for battle]

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and moved forward with his sword in hand.

To him, there was nothing easier against those at the same realm than straight up killing them.

Even if they're Sainted realm, with Gu Qing Shan's abilities as a sword saint, he would still be able to put up a good fight.

Not too long after, the second battle ended.

Gu Qing Shan continued downwards.

He was holding both the Chao Yin sword and Earth sword without putting them away.

It can't be helped, he has to maintain his guard all the way down.

Time slowly passed.

At a certain point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped.

There was nothing of note within the range of his inner sight.

But Gu Qing Shan still silently took a few steps back.

It wasn't until he felt slightly at ease again did he stop backing off.

He carefully sat down on the tunnel wall, attentively sensing any faint presence drifting about in the darkness.

The darkness seemed to have solidified, becoming deep and dead.

After a while, Gu Qing Shan finally caught a hint of an unknown presence.

This essence was what caused him to feel uneasy before.

He carefully wrapped the presence with his inner sight, meticulously studying it.

Without any warning, a terrifying presence appeared out of nowhere.

— — — it was the same feeling as the moment that blade of the guillotine drops.

A sudden, terrifying presence that struck his entire soul.

Even a person who was never approached by such a feeling before could easily escape.

Afterall, there was only the tiniest hint of presence here.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't back off.

His body trembled uncontrollably.

Because it was too sudden.

And because he knew, what kind of creature was waiting for him deeper in the tunnel.

Gu Qing Shan looked down below.

Very deep in the tunnel, extremely far away from him.

Rays of extremely weak presence drifted from the body of the demonic god, following the wind back up to the tunnel.

This presence struck deep into Gu Qing Shan's senses, reminding him of some things that happened in the past.

"Who would've thought" Gu Qing Shan silently muttered.

He inhaled deeply, then exhaled and repeat

After a bit, he finally regained his composure.

In his past life, the final moment where he sacrificed himself to kill that demonic god was permanently engraved in his mind.

He hasn't forgotten that demonic god's presence, and definitely not the terrifying feeling that the demonic god brought people around.

He forced himself to never forget anything and everything that's related to the demonic god.

Because forgetting the past is the same as betrayal.

Gu Qing Shan woke up from his remembrance.

He started to consider whether or not to continue this investigation.

A Demon Lord was watching over the path to Huang Quan.

This is hard.

Suddenly, within the darkness not too far away, a voice could be heard.

"Save... save me..."

The voice was so faint it sounded like mosquitoes, but contained a clear desperation, as if it'll wither away at any moment.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

From listening to the voice, he guessed that whoever is calling for help is quite far away from the Demon Lord, but quite close to Gu Qing Shan.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't move forward, instead he backed off, flying as fast as he could towards where he came.

At the same time, two notifications appeared on the War God UI.

[Currently passing through the last segment of the path to Huang Quan]

The next notification was blood-red.

[There is a demonic god guarding the path ahead, if the user moves forward, being instantly killed is the only possible result]

Gu Qing Shan back off more and more until he finally reached a place he deemed safe.

Sitting down on the steep vertical tunnel wall, he placed the Chao Yin sword down.

“Bring that person to me, be careful not to be noticed” Gu Qing Shan whispered.

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The Chao Yin sword let out a ‘wu wu’ sound, stuck close to the walls and flew down without a sound.

After an unknown amount of time.

The Chao Yin sword brought someone back.

At about 20 meters away from Gu Qing Shan, the Chao Yin sword stopped.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to check that person.

The person was similar to a melted candle, only capable of crawling slowly on the ground, unable to make any movements that a normal human can.

“Ho—oiii ———oi——o!”

The man was wheezing for breath, but his situation only got worse and worse, incapable of even speaking clearly.

“You can’t be saved anymore” Gu Qing Shan mumbled.

The sword flashed.

Countless tiny sword phantoms appeared, dicing the man into a puddle of blood.

A figure escaped from the blood.

It was a soul.

As soon as the soul appeared, he first looked down at his own body.

When he found out that he was dead, he appeared incredibly glad.

This soul immediately thanked Gu Qing Shan: “You’ve helped me so much, I’ll be transported away by the pre-programmed spell soon, so we’ll have to keep it short”

“There’s no need to thank me, why are you here? And with your body no less?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The soul answered: “For the last few months, at regular intervals, I would always come here to study the demons”

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t believe what he was hearing: “There are so many different species of demons, why did you even try to do such a thing? Aren’t you afraid you’ll meet a demon that you can’t win against?”

The soul sighed: “It wasn’t until the last moments until my death did I know I was so immersed in studying the unknown that I didn’t notice the danger hidden within”

“Thank you for killing me and not letting me become a part of that demonic god, this is such a huge favor that you did for me, how could I ever repay you?”

“How did you come here with your own body?”

“Hm? This is a very crude method” the soul made a complicated expression.

“It’s because I don’t have a way to eject my soul from my body that I had to use my own body to come here”

“Truthfully, using the body to come here is much more dangerous, because the body is weak and easy to be killed, as you saw”

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The soul seemed to sense something and spoke: “I’ll have to return to my world soon, I already prepared a secondary vessel for my soul over there”

“As repayment, I’ll tell you a secret before I go”

“Please go ahead”

The soul then arranged his words a bit and spoke: “After countless years of study, I believe that a certain unique ‘thing’ is supporting the demons”

“A unique ‘thing’?”

“Yes, an inexplicable existence that’s helping the demons grow quicker”

“This thing differs completely between different levels of demon species”

“If it’s as you said, then what exactly is that thing?”

“I don’t know either, but I know that it exists”

The soul appeared frightened.

“Yeah, it definitely exists, definitely”

He then started chanting a long incantation.

Clang!

There was a sound of metal hitting the ground.

Gu Qing Shan looked down to see a small metallic badge rolling on the ground.

The badge then jumped up by itself, hovering in front of the soul.

“I’ll have to go now, this is our Spire Association insignia, we don’t give this to anyone except those that gives us a lot of support”

“Take it, later on, if you meet one of our people, just give this to them, they’ll definitely help you”

“I really have to go now, farewell”

With a tiny ‘pop’, the soul disappeared without a trace.

The metal badge slowly hovered over to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received it.

Printed on the badge was a towering spire standing tall on a red hill.

Gu Qing Shan felt this spire to be a bit familiar.

It almost looked like a lighthouse that he saw during one of his trips through the space vortex.

Does that mean they are a group that builds their roots within the space vortex?

Gu Qing Shan put the insignia away and started thinking about what the person said before he left.

“Helping the demons grow quicker ——” Gu Qing Shan muses.

Something flashed through his mind as he recalled a certain conversation they had in Bai Hua sect not too long ago.

Before the semester examination, Bai Hua sect’s master and disciples once spoke about the demons.

Qin Xiao Lou sighed: “A new Sainted realm demon beast appear every once in a while, but our humanity only managed to cultivate a total of 3 Sainted realm even after all these years”

“I really don’t understand, is it that easy for demon beasts to cultivate and reach Sainted realm?”

Qin Xiao Lou was very confused about that.

At the time, Bai Hua Fairy told them: “The Sainted realm demons beasts have an advantage purely from being more numerous, each one of them isn’t even enough for me to fight with one hand”

“Sorrow and Xuanyuan also feel the same”

“We’re also really annoyed ——we’re clearly much stronger, but because there are so many of them, we can’t kill them all. We can’t even fight with all our power, because once we slip up and any one of us dies, the overall power of humanity would decrease, putting us in an extremely dangerous position”

“This is also why we won’t arbitrarily act”

This was what Bai Hua Fairy originally said.

At the time, Gu Qing Shan had only just joined the sect, and he didn’t think much of it so he just put it at the back of his head.

But now, deep in this dark tunnel, he heard a soul from another world mentioning a different mystery that explains said phenomenon.

Gu Qing Shan finally had to look at this problem face on.

“Demons... there is something helping them...” he muttered.

Then what would that be?

Note:

Demon Lord vs demonic god: This is a part of the author’s writing that is very confusing since the same character is called both the “Demon Lord” and “demonic god”. For the sake of consistency, and from clarifications of later chapters, “Demon Lord” is a type of demon, while “demonic god” is the power level of said demon.

Chapter 381

Demon Lord

Inside the dark tunnel, Gu Qing Shan was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

He temporarily let go and didn't bother thinking too much about the secret of the demons anymore.

Because there was a great dilemma waiting for him.

Deep inside the tunnel to Huang Quan, there existed a terrifying Demon Lord.

The Demon Lord is guarding the path.

No soul can get past it into Huang Quan.

After considering multiple choices, he decided that he had to at least try and risk it once.

If he can't even get into Huang Quan, then the human world is as good as done for.

He searched around the cliff and finally found a piece of bone that's sticking out of the rocky surface.

Putting his hand on the bone, Gu Qing Shan activated [Mystery of All Creatures Equal]

Glowing lines of text scrolled past his vision.

[Currently analyzing the Mystery of the Sharp-boned Demon body structure]

[Spend 1000 Soul Points to instantly comprehend this demon's body structure, as well as temporarily turning into a demon that is the same as the Sharp-boned Demon in essence]

1000 Soul Points!

Gu Qing Shan clicked his tongue.

[Mystery of All Creatures Equal] costs so much!

At this time, a notification popped up on the War God UI.

[Seeing that there aren't many Ascended realm late stage demons left in the tunnel, please make sure to use your Soul Points sparingly]

Gu Qing Shan understood.

He currently has no way to replenish his Soul Points.

Speaking of this, there is actually a borderline in both the demons and human cultivators.

That is Sainted realm.

Above Sainted realm, due to the fact that human cultivators can grasp countless Laws of the world to use, as well as being able to upgrade their own Thaumaturgy to an impressive level, it becomes easier for them to single-handedly defeat demons of the same rank.

But below Sainted realm, normal cultivators cannot possibly defeat demons of the same level.

A normal Ascended realm late stage cultivator isn't even a good fight for the Darkblood Demon Serpent.

The Darkblood Demon Serpent resists regular 5-Elemental spells, capable of secreting venom that corrodes spirit energy as well as an extremely strong body that's even faster than martial cultivators at Ascended realm late stage.

This makes the demon much stronger compared to regular Ascended realm late stage, infinitely close to Sainted realm demons.

Even two Ascended realm late stage cultivators couldn't fight against it, they can only flee.

For that reason, the System treats the Darkblood Demon Serpent as a creature that's stronger than normal Ascended realm cultivators.

And thus according to the War God UI's rule system, the System rewards Gu Qing Shan with Soul Points for killing the Darkblood Demon Serpent.

The reason why Gu Qing Shan managed to kill it so easily was because he has his battle experience from two lives, together with the prowess of a sword saint, plus two Divine Armament swords and the Divine Skill [Ground Shrink].

Furthermore, he has the 'Smiting' characteristic which enhances his damage by 30%, the System that appraises monster details before he battles them and even detected the Darkblood Demon Serpent before it came out of hiding.

No one else in the world would have so many advantages.

———that's why so terrifying demons like the Darkblood Demon Serpent were instantly killed by him in this tunnel.

After a lot of hesitation, Gu Qing Shan groaned: "I have no choice do I! This Soul Points is necessary expenditure!"

"Turn off the appraisal function, I already know most of these demons"

[Understood] the System answered.

For now, to pass through the tunnel and get into Huang Quan, disguising as a demon is the only method Gu Qing Shan has.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "System, how long will my disguise last?"

The System answered: [If you use spirit energy to disguise yourself, there is a time limit]

[But disguising using Soul Points is changing your body from its foundation, as long as you do not dispel it, the form will last indefinitely]

[Congratulations, by choosing the correct form of energy to practice this Mystery, you manage to reach this level]

That's good to know.

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth and confirmed: "Do it, I'll pay the Soul Points"

[The user has confirmed using Soul Points]

[Please begin to study the Sharp-boned Demon's body structure, the System will release Soul Points at the appropriate time to allow your usage]

"Very well"

Gu Qing Shan just stood in place.

He stared at the bone in his hand, using [Mystery of All Creatures Equal] to sense and study it.

As time passes, he actually found himself already fully aware of the bone's structure.

He even knew how to use the world's origin power to construct this bone.

This type of understanding was usually only reserved for Gods.

"Soul Points" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help himself saying so, "I need Soul Points to construct the Laws to reform my body"

As soon as he said so, his Soul Points decreased by 1000.

Very quickly, Gu Qing Shan felt itchy.

Itchy?

Why am I feeling itchy?

I'm only a soul right now, I shouldn't have the ability to feel anything.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at himself.

A body made completely from bone, all four of his limbs were cold, sharp gleaming claws.

This was his body.

A big different from normal Sharp-boned Demons, his body was more slender and balanced.

Gu Qing Shan tried sensing himself to find a completely new type of power that isn't spirit energy inside his body.

He tried to control that power and poured it into his claws.

The claw easily passed through the hard rocky surface, giving off a feeling of slicing through butter.

Two deep marks were carved into the walls.

"What an impressive secret technique this Mystery is! It actually let me disguise as a real Sharp-boned Demon!"

Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

"No, this isn't 'disguised as', I'm an actual Sharp-boned Demon now"

Gu Qing Shan tried moving his body.

There was no resistance or discomfort.

It was as if he naturally knows how this demon body works since birth.

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Gu Qing Shan made sure to stay in one place, training himself according to the memories of the Sharp-boned Demon's fighting style.

After a while, he stopped to rest.

— he's already grasped the method of battle as a Sharp-boned Demon.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate anymore and started to move towards the deeper end of the Huang Quan tunnel.

Miraculously, he was naturally moving the way the Sharp-boned Demon was supposed to move.

Using the sharp claws in hand to stick into the walls while his legs crawled down the tunnel bit by bit.

Is this alright?

Will I really not be found out?

Gu Qing Shan was still a bit anxious.

The most important thing now is to find a random demon to see how it'll react as it sees him.

Unfortunately, he's already killed all the demons in the vicinity, so there were no more demons for a very long distance.

He had no choice but to go even deeper.

He came to the place where he heard the man calling for help last time.

A monster finally appeared.

It was a green soft-bodied centipede.

This monster isn't particularly strong, but have a very sensitive nose that can easily detect a human corpse from several miles away.

Its favorite food were corpses with thick globs of meat.

Probably noticing the man's death from before, it was quickly crawling up the tunnel where his body was left.

Gu Qing Shan stopped, using his sharp limbs to suspend himself on the cliff.

He stared at the centipede without moving.

The centipede noticed his stare.

It glanced over at him.

Gu Qing Shan was now disguised as a Sharp-boned Demon with bones all over his body, as well as a fellow demon, so he naturally wasn't part of his menu.

The centipede ignored him and kept crawling upwards.

After a just a bit, the centipede passed by where Gu Qing Shan was.

Nothing happened.

It didn't attack Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan stayed there for a while more, still observing the centipede.

The centipede was still crawling upwards, heading up the dark tunnel.

Its direction was exactly where the man died before.

Gu Qing Shan tried to maintain his composure.

Slash———

He jumped up and slashed with his claws.

The claws easily passed through the centipede's body like a hot knife through butter.

While unguarded, the centipede was diced to pieces by the Sharp-Boned Demon!

It couldn't even let out a sound before losing its life.

Gu Qing Shan stood where the centipede's body was, staring down at his claws.

I really did become a demon, and even managed to fool that demon's senses.

The Soul Points spent was well worth it.

[Mystery of All Creatures Equal] really is incredible!

Gu Qing Shan was feeling more confident now.

He kept heading down the Huang Quan tunnel.

On the way, countless monsters of various shapes and sizes showed up.

Gu Qing Shan was weaving his way through the monsters.

None of them paid him any notice.

Despite Gu Qing Shan moving around the horde of demons, none of the stronger demons even bothered to look at him.

The only time something happened was when he passed by a large monster and left a deep cut on the thing's body by accident.

The large monster chased him for a long while before finally giving up.

Gu Qing Shan kept heading to the deep end of the dark tunnel.

As he went deeper, the steep vertical cliff began to mellow out and become a steep flank.

A bit deeper.

The flank became a normal horizontal path.

Another line of glowing text scrolled through the War God UI.

[Attention please, a weaponized demonic god is ahead]

Gu Qing Shan became tense.

He could already feel it without the notice.

The overwhelming destructive presence was so powerful it was almost like a dense liquid that filled this entire space.

Fortunately, such a presence only passed through him before moving away.

It seems the thing has recognized him as an ally.

Gu Qing Shan held his breath and kept moving forward.

Finally, he was facing the Demon Lord in the dark tunnel.

It was a 1000-meter tall giant's upper half.

The bottom half of the giant was nowhere to be seen, only the top part was still intact.

Dozens of weird arms hung loose behind the giant's back.

A long arm, a thick arm, an arm completely made of ice ———Gu Qing Shan even saw an arm that was stuck full of ears.

Gu Qing Shan believed fully that every single one of those arms contained immeasurable power.

The giant had its eyes closed, seemingly asleep.

It leaned on the rocky wall as it rests, the gigantic body almost fully blocking the dark tunnel behind.

Chapter 382

Giant Demon Lord

The Demon Lord sat leaning on the wall of the tunnel, its gigantic body almost blocking the entire path to Huang Quan.

With its eyes closed, it seemed to be asleep.

Gu Qing Shan ———no, a Sharp-boned Demon was weaving through the mass of demons, moving towards the Demon Lord at a regular rate that was not too slow or too fast.

Next to the Demon Lord's body, there was a tiny space that left just enough space for an average-sized demon to pass through.

The Sharp-boned Demon stood within the horde, silently staring at the Demon Lord.

As it kept staring, a notification popped up on the War God UI.

[A weaponized demonic god is a special type of creature, if the user wants to know the details regarding this Demon Lord, an extra 500 Soul Points must be paid]

"No need, I know what this thing is" Gu Qing Shan silently told himself.

His thoughts were a bit complicated right now.

The creatures called weaponized demonic lord aren't actually demons.

They are powerful creatures that died for various reasons within the flow of time.

Some of these corpses came from various strange and unknown worlds, where the creatures used to reign as the absolute ruler of their world.

When those worlds are completely invaded by demons, as they were once the strongest enemies, these creatures' corpses will be put to use.

Their bodies are excavated, salvaged, then remodeled using special methods by the demons, going through countless years of crafting before finally able to become an ultimate weapon.

This giant was also the same.

It might have been the lord of some world that died during an intense war, as only its upper body was still intact.

If you look carefully, you'll see that obviously only two of those arms on its body belonged to the giant.

The rest of the arms were patched on afterwards.

Some sort of miraculous method maintained the original power of these terrifying arms.

This was also a Remodelled Demon Lord made for the sake of destroying cities and attacking fortresses.

And this isn't even the end of it.

Above the Remodelled type, there is also a Chaotic type Demon Lord.

Such creatures are completely outside of human understanding.

No one really knows what they are.

They have unpredictable strange powers that can devour you whole, kill you, enslave you, or even erase you without you ever noticing.

But even that isn't the strongest.

True Demon Lord, a name that brings desperation.

They are demons created using the corpses of Divinity.

This type of weaponized demonic god not only had preserved the Divinity's powers when they were still alive, it also had destructive demon powers as well as an immense presence.

Those True Demon Lords forged from the corpses of Divinities were the real weapons used by the demons to take over worlds.

There was once an unconfirmed military report stored in the records of the past life.

The group of elite military that provided this report was completely wiped out, before they were all killed, they had sent back this report that can neither be confirmed nor denied.

There were only two sentences in the report.

The first was, 'Humanity's extinction is inevitable'.

The second was, 'There exist creatures even more terrifying than a True Demon Lord'.

At the time they received this report, the war between humans and demons had reached a critical point, so as to not waver the troop's morale, all commanders of humanity including Gu Qing Shan had unanimously decided to make this report top secret.

...

While Gu Qing Shan was reminiscing about his old memories, he decided to just stand still within the horde of demons.

What exactly happened in Huang Quan that the demons had to specifically send such a powerful Remodeled Demon Lord to guard and block the path here?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, gazing at the giant Demon Lord's body.

Everything he has are conjectures so no conclusions can be drawn.

The truth lies behind that Demon Lord.

Only going into Huang Quan will he know the whole truth.

Gu Qing Shan moved forward.

He was prepared to go to the end.

His sharp claws pierced into the gaps in the rock, step by step making his way forward.

Gu Qing Shan was moving at an average rate.

Not too slow, not too fast, no sounds, and no sudden movements.

He retracted his inner sight completely, looked down and carefully maintains his state of movement, making sure not to appear out of the ordinary.

Closer.

Closer.

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He was now in front of the Demon Lord.

It was still asleep.

But the destructive presence that the Demon Lord emitted made Gu Qing Shan tremble uncontrollably.

The difference between the two of them was so great that Gu Qing Shan was being suppressed by the Demon Lord's presence alone.

He could only grit his teeth and forced himself to keep moving forward.

Using the sharp claws to balance himself, he moved past the Demon Lord step by step.

The only path deeper into the tunnel is through that small gap.

The dark tunnel was completely silent.

Most of the demons were currently either sleeping or resting.

The only demon calmly moving forward was a slender and long Sharp-boned Demon.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan was now directly next to the Demon Lord.

As long as he keeps up this speed, he'll pass through the Demon Lord's body blocking the way.

Gu Qing Shan patiently moved his claws forward bit by bit, moving forward in the cave.

Without any warning, the sleeping Demon Lord lifted an arm up and grabbed at the group of demons below.

It was grabbing exactly where Gu Qing Shan was.

Gu Qing Shan didn't know why this happened.

But he was sure that the Demon Lord definitely did not notice him.

This sleeping Demon Lord might have sensed something vague from an unknown place.

This arm was probably moved completely from reflex!

The Demon Lord's action was too fast for any demons to react to.

A large group of demons was fished upwards.

Gu Qing Shan was also caught in there.

Together with a few hundred different demons, he was being squeezed inside the Demon Lord's giant hand.

The demons seemed to know what was about to happen, since they were screaming and howling with fear.

Hear these sounds, the Demon Lord still didn't open its eyes.

It opened its mouth and put the handful of demons into its mouth.

Gu Qing Shan desperately tried to push the other demons away, looking down from the grasp of the giant hand.

Below, the other demons have already had time to react, they were scrambling to run away.

Gu Qing Shan noticed a one-eyed demon serpent.

The serpent was slithering away as fast as possible.

Right now, it was already next to the Demon Lord, about to pass him and go deeper into the dark tunnel.

I choose you!

Gu Qing Shan activated [Shadow Shift] without any hesitation.

In the blink of an eye, the one-eyed demon serpent was now inside the Demon Lord's hand.

Gu Qing Shan has escaped, standing next to the Demon Lord.

But now, the intense sense of dread still hasn't gone away.

He even felt cold sweat running down his spine.

[Shadow Shift] worked as it should have.

But a Sharp-boned Demon grabbed by the hand was now replaced with a one-eyed demon serpent.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't confirm whether or not the Demon Lord's hand would be able to notice such a minute change inside its palm.

He didn't have the gall nor the time to be waiting for a lucky result.

His Ascended realm late stage inner sight was released, stretching far deep into the dark tunnel behind.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight was extremely noticeable within this part of the dark tunnel.

Ignoring whether or not this was reckless, he disappeared in place.

[Ground Shrink]!

[Divine Skill, Ground Shrink (advanced): Choose any point within the range of your inner sight, or lock onto the enemy's presence, using a special speed technique to bypass the limits of space to appear directly at the chosen location]

Thousands of miles passed within a split second.

Gu Qing Shan reappeared again.

As a Sharp-boned Demon, his entire body was shaking.

The sense of dread he felt didn't decrease at all, instead it started erupting like fuel added to fire.

Chapter 383

A toast to everyone

Gu Qing Shan appeared next to a bunch of rocks.

Thanks to Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink], he had made it really far in just the blink of an eye.

Behind him, in the darkness, an overwhelming invisible pressure emerged.

This was a pressure unique to Demon Lords.

Contempt towards mortals.

Slaughter for fun.

Feeling this pressure, Gu Qing Shan did not immediately run away.

His sharp claws dug deep into the rocks as he knelt down, breathing heavily.

This was the same pressure he felt during his past life.

The feeling didn't fade away, couldn't fade away.

The recollections of the past struck him like a storm, although Gu Qing Shan never intended to reject these memories in the first place.

A person was sobbing as they reported: "General Gu, the Vanguard met the Demon Lord, they couldn't react in time, they were completely wiped out"

"How many people?"

"300 thousand! 300 thousand men! General Gu!"

Badum

Gu Qing Shan gasped, feeling a slight pain in his chest.

The cold air of the underground followed the gasp into his body, temporarily letting him regain his calm.

His inner sight spread out as Gu Qing Shan once again disappeared.

The second [Ground Shrink]!

In a flash, Gu Qing Shan appeared in the middle of the horde of demons.

There were still an obscene amount of demons here, all highly alert.

They formed layers upon layers of defense.

Behind them was Huang Quan, this part was already the end of the tunnel.

The demons will not allow any soul to enter Huang Quan.

Gu Qing Shan staggered.

"Die!"

Almost uncontrollably, he swung his claws.

Blood splattered everywhere.

The demons around him started howling.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

He reappeared again in a demon camp a few hundred miles away.

He was still hurriedly rushing through.

The demons looked up at him in surprise.

But that was all they did, none of the demons actively attacked him.

As Gu Qing Shan was sprinting, he suddenly fell down rolling on the ground.

The Demon Lord pressure was still following him from behind.

As if it were a trigger, another memory that he sealed away in his mind resurfaced.

A mountain.

One littered with dead human corpses.

A giant terrifying face appeared from one side of the mountain, staring down at the human camp.

“General Gu, flee quickly!”

“The rest of you flee, I’m a sword cultivator, I can still hold it off for a while!”

The soldiers said nothing, went up, grabbed and pulled him back.

More and more armored soldiers went in front of him, attempting to hold off the Demon Lord.

“Sir strategist cannot die, we’ll hold it off”

“At my orders! Squad 1, forward!”

“Squad 2, follow!”

“This is it men!”

“We’re risking it all!”

The giant face slowly opened its mouth.

Countless desperate screams of soldiers resounded.

...

The cold air in the tunnel once again came, shocking Gu Qing Shan awake.

He was trembling nonstop.

He suddenly yelled out.

“No!”

The demons around could only here a high-pitched howl from a Sharp-boned Demon.

Following that, the Sharp-boned Demon staggered to stand up.

While the demons were still confused, they felt a sharp, abrupt pain.

Their heads were severed, killed on the spot.

The Sharp-boned Demon disappeared in front of the demons.

A few hundred miles away, it reappeared.

The dark tunnel was now a flat open road, the cold air blowing forward could almost freeze someone to death.

The Earth sword suddenly spoke up with a hurried voice: 「 I can feel immense demonic god power erupting, quickly hide! 」

Roar!

Behind him, inside the long dark tunnel, a thunderous roar resounded.

The roar even picked up a small typhoon.

The worst result.

That minute change I caused actually woke up the Demon Lord!

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

There's no more going back.

The only chance at survival is Huang Quan.

Run!

Run with all you can!

While Gu Qing Shan's mind was screaming, his body stood still without moving.

The Demon Lord pressure was beginning to become heavier.

The desperate feelings from his past life enveloped him, forcing his memories to the surface.

A voice came deep from those memories.

"Huh, so you managed to climb and became a commander of humanity?"

A relaxed female voice.

"Ah? You found a really strong liquor? What a dumb guy... alright, this Empress can only accept your date invitation"

The flames flew away, then came again.

The girl's voice came from communication talisman once more.

"I'm currently at camp No.571, a bit far you where you are, but if you're willing to, come and look for me"

"Ah, right, don't forget the liquor you hear? We're going to drink until we black out"

The very next scene, dirt and mud was being flung into the air.

Explosions!

Desperate cries!

Someone angrily roared: "Gu Qing Shan, you can't go, that place was already discovered by the Demon Lord!"

He turned to leave.

Someone came out from the camp, loudly calling out to him: "General Gu, please return, that place is done for!"

He was moving with all he had.

He hadn't rushed somewhere this hurriedly ever before in his entire life.

Faster!

Finally, he stood on top of a tree, looking down at the flames of destruction erupting from camp No.571.

The flames reflected in his eyes.

The flames died out.

Everything died out.

Intense pain.

“Wake up! Gu Qing Shan!”

The Earth sword came out from the void of space and hit him on the shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan woke up.

He never knew the Earth sword could be so hurried, so desperate.

“Flee now, Gu Qing Shan! The Demon Lord is coming here!”

The Chao Yin sword also appeared hovering next to the Earth sword.

It was also letting out worried ‘wu wu’ sounds.

Right, now I have to run.

Flee!

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth.

He jumped up and started to fly.

No, this won’t cut it.

He gave up on flying and activated [Ground Shrink]

Compared to [Shadow Shift], [Ground Shrink] doesn’t cost too much spirit energy to use.

Luckily, he currently has the body of a demon so he wasn’t afraid of teleporting in the middle of a group of demons.

He kept appearing, then disappearing within the large horde of demons.

Whenever he did, he moved a long distance away, making it to the next demon camp.

Gu Qing Shan felt something coming.

He ignored spirit energy expenditures and used [Ground Shrink] repeatedly to cover vast distances at a time.

After a while, Gu Qing Shan stopped.

A dark shadow appeared behind, trying to grab him.

It was a giant hand covered in black fur.

It moved quickly to catch Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared immediately.

But when he appeared again, another giant hand made from black mist was waiting for him.

The hand of black mist quickly covered the entire tunnel and crashed down on Gu Qing Shan.

「 The enemy is a demonic god, use me quickly! 」 the Earth sword hurriedly called out.

“I know!” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the Earth sword and put his all into slashing the hand of black mist.

Secret Art, [Torrent].

This was a powerful Secret Art.

Overflowing sword phantoms flowed like a torrent, stabbing the hand of black mist, but only managed to open a gap half the size of a person.

Gu Qing Shan tilted his body to move through the gap, quickly following his sword phantoms through the hand.

Roar!

A furious voice came from far away inside the dark tunnel.

They were too far apart.

The Demon Lord couldn't exert all of its powers.

Once Gu Qing Shan passed through the black mist, he didn't even turn around and immediately used [Ground Shrink] again!.

Hundreds of miles in the blink of an eye.

Ahead.

A faint light could be seen in the endless darkness.

It was the exit of the tunnel, the faint light was coming from the world of Huang Quan!

Gu Qing Shan disappeared again and reappeared at the exit.

He went through without any hesitation.

The light quickly expanded.

Hoh, hoh, hoh!

Intense wind blew against him, almost knocking Gu Qing Shan away.

A vast sea of clouds appeared in front of his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan found himself in the air, quickly flying downwards.

As he looked down, a large, seemingly endless river appeared in his vision.

The river water shimmered faintly as the flow was intense.

Clouds of mist came out from the river, slowly rising up to become black clouds.

Gu Qing Shan's body moved without stopping, he was even speeding up like a falling meteorite.

Dispelling [All Things Equal], he returned to his original form.

Since there aren't any demons around here, there's no need to disguise himself as one anymore.

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If he's discovered by the forces of Huang Quan, they might attack him by mistake instead.

His flying speed suddenly shot up.

There was a Demon Lord chasing after him, there was not even a single second to waste.

The Chao Yin sword flew out, 'wu wu'-ing nonstop to Gu Qing Shan.

It was explaining something.

"I know, that's the Forgetting River of legends, I definitely can't touch it!" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Forgetting River in legends was a place where no creatures can enter.

Asides from the dead people of Huang Quan, if any other creatures enter the Forgetting River, they will instantly forget everything that has happened in their lives and be sent to reincarnation.

This was the literal river of the dead.

The strongest Law of Huang Quan.

The Chao Yin sword 'wu wu' again.

A drop of water that let out a faint pressure hovered from the blade of the sword.

Forgetting River water.

A single drop of Forgetting River water that took the black cloaked skeleton 1000 years to slowly accumulate.

A line of glowing text hurriedly scrolled past the War God UI.

[The Chao Yin sword is requesting you to allow it to refine this drop of precious Forgetting River water, gaining the recognition of the Forgetting River]

[The Chao Yin sword is requesting you to spend 1000 Soul Points to help it refine the Forgetting River water]

Gu Qing Shan didn't even hesitate: "I'll allow it!"

One short moment, the faint drop of water scattered and turned into mist that hovered the Chao Yin sword's body.

[Ting]!

[Refinement complete, the Chao Yin sword can now use 'Even a sea of suffering will pass' on the Forgetting River]

Perfectly timed!

Even a Demon Lord wouldn't dare go into the Forgetting River.

All I need to do is hide into the river and I'll be safe.

Together with his swords, Gu Qing Shan jetted through the layers of clouds, heading towards the grand Forgetting River.

The very next moment, the Demon Lord pressure appeared behind him.

Overwhelming killing intent bent in destroying everything.

At that moment, a thought couldn't help but surface Gu Qing Shan's heart.

Hide?

I'm running to hide?

Gu Qing Shan glanced around.

The air.

His sword.

A great river.

Intense wind.

This was such a familiar scene.

The deepest memory resurfaced.

A military camp.

The sound of metal armor touching the ground resounded one after another.

Tens of thousands of soldiers were kneeling together.

"Strategist Gu, I'm willing to Tong Gui"

"Tong Gui"

"With this blood of mine, I'm willing to sacrifice myself"

Voices one after another, echoing as it became a wave.

Countless voices turned into lights as they joined together in the sword formation.

He flew up as he caught the wind.

After that...

Oong!

The Chao Yin sword was ringing intensely.

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses.

He looked up.

7-8 gigantic arms appeared out of nowhere in the sky.

Some of these arms were long, others short, a few let out a looming chill, or a frightening green poison mist.

They were all reaching for Gu Qing Shan.

“Chao Yin!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

He flashed and passed through a great distance all at once.

When he reappeared, Gu Qing Shan was only a few hundred meters off the surface of the water.

The Chao Yin sword shook.

A faint light, almost like a burning flame appeared from the blade of the sword.

Holding the Chao Yin sword in hand, Gu Qing Shan pointed it at the vast river below.

The Forgetting River split apart by itself, giving him passage to the bottom of the river.

The Forgetting River has recognized him.

Following this, Gu Qing Shan only needs to go into the water to be safe.

Without a pause, Gu Qing Shan headed straight into the Forgetting River at great speed.

500 meters.

200 meters.

30 meters.

I’m here!

When Gu Qing Shan reached the surface of the water, he stopped.

“What is it? Quickly go in” the Earth sword rang as it spoke.

Gu Qing Shan silently stood straight.

The wind was blowing through his hair, wind strong enough to make his sleeves flutter chaotically.

But he stood still without moving.

One of the Demon God’s arms quickly arrived.

The giant hand was about to grab Gu Qing Shan.

He disappeared and reappeared on top of the hand, swinging the Earth sword down at it.

“AAAAAAAAAA!”

He angrily roared as he struck the Demon Lord arm straight into the Forgetting River.

It strike wasn’t able to even leave a scratch.

But when the hand touched the Forgetting River, it started to squirm in fear.

Useless.

This was the Forgetting River.

This was where the Laws of Huang Quan are the thickest.

The arm only managed to squirm twice before losing all life force.

It slowly sank down into the Forgetting River.

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded as he watched this.

You cannot touch Forgetting River, otherwise even a Demon Lord wouldn't get off easy.

Seemingly noticing this, all the Demon Lord arms in the sky disappeared.

Far in the sky above.

A giant face appeared from the tunnel, furiously looking around.

It looked at the faint Forgetting River below.

The Forgetting River is always flowing intensely, like an arrow that had been fired, like a horse without a rein, never stopping.

That ant of a human was standing on the Forgetting River without a hint of fear in its eyes.

The giant roared with anger.

I actually let such a puny soul pass through the dark tunnel.

I wouldn't make such a mistake even in my sleep.

That puny human even managed to destroy one of my arms.

"How did such an insignificant soul manage to pass through me?"

The giant couldn't understand.

But it decided that there was no need to.

Afterall, as long as it catches the soul, it'll obtain all the memories of the soul by carefully devouring it bit by bit.

As long as it gets the memories, it'll know what it wants.

Thinking that, the giant braved the wind and descended.

Dozens of arms with different abilities detached from its body, flying around the giant.

The giant's speed wasn't slower than Gu Qing Shan using [Ground Shrink].

It was moving as fast as possible towards the human.

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the Demon Lord.

He stayed still.

It wasn't until the Demon Lord entered the range of his inner sight did he swung the Chao Yin sword.

The river started to split apart.

Gu Qing Shan slowly went down.

The water moved around, ensuring that not a drop of water touched him.

“No! Insignificant human soul! I want your memories!”

The giant roared.

Gu Qing Shan kept sinking.

Until he wasn't seen anymore.

After a few moments.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly appeared in the air.

While the giant together with all its arms appeared in a strange space.

There wasn't a drop of water in this space.

All the Forgetting River water was actively avoiding this place.

The faint flowing water reflected dancing lights on the giant's body.

But this only lasted for the blink of an eye.

Even a sea of suffering will pass, does not include Demon Lords (1)

The Forgetting River closed up.

Above the intense flowing river stream, a whirlpool was suddenly formed.

The Demon Lord was struggling to escape.

But to no avail.

This was the strongest Law of Huang Quan.

This water doesn't only make you forget everything, it's the line that separates the reincarnation of life and death itself.

In a mere 2 breaths, the Demon Lord stopped struggling.

Gu Qing Shan hovered above the water, silently watching this.

A few moments later.

The Demon Lord's body floated up.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the Demon Lord's body and stayed silent.

After a short moment, he muttered: “My memories are my most precious belonging, you can't have it”

He then took out a bottle of liquor brewed long ago from his Inventory Bag.

As he popped the cork open, the aroma filled the area.

Then he let it go.

A bottle of precious liquor brewed for so many years dropped into the Forgetting River, silently bobbing up and down by the Demon Lord's body.

"A toast to all of you"

Gu Qing Shan looked up and stayed that way for a while as the cold wind blew the wetness off the corners of his eyes.

"Please be assured, I will protect you this time around"

"I swear"

Note:

(1) Even a sea of suffering will pass, does not include Demon Lords: The word that I translate as "pass" actually have another meaning in Chinese, which roughly means "to give salvation" or "to free", thus the idiom "Even a sea of suffering will pass" can also mean "Even if I have to pass a sea of suffering I will, to give salvation"

Chapter 384

Gu Qing Shan hovered above the river for a long while.

It was only after the Demon Lord's body floated downstream out of sight that he finally pulled his gaze back.

It was completely silent around here, nothing but the sound of wind and water currents.

Gu Qing Shan extended his gaze far.

The Forgetting River was so vast that the water surface occasionally let out mist, and his eyes were unable to see the edge of the river.

There was nothing but water within his vision all the way until the horizon.

Gu Qing Shan silently felt it strange.

According to legends, this great river of Huang Quan should be full of dead people.

All dead people will follow this river to either enter hell or reincarnation.

And there should be a ferry person on this Forgetting River.

Of course, in the cultivation world, that's the skeleton girl who is the ferrywoman.

As for Reality, since those machines appeared, maybe it'll be an actual ferry that comes.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a while longer.

But nothing showed up.

How strange, this place is supposed to be where all dead creatures come, even if the path is blocked, there should at least be one or two Divinities or something similar here.

Why is Huang Quan so empty?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "System, why is there nothing living here?"

[Ting]!

The System answered: [Because everything inside Huang Quan is dead]

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I know that. What I mean is that why aren't there any guards or managers of Huang Quan here?"

[The System also doesn't know what happened in Huang Quan, please go ahead and investigate the world of Huang Quan by yourself]

Gu Qing Shan gave up on asking.

Then I should probably move quickly.

Suddenly, a few lines of glowing text scrolled past the War God UI.

[Attention]

[You've killed a Remodeled Demon Lord, something unprecedented within the 6 worlds]

[This historic moment was made known to many struggling worlds from their own specific methods]

[Since the Forgetting River is what killed the Demon Lord, you cannot gain any Soul Points from it]

[You've triggered the corresponding War God title Quest]

[Please keep trying your best and kill another Demon Lord to receive the corresponding title]

Reading that, Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

This was similar to how he received the title [Assassin].

War God titles are good, but what isn't good is that the System refuses to even tell him the name of those titles before hand.

When Gu Qing Shan tried asking, the System doesn't even respond.

At this time, another line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Your actions have garnered the attention of certain creatures in Huang Quan]

[Please treat this attention seriously, as it will determine your treatment in Huang Quan]

Just as he finished, Gu Qing Shan felt something and so he looked up.

A glowing number counter appeared on top of his head.

[0000]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "What is this?"

A voice replied: [Hello, I'm sorry to bother you, but as you entered Huang Quan, you have to be registered into my statistic databank]

"Who are you?"

[I am the Merit Accountant Machine, every dead person that comes into Huang Quan will be locked on to me in order to easily tell how much their Merit is at all times]

[When their Merit is negative, dead people must continue to suffer in hell]

[When their Merit becomes 0 or positive, they can leave hell and enter the samsara to reincarnate]

Gu Qing Shan nodded and pointed above his head: "Then why am I 0000?"

[Because you are still alive, only when you die can I start counting your Merit, this is called Closed Coffin Conclusions]

"This is a bit too eye-catchy, can you not display it?" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Of course" the Merit Accountant Machine replied.

Instantly, the numbers on Gu Qing Shan head went away.

"Why didn't you go to the human realm?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Merit Accountant Machine answered: "My display function only works in hell, why would I go to the human realm?"

Gu Qing Shan thought it was reasonable, then casually asked: "I want to ask you a few things"

[I'm sorry, I cannot say anything unrelated to Merits]

"It's just a few questions"

It didn't answer.

Gu Qing Shan tried asking a few times.

The Merit Accountant Machine stayed silent.

Gu Qing Shan begrudgingly gave up.

He looked around.

Let's just go investigate to quickly find out the truth of what happened in Huang Quan.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan used the Chao Yin sword to split the water again.

Since there's nothing above the water, let's see what's below.

He jumped down towards the bottom of the Forgetting River.

The water flow avoided him but was still moving fast without stopping.

Occasionally, there were some strange things being washed away in the river.

Gu Qing Shan reached the bottom.

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Beneath his feet was a hard grey-ish white rock material, Gu Qing Shan tried using the Earth sword to strike at it lightly.

A spark came out.

The rock material was unscathed.

The Earth sword with a striking force of 86,370,000 tons that could even fight against a Demon Lord, couldn't leave a mark on the bottom of the Forgetting River.

「 Both the Forgetting River and this world's rocks are the manifestation of Huang Quan's Laws, so I can't cut them 」 the Earth sword explained with a rumbling voice.

"Hm, it's fine, I was only curious" Gu Qing Shan said.

He sighed.

Finally I'm at Huang Quan.

He looked at the Soul Points that were quickly decreasing on the War God UI. Using [Even a sea of suffering shall pass] costs Soul Points as well.

Luckily, after the Chao Yin sword refined that drop of Forgetting River water, this cost became tiny, only ticking every once in a while.

So the 1000 Soul Points spent was worth it.

I also only have about 1000 Soul Points left.

Gu Qing Shan arbitrarily picked a direction and began to move.

He decided to walk across the river for a while, at least until he was far away enough from the dark tunnel before he gets out of the Forgetting River to check the situation.

Suddenly, a female voice came from behind him.

"Please wait"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

This voice wasn't the Merit Accountant Machine from before.

He slowly turned around, but found nothing behind.

In the river, some inexplicable objects could occasionally be seen being washed away by the water current.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't see anything around himself right now.

He has kept his inner sight up around himself ever since he entered the water.

Even now, his inner sight was still scanning a radius of a few hundred miles around himself.

Perhaps some strong cultivators would feel it too troublesome to keep up their inner sight and be cautious all the time, but Gu Qing Shan would definitely not make this amateur mistake.

His inner sight passed through three times.

But he still found nothing.

This made Gu Qing Shan cautious.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and bowed, asking: "Perhaps we can meet in person to talk?"

"You are able to deal with a Demon Lord alone, so of course I would gladly meet you, but please wait a bit"

The tone of this female voice was quite cold, hiding a hint of caution and killing intent.

Gu Qing Shan precisely picked up on this killing intent.

He had a sudden thought.

"What numbered machine are you?" he asked.

"Ah? So you know about the machines of Huang Quan?" the female voice was surprised.

"Of course, I've met with the Prayers Trial Machine and the others"

"You mean you're their customer?"

"No, I'm their ally"

"Is that so? But I can't blindly trust you. After all, even a Demon Lord couldn't catch you so there must be something special about you" the female voice was still cautious.

Gu Qing Shan calmed down.

This is probably one of the 88 machines.

So it can hide itself at the bottom of the Forgetting River, what a strange function to have.

Then a thought flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

Oh right, regardless of what happened in Huang Quan, if I can bring a particularly powerful machine back to the human realm, it might become part of the fighting force.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan seriously answered: "I really am your ally, I know that there are 88 of you, and this number is because there's a superstitious Divinity that thought of this as a lucky number"

The female voice hesitantly replied: "You know that as well? Then, do you know what happened to that Divinity?"

Thinking back at the Prayers Trial Machine's words, Gu Qing Shan replied: "He was the first to die"

"What else do you know?"

"The Prayers Trial Machine requires fresh blood to activate, ah, there's a machine that likes to play pranks and practical jokes called the Anger Appeasing Machine, it's also the Prayers Trial Machine's husband"

The female voice calmed down, muttering: "You also know about the personal relationships between the machines, plus your soul is human, it seems you really aren't an enemy"

The faint killing intent disappeared.

Rumble!

The ground shook.

Gu Qing Shan anxiously waited.

The hard grey-ish white rock split apart.

This rock material that the Earth sword couldn't leave a scratch quickly formed a path.

A bubble of water-blue light covered in a chilling air slowly rose up from the ground.

The bubble split open to reveal an ancient palace maid.

She was wearing a blue neon dress, her figure slender with bright red lips and pale skin, her brows and eyes were sharp like a phoenix with a hint of indifference in your expression.

The blue-dress girl lightly bowed and asked: "Pardon me asking, but who exactly are you, sir?"

Chapter 385

A pitying voice came.

『 How pitiful, even I am regretful about this 』

At the camp where the Demon Lord originally was, all the demons laid flat on the ground, writhing and trembling.

It was as if they were receiving some sort of unspeakable torture, but couldn't let out a single sound due to their mouths being sealed shut.

The pitying voice rang out again: 『 But this can't be helped, it's because you low-leveled bugs couldn't even block a single tunnel 』

The voice sighed.

『 Just die 』

Following this voice, the entire camp went silent.

The demons stopped writhing.

Their corpses slowly melted.

After a while, another voice came.

『 What now? We even lost a Remodeled Demon Lord. 』

The voice from before replied with a question: 『 Did you find that soul from before? 』

『 We can't locate him, he's apparently inside the Forgetting River, the Forgetting River is covering up all his information 』

『 Capable of fooling a Demon Lord, protected by Forgetting River, this human must die 』

『 But the Forgetting River had stopped all communications, what do we do about that? 』

『 Let's go and take a look at the border between Huang Quan and the human realm first 』

The two voices disappeared.

A while later.

At the border between Huang Quan and the human realm.

Two figures hovered in space.

One of the figures extended its hand from the tunnel to touch something in space.

Fwoom!

Intense flames burned the hand to a crisp.

『 Seems like we need a bit more time, the protective barrier of the human realm hasn't been fully destroyed yet and we're too strong 』 the voice spoke regretfully.

『 If that's the case, the bunch from hell should put in some effort 』

『 Yes! Make them find that human's body and destroy it 』

『 As long as the body is dead, no matter where the soul is hiding in Huang Quan, he'll die right away! 』

As the two voices casually discussed this, some wind came blowing from the dark tunnel and followed the space vortex towards the human realm.

Not too long after, the four hells that descended on the human realm received news.

Inside the dark tunnel, one of the voices complained: 『 So much time spent on an insignificant ant, how wasteful 』

Seemingly sensed something, they went silent, then suddenly became excited.

『 Did you feel that? 』

『 Yes, a world is about to become our fruit to harvest 』

『 Let's go! This world's matters have been settled properly, the more important world is reaching the crucial time of harvest, our efforts are better spent there 』

『 Indeed 』

The two figures disappeared.

They left.

On the other side.

Huang Quan.

The bottom of the Forgetting River.

The blue-dress maid asked: "So who exactly are you, sir?"

This time it was a sincere question.

The Earth sword silently sent its voice: 「 She has the power of a Law from Huang Quan on her body 」

CST silently nodded.

It's not just a Law that she has.

There was a water-blue light that covered the maid.

As Gu Qing Shan observed the blue light, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Detected the core essence of Huang Quan: Root Aqua]

It turns out that this bubble of blue light was the Huang Quan realm's Root Aqua.

Not only does she carry the Law of Huang Quan on her body, she was also being nurtured with Root Aqua, her status must be unbelievably high.

Gu Qing Shan became even more earnest.

He clasped his fist to bow and spoke: "This humble one is Gu Qing Shan, a human cultivator, because the hells appeared in the human realm, I used a soul separation secret technique to arrive at Huang Quan and investigate the situation"

The blue-dress girl appeared surprised.

He's really a living person?

Since when did the human realm have such an ability to separate their soul from their bodies to go to Huang Quan?

She stared at him, then abruptly called: "Merit Accountant Machine"

A voice rang out: [I'm here! I'm here! What are your orders?]

The voice seemed to be flattering her.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit annoyed.

It didn't answer no matter what I asked, but the blue-dress girl only needed to call for it to come out.

"He is a living person?" she asked.

[Indeed, according to the Law's judgement, he really is a living person, that is why his Merit is currently 0000] the Merit Accountant Machine confirmed.

The blue-dress girl was now convinced.

If he was a human that came from the human realm, then everything makes sense.

The blue-dress girl lightly curtsied and spoke: "Within Huang Quan, everyone calls me Shannu, you may call me the same" (1)

"Then I shall" Gu Qing Shan bowed again as a reply.

"There are already 4 hells in the human realm?" the blue-dress girl sighed.

"Yes, we're already at the end of our ropes"

Gu Qing Shan then told her the situation in the human realm, including his intentions as he came here.

Hearing that, the blue-dress girl became a bit friendlier.

She changed her way of addressing him: "Gongzi, may I ask how is the Prayers Trial Machines and the others faring?" (2)

Gu Qing Shan answered: "Although they don't have the ability to save the human realm, but I can feel that they're enjoying themselves in the human realm"

The blue-dress girl's cold expression relaxed as she spoke: "Then that's good"

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She mused for a bit then continued: "Unfortunately I'm currently recuperating, so I have no way of helping you"

Gu Qing Shan looked back to see that the blue Root Aqua was still enveloping the girl, occasionally flowing into her body.

Her body was a bit faint and transparent, like an unreal projection.

After a bit of hesitation, she opened her palm.

A faint blue essence slowly concentrated in her hand.

"Take this, at least the remaining strength of Huang Quan that owes me will not make it hard on you if you have it"

"Ah? Then I thank you"

The blue essence was absorbed into Gu Qing Shan as it disappeared.

As Gu Qing Shan carefully felt it, he found a hint of newfound indifference within his presence.

This indifference didn't carry any power, it only served to change his presence, essentially an extra mask that he was given.

And he could expel this mask any time he wishes.

Gu Qing Shan loosened up.

The blue-dress girl nodded at Gu Qing Shan and spoke: "With that bit of my essence, the rest of the weapons will help you"

Weapons?

Gu Qing Shan wanted to ask, but decided to clasp his fist first: "Thank you"

"You can leave now, if my wounds are ok again, I'll get back on the battlefield" she said.

Gu Qing Shan thought a bit, then tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a bottle of first-rate healing pills, wanting to offer it.

"They are great, but I cannot use them" the blue-dress girl waved her hand to refuse.

But seeing that he wanted to help, she hesitated a bit before speaking: "Do you perhaps have Burnt Mountain Jade, Sunken Ice Soil and 10,000-year Spirit Red Magma?"

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched.

Burnt Mountain Jade. In a mountain that contains a large number of fire spirit stone mines and abundant earth spirits, after 1,000 years without any mining, the combination of fire spirits and earth spirits will occasionally produce one or two Burnt Mountain Jades.

Sunken Ice Soil was soil that came from the incredibly rare ice spirit herbal nurturing grounds, in which it must go through an unknown special change that turns it into Sunken Ice Soil.

Spirit Red Magma was a rare type of material, for it to exist and undergo 10,000 years of change and precipitation was even rarer.

They are all rare treasures.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent without replying.

The blue-dress girl also knew that it wasn't an appropriate request and spoke: "It's because the lives Huang Quan are at stake that I want to quickly heal and require these items. I have no choice but to ask you for them, if you don't have them then it's fine"

Gu Qing Shan put the first-rate healing pills back into the Inventory Bag and took out the 7-color fragrance bag.

He quickly found and took out a Burnt Mountain Jade, Sunken Ice Soil and 10,000-year Spirit Red Magma.

10,000-year Spirit Red Magma was so rare that even Bai Hua sect only had a single piece.

These are all the most precious belongings of the sect.

"Take them" Gu Qing Shan told her.

When he blue-dress girl saw how generous he was, even she was surprised.

She stared straight at Gu Qing Shan, then spoke: "Thank you, then I'll go into seclusion to heal as quickly as possible, I hope to see you again on the battlefield, gongzi"

They exchanged bows.

When Gu Qing Shan wanted to ask more about the situation of Huang Quan, the blue-dress girl has turned into a light and sunk into the ground again.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Already going into seclusion? That's a bit too hurried.

The ground closed up as the blue-dress girl seemed to have gone far away.

The Earth sword couldn't even scratch this grey-ish white rock material.

But she managed to just sink into it in a matter of seconds.

This is ——

Gu Qing Shan stood shaken for a bit before taking his swords to leave.

After walking at the bottom of the river for a bit.

The Earth sword suddenly spoke up.

It was a bit suspicious: 「 You gave away such precious things just like that? 」

The Chao Yin sword followed the Earth sword and also let out a questioning 'wu wu' sound.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "Since she has the presence of Huang Quan's Law, she must be a person of Huang Quan, and the killing intent I felt from her body must mean she just came back from a battlefield ——I wouldn't mistake it for anything else"

"If she recovers quickly, she might even become a good ally..."

But Gu Qing Shan stopped talking.

This was the first time we met each other.

Even if they are on the same side, there was no need for me to treat that girl so well.

What I said doesn't explain why I gave such precious treasures away so easily.

He stopped.

That's a good point, why did I do that?

Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms and started to think again: "Now that you say that, I also don't feel that's quite right"

"I'm not a skirt chaser, so why couldn't I help myself and help her immediately like that?" he carefully thought about this.

「 And you even gave everything she asked for ——so perhaps you like her? 」 the Earth sword suggested.

The Chao Yin sword vibrated to express agreement.

Gu Qing Shan slowly answered: "I don't like her in that way, and we've only just met, how would someone like someone else that much on a first meeting?"

He asked himself: "But then why would I do what I did?"

"No matter how beautiful or brilliant a girl is, I would still not act that way"

The Earth sword spoke with a heavy voice: 「 I'm very sure that you were not under the influence of Charm-type spells, so, in your human language, this would be called ——”

“Love at first sight?”

“No, more like thinking with your lower half”

Gu Qing Shan immediately refuted: “That’s not it. I definitely wasn’t thinking about any male-female relationships”

He then asked: “You were able to sense the Law of Huang Quan on her body, could you tell what she was?”

「 I'm not sure, the Forgetting River around interferes with my senses too much, I can only tell that she wasn't a demonic god 」 the Earth sword answered.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and silently thought for a while.

He abruptly spoke up: “It wasn’t a feeling of romance, it was something else”

「 Then what would that be? 」 the Earth sword asked.

“I can't quite put my finger on it right now, it's a kind of feeling I've always had for a very long time, that's why I didn't hesitate to help her”

「 If you want to take that approach, truthfully the items she wanted were quite strange as well 」 the Earth sword commented.

“That’s true, those three treasures aren’t usually used to heal, so she must have some other use for them” Gu Qing Shan also commented.

He continued: “But all three of these treasures have so many uses that I’m not really sure how she’ll use them”

One person and two swords stood at the bottom of the river, analyzing what happened as they slowly moved forward.

All of a sudden, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[The Hells that descended on the human realm have been made known of your actions, they are currently looking for your body]

[You have to find the method to resolve everything before they find your body]

[At a certain necessary point, you must return. Otherwise if your body is destroyed, you will have really died]

Gu Qing Shan tensed up.

“We’re speeding up”

He jumped up and started flying through the bottom of the Forgetting River like a river dragon.

Note:

(1) Shannu: Her name is written in the raws as Shan Nu, which literally translates to “mountain girl”.

(2) Gongzi: Shannu speaks in a Chinese maid-like fashion, in which her speech is usually very formal and

respectful towards anyone she isn't hostile to. Gongzi literally means "young master", but it's also used to refer to young men who the speaker respects, even if they aren't actually the young master of anything. If you've read Emperor Domination, this is what Li Qi Ye usually tells the girls he meets to refer to him as. In this case, Shannu meant the second meaning.

Incidentally, the Zishan young master's maids also refer to him as gongzi, but with the first meaning (obviously).

Chapter 386

Saving a Blade

TN: from this chapter onwards, the Six Paths of Reincarnation will be referred to as the Samsara. They are the exact same thing, but Samsara takes less work to type XD.

Gu Qing Shan hid at the bottom of the Forgetting River, moving ahead in full speed for about an hour.

For one hour straight, no creatures could be seen in the river.

After so long, he finally couldn't take it anymore.

Gu Qing Shan came up from the bottom of the Forgetting River, lightly hovering above the water.

This was already really far from the dark tunnel.

The sunset reflected on the water surface made everything appear faint, even the reflections of the sky above was blurry and chaotic.

When standing above the vast river without ends, all he could faintly see were a few tall mountains really far away.

In fact, it was a vast mountain range that connected the sky and the earth.

When Gu Qing Shan faced this direction, the mountain was all that he could see in his vision.

The mountain was like a wall that blocked out the sky.

"Seems like this is the way" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Sticking close to the surface of the water, he started flying towards the towering mountain range.

The old saying 'Looking at the mountain kills the horse' wasn't wrong, it took Gu Qing Shan a whole two hours of flying before he got close to the foot of the mountain. (1)

Then, Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Two lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[You've arrived at the Grand Tie Wei Mountain] (2)

[The Grand Tie Wei Mountain is hell itself, formed from the Law of Huang Quan and hells, this mountain protects the 6 worlds of Samsara]

Reading that, Gu Qing Shan's expression turned solemn.

So this was the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

The Grand Tie Wei Mountain was the outermost layer of the samsara.

In the story of legends, outside the Samsara, there exists a Wind of Chaotic Tribulation that destroys everything.

It was a type of power even more terrifying than the space vortex.

Once the Wind of Chaotic Tribulation gets into a world, it'll destroy both the world and everything that exists within it.

Before the Wind of Chaotic Tribulation, no creatures have any hope to survive, the world itself would also disappear.

And the Grand Tie Wei Mountain is the only thing that can stop this type of wind.

It was the grand mountain that protected the entirety of the Samsara.

The lower half of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain rested in the Forgetting River, where there are pathways leading deep into the endless underground.

The 18 hells of legends actually lie within these pathways below the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

This mountain shields the inside from the wind of destruction, while suppressing the 18 hells that rests below itself, an incredible mountain.

After stopping to stare at the Grand Tie Wei Mountain for a while, Gu Qing Shan started heading towards the foot of the mountain.

It can't be helped, since there was nothing inside the Forgetting River except the blue-dress maid from before.

He had no choice but to enter the mountain.

About another half hour of flying later, a faint sound of commotion could be heard from afar.

Gu Qing Shan tilted his ears to listen.

Screams, yells, the sound of metal hitting each other.

Immense killing intent that filled the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan was very close to the Grand Tie Wei Mountain at this point.

As Gu Qing Shan focused, he saw that there were countless demons and dead people on the mountain.

They were fighting among each other.

All sorts of demonic creatures, humans, giants, fiendkind as well as chaotic creatures.

They were killing each other in an all-out chaotic battle that didn't rest for even a single second.

Gu Qing Shan silently ducked down into the water and observed this without anyone's notice.

So the demons have taken over hell?

Doesn't seem like it.

Some of the dead were allied with the demons to kill the other deads.

The other deads were desperately fighting back, doing everything they can to kill the demons.

An abrupt sound of something ripping through the air caught Gu Qing Shan's attention.

This sound was like that of an extremely sharp knife cutting through the air.

Slightly sticking his head from the water, he looked at where the Blade was heading in the air.

At the foot of the mountain really close to the Forgetting River, innumerable demons and dead allied with each other to corner a group of dead that had barely over a hundred people left.

This group of just over a hundred dead were being pushed back towards the Forgetting River.

"Stop running you spineless cowards! Go back to your hell and sleep!" a Fiendkind roared.

It seems that the dead in hell only use their thoughts to communicate, so despite being from different Eras, the souls could understand each other.

The smaller group of dead were slowly being slaughter until there were no more of them.

The 10 remaining dead were protecting an armored dead human that carried a Blade in his hand.

Despite being overwhelmingly outnumbered, they still persevered and fought.

On this part of the mountain that was close to the foot, the demons and dead surrounded and wanted to put these resisting dead back to sleep.

But the dead human wasn't that easy to kill.

The Blade in his hand had unbelievable power.

Whenever he slashed with it, sharp chills would form blade slashes that flew forward.

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The demons and dead that took this attack head on couldn't survive, instantly slaughtered without offering any resistance at all.

But there were so many of them, whenever one of them died, another would quickly follow to fill the opening, and then some.

The demons were rushing in towards them nonstop to surround them.

Despite his might, the dead human could only temporarily ensure that the enemies couldn't get close to himself.

His men were quickly killed one by one, until he was the only one left.

"Die! Die! All of you die!"

The dead human screamed and roared, constantly moving his body to make sure his attacks had no opening to be taken advantage of.

But he was only a single person.

He was already staggering and even almost fell down a few times.

And when he does, the demons and the dead would spare no time to make sure he stays down.

The Earth sword hovered in the air, asking in a low voice: 「What now?」

“Let’s save him first” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Following his thought, the Earth sword flew out.

With its full weight of 86,370,000 tons, the Earth sword turned into a blinding crescent slash.

The slash was so large that it instantly cleared out a large area in an instant.

Any demons that tried to stop the Earth sword all got turned to mush.

Receiving such a chance, the dead human managed to catch his breath.

But since he was covered in wounds, this short moment of relief instead of helping him, caused him to collapse.

“Who are you!” he shouted as he looked over to Gu Qing Shan.

“The one who saves you” Gu Qing Shan answered.

His Blade suddenly rang loudly.

“I’m already done” the person threw the Blade upwards and shouted: “Save it!”

Only the Blade?

Gu Qing Shan jumped up, catching him and his Blade in midair before jumping back down into the Forgetting River.

The river split apart.

Gu Qing Shan took the dead human into the Forgetting River with him, weaving his way through.

As the demons got close to the Forgetting River, they didn’t dare to get in.

They know about its dangers.

If they fall into the Forgetting River, the only thing waiting for them will be suffering in hell or be reincarnated into another world.

The Laws of Huang Quan doesn’t give exceptions even to demons.

While roaring in regret, the demons could only stand at the river banks and watch.

“Get out of the way, we’ll do it!” a dead Fiendkind hissed as it pushed the demons aside.

The dead can enter Forgetting River.

They jumped into the river one after another, chasing after Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan swung the Chao Yin sword backwards.

The Forgetting River kicked up large waves that pushed the dead back to the river bank.

When the dead finally stood up and wanted to enter the Forgetting River, they found it already returned to its original state.

The person they were chasing was nowhere to be seen.

A few dozen miles away, the bottom of the Forgetting River.

The dead human laid on the ground, unmoving.

After a while, he slowly sunk into the ground and disappeared without a trace.

「 His wounds were too heavy, he's dead 」 the Earth sword spoke with an echoing voice.

“Yeah, I had hoped to get a bit of information from him” Gu Qing Shan said.

A dead person when killed will go back into slumber in hell, waiting for the next time they wake.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit frustrated.

He originally wanted to ask about what happened in Huang Quan before deciding his next actions.

Who would've thought the person would die so quickly.

While he was considering to catch a dead person, the Blade on the ground moved by itself.

“Hm?” Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes and held the Earth sword tight.

“Don't panic, we're on the same side”

The Blade spoke.

“Ah, how do you know I'm on the same side as you?” Gu Qing Shan stared straight at the Blade and asked.

He saw the Blade's power with his own eyes so he can't be careless.

“Your presence. You have her presence on you, so of course you're one of us” the Blade stood up and spoke.

A puff of white light slowly manifested at the hilt of the Blade.

It was a small, pure white bird.

The small white bird flew up and flew circles around Gu Qing Shan.

It spoke with relief: “I can finally catch my breath”

Note:

(1) Looking at the mountain kills the horse: a Chinese idiom, it means looking at a goal too far away without realizing it will end badly for you.

(2) Grand Tie Wei Mountain: Literally “great border mountain of steel”, the origins of which has been

explained above. The word reincarnation itself implies a never ending cycle, like a turning wheel, so the Samsara has always been represented as a wheel, in which the 6 sections inside are the worlds, or paths of reincarnation. For this reason, it's easier to think of the Grand Tie Wei mountain as a sort of tire for the wheel that protects the things inside.

Chapter 387

Reinforcements from the human realm

When Gu Qing Shan saw the small white bird, he quickly realized.

This was the Blade's weapon spirit.

As for the dead human from before ---

"No need to look, because I can't swing myself, I had to find a dead person to use me" the small white bird caught its breath and explained.

"Which means, the one that did the fighting was actually you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Correct, I am the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade"

"You said I have her presence on me, who is she?"

"Ah? You mean you didn't meet her? That can't be right, you really do have her presence on you" the small white bird was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "You mean the blue-dress maid-looking girl? I did meet her, I just don't know who she was"

"You don't know who she was... that's interesting, since she didn't tell you who she was, I can't arbitrarily tell you either"

The small white bird looked at Gu Qing Shan with considerable intrigue.

Gu Qing Shan didn't bother himself too much with such details.

If you don't want to say it then fine, there's more important things to make clear right now.

"This humble one is Gu Qing Shan, I came from the human realm, pardon me asking but which numbered machine are you?" he clasped his fist and asked.

The small white bird listened with a serious expression, then suddenly opened its eyes wide.

Apparently it couldn't believe he was asking such a thing.

The small white bird landed on the Blade's hilt, then pointed at the Blade with its claw: "Look clearly, I'm a Blade, not a machine"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

A Blade truly isn't a machine.

"Then does that mean asides from machines, there are other existences in Huang Quan?" he muttered.

“Of course the machines could handle normal management with more efficiency, but if something occurs in Huang Quan, they still need us to show up” the small white bird proudly said.

Gu Qing Shan asked further: “I want to ask you, just what exactly is the situation in Huang Quan?”

“About that, I don’t ——” the small white bird said.

Gu Qing Shan cut it off: “I know that you can’t say it, but at least tell me about where some of the important things happened, I’ll go there and take a look myself”

These creatures and things in Huang Quan keep refusing to tell me anything.

Gu Qing Shan was already tired of hearing that.

The small white bird hesitated.

“I’m here for the sake of the human realm, please lend a hand” Gu Qing Shan pursued.

The small white bird: “You came from the human realm? So you already met those machines?”

“In reality, only 4 of them made it to the human realm in one piece” Gu Qing Shan answered.

He then retold the situation of the machines that came.

The small white bird spoke excitedly: “That means, you really are reinforcement from the human realm?”

Reinforcement...

Reinforcement from the human realm...

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

Why does that sound so wrong?

I used to look forward to getting reinforcements from Huang Quan.

But now it has ended up that the weapons of Huang Quan are looking for reinforcements from the human realm...

Gu Qing Shan sighed and replied without much motivation: “That’s right, I guess I am”

The small white bird spoke: “How can I help you then?”

“I need to know what exactly happened in Huang Quan” Gu Qing Shan replied curtly.

The small white bird stayed silent for a while with a complicated expression before telling him: “Actually, that terrifying thing that happened, well it happened suddenly, and at the time ——”

“Yes?”

“I was sleeping”

“...”

Seeing Gu Qing Shan’s indescribable expression as he heard that, the small white bird hurriedly explained: “Since the 88 machines are there, the management of Huang Quan was always neat and

orderly, it's been a very long time since they needed such an ancient weapon like me”
It spreads its wings and tapped its head: “So I was kinda a bit too relaxed... a...ha ha..”

Which means, the bird doesn't actually know what happened.

“Then what about how you and the dead person cooperated?”

“Ah, that only happened 2 days ago, I can tell you that”

“Then please”

“When the crisis came to Huang Quan, the dead people of hells were split into two factions, one of them supported joining hands with the demons to thoroughly destroy Huang Quan and escape from the suffering of hell”

“The other faction wanted to fight against the demons, hoping to save Huang Quan and use the Merit from that to atone for their sins and reincarnate quicker”

The small white bird added: “As a weapon of Huang Quan, of course I support the latter faction and fought together with them”

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Gu Qing Shan nodded.

If that's the case, the chaotic situation from before can be explained.

Just now, he had to hide in the water for a very long time to catch that perfect moment to save the dead person.

This was basic caution.

Dead people can revive in hell after a long sleep, but Gu Qing Shan can't do the same.

And during his wait earlier, Gu Qing Shan could faintly feel an immensely strong pressure of a Demon Lord deep within the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

The Grand Tie Wei Mountain has already fallen into the demon's hands.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: “Is there no one that cares about hell? What about the Divinities of Huang Quan? Did they all die?”

The small white bird answered: “I'm not so sure, since there were already no more Divinities in Huang Quan when I woke up”

“And you don't know where they could've went?”

“I'm sorry, after the industrial revolution, it's been a really long time since I last came out. It wasn't only a few days ago that I felt the world crisis coming and suddenly woke up”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan sighed.

I only just got to Huang Quan with no directions to go on and no concept of what is right and wrong.

The most important thing to do right now is to collect intelligence.

Only when I know exactly what happened that I can plan and use force appropriately.

He asked further: "So you don't know anything, but there should always be someone who does — does anyone come to mind that would know?"

The small white bird instantly replied: "I guess the Divine Armaments would be able to sense the world crisis before I did, so they definitely know"

"Who?"

"One of the three Divine Armaments, Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook, it had never gone to sleep and was still recording the deeds of all dead souls"

"Really?"

Gu Qing Shan was now a bit hesitant to believe this bird.

The small white bird guaranteed it: "Yes, it knows the most out of everyone, nothing in Huang Quan is able to escape its watchful eyes"

"Can you take me to find it?"

"You just saved me, plus you have that person's presence on you, so of course I can"

The small white bird flapped its wings and flew into the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade.

The Blade spun around twice in mid air before pointing at a direction.

"That way!"

"Very well, let's go find it now"

"Wait a minute!" the Blade stopped Gu Qing Shan.

"What is it?"

"I have to tell you this first, the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook is a weapon of Divinity, without its permission, you definitely cannot touch it. Otherwise you will die immediately"

"Understood, I'll be careful"

"Let's go"

The Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade brought Gu Qing Shan flying through the bottom of the Forgetting River.

Gu Qing Shan checked his remaining Soul Points.

Since the Chao Yin sword is constantly using Soul Points ever since a while ago to control the Forgetting River water, his 1000-odd Soul Points were steadily being eaten through.

I'll have to move fast.

...

The Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

A secluded spot at the foot of the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan came out from the Forgetting River, landing on shore.

There were no sun in the sky, as well as no moon or stars.

But there was a faint light that came from above, illuminating his surroundings in a lonely hue.

This was the Huang Quan world's night.

A dignified Buddhist shrine stood in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The entire shrine seemed to be deserted as it was deathly calm and silent.

"It's here"

The small white bird came out of the Blade and spoke as it landed on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

"What is this place?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"This is the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook's shrine of worship, its weapon spirit summoning contract is inside"

"Weapon spirit summoning contract?"

"Yeah. The Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook is a manifestation of Huang Quan's Law, so only a Divinity of Huang Quan can hold it in their hands, it won't arbitrarily show up just anywhere"

"If any creatures besides Divinities wanted to contact it, they have to use the weapon spirit summoning contract to call it out"

"Got it" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Chapter 388

The Samsara worlds

Gu Qing Shan arrived at the shore with the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade.

He carefully crouched down behind a large rock, observing the surrounding situation.

This place was still a bit of a distance away from the Divine Armament worshipping shrine.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly remembered something.

This place is the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

He stared down at the ground.

I'm standing on that legendary mountain right now.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help himself and tried to stab the ground with the Earth sword.

A spark came out, but it left no marks otherwise.

The small white bird asked: "What are you doing? This is the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, no force or power could do anything to it"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the greenish brown rocks at his feet and couldn't help but ask: "Why is the rock here exactly the same as the bottom of the Forgetting River?"

"The bottom of the Forgetting River is also part of this mountain" the small white bird answered as a matter-of-fact.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked at first, then he realized.

"You mean the Forgetting River flows inside the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, and Huang Quan itself is formed from the Grand Tie Wei Mountain?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"That is correct. Nothing can ever shake the Grand Mountain, not even the wind of chaotic tribulation outside could leave a dent on the Grand Mountain!" the small white bird proudly boasted.

Gu Qing Shan was incredibly shaken.

Who would've thought that the entire Huang Quan world was actually just part of a mountain.

This great mountain silently stood on top of Huang Quan, blocking the winds of chaotic tribulation for the 6 worlds of samsara.

"Alright, I understand that now, but why did weapons like you go to sleep?"

The small white bird explained: "For the last 1000 years, Huang Quan had entered the age of the industrial revolution, and since the appearance of the 88 automatic machines, everything slowly went into order. That's why many of the ancient weapons that used to run the place slowly disappeared"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Where did you go to?"

"Our bodies reside at this shrine, but our spirits entered a 'retirement mode' sort of state"

"Only when we receive a summons, or feel a crisis looming over the world will we reawaken to solve the situation"

"That is to say, very few people come to this shrine of worship?" Gu Qing Shan stared at the shrine.

"That's right, let's go" the small white bird flapped its wings wanted to go.

"Yes, but wait for a bit"

Gu Qing Shan laid still on the shore.

He was almost directly next to the Forgetting River, so as long as he wanted to, he could quickly jump back in to hide.

"I refuse to believe that such a crucial location would be disregarded by the demons" he muttered.

Gu Qing Shan kept staring at the Divine Armament shrine of worship, his expression became more and more grim as time passed.

Although that place was silent, he could still feel a muted hazy presence that loomed about.

On the ground surrounding the shrine, some sort of ash was scattered about, perhaps swept here by the wind.

“I’ve met quite a few demons the past few days, they mostly only know how to destroy and kill, don’t they?” the small white bird said.

“Those are only imps and demon beasts at best, not true demons, true demons are smart and terrifying monsters” Gu Qing Shan dismissed its thought.

His mind moved, summoning the Chao Yin sword from the void of space hovering next to him.

The tip of the sword silently shifted, pointing at the shrine of worship.

“Go” Gu Qing Shan silently shouted.

Oong!

Turning into an afterimage, the Chao Yin sword flew past the hill.

The sword circled around the shrine once before moving really far away and out of sight.

Two breaths later.

A distortion appeared above the shrine.

This distortion quickly writhed and expanded, but after it found nothing strange, it slowly disappeared again.

“What was that?” the small white bird asked.

Gu Qing Shan scowled: “Imps don’t have such a method of hiding, I’m guessing it has to be a high-leveled demon”

“Are we going to catch it?”

Gu Qing Shan carefully refused: “No, the demons’ abilities are varied and mysterious, since we don’t know for sure how many demons are hiding in the shrine, it’s better to back off first”

About 10 minutes later.

At another silent place on the side of the mountain.

The small white bird angrily complained: “The demons are taking over the Grand Mountain, it’s hard to even find a place to hide!”

Gu Qing Shan spoke: “How about I find some way to lure the demons away while you go in and wake the Divine Armament?”

“I can’t, weapon spirits cannot use the summoning contract, you have to do it”

Saying so, the small white bird flew back into the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade.

A pale red light came from the Blade and was absorbed into the ground below.

“What are you doing?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

“Summoning a few powerful dead people to help us” the Blade answered.

A few moments later.

A great grey wolf swam here from the river.

This grey wolf appeared to be about 5-person tall, extremely intimidating.

The grey wolf looked at the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade and asked in human language: "What do you need?"

"Wolf King, reinforcement from the human world want to enter the shrine, so I called you here to help" the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade answered.

The Wolf King evaluated Gu Qing Shan for a bit but said nothing.

A few moments later, more dead people came out from the Forgetting River.

"Where did you come from?" Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice.

"The entrance to hell is below the mountain in the river, they came here from hell" the Blade answered.

Including Wolf King, 2 Giants, 1 Fiendkind and three humans stood across from Gu Qing Shan and the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade.

The Giants were bound with broken heavy chains, their faces were grim and dreadful, but their eyes appeared calm.

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The Fiendkind was wrapped in a sharp golden colored light, obscuring its figure.

The humans were two male and one female.

The seven dead people stared directly at Gu Qing Shan without moving their gaze.

After a bit, they huddled together to silently discuss something.

"Seems like they're quite the characters" Gu Qing Shan commented.

The small white bird came out from the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade again and spoke: "After Divinities were gone, the 18 layers of hell were taken over and led by the strongest dead of each hell, and these seven are such leaders"

"They are part of the faction that wanted to save Huang Quan, using the Merit from that to atone for their sins?"

"Correct"

"18 leaders... which means the other 11 leaders all decided to join forces with the demons to destroy hell?"

The small white bird sighed: "Yes, the demon themselves were already powerful, but with the 11 leaders joining their side, hell itself is now full of danger"

At this point, the 7 leaders finished their discussion.

The old human man came forward to greet Gu Qing Shan.

“Greeting, compatriot” he said.

“Compatriot?” Gu Qing Shan repeated.

“That’s right, after all, I’m the only human out of the 7 leaders of hell, so it’ll be easier for me to speak as a representative” the old man explained.

Gu Qing Shan moved his gaze from him to glance at the human man and woman from before.

The old man swung his hand dismissively: “Don’t look, they are Asura, not people of our world”

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

The man was masculine and buff, but his face seemed cruel and terrifying, a normal person would be scared stiff just by being looked at.

The woman appeared graceful and beautiful, a one-in-million beauty.

Who would’ve thought the legends were actually true, Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

In the old legends of humanity, Asura males were quite normal-looking, but their females were all stunning unparalleled beauties.

The world of Asura was rumored always be full of charming women.

This caused jealousy and greed from the Heaven world, thus sparked frequent invasive wars between the Heaven world and the Asura world.

From what he had seen today, this legend wasn’t just groundless rumor.

It turns out that the Huang Quan realm of the Samsara doesn’t only take in the dead people of the human realm.

“Ah, so there also exists the Hungry Ghost realm, the Heaven realm, the Asura realm and the Animal realm” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

As he said so, he noticed Wolf King’s ears perked up.

“Kiddo, you can’t say that, Animal realm isn’t easy on the ears, we all call it the Beast King realm here” the human old man hurriedly said. (1)

“Alright, Beast King realm” Gu Qing Shan quickly admitted his mistake.

The old man then calmed down.

He explained to Gu Qing Shan: “The gods of the Heaven realm would of course not stay too long in Huang Quan, the ghosts of the Hungry Ghost realm all support the destruction of hell —in fact they’re the cruelest creatures in the Samsara, it’s more accurate to call them the Demon realm”

“Wolf King comes from the Beast King realm, the Giant, Fiendkind and I are all from the human realm, the man and woman there are from the Asura world”

“Now that we’ve introduced ourselves, it’s time for you to also introduce yourself”

The 7 leaders looked at Gu Qing Shan.

“This humble one is Gu Qing Shan, a human sword cultivator” Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist.

The old man nodded: “Gu Qing Shan, I’ll keep it brief, currently the situation in hell is very dire, although the Hellspawn Blade summoned us, we still need to confirm that you are qualified to participate in such an important matter, otherwise, everyone including myself will not waste our time for you”

“That’s understandable”

“You are a human, so you cannot revive or regenerate in hell like we do, and out of respect for the Hellspawn Blade, we’ll do our best not to hurt you ——show us your capabilities” the old man said.

He then continued in a small voice: “That group over there are prideful to the max, enough that they refuse to talk to you. So as a fellow human, I can only suggest that you show us the best that you have”

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

“Earth sword”

「 Here 」

“You’re up”

「 Very well 」

The Earth sword replied and appeared from the void of space.

It flew towards the leaders of the dead and hovered in place.

The leaders exchanged looks, not knowing what the human wants to do.

“If one of you manage to move my sword, I’ll leave right away and won’t bother you again” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

When the two Asura heard that, they were very interested.

The Asura are belligerent by nature.

They are willing to participate in any type of competition or bet.

The male Asura came up first.

The Earth sword stayed still.

Unconvinced, the male Asura chanted something before using all his strength to pull on the Earth sword.

The Earth sword stayed still.

“Don’t ——look ——down ——on ——people” one of the Giants spoke with a thunderous voice.

He pushed the male Asura away, grabbing the Earth sword and began to use force.

“Hooooooooohhh!”

The Giant roared with a blunt tone.

The Earth sword stayed still.

The Giant suddenly took out a large stone hammer from somewhere and swung it.

“Goohhh!” the Giant angrily roared.

Sweeping an intense wind current with it, the stone hammer smashed into the Earth sword.

Bam!

The Giant was knocked into the air, its stone hammer broken into chunks that fell down on the ground.

The Earth sword still didn't move a single bit.

Note:

(1) Animal realm: the original word in Chinese is “畜生”, which is usually used as a derogatory term, implying “born to be slaughtered” and “lesser than human”, which all beasts are implied to be, which is why they changed it to Beast King realm instead.

Chapter 389

Forced summon

The 86,370,000 tons Earth sword had a Spirit Thaumaturgy: [I am heavy]

Only the one that the Earth sword recognizes will be allowed to hold it.

And naturally, these dead people weren't recognized.

Not only that, Gu Qing Shan was also using a certain technique from the Kai Shan sword style on the Earth sword.

Kai Shan Sword Style, Heavy Stance.

The Earth sword's weight combined with the technique of a sword saint made the sword twice as heavy, so none of the dead could move it even a little bit.

All the leaders continued trying for the next short while, but none managed to even budge the Earth sword much less lifting it.

The male Asura now went back to the female Asura and obediently knelt in front of her.

He was explaining something.

The female Asura's gaze shifted, a hint of excitement flashed through her alluring eyes.

“Fool!” she scolded.

The male Asura lowered his head, dejected.

The female Asura turned to Gu Qing Shan and spoke: “Human, your weapon is truly powerful, but we want to know your own strength”

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

“I’ll ask the Hellspawn Blade to aid my attack, if you manage to block three hits from me, I’ll admit that you’re qualified to participate in this matter of hell” the female Asura told him.

The small white bird looked at Gu Qing Shan.

“Go” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

Following his thought, the Chao Yin sword appeared from the void of space.

The Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade then flew into the female Asura’s hand.

The female Asura grabbed the Blade, formed a hand seal and roared: “Scatter!”

Five orbs of water manifested around her.

The orbs quickly formed into humanoid shapes and then turned into her.

In front of everyone, there were six identical beauties.

The beauties raised their Blades.

All six of them looked at Gu Qing Shan and spoke at the same time: “”It’s not too late for you to beg for forgiveness””

Seeing that, the Male Asura was visibly full of admiration.

This was a very hard Secret Art to learn, requiring masterful usage of a Water-element Secret Art as well as a Blade Secret Art at the same time.

———Asura, Rahu Secret Art, Aqua Body.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “What a rare technique, please!”

The six beauties nodded at the same time, moved their bodies and rushed towards Gu Qing Shan.

The Blades gleamed for an instant.

Clang clang clang clang clang clang!

Gu Qing Shan swung the Chao Yin sword to intercept their attacks.

Every single one of the female Asura’s attacks were blocked.

In the blink of an eye, the promised three attacks were over.

“Great swordsmanship!”

The female Asura yelled out.

She was visibly excited and wasn’t at all willing to stop her attacks, instead continued to split herself into more afterimages as she surrounded to attack Gu Qing Shan.

Like shadows and light, the Blades came at Gu Qing Shan from all sides.

There were even times when Gu Qing Shan was only a hair's breadth from being hit.

"Exhilarating!" the female Asura smiled so brightly she revealed her dimples.

In a single moment, over ten gorgeous women surrounded Gu Qing Shan, constantly showering him with Blade slashes as intense as the flow of the Forgetting River.

While standing in place, Gu Qing Shan blocked and attacked with only a single sword, but nothing managed to hit him.

After a few hundred more attacks, the female Asura was finally satisfied and stopped her hands.

"You're a strange one" she commented.

"How so?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I've met quite a few humans in hell, according to what I've seen of them, the human realm shouldn't have someone as strong as you"

"There are exceptions sometimes" Gu Qing Shan answered.

He had already seen through her strength.

According to the standard in the cultivation world, this girl was about equivalent to an Ascended realm early stage cultivator.

The Asura in legends were belligerent, this female Asura had to be quite a decent fighter within the ranks of the dead.

Despite being so powerful, the female Asura didn't hold any killing intent in the exchange of blows just now, she really was just evaluating him.

Since Gu Qing Shan didn't mind that, he entertained her and held back as well.

In fact, through that exchange, he instead got an estimation of the power level of a leader in hell.

The human old man silently gave him a thumbs up.

The other dead exchanged glances and silently nodded.

They briefly discussed a bit.

"Now you can join us against the other hells"

It was now that Wolf King finally spoke directly to Gu Qing Shan for the first time.

"Thank you, I need to go meet the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook to find out the truth of what happened" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

"What's good is there to know about the truth, since things have already gotten this bad, it's better to just kill ——" Wolf King couldn't help but speak up.

The ground started to shake.

The Grand Tie Wei Mountain itself was shaking.

This mountain that could withstand the all-destroying winds of chaotic tribulation was now letting out rumbling noises.

“Not good, this feeling ——it’s summoning!” the human old man’s expression changed.

“Something is calling us” Wolf King growled.

“I ——feel ——must ——go” the Giant spoke in a thunderous voice.

“No! We’re going to help him first!” the female Asura decidedly spoke up.

The other leaders looked surprised.

“Whoever I fight, I’m able to sense their strength, this is my ability, or did you forget?” the female Asura solemnly spoke.

Obviously, the female Asura was quite respected, so the leaders quickly followed her idea.

“Then let’s make this quick!” the Fiendkind spoke.

He turned into a ball of light, flying into the air directly towards the Divine Armament shrine of worship.

The Giant quickly followed.

Because Gu Qing Shan purposefully went far away from the shrine earlier, they were now a bit of a distance from the shrine.

“Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! We’ll be force summoned back to hell in just a few moments” the human old man said.

He also flew up towards the shrine.

The rest of the leaders of hell flew together.

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Gu Qing Shan shouted: “What happened just now?”

“I don’t know, I really don’t know!” the small white bird hurriedly answered.

“We’re chasing after them, quickly!” Gu Qing Shan said as he went.

Halfway there, he heard the Giant’s screams coming from the direction of the shrine.

As he went over the hell, Gu Qing Shan froze in place, muttering: “Soul Devouring Spider Demon...”

A battle was currently commencing in front of the shrine.

One of the Giants was now turned into an ashen white statue that quickly collapsed to dust.

The other Giant was sent flying far away.

The Fiendkind hovered in midair, constantly firing his Elemental powers at the shrine.

But these attacks were quickly scattered in their flight and couldn’t even make it to the shrine.

A 5-colored striped spider sat on top of the shrine, its size was about equal to the shrine itself.

On top of the spider was the naked upper half of a man.

This was the Soul Devouring Arachna, a renowned species even within the ranks of demons.

In the past life, he met this demonic creature once.

This type of demon had an eerie unique ability.

It hunts with its inner sight.

As soon as a creature's inner sight gets entangled with it, they'll be forced into a blank state of mind.

This ability was exceptionally frightening in large-scale wars.

The appearance of a single Soul Devouring Arachna could turn an even battle into a one-sided slaughter.

And it's not even easy to assassinate individually.

It's own powers are equivalent to that of a Remodeled Demon Lord.

The Soul Devouring Arachna's vertical irises opened wide, smirking: "A bunch of dead that doesn't want to sleep and come to bother me? What a——"

Slash!

Dozens of Blade slashes struck him directly on the face, cutting off his words.

"An Asura? Damn you!"

The Arachna became angry as the eight spider legs quickly crawled down from the top of the shrine.

He started to chase the leaders of hell.

Then Wolf King Suddenly howled and morphed his body to as big as the Soul Devouring Arachna.

He crashed straight at the Soul Devouring Arachna to push him back a few steps.

"Run!" Wolf King roared.

All the leaders of hell quickly scattered and ran.

"You fucking pieces of shit!"

The Soul Devouring Arachna roared in anger.

Slightly lowering his spider legs, the Soul Devouring Arachna jumped to give chase.

Despite his size, he was surprisingly fast on his feet.

The leaders of hell ran ahead while the Soul Devouring Arachna chased behind, quickly moving away from the shrine.

The male Asura suddenly appeared in front of the shrine, gesturing to Gu Qing Shan.

“Get in quickly!” he yelled.

Gu Qing Shan’s body disappeared and reappeared in front of the shrine in an instant.

The human old man also came out of the shrine, saying: “There are no demons inside, you go in, we’ll keep watch!”

“What if the Arachna returns?” Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked.

“We’re going to buy time for you and help you escape”

Gu Qing Shan was moved: “But then you all might —”

“It’s only a nap, nothing to worry about, dead people can’t die again” the old man waved his hand dismissively.

Thinking that was indeed the case, Gu Qing Shan nodded to the two of them and quickly went inside the shrine.

The shrine remained as silent as before, like no one has come here for over a thousand years.

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes quickly scanned across the shrine.

There were many pedestals for worship here.

Each of them housed a different ancient weapon.

Blade, spear, sword, halberd, hammer, axe, hook, javelin, whip, shovel, fan, mace, flail, staff, pike, morning star... all common cold weapons from an age passed, a total of 60 of them.

These weapons didn’t move, and didn’t manifest any spirits, seemingly sleeping.

Gu Qing Shan quickly found his target.

It laid at the very center of the shrine.

Standing tall on a pedestal of worship was a unique weapon.

From the blade and hilt alone, it looked like a normal sword.

But at the top part of the blade, the shaft curved to form an inward-facing hook, a Khopesh.

It hovered above the pedestal, glowing in a light similar to that of the Forgetting River.

Gu Qing Shan landed in front of the khopesh’s pedestal.

Before he did anything, a light-blue presence came out from his body and lightly touched the pedestal.

As soon as the pedestal felt this blue presence, an incantation appeared on it.

This seems to be the weapon spirit summoning contract.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised at this.

Originally he thought it would take quite a bit more effort, who knew the blue-dress girl's presence would have such an effect.

He looked at the incantation on the pedestal and softly chanted: "Separate the soul, takes a life, the Forgetting River at your service"

Oong!

With a quiet noise, the khopesh on the pedestal moved.

It became animated.

It spoke: "Ah? This seems to be her presence"

The khopesh flew down from the pedestal and hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit unconvinced.

This Divine Armament had also been sleeping, will it really know what happened to Huang Quan?

The Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook temporarily stayed silent, seemingly trying to confirm something.

After a while, the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook spoke: "That's right, you really do have her presence that she willingly gave, seems like we're on the same side"

The khopesh's attitude became less distant.

Roar!

A thunderous roar came from outside the shrine.

Gu Qing Shan's felt pressured.

The Soul Devouring Arachna is about to return.

Seems like either those leaders of hell couldn't resist it for too long, or they really were forcefully being summoned back to hell by something.

The Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook instantly spoke: "This is no place for us to talk, let's go quickly!"

Chapter 390

Battle of Divinities and demons

The Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook flew down and into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

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

[The Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook, Huang Quan Path's Divine Armament, specialized for Divinity]

[All of this Divine Armament's statistics are unknown, you cannot learn its information unless it willingly accepts you as its master]

Gu Qing Shan didn't pay much attention to that and turned around, activating [Ground Shrink]

He appeared outside the shrine.

An eerie inner sight came scanning over him.

— — — in the human realm, no other people knew how to use inner sight so Gu Qing Shan could let it loose as he liked.

But here, the Soul Devouring Arachna's expertise with inner sight was so great that it had already surpassed the cultivation world's understanding.

Noticing this inner sight, Gu Qing Shan carefully retracted his own.

He kept it hidden inside his body to avoid it touching the inner sight.

"I'll hold it off!" the male Asura yelled and jumped out.

"Leave now!" the human old man also shouted as he flew towards the Arachna.

Halfway there, they abruptly disappeared.

The Soul Devouring Arachna laughed: "You troublesome dead are finally going to be dealt with once and for all"

His vertical iris fell on Gu Qing Shan, then on the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook in his hand.

"Seems like you're that insect who came from the human realm. You dared to enter the Divine Armament worshipping shrine, I wonder if I should call you smart, or naïve?"

His bulky body slightly bent downward before turning into an afterimage.

With intense wind pressure, the Soul Devouring Arachna screamed and jumped at Gu Qing Shan.

What speed!

Gu Qing Shan silently muttered.

"I'll hold him off!" the small white bird yelled out.

"No need"

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade with his other hand and instantly activated [Ground Shrink]

This isn't the time to fight, I need to find out the truth first!

Just as the Soul Devouring Arachna appeared at the entrance of the shrine, Gu Qing Shan disappeared and reappeared at the river bank of the Forgetting River.

He dived straight into the Forgetting River.

The river opened up to welcome him.

The water then closed off behind him.

A second later, a furious roar came from the river bank.

The Soul Devouring Arachna already reacted as quickly as possible to arrive at the Forgetting River bank.

Leaning forward while standing at the bank, it wanted to see where Gu Qing Shan went.

Just a bit more and I would've caught him!

Such a sly human.

He clearly had the presence of a cultivator, but why did he not use inner sight?

The Arachna paced back and forth at the bank, but didn't dare to enter the Forgetting River.

The Forgetting River was the most powerful Law of Huang Quan, representing the border between life and death.

This was the origin Law of the Huang Quan Path itself.

Even demons couldn't go against this great river.

Bringing the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook and Bone-rending Hellspawn Blade with him, Gu Qing Shan already went far away in the blink of an eye.

After flying at the bottom of the river for long enough, he stopped.

"Nice to meet you, I am Gu Qing Shan" he introduced himself to the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook.

"There's no need to say anything, I know, including the cause and reasons of why you came here, I know all of it" the khopesh said.

"I am the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook, all creatures dead or alive, all information comes to me at all times"

"I even know everything that happened since you came to Huang Quan, and what you want to ask"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and was finally able to relax.

——finally something in Huang Quan that I can talk to normally.

"If you will, please manifest to meet me just once" Gu Qing Shan requested.

"You mean my spirit? I'm already here, only invisible"

A faint light came out from the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook's body.

"In the world of Huang Quan, wherever there's light, I am there" it explained.

That really is powerful, Gu Qing Shan silently praised it.

"Then can you tell me what happened in Huang Quan?" he asked.

"Of course, use your inner sight to communicate with me, I will show you what happened just a few days ago"

"Thank you"

Gu Qing Shan infused the Forgetting River Soul Separation Hook with his inner sight.

A few moments later, a fine layer of cold sweat formed and every hair on his body stood up.

Endless cries of pain suddenly rushed to his mind.

A scene slowly unfolded.

Above the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, clusters of brilliant light hovered.

Occasionally, a 7-colored light would suddenly be shot and collide with the clusters of light.

At this very moment, two of them were hit.

The cluster of light crashed onto the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, revealing the main bodies inside before turning to ash.

Gu Qing Shan forced his eyes open to see their majestic figures as the brilliant light around their bodies went away.

They were the Divinities of Huang Quan.

Their expressions showed clearly, extreme pain before they thoroughly died.

At another far corner of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

A ludicrous amount of demons crawled all over the mountain, silently waiting for the Divinities to arrive.

Between the Divinity and the demons, there was only the barren mountainside.

A single Demon Lord climbed up the mountain.

As it moved towards the Huang Quan Divinities, no creature on either side dared to get close to it.

Roar!

With each step forward, the Demon Lord roared desperately.

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The Demon Lord was holding a spear.

As Gu Qing Shan observed the spear, his expression turned grim.

This was a gigantic spear, so large that the Demon Lord had to use both hands just to hold it up.

From the Demon Lord's expression, not only was this spear heavy, it also carried a strange power.

The spear was constantly releasing a 7-colored light that illuminated the space around it.

But the Demon Lord was roaring in pain.

Gu Qing Shan looked closer.

Although the light it let out was blinding, the body of the spear itself was very easy to see.

Countless obscure and intricate runes were scribed on the shaft of the spear, letting out an air of absolute domination.

As if it was natural that anything and everything should kneel before this spear.

A shining gold talisman was stuck on the shaft of the spear.

The talisman was also letting out a golden glow of its own, neatly covering the spear.

Even the 7-colored light from the spear was being held back by this golden glow, only occasionally would there be a streak of light that escaped and struck the Divinities on the mountain.

Any Divinity that was hit would instantly die.

As Gu Qing Shan watched the scene unfold, his mind quickly moved.

From his experience and knowledge of his two lives combined, this spear doesn't seem to be a weapon of the demon's.

The Demon Lord couldn't move forward for too long.

Some of the Divinities on the Grand Tie Wei Mountain tried jumping out to attack the Demon Lord.

The Demon Lord quickly reacted and peeled the golden talisman from the spear.

In an instant, the released 7-colored lights scattered all around.

Before these streaks of light, none of the Divinities managed to resist at all and dropped like flies.

The demon army behind also lost a few ten thousand troops.

Even the Demon Lord that was carrying the 7-colored spear fell down.

Pieces of flesh rotted off and fell down from its body.

By simply peeling the golden talisman off, the Demon Lord that used the spear was already unable to take it.

Its entire body was collapsing.

Gu Qing Shan's expression warped!

Simply peeling off the golden talisman slaughtered both the Divinity and demonic god, as well as creating a casualty of a few ten thousand demons that happened to be caught in range.

This was terrifying.

A few large Demon Lords rushed out from the horde of demons.

On the way, a few Demon Lords were shot at and killed instantly by the 7-colored light.

Only the very last Demon Lord luckily escaped death.

When it finally reached, it hurriedly placed the golden talisman back onto the 7-colored spear.

Just as quickly as they came, scattering 7-colored light disappeared again.

It was once more tightly wrapped with the golden talisman.

The new Demon Lord picked up the 7-colored light again and kept moving towards the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

Behind it, the original Demon Lord that was carrying the spear collapsed, turning into a river of blood that flowed towards the Forgetting River.

After 'using' the spear a single time, a Demon Lord died.

The new Demon Lord carried the spear forward another two steps.

The Divinities on the mountain created a white light that filled the sky.

The white light shot at the Demon Lord.

The Demon Lord immediately peeled the golden talisman off and aimed it at the white light.

Chiiiiii!

Sharp 7-colored streaks of light erupted from the spear again.

The white light was destroyed.

On the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, every Divinity that faced the spear head on died one after another.

Which was then followed by the death of the Demon Lord that used the spear.

Far away behind the Demon Lord, a few ten thousand more demons were unfortunately struck and killed by the 7-colored streaks of light that came.

Blood flowed like a river!

Gu Qing Shan exclaimed: "Indiscriminate attacks!"

Just as the Demon Lord fell down, a few more came running out.

One Demon Lord managed to grab the golden talisman, stuck it to the spear and kept moving forward with it.

The Demon Lord that fell was now already dead.

Gu Qing Shan frowned.

This was too far out of his imagination.

Attacking without discriminating friend and foe, capable of killing demons and gods from a distance. What kind of weapon is this!!

The Demon Lords kept moving towards the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

This time, no Divinities tried attacking it.

But as it walked, its steps started to waver.

Not too long after, it knelt down.

Despite being held back by the golden talisman, this 7-colored spear still managed to kill the Demon Lord slowly but surely.

What unbelievable power!

A Demon Lord with overwhelming power exuding from its body came forward.

This Demon Lord took the spear and kept heading towards the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

The Demon Lord that knelt on the ground quickly died.

The Divinities were now retreating towards the higher end of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

But only more and more Demon Lords came forward, replacing the last Demon Lord that fell down and kept on pursuing.

After over a hundred Demon Lords had died, the Divinities finally had nowhere left to run.

Paying such a heavy price, it was finally time for the demons to reap their harvest.