

Apocalypse 431

Chapter 431

"If it's as you said, this world is already deep in despair" Gu Qing Shan said.

"That is indeed the case" Wan Er smiled.

But Gu Qing Shan's expression was now a bit tense.

"Despair... will drive people wild"

After saying so, he lightly stood up from the cushion.

The two women were a bit shocked as they went into thought of what he said.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "If it's already normal hour, can we go to Guang Yang sect now?"

"Young master, we should leave now" Qing Rou answered.

"Let's go then"

The two women also stood up and gathered everything.

Wan Er let out an airship.

This was a small droplet-shaped airship whose speed can be estimated to be very great.

But the space inside the airship was exceedingly cramped.

Together with the three girls, Gu Qing Shan had no idea where to put his hands at all, making it very awkward.

Finally, he could only stand straight up, but still had nowhere to put his hands, otherwise he'll touch them as soon as he let his hands down.

"There really is no need to make an airship this small" he complained.

"Young master, this is the highest level of airship, the only kind capable of escaping from the realm demon's unconscious offshoots" Wan Er explained.

"We already saw the unconscious offshoots just now, so what about the conscious offshoots?" Shannu asked curiously.

"No one could see the conscious offshoots—— they are too fast, no airship could escape from them, their appearance almost always mean death" Wan Er shook her head.

At this time, Qing Rou had a very serious expression on her face.

"Keep in mind that you are a womanizer, young master. You cannot act shy or nervous in front of us, otherwise you'll be found out immediately when seen by someone" Qing Rou told him.

Gu Qing Shan spoke in annoyance: "I get it"

He still doesn't know where to put his hands.

Qing Rou grabbed one of his arms, speaking very seriously: "I know you are not Qi Yan, and I know you respect us a lot, so for the sake of both our survivals, you have to act a bit more natural"

Wan Er grabbed his other arm, nodding half-seriously, half-encouragingly.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, asking: "Do I look that unnatural?"

"Truthfully, you look like an alert little bunny, always ready to flee" Wan Er answered.

"...Fine"

"Gongzi, look below" Shannu called out.

Gu Qing Shan poked his head out to look below the airship.

There was no ground under the sky.

Mud and dirt, mountains, rivers, plains, such things that grow and thrive from the grace of the earth are crucial, unmissable pieces of every world.

But this world doesn't have such things.

The ground itself was replaced by a dark-red blob of flesh.

Numerous thin, string-like things were protruding from the dark-red blob of flesh.

It was shifting constantly, layered on top of one another, writhing without stopping.

Even when Gu Qing Shan looked further away, he couldn't see anything else, the blob of flesh reached all the way towards the horizon.

This was the realm demon's main body.

They have to avoid getting close — according to the information he received, its main body was also its strongest part.

A Cryptic realm cultivator can fend off its unconscious offshoots, possibly even its conscious offshoots.

But when the realm demon's main body arrives, even a Cryptic realm cultivator can only run for their life.

And they might not even be able to get away.

Although he had already known that the demon has such a gigantic body, Gu Qing Shan still couldn't help himself being frightened by it the first time he saw with his own eyes.

"How is it so large, could it be..." he muttered.

According to the two women's information, the realm demon had already consumed the sun, moons and all celestial bodies within the world's vicinity over the last few thousand years.

And now it was eating away at the surface of the world.

The surface of the Suspended world was formed from countless worlds fused together, so it contained a lot of Origin power.

Once the realm demon finished eating, this world would finally collapse and die.

This would be the path to the end for the Suspended world.

It's ironic, the cultivators of this world have conquered world after world ever since they knew how.

But now, they don't even have a world left for themselves.

Wan Er took out the black talisman and took a look again.

The glow of the "Ji" character was still stable.

She was able to calm down.

—normally, whenever the realm demon wakes up is considered 'Danger Hour'.

No one dares to let out even a single thread of spirit energy, otherwise they'll be found by the unconscious offshoots and devoured.

When the realm demon falls asleep, it's considered "normal hour" where people can freely use spirit energy and move about.

Staring at the realm demon, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but evaluate it.

After going through some brief comparison, Gu Qing Shan confirmed that this realm demon has already surpassed the level of normal Demon Lords.

This wasn't a combat-ready Remodeled Demon Lord, nor was it a strange and unpredictable Chaotic Demon Lord.

This realm demon must be the extremely rare True Demon Lord.

They are the strongest type of Demon Lord out of the three, created from the corpse of the Divinity of old.

A human's eyes and inner sight can't even see it in its entirety, only a part of its body— as if they were gazing at the vast surface of mother earth itself.

This was what the true body of a Divine being of old should look like!

The airship quickly flew up to get further away from the realm demon.

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Every floating island was using a formation to hover, staying as far away from the realm demon as possible.

Only those islands whose supply of spirit stones were about to run out would have to lower their own height to minimize the consumption of spirit stones.

They definitely faced more danger than anyone else.

Because the closer you are to the realm demon, the easier you are to be found.

On the airship.

“We’ll arrive soon” Wan Er muttered.

Gu Qing Shan returned his gaze forward.

A grand mountain floating in mid air.

Guang Yang sect.

He finally arrived.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes, then opened them, repeating it over and over.

“What are you doing?” Qing Rou asked.

“Trying to enter the correct state” Gu Qing Shan answered.

At this time, two streaks of light flew out from the top of the mountain.

One of them slowly passed by their ship, heading towards the sky far away.

It was quite a large ship that contained a lot of material and resources.

Qing Rou explained: “This is a resource ship sent to exchange for a special kind of pill. The Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao, because of his serious injury, he has no choice but to depend on those pills to sustain his life”

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes, asking: “Which sect is this ship heading to?”

“Rakshasa Peak, the only big sect left on this world” Wan Er answered.

“Where did the others go?”

“Either dead or already fled”

“Fled?”

“The only hope for their survival is to have their island fly up and escape from the orbit of this world, but this method requires a lot of resources and powerful cultivators to pull off, and only the big sects have access to them”

Gu Qing Shan started thinking.

The Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao was a Cryptic realm cultivator.

Wang Hong Dao needs a very high-leveled type of pill that Guang Yang sect cannot make.

The sect can only send an entire ship of resources to Rakshasa Peak to exchange for these pills periodically.

The other streak of light came towards them, stopping in front of Gu Qing Shan.

A cultivator wearing a large-brimmed hat appeared as he bowed to greet him.

“Greetings, Hallmaster Qi” the cultivator respectfully said.

He only glanced at Qi Yan for a moment before his attention was redirected to Shannu who was now “Gu Qing Shan”.

A stranger.

Hallmaster Qi brought a stranger back to the sect?

Who is this person?

While he was thinking, Wan Er had already controlled the airship to fly past him.

It was now that the cultivator reacted in time and hurriedly formed the hand seals necessary to open a gate to pass through the sect protective formation.

The airship quickly turned into a streak of light as it went inside the floating mountains and headed towards its peak.

Quite a few cultivators stopped to bow and greet respectfully: “Greetings, Hallmaster Qi!”

Gu Qing Shan doesn’t even return a single word.

This face was hidden below the large-brimmed hat as faint but real killing intent escaped from his body, showing off his condescending attitude.

The people saw ‘Qi Yan’ appear dignified while looking ahead, but had one hand reached out to toy with Qing Rou’s soft hand.

Qing Rou stood by his side, smiling, using her other hand to bring a cup of spirit tea to his lips.

This was a common scene.

Qi Yan has always been like this.

The cultivators here were already used to this.

After taking a glance, they stopped looking in order to avoid offending him.

Right after, they used their inner sight to focus on the stranger, ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

—*—what kind of person would attract Hallmaster Qi enough that he brings them back to the sect?*

Everyone was asking the same question in their minds.

So they tried investigating ‘Gu Qing Shan’ further, wanting to pry some information off of him.

‘Gu Qing Shan’ stood at the ship indifferently with a cold expression on her face.

After airship quickly passed, leaving the gazes and inner sights of the cultivators behind as it made its way towards the peak of the floating mountain.

Wan Er put the airship away.

This place was the central inner sanctum area of Guang Yang sect, any flying was forbidden.

The four people descended, stopping in front of a particularly large villa among many.

Qing Rou formed a hand seal.

A light began to flicker above the villa.

“Young master, we’ve returned” Qing Rou spoke softly.

Gu Qing Shan only let out a faint ‘hmp’ through his nose.

He went in first, followed by Shannu, then the two maids who went in last.

After Wan Er came in, she formed another hand seal.

The light above the villa disappeared again.

The formation has been reactivated.

The group of four went into a room and closed the door behind themselves.

Both Qing Rou and Wan Er let out a long sigh.

“The first check has passed” Wan Er patted her chest in relief.

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“It went quite well, seems like your plan to steer attention towards a disciple you took in was very effective” Qing Rou commented.

“It’s only a little trick, the real battle is still ahead” Gu Qing Shan told her.

He looked around, evaluating the room.

Qi Yan was both a Virtualized realm cultivator and the son of the sect’s master, but his room was quite normal and unimpressive.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t see anything that can be called unimaginable or miraculous.

The only thing that caught the eye was a frog carved from spirit jade.

Gu Qing Shan went to the table, picked up and observed the jade frog.

The jade frog was carved from the highest quality spirit jade, outfitted with a small spirit funnel formation inside, it was always automatically storing spirit energy for the cultivator to use.

As Gu Qing Shan took it in hand, he felt a rush of spirit energy entering his body.

“What a good item” he praised it”

This was the only thing in the room that managed to catch his eyes.

“Didn’t you say there’s already no way to replenish spirit energy anymore in this world?” he questioned the women.

“There are still occasionally some good items left, but Qi Yan wasn’t willing to use them, like this jade frog. That was his most favorite treasure” Qing Rou answered.

Gu Qing Shan put down the jade frog and picked up a fan that happened to be on the table.

Opening it, he found depicted on the fan was a nude woman with pristine white skin hidden among faint clouds, laying down suggestively.

Qing Rou and Wan Er glanced at him, wanting to see this reaction.

With a natural expression, Gu Qing Shan just started fanning himself.

“Yep, that’s how he would be” Qing Rou praised his acting.

“This isn’t me” Gu Qing Shan spoke in irritation.

A slight knock came from the door.

The knock was very soft, as if afraid that they would bother Qi Yan.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to check outside the door to find some cultivators leaving a trunk at his doorsteps.

They slightly bowed respectfully before leaving.

Gu Qing Shan recalled what he read and asked: “Is it already time for when the sect supplies goods?”

“It was right on time, that’s great, we have pills that we can use now” Wan Er looked at Qing Rou expectantly.

“I didn’t think we would get benefits just as we returned” Gu Qing Shan smiled and commented.

Qing Rou spoke: “Let me get it”

She pushed open the door, slowly walked across the front yard to retrieve the trunk.

Soon enough, the chest was opened in front of the 4 of them.

A few bottles of pills.

A small bag of spirit stones.

A jade tag.

This was all of it.

Wan Er took the bag and estimated in her hand.

“It’s awesome, I think we got about 60 low-tier spirit stones this time” she spoke happily.

60 pieces of spirit stones...

Gu Qing Shan was practically trembling when he saw these items.

Qi Yan is a Virtualized realm cultivator, one of three Hallmasters of the sect, yet he’s only given this many spirit stones every month?

Back in the cultivation world, whenever Bai Hua Fairy gave her disciples spirit stones, she would always give enough to fill an entire Inventory Bag.

That was about a few hundred thousand pieces.

As for pills, common formation plates, talismans, even decorative weapons and armor, Bai Hua Fairy would always prepare as much as possible for her disciples.

Even Qin Xiao Lou had to complain that Shifu was spoiling him too much.

Of course, this type of complain couldn't escape a beating from Bai Hua Fairy or white goose.

But this partly showed just how good Bai Hua sect's treatment was, as well as how rich the resources of the cultivation world were.

In comparison, Qi Yan's side was too shabby.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "This world's resources are already impoverished to this degree?"

"Yes, the surface of the world itself is already gone, where would cultivation resources come from?" Qing Rou confirmed it.

"All sects in the world right now are merely using the resources they stole and accumulated from before to survive on dying breaths" Wan Er added.

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

Originally, from how great the level of cultivation of this world is, he thought it would be a blindingly glorious civilization, anyone would think so.

But this was only a barren and dying world.

And the reason for that was a single True Demon Lord.

Before the realm demon came, this world must have been a rich and thriving world, otherwise it couldn't conquer so many other worlds and give birth to so many powerful cultivators.

But the appearance of a single realm demon destroyed all of that.

If the realm demon had appeared in my world instead, would the results be different?

Gu Qing Shan sighed and shook his head.

He then noticed Qing Rou was staring at the bottle of pills, her expression seems like she wanted to say something, but stopped herself.

Gu Qing Shan then took the pill bottle.

He opened it, put one out in his hand and sniffed to find that it was a normal healing pill.

"You need this?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

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Wan Er quickly cut in and spoke in Qing Rou's place: "Big sis is soft, she once wanted to save a few other slaves but was found out by Qi Yan was punished by kneeling on a cold flame for a long time"

“Since her spirit energy was sealed and she didn’t have any medicine, big sis’ wounds still haven’t fully healed”

Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding.

“A cold flame? That would cause wounds that hurt very deeply, so this bottle of healing pills... you can’t use it” Gu Qing Shan muses as he heard it.

Wan Er froze.

The hope in Qing Rou’s eyes dimmed, but she nodded: “That’s right, we’re currently at a very crucial time, you should keep these pills to prepare for yourself”

“That’s not what I meant” Gu Qing Shan told her.

He put the bottle of pills back into the trunk, tapping his Inventory Bag.

He took out and offered a small blue bottle to Qing Rou.

“Use this one” Gu Qing Shan said.

Qing Rou was surprised.

Wan Er quickly took it and opened the bottle.

A thick fragrance of medicine came from the bottle.

The room was quickly filled with this scent.

“What high-quality pills, I haven’t seen such things for a very long time! What kind of pill is this?”

Saying so, Qing Rou squinted her nose and tried her best to absorb the medicine fragrance into her body.

Such an action was very unbecoming of a powerful Tribulation realm cultivator, in fact it seemed a little cute.

As maids, the amount of cultivation resources they were provided was basically next to nothing.

Gu Qing Shan answered: “7-Cycle Life Turning Pills, capable of healing all fire poison, aiding recovery of elemental wounds and replenishing inner power”

Qing Rou’s expression became calm again, pushing the bottle back to Gu Qing Shan.

“This kind of pill must be very precious, you should save it for yourself, I can still handle my wounds” she said.

“Just take it, I can get as much of these things as I want” Gu Qing Shan was smiling bitterly.

The first time Gu Qing Shan faced off against the Pope, he barely managed to use [Seven Swords Flowing Dragon] which resulted in heavily injuring himself.

When he came to Shen Wu world, his wounds had yet to heal so he had to take several pots’ worth of medicine baths.

At that time, Bai Hua Fairy refilled his Inventory Bag with cultivation resources enough to last for a while.

Afterwards, sensing her own death, Bai Hua Fairy directly put all of Bai Hua sect's resources into the 7-colored fragrance bag before she left and gave it to him.

As one of the people who stands at the peak of a cultivation world, the amount of resources and wealth that Bai Hua Fairy can accumulate is unimaginable to a normal person.

So this bottle of 7-Cycle Life Turning pills wasn't even a fraction of what he owns. (1)

Qing Rou stared at him in wonder, wanting to discern his true thoughts.

Gu Qing Shan ignored her suspicions and lightly put the blue bottle back into her hands: "I sincerely hope that we can cooperate, helping each other get out of this tough situation"

"Alright, if you are serious, then I will take these pills" Qing Rou told him.

Wan Er happily spoke: "Big sis, just look at the way he risked his life to save his master, he definitely can't be a bad person"

Qing Rou nodded.

Gu Qing Shan then took the jade tag out of the trunk.

Infusing it with his inner sight, he was notified of a few things that has been happening in the sect lately.

The last big sect in the world, Rakshasa Peak wanted to come visit them.

The Grand Elder was still busy in recovery, so he won't show up until Rakshasa Peak arrives at the sect.

The sect master was facing his tribulation in the space vortex.

No one would ever face their tribulation in this world, otherwise the realm demon would notice.

These important matters has always been the same, nothing really changed.

What caused Gu Qing Shan's attention was actually a minor detail.

The masters of Xiang Ji Hall, who were in charge of managing sect resources, and Ning Yue Hall, in charge of sect members' cultivation, announced something together.

The sect member's portion of spirit stones will be given a bit later than normal this month.

This was because of a decision by the sect to welcome Rakshasa Peak's visit with a grand banquet.

Because of the banquet, Xiang Ji Hall will be busy organizing it, unable to calculate the spirit stones supply for now.

Because of the esteemed guests' arrival, Ning Yue Hall will also be organizing an intra-sect tournament.

The tournament's prizes are quite decent, enough to draw the sect's disciples to compete.

Only after this will the sect return to normal operation and Xiang Ji Hall will be able to calculate the work regarding spirit stones.

Gu Qing Shan checked the tournament competitions to find that it wasn't quite as he thought.

The tournament mainly tested the cultivator's expertise on the 6 arts.

Divination, Formation, Talisman, Smithing, Pills and Cooking are the 6 arts.

Of these 6 arts, the one that was emphasized the most by the sect was Formation.

As for cultivation level and battle, it wasn't even part of the tournament.

After a little bit of thinking, Gu Qing Shan understood why.

The sects of this world have already given up on the cultivation of their disciples.

What good does high cultivation bring?

For the sect, not only do they have to give you more resources, they also have to watch out for you trying to usurp authority.

On the other hand, expertise with the 6 arts contributed more to the sect.

Especially expertise in formation.

Without formations, this world's cultivation civilization would've already collapsed.

Note:

(1) a fraction of what he owns: The original idiom is "not even a hair off of his 9 cows", meaning it's a laughably miniscule amount compared to his wealth.

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While checking the jade tag, Gu Qing Shan thought of something.

"Was the Shen Wu world warp formation really made by Qi Yan himself?"

Speaking of this subject, everyone's expression turned serious.

Because it could be the key to whether or not they managed to escape.

"He did. He himself was quite an expert with formations and because it was related to 2 undiscovered worlds, he couldn't trust anyone with the coordinates of Shen Wu world" Wan Er confirmed that.

Gu Qing Shan thought back to the situation of the battle at the time.

In the final moments, Qi Yan used 300 anti-magic formations to protect himself while the warp formation plate activated.

"At the time, he said that the formation plate was given to him by his father" Gu Qing Shan recalled.

"Even to Guang Yang sect, the resources to make a warp formation plate capable of travelling between 2 worlds isn't a small amount, only the sect's head and Grand Elder are able to directly command that much" Qing Rou explained.

"That why the formation plate did come from his father, but the formation and the world coordinates were both set up by his own hands" Wan Er followed up.

“Qi Yan is already dead” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Shen Wu world’s coordinates were known to only Qi Yan.

As for the small-sized warp formation, it required a lot of resources to make, some of them were very precious materials.

When he attacked Shen Wu world before, only two of these warp formations existed.

One of them in the hands of Guang Yang sect’s formation user, the other in the Zishan young mater – Qi Yan’s hands.

Every time it activated, the formation would get damaged partially.

One part written with coordinates to warp to Shen Wu world, the other part to return to their world.

After warping twice, the plate would break.

The formation plate in Qi Yan’s hand brought Gu Qing Shan, Qing Rou and Wan Er back to this world.

When it did, the formation plate crumbled to dust as soon as it reached.

Before that, Gu Qing Shan had killed Guang Yang sect’s formation user to steal the other plate.

He used this plate to bargain with the Tianma and had them join the battle.

And he still has it, in the last moment when he was sucked into the space vortex, he didn’t manage to give it to the Tianma.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a small, intricate formation plate.

There was a deep gash on the plate, but it was still releasing a sharp presence as the space around it was constantly cracking.

This was the warp formation plate.

Both Qing Rou and Wan Er’s eyes lit up as they saw it, but quickly scowled.

This formation plate can still be used once.

But its coordinates have been set to the Suspended world.

Gu Qing Shan cannot use this plate to return to Shen Wu world.

But he will be able to find the coordinates of Shen Wu world within the space vortex from it.

“This formation plate is our only hope of escape” Gu Qing Shan said.

Qing Rou muses: “There’s a lock seal on the formation plate, if someone attempts to find the coordinates of Shen Wu world from it, it will self-destruct”

“He’s that cautious? That can’t be right, he gave this formation plate to a formation user” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That formation user is nowhere good enough to break through Qi Yan’s lock seal. Furthermore, Qi Yan had placed an alarm seal on the formation, so if the formation user was brave enough to try, Qi Yan will be notified immediately”

“So he’s that cautious...” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Wan Er: “Yes, it was only under these conditions that he allowed that formation user to use this formation plate”

Qing Rou continued: “Only a formation user much better than Qi Yan can find the coordinates of Shen Wu world from this formation plate”

As Gu Qing Shan listened, he muttered: “After that, we still need the help of another formation user to make a new formation plate”

“As well as a large amount of resources” Wan Er added.

Gu Qing Shan temporarily stopped speaking and thought of another minor detail.

“Qi Yan is not only the son of Guang Yang sect’s master, but also one of three Hallmasters, yet he was so cautious that he placed so many countermeasures on the plate as well as making sure that only he knows the world’s coordinates...”

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan became more cautious than ever before.

Shen Wu world was connected to the cultivation world.

And there were a lot of people that Gu Qing Shan cared about in that world.

Once the coordinates were leaked, Guang Yang sect will definitely attempt to invade.

That would be, without any doubt, a disaster of the highest magnitude.

Even Qi Yan couldn’t trust his own sect members and his subordinates.

So naturally Gu Qing Shan couldn’t either.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the formation plate as if studying it.

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

[Two-world warp formation. Unique item. Consumable. Directed warp usage left: 1. Directed world: Suspended world]

Following this, the icon for [War God Skill] below the War God UI lit up.

[Two-world warp formation, contains the following formations:]

[Directed warp formation: Shen Wu world]

[Directed warp formation: Suspended world]

[Comprehension of either of these formations will require 10,000 Soul Points]

[Caution: This is an unprecedented high-ranked formation, directly related to top-level formation knowledge like World coordinate lock-on, Opening a path in the space vortex and others]

[Caution: You may first study the basics of formation first to lower the Soul Points required to comprehend these formations]

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell onto and stayed at the number [10,000] for a while.

This was a number he couldn't possibly hope to achieve.

Learning the art of formation from scratch takes a lot of effort and asides from the realm demon, there was no other demon in this world.

Procuring the 10,000 Soul Points required here was an impossible mission.

After staying silent for a while, Gu Qing Shan noticed something else.

At a corner of the War God UI, his Soul Points were depicted.

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[Current Soul Points: 3/300]

Gu Qing Shan just stopped and stayed still without moving.

The trip to Huang Quan had already exhausted all of his Soul Points.

"What happened? You look a bit pale?" Qing Rou asked caringly.

Gu Qing Shan slowly exhaled: "I found quite a difficult problem to deal with"

"Guang Yang sect already doesn't have any good formation users. But we might have a solution regarding that" Qing Rou consoled him.

"What solution?"

"Qi Yan used to have a maid who came from a world with a deep understanding of formations" Wan Er said.

Qing Rou continued: "That maid was called Chu Liu, another brilliant and beautiful girl"

"Ah, then she should be on our side, where is she now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

If she's not a member of Guang Yang sect but rather someone in the same situation as Qing Rou and Wan Er, she would very likely be willing to follow them and escape from this world.

I can meet and confirm that she's trustworthy first before entrusting this to her.

"Qi Yan gave her to his subordinate"

"Why?"

"He got bored" Wan Er answered.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

"The real reason is because Chu Liu is an expert formation user, Qi Yan didn't feel safe with her by his side"

Qing Rou glared at Wan Er and explained.

Gu Qing Shan understood.

An expert formation user who was also female and holds a grudge against him.

Of course Qi Yan wouldn't feel safe.

She might be able to silently dispel all the formations around without anyone's notice.

Once it gets to 'Danger Hour' and they don't have a quarantine formation to protect them, the only natural result would be death.

"Then that's easy, I'll just take her back now" Gu Qing Shan said.

Qing Rou and Wan Er exchanged looks, clearly glad.

"You seem to be happy to hear that?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Of course, she's a very good girl, not only is she beautiful, she's also very gentle. Even Qi Yan felt it was a shame to kill her off, so he decided what he doesn't see won't bother him and gave her to his subordinate" Wan Er merrily explained.

Suddenly, Qing Rou's expression changed a bit: "Someone's here"

A second later, a voice came from outside: "Hallmaster Qi, today is the day of the sect meeting, it's now time"

Gu Qing Shan coldly replied: "I seem to remember that was tomorrow"

The voice stopped for a bit, then continued: "We had to move the schedule up"

Both Qing Rou and Wan Er appeared worried.

"I only know that Rakshasa Peak is about to visit, so it might be about that" Qing Rou told him in a small voice.

"This is a secret so both of us were dismissed during their discussion of this, we don't know the details" Wan Er quickly added.

Gu Qing Shan keenly listened.

"When will that sect come?" he asked.

"Right before we left for Shen Wu world, we heard that they were about to arrive already" Qing Rou answered.

Gu Qing Shan started contemplating.

Without any warning, the sect meeting is being conducted ahead of schedule, that was a bit too rushed, there isn't time to prepare.

The sect meeting was a periodic meeting concerning the top-brass of Guang Yang sect.

Normally, those who participate in this meeting would include the Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao, sect master Qi Ruo Ya, Ning Yue Hall's Hallmaster Ye Ying Mei, Zwei Wei Hall's Hallmaster Qi Yan, Xiang Ji Hall's Hallmaster Zhao Wu Chui. A total of 5 people.

Ning Yue Hall was in charge of teaching and managing the sect disciple's cultivation.

Zwei Wei Hall was in charge of war and battle outside the sect as well as punishment of people inside the sect.

Xiang Ji Hall was responsible for managing the entire sect's resources and expenditures.

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zuo Wu Chui are direct disciples of the Grand Elder, Wang Hong Dao, both Virtualized realm cultivators.

There was also a rumor that aside from being his disciple, Ye Ying Mei was also the Grand Elder's mistress.

Back then, then Ye Ying Mei wanted to get married to become another sect's Dao companion, but was forced to a stop by Wang Hong Dao.

It was so chaotic at the time that details aren't clear.

But the truth is that Ye Ying Mei never got married in the end.

Out of the 5, only the sect master Qi Ruo Ya took the side of his son, creating a situation of 2 vs 3.

And the sect master's faction was the weaker of the two.

But now, since sect master Qi Ruo Ya had already left to the space vortex to breakthrough, Qi Yan was alone.

Qi Yan will have to face off against both the Grand Elders and his two fellow Hallmasters by himself.

Of course the Grand Elder was still in seclusion so it's unclear whether or not he'll come out just for the meeting.

At least, Qi Yan doesn't know.

Furthermore, the meeting this time might involve the current most powerful sect in the world, Rakshasa Peak.

...

It's too hard to tell.

Never mind Gu Qing Shan who was pretending to be Qi Yan, even the real Qi Yan himself couldn't deal with this complicated and unclear situation.

Wan Er bit her lip: "What if we sneak away..."

Gu Qing Shan cut her off and casually said: "It's fine, we'll go"

"Have you seen the information we gave you on the two Hallmasters?" Qing Rou looked over and asked him worriedly.

“I’ve memorized every single detail and event that happened to them in the last few hundred years” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Slightly tilting his large-brimmed hat up, he came out.

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Wan Er hurriedly went and opened the door.

The group of four came out.

The cultivator outside has already been waiting for a while.

He knew from the start that this will be tough work for no gain, so he didn’t dare to even turn back and hurriedly led the way.

After a while, they arrived at the highest location of the floating island.

There was an outdoor platform here.

Gu Qing Shan observed it.

A few dozen formations protected the platform.

There was nothing to obscure people’s vision around there.

This was a preventive measure.

If the “Xiong-Ji” talisman malfunctioned or the realm demon suddenly goes berserk, the people in charge would be able to escape first.

When running for your life, running even a second faster might bring drastic change in the outcome.

All of this was for the sake of preserving their lives.

A few people were already sitting on the platform.

An alluring mature woman wearing a moonlight white Chinese kimono.

A shirtless, masculine man whose blood essence was so thick it manifested as white mist around his body.

While sitting still, their spirit energy waves were already picking up wind, giving off an immense pressure.

They were Ning Yue Hall’s Hallmaster Ye Ying Mei and Xiang Ji Hall’s Hallmaster Zhao Wu Chui.

Two powerful Virtualized realm cultivators.

They both had young cultivators serving behind them.

The most eye-catching person there however, was a pure white fox.

The fox wore a female mask, sitting at the higher end of the platform.

The female mask was so animated it seemed real, smiling with a slight hint of wild provocation and allure.

Still below the platform, Gu Qing Shan stopped his feet.

He already knew the two Hallmasters, whereas it was his first time seeing this white fox.

Recalling the information Qing Rou and Wan Er provided him about this world, Gu Qing Shan was a bit alarmed.

Because he noticed a small pink flower at the forehead of the female mask the white fox was wearing.

According to what Qing Rou and Wan Er know, there was only a single person in this world who could bear that symbol.

The head of Rakshasa Peak, Rakshasa's Daughter.

Every generation of Rakshasa's Daughter must kill 7 female cultivators as well as 21 male cultivators who were stronger than themselves to have the right to attempt seeking Rakshasa's heritage.

When the process begins, only one of two consequences will happen.

The first is that they gain Rakshasa's recognition and inherit Rakshasa's thaumaturgy, where a unique symbol will manifest between their eyebrows.

The second, being hated and discarded by Rakshasa, eaten by some powerful monster in the void of space that happens to pass by.

Rakshasa, the god of evil.

Only one who inherits Rakshasa's thaumaturgy will be recognized as Rakshasa's Daughter. From then on even a Virtualized realm cultivator of the sect could only bow down as her subject.

And those who gained Rakshasa's thaumaturgy will manifest some sort of unique symbol between their brows.

This represents the fact that this cultivator had gained Rakshasa's favor.

As for what a Rakshasa's thaumaturgy was, they were abilities not of this world.

Every few thousand years, the symbols on the new Rakshasa's Daughter's forehead were different, and the thaumaturgy they learned was also different.

But it was always an ability that has never appeared in the world before.

As the head of Rakshasa Peak, Rakshasa's Daughters were powerful in both self and status, so for the last few ten thousands years, no one knew what thaumaturgy the new Rakshasa's Daughter has.

This was top-secret even in Rakshasa Peak, only a select few knew about it.

So naturally Qing Rou and Wan Er would have no way to know how strong this Rakshasa's Daughter was or what ability did she possess.

Such an unknown and mysterious person, no one would want as an enemy.

Since the white fox was wearing Rakshasa's Daughter's mask, it's most likely that the white fox was Rakshasa's Daughter's pet spirit beast.

Which means today, Rakshasa's Daughter was attending Guang Yang sect meeting as a guest!

This was even silently agreed upon by the top-brass of Guang Yang sect.

While Qing Rou and Wan Er lowered their eyes, their hearts were jumping.

Who would've thought Rakshasa's Daughter would send her own spirit beast here to listen in on the sect meeting.

It just became much harder to not get found out.

Gu Qing Shan is still only an Ascended realm cultivator, what can they do now?

Thinking that, they couldn't help but releasing a weak bit of inner sight to observe Gu Qing Shan.

Only to see Gu Qing Shan taking out a fan.

It was Qi Yan's pictured fan.

Opening it, he casually fanned himself as he walked up the platform.

"Where's the old man?"

Gu Qing Shan asked without a care while walking.

He was the only person in Guang Yang sect who dared to call Grand Elder Wand Hong Dao that.

"The Grand Elder isn't here, we're going to discuss a few urgent business, but what happened to your face?" Ye Ying Mei asked.

Rubbing his own face, Gu Qing Shan calmly answered: "Just a scratch wound, nothing to worry about"

Ye Ying Mei carefully observed the wounds on Gu Qing Shan's face, feeling it a bit strange.

Just who is able to inflict such a wound on Qi Yan's face?

But very quickly, Ye Ying Mei noticed Qi Yan bringing a stranger to this place.

Her attention shifted.

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Ah? This seems interesting.

A person like Qi Yan bringing people other than his maids to go around?

While thinking that, Ye Ying Mei started to observe 'Gu Qing Shan'.

As for 'Qi Yan', he managed to escape her attention.

"Huk! What exactly did the sect master tell you to do that so many people from your Zwei Wei hall disappeared, and even you yourself got injured?" Zhao Wu Chui squinted his eyes and asked.

The people of Zwei Wei Hall all had lock seals placed on them by Qi Yan and brought to Shen Wu world.

There they died at the hands of the Tianma Empress.

Gu Qing Shan heard, but didn't answer him.

Quickly passing through the two of them, he sat down at his own seat.

"Very well, let us start, why did we have to do this ahead of schedule this time?" he asked.

"Hallmaster Qi, you still haven't answered my question!" Zhao Wu Chui stared straight at him and asked.

Gu Qing Shan closed his fans and spoke sincerely: "Old Zhao, there's no need for you to stick your nose into Zwei Wei Hall. You aren't my woman, asking unrelated questions just slows us down and makes people irritated"

"Qi Yan, you're so damn arrogant, do you not think of what would happen if you one day fall into my hands? What do you think is going to happen to you?" Zhao Wu scowled even more as he said.

"So you want a fight?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Zhao Wu Chui smirked: "What, you've only just reached Virtualized and you dare challenge me?"

He has already been at Virtualized realm for a long time, even in this world he was considered a great cultivator.

And Gu Qing Shan was a mere Ascended realm late stage, several realms below his.

Even the real Qi Yan who had just become a Virtualized realm cultivator was no match for Zhao Wu Chui.

If they really did fight, Gu Qing Shan's identity will be revealed right away.

Qing Rou couldn't help but glance at Gu Qing Shan.

Sure enough, he appeared a bit hesitant.

This hesitation quickly brought the attention of both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui.

Before Zhao Wu Chui said anything else, Gu Qing Shan had already spoken.

"I don't mind a fight, but first you have to wait a bit" still with a hesitant look on his face, he said.

"Why?" Zhao Wu Chui was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan scowled and answered: "We have an esteemed guest here. Find a shirt or something to put on first, then I'll fight you. Otherwise you're showing so much skin that if the esteemed guest misunderstood my preferences, I can't even refute"

Zhao Wu Chui froze for a few seconds.

Complete silence.

All the disciples around lowered their heads to hide their expressions.

Even the white fox was using its paws to cover the mouth of the mask, its body shaking.

After being stunned for two breaths, Zhao Wu Chui finally understood what he meant.

*You damn sharp-mouthed brat!
Fucker, I'm going to kill you!*

Zhao Wu Chui's fighting spirit exploded.

Boom!

The intense killing intent flowed like a tsunami, scaring the disciples.

Both Qing Rou and Wan Er still had their eyes lowered.

As Tribulation realm cultivators who had their powers sealed, they didn't even dare to look up at a Virtualized realm cultivator like Zhao Wu Chui, otherwise people might notice something was off.

Gu Qing Shan lifted the cup of tea on the table and took a sip.

"Men, go and close the formations, and have our esteemed guest step back for a bit, lest she might affect mine and Hallmaster Zhao's close bonding"

He was still being very casual about this.

The battle between two Virtualized realm cultivators will naturally destroy a lot of formations.

And this was the central area of Guang Yang sect.

Their battle might irreversibly damage the sect's lifeline.

A formation user came forward, looking at the two Hallmasters with a difficult expression.

"Hallmaster Zhao, about this..."

He didn't dare to offend Qi Yan, and even more so for Zhao Wu Chui.

Since Qi Yan already gave the order, if Zhao Wu Chui agreed as well, he'll be able to close the formations without anyone blaming him.

This was nothing, but the white fox suddenly spoke up: "I'm actually quite interested in Guang Yang sect's battle, may I stay back to watch?"

Zhao Wu Chui's fighting spirit slowed down a bit.

The white fox was Rakshasa's Daughter's pet spirit beast, wherever it went, it represents that Rakshasa's Daughter herself was there.

When it comes to Rakshasa Peak, Zhao Wu Chui couldn't help but force himself to consider this as calmly as possible.

Do I really want to break out into in-fighting right here and now?

This will ruin the sect's reputation too much.

Qi Yan doesn't care about this because this has always been his nature.

But this Zhao Wu Chui can't afford not to care.

A battle between Virtualized realm would take a long time to settle.

But the fact that the white fox is here means that Rakshasa's Daughter was paying attention to this

time's meeting.

And Rakshasa Peak will arrive here quite soon.

If they come here and find that the two Hallmasters of Guang Yang sect are still fighting to the death, destroying almost all of the sect's central area, wouldn't that be a laughing topic for years to come?

Who doesn't know that Qi Yan is a lawless son of a bitch?

But what about Zhao Wu Chui himself?

Now is a very crucial moment, I can't afford not to care about the big picture.

Master is currently dealing with that matter.

Right now I'm currently attending to a very important guest, if I do this without thinking of the consequences, what would master say about this later?

Zhao Wu Chui stood still.

"Hallmasters, wait!"

Ye Ying Mei stood out to stop Zhao Wu Chui.

"Old Zhao, our esteemed guest is here, just let it go, you already know about Hallmaster Qi's personality, just ignore him"

"Hallmaster Qi, you should mind your mouth as well, you're both Hallmasters and Virtualized realm cultivators here, what use is there to fighting"

She was mediating between them.

"Ying Mei sis has a point"

Gu Qing Shan put the tea cup down, as if already forgotten about wanting to challenge Zhao Wu Chui before.

He looked at the white fox, staring at it.

As if he was very interested in the white fox, but said nothing to it at all.

On the other hand, Zhao Wu Chui was already swept to one side, falling into the awkward situation of not being able to fight, but not wanting to let go either.

After some hesitation, Zhao Wu Chui concluded that this wasn't an appropriate time and just sat back down in irritation.

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Soon enough, everyone already turned their eyes away, seemingly waiting for the next issue.

Zhao Wu Chui also said nothing else.

Being forced to restrain himself, Zhao Wu Chui inner rage was boiling.

As a Virtualized realm martial cultivator, aside from the Grand Elder and the sect master, he was the strongest person in this sect.

But he was being forced to endure this kind of humiliation.

Begrudgingly, he spoke: "Hallmaster Ye, let's begin the meeting, first thing first, how about we tell Hallmaster Qi about that event?"

"I would very much like to know how our Hallmaster Qi plans on dealing with this!"

Hearing that, Ye Ying Mei silently sighed.

She really doesn't want to pick a fight with Qi Yan at this point in time.

But since it has already happened, what needs to come has to come.

"It's like this, Hallmaster Qi, during your recent absence at the sect, your subordinates were involved in a serious mistake" Ye Ying Mei sorted out her words and started to speak.

"What, we're all people of a sect here, what happened that we can't make big matters small and small matters into nothing?" Gu Qing Shan nonchalantly spoke.

"If it was anything else, I'd also like to turn a blind eye, but this is related to a taboo in the sect, so I have to tell you" Ye Ying Mei smiled bitterly.

Zhao Wu Chui cut in and glared at Gu Qing Shan: "This isn't just 'telling you', the matters involved are too serious that it irreversibly affected the sect, enough that we can't help but deal with it"

"Hallmaster Qi, I hope that you can follow the sect's rules and deal with this fairly"

Saying so, Zhao Wu Chui smirked in satisfaction.

"Say it" Gu Qing Shan said.

Ye Ying Mei waved her hand: "Bring them in"

Following her gesture, 7-8 cultivators flew down the platform.

A few moments later, two cultivators bound by Spirit Restraints were led up the platform.

Seeing Qi Yan, the two cultivators called out like they just met their savior.

"Hallmaster, please save us!"

They were both men from Zwei Wei Hall.

Furthermore, close aides of Qi Yan.

Gu Qing Shan's eyes went cold, asking: "These are my men, what do you want to say, Ying Mei sis?"

Ye Ying Mei replied: "Yesterday, they fought each other over a maid. That maid used the time that they didn't pay attention to destroy a formation, almost leading to the collapse of an entire block"

"It was only about 5 minutes left until Danger Hour, luckily the three formation users of the sect were all present and quickly went to work, managing to patch the quarantine formation again"

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

Maid.

Formation

Three formation users— which means Guang Yang sect has 3 other formation users.

“Fighting over a maid...”

Gu Qing Shan looked over to his subordinates and smirked.

“Young master” one of the subordinates changed the way he addressed him, “it’s not as serious as they claim it was, we managed to catch Chu Liu right as that happened”

Chu Liu!

Perfect!

It really was the maid who knew about formations.

She is the key to fixing the Two-world warp formation.

She was also said to be a nice girl.

If that’s the case, as long as he saves her, she’ll probably be more than happy to cooperate with me and escape from this world.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking that.

He was still silently staring at his subordinates with a calm and cold expression.

When the other subordinate saw that he didn’t react, he hurriedly spoke: “Young master, we already made up for it”

Zhao Wu Chui scoffed: “Huk! You call that making up for it? Even if you’ve already killed her, The damage is already done”

Killed her.

Killed her.

Killed her.

Chu Liu is dead...

Gu Qing Shan’s heart sank, but his expression remained blank.

Qing Rou and Wan Er started trembling, their tears couldn’t help falling.

As maid, they aren’t afraid of showing such a reaction to others.

“So you— killed her?”

Gu Qing Shan finally spoke up.

The two subordinates hurriedly nodded.

One of them said: “The perpetrator already paid for it with her life, they have no reason to punish us, young master!”

The other followed up: “That’s right, young master, you have to stand up for us!”

Zhao Wu Chui spoke: "Qi Yan, this isn't a small matter, you of all people should understand just how serious this is, the formation is the one thing we cannot afford to take lightly"

"But they were only two common formations" one of the subordinates bravely spoke up.

"No matter who it is, no one is allowed to affect the formations in the sect, even if they are common formations" Ye Ying Mei declared.

She then emphasized: "The formation is related to the safety of our entire sect, in the small chance that it fails and attracts the realm demon, our entire sect will go down with it"

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes for a few moments to think, saying: "Summon Wu San, I want to ask him clearly about what happened"

The two Hallmasters exchanged looks and nodded.

It's normal for him to want to make things clear.

Qi Yan was always a distrusting person, he won't simply believe everything you tell him.

The enforcer cultivators quickly left.

A few moments later, a fat cultivator came to the platform.

Slowly running towards Gu Qing Shan, he ceremoniously knelt and bowed with his head to the ground.

"You summoned, master?" Wu San smiled flatteringly.

The cultivators around all looked at him in disdain.

"Hm, tell me clearly everything that happened" Gu Qing Shan ordered.

He then added: "This time, I want to know the entire truth, don't hide anything from me"

The two Hallmasters' expression slightly twitched at that.

At first, Wu San already started to show a face full of fury, but as he heard the second part of it, this expression changed.

It seems young master intends to do something else this time, I misunderstood.

"Understood, master. It was like this..."

He told everything from start to end as accurately as possible.

The truth was just as Ye Ying Mei told him.

Ye Ying Mei spoke: "According to the rules of our sect, the two of them will have their cultivation destroyed and turned into servants, never to set another foot into Zwei Wei Hall"

"Hallmaster Qi, what do you think we should do?" Zhao Wu Chui asked a bit gleefully.

Looking at Gu Qing Shan, he recited the prepared lines in his mind.

If Qi Yan decides to stand up for his subordinates, both myself and Ye Ying Mei will both refute, getting Qi Yan into a situation where he can't step down.

*Making Qi Yan lose face in front of Rakshasa's Daughter will definitely infuriate him.
But there's no way Qi Yan can overturn it, because both reasoning and feeling are on their side.*

Zhao Wu Chui silently clenched his fist, waiting for Qi Yan's reaction.

Everyone else also looked to Qi Yan, wanting to see how he reacts.

Only to see Gu Qing Shan silently tilting his head up, rubbing the wounds on his face.

"I've been in a bad mood recently" he said.

The two Hallmasters squinted their eyes.

*Does he want to rile things up again?
Can't you just stop already?*

"Hallmaster Qi—" Ye Ying Mei spoke up.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand to cut her off, gesturing that she doesn't need to say anything.

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He stood up and walked in front of his subordinates.

"That maid, what was she called?" he turned around and asked.

"Chu Liu" Qing Rou answered.

"Ah, yes, Chu Liu"

Gu Qing Shan then turned to his subordinates and softly asked: "What did I say when I gave her to you?"

The two subordinates exchanged looks, a bit anxious.

They couldn't tell what the young master wanted to say at all.

"Young master, you said that she was your maid, but we've been doing a good job so you will give her to us to do as we please" one of them answered.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the other subordinate, asking: "Did I say that?"

The other subordinate hurriedly answered: "You did, young master"

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

He came behind the two of them, patting the Spirit Restraints they had on.

This is the kind used to bind disciples who committed wrongdoings, limiting their powers and prevent escape.

This type of Spirit Restraints are much simpler than the ones used on the maids.

At least, it won't bind them tighter during Danger Hour, and doesn't contain the myriads of torture spells and mechanisms that the other one has.

Gu Qing Shan coldly spoke: "I don't care about any rules that you might've violated in the sect"

He two subordinates' expression loosened.

The rest of the cultivators there silently thought, sure enough.

The white fox only silently watched this.

Zhao Wu Chui immediately stood up: "Qi Yan, I know what you're thinking, but the results of their actions are too severe, even you can't play favorites with them this time"

"Who said I wanted to play favorites with them?" Gu Qing Shan asked back in surprise.

"If you playing favorites——"

When Zhao Wu Chui wanted to follow up, he noticed it wasn't as he expected and swallowed back his words.

He couldn't do anything but glare at Gu Qing Shan, waiting for his next words.

"I only said that the rules of the sect are not important—— at least, for my Zwei Wei Hall, it really isn't important"

Gu Qing Shan lightly glanced over Zhao Wu Chui and said.

The two subordinates gleefully looked up.

Sure enough, our young master is the coolest.

The other two Hallmasters' faces were trampled on by Qi Yan in front of everybody.

On the other side.

Ye Ying Mei's expression was blank as water.

Zhao Wu Chui already couldn't contain his anger anymore.

He wanted to have a good and long 'talk' with Qi Yan right here and now.

You bastard, Qi Yan, always doing what you like, you really——

While Zhao Wu Chui was thinking, Qi Yan already spoke up again.

"Sword"

"Yes, master" Shannu answered.

A sword flew into Qi Yan's hand.

Cold sword qi flashed.

Two bodies fell to the ground.

Holding one head in each hand, Qi Yan stood there, undisturbed.

He pulled both heads up to face himself.

“Who gave you the gall to believe that you’re something special?”

Clunk!

Clunk!

The two heads were dropped.

A sword danced in the air before stopping in front of Shannu.

Shannu put the sword away.

Everyone was stunned.

Zhao Wu Chui stared at Gu Qing Shan then hesitantly asked: “You— why did you do that?”

Ye Ying Mei also spoke: “According to the rules of the sect, they should have only been demoted to servants, what do you mean by this, Hallmaster Qi?”

“There is no need to talk about something like rules of the sect in front of me”

Gu Qing Shan took his fan out, spreads it and started fanning himself as he paced back to his seat.

—right after killing someone, he took out a such pictured fan and started acting like nothing special happened right away.

This nonchalance really caused the disciples to become speechless.

“To save themselves, they dared to kill my maid as a scapegoat, so I’m annoyed”

While saying so, Gu Qing Shan had already returned to his seat.

Zhao Wu Chui couldn’t help but refuted: “Don’t you often kill a lot of maids also?”

“I can kill them, but others can’t”

“Why?”

“Because these maids are my property, only I get to decide what happens to them”

Gu Qing Shan casually answered.

At this time, Qing Rou stepped forward, knelt down and held the cup of tea up to Gu Qing Shan’s lip for him.

Gu Qing Shan took a sip.

Casually, he also took Qing Rou’s chin and asked softly: “Isn’t that right, Qing Rou?”

“Yes, young master” Qing Rou answered in a low voice.

Ye Ying Mei spoke: “The rules of the sect...”

She couldn’t say anything else.

The people at fault already got killed on the spot.

Is talking about rules really going to be useful at this point?

This Qi Yan really doesn't care at all about the sect, no matter who it is, if they tried violating his benefits—— even if it's the smallest bit of benefits that he himself doesn't care about, he won't hesitate to show his poisonous fangs.

Qi Yan was simply such a person.

Merciless, cruel, anything for his own benefit.

People like these were like poisonous snakes, extremely scary once pushed to a corner.

Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui exchanged looks.

They both saw the anxiety and worry in each other's eyes.

Chapter 436: Probing

Translated by: La0o9

Proofreader: Arya

Qing Rou put the tea cup back down on the table and silently retreated behind Gu Qing Shan.

Sitting comfortably where he was, Gu Qing Shan spoke again: "Why aren't you saying anything? If there's nothing else, I'll be going back"

Zhao Wu Chui scoffed, answering: "Of course there is something else, it's related to you again, but there's too many people here right now"

Ye Ying Mei didn't answer him but instead turned and apologized to the white fox: "My apologies, it's the first time our esteemed guest visits and you've had to witness such a bloody scene"

The white fox shook its head: "It's fine, I think that's quite nice, your sect's conducts are quite suitable with mine"

"Esteemed guest, let us lead you to your accommodation, we have to deal with a few minor things of the sect, highly inappropriate with the esteemed guest here" Zhao Wu Chui very politely said.

Letting her pet spirit beast watch Guang Yang sect's meeting was already paying her enough respect.

But every sect has its own secrets that they simply can't allow outsiders to know.

The white fox also understood.

It stood up and curtsied to the three Hallmasters.

The three Hallmasters also hurriedly stood up and bowed back.

The white fox then took off the Rakshasa's Daughter mask it was wearing: "Our peak's master just now said that she enjoys Hallmaster Qi's conduct very much, so she wanted me to present this as a gift to Hallmaster Qi"

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui's expressions changed.

Rakshasa's Daughter was able to observe everything that happened just now through the white fox, that wasn't a rare ability to see.

But she's giving a mask of her own face to Qi Yan.

What for?

Gu Qing Shan also found that unexpected and smiled: "Then I can only thank the peak's master, when your esteemed sect comes to visit, I will greet her personally"

He gestured to the people behind.

Qing Rou came forward and received the Rakshasa's Daughter mask from the white fox.

It felt cold.

This mask was carved from top-quality spirit jade made as thin as a cicada's wing.

Every Hallmaster here understood that as soon as they glanced at it.

This mask represents Rakshasa's Daughter, a symbol of her status.

The white fox continued: "This is one of our peak's master favorite personal items that she frequently brings with her, I hope Hallmaster Qi will treat it respectfully"

"I understand, don't worry" Gu Qing Shan answered.

As Qing Rou was holding the mask, she couldn't help but think about that for a bit.

Since they're in front of everyone, it was inappropriate for her to give the mask directly to Gu Qing Shan.

Afterall, Rakshasa Peak's master was a female cultivator, and this was one of her own personal items.

Not to mention the white fox purposefully emphasized that point.

If Gu Qing Shan directly took it, it will be a bit unceremonious and impolite.

Which was why Gu Qing Shan had Qing Rou come receive it.

But after receiving it, it was not suitable for Qing Rou to keep hold of it, because she was only a maid. She can receive something in place of her master, but her status wasn't enough to keep such a symbol of status for Qi Yan.

Qing Rou then placed the mask back down in front of Gu Qing Shan on the table.

"Young master"

"Hm, step down"

Seeing how well she handled that, Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The white fox was also satisfied when seeing that.

"Then I'll be leaving first" the white fox said.

“Please” the three Hallmasters said in unison.

Already finished what it came to do, the white fox happily went away.

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui looked at the mask with confusion.

As the master of Rakshasa Peak, Rakshasa’s Daughter’s every move had its own implications.

What was she planning by doing this?

Zhao Wu Chui quickly thought over it and declared: “Now, we’re going to discuss central matters regarding the sect, the rest of you are dismissed”

The enforcer cultivators quickly left the platform.

And so did Qing Rou and Wan Er.

Shannu stood still without moving.

“Hm? What is this brat doing?” Zhao Wu Chui scowled and asked.

“This is my new disciple, Gu Qing Shan, come and greet the two seniors”

Gu Qing Shan gestured Shannu to come forward.

“This beautiful lady is Ning Yue Hall’s Hallmaster Ye Ying Mei, the one next to her is famous through over half of Xiong Ji Hall, Hallmaster Zhao Wu Chui”

Hearing Gu Qing Shan’s explanation, Ye Ying Mei lightly smiled and observed Shannu together with Zhao Wu Chui.

Zhao Wu Chui’s expression was still sullen.

Just now, Qi Yan introduced him as “famous through over half of Xiong Ji Hall”...

The more he thought about it, the more annoyed became.

Shannu stepped forward and bowed: “This humble one is Gu Qing Shan, greetings to the two Hallmasters”

“Ascended realm late stage, considering he’s a new disciple, that’s quite high” Ye Ying Mei commented.

“A sword cultivator?” Zhao Wu Chui asked.

“Yes” Shannu answered.

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“Why did you take in a new disciple?” Ye Ying Mei curiously asked.

“There’s no need to say too much about that— Qing Shan, now that you’ve already met the two Hallmasters, you’re dismissed” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Yes” Shannu replied.

She once again bowed to the two Virtualized realm cultivators and headed down the platform.

Staring at “Gu Qing Shan’s” back, Zhao Wu Chui abruptly clenched his fist and lightly attacked from afar.

Shannu instantly turned around, stabbing forward with the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

5 sword phantoms struck the hammer-like force but was quickly broken.

The transparent fist strike was stopped for a split second, but it was still moving forward with a lot of momentum.

Zhao Wu Chui’s nonchalant strike not only managed to break Shannu’s Secret Art [Water Flow Severance], it still had force to spare.

Now that the strike was quickly approaching her, Shannu had no time left to attack again.

Then two swords suddenly appeared from the void of space next to her.

The Earth sword and Chao Yin sword.

Two large, white crescent slashes overlapped and struck the transparent fist together.

Shash!

The sound of the air being ripped apart reverberated across the entire platform.

The fist strike that was cut by [Crescent Strike] dissipated into the wind, screaming as it went away.

It took three consecutive Secret Arts to finally dispel Zhao Wu Chui’s strike.

‘Gu Qing Shan’ stood still, the two swords danced around him without stopping.

Holding the Six Paths Great Mountain sword in hand, he coldly asked: “Senior Zhao, what is the meaning of this?”

Zhao Wu Chui was now staring at the two dancing swords and exclaimed in amazement: “A sword saint! He was a sword saint— but that can’t be, he’s still only Ascended realm!”

Ye Ying Mei glanced at Qi Yan, her wonder was now solved.

“Being at Ascended realm cultivator and has an understanding of the sword deep enough to become a sword saint, I would also feel tempted to take him in if I saw such an outstanding gem” she sighed.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and just said: “Alright, Gu Qing Shan, you may leave, senior Zhao was only joking with you just now”

“Wait” Zhao Wu Chui stopped him.

Gu Qing Shan turned to look.

“Did you already do the ceremony? I recall taking a disciple from outside our sect requires confirmation from the sect” Zhao Wu Chui asked sternly.

“I’ve only just returned, how would I have time to do such a thing? But it’ll be done sooner or later” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhao Wu Chui stopped for a bit.

He then smiled at Shannu: “Since junior managed to take one hit from me, I have to at least give you a greeting gift”

“Seems like you didn’t take that hit for nothing, Qing Shan” Gu Qing Shan looked at Shannu and said.

Between cultivators, giving a first meeting gift to a new disciple of cultivators from the same generation was the most basic form of etiquette and unwritten rule.

Even if Zhao Wu Chui and Qi Yan has some personal discord, basic etiquette must still be kept, at least on the surface.

“Quickly come and thank senior Zhao, since he’s a Virtualized realm cultivator as well as a Hallmaster, he won’t give you anything too shabby, otherwise it’ll be humiliating to talk about”

Zhao Wu Chui slightly scowled at he heard Gu Qing Shan.

Glancing at him for only a second, Zhao Wu Chui returned his gaze to Shannu.

With Zhao Wu Chui’s cultivation, he only needed one strike to gauge the strength of this ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

A swordsmanship seed.

A true swordsmanship seed!

How regretful!

Such a good heir was discovered by a scum like Qi Yan first.

Zhao Wu Chui felt a bit regretful.

However, since they haven’t done the official ceremony yet, there’s still some wiggle room.

Because Qi Yan is about to die anyways.

At that time...

Thinking that, Zhao Wu Chui tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a bottle of pills.

Shannu received it in her hand.

“You’re already Ascended realm late stage, I could tell from your solid foundation and accumulation of spirit energy that you’re about to break through” Zhao Wu Chui said.

“There is a Sainting Pill in this bottle, during the tribulation it can help you replenish spirit energy and once the tribulation is over, it’ll help you quickly stabilize your fluctuating spirit energy”

Gu Qing Shan raised his brows slightly, laughing: “This is a good thing, quickly thank Hallmaster Zhao”

“Yes, thank you Hallmaster Zhao” Shannu spoke.

Ye Ying Mei also took out a talisman and threw it over.

She smiled: “Since old Zhao already gave something, I can’t be stingy— this is an automatic-type defensive talisman, although it’s only usable once, it can block a full power attack from a Virtualized realm cultivator, enough to save your life once”

“How is it, Hallmaster Qi, my strike wasn’t for nothing huh?” Zhao Wu Chui smiled and said.

“Hallmaster Zhao is too kind” Gu Qing Shan also looked back at him and smiled.

Zhao Wu Chui nodded then looked back at ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

Having just received treasures from two Virtualized realm cultivators, “Gu Qing Shan’s” expression did not change a single bit.

Shannu’s personality has always been cold, not to mention since she’s a sword spirit, she didn’t think too much of these items.

But to the two Virtualized realm cultivators, “Gu Qing Shan’s” indifference was the sign of a mature mind, not arrogant and not anxious, so their impression of him actually improved.

While smiling, Gu Qing Shan became even more cautious in his mind.

Seniors giving gifts to a junior, this was a very normal thing to do.

And both of their gifts were precious enough to show that they respected Qi Yan.

If the real Qi Yan was here, he would naturally feel triumphant about this.

But Gu Qing Shan instead felt that something was wrong.

— from their relationships with Qi Yan, normally they don’t even want to bother with him, so why would they act so kind to a junior?

Zhao Wu Chui even explained himself at the end with such a nice attitude.

How could a Martial cultivator who reached Virtualized realm act that way while holding back feelings of annoyance?

It was very redundant.

Gu Qing Shan kept smiling and gestured with a wave: “Alright, Qing Shan, you may leave first, I need to discuss something with the Hallmasters”

“Yes”

Saying so, Shannu went off the platform.

Chapter 437: Qi Yan’s intentions

Translated by: La0o9

Proofreader: Arya

Everyone unrelated already left the platform.

Back on the platform, all three of the Hallmasters went into temporary silence.

The two Hallmasters were thinking on their own, carefully considering what to say next.

Gu Qing Shan also decided to just stay quiet and said nothing.

He doesn’t know anything about their secret discussions, so the more he says the more likely he’ll make mistakes.

He was taking this time to look at the War God UI.

A few lines of glowing texts had appeared on the UI for a while.

Gu Qing Shan was too busy dealing with the situation to read them before.

[You've killed a Sainted realm late stage cultivator Wang Qi Shen]

[You've killed a Sainted realm mid stage cultivator Xiong Shi]

[Because both enemies were stronger than you and you killed them in one hit, you've received Soul Points that surpasses the maximum limit]

[Soul Points gained: 700]

[Soul Points gained: 500]

[Current Soul Points: 1203/300]

Seeing this notification, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit more assured.

In the current situation, Soul Points was the only power that can overturn everything.

To find Shen Wu world's coordinates, he needed a formation user.

But the only trustworthy formation user in this world, Chu Liu, was already dead.

The other three formation users of Guang Yang sect can't be used at all.

So Gu Qing Shan can only do it himself.

He will have to use [War God Skills] to comprehend the art of formations and fully grasp the concept of the warp formation.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell down, looking at the row of icons below the War God UI.

Only three of them showed actual icons.

These three were [War God Skills], [War God Thaumaturgy], and [War God Title]

Aside from that, the rest of them were blacked out, unable to be seen.

After glancing over them, Gu Qing Shan pulled his attention away.

The first thing he should focus on right now was how to escape from this world.

Everything else can be put on hold.

Ye Ying Mei finally started to speak: "Gentlemen, the next issue is related to the survival of our sect, we've already talked about it once before, but I'm sure you've all had time to reconsider it carefully once again. Now that we're here, I hope the three of us can reach a consensus"

Talked about it once before.

Better reach a consensus.

—-but what exactly did the three Hallmasters discuss before?

Qing Rou and Wan Er were not qualified to participate in such a discussion; and Qi Yan wouldn't tell them about it unprompted.

So Gu Qing Shan has no idea what Ye Ying Mei is talking about.

“Hallmaster Zhao can tell us his opinion first” Gu Qing Shan said without hesitation.

Zhao Wu Chui didn’t think too much of it and spoke directly: “I disagree with Qi Yan’s suggestion, he should stop it with that thought”

Ye Ying Mei said nothing and only looked at Gu Qing Shan.

After showing his stance, Zhao Wu Chui also looked at him.

Being stared at by two Virtualized realm cultivators, Gu Qing Shan acted like he was contemplating something.

Alright, you disagree with what I said, that’s fine.

I can just fight back step by step.

But can anyone tell me just what my proposal was?

“Old Zhao”

Gu Qing Shan spoke after a bit of consideration: “I feel that you’re only disagreeing for the sake of disagreeing and haven’t seriously considered my proposition at all, isn’t that a bit disagreeable?”

Zhao Wu Chui scoffed: “Don’t think everyone else is like you. I separate work and personal matters very clearly, this has nothing to do with our discord”

—–but I still don’t know what this is about.

“We’ve known for so many years but that’s the first time I’ve heard that about you” Gu Qing Shan smirked.

Zhao Wu Chui only stared at him and said nothing.

Ye Ying Mei also didn’t say anything.

They were only staring at him.

Gu Qing Shan could only continue: “Alright then, if you’re insisting that, then give a proper explanation of why you’re rejecting my proposal”

His tone shifted a bit to sound sincere: “If you can convince me, maybe I’ll consider it again”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan went silent.

Since he still doesn’t know what this was about, he planned on saying as little as possible.

Hearing him say that, Zhao Wu Chui became serious as well.

This matter needs to be dealt with now, but master still hasn’t said anything, so I have to make Qi Yan give up on this.

“I’ll admit that you have a good flesh bag, and is a talented cultivator, but do you know what kind of existence Rakshasa Peak is, they’re not people we can mess with” Zhao Wu Chui spoke.

“Hmm... go on” Gu Qing Shan said.

Rakshasa Peak.

When I arrived at the sect, I recall seeing a large airship specifically used to transport resources to Rakshasa Peak.

An entire airship full of resources, in exchange for a single pill.

A healing pill for a Cryptic realm cultivator, to prolong Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao's life.

And soon, Rakshasa Peak will come to visit them.

Gu Qing Shan was thinking quickly while showing an expression of paying attention.

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Seeing that, Zhao Wu Chui thought of it as him rethinking about it.

He then sincerely went on: "Ever since the other great sects left the world, Rakshasa Peak has become the strongest authority here. With three Cryptic realm cultivators, they are able to overpower any and every other sect"

"And so?" Gu Qing Shan showed impatience.

What he has been hearing was nothing but common knowledge, so it makes sense for him to be annoyed.

Zhao Wu Chui then quickly explained his point: "That's why, when Rakshasa Peak accepted your proposal, it was only at face value. Their intention was only to probe our situation"

"Both Hallmaster Ye and I think that this type of predatory sect will definitely hold bad intentions towards our own"

Gu Qing Shan lifted his cup of tea and took a sip with nonchalance.

Just what the hell did this Qi Yan propose?

The two Hallmasters are both against his proposal, and it seems to be related to his handsome appearance.

No matter how hard Gu Qing Shan tried, he still couldn't fish out Qi Yan's true intentions from this vague exchange.

The two Hallmasters kept staring at him.

Even the Rakshasa's Daughter mask on the table seems to be staring at him with a smile.

Gu Qing Shan once again opened his mouth.

"Old Zhao, I think this is nothing but your personal opinion, there's nothing to prove that at all"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

Zhao Wu Chui looked over to Ye Ying Mei.

Ye Ying Mei cleared her throat and spoke: "I honestly also agree with old Zhao's opinion"

"Ah? Ying Mei sis also thinks the same way he does?"

"I do"

Alright, they clearly want to go 2 against 1.

“Truthfully, I think Ying Mei sis’ mind is much clearer than old Zhao, so I want to hear your opinion as well” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Not suspecting anything, Ye Ying Mei sternly told him: “This generation’s Rakshasa’s Daughter is about to breakthrough to Cryptic realm, but you’ve only just reached Virtualized realm, this is one”

“Two, none of those who got noticed by Rakshasa’s Daughter ever died off peacefully, some of them gave everything they had yet still ended up hopelessly dead, this can’t be a coincidence”

Receiving two useful pieces of intelligence, Gu Qing Shan nodded and gestured Ye Ying Mei to go on.

Ye Ying Mei continued: “Three, since every other large sect has gone away, aside from Rakshasa Peak, our Guang Yang sect is the strongest, I believe that Rakshasa’s Daughter might want to use you as a springboard to deal with our entire sect”

She concluded: “That’s why, when Rakshasa Peak’s people come, I hope that you can retract your request right in front of everyone”

“Retract it?” Gu Qing Shan’s expression dimmed.

“I was the one who proposed this, and now I have to take back my words in front of everybody, what do you think my face is?”

Even though he got some information, he still didn’t want to assume Qi Yan’s specific proposal.

With how sharp the two Virtualized realm cultivators were, as soon as Gu Qing Shan gets one word wrong, they will immediately find out.

The situation was getting more and more dangerous.

Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui exchanged looks, both very irritated.

Qi Yan still has the gall to talk about face when they’re in such deep trouble?

“Just what exactly—” Zhao Wu Chui wanted to say something.

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: “Let us make this quick, if I give up on my proposal, what benefits does that give me?”

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui were shocked.

Right, since when did this brat Qi Yan ever cared about face, he only cared about his own benefit.

The two of them were once again reminded of Qi Yan’s nature.

“Benefit? Your benefit is not dying at Rakshasa’s Daughter’s hands” Zhao Wu Chui scoffed.

Gu Qing Shan sneered, nodded and said nothing.

From the way he acted, it seems he just put another grudge with Zhao Wu Chui into his book.

“Stop it, old Zhao”

Ye Ying Mei glared at Zhao Wu Chui disapprovingly.

“Qi Yan, we’re not joking this time, Rakshasa’s Daughter’s techniques and abilities are mysterious and strange, even we can’t guarantee we’d win against her”

Ye Ying Mei patiently explained.

“Not to mention, you know how the Grand Elder’s body is, he needs to rely on the precious pills to survive every day, so the sect already can’t handle too large a commotion”

“If Rakshasa Peak had any ill will, we can’t even deal with Rakshasa’s Daughter, let alone their entire sect”

“Qi Yan, I really hope you’ll carefully reconsider this and give up on your proposal”

“You have a point, but I still don’t see any benefits” Gu Qing Shan casually dismissed her.

He glanced over at the two of them, Ye Ying Mei was already near breaking point, while Zhao Wu Chui seemed like he had already gone past that point.

He should change his approach right about now.

Gu Qing Shan had a sudden thought.

His expression became serious, speaking in a low voice: “Old Zhao, do you really think this isn’t correct? You should know me very well through these past years, why do you have so little faith in me?”

Seeing how serious he was, Zhao Wu Chui’s boiling rage subsided a bit, but he still couldn’t stand Qi Yan’s bad acting.

Standing up, he shouted: “Then tell me, after all this time, aside from giving her so much precious resources, what exactly did you get from her?”

“Qi Yan! You can’t keep courting Rakshasa’s Daughter, she doesn’t want to be your goddamn Dao companion! You can’t climb that high!”

Ye Ying Mei also lightly nodded.

Dong!

Gu Qing Shan’s heart sank.

—I finally know what Qi Yan proposed.

And no wonder the white fox was looking at him in a strange manner.

No wonder Rakshasa’s Daughter gave him her mask.

It’s because Qi Yan wanted to marry and become her Dao companion!

Chapter 438: Confrontation

After so many times of probing, he finally found out Qi Yan’s proposal!

In that split second, Gu Qing Shan’s mind paced back and forth rapidly.

He was recalling every detail he found out before.

An airship full of resources that went past as he returned to the sect.

They were resources to be exchanged for the Grand Elder’s life-saving pill.

This was a world where resources can't be replenished...

Not to mention, since Guang Yang sect's most powerful fighting power was almost completely at their mercy, it's not abnormal for Rakshasa Peak to hold ill will towards Guang Yang sect.

Under such a situation, Qi Yan wanted to become the infamous Rakshasa's Daughter's Dao companion.

This was no different from playing with fire.

However!

Although he was merciless and self-absorbed, Qi Yan wasn't stupid.

That's right, he was a skirt chaser, but after so many years of doing so, he has never once made a mistake because of his skirt chasing.

He was even cautious of a stunning beauty like Chu Liu, just because she was an expert formation user.

He wasn't just smart, he was also paranoid and careful.

Why would such a person take such a large risk and invite outsiders in?
Unless his situation was already so bad that he had no other choice...

It was already a few breaths since the time Gu Qing Shan started thinking.

Seeing how silent Qi Yan was, the two Hallmasters thought that he was still stubborn like always.

They couldn't hold back their anger anymore.

Zhao Wu Chui's fists were clenched tightly.

Even Ye Ying Mei's eyes became cold.

All of a sudden, Qi Yan sighed.

He stood up, folding his hands behind his back as he paced around the platform.

"Ying Mei sis, old Zhao, do you think I'm a fool?" he asked.

The two Virtualized cultivators were stunned.

They were talking about Rakshasa Peak, how did it suddenly come to be about you?
Fool—

They slowly calmed down.

"That's right, although you're normally cold and sharp-tongued, doing crazy antics..." Zhao Wu Chui muttered.

Ye Ying Mei also couldn't help but nod.

From what they've seen up until now, Qi Yan certainly doesn't act like a fool very often.
In fact he's a very smart person, otherwise he wouldn't have been able to reach Virtualized realm.
If that's the case, why does he need to do that?

The two Virtualized realm cultivators were thinking the same thing.

Their anger slowly went down as they thought about this.

“Qi Yan, tell me honestly, why do you have to court Rakshasa’s Daughter” Ye Ying Mei asked.

Gu Qing Shan went silent for a few seconds more, quickly arranging everything that he has known so far.

They were trying to win over his disciple ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

Since this act was hidden in a very normal gifting ceremony for their junior, even Gu Qing Shan didn’t think too much of it.

But Zhao Wu Chui went and purposefully explained himself to Qi Yan later on.

A Virtualized realm Martial cultivator purposefully explaining things to his enemy. This was very redundant.

This gave him a hint that something was up.

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui held some kind of thoughts towards ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

Some kind of thought...

There’s too little information to conclude.

Then let’s change the perspective.

When did their attitude towards ‘Gu Qing Shan’ change?

—right, it was when I told them the student acceptance ceremony hasn’t been conducted yet.

Since it hasn’t been conducted, Gu Qing Shan still isn’t Qi Yan’s official disciple.

But it’ll happen sooner or later.

‘Gu Qing Shan’ will become Qi Yan’s disciple sooner or later.

And there’s no way Qi Yan would give away something that belongs to him, that’s too abnormal.

If that’s the case then——

There’s only one situation where Zhao Wu Chui can formally get ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

Qi Yan must die.

That’s right, this is the only possible answer.

From Qi Yan’s supposed end, you can take a guess at Qi Ruo Ya’s situation.

Wang Hong Dao still hasn’t shown up after so long.

What is he doing?

It was all clear.

Gu Qing Shan felt a chill down his spine.

Assuming his deduction was true, he thought back and managed to find a lot of hints and clues from their exchanges earlier.

The two Hallmasters are afraid of Rakshasa’s Daughter.

They didn’t mention a word about the sect master Qi Ruo Ya’s tribulation.

The Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao was absent at the sect meeting.

No one knows where Wang Hong Dao is currently.

Aside from that, there was another important hint: the monthly supplied spirit stones will be delayed.

Could it be this was the reason for everything?

Gu Qing Shan recalled the airship that contained all the resources.

Thought after thought connected in Gu Qing Shan's mind, quickly forming a deduction.

A few more breaths passed.

Zhao Wu Chui couldn't help but ask: "Qi Yan, Hallmaster Ye is asking, why don't you answer her"

Gu Qing Shan abruptly answered: "Because I think that my father will probably not make it through this tribulation"

Such a bombshell statement caused both the Virtualized realm cultivators to be stunned, almost attacking him.

"Why?" Zhao Wu Chui asked.

He lowered his gaze, trying his best to hide his killing intent.

"Truthfully, he's been wounded for a long time without being able to recover, facing the tribulation isn't at all assured" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui exchanged looks.

Seems like Qi Yan doesn't know the truth.

They were able to loosen up a bit.

"Qi Yan, I wouldn't believe that you'd tell me such a secret" Zhao Wu Chui replied.

Ye Ying Mei also shook her head.

"Because that's not important, the most important thing is whether or not we'll survive" Gu Qing Shan declared such an inexplicable thing.

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui appeared a bit confused as they heard that.

"We?"

Ye Ying Mei muttered.

Zhao Wu Chui couldn't help but refute: "What do you mean by that? Have you gone crazy Qi Yan? Nothing you're saying makes any sense"

Gu Qing Shan abruptly exploded in anger, dashing straight in front of Zhao Wu Chui and pointed him straight in the chest.

He furiously roared: "Zhao Wu Chui! We're all about to die, being eaten by the realm demon means we won't even be able to reincarnate! And you're still trying to act like you don't know anything!"

This struck deep into Zhao Wu Chui's mind.

He was stunned.

"I don't understand what you're talking about at all" he muttered weakly.

He isn't exactly clear what he was talking about.

But Qi Yan isn't a person to joke about his own life and death.

Ye Ying Mei spoke in a low voice: “Qi Yan, speak clearly”

Gu Qing Shan coldly laughed: “How long do you think we have to live?”

“Stop speaking nonsense, we’re living just fine” Zhao Wu Chui answered.

——we are, but you’re about to die.

Zhao Wu Chui added that in his mind.

But Qi Yan continued: “My father is about to die, Guang Yang sect has nothing but a wounded Cryptic realm cultivator, which is your master, Wang Hong Dao”

“How would such a Guang Yang sect stop Rakshasa Peak’s attack?”

Zhao Wu Chui’s expression dimmed, saying: “That’s why we’re hoping that you won’t mess with——”

“Mess with? You’re still saying that I’m messing with them!?”

Gu Qing Shan began to laugh loudly, as if he was hearing the funniest thing in the world.

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“What are you laughing about?” Zhao Wu Chui asked.

“To Rakshasa Peak who has 3 Cryptic realm cultivators, if they wanted to kill us, do you think ‘not messing’ with them is enough?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Zhao Wu Chui was unable to respond to that.

Ye Ying Mei tried following up for him: “At least we still have Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao, Rakshasa Peak wouldn’t...”

But Ye Ying Mei stopped too.

She was also feeling how powerless she was.

Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao required Rakshasa Peak’s pills every day to survive.

They don’t even need to do anything, as soon as they refuse to trade the pills for resources, they’re free to wait until the strongest fighting power in Guang Yang sect slowly dies off.

The two of them fell silent.

That’s right, this was the real situation they were in.

This was the true situation that the three Hallmasters can’t help but face outside of their small in-fighting.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the two of them, a bit more assured.

Only when he makes the situation seem this serious will he be able to make the two Hallmasters listen to him seriously.

If they keep going back and forth with the sect’s inner matters, they’ll just be looking at a clown and wait until Wang Hong Dao returns to kill him.

After a while, Zhao Wu Chui spoke up: "Is this the real reason why you tried to mess with this generation's Rakshasa's Daughter?"

He was still using the word "mess with", as if insisting that all this was brought about because of Qi Yan.

Gu Qing Shan's expression became grim as he got closer to Zhao Wu Chui.

"What?" Zhao Wu Chui felt a bit uncomfortable.

Gu Qing Shan laughed.

"Old Zhao, tell me the truth, how much resources are there left in the sect that we can use to exchange for pills with Rakshasa Peak?"

"Of course we still have a lot——" Zhao Wu Chui instantly replied.

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: "Stop! I don't need to hear any falsehood right now, this is related to our life and death, I hope that we can all be straight forward"

"If you do, I'll also be straight forward and tell you about the hope of survival I found"

The two Hallmasters looked at him.

"A hope of survival?" Ye Ying Mei thought for a bit and spoke, "Qi Yan——"

Gu Qing Shan held his hand up to cut her off, saying: "Rakshasa Peak has 3 Cryptic realm cultivators, do you really think they'll bother with our life and death? Their resources are barely enough for the three of them to use"

"People like us would only threaten their standing if we manage to advance another step further, even if not, we'd be taking up their valuable resources, if you were them, what would you do?"

Gu Qing Shan then smiled bitterly to Ye Ying Mei, saying: "Ying Mei sis, I'm afraid our sect's three formation users will even have it better than we do"

Ye Ying Mei tried refuting but couldn't manage to utter a word.

That's right, what Qi Yan said was the real situation.

Countless sects that died all ended up exactly the same.

Gu Qing Shan leaned forward, staring at Zhao Wu Chui and said: "Old Zhao, I ask you again, tell me just how much usable resource is left in the sect?"

He continued: "Tell me the truth, then I'll tell you what our only hope of survival is"

Zhao Wu Chui looked straight at Gu Qing Shan and only responded after a while: "I remember that you weren't at the sect for the past while"

"That is true" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Many people left with you, but none of them returned" Ye Ying Mei added.

"Where did you go?" Zhao Wu Chui asked.

"Old Zhao, answer my question first then I'll answer yours" Gu Qing Shan replied.

“What if you’re lying?”

“Then there are two of you, both of which are stronger than me”

Hearing that, Zhao Wu Chui lowered his head.

Time almost seemed to freeze at this moment.

After a very long pause.

Zhao Wu Chui struggled to open his mouth and spat out an answer.

“There are... only enough resources left to exchange for one pill”

Ye Ying Mei’s expression changed.

She yelled out: “Old Zhao! How! I remember you telling me there should be at least enough for a few years!”

Zhao Wu Chui lowered his head again, not saying anything else.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent.

Seems like Guang Yang sect’s situation is even worse than I thought.

But thanks to that, there’s a chance to overturn my own situation now.

This was the first time ever since he arrived in this world that he’s felt a bit assured.

—assured of his survival.

Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice: “Old Zhao, Wang Hong Dao must’ve made you say that in order to ease everyone’s minds didn’t he?”

Zhao Wu Chui remained silent, but nodded very slightly.

Ye Ying Mei’s face became pale.

Seemingly recalling something, she gritted her teeth: “He fooled even me...”

“Wang Hong Dao needs those pills to survive, if he wanted to keep living, he had to monopolize all available resources, until there’s nothing left in the sect” Gu Qing Shan.

He sighed: “The two of you probably already knew this but didn’t want to admit it to yourselves”

The two of them fell silent.

This was everyone’s common flaw, before despair and reality slaps them in the face, they want to keep their delusion that everything is still ok.

While looking at them, Gu Qing Shan’s mind moved a bit.

Or perhaps they weren’t deluded at all.

Perhaps Wang Hong Dao had used some sort of method to force them to not retaliate.

Which means, if I’m unable to persuade them after this, everything will come crumbling down.

It’s time to show my true mettle.

Sure enough, Zhao Wu Chui then raised his head, staring at him: "I've been very straight forward"

"You did" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Truthfully, I'm already in despair. That's why I'm risking everything to tell you about this, otherwise once master finds out that I revealed his secret, I'm not going to get off easy" Zhao Wu Chui said.

"That is true" Gu Qing Shan agreed.

"So, Hallmaster Qi, can you show us your sincerity now?" Zhao Wu Chui asked.

Gu Qing Shan stared at Zhao Wu Chui.

Zhao Wu Chui stared back at him.

Holding a hint of anticipation in his eyes, Zhao Wu Chui's entire body tensed up.

Since I let someone like Qi Yan know about the true situation of the sect, master will definitely not forgive me.

If Qi Yan acts like he always does and jokes around, I'll kill him even if I have to risk my life.

"I really do have a solution" Gu Qing Shan said.

Before he went on, he looked around cautiously.

Seeing that Zhao Wu Chui smiled bitterly: "Don't worry, all the formations are turned on this time around"

Which means, sometimes not all of them are running.

It's truly shocking how impoverished their sect has become.

Gu Qing Shan went in front of the two, lowered his voice and said the most shocking thing today.

"Truthfully... I found a new world

Chapter 439

A new world—

Qi Yan found a new world!?

Zhao Wu Chui shot up, loudly yelling: "That's not possible! After so many years, all the worlds that could be found have already been found"

"What if it's true?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ye Ying Mei questioned in a low voice: "Rakshasa Peak's 3 Cryptic realm cultivators searched around the void of space for over a hundred years and they couldn't find any new worlds"

"What if I'm telling the truth?" Gu Qing Shan still casually asked.

The two Hallmasters stared straight at him.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at Ye Ying Mei, then at Zhao Wu Chui, smiling brightly.

The two Hallmasters weren't too sure

*With how confident and calm Qi Yan is being, did he really find a new world?
If he did, everything would be different.*

Zhao Wu Chui couldn't help but ask Ye Ying Mei: "What do you think?"

Ye Ying Mei shook her head and slowly questioned: "Hallmaster Qi, even if there is a new world, why tell us?"

She continued: "Up until now, your relationship with the two of us can hardly be considered amiable, let alone close. I don't believe for a single second that you'd be willing to tell us something like that"

"Right, that's exactly right!" Zhao Wu Chui followed up.

Gu Qing Shan casually answered: "You're actually right to think that"

"We're right?" Zhao Wu Chui repeated.

"When I first discovered that world, I actually didn't want to tell you"

—these two are Virtualized realm cultivators, not only did they live for over thousands of years and are talented beyond anyone of their peers, having managed the sect for so long, they've both surpassed humans when it comes to slyness.

To make two such people believe me, I'll have to really act the part.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan raised his hand, he lifted the brim of his hat up just high enough to still have an effect.

This revealed his face fully to the two Hallmasters.

A few deep sword slashes had cut deep into his face all the way down to his chin.

The slash curved at little as it got down to his chin.

A few of the slashes actually changed directions when it got near his neck.

From this, it could be seen that Qi Yan barely had dodged out of the way at the very last second.

Otherwise these cuts would've taken off his head.

Which means, Qi Yan was almost killed.

The two Hallmasters were stunned.

The large-brimmed hat had an effect to shut out all presence, and since Qi Yan had purposefully been keeping it low, the two Hallmasters only managed to make out the fact that he had a wound on his face, but not enough to see it so clearly.

Now that they had a closer look, they found that Qi Yan almost got done in by someone.

Although he got out with his life, half of Qi Yan's face was destroyed.

—no wonder he's so insistent on wearing the hat and not revealing his face!

Ye Ying Mei nodded, gesturing her understanding.

Zhao Wu Chui was confused: "...You were already at Virtualized realm, even if it's only early stage, you're still quite strong, how did this..."

Ye Ying Mei couldn't hold her question back either: "Who dared do this to you? Knowing your amiable relationship with Rakshasa Peak"

Facing them, Qi Yan showed an expression of hatred and cruelty.

Once again, he pulled the hat down to hide his terrifying wounds.

"Did you see it clearly?" he asked.

The two Hallmasters nodded.

"I've already answered your question" Gu Qing Shan said.

Then he just stood there without saying anything else.

The two Hallmasters couldn't help but think about it.

Qi Yan has always been vain.

He's even confident enough to court Rakshasa's Daughter.

But someone ruined his face.

Qi Yan would definitely not be willing to let such a thing happen.

Which makes things very clear.

"From the look of it, that new world of yours isn't easy huh?" Zhao Wu Chui tried probing him a bit.

Gu Qing Shan didn't reply to that, instead clear killing intent drifted from his body.

He couldn't help his fingers twitching as he clenched his fists tight.

Observing his minor reactions, Ye Ying Mei muttered: "No wonder... no wonder I haven't seen most of your subordinates, from your own situation, just the people of Zwei Wei Hall were definitely not enough to take over that world"

Zhao Wu Chui commented: "Against a new world, acting arbitrarily isn't a good idea at all. Qi Yan, you've overestimated yourself"

Their words were calm, but their expressions were clearly bright and glad.

Their brows had loosened, even their eyes were a bit more animated.

A new world.

This word meant unimaginable wealth and vast amounts of resources.

This word makes them recall the glorious times that used to be.

Although they haven't confirmed this to be true yet, they're much more willing to immerse themselves in the nostalgia of time passed rather than this world of despair.

“How strong are they?” Zhao Wu Chui asked.

“There was only one of them I couldn’t deal with, a Virtualized realm sword cultivator”

Hearing that, the two Hallmasters felt assured.

A sword cultivator was excellent at killing and battle, but his cultivation was a bit low, and there was only one of him.

At worse, all three of them can surround and kill him together.

“If what you’re saying is the truth, I’m very willing to go with you” Zhao Wu Chui expressed his attitude.

“Me as well” Ye Ying Mei rubbed her chin as she agreed.

Gu Qing Shan stuck out one finger, holding it up in front of the two of them.

“There’s one crucial matter that we have to deal with first right here” he said.

“What is it?”

“You must cooperate with me to kill Wang Hong Dao before we do anything”

Not waiting for them to react, Gu Qing Shan immediately followed up: “Once my father fails his breakthrough, the first person Wang Hong Dao will want to kill is me, so he has to die first”

Zhao Wu Chui’s expression changed and yelled out: “You bastard, you want me to betray my master!”

“Shut up old Zhao!” Gu Qing Shan snapped back at him.

“What exactly has Wang Hong Dao given to you all these years? Don’t say that he let you be head of Xiong Ji Hall, everything big that’s related to Xiong Ji Hall requires his permission. What authority did he actually give you? What benefits did he actually provide!?”

Hearing that, Zhao Wu Chui’s facial muscles tensed up, as if he was about to explode.

Gu Qing Shan walked forward, pushing down on both of his shoulders and spoke sincerely: “Old Zhao, this world is done for, we need to live! You can’t keep letting him decide what you do, consider your own life and death first!”

Hearing that, Zhao Wu Chui froze on the spot.

“Actually, we can also defeat you right here and now and force that world’s coordinates out of you” Ye Ying Mei suddenly spoke up.

As she stood up, her fighting spirit was also rising.

Zhao Wu Chui also regained his senses.

“Ying Mei sis, you really think I haven’t considered that possibility?” Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

He put one hand up, swearing: “I in fact do not know the coordinates of the new world, if there is falsehood in my words, may the lightning of heaven strike me down without hope for reincarnation”

An invisible wind gathered around him, not stopping even after a while.

A rumbling could also be heard in the sky, as if thunder was gathering.

Through witness of heaven and earth, the oath was formed.

“You don’t know the coordinates?” Zhao Wu Chui couldn’t quite react in time.

Ye Ying Mei also sat back down, lowering her head deeply.

“There really is a new world, but I don’t personally hold the coordinates to it”

Gu Qing Shan slowly but calmly said.

“But, I’ve rigged it so that as soon as something happens to me, the new world’s coordinates will immediately be destroyed”

“And when that happen, everyone can die together, only Wang Hong Dao can use the rest of the sect’s resources to keep on living for a few days”

“If you want things to end that way, feel free to attack me right now”

Ye Ying Mei retracted all of her killing intent, not even leaving a speck of it.

She looked up at Gu Qing Shan in annoyance.

“Qi Yan, you’re too sly” she sighed dejectedly.

Gu Qing Shan then changed his expression to express his sincerity.

“Ying Mei sis, I have something to ask you personally, hope that you won’t hold it against me”

“Speak”

“Remember that year, you should’ve became the Dao companion of a direct disciple of another sect, but at the end, Wang Hong Dao appeared and firmly rejected your marriage”

“I don’t know about the details of what happened then, only that the direct disciple mysteriously disappeared without a trace”

Gu Qing Shan was observing Ye Ying Mei’s expression as he spoke.

Ye Ying Mei’s gaze was fixed at a certain place in midair, unmoving.

She was pursing her lips tight, as if tasting some sort of bitterness.

Gu Qing Shan muttered in a low voice: “It’s been so many years, do you not hold a grudge?”

Ye Ying Mei turned away.

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She placed one hand on her chest, not saying another word.

Zhao Wu Chui spoke in a low voice: “Qi Yan, you rat bastard, I can’t believe anything you say right now, and I don’t believe that there really is a new world”

“Old Zhao, there’s no need to probe me, this is a very crucial matter that will directly affect our survival”

“To show my sincerity, I’ll prove this right now” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

Both Hallmasters looked straight at him.

The look in their eyes contained desire and desperation, like a drowning person trying their best to clutch at anything they could.

Seeing their expressions, Gu Qing Shan had a few different thoughts.

“Wait a bit”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan stepped off the platform and told Qing Rou who was waiting outside the formation: “Go and find Wu San”

“Yes” answering him, Qing Rou left.

A few moments later, Wu San appeared in front of the three Hallmasters.

The first thing he did was to kneel down and bowed to Gu Qing Shan with his head to the ground.

“Young master, what use do you have of his humble servant?”

Wu San was smiling flatteringly, but his eyes couldn’t hide the fear he held.

The three Hallmasters were staring at him without saying a word.

Wu San has never faced such a situation before.

Gu Qing Shan gestured to the two Virtualized realm cultivators.

“You might not believe anything I say, but both of you should know that it’s impossible to tamper with a person’s soul vessel, otherwise there would be a problem with their mind”

The Hallmasters nodded.

A soul vessel that has been tampered with couldn’t possibly escape their eyes.

Wu San’s eyes were focused and his soul vessel was calm, obviously a very normal cultivator.

Gu Qing Shan told them: “This is my closest aide who’s done a lot of things for me, you can find the memories regarding the new world from him”

“Memories come from the soul vessel itself—— I won’t be able to tamper with that or lie to you”

“Take a look for yourselves”

Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui exchanged glances.

“Should I confirm it first?”

Zhao Wu Chui already couldn’t wait anymore and spoke up first.

“Go ahead” Ye Ying Mei agreed.

Zhao Wu Chui’s body disappeared from where he stood.

Without any movements at all, Wu San was already knocked unconscious.

Zhao Wu Chui then grabbed Wu San’s head with his bare hands.

The simplest way to look into a person’s memories was using Soul Reading.

Zhao Wu Chui closed his eyes and went into a silent contemplation.

Silence across the entire platform.

Despite normally being very calm, Ye Ying Mei couldn't hold herself back anymore.

She asked: "Old Zhao, is it real or not?"

She looked at Zhao Wu Chui, then at Gu Qing Shan.

Zhao Wu Chui said nothing, still looking into Wu San's memories.

Gu Qing Shan stood on one side, completely calm.

——the reason why he was so calm was because everything up to now has been exactly as he planned.

Back in Shen Wu world, he used Soul Reading on cultivators from Guang Yang sect and found out Wu San's existence.

Also at that time, the System gave out the Special Quest [Wu San must die]

Wu San was the only living person left that knows about the existence of the cultivation world and Shen Wu world.

Wu San didn't come to Shen Wu world, so he doesn't know any of Qi Yan's other subordinates, and definitely not what Qi Yan himself went through.

He doesn't know that Shen Wu world has nothing but weapon spirits left, or the fact that the strongest cultivator in that world was only Sainted realm.

——Bai Hua Fairy didn't even breakthrough to Projection realm until just before Qi Yan's last trip to Shen Wu world.

Gu Qing Shan told the two Hallmasters that he couldn't deal with that world alone and he needed their help.

Wu San's memories perfectly excluded his lies.

This was the best part.

Thanks to Wu San, he could prove that the new world exists, but doesn't prove anything regarding how strong it was.

Time slowly passed.

At a certain point, Zhao Wu Chui's expression loosened.

He already couldn't stop himself from smiling.

Zhao Wu Chui opened his eyes, incredibly excited and spoke: "It's true! It's really true! And not just——"

”

Before he could go on, Ye Ying Mei had already gone forward, pushed his hand away and placed her hand onto Wu San's head.

After a while more, she muttered: "Two worlds... two completely new worlds..."

Her body was brimming with new life force.

Taking the opportunity, Gu Qing Shan spoke up: "Ying Mei sis, old Zhao, what do you think now?"

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui nodded.

The existence of the new world was now confirmed without a doubt.

Gu Qing Shan then came over and carried Wu San up.

"This subordinate of mine already did his best, I think it's time for him to rest"

Saying so, he lightly turned his hand.

Craaack!

Wu San's neck was twisted at a weird angle.

Gu Qing Shan then casually tossed him out.

Wu San's body was thrown out of the platform and rolled down to the ground, no longer breathing.

The two Hallmasters were stunned at first.

But then they quickly understood.

"Are there any other people in the sect that know about this?" Zhao Wu Chui asked.

"There aren't, all my men are currently in the new world, he was the only one who remained" Gu Qing Shan told them.

Ye Ying Mei commented: "That's right, anything that has to do with a new world is too important to let anyone else know"

"Of course"

Gu Qing Shan's expression was cold, but he agreed with her: "Wang Hong Dao is a Cryptic realm old fox, when he returns, he'll definitely find out about Wu San being called here by himself with some method we don't know about"

"Wang Hong Dao has always been a distrusting person, so he will probably want to find out what Wu San spoke with the three of us alone for"

"If Wu San was left alive, we won't be able to hide the existence of the new world"

Hearing that, the two Hallmasters also nodded.

"That's right, we definitely cannot let Wang Hong Dao know about this" Zhao Wu Chui agreed.

When it comes to secrecy, Qi Yan was undisputedly the best of them.

But he didn't know that Gu Qing Shan had managed to confirm something from his comment.

"The only regret is doing this cost you a close aide" Ye Ying Mei looked at Qi Yan and spoke regretfully.

But Qi Yan's face was completely void of expression.

“It’s nothing, Ying Mei sis. Wu San’s life did its job exactly as it was supposed to”
“He probably died with no regrets”

Gu Qing Shan indifferently said.

His tone suggested that he was saying something that couldn’t be anymore obvious.

Both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui went silent.

To a merciless and cold person like Qi Yan, that was indeed his best choice of action.

If Qi Yan couldn’t keep this a secret, no one can.

Thinking about it a bit more, if Qi Yan was able to deal with those two new worlds by himself, he definitely wouldn’t have looked for help.

As they thought that, the two Hallmasters silently actually felt a bit lucky.

Then Qi Yan spoke up again.

“Ying Mei sis, old Zhao, now you should’ve seen my sincerity”

The two Hallmasters nodded.

The new world exists without a doubt.

To keep the secret of the new world, Qi Yan even killed one of his own subordinates.

His show of sincerity was clearly enough.

“Now, please cooperate with me to kill Wang Hong Dao, this will be to guarantee that I’ll live”

“—and also your last chance at survival”

Chapter 440

When Gu Qing Shan spoke about killing Wang Hong Dao once again, Zhao Wu Chui didn’t become angry.

Zhao Wu Chui didn’t even react, all the excitement and fury he showed on his face disappeared, not a single bit of originally boiling emotions were left.

He was looking at Gu Qing Shan with a grim look.

— as if he turned into someone else entirely.

“Ying Mei, what do you think we should do?” Zhao Wu Chui asked in a low voice.

Ye Ying Mei smiled bitterly.

“Now that it’s come to this, you and I probably won’t be able to wait until the day he draws his last breath” she said.

“Then we can consider letting Qi Yan join us” Zhao Wu Chui said.

“Yes, since he has the new world”

“Then you go first”

“Alright”

After the two of them finished discussing, they both looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan scowled, not knowing what the two of them were planning.

Ye Ying Mei spoke hesitantly: “Qi Yan...”

She lightly pushed her dress collar to one side, revealing her shoulder.

On her jade white skin, parts of it were bruised purple and blue.

But this wasn't the main point.

The outside of Ye Ying Mei's skin was crawling with black runes.

The runes were moving and writhing, looking as if they were alive.

The runes stuck together and formed clear glowing shackles on the outside of her skin.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

“Such intense lock seals... No that can't be right, you're a Virtualized realm cultivator, who could possibly put lock seals on you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ye Ying Mei replied in a hoarse voice: “Who do you think?”

Gu Qing Shan went silent for a few seconds.

“So that's it”

He sighed deeply.

The soft expression that Ye Ying Mei always wore disappeared.

She silently sat there, frighteningly calm.

“Very early on, back when I was still at Golden Core realm, master had already began to place lock seals on me, whenever I disobey his will, he would put me in a state incapable of dying while being cursed yet alive”

“Throughout the years, whenever I break through, Wang Hong Dao would increase the strength of the lock seals on my body”

“As you can see, I've already lost my freedom since Golden Core realm, having to bend to his every will”

Saying so, Ye Ying Mei slowly fixed her clothes.

She spoke in a low voice: “I simply don't have a way to retaliate against Wang Hong Dao”

Silently listening, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit irritated.

Having been through so many battles in his two lives, Gu Qing Shan had seen countless types of varying enemies.

But he very rarely sees an enemy as disgusting as Wang Hong Dao.

“Alright then, Ying Mei sis, then you don’t need to attack him”

Gu Qing Shan looked over at Zhao Wu Chui and said: “That leaves the two of us—”

Zhao Wu Chui also shook his head: “I have 81 demon insects in my body, as soon as I hold the slightest bit of malice towards him, he can kill me with a single thought”

Zhao Wu Chui appeared sorrowful: “I’m now only a Virtualized realm zombie, his most loyal dog”

“Is that so” Gu Qing Shan nodded to both of them, expressing his understanding of their situations.

At this time, he finally understood why the two Virtualized realm cultivators were so willing to cooperate with him.

Because as soon as they get to a new world, Wang Hong Dao wouldn’t be able to control them even if he wanted to.

The Laws of each world are different and they have their own protective world barrier.

When they are in two different worlds, Wang Hong Dao simply can’t sense Ye Ying Mei’s lock seals, nor can he control Zhao Wu Chui’s demon insects.

This was similar to the soul lanterns that most sects have.

Once a cultivator leaves the world, the lanterns will blow out by themselves as if that cultivator was already dead.

Soul lanterns aren’t able to sense what the cultivator’s situation is when they’re in a different world.

Which was why the new world was Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui’s only hope of escaping from Wang Hong Dao’s control.

Otherwise, these two Virtualized realm cultivators wouldn’t have been that easy to convince.

But they can’t attack him at all.

How should he deal with the current situation?

Gu Qing Shan picked up his cup of tea and took another sip.

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The paper-thin Rakshasa’s Daughter mask was still on the table.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the mask.

This mask was created from the purest top-grade spirit jade.

Using inner sight, you’ll be able to see every last intricate detail of the face and the jade material.

This really is just a mask.

When the white fox gave him the mask, both Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui scanned through it with their inner sights.

*I also checked it carefully using inner sight.
The mask is completely normal, it hasn't been tampered with at all.
But then why did Rakshasa's Daughter give me this mask?*

Gu Qing Shan stared straight at the mask.

Rakshasa's Daughter's alluring smile remained on the mask, her captivating appearance depicted on it was animated as if it were real.

Alright, it's not time to be thinking about these things.

Gu Qing Shan cut off his thoughts and began to consider his current situation.

Although there still wasn't much intelligence, Gu Qing Shan could do a bit for now.

At least, he managed to make himself a path of retreat.

Gu Qing Shan diverted his gaze from the mask, glancing over the War God UI to check the lines of glowing text on it.

[You've killed Sainted realm early stage cultivator Wu San]

[Soul Points received: 400]

[Current Soul Points: 1603/300]

[Special Quest: Wu San must die (completed)]

[Quest objective: Before the secret of the two worlds is found out by anyone, deal with the only person who knows this]

[Quest reward: You may select one Quest and immediately complete it]

[Note: You may receive this Quest's reward right away]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the dark space in the center of the War God UI.

"System, I can directly choose to finish the Sainted realm Thaumaturgy Quest?"

He silently asked.

[Ting]!

The System chimed.

[You must advance to Sainted realm before beginning the Sainted realm Thaumaturgy Quest, this is the natural Law of cultivation as well as the Quest's prerequisite]

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit regretful.

But that's also common sense, I haven't gotten to Sainted realm yet, how would I be able to use the knowledge and power of Sainted realm to sense the Laws of this world and draw a thaumaturgy? Seems like I'll need to breakthrough soon.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

"Qi Yan, what do you think we should do now?"

Zhao Wu Chui saw how long he went silent contemplating and tried asking.

Gu Qing Shan muses: "Since you can't attack him openly, how about we all think of a way to make a trap that'll be able to kill Wang Hong Dao"

Casually, he asked a seemingly extra question: "Wang Hong Dao is probably not in the sect right now, is he?"

The two Hallmasters silently nodded.

The three of them all understood what that meant, but didn't directly expose the truth.

This was a very crucial problem.

—Wang Hong Dao wouldn't just stand and wait for Qi Ruo Ya to successfully breakthrough.

He was definitely somewhere in the space vortex, interfering with Qi Ruo Ya's tribulation.

The two Hallmasters looked at Gu Qing Shan's calmness with some suspicion.

"Qi Yan, why aren't you quickly going to contact your father?" Ye Ying Mei asked.

"Or did he already know that Wang Hong Dao would come?" Zhao Wu Chui also asked.

Gu Qing Shan only smiled.

"Who cares about them" he casually answered.

"What do you mean?" Zhao Wu Chui asked.

"Two days ago, my father went to face his tribulation"

"The Cryptic realm tribulation takes about one day at most, so he should've already returned"

"But after I returned to this world, he still can't be contacted and Wang Hong Dao is still nowhere to be seen, that already tells me enough"

"A wounded Cryptic realm cultivator and a Virtualized realm facing his tribulation, after 1 day and night, the result of the battle should've already been decided, nothing I do now will make it in time" he commented.

The two Hallmasters rubbed their chins.

It truly was as Qi Yan said.

Under such a dangerous situation, no matter if it was the attacker or the one being attacked, they both have to use their strongest attacks, so victory should be determined very quickly.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "If both he and Wang Hong Dao haven't returned, then there could only be one of three situations"

"One, my father won, but he's busy healing his wounds. This would be the best situation as the two of you can just work under my father from now on"

"But it's highly improbable, Wang Hong Dao has been waiting for this day for so many years that he probably made a careful plan that's prepared for everything"

"Then comes the second situation, Wang Hong Dao won, but he couldn't return yet because his wounds were severe enough that he can't afford to"

"The third, both of them are dead and neither will return"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the two Hallmasters and smiled: "I don't need to care if it's the 1st or 3rd situation"

"But if the result is the 2nd situation, then I'll have to be very careful"

Seeing how calmly he was analyzing everything, the two Hallmasters couldn't help but feel respect.

Because one of the sides fighting for their lives was his own father!

The other side can arbitrarily decide Qi Yan's life and death!

The two Hallmasters don't think that they'll be able to be that calm when placed in the same situation as his.

"Both me and Ying Mei won't be able to attack..." Zhao Wu Chui hesitantly spoke.

"No matter, we only need to plan this out carefully to make sure that you'll be able to attack and kill him instantly" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhao Wu Chui shook his head: "There is no such thing as a trap or method that can kill a Cryptic realm cultivator right away"

Ye Ying Mei also commented: "Even if we set up a powerful trap, even if he falls for it and becomes wounded, there would still be a need for someone to face and kill him directly"

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a bit.

"I'll do it"

Then declared so...

Chapter 441

"Leave him to you?"

The two Hallmasters asked.

"Qi Yan, even if Wang Hong Dao is heavily wounded, you're still no match for him" Zhao Wu Chui couldn't help but remind him.

"I know, but this is our only solution" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"You want to set up a trap for him... but Wang Hong Dao is also an expert at setting up such things, in fact he might be the best out of us all" Ye Ying Mei commented.

"Then do you have any other ideas?" Gu Qing Shan returned the question, "the current situation is going to end with either his or my death, so I'd rather risk my life and bet on a small chance than doing nothing"

"That won't work either, we have to discuss this more thoroughly" Zhao Wu Chui shook his head.

"Let me and old Zhao discuss this between ourselves for a bit, you just wait there Qi Yan" Ye Ying Mei also said.

Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui then silently stared at each other, seemingly using their inner sight to communicate.

— they were actively discussing a solution to kill their own master.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan decided to just stay quiet.

He took his cup of tea and took another sip.

The current situation was one where both the sect master Qi Ruo Ya and the Grand Elder Wang Hong Dao have yet to return.

There were only two Virtualized realm cultivators in Guang Yang sect, Zhao Wu Chui and Ye Ying Mei who were both on Qi Yan's side for now.

Truthfully, from the very start, the only people who posed a serious threat to Gu Qing Shan were these two Hallmasters.

— they were both Wang Hong Dao's disciples.

If you think about this, it's quite ironic.

The elder went to kill the sect master.

Disciples betrayed their master.

All of their hearts were as black as tar.

All of them held some sort of ill will towards each other.

If Wang Hong Dao treated his disciples well, gaining their respect, then in this crucial situation, even if there was the lure of a new world, the two Hallmasters might still have taken his side.

However Wang Hong Dao was not only distrusting by nature, but his desire to control was so intense that he held hostility towards his own disciples.

Wang Hong Dao had used the cruelest methods of control on his two disciples.

Thanks to that, his two disciples didn't dare go against his wishes.

But when it came to a pivotal moment, everything could be overturned at the drop of a hat.

Just like right now, when Wang Hong Dao wasn't in the sect.

Having held thoughts of rebellion from the very start, once they heard Gu Qing Shan's story and got news of a new world, they instantly betrayed Wang Hong Dao.

They only wanted to be free from their master...

After taking a sip of tea, Gu Qing Shan began to think about the entire situation from start to end.

For the moment, he didn't need to worry about his own life and death.

The real question was how they're going to kill Wang Hong Dao.

Cryptic realm...

I don't know anything about it.

Gu Qing Shan held the cup and took another sip.

Rakshasa's Daughter's jade mask was still on the table.

The situation before was so tense that every word could mean his life or death, so he didn't pay too much attention to this mask.

But now that he was able to calm down, Gu Qing Shan had a feeling of unease.

Rakshasa Peak was the only big sect left that still hasn't escaped from this world.

While being their sect master, Rakshasa's Daughter gave him this mask.

What is her goal for doing this?

Anyone who claims that it was because Rakshasa's Daughter held some sort of feeling for Qi Yan would be telling the biggest joke of the century.

At least, Gu Qing Shan himself doesn't believe it.

So this mask's existence must hold some sort of meaning.

Since Rakshasa's Daughter's pet white fox isn't here, I can actually take some time to study the mask.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan took the mask in his hand.

Without any warning, the War God UI began to blink in front of his eyes.

While shocked, Gu Qing Shan suppressed his reflex and did not drop the mask.

Instead he held the mask up to his eye level, observing it like it was a piece of art.

He made sure to make no mistake during the entire process.

Gu Qing Shan carefully studied the mask, enjoying Rakshasa's Daughter's beauty.

At the corner of his eyes, he was actually focused on the War God UI.

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Because at the bottom, the icon for [War God Skills] was glowing a blood-red color.

Large blood-red letters appeared in the middle of the UI.

[You've discovered Rakshasa's Daughter's mask]

[You've received The face of Rakshasa]

[The face of Rakshasa, wondrous item, techniques used as follow:]

[Technique: Mystery of All Things Equal]

[Mystery of All Things Equal: By comprehending the basic composition of any object, you gain the ability to transform yourself into that object]

[Description: You have to gather enough of the object to be able to learn its basic composition to

disguise yourself as that object]

[Note: 'All Things' refers to objects that do not have a soul]

[Special note: As this isn't a true object, you are unable to learn the Mystery from it]

While the platform was silent, Gu Qing Shan could practically hear the thunder striking by his ears.

Gu Qing Shan tried his best to keep his expression calm.

Very casually, he placed the Rakshasa mask down, raised the cup of tea and took another sip.

—his gestures were the same as before, only now he had a pleased look on his face.

As if he had just gotten to enjoy the company of a stunning beauty.

Rakshasa's Daughter's mask really did manage to fully express her peerless beauty.

"Have you agreed on something yet?" Gu Qing Shan casually asked the two Hallmasters.

"Please wait" Ye Ying Mei replied.

She was still discussing with Zhao Wu Chui through inner sight.

Qing Rou and Wan Er were already dismissed, so Gu Qing Shan could only take the pot of tea and pour a cup for himself.

The spirit tea was still smoking hot.

The faint smoke that rose from the tea obscured his expression for a bit.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan could loosen his expression briefly.

I actually saw another kind of Mystery in this world!

He completely didn't expect that at all.

The 100,000 year-old large corpse gave him the [Mystery of All Beings Equal]

[Mystery of All Beings Equal] allows him to transform into any being that has a soul.

And Rakshasa's Daughter's [Mystery of All Things Equal] allows her to transform into any 'thing' that doesn't have a soul.

[War God Skills] even specifically mentioned something that he should pay attention to.

[As this isn't a true object, you are unable to learn the Mystery from it]

In other words—

The spirit jade mask was Rakshasa's Daughter herself.

She had used [Mystery of All Things Equal] to turn into the spirit jade mask to hide next to Qi Yan.

She wanted to find out everything about Guang Yang sect.

She succeeded.

The strife between the Grand Elder and their sect master, the secret scheme of the three Hallmasters, the existence of two new worlds, she found out everything

Rakshasa's Daughter already knows everything she wanted to know!

Gu Qing Shan suppressed his emotions from flowing and showed a serious expression.

“Let’s stop for a bit”

He told the two Hallmasters.

“Before we continue our discussion, there’s a favor I want to bother Hallmaster Zhao for” he said.

“What is it?” Zhao Wu Chui asked.

“That new disciple of mine is about to attempt breaking through to Sainted realm, since you’re in charge of the sect’s formations, old Zhao, I need your permission for that”

Zhao Wu Chui’s expression calmed down and spoke: “That’s hardly a bother”

He took out a tag and let it go.

The tag flew in front of ‘Qi Yan’.

“Sainted realm— let me think for a bit, hmm, that’ll be the formation with the black runes among all the formations, just use this tag to activate the formation and it’ll lead him into the space vortex to face the Sainted realm tribulation” Zhao Wu Chui explained.

Ye Fei Li reminded him: “Remember to use the tag first before activating the formation, otherwise the formation will transport your disciple randomly”

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “Of course I know that, but that disciple of mine is quite a troublemaker, and a sword cultivator as well, if he likes adventuring I wouldn’t be able to stop him”

“No, this isn’t something for you to joke about” Zhao Wu Chui sternly spoke.

As a cultivator, he still cared a little bit about such a good swordsmanship seed like ‘Gu Qing Shan’.

This little shit Qi Yan has never properly taken a disciple so if he doesn’t tell him everything clearly, “Gu Qing Shan’s” fate might be a bit worrying.

Thinking that, Zhao Wu Chui spoke: “Qi Yan, since you still haven’t officially taken him in as a disciple, and you usually don’t have time to teach them anything, how about giving Gu Qing Shan to me, I’ll teach him the sect’s swordsmanship”

“You should deal with the demonic thing Wang Hong Dao put in your body first before worrying about anything else” Gu Qing Shan curtly replied.

Zhao Wu Chui was unable to argue.

Seeing that, Ye Ying Mei tried mediating between them: “The space vortex is too vast and too violent, we aren’t able to see the end of it so if the formation randomly throws him somewhere, we might not be able to get him back”

“So make sure to be stern and tell him to use the tag” Ye Ying Mei told him again.

“Of course I know that” Gu Qing Shan put the tag away.

He then changed the subject, asking: “What about your discussion? Do you have a solution yet?”

Ye Ying Mei answered: "Truthfully, we did think of a solution to deal with Wang Hong Dao"

"What solution?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

He was looking at Ye Ying Mei but kept part of his attention on the Rakshasa's Daughter spirit jade mask on the table.

The Rakshasa mask silently sat on the table, unmoving.

She has sat there all this time.

She has been earnestly listening to the secret scheme of the 3 Hallmasters of Guang Yang sect.

Chapter 442: Switcheroo

Ye Ying Mei had a look of nostalgia as she explained: "These past years, we were unwilling to accept being manipulated by him forever, so we used a lot of time and resources to silently prepare"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and gestured her to continue

Ye Ying Mei spoke: "I know all of Wang Hong Dao's most commonly used techniques, so I have been secretly crafting a treasure tool that can block those particular techniques for a short while"

Zhao Wu Chui spoke: "I know where he is wounded most heavily, so I made an attack treasure tool. It can only be used once, but it's definitely potent"

Ye Ying Mei sighed: "These are the items we've prepared as a last resort to pull him down with us"

"You've both had it hard"

While empathizing with them, Gu Qing Shan quickly reorganized the current situation.

Rakshasa's Daughter is Rakshasa Peak's master, she might not be the strongest combatant they have, but because she received Rakshasa's inheritance, even the three Cryptic realm cultivators of Rakshasa Peak must obey her orders.

Up until now, she's been staying still as a mask without doing anything.

There's only one reason why she's doing that.

Just like Ye Ying Mei and Zhao Wu Chui, she doesn't know where Qi Yan hid the coordinates of the two worlds.

Without the coordinates, she has no way to find the two worlds and travel there.

Without the coordinates, the two new worlds are nothing but a moon reflected in the pond, a nice thing to dream of but isn't at all useful.

That's why even though Wu San revealed the existence of the two worlds, he was still useless to both Hallmasters and Rakshasa's Daughter. Since he didn't know the coordinates, his life had no practical meaning to them.

That's why the two Hallmasters had to cooperate with Qi Yan.

That's why Rakshasa's Daughter had to keep her disguise as a mask, she wanted to learn more about the new worlds.

Understanding this, Gu Qing Shan determined his next course of action.

He extended his hand: "Give me your treasure tools, I'll kill Wang Hong Dao"

"Are you sure? You're only at Virtualized realm early stage" Ye Ying Mei looked at him questioningly.

"I'm not like you where I need to be careful of various scenarios"

"Not to mention, since both of you have Wang Hong Dao's shackles on you, you won't be able to attack him with all you have, and if you can't kill him, I'll die at his hands anyways"

"Rather than that, I'd rather fight for my survival with my own hands, this way I can at least feel assured"

Hearing that, the two Hallmasters understood Qi Yan's thought pattern.

Zhao Wu Chui spoke in a low voice: "To prevent Wang Hong Dao from discovering our secrets, we don't keep the treasure tools we made by our side but rather stashed them at an unassuming floating island. Furthermore, both treasure tools are sealed so that no one other than us can touch them"

Ye Ying Mei explained: "Some time is needed to undo the seals"

"Then one of you go get them, we'll wait here" Gu Qing Shan curtly said.

Hesitantly, Ye Ying Mei replied: "Qi Yan, no offense but truthfully, I can't trust a person like you"

Zhao Wu Chui also nodded.

"That's simple to solve"

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand and swore: "If you give the treasure tools to me, I swear to do everything in my power to engage in a decisive battle of life and death with Wang Hong Dao, if there are falsehood in my words, may the heaven and earth kill me right here"

An invisible wind picked up around his body and a sound echoed in the sky.

The oath was recognized.

Seeing him take an oath to heaven and earth, Ye Ying Mei could finally smile.

Zhao Wu Chui just stared at Gu Qing Shan without saying anything, but a complicated look could be seen in his eyes briefly.

Qi Yan just pushed himself onto a desperate path, having to determine life and death between himself and Wang Hong Dao.

Who else could doubt Qi Yan's determination when he already swore such an oath?

"Your sincerity, I've seen it" Ye Ying Mei spoke.

At this point, she was actually feeling a bit of respect towards Qi Yan.

Merciless and assertive.

He'd rather swear an oath than to trust someone else.

He'd rather wrestle for his own life with the Cryptic realm Elder rather than leaving the initiative to someone else.

This was a poisonous snake that you cannot ever underestimate.

Ye Ying Mei suddenly felt a bit glad.

—glad that she didn't attack Qi Yan right away.

"I'll need some time to take back both treasure tools and undo their seals" Ye Ying Mei said.

"According to our information, master won't return for at least half a day" Zhao Wu Chui sternly told them.

"Very well, then one of you go and retrieve the treasure tools"

Gu Qing Shan said as he stood up.

"Where are you going?" Zhao Wu Chui asked as he saw him do that.

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer and only gestured to Qing Rou as he reached the edge of the platform.

"Young master?" Qing Rou went up and asked.

"Go, we're returning"

"Yes"

Qing Rou then stood close, holding his hand as she normally serves him.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan turned around to answer: "I'm going to arrange a few things for Gu Qing Shan's breakthrough, I'll return soon enough"

The two Hallmasters now remembered.

Right, Qi Yan's disciple was about to breakthrough to Sainted realm.

"After I return, I'll stay right here waiting for the two of you"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan was about to leave.

But then he stopped and turned around: "Ying Mei sis, you should go, old Zhao is currently the strongest cultivator in our sect, he has to stay at the sect to look after it"

Ye Ying Mei felt that made sense.

Since the only Cryptic realm cultivator in the sect and the sect master had both left, if no one was there to protect the sect while she left and they're attacked by other sects, that'll be something to really laugh at.

The fact that Qi Yan can still consider such a thing at this point in time means he was properly doing his job as Zwei Wei Hall's Hallmaster.

She glanced at Zhao Wu Chui.

Zhao Wu Chui answered: "I'll be here to protect it, don't worry"

"Then I'll go get the treasure tools" Ye Ying Mei said.

Seeing everything properly arranged, Gu Qing Shan led Qing Rou back to his place.

Ye Ying Mei also left the protective barrier formation above and disappeared as she flew away.

Only Zhao Wu Chui stayed behind on the platform, waiting for the two of them.

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Time slowly passed.

After a while, Zhao Wu Chui suddenly remembered something.

“Damn it, we got swept away by that brat Qi Yan”

Zhao Wu Chui felt a bit dejected: “He still hasn’t mentioned a word about giving up courting Rakshasa’s Daughter... does he have other intentions?”

Zhao Wu Chui stared at where Qi Yan sat before.

The Rakshasa’s Daughter mask on the table was already taken away by Qi Yan.

Zhao Wu Chui grimaced.

Qi Yan isn’t simple at all like I thought.

Even if I ask again, he probably won’t reveal his true intentions.

Fortunately, Qi Yan will have to risk his life against Wang Hong Dao soon.

Zhao Wu Chui mused.

Qi Yan risking his life against Wang Hong Dao...

Under such circumstances, I’ll be the one to benefit no matter what I do.

Zhao Wu Chui rubbed his chin in thought.

...

Zhao Wu Chui didn’t wait too long.

Qi Yan quickly returned and sat down at his seat.

Qing Rou poured Qi Yan another cup of spirit tea and put it to his mouth.

“You were quick” Zhao Wu Chui commented.

“That disciple of mine didn’t require too much concern” Qi Yan answered.

“Your disciple is quite a good heir, I could already see how far he’ll go on the path of the sword, maybe he’ll even surpass you and me one day”

Zhao Wu Chui tried probing: “Did you already prepare the spirit stones necessary to activate the formation?”

“I don’t remember how much spirit stones were needed for the Sainted realm breakthrough formation”

Qi Yan replied without changing his expression.

“I already guessed that you won’t remember such a thing, so I’ll tell you now, he’ll need seven-seventy-nine spirit stones, not even one less” Zhao Wu Chui very sternly said. (1)

49 spirit stones?

Shannu thought back for a bit.

Gu Qing Shan once asked her if she needed spirit stones.

There was at least 100 trunks full of spirit stones just in Gu Qing Shan's Inventory Bag alone

Just 49 spirit stones...

Due to how lacking resources in this world are, Shannu had to act the part for Zhao Wu Chui to see and scowled.

"Why does it need so many?"

Zhao Wu Chui answered: "Sainted realm is no longer a minor thing that can be breezed through, you have to put enough spirit stones in there to avoid the formation losing its effectiveness halfway through"

"I've already given Gu Qing Shan over 100 spirit stones, even if he uses the higher-ranked formations, that much should be enough, there's no need for you to say anything else"

Hearing that, Zhao Wu Chui was shocked.

Qi Yan has that many spirit stones left?

From his tone, Qi Yan seems to have quite a bit stored up.

That can't be right...

Qi Yan has always been a big spender, I've recorded every single spirit stone he used on every occasion. He shouldn't have that much left, should he?

Then Zhao Wu Chui realized.

—it's the new world!

Zhao Wu Chui clenched his fist.

Qi Yan found two entire new worlds!

Ignoring Zhao Wu Chui's boiling inner rage, Shannu didn't bother to say anything else to him and took out a pill from his gem ornament.

"I'm still wounded from that battle with the sword cultivator in the new world. I'll need to heal up for a bit"

"We'll discuss official business again when Ying Mei sis returns"

Saying so, Shannu immediately crossed her legs and entered a meditative state.

Healing was a very good excuse.

Although she had Gu Qing Shan's experience and skills, Shannu doesn't have Gu Qing Shan's assertiveness.

This was related to a person's own characteristics and wisdom, unable to be replicated through any skills.

When it comes to complicated and tangled situations, Gu Qing Shan himself needs to be here.

So Shannu's job was just to buy time.

—enough time for Gu Qing Shan to finish his tribulation and enter Sainted realm.

The Ascended realm tribulation's difficulty comes from its duration of a whole day and night, heavily testing the cultivator's will and stamina.

The time required for the Sainted realm tribulation wasn't that long, the real difficulty comes from how powerful the lightning becomes, enough to kill the cultivator with the slightest slip-up.

And when he faces the Projection realm tribulation, just like Bai Hua Fairy, he'll have to face both the Wind and Lightning tribulation.

Since Gu Qing Shan was facing the lightning tribulation, it won't be over until he destroys the last lightning strike.

If he can, he needs to finish it as fast as possible.

Because Shannu won't be able to buy too much time.

When Ye Ying Mei returns, the three Hallmasters will officially begin to plan out the details of their scheme to kill Wang Hong Dao.

If Gu Qing Shan still hasn't returned then, Shannu won't be able to keep up the act.

She has all of Gu Qing Shan's skills and experience, including his acting skills, but she won't be able to do it to Gu Qing Shan's degree.

Knowing how cunning the Hallmasters are, they'll notice as soon as Qi Yan acts just slightly off, and the truth will be revealed.

At this time, on the platform.

Shannu very quickly entered deep meditation.

Seeing that, Zhao Wu Chui knew that he had to fully concentrate on healing his wounds.

He couldn't help but sigh softly, feeling a bit dull.

Originally, he wanted to use the matter regarding his disciple to lead the subject towards either the new world or about Rakshasa's Daughter, but Qi Yan curtly cut off all that.

And he couldn't even interrupt.

Since Qi Yan will have to wrestle for his life with Wang Hong Dao soon.

Zhao Wu Chui just stayed silent and sat there.

Staring at Qi Yan who was healing his wounds, he kept thinking about upcoming scenarios, feeling anxious without being able to calm down.

Note:

(1) seven-seven-forty nine: Basically they're saying $7 \times 7 = 49$. It's a common way to refer to things in Wuxia and Xianxia novels. I personally have no idea why, but that's the way it's written