

Apocalypse 541

Chapter 541

Midnight.

Aboul.

The banquet was still ongoing.

Everyone was dancing, singing, enjoying themselves.

A party of 3 days and nights, all expenses paid by the Bramble Bird royal family.

To the Bramble Bird kingdom, even if this banquet continued for over 100 million years, the expenditures wouldn't even cause their eyes to twitch.

Having lived in the Mystic Zones for so many years, the amount of treasures they accumulated have more than filled their royal treasury.

Normally, no one would be dumb enough to try stealing from them.

Because the Mystic Zones were the innermost portion of the 900 million World Layers, where normal people would find it hard to even travel to.

Not to mention the various environmental dangers of the Mystic Zones that can cause top-level Combatants to quake in their boots.

That was why, the Bramble Bird was without any doubt, the richest kingdom in the 900 million World Layers.

The Combatant backing Aboul, who happened to also be Aboul's owner, had an amiable relationship with the Bramble Bird race, which was why they agreed to host the Bramble Bird princess' coming of age ceremony at this place.

It was also out of respect to this Combatant that the Bramble Bird kingdom did not buy Aboul itself.

However, the Combatant – known as Fireworks – only showed up briefly on the day when he personally welcomed the Bramble Bird royal family's arrival.

After that he disappeared.

No one knows where he went.

And no one cared.

After all, for the next three days on Aboul, the star of the show was the Bramble Bird royal family.

Triste also managed to conceal everything so well.

Which was why even now, the only people who knew the fate of this Combatant were Barry and Kitty.

The banquet hall.

The emerald-eyed, beautiful and graceful Light of Dawn Triste said a few words to excuse herself from a few distinguished guests under the attention of everyone before she left.

She came to the top floor and glanced at the observatory at the highest point of the hotel.

In the observatory, a green flame was illuminating the night sky.

“How is it?” she asked in a low voice.

The guard stationed here replied: “Madame, she is currently dealing with a few personal matters, so I didn’t manage to ask her yet”

“Personal matters?” Triste muttered unexpectedly.

The guard nodded to confirm.

Triste went silent briefly before she suddenly stepped forward.

Disappearing from the top floor, she directly appeared at the observatory, smiled and spoke to the other party: “Spirit of the Holy Tree, my most distinguished friend, Lady Tethys, I am very sorry that I had to bother you with helping find our princess. Thinking about this, I feel deeply ashamed”

The Spirit of the Holy Tree, Lady Tethys didn’t answer her right away.

Apparently she was in the middle of using some sort of spell.

Fortunately, the green flame that surrounded Tethys started to shrink right at this time, quickly returning to the palm of her hand.

Two faint figures came out from the flame and entered Lady Tethys’ forehead.

“Hm... so that is...”

In the blink of an eye, everything that the two figures learnt was transferred to Tethys’ mind.

The truth was so shocking that the flames in her hand trembled slightly.

It was extremely rare for something like that to happen to her.

Tethys simply followed the motion of her wrist and took back the burning green flame.

The observatory returned to darkness.

Tethys looked forward.

Triste was standing in the dark, observing her without moving.

She was evaluating her.

And so was Tethys.

Tethys suddenly smiled: “There is no need for such formality, I watched Laura grow up, every time she becomes stubborn, it is always a headache for everyone”

“Then, have you found her yet?” Triste asked.

“Not yet. However, the only place I have yet to search is the VIP area. But the problem is that if I search the VIP area, my technique may disturb some of your esteemed guests”

Tethys appeared a bit troubled and continued: “A few of those VIPs are very hot-headed, that’s why I can’t easily search the VIP area”

Triste went silent as she heard this.

She couldn’t help but let go of other thoughts and seriously considered this problem.

Because to the Bramble Birds, arbitrarily investigating or probing VIP guests at a banquet that they host was a very rude thing to do.

But Tethys’ searching techniques are the most potent in all of Aboul.

To find princess Laura, I need to depend on Tethys, and the VIP area must be searched.

This is the most important matter at the moment.

Triste thought over it again and over, finally sighing as she spoke: “It’s fine, you can search them. I will go deal with this problem and make sure no one will feel offended”

“Then I’ll trouble you with that” Tethys replied.

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Triste nodded, gracefully curtsied and turned to leave.

The only person left on the observatory was Tethys herself in the dark.

After waiting for a while and confirming that Triste had gone far, Tethys finally muttered something to the void of space.

Time slowly passed.

Until, space dilated and the big rooster appeared on the observatory.

“I’ve tried—”

As soon as he started speaking, Tethys held his beak shut.

“Let’s talk somewhere else”

Tethys placed her hand on the big rooster’s wing and disappeared together.

The royal green room.

There was no one here.

The big rooster and Tethys suddenly appeared.

“Ah? Where’s Gu boy?” the big rooster asked.

“I had him go out and do something for me. Don’t mind him for now, what about your side?”

The big rooster replied: "I tried, the entirety of Aboul is quarantined in a strange way, no matter who it is, any information or news they send outside will be cut off midway, but those who sent it won't be able to tell"

Tethys asked: "In order words, no matter what happens here, no one will be able to send any news out?"

"Indeed"

The big rooster cross his wings, confused: "Since when did the Bramble Bird kingdom do something like this? That shouldn't be..."

"Is there no way to send any information out at all? I know you're an expert at this" Tethys stared at the big rooster and tried asking further.

Hearing her say that, the big rooster couldn't help but puff out his chest and proudly declared: "Indeed, I'm a connoisseur of news. If you need anything to be sent out, I'm the only one in Aboul that will be able to help"

"What's your solution?" Tethys asked.

"Look here"

The big rooster endured the pain and yanked out a long feather from his body.

"My feathers have a characteristic to go through any obstacle, if you have any urgent news that need to be sent out, please use my feather"

He raised his long feather in both hands, knelt down on one knee and offered it to Tethys.

"You only need to inject the feather with whatever you need to be sent out, then chant the name of the one you're sending it to" the big rooster explained.

"It won't be blocked?"

"I guarantee that it won't" the big rooster tapped his chest.

Tethys received the feather and quickly wrote a message in it.

She chanted a name.

The feather instantly disappeared.

Tethys closed her eyes and waited for a few moments.

Within the range of her senses, no one in Aboul noticed anything out of the ordinary, and no one noticed the feather flying out of the world.

"Will it find the correct person?" Tethys opened her eyes and asked.

"It will, please don't worry, it will definitely reach the person by itself" the big rooster proudly declared.

"It definitely won't be blocked by anything?"

"I guarantee that it won't, and it won't be found by anyone either"

Tethys thought briefly and praised: "How impressive"

"Of course, using my feathers to send messages isn't only the fastest possible way, it's also the safest way, you can be assured"

When the big rooster wanted to boast more, he noticed the atmosphere wasn't quite right.

Tilting his head, he found that Tethys was silently judging him.

Her gaze was a bit strange, causing him to feel a bit uneasy.

"Milady, are you ok?" the big rooster asked.

I have a bad feeling... don't tell me she wants to eat chicken again?

The big rooster couldn't help but think that.

Tethys reached out her hand, lightly stroking his face: "I have something very important that I need you to do"

Under her stroking, the big rooster felt like he had just drunk a 500ml bottle of chicken blood and immediately declared: "Milady, I will do whatever you need me to!"

"Really?"

"There are no falsehood in my words"

"Very well, I have an urgent call I need to make to every trustworthy Combatant I know in the 900 million World Layers"

"You mean?"

"Can you... contribute all the feathers on your body?"

"All, all my feathers!?"

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On another side.

Triste's collection world.

Together with Laura, Gu Qing Shan was riding the black horse moving forward.

Thanks to the Wings of Purgatory's speed, they quickly went past several snow mountains before reaching the foot of the highest one.

This was a particularly special mountain.

Because it was completely transparent. You could actually see what was going on inside of the mountain through the glittering crystalline outer surface.

Light blue frozen ice and water currents, fine and small bubbles were constantly drifting to the top of the mountain, while the outside of the mountain reflected the clouds above. These two equally strange scenes weaved and overlapped almost like it came from a dream.

“How pretty, I like this snow mountain” Laura clapped her hands in amusement.

“Let’s keep going”

“Yeah”

As they wanted to keep moving forward, the black horse suddenly stopped.

Its eyes were staring straight at the inside of the mountain.

Both Gu Qing Shan and Laura said nothing to this.

Because they both became speechless as well.

A large shadow loomed over the ice mountain.

This shadow was tens of meters wide and several hundred meters tall, it casually appeared below the ice mountain as it swam towards the mountain’s peak.

The ice layer was almost transparent, but the water current beneath the ice was flowing intensely, plus the air bubbles made the figure incredibly blur despite its size.

Even so, it was shocking to watch the distorted figure through the layer of ice.

As they looked at it, they felt an almost irresistible desire to worship it.

This was an illusion created by the sheer difference in level of existence.

Gu Qing Shan tried using his inner sight to peek through the ice and see what exactly was that shadowy figure.

But as soon as his inner sight touched it, the outermost layer of ice had already bounced him off.

Some sort of mysterious power covered this entire mountain of ice.

Gu Qing Shan looked back at the top of the mountain.

A majestic and solemn structure stood at the top of the mountain.

Is that the divine temple?

He couldn’t help but recall [Kindling]’s mission.

[Outside the frozen wasteland is a glorious divine temple]

[In the Age of Old, when the Old Gods were still in this world, they had built this divine temple to view the beings they had created]

[You need to go there and participate in the Old Gods’ ceremony]

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

That shadow just now must be a lifeform created by the Gods in the Age of Old.

After so many years, this thing is still alive, so it’s likely not something that’s easy to deal with.

The two people and a horse held their breaths and stood still in place.

It wasn't until the gigantic creature had gone away that they regained their senses.

"What was that?" Laura asked in a low voice.

"I'm not sure. It's probably some sort of creature native to this world" Gu Qing Shan commented.

A frightening thought suddenly popped up in his mind.

What?

What did I just think of?

Gu Qing Shan tried to follow that thought, only to find that he couldn't quite make out what it was.

But the thought was definitely there, as it left very clear signs.

Gu Qing Shan's body was trembling in fear, as if he was being affected by the chill.

Laura looked up at the towering mountain and protested: "It is too high, I do not want to go up"

After seeing that 'thing', she didn't find the mountain to be pretty anymore.

"I don't want to either" Gu Qing Shan sighed, "but we have to"

Laura was speechless.

Yes, they've already gone this far, how can they just back off now?

Would I really give up on fighting back against Triste because of the fear of heights and monsters?

Every member of my family who came to Aboul was killed by Triste's own hands, this is a grudge that can never subside no matter what.

Even if I have to go through pain and suffering like never before, it's still nothing compared to death!

Laura's eyes reddened.

"Gu Qing Shan"

"Hm?"

"Do all adults have to suffer so much?"

"All of them do"

"A banquet is hosted for 3 days and nights in Aboul to celebrate my becoming an adult, but I have never thought being an adult would be like this"

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

If you count by human years, Laura was only 7.

Can a 7-year-old be counted as an adult?

Gu Qing Shan felt nostalgic.

When he was 7, there was no way for him to survive with the meager 'relief' money alone. He could only do various chores and wash dishes at a diner in the slums.

But that was unpaid work.

The only thing he got out of it was two free meals a day.

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Fortunately, public education was free, so he was able to study while doing part-time work, day by day until he grew up.

The hardship and suffering in those years were something you couldn't possibly imagine if you haven't gone through it yourself.

It was at 13 that he managed to cook food that could please even the boss of the diner.

From then on, his lifestyle slowly improved.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Picking Laura up from his shoulder, he hugged her close to his chest.

7 years old.

Such a young, immature girl was now an orphan.

Gu Qing Shan sincerely told her: "Laura, the life of an adult is always full of hardship and exhaustion, this is simply unavoidable, but I hope that you will be able to pull yourself up"

"Pull myself up?"

"Yeah. If you don't pull yourself up, your living conditions will determine your life instead of you"

"...I do not want that"

Laura buried her head in his chest and muttered.

"This mountain, we'll have to climb it" Gu Qing Shan spoke: "We have to take a look, and then—— with the two of us, we can definitely fight against Triste"

Laura pursed her lips, then took a deep breath.

She spoke full of determination: "We have to defeat her"

"That's right, that's the spirit! Let us go"

"Let's go!"

As the two of them were about to go, Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped again.

The light blue water current below the ice mountain was suddenly dyed blood-red.

Ooo—oooong—

An earth-shaking roar came from deep underground, as if the entire area itself was howling.

Laura was so frightened she buried her face back in Gu Qing Shan's chest.

Gu Qing Shan scowled as he silently listened to this roar.

He felt a certain range of emotions from this roar.

It was sorrow, or perhaps, pain.

But more than anything else, it contained helplessness.

The roar gradually subsided.

Shortly after, the large shadowy figure from before slowly appeared from the foot of the mountain.

It showed up, followed the water current and kept moving upwards to the divine temple at the top.

During the entire trip, the shadowy figure did not move or let out any sound at all.

As if it was already dead.

When the shadowy figure came close to where Gu Qing Shan stood, he saw its eye.

It was a gigantic eye, full of desperation and pain.

“A sentient lifeform...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Around the figure, the clear light blue water was being dyed by a reddish fluid.

This was blood that came from the creature’s wounds.

The blood spread, refracting bright light from the other side, turning them a crimson color of blood before projecting it on Gu Qing Shan’s body.

Gu Qing Shan stood still and just stared until the shadowy figure disappeared from his sight.

The first creature that came up was a living creature.

And this was the second.

“For this world to have such gigantic living beings... they must have been creations of the Old Gods...”
Laura muttered.

As the princess of the Bramble Birds, of course she knew a lot.

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to her muttering.

Suddenly, a chilling thought once again popped up in his mind out of nowhere.

This time, Gu Qing Shan squarely caught the thought.

Living beings...

They were living beings!!!

Cold sweat soaked the back of Gu Qing Shan’s shirt as he froze in place, unable to move.

“What is it?” Laura looked at him and worriedly asked.

“I just realized something”

Gu Qing Shan wiped the cold sweat off his forehead, trying to maintain his calm.

In his vision, the War God UI was blinking like crazy.

Lines of glowing text quickly scrolled past the UI.

[You've seen the creatures of this world]

[You've noticed a certain possibility]

[At the same time, the War God UI had also gotten a hint]

[We must now re-evaluate the situation]

[Please tell the System, what have you noticed?]

Gu Qing Shan quickly read through the lines of text on the War God UI.

He sighed deeply before answering in his mind: "[Kindling] tricked us, I suspect that it had already finished upgrading, and it's actually now [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin]"

Chapter 543

The Black Flag Cruiser.

This place was the most famous casino in the Super Dimensional Zones.

A total of 99 Lord-class Combatants jointly own this casino.

Lord-class Combatants were the designation for people who can, by their own strength, own a personal world in the Super Dimensional Zones.

Super Dimensional worlds were special—each of these worlds were able to directly ignore spatial distance and connect to any other worlds.

And at the same time, from a certain point of view, each Super Dimensional world was a safe room.

As long as the Super Dimensional path was closed, no one would be able to enter a Super Dimensional world.

Furthermore, there were those with unique powers that could expel a person from a Super Dimensional world they possess. For example, Kitty's spatial abilities.

The safety of a Super Dimensional world was the highest level of security.

If that wasn't the case, Barry who's been wounded for over 1000 years without getting any better wouldn't have lived this long.

Against the Apocalypse of the infinite worlds, planets were constantly being destroyed, people died in troves, but a Super Dimensional world could always guarantee the most basic requirement of personal safety for those in it.

You could even say, a Super Dimensional world was always an asset that surpassed any wealth and riches, a treasured land only for top-level Combatants.

And the Black Flag Cruiser was a special Super Dimensional world.

Anyone who entered this Super Dimensional world must obey the casino's rules.

No one can cheat, no one can run away without paying their debt, and definitely no one can use force to resist the casino's rules.

Because this casino was jointly owned by 99 Lord-class Combatants, always ready to go here from their respective worlds.

Barry took another sip from a bottle of cold liquor.

"Check"

He threw in his last chip.

"You lose" the man facing him also showed his card and declared.

Barry casually threw down his hand.

At this point, someone tapped his shoulder from behind.

"They're here" Kitty told him.

"All of them?"

"Yep"

Barry stood up and smashed the bottle on the table without restraint.

The sound of the shattered glass echoed across the entire casino.

The entire place went quiet.

Everyone looked at him.

Barry gestured, then started to head out of the casino.

Many of the gamblers there stood up from their seats one by one and followed after him.

While a lot of people didn't understand this at first, a few of them quickly noticed something.

"Look! That's the Sky Diving Dragon, Zhang Ruo Long!"

"Look over there! That's Spite the Void Hunter"

"Oh my god! Do you see that beauty? She's Yao Xing Meng the Star Destroyer"

"Wh-why did so many top-level Combatants gather here?"

"Today... just what's going on?"

Top-level Combatants, all of them were top-level Combatants!

The gamblers in the casino were shocked as they watched these legendary individuals leave the casino.

They all understood that something big must've happened.

Almost a hundred Combatants followed Barry to the plaza outside the casino.

"You know the place?"

A few people caught up to him and asked in a low voice.

“We do, Kitty noticed a mysterious spatial crack about 2 World Layers to the left of Aboul” Barry confirmed.

Another cut in: “It’s been a long time since I got to work these old bones. What better chance to do that than killing all the demons?”

“Exactly!”

“Let’s go then”

The Combatants all agreed.

Kitty and Barry exchanged looks and nodded.

Kitty then activated a close-range spatial warp.

Although her warp technique can’t pinpoint the exact location, this place was only 5 World Layers from Aboul, and the spatial crack was quite close, so the chance of deviation wasn’t too great”

A screen of light appeared, bringing everyone here with it.

They reappeared in the void of space.

Not too far from where they were was the spatial crack that connected to the Fallen Zones.

The Combatants all took out their weapons, wore their armor and flew towards the crack.

The demons were hiding there.

And they wanted to ambush and wipe them all out in one fell swoop.

This was going to be a decisive battle!

The Combatants all become tense.

In just a few dozen seconds, they had arrived at the crack.

But unlike what they thought, there wasn’t a single demon where the crack was.

Instead, a human man was standing at the crack with a glass of wine in his hand, silently waiting for them.

“Fucking hell, Bloodcloak! It’s that fucker Bloodcloak!”

Someone called out.

Everyone’s fighting spirit immediately fizzled out.

As soon as Barry heard that name, he became furious.

Jumping out ahead of everyone, he stood to face Lord Bloodcloak directly.

“Did you go ahead and deal with everything again?” he asked.

Lord Bloodcloak gracefully took a sip of wine and answered: “I didn’t”

You didn't?

Barry was shocked.

The 100-ish Combatants behind him were also shocked stiff.

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Lord Bloodcloak cleared his throat and spoke: "Long ago, we used to be comrades, but because I've always dealt with everything before you even know it, you guys slowly started to ignore me"

"After thinking for many years, I finally realized what I did was wrong"

"I've completely changed"

Barry turned around at everyone else.

They all shook their heads.

"We don't believe you" Barry crossed his arms.

"I can swear upon my god, I really have seen the errors of my ways" Lord Bloodcloak sincerely told them, "I will never be self-righteous again, no longer leaving everyone behind and ignore your feelings— because fighting should be done together, this way we can look out for each other. I also understand, a lot of you are just worried for me, afraid that I might run into danger when facing enemies alone"

Barry silently stared at Lord Bloodcloak.

"Do you really mean that?" he couldn't help but ask.

"That's right, truthfully speaking, I should've considered you guys more" Lord Bloodcloak replied.

Barry's fury subsided.

He silently nodded and loudly asked behind him: "What does everyone think?"

The group discussed it for a bit.

Finally, someone yelled: "Bloodcloak, if you're no longer as arrogant as before, we don't mind being comrades with you again"

The top-level Combatants all nodded.

Bloodcloak actually does treat his friend quite decently, his only flaw is that he's too arrogant. But if he has really changed and knows how to put himself into other's shoes, he would be a great friend.

Finally, Lord Bloodcloak mingled with the group, shaking hands and high-fiving with quite a few.

Some of them even patted his shoulder in a close manner.

The top-level Combatants had accepted him again.

This matter was done.

Next was---

"Bloodcloak, you got here first, did you see any demons?" Barry asked.

“I did see them, I even caught one of them alive”

“...so you didn’t kill it first?” Barry found that unexpected.

If that’s the truth, Lord Bloodcloak really did change from before.

“That’s right, look, it’s right here”

Lord Bloodcloak clapped his hand.

A card appeared in front of everyone.

It then scattered into a fine powder of light.

Instantly, a Flame Demon Hound about half the size of a person appeared in front of the Combatants.

The Flame Demon Hound had a natural born talent to sense the presence of living beings, and was capable of sniffing out items and traps hidden by spells from any hidden space”

It was without a doubt the most excellent scout that the demons had.

Its appearance meant that the main demon army wasn’t too far behind.

But the Flame Demon Hound itself wasn’t too strong, its expertise is only to scout and gather intel.

Being stared down by so many top-level Combatants, the Flame Demon Hound prostrated directly to the ground, trembling in fear.

“Nicely done, Bloodcloak managed to catch the demon army’s scout, seems like we’re in for a big one” Barry clenched his fist and spoke.

“For the 900 million World Layers, we will fight without fear of death!” someone loudly declared.

The crowd loudly responded, all ready to fight.

Their fighting spirit filled the entire space vortex.

“About that— wait a minute” Lord Bloodcloak spoke.

“What is it?” Barry asked.

“Is your leg healed?”

“It’s fine now, don’t worry” Barry was caught off guard again.

Bloodcloak actually cared about someone else’s well being?

Everyone else was also shocked.

But then Lord Bloodcloak told the crowd: “For the sake of fairness, I suggest everyone should compete in an orderly manner first, just like we used to train at the Iron Fist Club”

“Why? We’re already about to fight” someone asked in confusion.

“Because you need to decide who has the right to fight, only the final champion is qualified to kill this Flame Demon Hound” Lord Bloodcloak spoke.

What does he mean?

Don't tell me Bloodcloak went mad?

We're about to fight a full-scale war, not a play fight, who has the time to quarrel over who gets to kill a Flame Demon Hound?

Everyone was really confused.

Kitty was the quickest to react, she briefly thought before asking: “Do you mean we won't need to deal with the other demons?”

“Exactly”

“You mean, you already killed all the demons again?” someone asked in surprise.

Everyone scowled.

“All the demons? No, I didn't do that at all, however—”

“However what?”

“However, since the demons didn't actually send out anyone that strong this time around, I got bored waiting for you guys, so I thought of a solution”

Lord Bloodcloak pointed at the whimpering Flame Demon Hound.

“After I dealt with the 1 billion small fries, I specifically left this Flame Demon Hound alive for you guys”

Following his explanation, the Flame Demon Hound prostrated even more, whimpering while shaking nonstop.

All of a sudden, it turned itself, showing its belly to everyone.

Facing almost 100 top-level Combatants, it decided to give up.

Lord Bloodcloak gracefully brought his glass of wine to his mouth to take a sip and continued speaking:

“From now on, I will carefully consider everyone's needs to fight, leaving a single demon alive”

“You can host a small tournament to decide who to kill this final Demon Hound”

“Although with you guys' strength, you won't be able to deal with an army of a billion demons, but at least one of you will get to kill a Demon Hound, which is technically fighting by my side”

“With my solution, everyone won't feel dejected and annoyed from not being able to fight with the demons”

Lord Bloodcloak had a smile that implied everyone should praise him for his idea as he continued.

“Although everyone is laughably weak, I've fully considered your needs and spent so much effort to even prepare this for everyone”

“How is it? Haven't I completely changed from before?”

“...” Barry.

“...” Kitty.

“...” the top-level Combatants.

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Lord Bloodcloak finished explaining.

He stood with arms outstretched, smiling at the crowd of people.

“What do you think? I can actually think for my comrades as well can’t I?” he sincerely spoke.

However, the atmosphere of the scene just froze.

Barry glanced at the Flame Demon Hound prostrating on the ground, then turned around and addressed everyone else: “We’re all going to beat him up and no one speaks a word about this, what do you say?”

“Agreed!”

Everyone else yelled out.

“Wait a minute, why are you upset!?” Lord Bloodcloak was confused.

He took a step back.

In this split second that no one had their guard up, Kitty’s expression suddenly changed.

“Watch out!” she shouted.

“Wha—”

As soon as Lord Bloodcloak turned around, the crack in space expanded to be several dozen times as large as before.

At the moment it did, a gigantic black hand reached out from the crack and caught Lord Bloodcloak.

『 Ukikikikie, die! 』

A disturbing laugh rang out.

The hand squeezed tightly.

Boom!

Lord Bloodcloak exploded into scattered cards as his real body appeared next to Barry.

Wiping some blood off his mouth, he was surprised: “So it came here personally...”

“Kitty, what’s the situation!?” Barry clenched his fist tight and yelled out.

“It’s the Demon Lord Breeder! The Demon Lord Breeder is here! There’s also an army of several million Demon Lords, they’re currently warping to get here!” Kitty hurriedly replied.

Demon Lord Breeder.

War.

The war had broken out without any warnings!

This thought passed through the minds of everyone here.

When they saw how Lord Bloodcloak managed to dispatch an army of a billion demons by himself, they had thought this was only a minor skirmish.

But now, the Demon Lord Breeder was here.

It wasn't a regular demon, it was an authentic True Demon.

In the Fallen Zones, demons were nothing but small fires, even particularly powerful ones were nothing but high-ranking soldiers.

Above the normal demons were the true weapons of war—— Demon Lords.

And the ones who created the Demon Lords, the ones that orchestrated the invasion, the ones responsible for all this bloodshed, were Daemons.

Daemons were the true masterminds behind the gradual destruction of the 900 million World Layers.

To differentiate Daemons from normal demons, everyone calls them True Demons.

And the Demon Lord Breeder was renowned even among the ranks of True Demons.

Remodeled Demon Lords, Chaotic Demon Lords, even True Demon Lords, the three most common types of Demon Lords were all created by its own hands.

The Demon Lord Breeder was the control center of all Demon Lords, as long as it was present, all Demon Lords would bend to its will.

In other words, the fact that the Demon Lord Breeder was here meant that the scope of this war had suddenly shifted to become the most severe and grand scale possible.

Its appearance signified that the demons had committed to a full-scale war!

The eerie voice from the crack in space came again.

『[Kindling] was originally only meant as a tentative attack, who would've thought the circumstances would go so well in our favor, ukikikikie! 』

『 That's why, prepare to die. Demon Lord army——! 』

Following its voice, the crack in space expanded even faster.

The dark crack ripped apart the space vortex like a towering mountain range that reached all the way to the sky.

An atmosphere mixed of despair, bloodthirst, killing intent and insanity came storming out from the crack.

This all came from the Fallen Zone, the combined chaotic presence of all the millions of Demon Lords under the Demon Lord Breeder's control.

And they were about to pass through the limits of time and space, arriving here in just a few moments!

“Dream on!”

Kitty wasn't concerned with hiding her strength any further, gritted her teeth and used her full power.

Her hands lightly pushed forward, making the space vortex around them break out in a huge burst of movements, almost like glass shattering from stress.

Divine Skill, [Space-time Imprisonment]!

Bang bang bang bang bang!

The invisible spatial power shot out like cannon balls, blasting away at the crack.

In mere seconds, the crack was hit so much it warped and bent.

『 No! 』

The Demon Lord Breeder's voice came.

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The crack in space quickly broke apart bit by bit, washed away in the space vortex and shrunk.

Almost instantly, the Demon Lords presences all disappeared.

『 For such a powerful Spatial ability user to be here... 』 the Demon Lord Breeder muttered.

『 How troublesome, I'll kill you first— 』

A dark shadow broke through the restraints of space and rushed straight at Kitty.

It moved very fast, and Kitty was busy maintaining her spell, so she couldn't block it in time.

But the dark shadow crashed into a giant card before disappearing together with it.

“Thanks” Kitty turned to Lord Bloodcloak.

Lord Bloodcloak nodded.

Kitty then loudly told everyone here: “I can only delay it for three minutes, after three minutes, the Demon Lord army will definitely be transported here!”

The Demon Lord army— an army consisting of only Demon Lords!

Barry clenched his fists and loudly declared: “We have to deal with the Demon Lord Breeder before that, I'm up first!”

Lord Bloodcloak drew a blood red card and spoke: “I'll protect Kitty, and also, I'll watch your back”

“Good” Barry glanced at him in surprise.

The card then disappeared from Lord Bloodcloak's hand.

Boom—

Bloody light filled the air.

Barry blasted upwards, following the stream of bloody light towards the crack in space.

Behind him, Lord Bloodcloak consecutively drew two more cards.

“Kitty, you don’t have to worry. Even if I and everyone else here die, you will definitely not die, because this Bloodcloak is here”

His hands quickly fused several cards together.

From the outside, it looks like a raging sea of blood was slowly manifesting.

Kitty didn’t react to that at all.

She was busy calculating where the demons were going to warp, trying to buy as much time as possible for everyone.

“Charge!”

“Kill the True Demon!”

Almost 100 top-level Combatants roared in fury.

They all rushed forward!

The war begins!

...

About.

The royal green room.

A haggard middle-aged man sat dejectedly on the sofa, his expression ashen.

He was wearing a pair of black leather skinny jeans and nothing on top, he also had a bright red mohawk and a glass of iced liquor in his hand.

“You’ve had it tough, have a drink” Tethys consoled him.

The man sighed, tilted his head backwards and drank the whole thing.

“I have no choice but to take human form now— I know that a lot of races like to turn into human form to communicate with other races in the infinite worlds easier, while not exposing their own characteristics”

“But I don’t like taking human form at all, because I won’t be able to show off my beautiful feathers”

Tethys kept encouraging him: “This couldn’t be helped, your feathers will play a decisive role in this matter”

Looking at his dejected and dispirited self, she couldn’t help but gently stroke his face to console him.

Stopping for a bit, Tethys continued: “I wanted your whole body—”

Pop!

A sound resounded in the void of space.

The Light of Dawn Triste suddenly appeared out of nowhere and started speaking: “Tethys, I’ve made the arrangements, no one will be displeased with you investigating the VIP area now”

As soon as she finished, she noticed what was going on in the green room.

A man was half-naked on his upper body, leaning back on the sofa.

While Tethys was reaching her hand out to gently stroke his face.

Triste was stunned.

When I appeared just now, I think I heard Tethys say something like ‘I wanted your whole body...’

That’s right, I definitely didn’t hear it wrong.

And this situation, it’s possible that...

Could it be...

It must be...

Triste awkwardly curtsied and apologized: “I’m sorry, I didn’t know— erm, I’ll return later”

Tethys raised her hand, wanting to stop her from leaving.

“Wait a minute, it’s not what you think it is!” she said.

Pop!

Triste disappeared.

The green room returned to silence, only the two of them were left here.

Tethys looked at the middle-aged man.

“Fine, regardless, at least I managed to buy a bit more time”

Tethys sighed.

The middle-aged man didn’t look like he heard any of that and only muttered: “My feathers... my feathers, oh god...”

Chapter 545

When the flames of war were brewing in the 900 million World Layers.

When Iron Fist Barry and Lord Bloodcloak together with almost 100 Lord-class Combatants were facing off against a True Demon at the crack in space.

When the Spirit of the Holy Tree Tethys and the big rooster were in the royal green room, sending the news out to the infinite worlds.

When Triste came and left just as quick.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura were still in Triste’s collection world— which was inside the giant 12-layer cake on the table in the royal green room.

At this time, in Triste's world.

At the foot of the ice mountain.

Gu Qing Shan silently stared at the layer of ice beneath him.

Below the thick ice, you could see blood slowly being mixed into clear blue water.

This was the sign of death.

A lifeform created by the Old Gods had just died.

But it was a living creature, a sentient being.

Which meant it must also have Soul Points of its own.

According to the [Doomsday Chronicles], in the past life, today, Triste betrayed the Bramble Bird royal family and turned to the side of the demons, unleashing [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Kindling] on Aboul.

However!

Must reported news be the actual situation?

Ever since his return in time, everything that Gu Qing Shan had a part of in the past life had shown itself to not be as simple as he thought it was.

The System itself also told him that it was only to give him the information related to the famous historical events, but not the truth behind those events.

There are at least a few hundred million people currently in Triste's world.

[Kindling] is also here.

It has been issuing Bramble Bird missions in place of Triste.

And the few hundred million participants all do as it says.

Using that advantage, as long as [Kindling] issues a mission to kill ancient creatures, then offer to give them strength in exchange for Soul Points...

With a few hundred million people, even if only half of them accepted the mission, the rate that it gathers Soul Points would still be unbelievably fast.

As for how strong the ancient life forms are——

Didn't one of them die just now?

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

I entered this world much later compared to the others.

Right now, it's possible that a lot of them are currently or had already completed the missions given, gathering enough Soul Points for [Kindling] to upgrade itself.

This is already an irreversible situation.

No one has the ability to surpass the limit of space and time to reach those people and stop them from helping [Kindling] gather Soul Points.

Even if he could, what could he actually do?

Indeed, with Gu Qing Shan's strength, it's not too hard for him to suddenly catch about 10 decently strong demonized people off guard and eliminate them.

But I'm alone, how am I going to fight against over a hundred million demonized people?

It's impossible to win.

Not to mention, if [Kindling] had already finished upgrading to [Origin]...

Remembering the despair everyone felt back in the past life, then comparing it to the current situation, Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

He looked at the top of the mountain.

Is that [Kindling]'s trap, or is there actually a mission there?

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and silently thought about it.

If it is a trap, that means [Kindling] has decided to eliminate me since it sees me as a rebel.

With so many demonized people at its disposal, it becomes very easy to prepare a perfect trap.

No matter how powerful he was, Gu Qing Shan was simply not capable of winning against several hundred million geniuses from the 900 million World Layers.

So the best solution for now is to not climb the mountain and retreat right here.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

But if I do that, I won't be able to find out exactly what [Kindling] did and what secrets this world holds.

He already saw the life forms created by the Old Gods, and a divine temple of the Old Gods at the peak of this mountain.

—this world obviously holds some sort of secret.

After several ten thousand years, the Old Gods had already left the 900 million World Layers and can no longer be seen.

But the creations of the Old Gods stayed behind and continued to thrive.

If he couldn't even find the deeper secrets of this world, then there was no way for him to find out what [Kindling] was planning.

But under the situation where both his eyes were blind, Gu Qing Shan alone couldn't go against the several hundred million demonized people under [Kindling]'s control.

And so, at this very moment, standing at the foot of the ice mountain, despite normally being very decisive, Gu Qing Shan was hesitant.

—retreating means giving up the right to compete with [Kindling].

—but going up the mountain makes it highly possible for me to fall into [Kindling]'s trap.

Gu Qing Shan sighed deeply, unable to help himself putting his hand on the frozen cliff.

Bone-chilling cold.

Gu Qing Shan found that unexpected.

His spirit energy wasn't able to stop the chill coming from the ice.

And a few lines of glowing text showed up on the War God UI.

[Snow peak of the Gods]

[In the Age of Old, the Gods created a divine temple at the top to observe the lifeforms they created]

[This mountain contains a divinity skill left behind by the Old Gods]

[Divinity: Solemn]

[Solemn: Living beings who climb this mountain cannot use items unrelated to the Old Gods, otherwise such items will immediately be destroyed]

[War God Skills: You cannot learn a divinity skill of the Old Gods]

[Doomsday Chronicles: Across the history of the 900 million World Layers, this ice mountain has never appeared in the public's eyes]

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Gu Qing Shan froze.

Divinity?

Being able to destroy any item, what kind of power is this!?

But the Old Gods have already been gone for over tens of thousands years, would their divinity skill still work?

...it couldn't, right?

He looked down.

He was already on the first step.

Which means he was already climbing the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked and hurriedly called out: "Earth sword, Chao Yin, Shannu"

「 I'm here 」

Oong!

"Gongzi?"

The three swords appeared behind him from the void of space and replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

Seems like that divinity skill is no longer in effect.

He raised his feet, about to take another step.

A cold breeze blew past.

The light golden You Ji General armor crumbled into dust and scattered to the wind.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

He immediately turned around to check his three swords.

They were perfectly fine hovering in the air.

Why!?

Gu Qing Shan's gaze slowly passed through his swords.

The Earth sword.

As he looked at it, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall what Bai Hua Fairy said when she gave him the sword: *"The Earth sword is the 100,000 years heirloom of my sect, it has never been used to fight and is extremely precious. I heard that at in the Age of Old, it was able to contact with Divinity, a ceremonial sword"*

Apparently, what the cultivation world used to call Divinity were actually the Old Gods.

Since the Earth sword was able to contact the Old Gods, it squarely fits with the requirements [Divinity: Solemn], since it wasn't completely unrelated to the Old Gods.

—although it seems to enjoy killing Daemons and other descendants of the Old Gods.

And then there was the Chao Yin sword.

Chao Yin was forged by the Gods from the Age of Old, so it qualifies as well

Next was the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

This sword was the World's ceremonial sword, manifestation of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain, a Divine Armament of Huang Quan.

This sword was passed down from the Age of Old, used by descendants of the Old Gods to control the realm of Huang Quan, which would also qualify it as being related to the Old Gods.

All three of these swords managed to qualify and were unaffected by the [Divinity: Solemn].

Was it a coincidence? Or was that really the case?

Unconvinced, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a formation plate.

After just a moment, the formation plate crumbled to dust and was swept away by the cold winds.

This confirms it.

The Old Gods' divinity skill still remains.

"Ah? Both your armor and items were destroyed?" Laura was surprised.

"Yeah, it seems some sort of powerful force still exists here" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He couldn't help but silently be amazed, who would've thought that something the Old Gods from the Age of Old left here would still be active.

Just what kind of power could be this potent?

"I can sense the power of the Old Gods here" Laura comfortably sat on his shoulder, speaking: "Your items are worthless so they were easily destroyed by only this much, however—"

“However what?”

“It’s good that they were destroyed. Such a weak armor would not have done you any good even if you wore it”

Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly: “It’s still useful, at least, my armor has been useful many times in battle”

“That is true, you are a swordsman, you would need to get close to people...”

Laura looked at Gu Qing Shan and thought for a bit.

Finally, she seemed to have decided something and said: “I actually have an armor here with me, you can use it”

Saying so, Laura searched through her small backpack.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly tried to stop her: “Don’t take it out, the force surrounding this mountain is very powerful, your armor will be instantly destroyed”

As soon as he said that, Laura had taken out a pendant and put it on Gu Qing Shan’s neck without saying another word.

Chapter 546

Gu Qing Shan looked down at his neck.

—the only pendant he was wearing was Anna’s Death Relic.

This pendant is still intact even after I went into the Old God’s Ice Mountain.

There’s nothing else but this pendant on my neck.

I can’t use any items...

Gu Qing Shan looked back at himself.

Hm, so clothes don’t count as items.

The Old God’s divinity skill, is it used to prevent living beings from attacking them, or do they simply look down on the tools of their creations?

Fortunately, ever since going to the world of Huang Quan, due to bringing the entire inheritance of Bai Hua sect with me, I’ve always put both the fragrance bag and my Inventory Bag in my Thought Sea without arbitrarily taking them out.

Otherwise, those storage items would’ve also crumbled to dust.

And it seems whatever Laura took out was also destroyed by the divinity skill.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and regretfully spoke: “I told you, you shouldn’t have taken it out”

Laura only smirked at him without saying anything.

Lines of glowing text suddenly scrolled past the War God UI.

[Unidentified]

[Unidentified is currently probing and evaluating you to decide what form to take as your armor]

[This is a lost relic from the Age of Old from the Unending Abyss of the broken worlds, a place where no

living being can go—— besides a small number of Bramble Birds]

[Before it fully manifests, the System has no way to know the item's details, please patiently wait for it to manifest]

Gu Qing Shan was silently surprised as he read the War God UI.

“Where is the Unending Abyss of the broken worlds?” he asked.

[Ting]!

The War God UI responded: [The Unending Abyss is deep inside the Mystic Zones, practically the innermost layer of the Outer Plane]

Gu Qing Shan asked again: “So besides the Bramble Birds, no other living beings can go there?”

[Actually, most Bramble Birds would die before they managed to get too far inside, only very few members of the royal family can reach the Unending Abyss itself]

Are the Mystic Zones that dangerous?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but shake his head, thinking: no wonder every item from the Mystic Zones is so sought after, and why the Bramble Birds are so well received.

Even Barry and Kitty were hoping to pay back their debts with anything he could bring back that came from the Mystic Zones.

Kitty once told him that a lot of living beings couldn't stay in the Mystic Zones for too long.

And this 'Unending Abyss of the broken worlds' is supposedly so dangerous that you can't even go there.

“Laura, how did you get this thing?” Gu Qing Shan directly asked her.

“Ah? So you have noticed? That was much faster than I had thought”

Laura continued: “This item came from an especially dangerous place where no one else dared to go. At the time, to prove that I have become an adult, I went there once”

“You shouldn't go back there again, it's too dangerous” Gu Qing Shan firmly told her.

A place where no one can reach, even creatures from the Mystic Zones like the Bramble Birds would die if they tried going—— if it really is such a dangerous place, it would be better if Laura never went there again.

Seeing his worried look, Laura couldn't help but smile a bit.

“It is fine. If I do not go, no one would be able to go to that place at all”

“Why not?”

“Because of this”

Saying so, Laura suddenly disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

All Gu Qing Shan felt was his shoulder becoming lighter before Laura disappeared.

Instinctively, he used inner sight to search, but also found nothing.

Not being able to sense someone with inner sight—— this was especially terrifying for a cultivator.

Because most cultivators have made it a habit to use inner sight as a method of clairvoyance, if both their sight and inner sight were unable to detect the enemy, a cultivator would be nothing but a living target.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall the situation back at the royal green room.

At the time, Laura also suddenly appeared out of nowhere, catching me off guard.

And then...

Apparently even Combatants at the level of the Spirit of the Holy Tree, the big rooster as well as Triste couldn't detect Laura either.

How interesting.

"Laura, are you still here?" Gu Qing Shan called out.

"Yes, I am still sitting on your shoulder" Laura replied.

Gu Qing Shan tried reaching to his shoulder with his hand, but caught nothing as well.

"How strange, I can't feel you on my shoulder either"

"I am here, but you cannot find me. Because I am avoiding everything"

Saying so, Laura reappeared.

Gu Qing Shan felt weight on his shoulder again.

He thought about it.

As soon as Laura disappeared, even her weight would be gone, and my hand couldn't touch her either. It seems she won't receive any damage while in this state.

If that was the case, this is a technique to enter a hidden and invulnerability state at the same time. That's impressive.

"What kind of magic did you use just now?" Gu Qing Shan was curious.

"I used to call it [Playing Tag], but according to the records of our ancestors, this talent has only appeared once before over 10,000 years ago. At the time, it was called [Shelter of Infinite Worlds]" Laura puffed out her chest and continued: "This is a natural born talent unique to the Bramble Bird royal family. It is said to be very hard to awaken, only appearing twice in several 10,000 years, and I am the second bearer of it"

"Very extraordinary" Gu Qing Shan praised her.

Laura took out another piece of cake and started eating.

As she ate, she explained: "Whenever I use this talent, I would feel really hungry, so I need to replenish my energy"

"This talent cannot affect any life forms except for myself, and if I run out of stamina and cannot fill my stomach in time, I would not be able to use it"

"It's still very impressive" Gu Qing Shan smiled and told her.

He stood still, waiting until Laura finished her cake.

"I am full now, let us go"

"Hm"

Gu Qing Shan stood still.

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"What is the matter?" Laura asked, concerned.

Gu Qing Shan looked a bit at her, then at the mountain, staying silent briefly.

Regardless if there are any traps, the divine temple at the top of this mountain is a real creation of the Old Gods.

It definitely holds the secret of this world.

If that's the case, to win against [Kindling], I must take a look!

Gu Qing Shan finally decided.

"It's nothing, let's go" he said.

"Hm" Laura nodded.

They got back on their horse.

The black horse followed the stairs of ice, quickly making its way up the mountain.

With how fast it was, it reached the top of the mountain in just a few moments.

Gu Qing Shan went off the horse, picked Laura up from the horse's back and put her on his shoulder.

They went into the divine temple.

The temple itself was the same as the ice mountain, created from transparent, glittering blue ice, showing the sky above as if the ceiling didn't exist at all.

There wasn't anything like statues of the Gods inside this temple.

Gu Qing Shan glanced around.

Beside a large staircase, an empty high platform and a large plaza, this divine temple had nothing.

Although it was most likely abandoned, there was still more than enough space here to fit several thousand people.

And right at the middle of the temple's central plaza, there was a large ice cave.

In the ice cave, the faint blue water and light was mixed with the ink-like clouds of blood, reflecting on the dome atop the divine temple like a scenery out of a dream.

This ice cave was connected to the inside of the mountain.

It seems that in the Age of Old, Old Gods used to summon their creations from below with this opening.

A large hill-like monster was lying flat on the ground just outside the ice cave

Its body was filled with shockingly large holes, where blood was still dripping out.

The monster laid still on the ground, obviously dead.

Around the monster, a few hundred people formed various smaller groups, resting.

Briefly counting, Gu Qing Shan estimated there to be about 800 people.

From the looks of it, these people had about the same level of strength as the group of 10 he killed before.

It was obvious that these 800 people killed the monster.

And he confirmed something.

My guess was right, [Kindling] is commanding these demonized people to hunt ancient life forms to collect Soul Points for it.

But I still don't know how much [Kindling] has gathered.

Or has it already become [Origin]?

Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of crisis unlike never before.

He looked at the crowd of people.

At a glance, he could tell they were waiting for something.

Could it be, there was another ancient life form coming up to the surface of the water?

Gu Qing Shan stopped and stared at the [Kindling] UI.

"I'm here now, what should I do next?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The dark red UI stayed still without responding.

[Kindling] didn't answer him.

Very quickly, the entire [Kindling] UI turned grey.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised as he saw that.

What does this mean?

The crowds of resting people suddenly all turned towards him.

They all had the same observing expression.

"So he's the mission target? Looks kinda weak" a hammer-wielding warrior commented.

"His strength could be considered decent even among us" another man whose eyes were glowing purple stared at Gu Qing Shan and said.

Apparently he was using some sort of appraisal type technique.

“Ahh—”

The people around all nodded and started to become rowdy.

“If God’s Eye said that, it must be true”

“So what if he’s decent? With this many of us here, we can just pile him to death”

“That’s right, to get such high rewards by simply killing these two, it’s so hard to understand why”

“Like we discussed before, we’re all going to go at once, whoever kills him gets the prize”

“Of course, like we all agreed”

...

Over 800 demonized Combatants stood up one by one.

They prepared their weapons and eyed Gu Qing Shan with malice.

They were all ready for battle— and since they were chosen by [Kindling] to hunt the ancient life forms, they wouldn’t be new to battle either.

Gu Qing Shan turned to look behind.

The entrance to the divine temple had already been blocked off by several groups of demonized Combatants.

Chapter 547

The Old God’s divine temple.

Over 800 demonized Combatants surrounded Gu Qing Shan and Laura without leaving a single gap.

As they raised their weapons and were about to attack, Gu Qing Shan suddenly shouted.

“WAIT!”

He also ignored their reactions and continued in a loud voice: “I’m a member of the Iron Fist Club. Iron Fist Barry has gathered all his comrades and is currently watching over us outside of this world— if you don’t believe me, you can read yesterday’s newspaper headline to confirm who I am!”

The 800 people all stopped.

It wasn’t because of what Gu Qing Shan had said, but rather because they had no choice but to stop.

An intense storm picked up right as Gu Qing Shan began to speak—

[Sword Array: Taiyi]!

Three flying swords appeared at the same time from the void of space.

Endless sword images scattered from the swords, carried by the storm winds all around the divine temple.

In a split second, the storm winds and sword images had already filled every nook and cranny of the divine temple.

No one was able to stop the wind from scattering, no one could stop the sword images from surrounding them.

This was a sword array that had been doubled in power by [Iaido] twice!

The malicious Combatants couldn't help but back down and prepared to defend themselves.

None of them were amateurs.

Facing this level of power, they had to focus on defending or they could die on the spot.

Borrowing the impact of the sword array, Gu Qing Shan quickly continued his speech.

"This little girl on my shoulder, if you would look at her carefully, if there are any people of status here, you must've met her before. You should know that she is the princess of Bramble Bird kingdom, Laura!"

"We are here to rescue you on behalf of the Bramble Bird royal family"

"There is also something I must tell you before anything else. If you were led to believe that you have become demonized, you were deceived!"

A large amount of information was delivered in a few short sentences.

And since these 800 were chosen out of several hundred million people to be demonized, none of them were dumb.

Being held back by the powerful sword array, they couldn't help but stop and think about the implications of what they just heard.

"That's right, I was wondering why he looked so familiar, I read that newspaper, he's the one who stood next to Barry" someone loudly called out.

"Is it really him?"

"I'm sure, I wouldn't make a mistake at such a minor thing"

"No wonder he has three Divine Armaments"

"A Club member... how impressive..."

Wow they were busy discussing about him, someone called out in shock: "Princess Laura, is it really you?"

Laura looked at where the voice came from.

"Pias the elf, why are you here?" she asked in surprise.

That person suddenly changed his language and asked: "I am obviously here to participate in the call of the Bramble Bird, but why is an esteemed personage like yourself also here?"

"Me? I am here with Gu Qing Shan to rescue you"

Laura repeated what Gu Qing Shan instructed her through sending voice.

She was speaking in a fluent tongue of the Elves.

The Elves were known to be fluent in every language in existence, so they created a certain spell, using the spell as a catalyst of their race's unique language.

This language was special in the sense that unless someone was given permission from the Elves, they cannot access the spell weave and will be unable to communicate with the Elves even if they know the language.

Naturally, being the princess of the Bramble Bird, Laura was one of their esteemed guests and had long since gotten permission to access their spell weave.

Pias the Elf froze.

He suddenly jumped out, blocking in front of everyone: "This person is really her Highness the princess of the Bramble Birds! Do not move if you still want to live!"

The crowd became rowdy.

A few more people stepped out.

A dwarf gracefully bowed to princess Laura: "I had the honor of meeting you at the Elven Kingdom's anniversary banquet. I offer my sincerest apologies for almost harming you by mistake, your esteemed Highness"

Even if they are demonized, they still needed to side with the Bramble Birds.

They were not dumb.

However, they didn't know what was going on outside.

Suddenly, a black-skinned man stood out, asking: "Wait a minute! Just now you said you came to rescue us, and you even said we were deceived, what is that supposed to mean?"

"That's right, the Bramble Birds have never issued a mission that encourages the slaughter of living beings before, why did the Demon King's Kindling appear this time around?" another followed up and asked.

Someone asked hesitantly: "I collected Soul Points through accomplishing missions and traded it for more power and treasures, isn't that exactly what Worlds Apocalypse Online is? I'm sure I'm already demonized— did I make a mistake somewhere?"

The crowd was getting more and more restless.

"That is correct! Please listen to me, you are all in fact not demonized!" Gu Qing Shan loudly declared.

The crowd looked at him in disbelief.

Everything he has said up until now was completely beyond their wildest expectations.

—Iron Fist Barry and his powerful comrades were currently outside, watching over them.

—The Bramble Bird princess, Laura, has come here on behalf of the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

—And finally, they were deceived.

Each piece of news was heavy enough to force them to stop and reconsider.

Iron Fist Barry and his comrades were all top-level Combatants, renowned across the 900 million World Layers, who would dare to ignore them?

Furthermore, this place was Triste's world, and the Bramble Bird princess Laura was to be the next sovereign of the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

If she showed up at such a place, she would definitely represent the entire Bramble Bird royal family.

And since they were in the world of a Bramble Bird, Triste, who would actually dare to do anything to their princess? If they happen to offend the Bramble Bird race and cause them to destroy this world, wouldn't it mean the end for them also?

And then, he said we were deceived.

We aren't actually demonized?

Bullshit, we are obviously demonized no matter how you look at it.

—-wait, so where did [Kindling] actually come from, is it actually trustworthy?

Or is he just spouting nonsense?

Everyone was stunned as they kept their eyes on the two people, unable to hold back the doubts and suspicions that formed in their minds.

A few hundred people exchanged looks until finally everyone glanced towards the three demonized Combatants at the back.

They were the most powerful three of the 800 people here.

One of them was the 'God's Eye' that gave Gu Qing Shan an evaluation at the beginning, and two others.

"God's Eye, confirm princess Laura's identity" one of them said.

"God's Trek, I've already checked, she really is the real one" the purple-eyed God's Eye confirmed.

"I think we should stop for a bit first, what do you think?" God's Trek asked.

"I believe we should at least confirm it" God's Eye replied.

The two looked towards the final person.

"God's Might, what do you think?" they asked.

God's Might sighed: "[Origin] has been issuing me new missions one after another for the past while, the rewards are so good it tempts even me"

[Origin]!

Gu Qing Shan sharply caught that word.

Seems like [Kindling] really did upgrade already!

This confirms it.

[Kindling] had me fooled from the very beginning.

At the same time, everyone's expressions changed.

Someone loudly yelled out: “Look, the new mission rewards!”

All 800 people held their breaths as they silently stared at the void of space in front of their eyes.

A few people began to glance towards Gu Qing Shan and Laura with a look of greed.

Knowing how delicate the situation was, Gu Qing Shan quickly sent his voice to instruct Laura again.

Laura stood up on his shoulder and loudly declared: “On behalf of the Bramble Bird royal family, no matter what reward [Origin] promises you, we Bramble Birds shall double it!”

“I don’t believe there is somebody even richer than we Bramble Birds in this entire 900 million World Layers!”

Oooo—!

Their discussing voices spread like a wave.

Someone couldn’t help but shouted: “Your Highness Laura, [Origin] issued a mission for me to kill you, the rewards is a Divine Armament”

“So what? Even my morning brushing bowl is a Divine Armament!” Laura scoffed.

She then threw a small metal bowl out without any hesitation.

Clang clang!

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The bowl landed on the ice, slid a bit further away before stopping for all to see.

Pshew!!

A large dune of golden sand flowed out from the bowl without stop.

“An Endless Golden Sand Grail!” someone excitedly exclaimed.

Gold wasn’t a very strong currency, but it’s a commonly accepted currency in the infinite worlds.

And this Grail was said to be able to produce endless golden sand.

Even if gold itself wasn’t worth a lot, as long as you had this bowl and ample time, you’d technically have unlimited money!

The entire plaza went silent.

Everyone was staring at the Endless Golden Sand Grail, then back at their UI.

Indeed, the Bramble Birds have always been known as the richest race in existence, and we’re still in their world, there’s nothing so valuable that it would be worth offending them for.

And then, even if we are demonized, the demons couldn’t attack the Mystic Zones anyway.

Including the demons, there are very few who can easily enter the Mystic Zones.

Any idiots dumb enough to try have already died.

With that in mind, a lot of the people began to hesitate.

The tense situation calmed down somewhat.

God's Might suddenly spoke up and asked: "You said we were deceived, what do you mean by that?"

Gu Qing Shan was waiting for this.

It was precisely for this that he came here while knowing the risks!

"You're all carrying [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin], correct?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

A lot of them nodded in unison.

"Indeed" God's Might also admitted.

"Laura and I, on behalf of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, express our sincerest apologies for this" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Hm? What do you mean?"

Seeing how grandiose he was being, everyone felt uneasy.

"Perhaps you were led to believe that you are carrying the [Demon King Order] that came from the Fallen Zones. But I have to tell you all that it is in fact a fraud"

"It was because of our mistake and negligence that allowed this fraudulent thing in here, causing everyone so much damage, that is why we must express our deepest apologies" Gu Qing Shan continued.

The 800 demonized Combatants couldn't understand what he was saying.

"Fraudulent thing? No, it's the real [Worlds Apocalypse Online], it gave me this unimaginable power" God's Might couldn't help but loudly refute.

He clenched his fist.

Wind, Fire, Lighting, three Elements gathered at his fist.

An Elemental vortex surrounded his body, giving off a peerless presence.

The crowd all nodded to confirm.

Gu Qing Shan quickly followed up: "Then I have to ask you, did you gain this power through Soul Points, or through EXP?"

God's Might briefly thought about it before answering: "When it was still [Kindling], I used Soul Points to exchange for this power"

"Can you still use Soul Points to do it now?"

"Right now we're using EXP, but we can expend EXP to level up and to exchange for items just like before" he confirmed his EXP bar in the UI in his vision before replying.

EXP!

Gu Qing Shan's heart settled down.

*To him, it was an extremely familiar word.
A familiarity that was forcefully driven to his very core.*

Gu Qing Shan sighed and explained: "Please check your personal status to see how much EXP you will need to level up after doing so a few more times"

"Ah, alright"

God's Might selected the option from the UI in his vision and checked it bit by bit.

Gradually, his face went pale.

Thick beads of sweat started rolling down his forehead.

"So much EXP... there is no way to achieve that..."

"A fraud, it really is a fraud..."

He muttered at a loss for words.

Seeing his reaction, the 800 Combatants all checked their own status as well.

"This much EXP—"

"No! That's impossible!"

"I won't be able to get that much in my whole life!"

"I got duped..."

"So I'm not demonized! I've only been deceived by a garbage Order!"

Everyone exclaimed in shock and confusion.

Gu Qing Shan remained silent without saying a word.

He watched their reactions.

*That's right, what a familiar scene this is, the same one I went through in the past life.
No one would forget this kind of despair once they've experienced it.*

Taking this opportunity, Gu Qing Shan loudly declared.

Using the loudest voice he could, he made sure to overpower everyone else's rowdy discussions.

"Besides the problem of EXP, there is another unfortunate thing that I must tell you"

"The items that this fake Order had given you as rewards are all personal properties of other people.
Once you leave, they will be taken back"

"Can you prove that?" God's Might was still unwilling to accept this.

"Of course! Here's an example, I know swords particularly well, if you would turn to the page for exchanging sword-type weapons, you will find that all of the swords there are actually items from the weapon's shop at Aboul's Infini-worlds Town"

"Even if you used Soul Points or EXP to exchange for them, once you leave, they will definitely be taken back by the Guardian of Aboul"

“Is there anyone here who has been to Infini-worlds Town and looked through their warehouse of swords? Please step out to prove my words!”

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan stopped.

Everyone else also went silent.

They all exchanged glances and waited for the results.

The entire plaza went silent.

Gu Qing Shan kept waiting.

Suddenly, a voice came out from the crowd.

“I don’t know what you said about swords is true or not, but I can confirm, this Mythical battle mace is a relic left behind by the Old Gods, I’ve seen it in Aboul’s Infini-worlds Town for a long time”

A masculine man stood up, showing his battle mace to everyone.

“I was confused as to why I could spend Soul Points to exchange for something from Infini-worlds Town, but hearing you, now I finally understand”

He angrily threw the mace to the ground.

He was right, this was property of Infini-worlds Town.

After they left, it would naturally be taken back.

After spending so much time and effort, he would’ve gotten nothing out of it.

I fucking did everything for free!

And then there’s this ridiculous amount of EXP—

Just like he said, this thing is a fraudulent bastard!

The real [Demon King Order] wouldn’t be like this.

Furthermore.

If the real [Demon King Order] was truly like this, then it’s even more terrifying, because I will be dancing in the palm of its hand for the rest of my life, doing everything to provide it more Soul Points, while all it gives back is a cold, meaningless number— EXP.

EXP is a bottomless abyss, once you fall in, you’re never going to get out.

That’s why, I should be praying, praying that what he’s saying is true, that [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin] is nothing but a fraud.

“This fucking thing is a fraud!”

“Damn it, I’ve been had!”

“How could you Bramble Birds let such a fraudulent thing get in!?”

“This won’t end like this, the Bramble Bird must take full responsibility for committing such a grave error!”

“I demand reimbursement!”

Everyone loudly yelled.

However, despite being so loud, none of them actually carried a single bit of killing intent.

Because the aftermath of this would still need to be dealt with from the Bramble Bird's side.

Gu Qing Shan calmly looked at all this.

He kept his mouth shut, his chin slightly raised, as if he already planned for this.

"That is fine, we were sent here by the Bramble Bird royal family to take full responsibility for this"

He told the crowd in a consoling tone.

It was now that Laura barely managed to stop her heart from pounding in fear.

The situation in front of her seemed like nothing but a dream.

It was supposed to be 1 vs 800.

It was supposed to be an extremely dangerous trap that would've led to his death with a single mistake.

How did it turn into this instead?

Laura recounted everything that happened just now in her mind, but still found it hard to believe.

"Gu Qing Shan, what did you say your job was before?"

She couldn't help but ask him in a low voice.

Chapter 548

Gu Qing Shan gave Laura a glance, gesturing with his eyes for her to wait a bit.

He then told the crowd of restless people: "Everyone, please calm down first"

"I'm here to solve this problem on a commission from the Bramble Bird royal family"

"First of all, do you know why the Order that you all carry wanted to kill me?"

"We don't" many people replied.

"It's because I've already used this [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin] before, I know everything about it"

"It was because of my experience that the big wigs outside decided to send me in after a lot of consideration, giving me full responsibility to explain exactly what's going on"

Gu Qing Shan told them.

Everyone went quiet.

He already used this fake [Origin] before?

They all couldn't help but question this.

At first, everyone was suspicious of this guy from the Club who suddenly appeared with the Bramble Bird princess.

But everything he said up until now made perfect sense.

And now he claimed that he once used this fake Order.

“That’s right, anything that you don’t understand about this fraud, you can ask me”
Gu Qing Shan pointed to himself and continued: “You should know, the reason why it’s so intent on killing me is because I’ve managed to uninstall it”

He uninstalled it!

Everyone was stunned again.

Hearing this, they became even more confused.

“Do you really know everything there is to know about it?” God’s Might asked.

“That’s right, for example— it’s currently promising you that as long as you kill me, not only will you receive ample rewards, you will also escape all pursuits by being transported straight to the Fallen Zones”

They all couldn’t help but check their own [Origin] UIs.

“And also, it had just hidden the total amount of EXP necessary to level up from your personal status, claiming that the status screen is currently being updated” Gu Qing Shan continued.

Everyone’s gaze was fixed on their UIs, staring at the lines of text that just showed up.

How is that possible!

He really did know about it!

They really can’t see the amount of EXP needed to level up anymore no matter how much they search.

Seeing their reactions, Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

In truth, [Worlds Apocalypse Online], this [Demon King Order] was sentient.

In the past life, when [Worlds Apocalypse Online] had just launched, the status and data it provided were accessible to everyone.

It wasn’t until later that it slowly hid the status information away bit by bit.

It could learn, it could evolve, it could grow!

This was the true terror it posed to a civilization.

As time passed, everyone began to notice that as [Worlds Apocalypse Online] got to know humanity better, it knew how to improve itself to accommodate the humans.

And it also knew how to better abuse human nature to fool and lure its users.

Just like in this life, it knew to disguise itself as [Kindling] to fool Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “It should be telling you right now that you don’t have to worry about the problem of EXP”

“If I remember correctly, it is saying that—”

Gu Qing Shan inhaled deeply and recalled the events of his past.

At that time, the two statements that were deeply imprinted in everyone’s minds.

“When you level up to a certain degree, you will get to see the infinite worlds, where there are countless targets for you to kill”

“You will face an entirely new adventure, facing even more powerful enemies, gaining ever increasing EXP values, so you don’t need to worry about levelling up”

Everyone stopped breathing.

Word by word, everything Gu Qing Shan just said started to show up on the [Origin] UI.

Gu Qing Shan’s speech was fast, just enough that he would always say the content of the message just 1 second before it appears on their UIs.

As a result, the 800 demonized Combatants here saw that the UI was copying Gu Qing Shan’s words as he spoke.

Not a word more! Not a word less!

How would he be able to do that if he didn’t know everything there was to know about this thing?

And in truth, Gu Qing Shan wasn’t lying to them.

10 years of the Apocalypse.

He really did know [Origin] well.

The atmosphere inside the divine temple at the top of the ice mountain of the Old Gods was now as cold and chilling as it was meant to be.

The 800 demonized Combatants all fell eerily silent.

And then...

Clang clang clink, clang clang!

In a unified long sigh, everyone threw the weapons they had exchanged from the UI to the frozen ground.

That’s right, this must be the truth.

We were completely fooled.

If he was here to resolve this problem, then let’s cooperate to resolve it as fast as possible.

It’s probably true that he was sent here because he already used and knew how to uninstall this thing.

—after all, he even told us what [Origin] wanted to tell us even before it did.

Of course, with so many demonized people here, not all of them were fully convinced yet.

They still haven’t given up.

“Then— I have a question, about the System” a female Combatant stared at Gu Qing Shan as she spoke.

“Ask away” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“This thing, it has a minimap function, but why can’t I control its vision well?”

“That’s simple, you need to tell it what state you’re in”

“What state? What do you mean?”

“It still isn’t very smart yet, you need to tell it whether you want to scout or to conduct battle, that way it can automatically choose the display mode for you”

The female Combatant silently tried doing as he told her.

Not just her, many of the others also tried doing the same.

As for the wanted poster and the incessant warning messages, they’ve all decided to ignore them.

“You’re right, it really does work” the female Combatant nodded after she finished checking.

She felt regretful.

If only I really did become demonized and obtain unimaginable power, that couldn’t have been better.

The entire reason she came to the call of the Bramble Birds in the first place was because she desired power and wealth.

But now, it was all just a fraud.

Everything was fake!

Looking at the constant blinking notifications on the [Origin] UI, she felt irritated.

Fuck you!

She silently cursed it.

After that, a few more demonized Combatants raised their hands taking turns asking questions.

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They tried asking Gu Qing Shan questions that they think to be sly or hidden.

The other demonized Combatants just stayed quiet.

But they don’t know that Gu Qing Shan already had 10 years of experience using [Worlds Apocalypse Online]!

Their questions were nothing but the most basic of basics, functions that Gu Qing Shan had long mastered and memorized.

Gu Qing Shan patiently answered each and every question.

After 7-8 minutes of questioning, he had already answered several dozen questions without a single mistake or hesitation.

At this point, no matter how suspicious the demonized Combatants were, they were forced to be convinced.

The 800 demonized Combatants all gave up on fighting.

“What should we do now?” God’s Might asked Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "After the uninstallation, we will release a signal for the Light of Dawn Triste to take everyone back outside"

"But then— while I was fooled by this thing, I've already killed a lot of people, how will this be dealt with?"

God's Might asked again.

Following his question, every demonized Combatant looked straight at Gu Qing Shan.

Every single demonized person here had killed at least one person.

Because if not, they couldn't have obtained the Soul Points to exchange for power.

Once they go outside, this will be the biggest problem.

Gu Qing Shan bitterly smiled: "The responsibility for this matter lies in the fact that the Bramble Bird royal family had mismanaged and caused such a huge blunder"

"Once we're outside, the Bramble Bird royal family alone will shoulder the full responsibilities"

Saying that, Gu Qing Shan looked over to Laura.

Laura was still standing on his shoulder, slowly curtsied and spoke full of regret: "Representing the Bramble Bird royal family, I express my sincerest apologies. The reimbursement and responsibility for those who died will be taken care of by us"

Everyone looked at Laura and stayed silent until she declared this.

They all sighed in relief.

If the Bramble Bird princess has declared so, this must be the official stance.

It's possible that this was the conclusion that all parties concerned arrived at through negotiations.

Otherwise, wouldn't over a hundred million people have to bear the responsibilities for a mistake of the Bramble Birds?

Furthermore, since the Bramble Birds are so rich, even if the amount of people that needed compensation were several times over, it wouldn't bother them at all.

God's Might also relaxed his expression.

He exchanged glances with God's Eye and God's Trek, nodding to each other.

"If that's the case, we have no problem with it" God's Might answered.

The rest of the crowd quickly followed.

Since the three most powerful Combatants here— these Demis had already agreed, the rest had no more extraneous words to say.

The biggest problem for them was already solved.

"Then, how do we uninstall this thing?" someone loudly asked.

“A good question, but it’s too troublesome for me to teach each one of you, since there’s over 800 people here”

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and explained to everyone there: “You can simply do as I say and wait here until the uninstallation process is over”

He sighed heavily: “My job still isn’t over, since I need to go to other places and help hundreds of millions of other people who were also fooled”

“Then tell us”

“On the bottom left side of the [Origin] UI, there is a red button, that is [Delete character]”

“When you try selecting it, a notice will pop up to warn you that if you delete your character, you will have to register with the System again”

“Ignore it and delete your character, then when it asks to register again, select [uninstall Order]”

Everyone nodded.

That sounds quite simple.

A few impatient people had already followed his instructions.

“How is it? Did someone try it yet?” Gu Qing Shan quickly asked.

A burly man raised his hand: “I’m done, my vision is completely clear now, no longer cluttered with those annoying flickering things”

When he raised his hand, many others also quickly followed suit.

Gu Qing Shan loudly declared: “Very well, take your time, I need to go now”

Laura also added at the end: “Once you leave, the Bramble Bird Kingdom will offer a generous compensation for everyone who was a victim of fraud to express our apologies”

Quite a few shouted in joy.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and brought Laura out of the divine temple.

This time, no one tried to stop him.

The demonized people who blocked his way before now stood on either side.

“Thank you”

“Thank you for coming here”

“After we get out, I hope I can go to the Club to visit”

Quite a few greeted him on his way out.

Gu Qing Shan also greeted them back.

He and Laura quickly went out of sight as they left the divine temple.

They really left.

Back in the divine temple, more and more people were removing [Origin] from themselves.

A few particularly apprehensive people were still hesitating, but as they saw more and more people being joyful for removing it, the constantly flickering red notifications caused them to be annoyed as well.

After a while, confirming that the others were fine, the last few demonized Combatants followed the instructions as well.

Finally, they all finished removing the [Origin] UI.

“Alright, let’s all wait here” God’s Might said.

The crowd nodded in agreement.

Outside the divine temple, the snowfall was becoming thicker.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura got on their horse.

“Summoners, are you in a hurry, or just a stroll?” the black horse asked.

“Run away at will towards the foot of the mountain” Gu Qing Shan sent his voice.

The black horse then galloped down the mountain at mild speed, braving the cold of the snowstorm.

While on the way, Laura couldn’t help herself asking: “Just now, what exactly—”

“Shh!” Gu Qing Shan signaled her to be quiet for now.

About 7-8 minutes later.

As they reached the side of the mountain, desperate screams of pain came from the top of the mountain.

The screams were filled with agony and despair, as if they were suffering from some sort of unspeakable punishment.

The howls of countless suffering people range out, echoed all around the mountain, as if the top of the ice mountain has already become hell on earth.

The echoes of desperate cries became louder and louder, shaking the entire ice mountain of the Gods.

Gu Qing Shan lowered his head and just listened.

In the winds of the snowstorm, he showed a faint sorrowful smile.

Chapter 549

TN: Due to a lack of distinction on the author’s part, there are some confusing concepts here.

‘Demonized’ people are those who became slaves of the [Demon King Order], but they aren’t actually demons. ‘Demonified’ people are those who were turned into real demons, there is a difference.

The top of the ice mountain.

The divine temple of the Old Gods.

The 800 demonized Combatants all calmed down

One of them took up their weapon and moved towards the giant hill-like monster's corpse.

"What are you doing?" his friend asked.

"We're about to leave anyways, let's take a few things with us. This is still an ancient creature, so maybe some parts of it can be sold for money"

As he got near the corpse of the monster, he raised his weapon.

And he was stunned.

The [Origin] UI that was supposed to have already been removed once again showed up in his vision.

"Ah? Didn't I already uninstall you?" he spoke in surprise.

Lines of text quickly appeared on the [Origin] UI.

[Uninstallation terminated]

[The Order has cross-checked your identify, final confirmation: Slave]

[As a slave, you do not have the right to remove Origin]

[You ignored several dozen warnings and acted in betrayal to Origin]

[Considering your acts of betrayal, your privileges have all been removed]

[After three seconds, your punishment will commence]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[Living beings full demonification experiment, begin]

The notifications all faded.

A unique power slowly filled his body.

"What, what is this!?"

He was surprised.

He found that his body was becoming hotter and hotter, as if a boiling power wanted to be released from his body.

But before this power was released, he had already reached his end.

Pfft!

A thick and sharp claw went through his back, pierced his heart out of his chest and dangled it right in front of his eyes.

The man coughed up blood, unable to speak and was only barely able to recognize the still-beating heart pierced on the claw.

His head went limp.

He died.

Behind him, his friend who was now a full demon, appeared as a 3-meter tall 5-clawed monster.

“Kiii, kiih, kih, kih, kih kih!”

The monster was growling constantly, apparently trying to explain something.

But soon enough, the monster was attracted to the bright red beating heart.

It forgot everything and devoured the entire heart whole.

As the heart naturally slid down its throat, the monster felt full of power unlike ever before.

This beating piece of flesh seemed to be the exact requirements for its evolution.

Roarr—

The monster roared

It wanted more of this flesh!

That roar acted as a signal.

The symptoms of full demonification began to appear on many of the demonized Combatants.

All 800 of these demonized people were veterans in battle, if it wasn't because of their own bodies being warped in such terrifying ways, they wouldn't have screamed so desperately.

The originally silent divine temple was now filled with howling and screaming.

Flesh and blood splattered everywhere.

Monsters were rampaging all over the place.

In mere seconds, the icy divine temple of the Old Gods had turned into a slaughterhouse of hell.

God's Eye, God's Trek and God's Might all quickly backed off.

They hid where there were the fewest people, standing back to back, weapons in hand in a complete defensive formation.

On their left, a demonized Combatant's body suddenly broke apart and became a tattered pile of flesh.

“What kind of situation is this?” God's Might asked in a low voice.

“I'm observing” God's Eye's pupils gave off a purple light as he observed the entire plaza.

Right in front of the three of them, another demonized Combatant was screaming in a frenzy.

His body suddenly expanded, 7-8 bone spears sprouted from his body, his neck became thin and long as his head started shrinking.

He also turned into a monster!

As they looked beyond this monster, they found that the entire divine temple had turned into a chaotic mess.

Many demonized Combatants either suddenly shed all their flesh, exploded, or rolled on the ground screaming in pain until they slowly lost all signs of life.

And then, there were also a few demonized Combatants turned into various kinds of monsters.

These monsters completely lost all their rationale and calm. They only knew to dive into the crowds of writhing demonized people and conduct mindless slaughter.

“Demonification! They’re all turning into demons!” God’s Eye loudly declared.

“Really? Are you sure?” God’s Trek felt a bit shaken and quickly asked.

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“They are low level demons, I met a few of them before, others I’ve only seen in books” God’s Eye’s pupils glowed purple as he confirmed.

“Could it be that man from the Iron Fist Club did something?” God’s Might suddenly asked.

His voice was trembling a bit.

Under this chaotic situation, the other two didn’t take too much notice of this.

“He didn’t, I was observing him the entire time. Besides talking, he did nothing”

God’s Eye continued: “The change came from their own bodies, as if some sort of power came from nowhere”

“Then this must be something [Origin] did! No, we have to leave!” God’s Trek hurriedly said.

Those were his last words.

God’s Trek’s head disappeared.

A 5-meter tall monster had just cut off his head with its long scythe-like claw before throwing it in its mouth

“Brother, I, I didn’t want to eat you”

The monster said as it ate.

The monster had a pair of purple glowing eyes.

If you carefully look, you’d find that this monster was actually God’s Eye from before.

As it chewed, the monster’s body started shaking.

“No! I don’t want to be a demon!” the monster screeched.

It chopped off its own head with its razor-sharp scythe claw.

Thud!

The monster fell.

Its body immediately broke apart, turning into a pile of soft flesh.

In the blink of an eye, two of the three most powerful demonized Combatants had already died.

Only God's Might silently stood.

— he was a powerful Demi, the leader of these demonized Combatants.

He was still hesitant to believe Gu Qing Shan's claims and was still observing the crowd up until now.

He still hasn't uninstalled [Origin].

Over 800 people, and only he didn't uninstall [Origin].

The monsters all avoided him.

Because he was still a demonized person, someone under the protection of [Origin].

God's Might knelt down, reaching his hands out to stroke God's Trek headless body and God's Eye's monstrous body

"My brothers..."

He shed tears of blood.

"So we were deceived by him"

"It really was the true [Origin], the [Demon King Order], but he fooled us"

"But rest assured, I will not let him escape like this"

"I swear, I will take his head to come see you!"

Wiping his tears of blood, he stood up and quickly left the divine temple.

Behind him, the remaining monsters stopped killing each other.

They all followed God's Might outside.

...

Let's go back in time a bit.

In the temple, right as the demonification began.

Desperate cries and screams echoed from atop the mountain all around.

The noise and commotion could still be heard at the side of the mountain.

"We're going to wait right here" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

The black horse stopped.

Laura climbed down from Gu Qing Shan's shoulder, hiding in his chest.

Gu Qing Shan sat still on the horse, hugging Laura as he gently patted her back.

In his vision, the bright red [Origin] UI lit up again.

It finally returned from being grey.

“Finally not playing dead anymore?” Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

[Kindling]— no, it should be [Origin], angrily replied: [Abandoner, betrayer, destroyer of Order, just now you went against me once again, why do you act like this?]

Gu Qing Shan stayed still and said nothing.

[Sinner, you deceived them, you made them betray Order— you directly killed over 800 of your own comrades!]

“No, they were never my comrades in the first place” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[They were the same as you, those who have this Order supporting them, you originally could’ve fought alongside each other on the search for power, but you rejected Order, you killed them]

“First of all, you’re the one who killed them” Gu Qing Shan calmly answered, “secondly, they are those who blindly pursue wealth and power, killing innocent people in their path. I believe this is exactly what they deserve”

[Origin] fell silent.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “Their deaths are only the beginning, the war between you and I will continue”

[You mortal human insect, weakest in all the 900 million World Layers, are you declaring war on me?]

[Origin] furiously questioned.

“I am”

Chapter 550: Dead Soul Demon King

In the snowstorm, Gu Qing Shan’s dialogue with [Origin] continued.

[Declaring war on me? You are a mere mortal, while I am the source of Order that can change the entire 900 million World Layers] [Origin] said.

“Who can actually tell victory to defeat before the battle?” Gu Qing Shan said.

He looked at the inside of the ice mountain.

Large amounts of blood could be seen flowing down, mixing in with the clear blue water current.

The bright red blood quickly spread, corrupting the originally pristine color of the mountain.

Gradually, the entire inner water flow of the ice mountain was dyed red from blood.

The once clear blue ice mountain was now a blood mountain.

Hearing Gu Qing Shan say that, [Origin] seemed to be confused.

It asked: [Ever since I’ve been born into this world, since my evolution from Kindling to Origin, everything has gone so smoothly. Very few people are suspicious of me, reject me, and definitely none that insists on going against me like yourself. Tell me, why do you do this?]

Gu Qing Shan stared straight at the flowing stream of blood in the ice mountain as he muttered: “Just listen”

Carried by the howling winds, the screams of pain on the top of the mountain only became more vivid, more dreadful, and horrifyingly clear.

The bloody slaughter at the top was gradually reaching its climax.

The red color of blood inside the water also became thicker.

[Are you trying to claim justice for them?] [Origin] asked.

Gu Qing Shan looked up, staring at the snowflakes falling from above and replied: “Not for them”

[Origin] was even more confused: [I don't understand you, but you are a unique slave who cannot be controlled. This is strange, why can't I activate the order of torture on you? Why can't I even demonify you?]

[No, you are a strange variable, you must be killed immediately]

Saying so, [Origin]'s voice disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything else either.

He simply rode on the horse's back, silently hugging Laura while listening to the noise and commotion coming from the top of the mountain.

There, he noticed the screams of pain and despair were starting to disappear, instead replaced by the strange hissing and roaring that became louder and louder.

At some point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly looked afar.

—this place was the highest peak from the system of ice mountains, surrounded by several others that formed a natural barrier around it.

Even with the black horse's speed, it took Gu Qing Shan quite a while to pass through mountain after mountain until he finally reached this highest one.

And at this time, noticeable black dots began to appear all over the surrounding ice mountains from afar.

They were demonized people.

One by one they appeared, quickly spreading all over every ice mountain.

Under [Origin]'s command, a couple million demonized people had gathered.

Having surrounded this highest mountain, they were quickly approaching like tsunami waves.

Then the black dots started to scatter. Obviously these demonized people have all begun to pick up pace.

“Gu Qing Shan”

Laura pointed at a faraway ice mountain, gesturing him to look.

“Looking at the mountain kills the horse. They still need a very long time to get here” Gu Qing Shan casually told her.

Laura stretched her neck, looking all around them.

Every single snowy white mountain was now covered in black dots.

There were also numerous small black dots in the sky.

Although they were still quite far away, the presence they gave off in the atmosphere could be felt all the way here, a tell-tale sign that they were not ordinary people.

And since these people took the flying route, it was obvious how much of a rush they were in right now.

They were rushing to kill Gu Qing Shan and Laura before anyone else, monopolizing the rewards from [Origin] for themselves.

Both the ground and the sky were full of enemies coming to surround them.

Laura couldn't help but take out her monocular again to look around.

“How is it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“There are a lot of them, even the frozen wasteland outside of the mountain range is full of people. They are all rushing here” Laura told him.

“How many people do you think there are?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Laura took out a small electronic rectangular tablet and operated the glass screen.

“Display the numbers” she ordered.

A number counter on the electronic screen began to change like crazy until it settled on a number.

[2,746,921]

“Over 2 million demonized people” Laura spoke in despair.

Even if she had a lot of Divine Armaments and equipment, with Gu Qing Shan and her alone, they didn't have the power to use them all.

And there was no way for them to kill over 2 million demonized people who had [Origin]'s support!

This amount of demonized people could easily wipe out this entire world!

...

At the same time.

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Back in the divine temple on top of the ice mountain, all the screams of pain disappeared.

God's Might was heading for the gate of the temple.

Behind him, the demons neatly lined up to follow him.

God's Might stood at the entrance of the divine temple, looking out towards the lower mountains.

He also saw the countless demonized people heading here.

"They're all competing with me huh?" God's Might muttered.

He suddenly circled the entire hall of the temple in an instant.

Black blood spilled.

Among the roars and hissing, all the demons who followed him dropped to the ground as their bodies were cut to pieces.

These demons managed to survive the demonification experiment, but were all killed by God's Might in the most ridiculous way possible.

Now, God's Might stood at the entrance of the divine temple alone.

Although he wasn't hurt at all, blood was pouring from all seven orifices on his face, making him look like a devil. (1)

"You asked why I killed them? Of course I killed them for Soul Points. Don't you want Soul Points?"

God's Might explained to the air.

Apparently this excuse wasn't convincing enough, so his expression began to warp, as if something was torturing him.

God's Might tried his best to resist falling down and continued explaining: "Yes, I know killing those from the same side is not right, but we have something more important to do, that is— to kill him!"

He spat out blood and collapsed.

As intense pain struck his body, he was writhing, screaming on the surface of the snow.

Before he couldn't take it anymore and died, God's Might furiously roared: "I am the leader of 800 demonized Combatants, I've killed too many ancient creatures to count, and now that I've killed those demons as well, I have enough Soul Points!"

"I offer all my Soul Points to you, let me exchange something that can definitely kill him! My only desire is to kill him!!"

It wasn't clear which part of what he said managed to convince [Origin].

But God's Might stopped bleeding from the orifices on his face, and the torturous pain on his body also disappeared.

Lying on the ground, he heavily breathed for a while until he barely managed to stand up.

God's Might then put his hand to the void of space, declaring full of exhaustion: "Exchange Demon Lord: Dead Soul Demon King"

This was the same Demon Lord seen before in the shop interface, the strongest Demon Lord he could exchange for among all the Demon Lords.

It was stronger than any Remodeled Demon Lord, as it was a Chaotic Demon Lord equipped with various strange and eerie powers!

All of God's Might Soul Points were spent.

In his vision, lines of glowing text silently appeared and hovered in front of his eyes.

Following the words' instruction, God's Might began to chant: "O' [Origin], I offer all my Soul Points to you in exchange for the servitude of the Dead Soul Demon King"

A second later, something came out from the void of space.

This wasn't a particularly giant creature, but it was currently residing in another world, apparently just opened its eyes to look here.

God's Might's chanting voice became raised: "Demon of dead spirits, devourer of souls, he who came from the casket of the Abyss, the original Order of all worlds summons you!"

Bam!

Space itself broke apart.

A towering figure stepped out.

It returned the crown on its head back to the void of space before turning to God's Might.

『 For the original Order of all worlds, I have come to kill your enemies 』

The Dead Soul Demon King whose body was engulfed in black flames spoke in a low voice.

While speaking, it was looking at the faraway mountains around.

『 Hm... a few million enemies, but they are all very weak, all it takes is time... no, they are not enemies, they are slaves of the Order 』

The Dead Soul Demon King carefully used clairvoyance before continuing to speak.

『 I found them. On the side of the mountain, a human cultivator and a Bramble Bird. Are there only two enemies? 』

The Demon King looked at God's Might in surprise.

"Ye-yes" God's Might couldn't keep his voice from trembling.

From the mere stare of the Dead Soul Demon King, God's Might already felt his entire soul and spirit unable to keep itself from shaking.

Even as a Demi, even as powerful as he was, having been through countless battles, he still couldn't help himself from stuttering.

Within his fright, God's Might realized something.

If I were to go against such power, the other party would easily rip me apart.

Hearing God's Might answer, the Dead Soul Demon King sighed in disappointment.

Stretching out his sharp claws, he lightly scratched his chin: 『 I can sense the pathetically tiny power they wield... how insignificant, all I need is a single finger to kill them 』

“Ahahahaha!”

God's Might threw both hands to the sky, laughing in frenzy: “I can do it, brothers, I will be able to avenge you right away!”

“We're going to kill them, but you can't kill them outright!”

He ordered.

『 So you wish to torture? Very well, as you will 』

The Dead Soul Demon King put God's Might on top of his head, lowered his body before leaping down the mountain.

Note:

(1) the 7 orifices: this refers to the 2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 holes on the nose and 1 mouth.

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The Dead Soul Demon King didn't even bother to hide its presence as it went in full speed right away.

With its power, there was no need to do anything excessive.

Killing the two creatures at the side of this mountain was nothing but a swipe of the hand.

With a running start, it leapt off the mountain and squarely landed on the side of the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan and Laura immediately recognized Dead Soul Demon King's presence.

As they looked up, they noticed the black descending dot in the sky.

Even though this was the highest mountain peak, with that black dot's speed, it would reach them soon enough.

“Can you sense that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Laura exclaimed in horror: “What a terrifying presence! How did this level of enemy appear out of nowhere?”

“Think of something quick” she spoke worriedly: “I have a few Divine Armaments that can deal with it, but we don't have enough to activate it even with all our powers combined”

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight, scanning through the Dead Soul Demon King's body.

“This monster's power far exceeds yours and mine, I have no method to resist it” Gu Qing Shan casually told her.

He sat still on the black horse's back and looked around.

Countless demonized people were traversing through the icy mountain range around them as they tightened the encirclement.

They were getting closer.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

These demonized people weren't just any small fries, they were elites among elites of their respective worlds.

At the same level, if Gu Qing Shan went all out, he might be able to deal with 100 of them by himself.

But against numbers this great, it wasn't possible for anyone to do anything.

A single person fighting against countless enemies at his same level will accumulate fatigue and wounds one way or another. At some point, the negative accumulation will be too great and the scale of battle will tilt, ending with defeat and death.

And then, even if fatigue and wounds weren't a problem, even with the power of his [War God Title], even with Divine Skills like [Ground Shrink] and [Shadow Shift]—— there is still a limit to his stamina, and it isn't enough for him to kill all 2 million demonized people.

This was the truth of the situation.

Never mind 2 million, to go against a mere few hundred, Gu Qing Shan had already used his strongest attack the Taiyi Sword Array as a deterrent, discouraging them from attacking him right away.

Rumble!

The ground shook.

A wolf-headed human-bodied monster several meters tall appeared.

It stood facing Gu Qing Shan and Laura and simply stared at them.

Its eyes were indifferent and cold, like it was looking at a couple of insects that could be killed with the flick of its fingers.

The Dead Soul Demon King arrived.

Laura hid inside Gu Qing Shan's chest, asking him in a low voice: "Are we going to die?"

Gu Qing Shan patted her and turned to God's Might on top of the Demon Lord's head and asked: "Why did you come here?"

"Why did I come here? You're asking quite the ridiculous question there. Of course I'm here to avenge my two brothers" God's Might answered him.

"Wasn't it [Origin] that killed your brothers?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"We wanted to serve the [Demon King Order]!" God's Might angrily shouted, "but you deceived us, telling us that [Origin] is a fake, and even convinced everyone that was the truth! You were the real mastermind behind their deaths!"

Gu Qing Shan was shocked when he heard that.

They wanted to serve [Origin]?

God's Might looked to Laura.

"Princess of the Bramble Birds, I believed in you. Why did you deceive me as well?"

"If you hadn't stepped out to represent the Bramble Bird royal family, I wouldn't have believed his nonsense in the first place!"

Laura looked up and coldly replied: "Because I despise that thing, it killed my family members"

"Is that so? Then I will have to torture you to death as well"

God's Might heavily emphasized every word.

Gu Qing Shan hid Laura behind him and spoke: "I still don't understand this, why are you all so willing to become demonized?"

God's Might glared at Gu Qing Shan: "Which world did you come from?"

"I came from a Scattered world"

God's Might looked at him in surprise, answering: "So you don't even know such a simple thing. I had thought you were someone with noble status like the Bramble Bird princess"

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Status... Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and showed an expression of sincerity.

"Look, the two of us will definitely not be able to win against the Demon Lord, and we will definitely die at the Demon Lord's hands" Gu Qing Shan said.

God's Might gritted his teeth: "Of course you will! But don't worry, I will make sure to torture you in the worst way possible, I won't let you simply die just like that"

Gu Qing Shan didn't change his expression at all and continued with his worlds: "I will definitely be killed by the Demon Lord, but before I die, please tell me why you purposefully become demonized, otherwise I won't regret what I did even in death"

God's Might was stunned.

Won't regret it in death?

He doesn't know a single thing, and he dares say that he won't regret even in death!

This trash...

This clueless piece of utter garbage!

But he managed to fool everyone...

A feeling of extreme unwillingness started to burn in God's Might chest.

God's Might quickly controlled his mental state and calmed himself down.

"You ignorant fool"

He spoke to Gu Qing Shan.

“In the entire 900 million World Layers, only becoming demonized can people at the very bottom like us manage to get even a fair chance at climbing up”

“A fair chance?” this time, it was Gu Qing Shan who was surprised.

“That’s right. Over several billion years, the ownership of the strongest and most valuable worlds have already been claimed by the Lord-class Combatants. Their lifespans are so long, they’ve formed a unified solid front, a perfected closed circle of power where no one will be able to arbitrarily break through”

“Here’s a very realistic example: every known Super Dimensional worlds have been taken over by those Combatants”

“And outside of the Super Dimensional world, every world has its own center of power, where each of them is backed by a different Lord-class Combatant”

Gu Qing Shan felt more and more surprised, nodding to gesture him: “Please continue”

“All the resources are kept in those Combatant’s hands, young people like us, newcomers to the worlds can only get the resources to advance forward from them through extreme hardship and labor”

“The stronger we want to get, the more we are exploited by the Combatants, spending untold amounts of effort in an extremely long period of time”

“This is the pain of all newcomers, do you get it?”

“There is no way to fight against this, all we can do is passively accept their conditions, slave away for their benefits. If it were you, would you be willing to do it!? Answer me”

“If the conditions are fair, working for payment is a very normal thing to do” Gu Qing Shan replied sincerely.

“Fool! That’s because you don’t know anything about being demonized”

“Then tell me”

God’s Might smirked slightly and spoke: “Compared to that, there is no trouble with being demonized”

“When we become demonized, as long as we collect Soul Points, we can exchange it for levels, for power equipment, and even——”

God’s Might patted the Dead Soul Demon King and roared like mad: “With Soul Points, we can exchange for enough power to sweep away any world, there is no need to work for those dog shit Combatants, this is the most basic form of fairness!”

Gu Qing Shan muses briefly and spoke: “But your Soul Points all came from the lives of others”

“So what? Do you know how long it takes me to exchange for a piece of equipment that’s suitable for myself working for a Lord-class Combatant? 10 years! I have to slave away for 10 years just to get a single piece of equipment!”

“Now look at the [Demon King Order]—— I can get that simply by giving it Soul Points”

“As long as there is Soul Points, I can exchange for peerless equipment at any time!”

Squeezing his fist tight, God’s Might shouted: “This is what’s fair! This is the path to break out of the control of those damned nobles!!!”

Gu Qing Shan wondered: “I heard that there are a lot of exemplary benefits in the Strife Zones, as long as you can work——”

“Bullshit!” God’s Might cut him off, ‘that place is too dangerous, way too dangerous, how can it possibly compare to using Soul Points. All you need to do is make the proper preparations and kill a living being to gain Soul Points”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “If you use [Origin], it will consider you its slaves”

God’s Might didn’t mind that at all: “That is nothing but its own words, as long as we don’t betray it, we can live normally just fine”

“Then what about the ridiculous amount of EXP required to level up later on, what do you think about that?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

“This was what you used to fool the others into thinking that [Origin] was fake” God’s Might coldly smirked.

He continued: “I’ve thought it through. All I need to do is kill even more and this problem will be solved! Among the infinite worlds, there are always weak and insignificant worlds that no Lord ever pays attention to. I can kill those worlds, use them to exchange for more resources and become strong. And then, my life will be controlled by me alone, I will never have to bother with pleasing those Lords again!”

Listening seriously, Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

After being demonized, they no longer have to worry about spending effort or hard work, as long as they can kill, they can always become stronger.

No wonder there are those who will actively become demonized.

This was so different from the past life.

At the time, no one thought about killing each other at all, everyone was fighting on a unified front.

At the time, everyone was focused on killing demons, struggling against the Apocalypse.

At the time, they tried so many methods to resolve the problem of requiring so much EXP, but not once did they ever think to kill their comrades.

Murderers will pay with their own lives.

This was the common consensus, as well as the most basic Law still followed by humanity after countless years.

But the situation was very different in the 900 million World Layers.

The concept of valuing a life differs from one civilization to another.

Even in the Asura realm of the Samsara worlds, those Asuras believe dying in battle was a glorious death and something to take pride in.

Those killed simply died in battle, the killer is a skillful hero worthy of praise.

Even the Samsara world is that way, then what would the infinite other worlds be like?

Gu Qing Shan looked towards him.

These demonized people.

They don’t need to fight against the apocalypse, all they need to do is make a simple choice.

Either spend a lot of time and effort to become stronger.

Or;

Use the lives of others to quickly gain everything they desire.

Faced with a choice like this, one wrong step will lead you into the embrace of the [Demon King Order].

No wonder even the Light of Dawn Triste became demonized.

God's Might spoke: "Do you get it now? You damned fool, go to hell and drown in your regret! You didn't grasp the opportunity given so you will die right here, never to see the day I become peerlessly powerful!"

He tapped the Dead Soul Demon King, saying: "Go, break their limbs, I want to slowly torture them"

But the Dead Soul Demon King stood still without moving.

"What is it? Go!" God's Might ordered.

『 Wait a minute, the [Demon King Order] is speaking to him 』 the Dead Soul Demon King replied.

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The Dead Soul Demon King stood in the cold winds, allowing his black flames to burn more intensely bit by bit.

As God's Might was talking, it had silently lowered its body to enter an attack stance.

It could sense that of the two prey in front of it, one of them was ready to fight while the other had fallen into despair and was ready to die.

God's Might issued the attack order.

All that's left is—

One second before it attacked, the Dead Soul Demon King suddenly stopped.

『 Wait a minute, the [Demon King Order] is speaking to him 』 the Dead Soul Demon King said.

"What!?" God's Might exclaimed in shock.

He wasn't willing to accept that and pulled his weapon, wanting to do it himself.

Without a sound or warning, a sharp black claw that smelled of putrid death had appeared right in front of him.

This was one of Dead Soul Demon King's fingers, no, to be exact, it was a nail on one of its fingers.

The nail was sharp and long like a spear, lightly placed just in front of God's Might's forehead.

Dead Soul Demon King's voice came.

『 You should also stay still, the Order's directives are absolute, or else... 』

God's Might didn't dare to move.

He looked afar.

The mountains around them were now visibly full of demonized people.

They weren't slowing down at all, instead they started to move here even faster.

An army of 2 million demonized Combatants were quickly approaching the foot of this ice mountain.

The encirclement was about to be completed.

No matter who it was, it was impossible for them to escape from this situation.

God's Might begrudgingly lowered his weapon.

He glared intensely at Gu Qing Shan, utterly confused as to why the Order still wanted to talk with him.

In front of him, Gu Qing Shan was staring at the void of space in front of his eyes.

The [Origin] UI was letting out a bright color of red as some video footage appeared on it.

The footage was of Gu Qing Shan ever since he entered this world, his actions in every battle so far.

In the first battle, [Surrounded], Gu Qing Shan erased an entire city with one strike.

The second battle, the 600-floor, he free-fell off the side and eliminated every threat in the building.

The third battle, against the icy abyss' Ice Fiends, a single shot of his gun turned everything to ashes.

The fourth video, going against enemies on the frozen wasteland, he used [Shadow Shift] consecutively to eliminate a squad of 10 in the span of 3 breaths.

A sudden notice popped up above the squad he killed: [Bloodthirst Squad, ranking: 2nd place]

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The fifth video didn't show a battle, but began when he was already inside the divine temple, using nothing but his words to convince 800 demonized people to uninstall [Origin].

After the five videos were over, [Origin]'s voice came again.

[According to battle prowess, among all demonized Combatants in this world, Gu Qing Shan ranks: 9th place]

[According to judging capabilities and combat response strategic thinking, among all demonized Combatants in this world, Gu Qing Shan ranks: 1st place]

[Rebel Gu Qing Shan, as you are a natural-born warrior with top-level battle instincts and strategic abilities, the Order has decided to give you one final chance]

[Give up your resistance and surrender yourself to the Origin of the Demon King, only then will you live]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

This isn't right.

There must be a problem.

I know [Origin] very well.

Whether it was this life or the last, [Origin] has always been indifferent and cold, it treats all living beings

*as ants and insects. There is simply no way it would forgive someone out of compassion.
So why is it making an exception now?*

“I really don’t want to fight against this Dead Soul Demon King, because I’ll definitely lose”
Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and continued: “Then, for the sake of considering my surrender, please tell me why you decided to give me a chance to live?”

[Origin] responded: [You received your only chance at survival because I require your strategic thinking to capture a certain place]

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to it and fell into thought.

Seems like [Origin] ran into some trouble.

The various ancient creatures he saw suddenly flashed through his mind.

Right, in this world, [Origin] has at least 2 million demonized under its control, so what can actually go against it besides the life forms left behind by the Old Gods?

But from what I can tell, [Origin] seems to be feeling impatient, as if it was prepared to do this at any price.

To capture that place, it didn’t even mind using a rebel like myself.

It was truly using everything it could think of.

—–but why?

What can cause [Origin] to be this impatient?

Gu Qing Shan’s mind moved.

“War God System” he silently called out to it.

[Ting]!

With a light chime, the light blue UI next to the blood red UI lit up.

[I’m here] the War God System responded.

“I have a question to ask you”

[Please state your question]

“If [Kindling]’s goal was to evolve and become [Origin], what is [Origin]’s goal? What does [Origin] want? Can it still evolve?”

The War God UI replied: [The detailed description of the first three stages of Worlds Apocalypse Online are as follows:]

[First stage: Kindling, the original form, only capable of evolution after gathering enough Soul Points]

[Second stage: Origin, the new-born form, besides Soul Points, it also requires a certain few unique items to evolve further]

[Origin can only spread within the range of 10 to 90 million World Layers, limited by its primitive functions]

[Third stage: once Origin successfully evolves once again, its range will expand to 300 million World

Layers, obtaining more powerful functions that almost no one can resist]
[This stage is called Worlds Apocalypse Online: Revolution]

Gu Qing Shan felt surprised.

Capable of spreading in 300 million World Layers!

Together with the Fallen Zones, [Worlds Apocalypse Online] will have taken over more than half of the entire Outer Plane!

It will definitely change the situation of the entire 900 million World Layers.

No wonder it's called [Revolution].

No wonder it was so desperate!

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: "Besides Soul Points, what else does [Origin] need to evolve to its Revolution state?"

The System replied: [It requires certain special materials left behind in the 900 million World Layers by the Old Gods. These materials are capable of aiding the evolution of all non-organic life forms]

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded and silently replied: "I suspect [Origin] has already found where those materials are, but it's unable to obtain it. That's why it's giving me an option"

"For it, whatever strategy I come up with is merely an attempt— it's good if it succeeds, and failure means it just gained another subordinate, there's no loss at all, no wonder..."

It was now that [Origin]'s voice came again: [Gu Qing Shan, tell me your answer. Do you choose to surrender to me or be tortured to death?]

[This will be the last time I ask, you no longer have other paths to choose. Answer me with your most serious attitude!]

Following [Origin]'s declaration, the Dead Soul Demon King once again entered an attack stance.

The waves of demonized people have already completely surrounded the mountain, forming a jet black torrent of people.

They were already starting their climb and will soon arrive here.

Gu Qing Shan looked around once and spoke: "O' great [Demon King Order], I need one minute to think"

[One minute? You may] [Origin] declared.

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"So you really will give me 1 minute? Thank you very much then" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Origin] warned him again: [You may have 1 minute to consider, but after the minute is over, you must immediately give up all your Soul Points and surrender to the Order, or you will die here]

Gu Qing Shan scowled and appeared to be thinking.

[Origin] continued: [Gu Qing Shan, you will follow my order, look over the battle situation and find— —]

“Stop!” Gu Qing Shan cut it off and spoke in annoyance: “You’ve just been talking nonstop. I said I wanted 1 minute to think, can’t you at least stay quiet? Right, don’t count the time you used to speak just now, restart the timer!”

[...] [Origin].

It went quiet.

But the approaching demonized Combatants at the foot of the mountain all sped up.

They were quickly climbing onto this highest ice mountain.

From this place, all you could see around was a thick color of black.

Every mountain was filled with demonized people, every direction had more demonized people quickly approaching this place.

The total encirclement was now completed.

Gu Qing Shan ignored all that and silently thought to himself.

“War God System”

[I’m here] the blue UI lit up again.

“We have the next Quest”

[What is the Quest objective?]

“To find out the truth of this world”

Following Gu Qing Shan’s words, a few lines of text showed up on the War God UI.

[This War God Quest is a quest-chain]

[Quest-chain has been prepared, you will have to complete all the Quests and eliminate Origin to receive the final reward]

[Quest objective: Origin has issued a top-priority bounty mission on your head, because of that, this War God Quest is for you to both survive and find out the truth of this world]

[Now, please issue a name for this Quest]

Gu Qing Shan didn’t think about it at all and responded: “Light of the world”

[War God Quest- continuous quest: Light of the world, has been issued]

“Thank you”

He asked again: “I remember you said that I can carry [Worlds Apocalypse Online] without worry because you weren’t afraid of it”

[Correct] the War God UI replied.

“Great, I don’t need to speak with it anymore, so help me take it off”

The War God System quickly replied: [Please treat this matter with careful considerations. Removing Origin will take 100,000 Soul Points. You will have no way to undo this. Furthermore, you must consider whether or not this will thoroughly anger it]

“Anger it? That’s nothing to worry about, the main issue is the 100,000 Soul Points...”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan glanced at his Soul Points value.

[Remaining Soul Points: 399600/400]

Hm?

I already used quite a bit, how did I actually get more than when I came in?

Thinking about it briefly, Gu Qing Shan understood.

The city of monsters, the 600-floor building, all the Ice Fiends of the icy abyss— because he was the one who pulled the trigger, the War God UI was able to absorb their Soul Points, as well as the battle against the demonized squad.

Which caused his Soul Points to increase instead of decrease.

Gu Qing Shan quickly decided.

“Remove it, for what’s coming up next, I don’t want [Origin] to know my whereabouts”

The War God UI replied: [Confirmed, 100,000 Soul Points has been prepared. To prevent the situation from suddenly becoming worse, the removal of Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin will be abruptly applied after one minute is up]

“Thanks for that”

Gu Qing Shan put Laura on his back.

“Hold on tight”

He said earnestly.

Laura then latched onto Gu Qing Shan, laying on his back and asked in a low voice: “I will— will we die together?”

“I won’t die”

“You mean you are going to surrender? Gu Qing Shan, I would rather die than surrender”

“Why do you refuse to surrender even in the face of death?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised and asked her.

“I am the princess of the Bramble Bird Kingdom. Even in death, I will never bow to my enemies”

“Well said, you sounded exactly like a sovereign just now” Gu Qing Shan commented.

Laura turned her hand to take out a beautifully crafted dagger.

Placing the dagger on her neck, she whimpered while asking him: “Gu Qing Shan. Please tell me your answer right away, if you are going to surrender, I will commit suicide on the spot”

The 2 million demonized Combatants have already formed the encirclement.

In front of them was the devourer of souls, the Dead Soul Demon King—— a Chaotic Demon Lord, so Laura couldn't even mount a shred of will to resist.

The only courage she could muster anymore was the will to die an honorable death.

“Put that dagger away, why would I surrender?” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

“Then we——”

“We just obtained a lot of intel—— I've already understood the detailed situation of the demonized people and [Origin]. Next up, we'll be looking for a secret of this world”

Laura was stunned.

She saw Gu Qing Shan's calmness and the indifference in his voice.

She couldn't help but look back at the Dead Soul Demon King as well as the hordes of approaching demonized Combatants.

“But... we are already in a desperate situation, besides surrendering, the only other choice is death”

“We're still in the intel gathering phase, the fight still hasn't actually begun. Don't jinx it by saying 'death'”

“Then——”

“Just hold onto me tightly”

Laura had no idea what to say at all.

She couldn't help but put her dagger away and held onto Gu Qing Shan tightly again.

Gu Qing Shan patted the black horse's back and said: “Head to the top of the mountain”

“Summoners, are you going for a stroll, or in a hurry?” the black horse asked.

“We're in a hurry”

“There's a really big guy ahead”

“Leave him to me”

“I won't take responsibility for your deaths”

“Don't worry, just run”

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Neighh——

The black horse dashed straight at the Dead Soul Demon King, leaving behind an afterimage.

At the same time, the 1-minute time limit was also up.

In a flash, the entire red UI disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

He could faintly hear a roar of anger.

[Slave! You dare—-]

[Origin]'s voice quickly disappeared

Right after, the War God UI's voice came.

It quickly told him: [The uninstallation is complete, Origin has successfully been angered. It will do everything it can to kill you, please make sure to stay alive]

Gu Qing Shan laughed.

The Dead Soul Demon King in front of him twitched.

『 Fools who have chosen death, you will be tortured for 3 days and nights before you are allowed to die 』

The Dead Soul Demon King muttered in a low voice, lowered its body and dashed forward with overwhelming pressure.

Intense wind surrounded it, forming countless whispering voices.

As a Chaotic Demon Lord, the Dead Soul Demon King had a few unknown strange abilities.

In that split second, Gu Qing Shan got dangerously close to the Dead Soul Demon King.

Then they disappeared at the same time, switching places!!!

There were no longer any obstacles in Gu Qing Shan's way.

The black horse dashed to the peak of the mountain in a flash.

『 You mock me? Your skill is interesting, but you will definitely die! 』 the Dead Soul Demon King turned around and roared in declaration.

It was also angered.

Since the steed was so fast, the Dead Soul Demon King couldn't help but also sprint with his full speed to catch up.

"Ahahaha!" God's Might laughter came from Dead Soul Demon King's back.

He loudly mocked: "Run! Run faster! This entire mountain has already been surrounded, I'd like to see where else you have to actually run!"

The black horse completely ignored him, the only thought in its mind right now was to get to its maximum speed as fast as possible.

Like a flash of black lightning, it galloped to the top of the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan summoned his swords and used Secret Arts one after another to slow down Dead Soul Demon King's ascent as much as he could.

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

Powerful sword phantoms that filled their air flowed downwards behind him like an avalanche.

With a single split second of thought, the Dead Soul Demon King couldn't help but shift its body to avoid the sword phantoms.

Regardless of blocking them or dodging them, it would still be slowed up slightly.

This couldn't be helped.

It shouted furiously: 『Damn you! Damn you! I will chop you to pieces! 』

Gu Qing Shan didn't even turn back to look, steering the black horse into the Old Gods' divine temple.

"Keep going forward!" Gu Qing Shan loudly ordered.

"Understood"

They got to the center of the divine temple.

"Laura, put the steed away" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"Ah, ok!"

Laura blew the whistle and the black horse disappeared right away.

Gu Qing Shan then held Laura in his chest, quickly going towards the ancient creature's corpse.

They stopped in front of the ice cavern.

—this was a huge ice cavern that connected directly to the inside of the ice mountain.

And the water current inside wasn't slow at all.

The red blood from before had already been washed away by the current.

From this angle, the dark blue water revealed the varying depths below thanks to the cold light reflecting upwards. Although the water itself was clear, nothing could be seen in sight or at the bottom of this place.

Looking down the ice cavern from above, they had a faint illusion of standing at the edge of a cliff.

"It feels so high here, I'm a bit dizzy— wait, what are you going to do?" Laura couldn't help but ask him.

"We're going to take a look" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He grabbed the void of space, taking the Chao Yin sword in hand.

—this was a divine temple of the Old Gods.

And the weapon in his hand was a Divine Armament forged by the Old Gods.

[Ancient weapon, sword named Chao Yin]

[In the Age of Old, the Shen Wu world was a single endless ocean, as the Gods left, they forged this sword to anchor down the four corners of the sea]

[He who has this sword is the King of the seas]

[Spirit Thaumaturgy: Even a sea of suffering shall pass]

Gu Qing Shan pointed the Chao Yin sword at the water surface.

[Even a sea of suffering shall pass]!

With the point of the sword, the water current inside the ice cavern split apart, making way for Gu Qing Shan and Laura.

They received their orders unconditionally.

Holding Laura tight, Gu Qing Shan leapt to the air and gently glided downwards like a bird.

Roar———!

Briefly after, the Dead Soul Demon King came after them.

It entered the divine temple and was quickly approaching.

『 Don't think you can get away—— 』 the Dead Soul Demon King roared.

Gu Qing Shan shifted Laura to his shoulder, still flying downwards while pointing his sword upwards.

The flow of water behind him quickly closed up again.

A few seconds later, a black figure appeared above the water.

The Dead Soul Demon King rushed into the ice cavern.

Dong!

The sound of a dull impact.

When it touched the surface of the water, it was flung backwards.

The water reservoir of the God's mountain had rejected it.

Chapter 554

The Dead Soul Demon King couldn't chase after them for now.

Sensing what happened behind him, Gu Qing Shan quickly understood.

Before, during his pursuit of the Fuxi Empire's founding emperor, which was the black-cloaked skeleton, Gu Qing Shan once used [Even a sea of suffering shall pass] on the ocean.

But now, its effects seem to have increased.

Was it because this world was created by the Old Gods?

Or was it because this is the peak of the Gods, where they specifically chose to build their divine temple?

Regardless, with the Chao Yin sword in hand, Gu Qing Shan had a certain feeling from deep in his mind—

-

That the entire world was following his will.

This feeling wasn't faint at all, it wasn't just an illusion. It felt like the Chao Yin sword's range of influence stretched across the entire world.

...don't tell me the entire plane below this was an ocean?

Gu Qing Shan felt even more suspicious.

Together with Laura, he was flying down the deep end of the watery abyss.

...

Outside of the ice cavern.

Clutching its head from pain, the Dead Soul Demon King felt an unrestrained sense of anger.

Why can't I get into the water?

It didn't bother to think about this at all.

Facing absolute power, all obstacles will be destroyed.

Roar!!!

The Dead Soul Demon King stood up as a silent black light covered both its hands, diving straight towards the water surface again.

Thanks to its grand power as a Chaotic Demon Lord, a deep crater was blasted away on the surface of the water.

Wherever the black light passed through, the water turned into a solid black substance, cracked and crumbled to dust.

But the crater only lasted for the blink of an eye.

The water around quickly flowed back in to fill up the crater, forming a shining new water surface in no time.

The Dead Soul Demon King kept attacking.

The water kept replenishing itself.

No matter how powerful the Dead Soul Demon King's attacks were, the water simply filled back up without a sound.

As if there was no end to it.

While that was happening, something else occurred without sound or warning.

This place was the divine temple of the Old Gods, the peak of the mountain of the Gods.

As Dead Soul Demon King kept attacking it, the entire mountain seemed to have woken up.

Countless mystical golden runes appeared on the outermost layer of the ice mountain, even the divine temple itself was giving off an overwhelming majestic presence.

While flying down the deep end of the water, Gu Qing Shan was surprised and looked back at the changes on top of the mountain.

“Look, those are the Old God’s Script”

Laura pointed at the runes on the layer of ice outside and exclaimed.

“I see them, no wonder the Old God’s divinity still lingers on this mountain” Gu Qing Shan commented in shock.

He had learnt all the languages in the Spire Keeper Association’s standard dictionary, so he naturally knew that these scripts were the oldest kind found in the 900 million World Layers.

A language script created by the Old Gods.

This type of script was extremely rare; if one learned how to recreate these runes using divine power, they could imitate simple divinities.

Unfortunately, even that much was a knowledge only known to very few Demis.

Deep below the ice cavern.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt a certain great power.

This power was similar to the [Divinity: Solemn] that surrounded this entire ice mountain, only several dozen times stronger.

“It is divine power, divine power is being gathered and accumulated by these Old God’s script” Laura quickly explained to him.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

It seems the mechanisms left behind by the Gods in this world haven’t actually disappeared.

At the top of the ice mountain, the golden lights connected together.

The clear blue ice mountain turned into a majestic divine mountain.

In the blink of an eye, a golden beam of light shot out from the ice cavern all the way to the sky.

The Dead Soul Demon King was struck by the beam head-on, crashing through the dome of the divine temple and flew to the sky.

Under the overwhelming pressure of this golden beam of light, the 2 million demonized Combatants all around were forced to prostrate to the ground, unable to move a single finger.

The golden beam of light only lasted for a short breath before dissipating.

The Dead Soul Demon King could no longer be seen in the sky.

Both the Dead Soul Demon King and God's Might were disintegrated, leaving nothing but ashes that quickly got swept away by the winds of the snowstorm.

When the golden light faded, the world returned to a dim shade of grey and white.

The divine mountain of the Gods also returned to its original clear blue color.

It wasn't until a while after that the demonized people dared to slowly rise again.

They stood still in place, not a single one of them tried to climb one step higher.

"That was a Chaotic Demon Lord! And it died just like that?" Laura was completely speechless.

"Now I kind of understand why [Origin] couldn't get what it wanted" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Indeed, the will and divinity of the Old Gods never left this place.

With a mere 2 million demonized people, [Origin] wasn't able to clear all of the Old God's preparations.

Some sort of terrifying secret must be hidden deep inside this world.

—and such a world belonged to Triste.

Even stranger than that, she actually exposed a world like this to outsiders.

What is she thinking?

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly before asking Laura: "How long has this world been in Triste's management?"

"How long?" Laura was a bit confused, but tried recalling: "This world was something my mother gave her, alas, about 6 days"

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"For what reason did your mother decide to give her this world?" Gu Qing Shan instantly asked.

"It was because Triste was the head of the royal guards, responsible for protecting the royal family. Since my coming of age ceremony was about to come up, my mother had hoped that she would perform her duties of protection well, and so she gave her this world"

Gu Qing Shan fell in thought: "Only 6 days, such a short time..."

"That is correct, today would be the sixth day"

"What was Triste's reaction when she received this world?"

"She appeared to be extremely emotional as she thanked the grace of my mother over and over"

"Not counting today, she had only gotten this world for a total of 5 days. It's likely that she didn't know this world too well during such a short time period" Gu Qing Shan formed a conjecture.

Laura recalled something and told him: "I remember she had only discovered that this world contained ancient life forms just yesterday, at the time she was extremely happy"

"Of course, to be able to supply [Kindling] with such a large amount of Soul Points, of course she would be happy" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

While they talked, Gu Qing Shan and Laura were quickly descending down the body of water.

No matter how fast he was going, the water would always split apart in front of him, forming a path for him to go down.

Flying in full speed, it took him just a few breaths to reach the foot of the mountain from the top.

Gu Qing Shan kept going downwards.

As they passed through the transparent layer of ice, the large numbers of demonized people could be clearly seen standing on the outside, down to the expressions on their faces.

From the outside, the demonized people were staring at Gu Qing Shan and Laura nonstop, their eyes full of rage and unwillingness.

—-but with the Dead Soul Demon King's death, none of them dared to climb to the top anymore.

Back inside the mountain, Gu Qing Shan held Laura on his shoulder as he silently descended through the water like a falling asteroid.

Both sides caught sight of each other for only a brief second before moving away.

Time quickly passed.

Gu Qing Shan was now at the bottom of the ice mountain.

Pieces of ice were mixed in water, moving slowly and dully along the side of the mountain. But as soon as they reached the foot, there was no more ice to be seen.

The waterflow here was intense and turbulent, and if you entered it without a spell or technique to shield yourself, you will be swept away by the current without knowing where you were going.

The water here was a deep and cold shade of blue, and nothing could be seen at all.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI.

Apparently because this place was created by the Old Gods, the speed at which his Soul Points decreased was extremely slow, only 1 Soul Points was being consumed every 3 seconds.

If that was the case, with how much Soul Points Gu Qing Shan had right now, he didn't need to worry much.

Gu Qing Shan swung the Chao Yin sword to part the water and kept going towards the deep end.

A few dozen meters.

A few hundred meters.

A few thousand meters.

10 kilometers.

The Chao Yin sword finally tried to tell him something.

While diving deeper, Gu Qing Shan felt what the Chao Yin sword was trying to convey.

He quickly understood.

Raising the Chao Yin sword, he asked: "This world is the same as the ancient Shen Wu world? A world covered in an endless ocean?"

The Chao Yin sword nodded with its sword tip.

"That can't be right, if this was the ocean, why can't I see even a single ancient creature?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

In response to that, the Chao Yin sword pointed to the water below and let out a constant 'wu wu' sound.

Gu Qing Shan solemnly listened.

He was able to communicate telepathically with Chao Yin, but he found what Chao Yin was telling him to be extremely unbelievable.

"The world... is hidden below the ocean..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

It was now that he reached the bottom of the ocean.

Beneath him, dark-blue ice had formed a crust.

Through this thin crust of ice, Gu Qing Shan saw the scenery below.

Mountains.

Rivers.

The earth.

And more importantly—

Cities.

Scattered dim lights of a number of cities were shining in the dark of night.

Staring at what he saw below, Gu Qing Shan felt truly shocked.

He suddenly realized something.

Triste's collection world was covered in snow and ice on the surface, fooling everyone to believe that this was its true face.

But that wasn't the case.

What the ice covered was only the outer layer of the world.

Below the ice was a vast ocean.

And below this ocean, an entire civilization left behind from the Age of Gods was still thriving!

This was the true world!

Chapter 556

It was now midnight.

The city was silent.

Two rigid corpses hugged each other tightly without moving.

Gu Qing Shan didn't have the mind to look at the corpses.

Blocking in front of Laura, he was quickly moving his hands to operate the formation plate.

Layers upon layers of pretty lights scattered to the air as Gu Qing Shan's Lightning-type spirit energy merged with the formation plate's own and formed a formation.

The lights faded soon after they lit up, surrounding Gu Qing Shan and Laura, holding the terrifying monster off for the time being.

Gu Qing Shan looked up and carefully observed the large fiendish head, silently shocked.

"This formation was combined with my Lightning-type spirit energy and that ghost still wasn't countered..."

He muttered.

The Grand Demon-Wraith Slaying Formation, requiring a total of 36 spirit stones to activate, was the highest level Ghost killing formation of the Suspended world.

Because of how powerful it was and how much spirit stones it consumed, Suspended world cultivators weren't normally willing to use it.

But once it was used, any Ghosts or revenant caught inside could only lay down and die.

Furthermore, since the Lightning Element naturally has the Smiting property, when a Lightning-type cultivator arranges this, the power of this formation will become three-fold!

Gu Qing Shan was a Lightning-type cultivator, his spirit energy naturally has the Smiting property, and his formation standards were at the very top of the Suspended world.

Which meant that this particular anti-Ghost formation should be the strongest that had ever been used in known history!

But even such an impressive grand formation couldn't stop this Ghost before them.

From the looks of it, it was only being angered by the Lightning Element of the formation as it became more fiendish and fierce.

Every time it attacked with its jaws, a layer of the formation would be ripped away.

36 layers of anti-Ghost formations wouldn't hold out for long.

"Which one of you knows what this is?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

His three flying swords appeared behind him.

“Oong~?” Chao Yin sword said it didn’t know.

“It seemed a bit like one of the 808 hellspawn of Hell, but with a closer look, I’m sure there isn’t one that looks like this” Shannu observed the Ghost shortly before shaking her head.

The Earth sword answered: 「 This is an Entropy Ghost 」

“What’s an Entropy Ghost?” Gu Qing Shan’s eyes lit up.

“I know it” Laura’s face went pale as she answered: “It is an extremely rare Chaotic Demon Lord, its own strength isn’t great, but has a natural-born thaumaturgy to be able to go through all things, even the barrier of the Old Gods couldn’t block it out”

“An Entropy Ghost is chaotic and unpredictable, once it appears, it could easily determine the outcome of a war”

“Is there no way to fight against it?” Gu Qing Shan scowled.

“There isn’t. It can easily go through any weapons or attacks, making it almost invincible despite not having much attack power”

If it can go through any attacks...

Then even if the Dead Soul Demon King went against the Entropy Ghost, the one to win in the end will be the Entropy Ghost.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan felt his head almost blowing up.

Why does such a unique Demon Lord exist!

Laura sighed: “It’s fortunate that you have the formations of cultivation civilizations, being able to hold it off briefly”

While she spoke, she also searched around in her small backpack.

Gu Qing Shan could hear her muttering: “Let me find a teleport item, we have to escape now”

The Earth sword’s heavy voice suddenly called out: 「 There’s no need to run, Gu Qing Shan, you can use the Six Paths Great Mountain sword to kill it 」

“How do you know that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Me? Can I?” Shannu nervously chimed in.

The Earth sword’s voice carried a bit of a satisfied chuckle: 「 Shannu, you can break through any Law, this is a thaumaturgy even rarer than the Entropy Ghost’s ability to go through everything, which just happens to be able to break its invincibility and intangibility 」

「 It probably doesn’t know that it just happens to run into the only thing that can counter it in the infinite worlds right here 」

「 Originally, this monster should have an infinite lifespan, but today will be the day it dies 」

“Then I’ll give it a try” Shannu said.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword drew a perfect arc in the sky and fell into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Holding the sword, Gu Qing Shan pointed it straight at the Entropy Ghost's wide open mouth.

At this time, the Entropy Ghost had already broken through all the anti-Ghost formations, heading straight for them.

The sword phantoms glowed.

Secret Art, [Water Flow Severance].

Dong dong dong dong dong!

Consecutive explosions.

The shining sword phantoms exploded inside the Entropy Ghost's mouth, disintegrating it.

Gu Qing Shan withdrew his sword.

He sighed and muses: "This type of Demon Lord can easily pass through this world's protective ice layer and enter this place to destroy everything"

"Don't worry, there shouldn't be too many Entropy Ghosts" Laura said.

The Earth sword also said: 「 Indeed, this is an extremely rare Demon Lord, they will only ever appear in larger numbers at crucial and pivotal grand-scale wars 」

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"Why does such a thing exist?" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

「 Because it is a Demon Lord created by fusing countless hellspawns and Ghosts of Huang Quan, this process is extremely likely to fail, leading to a new one being very hard to make 」 the Earth sword answered.

"So we're safe for now"

Laura sighed in relief and said.

"No, I don't think so" Gu Qing Shan scowled.

"This monster is the key to overcoming the barrier of the Gods..."

"Since [Origin] doesn't have any other ways to get in, it can only use this type of unique Demon Lord"

Gu Qing Shan muttered as he kept going with his conjecture: "And since [Origin] is desperate to obtain something, if it finds out about that 'something' being in this world, [Origin] will definitely——"

While speaking, Gu Qing Shan suddenly shut up.

Both he and Laura looked up to the sky.

Spots of golden light erupted in the dark sky.

The golden light quickly expanded, followed by countless golden runes that formed circular defensive barriers.

Something seemed to be triggering the Old God's barrier.

Inside the largest circular defensive barrier, the figure of a large, terrifying fiendish head slowly appeared.

It was doing everything it could to plow downwards and pass through the Old God's barrier.

It wanted to enter the world below!

Immediately after, a fiendish head appeared in every circular defensive barrier.

"Another Entropy Ghost! How could that be, why are there so many of them!?" Laura exclaimed in shock.

"It seems I was right"

Gu Qing Shan spoke as he quickly formed a plan.

Pfew!

The autumn-like blue Six Paths Great Mountain sword flew away in a flash.

In the blink of an eye, the sword jetted to the sky without resistance.

Gu Qing Shan reached out his hands and lightly formed a hand seal.

Secret Art, [Silver Star]

In the night sky, five shining strings appeared out of nowhere.

These were sword phantoms manifesting as strings, leaving a trace akin to that of a comet's trail.

Looking at these strings, Gu Qing Shan's hands moved again.

Secret Art, [Silver Star].

Secret Art, [Silver Star].

Secret Art, [Silver Star].

He was performing one Secret Art after another without stopping.

With his cultivation at Sainted realm late stage that could easily breakthrough to Projection realm at any moment, this Secret Art was something he could perform without worrying about expenditures.

Where his sword flew, shining strings of stars were carved in the sky.

These string-like sword phantoms kept dashing forward, going towards the barrier in the sky and attacked the Entropy Ghosts one after another.

Roar!!!

Angered cries of pain and desperation echoed across the sky.

These Entropy Ghosts were truly unfortunate, as a rare type of Demon Lords, even the Old God's barrier couldn't stop them from invading.

— but they were currently at a pivotal moment in breaking through these barriers, unable to dodge or move out of the way.

They had no choice but to be hit by these Secret Arts.

And the Six Paths Great Mountain sword's anti-Law characteristic perfectly countered them.

In the sky, the circular golden barriers slowly disappeared.

All the Entropy Ghosts were dead.

The flying sword dashed through the sky, went above the cloud before free-falling down and stopping right next to Gu Qing Shan.

Seeing that, Laura's eyes lit up and couldn't help but say: "This sword, I want to—"

Gu Qing Shan glanced at her.

Laura obediently changed the subject.

"This must have been a carefully coordinated attack, but it got countered so perfectly by you being here. The [Demon King Order] must be extremely unhappy"

"I don't know what else it's going to come up with, so let's investigate this world a bit first" Gu Qing Shan said.

He already used formations as well as flying swords, creating quite a large commotion.

Wanting to carefully sneak around to investigate at this point in time was unrealistic.

Gu Qing Shan put Laura on his shoulder and lowered his stance, wanting to fly into the city.

But he couldn't help but stop briefly.

Several lines of glowing text scrolled past the War God UI.

[Attention]

[You've killed several special Chaotic Demon Lords, an unprecedented feat across the Samsara worlds]

[Using the water of the Forgetting River, you've also killed another Demon Lord, in total killing at least 2 types of Demon Lords]

[You've completed the Unique War God Title Quest]

[Unique War God Title now unlocked]

Chapter 557: [Starflame War God]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised as he looked at the War God UI.

If the War God UI hadn't mentioned it, he would've actually forgotten.

Lines of glowing text quickly scrolled past the UI.

[You've completed the Unique War God Title Quest]

[You've earned a Unique Title]

[Note, you can only use one title at a time]

[Unique title: Starflame War God]

[Description: You've killed powerful Demon Lords in spite of your meager strength, this is an unbelievable feat, showing your excellence, being a cut above the rest like a star in the sky. Your enemies crave to kill you, they desire to use your skull as a stepping stone on their path of glory]

This description... isn't that a bit problematic?

Reading up to that point, Gu Qing Shan already felt uneasy.

As the rest of the description appeared, he continued to read.

[Equipping the title: Starflame War God, you will receive a unique skill: Conquer]

[Conquer: When you use this skill, every enemy you target will be compelled with a legitimate reason to attack you]

[Note: This Skill belongs to the Mystic-type, a Causality Skill, unavoidable] (1)

[Note: To conquer or be conquered, that is the question]

As Gu Qing Shan seriously read through everything, he fell into thought.

From the description, it can be seen that this is a very impressive skill that can't be avoided.

But why does such a Skill exist?

Why would I purposefully make an enemy attack me? When I'm too free without anything to do?

He silently thought about how to use this skill in battle.

Hm, a monster comes to bite me, I'll use this skill to force the monster over there to bite me as well. Wait, not that's not right.

Hm, a monster attacks another person, I'll use this skill so that monsters won't bother with others and go straight to attack me.

...Is this ok?

Gu Qing Shan glanced at Laura.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan stood still, Laura was now a bit confused.

She asked: "Ah? Why are we just standing here? Weren't we supposed to go look around a bit?"

"Yeah, we'll get going to collect some intel"

While saying that, Gu Qing Shan equipped the title [Starflame War God]

—rather than just think about it, might as well try it out to see how effective this skill is.

Thinking that he silently activated the title skill on Laura.

Pap!

Without any warnings, Laura slapped Gu Qing Shan right on his face.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

Laura was stunned.

They exchanged looks.

Gu Qing Shan stared straight at Laura: "Do you want to explain?"

Laura hurriedly raised her hands and said: "Just now, I saw a small insect on your face, so I couldn't help but want to help you knock it down"

An insect?

How would there be an insect on my face that I don't know about?

Gu Qing Shan sighed helplessly: "Then did you get the insect?"

"Haha... I'm sorry, I was only seeing things, there wasn't any insect at all"

Laura also felt awkward so she quickly smiled and apologized.

The little girl already apologized, what else could Gu Qing Shan do?

Not to mention it was him that activated the skill in the first place.

He had no other choice: "It's fine, just take a closer look next time"

...what a sorrowful skill to have.

Indeed, this was a Causality Skill, a true Mystic-type skill.

Just as the skill description said, the target of the skill would be compelled by a legitimate reason to attack Gu Qing Shan.

But the 'effect' isn't exactly what Gu Qing Shan would call desirable.

Gu Qing Shan silently unequipped the [Starflame War God] title, temporarily deciding to seal it.

He equipped the [You Ji General] title to increase his attack speed instead, feeling a bit better.

"I'm sorry about that, normally I'm not that excitable, it was a bit strange" Laura also felt that her actions just now were also a bit abnormal.

"It's fine" Gu Qing Shan doesn't want to talk about what just happened.

Laura quickly changed the subject: "You carrying me like this the whole way must be tiring, how about we ride the horse?"

"Yeah, let's do that"

Laura took out the Purgatory whistle and blew on it.

The black horse appeared from the void of space, showing up in front of the two of them.

"Summoners, are you in a hurry, or going for a stroll?" the horse asked.

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Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but asked: "This lost world is protected by the Old Gods' barrier, how did you get in here?"

“Law of summoning, 5th article, 3rd sub-article” the black horse answered.

It was looking at Gu Qing Shan like he was a hillbilly.

Laura explained: “It’s like this. Because both the summoning catalyst and summoning spell were in this world, it was recognized as a request from inside the world, instead of a visitor from outside wanting to come in”

“In order words, they can only come in if I invite them in, if I don’t, the barrier will automatically identify them as invaders and retaliate accordingly?”

“Yes, this is the Law of summoning between worlds, a rule decided by the Gods during the Age of Old”

“Alright, I understand”

Gu Qing Shan picked Laura up and sat on the horse looking forward.

There was nothing but an empty plain in front of them.

The city was now behind them.

This place was quite secluded as Gu Qing Shan purposefully chose it to help conceal their presence and serve as a base of operation.

But now that they went through a battle, there was no more need to hide their presence.

“Summoners, are you in a hurry, or going for a stroll?” the black horse asked again.

Gu Qing Shan seriously explained: “It’s not a stroll, but also not in a hurry. In fact, we’re looking to explore this unknown world, because unknown danger might appear at any time”

The black horse nodded: “I understand”

It followed the deep blue road and silently ran towards the city.

The road was silent, the horse’s steps were also silent despite how fast it was going.

Thinking that was strange, Gu Qing Shan tried looking down.

At some unknown time, all four of the horse’s feet were already covered in thick pads.

——that was why it could run without letting out a single sound.

“I’m heading towards the inner part of the city, do you have any objections?” the black horse asked.

“None, thanks for your hard work” Gu Qing Shan said.

The black horse then began to speed up, quickly reaching the main road.

As the horse kept going, foreign and unusual sights appeared in front of the two of them.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan and Laura managed to see the true colors of this world.

The ground of this world was dyed in a mixed bluish color, only the buildings and roads were a unified color of deep blue.

The buildings and structures that represented their civilization were made to look like huge corals, gathered in large numbers around the main road.

But no sound could be heard coming from these structures.

Gu Qing Shan tried releasing his inner sight into one of the buildings, only to find a strange scene inside.

Three people were sitting in front of a table, apparently discussing something, while a fourth person carried a few glasses of water to the three.

They all held different facial expressions, with varying thoughts on their faces, like normal people should be.

But they all stayed absolutely still.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few more seconds until he realized.

Just like the two he saw before, these people were dead.

They died without a sound or warning.

Gu Qing Shan quickly expanded his inner sight to all the surrounding coral buildings.

Every single building was full of people.

They were all eating, walking, running, talking... they maintained the same state before their deaths.

Their expressions all seemed life-like, almost like they didn't know that they were already dead.

"Gu Qing Shan, why haven't we seen anything yet?" Laura asked.

"Hm, I don't know either, maybe we have to get a bit closer to the city center" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He didn't want to tell her the truth, otherwise, it might scare the little girl.

But this white lie of his will be broken soon enough.

The black horse maintained a constant running speed.

A few pale blue-skinned people appeared on either side of the road.

Then there were more and more of them.

They had kept the same expressions and gestures when they were still alive, but held so signs of life at all.

Note:

(1) Causality: causality is the concept of cause and effect, where any event B will have a cause of A, even if it seems random. This is also the principle behind the "butterfly effect", where even minor changes at a seemingly unrelated source A could cause huge changes in the outcome of a certain event B.

Chapter 558: Scattered Entropy Ghost

"Are these people... all dead?"

Laura opened her eyes wide.

The more Gu Qing Shan looked at these dead bodies that maintained the same stance, the creepier he felt.

Noticing the trembling on his shoulder, he changed the subject: "They look a lot like I do, the only difference is the pale blue skin"

"Of course they do. Old Gods created civilization in their own image, so the human form is highly welcomed in all the 900 million World Layers" Laura was easily caught by the new subject.

"Then what did you originally look like?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Ah, like this—"

Saying so, a small pair of dark green wings appeared on Laura's back.

"The trend this year is dark green wings, since this color is mature and this year was my 12th birthday, I decided to dye it a bit— but my wings were originally crystal green" she said.

Gu Qing Shan thought about it briefly and asked: "They're both green, is there a difference?"

"...What a bore, I really can't talk about this topic with you"

Laura flapped her wings a bit before retracting them.

She was already feeling a bit less fearful.

"I say—" the black horse stopped and spoke up.

Both Gu Qing Shan and Laura shifted their attention to it.

"Are you two really not out for a stroll? In such a dangerous situation, I briefly felt an air of anxiety, but why did it disappear suddenly?" he asked confusedly.

"Truthfully, I have already thought that I would die several times already, but I am still alive"

Laura put her hand on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder and continued.

"—so I am completely numb now. I do not know how I managed to live up to this point, so I might as well not think about it since he is here"

"Then what if he's also stumped?" the black horse asked.

"Then I would not come up with anything good either, I will simply lay down and die" Laura replied.

Seeing how Laura wasn't scared anymore, Gu Qing Shan took a closer look at these corpses.

Urging the horse to move forward, Gu Qing Shan tried putting his hand on the forehead of one of the standing corpses.

Using his spirit energy, he scanned through the corpse's body.

The corpse's organs were perfectly fine without a single internal or external wound.

The corpse itself still had a bit of warmth.

It seems they didn't die too long ago.

If that was the case...

Could it be an attack that affects the soul vessel?

This might be related to the Daemons of hell.

"How exactly is an Entropy Ghost created?" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask.

"My father knows, but I tried asking him about it once and he couldn't eat anything for that entire day" Laura said.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the Earth sword.

The Earth sword answered: 「It's an amalgamation of various ghosts and hellspawns, you can imagine what that means by yourself, I don't want to talk about that process」

"Fine then, another question. After an Entropy Ghost dies, will it completely disappear? I know it's a mix of several Daemons from Huang Quan" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

「Not sure, there's no precedent of an Entropy Ghost being killed」the Earth sword said.

"That's right, it's likely that no one knows the answer to that" Laura agreed.

Gu Qing Shan recalled what happened when he killed the Entropy Ghost.

It was completely disintegrated by my sword phantoms, disappearing without a trace.

While everyone here died because of a soul vessel attack.

Ghosts and revenants are the best at attacking soul vessels.

Then, could a new type of Ghost have been created from the Entropy Ghost's body?

Or is it because this world was originally being attacked by some other Ghosts?

—no, the Old God's barrier should be really tight, that level of power isn't something [Origin] can arbitrarily think of various methods to deal with in such a short time.

Ghosts... wait...

Gu Qing Shan suddenly circulated his entire reservoir of spirit energy, erupting with ready to fight with his full power.

The mutated 5-Elemental Lightning spirit energy he possessed circulated all around his body, making his body glow in a blue-white electrical aura.

Since Lightning spirit energy has the Smiting property, it dealt with increased damage to ghosts.

"What are you doing?" Laura was surprised.

"Ghosts are naturally afraid of lightning, so I want to try and eliminate a possibility"

Then Gu Qing Shan shouted: "Scatter!"

The Chao Yin sword, Earth sword, and Six Paths Great Mountain sword all scattered in different directions, flying out of sight in the blink of an eye.

The three swords all flew at maximum speed.

Within a radius of several miles, they were using the Secret Art, [Drawn Shadow] over and over.

After a few moments, the immense sword qi erupted all over.

An endless storm of black sword images expanded like a lotus, silently blooming in the sky.

As the flying swords flew, the entire space around him was filled with sword phantoms, forming an entire sea of swords.

Gu Qing Shan then silently formed a Lightning seal and infused it into his technique!

The black sword images now suddenly contained blue-white arcs of lightning!

Very quickly, the endless sea of swords turned into a sea of lightning.

The flickering lightning erupted in bright flashes, eliminating the darkness around them.

In a split second, the area in a radius of several miles was as bright as day.

Lightning striking in such a large area was a miraculous sight.

At a certain point, one of the corpses twitched.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze became intense.

His mind moved and so did his sword.

With a 'pop', the Earth sword suddenly broke out countless Lightning sword phantoms on its flight.

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The Chao Yin sword followed suit, also turning into arcs of electrical snakes.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword circled around the corpse over and over, creating thin strings of lightning with each slash.

All three swords appeared, creating a Lightning cage out of sword phantoms, completely trapping the corpse inside.

The corpse inside the cage suddenly moved.

A large shadow flew out from the body, crashing into the Lightning sword phantoms.

Hiss hiss hiss...!

The sword phantoms left clear white smoke as they slashed its body.

The shadow screeched in a terrifying cry of pain.

—it's a ghost!

Only a ghost could be so heavily wounded by just touching Lightning.

Gu Qing Shan was now more sure of his previous conjecture.

The shadow quickly retreated, dashing around the lightning cage, trying to find a gap and escape.

As he carefully looked at it, Gu Qing Shan noticed that this shadow seemed to be created from several dozen others, their varying bodies and figures overlapped, creating for a really uncanny sight.

Shannu appeared and told Gu Qing Shan: “Gongzi, this is a monster of Huang Quan under the seat of Divinity, created from 13 different soul-devouring revenants, made to eat the souls of living beings”

“Why does Huang Quan have such a cruel creature? And why didn’t I see it the last time I was there?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

“Last time you were there, the 7-colored spear already massacred everything in Huang Quan once, so of course you didn’t see anything” Shannu answered.

“Can you talk to them?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I can’t, they’ve already lost their sentience, they only know how to kill now” Shannu shook her head.

“Could they be born from the Entropy Ghost’s body after it was destroyed?”

“It’s possible, but then if that’s the case...”

Shannu’s expression slowly became grim.

Gu Qing Shan also understood and quickly asked the Earth sword: “How many Huang Quan ghosts and revenants does it take to make an Entropy Ghost?”

The Earth sword replied: 「 There are a total of 808 hellspawns, 1600 ghosts and revenants in Hell. I’m not sure how many of them are needed exactly, but at least half of them is needed, otherwise it couldn’t take form 」

Gu Qing Shan’s heart sank.

If his guest was correct, then a single Entropy Ghost could scatter into at least 1204 other ghosts.

“And I killed 11 Entropy Ghosts just now...”

He muttered.

If all the Entropy Ghosts all scattered into ghosts and revenants, that would mean...

Thinking of that possibility, even Laura who has been listening on the side started to tremble.

At this time, some strange noises came from the road ahead of them.

“We need to stop and discuss this first”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan put Laura on the horse’s back and jumped down.

Waving his hand, the three swords performed powerful attacks that directly destroyed all 13 soul-devouring revenants.

They then returned and hovered behind his back.

“I’m going to take a look, you two wait here” he told Laura and the horse.

Laura looked around.

Besides Gu Qing Shan and herself, there wasn't a single living person here, only a few corpses a bit further away.

These corpses maintained their postures while they were alive, standing absolutely still.

Their facial expressions showed indescribable pain, as if they were hit by extreme fear.

Complete silence.

In the dark of night, this entire city seemed to be dead.

A cold breeze blew past, delivering a chill.

If the Entropy Ghost really did scatter into countless ghosts...

Thinking that, Laura started trembling without being able to stop.

"Gu Qing Shan, I'm scared" she called out.

"Don't worry, I'll just go take a look and return right away!" Gu Qing Shan said.

Laura sniffled, sobbing as she insisted: "But I'm really scared"

Gu Qing Shan could only return and put her back on his shoulder.

"Comfortable?" he asked.

Laura strongly nodded.

"I'll go take a look with her for a bit, you can wait here" Gu Qing Shan told the black horse.

He then went ahead together with Laura.

The black horse stared at their backs, then around himself.

On his right, about 30 meters away, a corpse had its mouth and eyes opened wide, apparently screaming in fear at his direction.

Staring for a few moments, the corner of the corpse's mouth seemed to curl up just a bit.

Did that corpse just smile?

The black horse opened his eyes wide trying to take a closer look, noticing that the corpse's expression was still that of fright without any hint of a smile.

The black horse went silent, then sighed: "Is a horse not allowed to be scared as well?"

He quickly chased after Gu Qing Shan and Laura.

Chapter 559

The black horse caught up with Gu Qing Shan and Laura.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan didn't really have anything else to say.

Two people and a horse followed the road forward to investigate the current situation.

“So you are scared as well?” Laura asked.

“Scared?” the black horse lifted his head up and spoke sincerely: “You misunderstand, my professionalism compels me to be close to my summoners to ensure that I’m always ready to be called”

“Alright, say no more, I understand”

Laura held back her laughter as she patted the scared horse’s back.

“Are you afraid of ghosts?” Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

“Of course, I’m very afraid of them” Laura generously admitted.

She was currently sitting on the horse’s back while Gu Qing Shan held his reins, the three walking forward together.

“So there is a problem with the road” Gu Qing Shan stopped and said.

The entire road in front of them was cut off.

There was a large crater right in the middle of it.

Around the crater were jagged rock and rubble, together with a number of smaller holes of varying depths, as well as dark red patches of blood.

Gu Qing Shan went closer to the crater and took a look on the other side.

He didn’t know what created this crater, but the radius was easily over 100 meters, as for the depth——

Releasing his inner sight to check, Gu Qing Shan found that the crater was about 200 meters deep, with a lot of liquid blood at the bottom.

There wasn’t anything inside the thick red blood, but on the other side of the crater from where they stood were a row of large bloody footprints.

These creepy bloody footprints followed the wall of the crater all the way up and kept going further away along the road.

——as if something had crawled out from the bottom of this crater, made its way up and headed for the city center.

“Can you jump across?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I can, with a running start, going to the other side won’t be a problem” the black horse answered.

Roar——

A thunderous roar came from the city center.

This roar wasn’t at all like the roar of a beast, but rather the pained cries of countless people.

Laura took out her monocular, wanting to take a look.

Gu Qing Shan caught the monocular and said: "Don't look, there's a few ghosts and revenants that can detect your gaze"

Hearing him say that, Laura gave up.

She sneaked a glance at him to see Gu Qing Shan making a strange expression on his face.

"What is it? Did you notice something?" Laura couldn't help but ask him.

"Ah, no, I was just thinking about something else"

Gu Qing Shan replied while he was still thinking.

Soon, he led the black horse back the way they came from to find a clean area in a secluded street.

Taking his formation plate out again, Gu Qing Shan quickly arranged formation after formation.

Without minding the spirit stone expenditure, Gu Qing Shan went ahead and set up every high-level defensive formation there was, and then a few more attack formations.

At this level of power and number, these formations were more than enough to deal with a large-scale war back in the cultivation world.

"What are you doing?" Laura asked in surprise.

"Arranging defensive formations" Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and then proceeded to set up a soundproof formation as well.

Laura spoke: "I know you're setting up formations, but I'm asking why you're setting them up"

"To rest"

Laura froze.

"We've done a lot of things and traveled far without any rest. There's a lot more danger ahead, but we're already too tired, this isn't a good thing since it will affect our ability to think and react to any situation properly, possibly putting our lives in danger" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"If you hadn't said it I wouldn't have noticed at all. I'm actually very sleepy right now, only barely staying up due to the danger" Laura yawned.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and placed a large table down in the middle of the formation array.

Onion, garlic, shallots, soy sauce, vinegar, black pepper, chili... various spices were lined up neatly. Followed by fresh cooking ingredients as well as a pot and fire to cook them in.

"Have you ever tried human cooking?"

"I can eat them"

"Alright then"

Two chairs appeared out of nowhere.

“Sit down and wait a bit, I’ll make the food” Gu Qing Shan said without turning around.

He began to cook.

Laura sat down and silently watched him work.

“I didn’t think you knew how to cook”

“Eat a delicious hot meal and rest properly, tomorrow at dawn, we’ll be back to full spirits and continue to explore this city”

“Alright!” Laura raised both hands and cheered.

The meal was quite rich.

Seven main dishes, four stir-fry dishes and a bowl of soup.

Laura ate modestly and slowly, but Gu Qing Shan quickly devoured two whole bowls of food.

The black horse hesitated as he looked at the table full of food.

Gu Qing Shan then prepared a bit of spirit vegetables for it, the horse first tried a few pieces before digging in happily.

He politely expressed his thanks.

The two people and the horse all had their fill.

After dinner was over, Gu Qing Shan washed everything and put them away before pulling out a small mattress and blanket.

“Now rest”

He carefully tucked Laura to bed and sat by her side.

Within the array of almost a hundred formations, the temperature was just right, the air was filled with spirit energy, calm and silence.

As Laura laid down, she felt the exhaustion wash all over her body.

“Won’t you sleep?” she asked.

“A cultivator can rest by sitting, it’s actually better for us”

“Gu Qing Shan, I’m a bit scared to sleep”

“Why?”

“I have a feeling I might be spooked again”

“That’s just your mind playing tricks on you, I can’t sense anything at all”

“You can’t sense anything?”

“Of course, I’m a cultivator. I’ll have you know, the spirit sense of a cultivator can tell danger and peace ahead of time”

“But the Entropy Ghost before—”

“I sensed it first, don’t you remember? It was thanks to me putting up the formations beforehand that it was stopped”

“You mean you really can’t sense anything right now?”

“Yeah”

Hearing Gu Qing Shan replied, Laura lightly sighed in relief.

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“Then it must be because I’ve been too tense for too long that my mind isn’t clear” she rubbed above the bridge of her nose and muttered.

“That’s right” Gu Qing Shan lightly patted her head, “sleep well, you need to rest”

“Hm”

Laura closed her eyes.

Gu Qing Shan took out a cushion and sat next to her.

A few moments later.

“Gu Qing Shan”

“Hm?”

“I can’t sleep, how about we play a little game before bed?”

“What kind of game?”

“You tell me a small secret of yours, then I’ll tell you a small secret of mine, we’ll exchange secrets”

“...”

“Before, mother would always play this game with me every night... but now...”

“Laura, listen to me, do you know why Barry and Kitty let me stay at the Club?”

Laura was intrigued by this, so she tried asking: “Because you’re a good person?”

“No, because they were conquered by my cooking skills”

“Ah, so that’s the reason. Hm, now that I remember it, your cooking really did taste quite good”

“Now it’s your turn”

“Gu Qing Shan, do you know why I’m afraid of heights?”

“Why?”

“We Bramble Birds have memories right from the moment when we are born, and so on the day of my birth, my father was so happy that he didn’t pay enough attention when holding me, so I was dropped from the top of the Saint Bramble Tree”

“The Saint Bramble Tree?”

“That’s right, the Saint Bramble Tree of our Bramble Bird race, it gives us the miraculous powers that we possess, and it’s about 10,000 meters tall”

“...As soon as you were born, you were dropped from such a high place? And you know it as well?”

“Yeah, the very first impression I have of this life was that ‘I am falling’, and I could feel myself fall”

“Your father must’ve been very hurried to save you”

“He thought that mother would save me, but mother thought that he would act first, the officials thought that the King and Queen would act, the guards thought that the officials would act, while the guests thought that the royal guards would act”

“So no one did anything at all?”

“Yeah, it wasn’t until I had fallen several thousand meters that everyone acted all at once to pick me back up”

“That is a sorrowful story”

“Your turn to tell me a secret”

“A secret... I once dreamt that I’ve fought during my entire life, but when I died, I woke up and found that I’ve returned to being 18 years old, doing everything again from scratch”

“What a wondrous dream, maybe Kitty would find that story exciting”

“That’s right, she’s an author after all”

“...”

Laura’s eyes closed, gradually falling into a deep sleep.

Gu Qing Shan silently waited.

Time passed.

All of a sudden, Laura began to sob and sleep talk.

“Mother... I miss you...”

She rolled and turned uncomfortably.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and took out a long stick of calming incense, lighting it.

This was a product by Qin Xiao Lou’s hands, not only does it have an effect to help someone quickly go to sleep, it also had an effect to calm their nerves and soul vessel.

The calming incense let off a faint green smoke, followed by a lingering fragrance.

Soon after, Laura's breathing became stable and periodic, her expression also became calm.

Seeing her like that, Gu Qing Shan was slowly assured.

"Now" he muttered.

Right away, an autumn-like blue sword appeared from the void of space.

The sword silently turned and transformed into a beautiful blue-dress maid.

"Gongzi, leave it to me"

"Hm, then I'll trouble you for now"

Gu Qing Shan stood up from his cushion, giving his place to Shannu.

"Gongzi, your battle..." Shannu was a bit concerned.

"I have Chao Yin and the Earth sword, it'll be fine, I'll call you if there's an issue"

"But—"

"Don't worry, if I can't beat them I'll just run, you know my escape techniques better than anyone"

"Alright"

Shannu was now a bit more assured.

She activated [Mystery of All Beings Equal] and turned into Gu Qing Shan.

Two Gu Qing Shan was inside the formation array at the same time.

Shannu who turned into Gu Qing Shan sat down on the cushion to look over Laura.

While the real Gu Qing Shan was about to leave.

The black horse stared eyes wide at this whole scene.

Gu Qing Shan stroked his head, saying: "The situation is a bit special, you guys rest here, I'll return in a bit"

The black horse nodded and spoke: "So you're going to fight? Make sure to be careful"

Gu Qing Shan chuckled and glided outside the formation array.

In the night breeze, passing through the crater of blood, quickly running along the abandoned road, ignoring the countless eerie corpses, Gu Qing Shan kept going forward.

Unlike when he was with Laura, Gu Qing Shan wasn't concerned with various minor things when he went alone.

Like a flash of lightning, he quickly dashed through the dim, silent town at full speed.

The Earth sword and Chao Yin sword followed closely behind as they flew forward.

Roar!

Ooooo!

Ekikikiki!

Hooorr, horrr, hooooor!

In front of them, countless creepy noises came, either full of anger, laughter, fear or insanity.

Gu Qing Shan stopped and landed here.

This place was quite a bit away from the city center.

Moving forward anymore will put him squarely inside the battle zone.

In Gu Qing Shan's inner sight, the area in front was Hell, a slaughterhouse, a place to fear and tremble.

Any normal person that comes in there would definitely be scared for life.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and muttered: "It's good that she's asleep, what's about to happen next isn't suitable for children to see"

He took the Earth sword in hand and quickly stepped forward.

Chapter 560

The Fog Isle world.

Lord Bloodcloak's clairvoyance spell had already dissipated.

But Su Xue Er wasn't sure where her teacher went.

She could only stare as the images faded away.

Su Xue Er had been sitting here to watch Gu Qing Shan's adventure.

Deceiving 800 demonized Combatants, stopped by the Dead Soul Demon King at the side of the mountain, surrounded by 2 million demonized Combatants.

She saw him break through the encirclement, saw him run into the ice cavern and saw how the Dead Soul Demon King was killed by the divine mountain.

Even after the images were fading, she was still watching him.

At this time, he was making Laura dinner.

Looking at the steaming hot dishes on the table, Su Xue Er suddenly trembled.

She touched her stomach a bit, realizing that she was a bit hungry.

If she could be like Laura right now, being together with him regardless of life and death, Su Xue Er felt that she would have no regrets.

But regretfully... I already made the mistake.

"Through battles, you will get to know each other better..."

“There would’ve been ample time in Triste’s world for the two of you...”

“After all, nothing creates a deeper bond than being together in battle”

Recalling Lord Bloodcloak’s teachings, Su Xue Er felt wave after wave of regret.

If Teacher had run into the same situation, he probably would’ve dealt with it much better than I did.

“I really am a dummy...”

Su Xue Er shook her head and muttered.

She then sat still for a bit more, recalling Gu Qing Shan’s battle style.

He really wasn’t particularly strong.

If you use regular power levels to compare, as long as I had the time to prepare my spells, I have a high chance of beating him.

But he was also very strong, killing over 10 powerful opponents in the blink of an eye.

They didn’t even get the chance to fight back.

In the divine temple, the 800 people actually thanked him as he left.

A Chaotic Demon Lord couldn’t do anything to him.

Over 2 million people couldn’t stop him.

He was impressive in an unreasonable way.

Recalling how solemn and sincere Gu Qing Shan was when he was fooling those people, Su Xue Er couldn’t help but giggle.

She went silent for a bit longer before standing up and left the room.

Following a long hallway, she reached the deepest inner area of the House of Hall, a small black door.

Standing in front of the door, Su Xue Er hesitated a bit as she took out a key.

Seeing this key, she remembered what Lord Bloodcloak told her.

“Xue Er, this room was prepared by none other than myself, a Guru-level test for card users”

“Doesn’t the Institute have a similar test?”

“Their test was made over 10,000 years ago, it’s already out of date”

“Xue Er, when you feel yourself to be strong enough, take this key and try it once”

“After you pass the Guru-level test by yourself, I will allow you to enter the deeper end of the blood sea, forming contracts with the existences inside”

“Ah? Really? Can I really form contracts with those existences?”

“As long as you can pass the test, of course”

...

Su Xue Er didn’t hesitate any longer and inserted the key into the lock.

Having gone through a life-and-death battle as well as being cleansed by the Spirit of the Holy Tree, Su Xue Er felt that her power had reached a new height.

I can definitely pass the Guru-level test.

“Qing Shan, wait for me”

Su Xue Er lightly muttered and entered.

On another side.

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of a tall coral building, looking forward.

The thick coral blocked his vision, but not his inner sight.

With Gu Qing Shan’s Sainted realm late-stage inner sight, he could easily search through every nook and cranny of the city.

And with that inner sight, he was now looking at the end of the road.

It was a wide plaza, the kind of place used to host large-scaled events and official business, enough to hold several ten thousand people.

The dead were all moving towards this place.

Thousands, ten thousand of corpses, all with creepy smiles on their faces formed neat lines and groups, silently walking to the plaza.

Standing in the middle of the plaza was a monster that could cause fear at the mere sight of it.

It appeared to be a black mountain that gave off an indescribable presence.

The monster had no limbs, only slowly crawling forward on the plaza like a slug.

Seeing how clumsy the monster was, Gu Qing Shan felt even more alarmed.

The corpses all walked to the monster, then got absorbed into its black body.

Every time a corpse went inside, a face would appear on the monster’s gigantic blob of a body.

As time passed, the amount of faces on it increased more and more, shuffling, pushing each other in place.

Every face had an expression of absolute ecstasy.

Rather than calling this a monster, it was more accurate to call it a faulty amalgamation.

Before coming here, he already noticed this monster and the countless corpses with his inner sight, thus deciding against bringing Laura here.

“Why does it still look so inappropriate...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

As he said so, the mountain-like black monster suddenly stopped.

It turned all the faces towards Gu Qing Shan.

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By common sense, there were a large number of tall coral buildings blocking between Gu Qing Shan and itself, so there was no way it could see him.

But the black monster was certainly looking towards Gu Qing Shan.

It stopped for only a moment.

Suddenly, the thousands of faces on the monster spoke in unison: 『 You are late 』

Gu Qing Shan's vision was still being obstructed by numerous layers of coral.

But he could sense that he was being locked-on by an eerie presence.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit surprised.

I know I didn't use the presence concealment technique, but I've already hidden my presence really well, who would've guessed such a small mutter could be heard?

“Ah? Then what did I miss exactly?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 The ritual is over, the Entropy Ghosts have turned into countless ghosts of Huang Quan, bringing the living beings of this land to me 』 the faces spoke in unison again.

“You're not the Entropy Ghost—— what are you?”

『 You don't need to know, because you will die right now 』 the monster spoke.

As soon it said so, the entire plaza was gone, replaced by a deep hole in the ground.

A bottomless hole.

Gu Qing Shan tried stretching his inner sight down to follow it, but couldn't even reach the bottom of the hole.

And certain, the monster was nowhere to be found.

Immediately recognizing a bad situation, Gu Qing Shan released all his spirit energy at once.

Hand seals were formed.

Secret Art, [Torrent]!

An intense torrent of sword phantoms erupted from both swords.

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan used this Lightning thaumaturgy without hesitation.

——[Severance]!

The two [Torrent]s combined into one, reinforced by [Severance] as they shot to the sky.

Gu Qing Shan hid inside the shining sword phantoms as he left with it.

『 AAAaarrraaAAg! 』

Countless cries of pain rang out at the same time.

In that split second, the black monster had bypassed the multiple layers of coral obstruction to directly appear where Gu Qing Shan originally stood.

It was hit by [Severance], forced to stay still for 3 seconds.

『 You won't get away! 』

The countless faces on the monster's body yelled out in unison.

It easily took flight, wanting to catch up to Gu Qing Shan.

Under the monster's body, the building where Gu Qing Shan originally stood had already been eaten through completely, leaving only a bit of an empty shell on the outside.

Gu Qing Shan's expression became stern.

This monster was able to go through so many layers of coral buildings and wanted to swallow me up. Anything it swallows will be eaten through.

Teleportation and indiscriminate devouring, are these its powers?

This combination of powers really is extraordinary.

If it wasn't for [Severance] activating at the right time to stop it from using other abilities, the battle might've been much different.

Gu Qing Shan stopped in the middle of the sky.

Below, the black monster was still trying to go after him.

Apparently its teleportation could only be executed within a certain distance.

"Earth sword, is this a type of ghost?"

「 It isn't, I don't know what it is, I've never seen it before 」

"You've never seen it before?... interesting"

Sha sha sha!

Taking the Earth sword in hand, Gu Qing Shan slashed the air again and again.

With every swing, a large light blue sword phantom would cut through the sky, slashing towards the mountain-like monster.

[Crescent Slash]— 9 times consecutively.

Seeing the fierce slashes coming for it, the black monster instantly disappeared.

It wasn't until the sword phantoms had passed that it appeared once again.

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched.

It hid itself into the space vortex just now, waiting until the sword phantoms had all passed before returning again.

This was a very rare ability: Void Evasion!

Teleportation, indiscriminate devouring, void evasion, all three of these powerful abilities appeared on a single monster!

「 Be careful, it's really powerful 」 the Earth sword spoke up.

“I'm guessing it still has other abilities, but I'm not going to let it overturn the situation that easily” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He reached out with his left hand to grab the Chao Yin sword.

With two swords in hand, Gu Qing Shan was now serious unlike never before.