

Apocalypse 651

Chapter 651

Translated by: La0o9

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Proofreader: Arya

This was the mountain behind Bai Hua sect.

A spring of spirit water came from above the mountain, forming a small stream that flowed across the sect's kitchen.

This is the fresh spring water that was naturally created from the spirit veins deep inside the mountain, the water cold to the touch, containing ample natural energy.

Only a sect of Bai Hua sect's caliber was able to monopolize such a high-quality spirit vein.

Gu Qing Shan carried a bunch of pots over, currently washing them by the stream.

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

[Doomsday Chronicles: All kitchen utensils here do not contain any historical events]

[This is the final kitchen utensil that contains spirit cooking techniques, would you like to comprehend the cooking techniques on this utensil?]

[To comprehend the cooking technique, Soul Points required: 100]

Gu Qing Shan sighed and silently paid the 100 Soul Points.

When he came into the kitchen, he discovered that many of the utensils here contained a lot of Qin Xiao Lou's cooking skills.

——Gu Qing Shan himself cooked for a living, so his skills were also first-rate, because of it he was forced to cook for everyone when Qin Xiao Lou was still in seclusion.

He didn't expect to be able to learn Qin Xiao Lou's skills in the process.

So he learnt all of them.

This gave him a new perspective of someone else with similar skills on his expertise, once again renewing his understanding of the art of Cooking.

Through this, Gu Qing Shan managed to compare both his own skills and Qin Xiao Lou's, confirming, referring and improving them. Without knowing it, his cooking skills silently broke through a bottleneck and jumped to a new height.

Of course, Gu Qing Shan didn't feel any of this happening.

All he felt that he could grasp the taste of the dishes more accurately.

——in the first place, the improvement of his cooking skills didn't call upon any Tribulation so it was hard to tell.

The sky was growing dimmer.

The time until dinner was quickly decreasing.

Gu Qing Shan put the metal pot down on the ground, pulled up his sleeves and began to seriously think about the menu.

“Alright, everything is cleaned now, what should I make for dinner tonight?”

“Shifu’s seasoning preference is on the heavy side, but Xiuxiu can’t eat anything too spicy, Qing Rou and Wan Er have lived through tough times before, but they originally came from the ruling class of their worlds, so their taste buds are quite hard to satisfy, one likes seafood and the other likes savoury foods— there really is no way to satisfy all of them at once”

After thinking for a bit, Gu Qing Shan decided that there was no single solution, so he stopped thinking and just prepared several dishes each for everyone.

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He lit a fire by the stream, put a metal plate over it and began to make grilled meat and fish.

Then he turned the oven on, placing several braising pots on the fire, each with its own prepared food: crystal shrimp dumplings, crispy chicken feet, glutinous rice sweet cakes, rice noodle with meat, minced meat and gravy-filled steamed buns, fried meat wrapped in lotus leaves, and crab cakes braised in eggs.

After he was done with that, he put another pot of spring water on to boil, added in some rare mushrooms to simmer, followed by an entire Snow-ginseng White Chicken that had been properly de-feathered; and then closed the pot, cooking it on low heat.

At this time, the grilled meat and fish on the metal plate were already mostly done cooking as the deep fragrance of meat filled the air, notifying Gu Qing Shan.

He then sprinkled in a handful of finely chopped tender Water Spirit Sky Pepper.

The tender spirit pepper was immediately cooked on the sizzling oil, extracting all of its mouth-watering heat and soaking them into the meat.

About 12 breaths later, this dish would be done.

There was still some time but the braised dishes weren’t done yet, so Gu Qing Shan silently waited to plate up the grilled meat and fish.

He was also thinking about what kind of stir-fry dish he could make.

Suddenly, he felt something amiss.

With a grab of his hand, Gu Qing Shan took out the Six Paths Great Mountain sword from the void of space and grunted: “Who?”

Silence.

Only the tiny sound of boiling and cooking came from the oven and pot.

There was no one else here.

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes as his killing intent quickly rose.

“I don’t care who you are, if you don’t step out, I won’t be so polite anymore” he emphasized.

Perhaps sensing his killing intent, a voice came.

“Junior brother, don’t attack, it’s me! It’s Qin Xiao Lou!”

Gu Qing Shan froze.

True, this was the mountain behind Bai Hua sect, a place surrounded by countless other mountains. Unless they were a Lord-class Combatant like Chen Wang, who would be able to appear at this place without anyone knowing?

But then—

Wasn’t second brother currently in seclusion?

He looked around in surprise but saw nothing.

“Hah, junior brother, I’m here”

Qin Xiao Lou’s voice came again.

Gu Qing Shan could only release his inner sight to follow the voice.

From the stream, a black turtle was crawling onto the shore.

The turtle spoke as he crawled: “Your grilled meat is almost ready, take them down first”

Gu Qing Shan took them down first.

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But he didn’t move his eyes from the black turtle.

—what is second brother doing?

The black turtle was wearing a small green chain armor as it slowly climbed towards Gu Qing Shan’s feet.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “Second brother, when did you learn a technique to turn into other creatures?”

The black turtle opened its mouth: “What? You think I’m this black turtle? No, no, no, I’m not the turtle”

“Then where are you?”

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“In seclusion” the black turtle proudly answered.

“Then what’s this?”

“Take a look at the chain armor the turtle is wearing, I attached a string of my Thaumaturgic power on it, allowing me to control this newly-dead turtle”

“So you can possess corpses? When did you learn that?” Gu Qing Shan was truly surprised this time.

The black turtle shook its head, but still spoke proudly: “A Thaumaturgy I learnt when I advanced to Rejuvenation realm—— it’s strange but it is quite useful”

“What are you doing at the back mountain?”

“Hah, staying in seclusion is too boring, so I came out to relax a bit” the black turtle complained.

Gu Qing Shan then told him: “You have had better spend a bit more effort in seclusion, if your cultivation is higher, it’ll at least be safer for you to go outside”

The turtle scoffed: “Last time during the consecutive world fusion, I already used up everything I accumulated. Otherwise, how could I advance to Rejuvenation realm so soon?”

“Then does Shifu know about you coming out like this?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The turtle pulled its head back: “Don’t tell Shifu, I was only going to come out for some fresh air, but then I smelled your cooking here”

It praised: “I really must say, third brother, your cooking skills have really improved, I could already smell it half-way down the mountain”

Gu Qing Shan understood.

Not only did this guy not really want to go into seclusion, but he also frequently sneaked out for walks and now even wants to eat for free?

Gu Qing Shan sternly asked him: “Senior brother, I remember there was food in the seclusion room, wasn’t there?”

“Those fasting pills have no taste at all, they don’t suit my well-trained palate, even if I have to starve I won’t eat them”

The turtle shook its head over and over, then spoke: “Junior brother, you have to empathize with senior brother here, it’s such a pain to go into seclusion, please make your brother some food as well”

“...What do you want to eat?”

“I want a big chunk of Chinese braised pork! And a bottle of chilled liquor as well!”

Gu Qing Shan looked at how big the turtle corpse was and couldn’t help but asked: “Can you actually carry that?”

“This stream here is connected to where I’m in seclusion, so I can come and go, it’ll just take two trips”

“Hah, fine then”

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit of a headache, but he was still his senior brother, what else could he do?

He then cleaned the pot and proceeded to make a huge portion of Chinese braised pork.

A few moments later, a large bowl of steaming Chinese braised pork was put on the turtle’s shoulder as it slowly but steadily crawled into the stream and swam across.

As he observed the turtle, Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt something.

He abruptly turned around.

The white goose was standing on the branch of a tree, coldly looking at the black turtle.

No one knew when exactly she got there.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't even tell from the start, only after she no longer tried to hide her displeased attitude did he slowly notice.

Which means, she heard everything we said just now?

Gu Qing Shan forced an awkward smile: "First brother"

The white goose nodded and slowly spoke: "Originally, I only came here to check today's dinner, who knew I'd find such a big harvest"

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— — — her anger felt like it almost solidified.

She didn't bother to conceal her presence.

Jungle birds were always the most sensitive to danger, so they quickly flew away in flocks.

Soon enough, even the fishes in the stream hurriedly swam away.

Half-way across the stream, the turtle also noticed something wasn't right.

It turned around to look.

"First brother!"

The turtle exclaimed in shock.

It didn't bother to be careful with the braised pork on its back anymore and hurriedly flapped all four of its stubby legs as it tried to swim away.

"Running?"

A cold voice came.

All of a sudden, the white goose disappeared.

A white figure dashed through the sky.

Immediately after that, the turtle was swept away by a huge force as it spun in the ground before landing right beneath Gu Qing Shan's feet.

The white goose walked back to shore step by step, shaking off all the water on its body as it casually spoke: "And here I thought you really were actually doing your best to cultivate, turns out you just turned into a turtle to mess around, having fun?"

The turtle tried to smile flatteringly and sighed as it clasped its front legs to apologize: "First brother, please forgive me this time, please don't tell Shifu!"

"So you still know to fear Shifu huh?" the white goose coldly asked.

"Of course I am! If you tell her, I'm as good as dead" the turtle continued to beg.

Remembering something, the turtle turned to Gu Qing Shan.

"Junior brother Gu! Please help me convince first brother, don't let first brother tell Shifu"

"..." Gu Qing Shan

He looked at the turtle, then back at the white goose, feeling even more exhausted than when he had to face the 2 million demonized.

Chapter 652

Translated by: La0o9

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Twilight.

A kite was flying from the inside of Bai Hua sect.

The kite was as small as a seat cushion, hovering in the sky, but wasn't at all swept away by the wind.

Even when the night wind became weaker and a light shower rained down from above, the kite stayed still.

Apparently, this was a kite being flown using formations without the need for wind power.

"Is that really fine?"

Gu Qing Shan asked as he looked at the kite.

"It's perfectly fine" Bai Hua Fairy answered, "cultivation has always been a tough road to take, someone would have to tie him to it eventually or he would never advance another step for his entire life"

She continued: "Let's go, it's time for dinner; we should all enjoy Qing Shan's cooking"

Xiuxiu, Qing Rou, Wan Er all came up and quickly helped to set the table.

Everyone took a seat around the dining table.

Besides Bai Hua Fairy and the white goose, the others would occasionally sneak a glance up to the sky.

Gu Qing Shan looked at his Shifu and the white goose, then at his three junior sisters who wouldn't stop looking up and clapped his hand: "It'll get cold if you don't start eating"

Everyone then began their meal.

"It smells so good!"

Xiuxiu took the first bite and commented with her eyes wide open.

“Hm, Qing Shan’s spirit cooking is quite decent” the white goose commented.

Bai Hua Fairy tasted a few different dishes and nodded satisfyingly.

She briefly thought and then spoke: “Qing Shan, Xiuxiu is still in her growth phase, furthermore Qing Rou and Wan Er have gone through a lot until recently, so for the time period ahead, I’ll leave making the sect’s food for you, what do you think?”

“Yes, Shifu” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Very well” Bai Hua Fairy stood up and spoke: “With Gu Qing Shan here, I can be assured with the sect’s food now, everyone can slowly enjoy themselves”

“You’re not going to eat, Shifu?” Xiuxiu was blowing on her food as she asked.

“The people from the cultivation alliance are here” Bai Hua Fairy answered.

Gu Qing Shan also stood up: “Shifu, I’ll come with you”

“No need, this time it’s the ones who support me, I’m sure they came as quickly as they could as soon as they heard what happened”

“Is that so? Then should I make a few more dishes so that they can join us for dinner as well?”

“There’s no need to be that close with them, I’ll return soon after a short chat. I still haven’t made my decision about this world’s future”

Gu Qing Shan nodded as he heard that.

This was only a cultivation alliance, even though she was the leader in name, in truth she was going to be used as a weapon, so such a leadership position wasn’t something to be missed.

But now the situation has changed.

Her only opposing force in the alliance had disappeared.

Right now, whether to take real control of the entire alliance or to leave the alliance as they have planned, was something that would need careful consideration.

After all, this would affect the future of the entire Shen Wu world.

Even though Bai Hua Fairy had the final say, Gu Qing Shan felt that she should carefully consider the pros and cons of this for a bit.

While he was thinking, Bai Hua Fairy had already told him: “Qing Shan, after I return, we will discuss this further”

“Understood” Gu Qing Shan instantly agreed.

Qing Rou gently asked her: “Shifu still hasn’t had anything to eat yet, can’t it be left for after dinner?”

Bai Hua Fairy smiled.

Qing Rou was the most considerate and meticulous person here, if it weren't for the fact that she joined too late, she would've made a fine first sister for the sect.

"It's fine, leaving them to wait too long isn't good, I'll see their attitudes first before doing anything else though"

"Not to mention, at my current cultivation, I can easily extract nutrition directly from the world through the Laws, so food is no longer crucial for me"

Bai Hua Fairy spoke with solemnity.

Her body lightly leapt and disappeared from the table.

All of the girls exchanged glances with each other.

"I wonder when I will be able to reach such a realm" Wan Er sighed.

"We should keep doing our best, sooner or later we will become as powerful as Shifu" Qing Rou encouraged her.

Xiuxiu also sighed: "Shifu has already become distant from the coils of the mortal world, I can't imagine being able to reach her realm at all"

While listening to the three girls, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but glance at the white goose.

The white goose was currently entirely focused on his food, digging into a crystal shrimp dumpling at the moment.

After becoming speechless, Gu Qing Shan told everything: "Now, Shifu isn't a normal person, you shouldn't compare yourselves to her, it's not beneficial"

He put a portion of food into each of their bowls.

All of which happened to be their favorite.

And so, the disciples of Bai Hua sect continued to eat.

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While they ate, they occasionally chatted or asked the white goose about some problems in their cultivation.

—besides Qin Xiao Lou who was floating in midair.

No matter if he was willing or not, at this time, he could only sit on top of the kite, with his eyes closed and his attention focused on cultivating.

Only after breaking through Rejuvenation realm and reaching the Ascended realm could he return to the ground.

After dinner, Gu Qing Shan collected all of the plates and bowls, quickly cleaned them all, then pulled up a basket from the bottom of the well, putting the now-chilled fruits on the table.

While eating the fruits, the brothers and sisters of the sect continued to chat.

Qing Rou and Wan Er continued to ask the white goose about a certain cultivation scripture.

Gu Qing Shan was helping Xiuxiu cut the fruits up into portions.

A few moments later, Bai Hua Fairy also returned.

Looking at her pleased expression, Gu Qing Shan asked: "How did it go, Shifu?"

"Seems like I won't be able to leave the alliance" Bai Hua Fairy answered.

"Why not?"

"Everyone is now in support of my becoming the alliance leader. The people in charge of various departments within the alliance have also turned my way"

"News sure travels fast" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

"Indeed, they might not know the details, but they all knew of a certain thing before anything else" Bai Hua Fairy continued.

"Shifu, senior brother, what thing are you talking about?" Xiuxiu couldn't help but ask.

Gu Qing Shan lightly stroked her head and told her: "The world fusion quota"

"Indeed" Bai Hua Fairy answered, "the authority of the alliance's world fusion quotas are now in my hands"

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She took out a small badge and showed it on the table.

This badge wasn't that different from the one that the 8 elders used from before, if only a bit more well-made.

"This is the badge that the World Referee Council had just sent and asked them to deliver to me, the accompanying documents contain the council chairman's seal as well as the Lord-class Referee Chen Wang's signature"

"Scared them huh?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Quite a bit" Bai Hua Fairy showed a rare chuckle.

"If that's the case, you now hold quite a big force in your hands, there's no need to hurriedly throw it away" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Bai Hua Fairy spoke: "I also have the same thought—— taking this cultivation alliance leader seat, for now, will at least ensure that I won't need to beg anyone else for a quota to use"

She then turned to Gu Qing Shan and told him: "I've heard from Qing Rou and Wan Er about what you did in the Suspended world"

"To be able to blend in perfectly; adjust your plans as you move forward; and even killing a Cryptic realm cultivation, you have really far exceeded my expectations, I'm very proud of you"

"But what happened afterwards? Your teacher wants to hear a bit about what you went through"

Hearing Bai Hua Fairy said that, Xiuxiu, Qing Rou and Wan Er all perked up their ears.

After all, simply returning safely should have already been quite an ordeal for Gu Qing Shan, yet he even managed to get acquainted with someone of Chen Wang's caliber, so they were all curious about what Gu Qing Shan went through.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly, then spoke: "Then Shifu, can you let Xiao Lou down for a bit? I think a bit of what I'm about to say will benefit him"

"Do you really think so?"

"Yes"

Bai Hua Fairy waved her hand to lower the kite.

Qin Xiao Lou was sitting on the kite, pretending to be meditating.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "Come, second brother, you should hear what I have to say earnestly. I feel that there are quite a few things that our Bai Hua sect should know about as soon as possible and made clear for everyone"

Qin Xiao Lou opened his eyes and spoke disappointedly: "And here I thought you convinced Shifu to let me off"

As he sensed Bai Hua Fairy's stern gaze, he quickly kept his mouth shut.

Gu Qing Shan began his story.

He began telling them about what happened after the two girls went off the Suspended world, about how he used the [Mystery of All Beings] to go against Rakshasa's [Mystery of All Things], finally winning the competition.

The white fox appeared, only to be arbitrarily killed by Xiao Die who was now a True Demon.

The realm demon was Xiao Die's son.

The truth behind the Suspended world was made clear.

At this point, everyone felt emotional.

Not at the destruction of the Suspended world, but rather at the terrible fate that befell on to Xiao Die.

And then Gu Qing Shan continued explaining about the existence of Super Dimensional worlds and of how he got to know Barry and Kitty.

Then the Call of the Bramble Bird.

Triste's betrayal.

The Bramble Bird princess.

The [Demon King Order]'s consecutive evolutions.

The gathering of the 2 million demonized.

The secret of the snow peak of the Gods.

The hidden world under the ice.

The extinction of the Divine Seeds.

The hidden Tianma and what they did.

The deal between himself and the Tianma.

The Wind and Lightning Duo Tribulation.

The fight between the [Demon King Order] and the [Angel Order].

Gu Qing Shan told them about everything at once without holding anything back as everyone earnestly listened, holding their breaths and becoming worried for him every step of the way.

Up until Gu Qing Shan spoke about his original world.

“I can apparently freely travel between this world and that one. In other words, I’ve seemingly become a person of both this world and the other” Gu Qing Shan commented.

“I understand, from now on, you shouldn’t tell anyone about this. The rest of you should also keep Qing Shan’s matters a secret as well, definitely do not speak of it to anyone else” Bai Hua Fairy told everyone.

The sect members all nodded.

Gu Qing Shan was slightly surprised by that.

I was originally from another world—— this was his biggest secret so far, even as he talked about it he was scared that Shifu might be wary of him, but who would’ve thought it would pass so easily.

Seeing his expression, Bai Hua Fairy solemnly asked: “Do you know what a Returnee is?”

“A Returnee?”

“Indeed. In truth, our world originally had a certain secret...” as Bai Hua Fairy said, she changed her mind: “Nevermind, letting you know about this wouldn’t do you any good. At the time when you all can be like Gu Qing Shan and assume sole responsibility, I will tell you”

She then told everyone: “It’s already very late, Xiuxiu, Qing Rou, Wan Er, you should all rest”

“Orchid Hall has been well-kept all this time, so it’s still very clean. Qing Shan, it’s been a long time since you returned, rest well for today, I will discuss this with you tomorrow”

“Xiao Lou, get back on the kite before you reach Ascended realm, you’re not coming back down”

“Go”

Following Bai Hua Fairy’s orders, even if they didn’t want to, everyone went back to their places.

Gu Qing Shan was the last to stay.

Bai Hua Fairy glanced at him.

“I have something to tell second brother, a few pieces of advice for him” Gu Qing Shan said.

Bai Hua Fairy nodded and turned to leave.

When everyone had already left, Gu Qing Shan flew up to the sky and stood in front of Qin Xiao Lou.

Qin Xiao Lou appeared glad as he asked: "Junior brother, did you leave some food and drink for me?"

"I didn't, there are just a few things I wanted to tell you"

"What is it?"

"Second brother, do you know about Qing Rou's and Wan Er's backgrounds?"

"I don't" Qin Xiao Lou answered: "Shifu only told me that they were pitiful girls"

Gu Qing Shan then began: "Qing Rou was the next in line to become her world's leader. She began her cultivation at the age of 3 and continued for 27 years straight without rest to finally breakthrough to Tribulation realm and became the strongest cultivator of her world"

"Wan Er was the daughter of the leader of the strongest sect in her world, but she has never slacked because of her status. Rather than that, due to her lack of talents, she had actually spent a lot more effort than her peers, lingering on the borders of life and death several times. But still, she persevered, breaking through realm after realm even at the risk of death"

"Even when they had spent so much effort, their worlds were still taken over, their family members killed, while they themselves fell and became slaves"

"They did everything they could, only to receive such unfair results, senior brother, whose fault do you think this is?"

Qin Xiao Lou was stunned.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "How about our Shifu? Shifu risked the unknown to merge worlds together, advancing her cultivation to the point where I can no longer tell where she stands, but what she got for it was news that she would be executed"

"She had no choice but to join the cultivation alliance, joining the endless battle against the Demon Nation for the alliance in order to preserve her own life"

"But someone still infiltrated our world, attempting to take Xiuxiu away, using her to manipulate our Shifu"

"Everyone all went through their own struggles and effort, they all had to look out for both natural danger and the cruelty of other people"

"Senior brother, you can keep playing like you always have"

"But before you, please take a look, has anyone ever complained about their hardship?"

"During the meal just now, Qing Rou and Wan Er were still seizing every moment they could and asked Shifu about their own cultivation"

"They have already lost everything, but they never stopped struggling to move forward, why do you think they have to do such a thing?"

"Our Shifu didn't even have time to eat, having to deal with other-worldly matters"

"Who is she trying so hard for?"

Qin Xiao Lou trembled a bit and couldn't help but ask: "What are you trying to say?"

Gu Qing Shan patted Qin Xiao Lou on her shoulder and spoke: "You're my senior brother, I'm your junior brother, so I'm only here to remind you of these things, other than that, I don't have anything else to say"

"However, senior brother, I have one question for you"

"Go ahead" Qin Xiao Lou replied.

Gu Qing Shan slowly asked: "When Xiuxiu was almost taken away, if Qing Rou and Wan Er weren't there, did you have any solutions?"

Qin Xiao Lou froze on the spot, unable to answer.

"If that had happened, Shifu isn't someone that will allow herself to be threatened, so she would've done everything in her power, even risking death to make sure that those people die"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "If Shifu died and Xiuxiu also died, will you be able to keep playing happily every day like this?"

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan no longer paid any attention to the stunned Qin Xiao Lou and flew back down towards Bai Hua hall.

Chapter 653

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Gu Qing Shan returned to Bai Hua hall.

At this point, Bai Hua hall had returned to silence.

Everyone else had already gone back to rest, only Bai Hua Fairy remained on her Throne of Ten thousand Flowers.

She was currently leaning on the throne with one hand holding up her cheek and spoke in thought: "Even if you tell him all of that, I'm not sure if it'll be useful for him"

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "Senior brother is only used to slacking off, I'm sure that if he was serious, he would understand"

In the sky above, dark clouds began to gather.

The rain became heavier.

The midnight rain slowly turned into a shower.

And after a few moments.

Boom——

Thunder!

"A Tribulation already? That was much faster than I thought" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Bai Hua Fairy also appeared glad and commented: "Let's hope he'll be able to cultivate seriously longer than the previous times"

She released her inner sight to observe Qin Xiao Lou and found that Qin Xiao Lou sat with both eyes closed on the kite, completely unfazed by the heavy rain, giving off a sense of seriousness unlike ever before.

"Xiao Lou's Tribulation will probably continue for a while, Qing Shan, we can talk about your troubles first"

"How did Shifu know I had troubles?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"I could tell" Xie Dao Ling stared at him, "ever since you returned, I could tell that your mind wasn't at peace"

After a brief silence, Gu Qing Shan smiled deprecatingly: "I really couldn't escape Shifu's eyes"

He tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a long jade box and opened it.

The cracked and damaged Earth sword silently laid inside, silent and dormant.

Gu Qing Shan raised the Earth sword for Xie Dao Ling to see.

"The Earth sword? Why is it damaged so badly?" Xie Dao Ling muttered.

She flew down from the Throne of Ten thousand Flowers, landed in front of Gu Qing Shan as she carefully observed the sword.

"It is already on breaking point— — this shouldn't be possible, what exactly did you run into?" Bai Hua Fairy questioned.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "We met a monster that I've never seen ever before, at the time, in the lost world of the Old Gods, that monster was only an inch away from taking my life, only after the Earth sword used its full power and all of my Soul Points that we were able to kill that monster"

Gu Qing Shan didn't hide a lot of things from Xie Dao Ling.

But regarding the giant corpse and the monster, he still hadn't told her everything.

Even as he talked about the [Orders] from before, Gu Qing Shan only glossed it over and didn't mention where he obtained the [Angel Order]

Because there were some secrets that the mere act of mentioning them will be recorded in time and space, and will be noticed by some inexplicable existence.

That monster was too eerie, so much so that Gu Qing Shan had no intention of telling anyone.

This wasn't that he didn't trust them, but rather him being cautious, and a form of protection for those close to him.

Protection for both the giant corpse and the people of Bai Hua sect— — as long as they didn't know about this secret, no danger would befall them without notice.

Xie Dao Ling reached out her hand and softly touched the body of the sword: "It's dying"

"That can't be!" Gu Qing Shan refused to accept it.

"But it's true, the sword itself has turned ashen, the sword spirit fell into an unconscious state, it won't be able to hold out for too long"

Xie Dao Ling sighed: "It was already damaged, so being able to protect you that way was already the last thing it could do"

"Can Shifu repair it?"

"In this state, I won't be able to repair it, no one in the cultivation world will be able to repair it" Xie Dao Ling shook her head.

Gu Qing Shan's mind went blank.

The Earth sword was the sect's heirloom, something Shifu herself granted him.

Gu Qing Shan once thought that by bringing the Earth sword back, Shifu would be able to repair it.

But now, it seems that was nothing but my own one-sided hope.

From the start, I already knew, when a sword is broken this badly, it would be very hard to return to normal.

I just never wanted to accept that fact.

Gu Qing Shan lowered his head.

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The Earth sword had been his companion for over half of his cultivation journey during this life.

Do I really have to let it crumble and die?

——there have been too many cases where if the Earth sword wasn't there, with my cultivation at the time, the situation would have been a lot more dangerous.

For example when I killed Zhao Wu Chui.

If the Earth sword's power wasn't so far out of his expectation, he wouldn't have been killed by a single attack.

And against that monster, without the Earth sword using its full power, I would've already died.

The hall fell silent.

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Thunder rang out, again and again, echoing across heaven and earth but Gu Qing Shan just stood there, stunned, unable to notice any of it.

The Earth sword.

Can't be saved anymore.

Gu Qing Shan felt desperate.

After a while, he took a deep breath.

“Shifu”

He bowed towards Bai Hua Fairy: “I have to go”

“Go? You’ve only just returned” Bai Hua Fairy was surprised.

“Yes, to be able to see Shifu safe, Xiao Lou improving himself, Xiuxiu growing up, Qing Rou and Wan Er both settling in, I no longer have any regrets”

“Where are you going?”

“Wandering the infinite worlds to find a way to repair the Earth sword”

“The Earth sword is definitely not a normal sword, not just anyone will be able to repair it. I’m afraid it might have already died before you can find someone capable of repairing it”

“It is my sword, it saved me, so now I have to save it”

Saying that Gu Qing Shan once again clasped his fist and bowed.

“Shifu, I hope you will allow me to leave”

Xie Dao Ling looked at him, then asked: “Where do you intend to go find a solution?”

Gu Qing Shan spoke: “I will first return to the Justice Iron Fist Club, then use the Super Dimensional path to find Barry’s circle of friends and see if they have any solutions”

Xie Dao Ling fell into thought.

As the thunder continued to echo, lightning strikes illuminated the hall from the outside.

Thanks to the intense light of lightning, Gu Qing Shan could clearly see the hesitation and troubled look on Xie Dao Ling’s face.

Shifu has always been a willful and decisive person, any decisions she made so far have been swift and quick, so why is she making such an expression right now?

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

At this time, Xie Dao Ling’s gaze once again fell on Gu Qing Shan.

She silently gazed at Gu Qing Shan until finally, she softly asked: “Qing Shan, during your time travelling the infinite worlds, have you studied under another master? Or joined any other sect?”

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan to answer, she added: “I don’t mind you studying under others, a truly strong person knows to learn from everywhere they could. I just want to know, have you officially joined any other cultivation sect?”

“I have not” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Xie Dao Ling silently nodded.

Apparently having made her decision over something, she sighed: “Truthfully— your solution wouldn’t have worked. Those Lord-class Combatants themselves are powerful beyond belief, but the Earth sword isn’t something they can repair”

She waved her hand to arrange several dozen formations at once, then further used several Secret Arts to fully soundproof the entire Bai Hua hall.

“From now on, we can only talk through inner sight, absolutely do not say anything aloud”

Xie Dao Ling continued to probe him: “What this sword can kill, Qing Shan, do you know about it?”

Seeing Shifu so cautious, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but focus and recall.

Ever since that time during the frozen calamity, he found out that the Earth sword can kill the Hellspawns from Huang Quan.

And those Hellspawns can technically be thought of as low-levelled Demis who manage Huang Quan.

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice through his inner sight: “The Earth sword... can apparently kill Demis”

Xie Dao Ling simply looked at him without saying anything.

Gu Qing Shan stopped, then suddenly realized something.

Right, the 900 million World Layers itself was created by the Old Gods, but this sword can kill Demi, that in itself is strange.

No one would specifically create a weapon to kill their own descendants.

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Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

Then Xie Dao Ling sent her voice to him: “This sword was my old sect’s ceremonial sword, something that the founding master of our sect brought back from the Primordial Heaven realm”

“To repair this sword, you must go to the Primordial Heaven Realm and find its other half”

Gu Qing Shan looked at Shifu, temporarily unable to process her words.

Her old sect?

The Primordial Heaven realm?

Its other half?

There was a lot of information packed inside these two sentences.

But without waiting for him to ask any other questions, Xie Dao Ling had continued.

“The world believes that the original heaven realm have been destroyed and disappeared without a trace”

“But I, the last remaining disciple of Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, remains, and I know that isn’t the truth”

“If you want to repair the Earth sword, you must enter the Primordial Heaven realm and find the Earth sword’s twin sword”

“The sword’s name is Heaven, the Heaven sword”

“The twin swords Heaven and Earth, that which was made to kill the Divine”

“Qing Shan, I originally didn’t want to tell you about this, but I know that for a sword cultivator, their swords are their everything. Instead of allowing you to wander the outside world aimlessly and fail, falling into dejection while losing the Earth sword in the process, I would rather tell you the truth

instead”

“Your mental fortitude and wits are already more than enough, but unfortunately, you still aren’t qualified to go to the Primordial Heaven realm”

“Shifu, have you been there before?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

“Of course I have, in fact, every sect master of Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace would have one chance to enter the Primordial Heaven Realm— otherwise where did you think I learned so many Samsara Divine Skills?”

Xie Dao Ling smiled bitterly and spoke: “In the past, when I was still a disciple of Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, I once saw the sect scripture said that our founding master once discussed Dao theories with a Divinity, I had thought that it was nothing but the sect’s own claims”

“Until I finally entered that world”

Chapter 654

Chapter 654: Initiated

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

Tribulation Lightning was still raining down from the sky.

Qin Xiao Lou was still facing his Tribulation.

The top-secret discussion continued inside Bai Hua hall.

“The Earth sword is about to die, nothing within the infinite worlds will be able to save it. But the Heaven sword is the Earth sword’s twin, only the Heaven Sword will be able to share its Origin with the Earth sword and repair it from the source”

Xie Dao Ling slowly explained.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t wait and insisted: “Then Shifu, please let me join Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace and take me to the Primordial Heaven realm”

“For now, I cannot” Xie Dao Ling shook her head.

“To enter the Primordial Heaven realm, you will require two things, the first is the sect’s Primordial Heaven realm warp formation, second is the Heavenly Palace’s protection jade disk”

“The former will take you to that world, while the latter will protect your life”

“But now, the last of the Heaven Palace’s protection jade disk’s power was already used up, and it has also been destroyed”

“Shifu, then what now?”

Xie Dao Ling continued to shake her head: “Truthfully, even with the Heavenly Palace’s protection jade disk, it would still be very hard for you to find the Heaven sword”

“Why is that?”

“Because it isn’t inside the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, instead it is somewhere else in the Primordial Heaven realm”

Gu Qing Shan was confused: “Then wouldn’t I only need to find it myself when I come to that world?”

“It’s not quite that simple”

Xie Dao Ling looked at her disciple and slowly explained: “The records of the sect have always warned us, the sect master of every generation were forbidden to leave the area of the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace after they enter the Primordial Heaven realm”

“But why?”

“Because the Primordial Heaven realm is supposedly to be too dangerous, only by using the Heavenly Palace’s protection disk will we be able to barely survive in the Heavenly Palace”

“The only reason why the sect masters travel to the Primordial Heaven realm is to check the sect’s old records and scriptures in order to find the correct path for us to traverse”

“If we were to leave the Heavenly Palace, death would be waiting at every corner”

Gu Qing Shan thought about it and considered something: “The Laws of the cultivation world limits a cultivator’s highest cultivation, so they must not have been as strong as their predecessors, which is why they needed the protection jade disk, right?”

“It’s not as you think, the founding master left a lot of records for us descendants, telling them that only after reaching a certain realm can they leave the Heavenly Palace and freely wander the Primordial Heaven realm”

Xie Dao Ling softly sighed and continued: “In the past, when the Divinities were still resided in the Heaven realm and were still creating the Samsara, they frequently travelled to and from the Human realm”

“As for the Primordial Heaven realm and the Samsara splitting apart, that happened much later, so no one really knows for sure why all the Divinities disappeared”

“The Earth sword was something the founding master happened to obtain. He had specifically reminded us as descendants, to carefully pass it down, up until today”

Gu Qing Shan cut in: “You mean after the Divinities disappeared, the Human realm also lost contact with the Heaven realm?”

“That’s correct. No one knows why exactly our Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace was the only place in the world still capable of travelling to the Primordial Heaven realm”

“Perhaps it was because the founding master was the strongest cultivator at the time that he was able to create the warp formation to travel between the two worlds”

“The founding master left his words that this was to be our sect’s ultimate secret, once it comes to light, unimaginable calamity would befall upon us all”

“Which is why only the masters of each generation were allowed to know about this”

Xie Dao Ling appeared to reminiscing about something before continuing: “But at the peak of prosperity, the only way left to go is down, there is no such thing as an eternally prosperous sect, so as the sect slowly declined, the matter related to me happened and ended up with the sect’s destruction”

“But before the end, the master still bestowed all of the sect’s secrets and inheritance to me”

“Qing Shan, if you haven’t joined any other sect when you can finally go to the Primordial Heaven realm, I will have you join Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace and inherit the position of sect master”

Gu Qing Shan was hesitant: “But the Earth sword is already close to death, when will I be able to go to the Primordial Heaven realm?”

Xie Dao Ling lightly stroked along the Earth sword’s blade as she made a complicated hand seal and infused it with spirit energy.

The hand seal was formed.

Right away, the jade box that contained the Earth sword and itself floated into the air without moving, as if it was solidified in space.

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“This is a sealing technique of mine, capable of slowing down the progression of time in a small area”

“This will elongate the Earth sword’s process of breaking, buying enough time to let you grow and become strong enough”

Gu Qing Shan could finally sigh in relief.

Xie Dao Ling continued: “According to the founding master, you have to become strong enough before you attempt to leave Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace and search the Primordial Heaven realm”

She smiled deprecatingly: “In the past, whenever I read the sect’s scriptures, I’ve always assumed the realms mentioned there were nothing but legends”

“Only after I got to know the 900 million World Layers, it was then that I knew the founding master’s words wasn’t a lie”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Regarding cultivation realms, I only know about the realms that come after Tribulation realm to be Virtualized and Cryptic realm, other than that, I’m not very clear”

“Did they not tell you when you were in the Iron Fist Club?” Xie Dao Ling asked.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “Kitty only told me there are too many abilities and ability users within the 900 million World Layers, the only categorization I needed to know was if they were beatable or unbeatable, and only after I can break through the void of space to gaze at other worlds will I be qualified to know the specific levels of how Combatants are ranked”

“That is indeed for your own good, to prevent you from having unrealistic expectations” Xie Dao Ling continued: “In truth, according to the ancient cultivation world’s standards, the realms and levels of us cultivators are divided very clearly, I will explain”

“Projection, Tribulation, Virtualized, Cryptic, you already know about these four realms— after these, there are another four realms: Chaotic Star realm, Origin Aspect realm, Radiant Soul realm and Void Beholder realm”

“Chaotic Star realm is 3 times stronger than Cryptic realm and Origin Aspect realm is 12 times stronger than Chaotic Star realm. When you reach Radiant Soul realm, you will be able to break the sky in one strike, becoming a pseudo-initiated according to the 900 million World Layers’ standard, at which point you will be called a Dao Lord”

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Gu Qing Shan recalled: "The Dao Lord from the cultivation alliance who died before, he was at Radiant Soul realm?"

"Indeed, he was at Radiant Soul realm, capable of breaking the void of space, but not yet able to gaze upon the true void and see the infinite worlds in front of his eyes"

Gu Qing Shan spoke emotionally: "So even a Dao Lord isn't considered truly initiated yet?"

"Hm, being able to see the infinite worlds is when you reach Void Beholder realm. Only by reaching Void Beholder realm can you be considered truly initiated and travel as you please among the infinite worlds"

"What about after Void Beholder realm?" Gu Qing Shan curiously asked.

"That is an entirely new world, the main level of power of the 900 million World Layers, but it's still too soon to talk about that" Xie Dao Ling answered him.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall Iron Fist Barry, using a single strike to break through countless worlds all the way to Angel Port, and the magnificent sight of the infinite worlds showing themselves in the void of space at the time.

He couldn't help but ask: "Shifu, what realm are you at right now? Are you still far from being a Dao Lord?"

Xie Dao Ling went silent briefly and chuckled.

"In the cultivation alliance, I was still a newcomer who didn't know much. Not only did I have to fight against the demon army, but I also had to be wary of other people, so I made sure to hide myself as much as possible"

"But they said you were the only person who won a battle during the previous war"

"I had no other choice, at the time, if we didn't win, we would've died"

"Which means... Shifu has been hiding your true strength?"

"Not only that, but I've also taken another step forward since then"

Xie Dao Ling raised her slender hand, clenched tight and lightly tapped the void of space.

Divine Skill, [Skyfall]!

This was a soundless unseen strike, the same one as it always had been.

The void of space immediately split in half, like a pair of curtains that were slowly being pulled apart.

This was an unimaginably vast strength, capable of dividing the vast ocean with a flick of a finger.

As the void of space split apart, the images of other worlds overlapped as they appeared above the two of them.

This strike had broken through the restraints of a world's Law, forcing the worlds inside the void to show up.

Gu Qing Shan could see about 5 to 6 worlds overlapping, neatly lining up one after another.

Even though this wasn't as strong as Barry's strike that broke through over a million worlds at once, it was still impressive.

"Shifu..."

Gu Qing Shan was incredibly shaken, feeling his mouth going dry, unable to say anything but that single word.

Bai Hua Fairy waved her hand.

Right away, the overlapping world images disappeared.

Bai Hua Fairy returned to normal as if everything they saw just now was only an illusion.

Bai Hua Fairy casually told him: "After fusing 5 worlds together and fighting with the demon army day after day, if I still couldn't become initiated, I wouldn't be able to join any battle in the 900 million World Layers from now on"

"Let's continue with what we were talking about before, Qing Shan, if you want to go to the Primordial Heaven realm and search for the Heaven Sword, you have to quickly raise your cultivation"

"What should I do?"

"Go to the Strife Zones and fight with your life on the line"

Chapter 655

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The dark clouds above scattered.

Qin Xiao Lou successfully went through his Tribulation.

Although he had already accomplished Bai Hua Fairy's requirement, Qin Xiao Lou didn't return to the ground.

He sat still on top of the kite, taking a jade tag in hand and seriously studied the scripture for Ascended realm.

Both Xie Dao Ling and Gu Qing Shan had never seen Qin Xiao Lou be that serious in his cultivation before.

If it was him from the past, he would've already flown down and hurriedly went to find something fun to do.

Xie Dao Ling and Gu Qing Shan both pulled back their inner sights, happy with what they saw.

For Qin Xiao Lou to show such exemplary behaviors, it was similar to seeing the sun rise from the West, but it was something to look forward to.

Gu Qing Shan and Bai Hua Fairy continued to talk for a bit more, then he took out the 7-colored fragrance bag and returned it to his Shifu.

This bag contained all of Bai Hua sect's inheritance and stock of resources.

Looking at the fragrance bag, both master and disciple felt a bit emotional.

Too many things have happened since the last time they both saw this bag.

Fortunately, everyone was still alive and well.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "All the scriptures and techniques I obtained from the Suspended world are recorded in the jade tags in here"

"Furthermore, I've also copied a few of our sect's jade tags so that I can slowly study them, what do you think, Shifu?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Of course, there's no problem with that" Xie Dao Ling answered him.

"Then this disciple will go back first"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and stood up, preparing to go back to rest.

"Wait, Qing Shan" Bai Hua Fairy called out.

"Do you need me for something else, Shifu?"

"Hm, during my time in the cultivation alliance, I fought and cultivated day by day, but I was able to exchange knowledge and experience of many other cultivation worlds, cross-referencing together"

Xie Dao Ling took out a jade tag and threw it to Gu Qing Shan.

She told him: "There was a certain Secret Art that was very useful, even to my eyes"

"And so I had exchanged for this Secret Art from that person through various means"

"As you are a sword cultivator, I grant this Secret Art to you"

Gu Qing Shan received the jade tag and felt indescribably grateful, clapping his fist together: "Thank you, Shifu"

——even though Xie Dao Ling explained that so casually, he understood very well.

Sword Secret Arts are hard to obtain.

It was a general consensus that sword Secret Arts are a sword cultivator's spells, with each of them being much stronger than others of the same level.

Bai Hua Fairy's eyes have always been higher than her head, so a Secret Art that caught her eyes must be quite a unique one.

To be able to exchange for such a rare sword Secret Art from someone else, she must've spent untold amounts of expensive resources to exchange for it.

But I am the only sword cultivator in the sect.

Which means, she had specifically exchanged his Secret Art from someone for me.

Gu Qing Shan's heart felt warm.

"Study it well and learn that Secret Art as soon as you can— you may go back now" Bai Hua Fairy dismissed him.

Without saying much, Gu Qing Shan simply nodded and went back.

...

On his way back to Orchid Hall, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh.

Shifu treats me and all of her disciples of the sect like her own family.

How could I slack off at all?

But then, as Gu Qing Shan recalled what he saw from before, he still couldn't believe what he saw.

While we were standing in a Super Dimensional world, Barry easily managed to break through countless World Layers.

But that was partially due to the properties of a Super Dimensional world, because it had the ability to connect to many worlds, so breaking through their void of space was relatively easy.

But Shifu was standing in a Samsara world as she broke through the void of space and made the worlds appear in front of her.

In comparison, Shifu was a lot weaker than Barry, but she was still much stronger than what she had shown.

As expected of the strongest person in the cultivation world!

Those people in the cultivation alliance really had an accurate eye in choosing their leader.

Gu Qing Shan sighed to himself as he returned to Orchid Hall.

Everything was well-kept inside the big hall.

However, the hall itself was empty, so staying there by himself felt a bit lonely.

Fortunately, the large space allowed for wind to drift in from outside, making the atmosphere refreshing.

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Gu Qing Shan sat down on a cushion and began to consider the Strife Zones.

—his original world was currently under the Old God's Protection.

During its transformation, no living being could enter or leave.

So he had no way to return for now.

At this moment, to quickly increase my cultivation I need to enter the Strife Zones.

This was once suggested by the giant corpse before.

Barry and Kitty also had the same opinion.

Now even Shifu feels the same, preparing various things for me with the authority she currently holds.

So Gu Qing Shan had decided to make his preparations to go to the Strife Zones.

He organized everything he currently had.

The 7-colored fragrance bag has been returned to Shifu— although I have used quite a few things inside, I've also replenished them with things from Wang Hong Dao's Inventory Bag, so now the sect's resource stock has actually increased compared to before.

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Of course, Gu Qing Shan also left a few things for himself to use.

For example, he made a copy of every jade tag scripture in the bag.

Right now, as he held a jade tag in his hand, a few glowing words appeared on the War God UI.

[Huang Quan Divine Skill: Forgetting River]

[To practice this Divine Skill, you must satisfy the following prerequisites]

[Female Cultivator]

[5th stage Elementalist talents]

[God's Chosen Skill: Soul Caller]

[Secret Art: Soul Comes Soul Goes]

[Secret Art: Sealed Body Yin Shift]

[Samsara Divine Contract: Huang Quan Ferryman]

After reading through it everything again, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh.

There are at least this many prerequisites for learning a Causality Samsara Divine Skill.

Fortunately—

I've already unlocked my soul, so no restrictions can no longer apply to me!

Gu Qing Shan smirked confidently and told the War God UI.

"System, I want to use Soul Points to learn the Divine Skill, [Forgetting River]"

[Ting]!

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A chime came from the System.

The War God UI replied: [You are unable to learn this Divine Skill]

Gu Qing Shan froze, then hurriedly asked: "Why not? My soul is already unlocked, shouldn't I be able to learn any skills without restrictions?"

The War God UI answered: [Indeed, your soul has been unlocked, you will no longer be restricted by any single domain, but you are still affected by the gender restraints]

Gender restraints!?

Gu Qing Shan almost coughed up blood.

"In other words, this skill can only be learned by a female cultivator?" he asked

[Indeed, this is the most important prerequisite]

Gu Qing Shan regretfully sighed.

Seems like I'm just not fit at all to learn this skill.

Unless—

No, forget it.

He took out a Blade.

The Blade was jet black, just by being there, it gave off countless cries of pain and suffering.

Grey shadows lingered around the Blade.

The grey shadows waited for a few moments, seeing that no spirit energy was used to activate any spells, they slowly disappeared.

—this Blade was slender and thin; rather than a weapon to be used in close combat, it was closer to a medium used to unleash spells.

This was the Corpse King Blade, a weapon from the Suspended world, the Cryptic realm cultivator Wang Hong Dao's personal Blade.

This weapon had been with Wang Hong Dao for countless years, witnessing all of his battles.

—and it recorded all of his battle skills.

Gu Qing Shan reached out his hand and lightly grasped the Blade.

Right away, the [War God Skill] icon of the War God UI lit up.

Countless glowing text swiftly scrolled past the screen.

All the Blade techniques as well as spells that Wang Hong Dao had ever used with the Blade as its medium appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

Not even half of Wang Hong Dao's skills were actual Blade techniques, the majority of them were spells that were related to either corpses or insects.

The Blade has been used to perform so many evil and cruel techniques throughout its entire life that Gu Qing Shan was scowling all the way through reading the descriptions of each technique and how to activate them.

He specifically picked out only the Blade techniques, combined it with Bai Hua sect's own techniques and comprehended all of them.

The remaining evil skills were discarded.

And then, Gu Qing Shan also reorganized the Bow techniques of his sect.

In the cultivation world, the bow was a rarely used branch of weapons, so Xie Dao Ling didn't collect too many techniques, most of them were nothing but the essential basics of archery.

After some thinking, Gu Qing Shan also took out Guang Yang sect's scriptures and searched through them.

He was actually able to find a set of archery scriptures.

But only one.

It could be seen that among cultivation arts, archery wasn't a mainstream branch.

Gu Qing Shan didn't mind it too much since he has already forgotten all of his archery skills with only [Shifting Flurry] remaining.

So he learnt all of these skills as well.

After the Blade and Bow, it was time to check Shifu's jade tag.

Gu Qing Shan held the tag in hand.

A few glowing words appeared on the War God UI.

[Discovered new sword Secret Art]

[Secret Art: Life Seeker, can now be practiced]

Chapter 656

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

Gu Qing Shan looked seriously at the War God UI.

He was really curious about what kind of Secret Art would Shifu herself consider to be decent.

The lines of glowing text began to appear.

[Secret Art: Life Seeker, your attacks can reach the enemy when they are within 10 feet of you]

[Notice: This Secret Art can only be activated within a 10-foot range of an enemy]

[Notice: This Secret Art can be used together with other Secret Arts]

[In 10 feet, I seek out your life and extinguish it]

[To practice this Secret Art, you need 2000 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan almost forgot to breathe.

Flying swords are a thing, but if flying swords couldn't end the battle, it would fall to the hands of the sword cultivator personally using his swords in close combat.

Against a sword cultivator, no matter what profession they were facing, the thing to fear the most had and always will be entering the sword cultivator's close combat range.

And this Secret Art, [Life Seeker] extended that range to 10 feet.

—-while they were still 10 feet away, a sword cultivator's attack could directly hit the enemy as if they were closeby.

It can easily catch an enemy off-guard and kill them in the blink of an eye.

Taking your life from 10 feet away.

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“No wonder this Secret Art is called [Life Seeker]”

“It can be performed with other Secret Arts, which means I will be able to perform [Swallow Returns] from 10 feet away...”

“No wonder even Shifu felt impressed by this Secret Art...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He closed his eyes and spent the 2000 Soul Points without hesitation to learn [Life Seeker].

A warm flow came from the jade tag into his arm, flowing up to his body and into his Thought Sea, turning into countless deep understanding of the sword technique and imprinting them deeply into Gu Qing Shan’s body.

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

He casually took the Chao Yin sword in hand and looked at the wall not too far from where he stood.

After some consideration, Gu Qing Shan lightly swung it.

Khiii—

A loud screech came from the wall.

As if something sharp had just scraped against it.

Gu Qing Shan stood up, leapt and turned into a blurred shadow as he swung his sword across the entire hall.

He wasn’t close to the wall at any point, but whenever he swung his sword, a new mark would be left there.

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan put his sword away.

“Hah, learning this one Secret Art easily triumphs over learning dozen several others” he silently sighed.

Gu Qing Shan returned to his cushion and sat back down.

He glanced at the War God UI.

After learning the Blade, Bow, Sword techniques in a row, he had used quite a bit of Soul Points, so only about 70,000 remained.

There’s still enough Soul Points.

So Gu Qing Shan took out a few more jade tags to select a few spells that suited him.

The art of spells included using spirit energy directly as well as manipulating formations as a medium, in total consisting of the Elements: Metal-Wood-Water-Fire-Earth, Wind-Lightning-Light-Dark-Sound.

Gu Qing Shan was originally a Lightning-element cultivator, but now he can bypass the limit of sword techniques and directly practice Lightning-elemental spells.

—-of course, even if he had a lot of Soul Points, it wasn't a good idea to waste it and learn everything.

Gu Qing Shan himself didn't want to focus much on the art of spells either, partly because he wasn't interested in them.

He only needed a few spells that stood out to prepare for any situation.

He spent a bit of time learning the spells.

Which was followed by a few martial arts.

To increase the power of his Divine Skill [Skyfall], he needed to become a Martial Arts expert up to a certain level.

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The increase of his Martial Arts expertise would also increase a cultivator's constitution, which was beneficial for sword cultivators.

When his Martial Art expertise reached a certain level, Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze towards another Divine Skill.

Martial Secret Art, [Unbreakable Mountain Range]!

...

The night slowly faded.

Dawn arrived.

Gu Qing Shan was squatting by the stream behind the mountain as he washed a large metal pot.

He needed to prepare the sect's breakfast for today.

After preparing the kitchen utensils, Gu Qing Shan began to think about what he would make today.

Shifu said that she didn't need to eat, but if I gave her a bowl of spirit herb-infused porridge, she wouldn't turn it down.

The white goose said it wanted to eat some spicy noodles this morning.

Hm... yup, not contradictory at all.

Xiuxiu shouldn't eat too much for breakfast, so a Dragon's Tear Flower salad, as well as a cup of spirit tea that improves the soul vessel, will do.

Qing Rou and Wan Er didn't want anything in particular, so porridge or noodles the same as Shifu will be fine.

Xiao Lou—-—

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, a flame talisman came by.

He received and infused it with spirit energy.

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Xie Dao Ling's voice came from the talisman: "Make a few more delicious dishes today, we are having two guests"

We are having guests?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

Shifu was a prideful person, so if she sent a communication talisman specifically to tell him to 'make a few more delicious dishes', Gu Qing Shan would have to try his best.

And so, he made a total of 16 side dishes; cooked a large pot of spirit porridge; made some hand-stretched noodles; simmered a pot of prepared herbs and bone broth, then carefully made his own mix of soy sauce to use with the noodles.

—when the broth is mixed with the soy sauce and turned a few times with chopsticks, the fragrance of noodles would fill the entire Bai Hua hall!

At this point, breakfast had been prepared for the entirety of the Bai Hua sect.

Qing Rou and Wan Er, who were standing by, had been waiting for a while.

They watched as Gu Qing Shan got busy making a grand breakfast for the sect dish by dish.

While smiling brightly the entire time.

They helped Gu Qing Shan plate the spirit cooking and carried it all into Bai Hua hall.

The members of Bai Hua sect had all gathered.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised to see two familiar faces.

Ning Yue Chan and Leng Tian Xing.

So they were the so-called 'guests'.

Ning Yue Chan glanced at Gu Qing Shan to see the pot of porridge he was carrying and asked in surprise: "I thought the one responsible for cooking in your sect was Qin Xiao Lou"

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"Xiao Lou had been busy breaking through recently, so I'm in charge of making food for now" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He arranged the dishes on the table before coming to shake Leng Tian Xing's hand.

"Long time no see"

"It really has been"

They both laughed refreshingly.

Their bond was made in the blood and fires of battle, so it wouldn't disappear just from not seeing each other.

"Very well, enjoy your breakfast before you all reminiscent" Bai Hua Fairy declared.

Everyone quieted down and quickly took their seats.

Normally, during the meals of Bai Hua sect, everyone would casually chat and eat at the same time.

But if there were outsiders, the disciples of Bai Hua sect would need to maintain courtesy, so it was better that they said nothing.

This was a general rule for big sects. Normally, Bai Hua Fairy doesn't care, but when there were guests here, she was at least concerned with upholding her basic image and pride.

Everyone enjoyed their breakfast in silence.

Sure enough, Bai Hua Fairy only ate a bowl of spirit porridge.

The white goose ate two whole bowls of noodles, then proceeded to happily gnaw on a seasoned duck's neck.

Qin Xiao Lou tasted each of the 16 snacks with a look of fancy and interest.

—if it weren't for the fact that they couldn't talk today, he would've focused entirely on discussing these dishes with Gu Qing Shan.

Xiuxiu ate her regular soul vessel enhancement diet with a sour face, but once she finished, Gu Qing Shan gave her a small bowl of noodles and some desserts.

Xiuxiu smiled as she ate.

Qing Rou ate very slowly with perfect etiquette, and Wan Er was the same.

While eating, Leng Tian Xing sneakily gave Gu Qing Shan a thumbs up.

"Your skills in cooking are great"

He sent his voice.

"Eat more then" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Ning Yue Chan occasionally sneaked a glance at Gu Qing Shan.

She tried every dish at least once, each time appearing more and more surprised.

As the Saintess of her sect, she grew up with ample knowledge and understanding of good spirit cooking.

These dishes were already top standard, even Qin Xiao Lou couldn't have done much better.

Ning Yue Chan couldn't help but silently send her voice: "Who would've thought you were also quite the cooking expert as well"

Gu Qing Shan smirked proudly: "Of course, my cooking skills are renowned across many worlds, normal people couldn't possibly eat it even if they wanted to"

Ning Yue Chan looked at him and couldn't help but commented: "That's right, whoever gets to marry you will definitely eat well"

“...”

Gu Qing Shan silently decided that he was going to find an opportunity to teach this girl a lesson.

Chapter 657

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

16 side dishes with porridge and noodles, made with the best ingredients available.

Having such a wonderful breakfast, everyone was pleased.

Gu Qing Shan, Qing Rou, and Wan Er tidied up together and prepared spirit tea for everyone.

“No need to make tea for me, I’ll be cultivating”

Qin Xiao Lou stood up and patted Gu Qing Shan on his shoulder.

He went out of Bai Hua hall, flew back onto the kite in the sky, and then settled down, quickly entering a meditative state.

“What is he—?”

Leng Tian Xing couldn’t help but ask.

Gu Qing Shan quickly explained: “Ah, this is a method of cultivation in our sect”

“Unable to move a single step for anything but cultivation, your sect’s serious attitude really does leave one in awe” Leng Tian Xing praised.

None of Bai Hua sect’s disciples answered him.

“Very well, it’s now time for official business” Bai Hua Fairy declared.

“To be exact, Qing Shan, Ning Yue Chan as well as Leng Tian Xing— this affair concerns the three of you”

Bai Hua Fairy continued: “I, as well as the Monk of Sorrow, General Gong Sun and the various sect leaders, have discussed among ourselves and decided, among the young generation of our cultivation world, the three of you will be selected as our world’s novice representatives”

“Leng Tian Xing, as a You Ji General, before coming here you should have already gotten the necessary supplies and resources”

“Ning Yue Chan, as a Ding Yuan General, you’ve always been at the frontline, the one to lead your troops, your total accumulated merits have earned you the rank of Yong Zhen General”

“Ning Yue Chan, through the battles so far, your armor has been greatly damaged and have applied to be replaced, now I will reissue you a new set of Yong Zhen General armor”

Saying so, Bai Hua Fairy took out a completely new set of armor and lightly sent it over.

The armor hovered in front of Ning Yue Chan.

Ning Yue Chan clasped her fist: “Thank you, Saint”

“Try it on” Xie Dao Ling nodded and smiled.

Everyone couldn't help but stare at the set of Yong Zhen General armor.

——it was a snow-white set of female metal armor, embossed with countless complicated runes, each component finely crafted with meticulous care and precision.

Ning Yue Chan struck the armor with her palm.

The armor scattered in the air into its components as they circled around Ning Yue Chan and quickly equipped themselves onto her.

A snow-white Blade and a snow-white armor.

Right now, Ning Yue Chan exuded not only the solemnity and majesty of a general but also the beauty of a female.

She moved around a bit to test the armor.

After a few moments, she happily smiled.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought as he commented: “We were never able to forge armors of this caliber before”

Ning Yue Chan replied: “Of course, after we merged with Shen Wu world, we learned their methods of Smithing, then your Shifu further combined them with the methods she obtained from the cultivation alliance”

Leng Tian Xing added: “Our methods and Smithing abilities have far surpassed what we had before. At least, the overall standard has increased by an entire level”

Gu Qing Shan nodded, feeling relieved.

Smithing was one of the 6 arts, and the 6 arts were the core of a cultivation civilization.

The better the 6 arts became, the better the power of a cultivation civilization as a whole could be shown.

At this point, Xie Dao Ling took out another bag and tossed it to Ning Yue Chan: “Ning Yue Chan, your Yong Zhen General armor has been reissued, the rest of your supplies are inside this bag, you may check it yourselves”

“Leng Tian Xing, Ning Yue Chan, did the two of you find anything lacking?”

Leng Tian Xing and Ning Yue Chan both shook their heads.

Before coming here, they were already fully equipped by the seniors of their sects.

And they already knew more or less what they needed to do following this.

Bai Hua Fairy then looked at Gu Qing Shan and told him: “Qing Shan, now we will discuss your military merits”

“Me? My merits?”

Gu Qing Shan pointed at himself, a bit unexpected.

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“Indeed, during the calamity of Shen Wu world, you convinced the Tianma to help us, killing a Virtualized realm cultivator in the process and saving the entire cultivation world while you were transported to another world”

“After much discussion and consideration of your current cultivation, the military merits you received have been increased accordingly”

“Originally, you were a You Ji General, but due to your great contributions, we have unanimously decided that you are worthy of the Shen Wei rank”

Gu Qing Shan froze, unable to process what was happening.

“Shifu, isn’t that too big of a jump?” he muttered.

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The cultivation world’s military ranks, there was no need to mention the lower ranks, but the rank of General was divided into four separate levels.

From lowest to highest, the ranks were: You Ji, Ding Yuan, Yong Zhen, and Shen Wei.

Gu Qing Shan went directly from a You Ji General to become a Shen Wei General.

Ning Yue Chan came up to him and smiled: “Congratulations, you deserve this”

Leng Tian Xing also spoke: “You really do”

Xiuxiu happily cheered: “Senior brother! You’re a Shen Wei General!”

Qing Rou asked Wan Er: “Shen Wei is the highest-ranking general right?”

“Ah, I think that was how it was divided” Wan Er answered her.

Qing Rou then turned to Gu Qing Shan: “Senior brother, you definitely deserve it”

Wan Er also nodded again and again.

——the things he did, no one else could’ve done.

If he doesn’t deserve the rank of Shen Wei General, who does?

Xie Dao Ling smiled: “We have also prepared your rewards, but when it comes to weapons, I believe that none of your swords are common items, so in order to not arbitrarily giving you something you don’t need, I did not supply you a weapon”

“If he didn’t get a weapon, what did he get in exchange?” Xiuxiu quickly asked.

“I’ve used a lot of our world’s resources to exchange for a sword Secret Art for him” Bai Hua Fairy replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

So that's what that was, Shifu is really considerate.

"What about armor?" Qing Rou asked worriedly.

"An armor is crucial for a sword cultivator's protection, so of course I have prepared for him a brand new Shen Wei General armor" Bai Hua Fairy smiled, "it took 12 Smithing Grandmasters a total of 10 days working nonstop to finish it— this armor can be considered the ultimate crystallization of our world's Smithing techniques"

She then gave Gu Qing Shan a bag.

Everyone stared at Gu Qing Shan, looking forward to seeing what his armor looked like.

Gu Qing Shan didn't open the bag right away and asked in return: "Where are we going? To the Strife Zones?"

Bai Hua Fairy answered him: "We are not, the Strife Zones is the area where countless races face off against each other, although large-scale massacres are a common occurrence, as long as you are able to survive, your strength will surely quickly increase— so it is unbelievably hard for normal people to enter"

"For the last several dozen years, quite a few cultivation worlds have been taken prisoner by the [Demon King Order], while the remaining cultivation worlds have to go against the demonized, combined with various chaotic in-fighting, our overall ranking among the Professions have plummeted near the bottom, so the number of quotas we have to be able to enter the Strife Zones are decreasing year by year"

Her eyes became serious: "Because I now lead the cultivation alliance, I've suggested and passed the decision to start this year's novice qualification test ahead of time"

"You must win against young cultivators from tens of thousands of other cultivation worlds and become the strongest novices and qualify to represent cultivators and enter the Strife Zones"

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and asked: "Are there any other ways to enter the Strife Zones?"

Bai Hua Fairy looked at him: "There is, you can ask Chen Wang, or any Lord-class Combatants of other large-scale Profession organizations to give you a quota from their side"

"But I have to remind you, between humans like us, novices from every Profession will have to go through the same trial, prove themselves with their own power and become the strongest of their kind to obtain the qualifications"

"The strong move forward, while the weak stays behind, this has always been the most respected principle of human Combatants, as well as the fairest qualification method"

"If you ask Combatants like Chen Wang, perhaps they will give it to you, but that will be the same as stealing the qualification that would've belonged to someone else"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "Then let's not, I wouldn't want to ask for a favor with this anyways. I can easily take a quota by myself"

Ning Yue Chan agreed: "We can do such a thing with our own strength, there's no need to beg others"

Leng Tian Xing also agreed: "Indeed, that is how it should be"

Hearing that, Bai Hua Fairy also appeared pleased.

It was true that there were things you could ask others to help with on the path of cultivation.

——but in fair selection competitions like these, if a cultivator doesn't have the will to grind themselves forward, instead, thinking of ways to use a back door to achieve what they want, then not only won't they be celebrated, they will also be ignored.

This wasn't what made a true Combatant.

Xie Dao Ling then told her disciples: "Bai Ying Tian, watch over the sect and teach the others"

The white goose answered: "Yes, Shifu"

"Xiuxiu, Qing Rou, Wan Er, keep doing your best and cultivate, perhaps this time next year, you will be ready to enter the Strife Zones as well"

"Yes, Shifu"

The three girls all responded.

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan, Ning Yue Chan and Leng Tian Xing to respond, Xie Dao Ling's long sleeve swept across as the three of them disappeared from the hall.

"I will take them to the novice qualification"

Leaving it at that, Xie Dao Ling also disappeared.

Chapter 658

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The World Referee Council.

This place was a small, narrow room—— because normally no one would be here to work anyways.

But for the most part, this was a crucial department of the 900 million World Layers alliance, a place that only Lord-class Combatants can join.

Because of that, after careful consideration, the upper brass decided to extend the inside of the room a little bit, leaving enough space to put down a long, wide table.

——with this table, at least the people of the department could sit around to play cards and socialize a bit in their workplace.

Chen Wang threw his cards on the table, stood up, and stretched his back.

"I didn't win or lose anything, what about you guys?" he asked.

"Bullshit, you clearly won the most!"

One of his playmates, a bear, angrily roared.

“Forget it, do people like us really have to be petty over such minor wins and losses?” a person completely hidden inside a black cloak spoke.

“Then again, Chen Wang went out for some business earlier and only started to win when he came back” a mechanical arm spoke.

“Where did you go?” the bear couldn’t help but ask.

“Barry’s young protégé got into some trouble, so I did him a favor, but actually got a bit of profit out of it” Chen Wang grinned.

Seeing everyone interested, Chen Wang told them.

“Barry’s protégé? I remember him, Gu Qing Shan, right?” the bear thought about it for a few moments.

“Ah, him, I’ve also met him, quite the good sword user seed. He’ll probably be quite the merciless guy in the future as well” the mechanical arm commented.

“I heard some rumors about him having a close relationship with the Bramble Bird Empress” the person hidden by a robe spoke.

“Tch, women, always gossiping—— I’m going first, I want no part of this” the mechanical arm replied.

“Wait, it’s my treat today, you can go after we eat” Chen Wang called out.

“That’s fine”

Chen Wang, the bear, the robed person, the mechanical arm all stood up to leave the room.

They opened the door.

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Right away, all sorts of noises and commotion could be heard from the office the size of a football field across from theirs.

Countless beings of different shapes and sizes filled that office.

They were all shouting, wanting to convey what they needed to as soon as possible.

The four of them went quiet.

“Tch, can’t the Profession Encyclopedia Department be a bit less noisy? We’re lucky we soundproofed our office” Chen Wang complained.

“You know how they are, there are so many new Professions being discovered every day, their book is always full, and they also have to keep an eye on how those Professions grow and arrange for their qualifications and such” the bear spoke.

“I’m having a headache just hearing that, almost makes me want to destroy a few worlds to calm back down” the robed person commented.

“True, but fortunately, we don’t have to do such work” the mechanical arm sighed.

"In hindsight, Barry is the real smart guy here, always has a bad reputation to his name, so much so that no department wants to hire him, afraid that he'll be surrounded by debtors without a way to do this job" Chen Wang also sighed.

"Let's go" the bear spoke.

After just a few steps, Chen Wang was surprised.

"What is it?" the robed person asked.

"That woman is Gu Qing Shan's master, why is she here—I should've already arranged everything properly with that matter" Chen Wang wondered.

While he said that, Xie Dao Ling had already seen Chen Wang.

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She came forward without hesitation and greeted him: "Sir Chen Wang, nice to meet you here"

"Why are you at the Referee Council? Did something go wrong with the matter from before?" Chen Wang asked doubtfully.

"No, I'm bringing some novices to the Profession Committee to enter the novice qualification test for entering the Strife Zones for cultivators" Xie Dao Ling explained.

"The novice qualification? So Gu Qing Shan is going to enter the Strife Zones huh?"

"He is"

Xie Dao Ling swung her sleeves to release Gu Qing Shan and the other two.

"Ah? Chen Wang? Big Bear? Yun Ji and Darkfire as well?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"Yo"

"Hey, brat"

"Still handsome as always, little brother, let big sis invite you for a meal next time"

"Qing Shan, how's it been?"

The four greeted him.

The robed person even pulled back her hood to reveal her beauty.

Turns out she was Yun Ji, a female Lord-class Combatant.

"I'm sorry, we're here for some business, so if you guys have work to do, we won't bother you" Gu Qing Shan spoke politely.

Chen Wang looked at the group and spoke: "It's fine, we'll just come in to watch for a bit"

"My fighting abilities aren't anything for you to watch though" Gu Qing Shan spoke deprecatingly.

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After joining the Justice Iron Fist Club, he got to learn quite a few basic knowledge regarding the infinite worlds.

To prevent casualties as well as preserving overall power for mankind as a whole, there wasn't a need to directly fight for the qualification test among humans.

The Strife Zones qualification test was actually done through a large-scale Mystic-type magic in conjunction with technology to help the recording and screening process.

Chen Wang grinned: "I'm just afraid you won't be clear about a few things and might lose your spot"

"That's right, back then Barry wanted to go into the Strife Zones; but no matter how many times he took the test for the Boxer Profession, he couldn't get the quota" Yun Ji chuckled.

Everyone exchanged glances and laughed out loud.

"What happened to him?" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask.

"His Profession was that of a Boxer, but during the tests, he didn't know he had to wear boxing gloves, so the test magic recognized him as not being in a state of battle, resulting in his battle score being only 30% of what it actually was, being at the very bottom of the barrel" the mechanical arm called Darkfire chuckled.

"...no one told him at all?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"The boxers were all competitors, why would they do that?"

"Not to mention, that man-child Barry was never someone patient enough to listen to the rules, he always went straight into the test every time"

"That's why it wasn't until he hit a growth spurt and was able to beat everyone else with just 30% of his strength that he qualified"

"His sister Kitty was much different, she passed right away on her first time"

"Yeah, now that you mention it, I only knew her true strength during the last war"

...

Gu Qing Shan looked at the 4 talkative Lords and understood.

They were worried he might make some mistakes during the qualification.

Bai Hua Fairy also noticed this and took the opportunity to ask something she was wondering: "Sir Chen Wang, are Lords such as yourself allotted any quotas?"

"You're asking about the Strife Zone quotas, right? Ahaha, of course not, otherwise if someone enters without being strong enough, wouldn't they just be heading to their own deaths?"

Big Bear added: "Not to mention, it isn't as simple for humans as it is for other species like us, there are easily several ten thousand Professions existing at once, so there's no way we would let a wizard go and compete for a quota with a bunch of boxers"

Darkfire continued: "If this wizard happens to actually steal a quota this way, then meets a boxer who knows about this in the Strife Zones and kills him out of spite, then it would be awkward"

They were all grinning as they discussed this as if they were talking about something that had already happened once before.

“That’s why everything will depend on your own strength, this is the fairest method, and also a way to protect the weaker bunch. After all, too many people die in the Strife Zones every day, weaklings won’t be able to survive—— as long as they aren’t idiots, no one would go to the Strife Zones just to die because they’re not strong enough”

Hearing that, Xie Dao Ling was relieved.

“I had thought that the qualification would be the same as the cultivation alliance, requiring relations for everything. If it’s a fair fight, then there won’t be any trouble for my disciple” she smiled and spoke.

While they were talking, the group had reached the Profession Committee.

Chapter 659

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

As soon as they came in, someone arrived to greet them.

A man wearing the department uniform came forward and respectfully bowed: “Sirs, did you bring someone here yourselves today?”

Chen Wang spoke: “Just some minor matters, help them process it quickly”

“No problem sir, we will do it immediately, please be assured” the man quickly replied.

Chen Wang patted him on the shoulder and smiled: “What a pleasant attitude, I see great things ahead for you!”

The man was surprised and quickly smiled: “It’s only my duty, it’s only my duty”

He then pulled out an ID card and pushed something in the void of space.

He spoke: “Now serving ticket number 117, I am the Profession Committee’s special affair commissioner No.2, please state your business and I will help you process it”

Xie Dao Ling replied: “I am the leader of the cultivation alliance, here to request the novice qualification test for cultivators to select members for the annual Strife Zones quota”

Hearing that, the man calmed down.

Seeing so many Lords coming at once, he had thought it would be some sort of serious business, so he personally came out to deal with it.

Who knew it would be such a simple matter.

“Very well, I’ll process it immediately”

Saying so, he took his ID card and swiped it in the void of space.

“Human Profession Encyclopedia— summon”

Clunk!

With a heavy dull sound, a hardback book about the size of a table landed in front of everyone.

The book was already as thick as half a person.

The man spoke apologetically: “My apologies, there are just too many human Professions, and we’re currently experiencing a constant growth rate of 17 new Professions per year, so this book is only becoming thicker and thicker”

“It’s fine, please help us process our request” Xie Dao Ling replied.

The man put his hand on the book and whispered: “Lady Darksea, a representative of the human cultivators has requested to conduct the novice qualification test for the Strife Zones”

「 I understand 」

A blue light came down from above, shining on the encyclopedia.

Following that, a majestic female voice came from the encyclopedia: 「 Cultivators, was it? Let me see... 」

The thick book began to turn by itself, flipping through the pages.

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Gu Qing Shan glanced at the book to see the names of countless Professions, including: Warlock, Card user, Dark Strider, Assassination Hunter, Knight, Summoner, Boxer, Saint Chanter, Evening Light Curer, God’s Waiter, Soul Blade, Shadow Life Weaver, Elemental Phazer, Spirit Composer, Bard, Psychic, Wild Beast Fusionist, Adventurer, Sea Lord, Barrier Master...

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask: “There are so many Professions here, what standard do you use to divide them?”

Chen Wang answered: “There are usually 2 main factors: the source of their power, and the direction that the world develops”

Yun Ji added: “That’s right, like how cultivators have their own smaller branches, but in the end all cultivators use spirit energy, and you all belong to the cultivation civilization as a whole, so it’s aggregated into a single Profession”

At this point, the book stopped turning.

「 Found it 」 the female voice spoke.

「 Currently, in the 900 million World Layers, there are a total of 19,560 cultivation-type worlds, to begin the qualification process, every cultivation world will need to select 3 novices before I start the screening process 」

“Did you bring the list?” the employee asked Xie Dao Ling.

Xie Dao Ling then took out a jade tag and gave it to him.

The employee put the jade tag onto the cover of the encyclopedia.

The majestic female voice came again: 「 A total of 58,680 people are on the list, please make sure all of them are currently on this world 」

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Xie Dao Ling solemnly answered: “All of the novices of the cultivation alliance are ready, they have all gathered within the 900 million World Layers alliance council’s world. They have also been notified of the rules of the qualification test”

The majestic female voice echoed: 「Very well, it seems the process will be very convenient this time, I will proceed with the cultivators’ novice qualification test in five minutes 」

“We will trouble you then, Lady Darksea” the employee spoke.

Chen Wang and the other Lords also spoke: “We’ve troubled you, Lady”

「 I am happy to do this, there is no need to be so polite 」 the female voice answered.

As soon as she said that, the blue light came off from the encyclopedia and attached itself onto Gu Qing Shan, Ning Yue Chan and Leng Tian Xing.

The light began to expand covering their entire body.

Bai Hua Fairy quickly told them: “Quickly don your equipment—— tools are also part of humanity’s strength, take out your weapons as well”

Ning Yue Chan quickly equipped her snow-white Yong Zhen General armor and put her hand on her Blade, wondering: “Something doesn’t seem right”

“What is it?”

Leng Tian Xing had also equipped his golden You Ji General armor, holding a fan in his hand.

“If someone has an especially powerful weapon as well as the best possible armor, wouldn’t that allow them to directly pass?” Ning Yue Chan asked.

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“That wouldn’t happen” the mechanical arm spoke: “Lady Darksea’s Mystic-type magic can tell the compatibility between a Professionalist and their equipment, the novices who borrow armor from others will be directly disqualified”

“As for weapons—— there were quite a few ridiculous novices who had extremely powerful Divine Armaments, but couldn’t even swing them once, this would naturally be unable to escape Lady Darksea’s eyes—— as she will observe this through your souls”

“Is Lady Darksea also a Lord-class Combatant?” Gu Qing Shan asked intrigued.

“Ah—— she isn’t” Chen Wang replied, “she’s a lot stronger than we are”

“Not to mention, she has lived for countless years already, being the novice qualification judge for the 900 million World Layers alliance is nothing but her hobby” Big Bear explained.

The employee also agreed: “Indeed, we’re glad that she is willing to help, otherwise we don’t know how much personnel we would need every time we conduct a qualification test like this”

While they were talking, Gu Qing Shan also took out his Shen Wei General armor.

The Shen Wei General armor was completely black, with the exception of a light golden mask

Gu Qing Shan lightly tapped the armor.

The armor components quickly scattered, circled around Gu Qing Shan and equipped themselves onto him.

Lastly, Gu Qing Shan put on the light golden mask.

Tiny strands of dark mist drifted about the armor, not like a burning black flame but rather like it was Gu Qing Shan’s aura itself, making him appear like a devil.

He took the Chao Yin sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword from the void of space, one each in his hands.

“With such an armor, I can be relieved and fight as much as I want in close combat”

Gu Qing Shan moved around a bit and happily said.

Xie Dao Ling was observing Gu Qing Shan closely: “This armor can help you absorb the scattered spirit essence that exists everywhere, as well as the ability to stop some curses and soul vessel attacks, the durability is also top-notch. It is the best possible armor we can currently create”

——the cultivation world’s level of Smithing had increased by several levels, far exceeding what they were able to achieve back then.

This armor was the equipment provided for the highest-ranking General in their military, it condensed all of the cultivation world’s best possible Smithing techniques into one.

「 It is time, the qualification test shall begin 」

Lady Darksea’s voice came again.

A few moments later, the blue light that covered Gu Qing Shan, Ning Yue Chan, and Leng Tian Xing radiated so brightly that it became blinding to look at.

The three of them disappeared on the spot.

“There, please wait for a few moments, the novice qualification tests are quite trivial for Lady Darksea, she should be done with it very soon” the employee respectfully told them

Xie Dao Ling and Chen Wang’s group all nodded.

Chapter 660

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

A sea of darkness.

Throughout the long years, nothing but silence has resided over this endless ocean.

Both the concept of time and space seemed to have disappeared.

In the darkness, everything was in chaos without any way to tell what was what.

All of a sudden, a total of 58,680 sprites of light lit up.

Each of these lights was a single cultivator.

The dim light came off from their body, illuminating the area around themselves.

Although the light was weak, it was enough in this sea of darkness to show their faces.

All of them had both their eyes closed as if they were in a trance that caused them to fall into a deep sleep.

Almost as soon as the 58,680 sprites of light appeared, the sea of darkness immediately reacted.

— as if someone blew their breath over the lights.

The shining lights were like candles in the wind, unable to handle the power and were quickly snuffed out in large numbers.

58,680 lights.

41,961 lights.

30,000 lights.

10,050 lights.

7,000 lights.

40 lights.

— 3 lights.

Soon enough, within the stifled sea of darkness, only three lights remained.

A female voice sounded surprised as it resounded from under the ocean.

「 Ah? The cultivation world has been weakened for so long, but they actually have three newcomers who managed to pass? How excellent... 」

「 ...let's check their identity, it had better not be those sneaky ones... 」

Following the voice, the three sprites of light became brighter, fully illuminating the cultivators inside. This translation is hosted for free at otaku.utl.blogs.pot.com, check the page for the fastest daily updates

The first was a young man who wore a set of crimson armor.

「 Hmm, a decent Martial Arts practitioner, his background is also clean, it can be seen that he's a veteran in battle, enough to survive in the Strife Zones 」

The female lightly blew.

The young man disappeared from the sea of darkness.

Following that, the second sprite of light became bright as excess spirit energy drifted from this cultivator's body.

—this was a female cultivator who wore a snow-white armor with a similarly colored Blade in her hand.

「 A female cultivator who uses the Blade? Clean background, and quite a rare one 」

「 Being so strong at such a young age, how interesting, you may test yourself in the Strife Zones 」

The female voice sounded joyful as she commented.

Ning Yue Chan's figure also disappeared from the sea of darkness.

The final sprite of light became bright and showed the cultivator inside.

—he wore a jet black suit of armor, with a sword in each hand and a mask to shield his face.

This was a sword cultivator.

Because of the armor, his appearance looked similar to a devil as he stood silently without moving in the sea of darkness.

The light from his body somewhat alleviated the darkness around himself.

The female voice didn't say anything yet.

But the ocean below had already changed in an unprecedented way.

The underwater currents of the ocean erupted, shooting from below to encircle the sword cultivator and formed an ever-expanding maelstrom.

The darkness faded.

—-the darkness that had been presiding over this world for who knows how long had completely disappeared.

The ocean showed off its original lustrous beautiful indigo color.

Right in the middle of the indigo ocean, the sword cultivator was staying absolutely still in the middle of the maelstrom.

Silently floating there.

All of a sudden, a feminine blue hand reached out from the ocean water.

This hand lightly touched the sword cultivator's mask and gently removed it.

The reflection of the sword cultivator's face appeared in the water, every detail of it was clearly displayed under the shining blue light from above.

A moment of pause.

The hand let go of the mask, allowing it to float in the water.

The feminine hand once again reached out and stroked the sword cultivator's face.

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The female voice finally spoke again.

「 To avoid being exposed, my true self couldn't do anything but wait here throughout the endlessly long years 」

「 I will provide you a disguise as a form of protection 」

「 You have to become stronger a lot faster... 」

「 Gu Qing Shan! 」

The mask was put back.

Oom—

The maelstrom became an intense tsunami.

It devoured Gu Qing Shan, swallowing him whole before he disappeared without a trace.

The indigo ocean quickly returned to the stifled sea of darkness from before.

The Dark Sea once again became calm.

Silence resided over this world.

As if nothing ever happened in the first place.

The 900 million World Layers alliance world.

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The Profession Committee.

Chen Wang and the rest of them have been waiting there for a while.

“It seems a bit slower than normal, doesn't it?” Chen Wang commented.

The employee answered him: “This means that there might have been a cultivator who drew Lady Darksea's attention, sir”

“What kind of situation would draw Lady Darksea's attention?” Xie Dao Ling asked.

She couldn't not care, as the three people she specifically brought here this time were all selected by her.

Including Gu Qing Shan.

“Relax, that's a good thing” Yun Ji told her.

The employee also smiled: “Indeed, only the most excellent newcomers will draw Lady Darksea's attention as she will observe those newcomers for a bit longer than normal”

“Aside from that, Lady Darksea will also personally check the newcomer’s background, if there were any problems, we will be notified immediately”

Three blue lights appeared.

Gu Qing Shan, Ning Yue Chan, and Leng Tian Xing had returned.

They each had a number card in their hands.

Leng Tian Xing’s card was [5], Ning Yue Chan’s was [2], while Gu Qing Shan was [1].

The difference was that Leng Tian Xing’s number card was grey, while Gu Qing Shan’s and Ning Yue Chan’s cards were glowing in a faint light.

Seeing that, Chen Wang instantly grinned.

“Ahahaha, Qing Shan really did get first place, I knew it, someone Barry recognized couldn’t possibly be an under-achiever” he loudly laughed.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised as he looked at his number card.

— I haven’t even done anything yet, why is the qualification process already over?

What happened just now?

Apparently, a lady said something to me just now?

But I can’t remember anything about her, even the impression of meeting her was blurred.

What did she tell me exactly?

Gu Qing Shan tried to recall.

Bai Hua Fairy looked at Leng Tian Xing and told him: “Do not be dispirited, you ranked 5th among everyone, you only need to try a bit harder and you’ll definitely succeed next time”

Leng Tian Xing smiled bitterly, feeling both frustration and joy.

Frustration because he didn’t get selected.

Joy because he didn’t think that he would be able to take 5th place among so many people of every cultivation world.

Ning Yue Chan glanced at her [2] card, then at Gu Qing Shan’s [1] card and instinctively wanted to reach for her Blade, but quickly gave up on the idea as she recalled where she was.

Now that I think about it, I’ve never truly fought against him...

Ning Yue Chan silently thought.

A sheet of paper lightly appeared and landed on the Human Profession Encyclopedia.

The employee respectfully took the paper in hand and bowed: “Thank you, Lady Darksea”

Chen Wang crossed his arms: “You don’t need to thank her, after finishing the qualification test, she didn’t return here”

The employee smiled, a bit embarrassed as he held the paper up and read it aloud: "This year's annual newcomer qualification test for cultivators is finished"

"A total of three newcomers have reached the standard to enter the Strife Zones, in order, they are:"

"Gu Shang Yun, third place, Ninth Cryptic World, Martial cultivator, newcomer, clean background"

"Ning Yue Chan, second place, Shen Wu world, Bladesman, newcomer, clean background"

"Gu Qing Shan, first place, Shen Wu world, sword cultivator, Returnee"

As everyone heard that, their gazes all fell on Gu Qing Shan.

"So you're a Returnee, huh, Barry and Kitty's eyes truly are sharp to be able to choose such a person" the mechanical arm spoke in surprise.

Yun Ji also chuckled: "And here I was thinking of whether or not to tease this innocent youngster a bit, turns out he was a Returnee huh"

Gu Qing Shan also heard what was read.

He asked in confusion: "What's a Returnee?"

Chapter 661

Before Gu Qing Shan asked this question, the entire area around had already become silent.

The document on the hand of the staff member unfolded itself again.

This document gave off a faint membrane that quickly encased him, the Lords, Xie Dao Ling, and the novices all at once.

The noisy Profession Committee was blocked out.

The staff member cleared his throat and spoke: "According to the 900 million World Layers alliance's 5th Accord, 4th article, 77th section, the identity of all Returnees must be kept confidential, they are also to receive a certain level of support and aid"

"Please make a soul vow with this agreement of confidentiality"

The staff member offered the agreement to Chen Wang and spoke: "Sir, please follow the procedures as well"

"Of course, that's natural" Chen Wang casually pressed his finger to the document as he spoke.

The other 3 Lords also followed.

After them, Xie Dao Ling, Ning Yue Chan, and Leng Tian Xing all had to press their fingers on the document once.

The staff member carefully put the document away before calming down.

He then spoke to Gu Qing Shan: "Now, I will officially explain your identity for you"

"Please go ahead" Gu Qing Shan replied.

When the staff member was about to speak, Chen Wang stopped him.

“It’s fine, everyone here has already signed the agreement of confidentiality” Chen Wang spoke with a smile that wasn’t smiling, “no need to use those official non-explanations, after all, even if you manage to fool him with the scripted excuses, we’ll still tell him the truth after this”

The staff member smiled bitterly and shut up.

Chen Wang crossed his arms and asked Gu Qing Shan: “Do you know about the story of the Old Gods creating the worlds?”

“A little bit” Gu Qing Shan honestly answered.

Chen Wang continued: “Before the Old Gods created the infinite worlds, there were already a few unique worlds that existed—— after all, even the Old Gods didn’t appear out of nowhere, they also had places where they lived and rested”

“Those worlds were called God’s Territories, besides the Old Gods themselves, only a few exceptionally talented and beloved Combatants would receive the guidance of the Old Gods to come to those worlds and continue to live and thrive under their protection”

“These Combatants weren’t descendants of the Old Gods, but due to their excellence and talents, while living in the exceptional conditions of God’s Territories, they slowly became stronger and stronger, growing vastly beyond the imagination of normal people”

“At the time, God’s Territories and the 900 million World Layers were interconnected, so as long as the Old Gods allowed it, everyone was able to travel to and from God’s worlds and their own worlds”

“Only after the Apocalypse came and the Old Gods disappeared were those worlds cut off from ours”

“The people living in those worlds were unable to leave, and outsiders were unable to enter”

“The citizens of those worlds could have simply stayed there and lived a good life avoiding the Apocalypse”

“But a few selected people were able to observe the 900 million World Layers through unique means, they saw how the 900 million World Layers was being ravaged by calamities, billions of worlds destroyed one by one as the people suffered to no end”

“They were born differently”

“Some of them felt that there was no need to care about what happened to the outside world, as long as they could stay in their God’s Territory and live happily for the rest of their lives”

“Others felt that they couldn’t keep going like this. They believe that one day even a God’s Territory wouldn’t be safe anymore, and there were people and things that they cared about in the outside world”

“So they wanted to leave the worlds of the Old Gods, they wanted to join us in the 900 million World Layers and fight against the Apocalypse”

“But God’s Territories were now completely cut off, besides from the Old Gods themselves, no one would be able to reopen the path that would allow travel back into the 900 million World Layers again”

“Until one day, a peerless genius thought of a solution”

“That is soul reincarnation. By having their souls leave their bodies, they will be able to travel to the 900 million World Layers and find a place to live once more—— only then, can they leave a God’s Territory”

“The downside of this is that a reincarnated soul’s memories will be temporarily sealed, their powers will also be completely discarded, leaving a fresh soul to be reborn somewhere among the 900 million World Layers”

“A person who underwent soul reincarnation will more or less have a few unique characteristics. For

example, due to their own wishes and having prepared beforehand, they will be able to travel between one or two selected worlds at will, or perhaps they wield a powerful Soul Artifact only usable by themselves or manifest the same unique talents that the Old Gods took notice in, there were also rare cases where they can immediately awaken their sealed memories after being reborn!”

“We call these people who reincarnated from God’s Territories, Returnees”

“As they mature, they will quickly enter a growth spurt and become rapidly stronger”

“Returnees are people who willingly gave up a life of peace inside the world of the Gods to enter the 900 million World Layers and help us. They are trustworthy to us and are our most powerful allies”

“In other words, the 900 million World Layers welcomes all Returnees!”

Wang Chen smiled as he looked at Gu Qing Shan.

His gaze was no longer that of a senior looking at a friend’s protégé, but rather one that looked at someone at the same level.

The other Lords were the same.

Gu Qing Shan doubtfully looked at Bai Hua Fairy.

Earlier, Bai Hua Fairy had wanted to tell him about the Returnees, but because of other disciples being there, she decided against it and talked about something else.

Bai Hua Fairy nodded.

“Indeed, Qing Shan, you might have been a Returnee with strong connections to Shen Wu world” Xie Dao Ling answered him.

—originally, the cultivation world didn’t have a name, only after fusing Shen Wu world did everyone notice that they needed a name to call and distinguish themselves from other worlds.

So the cultivators quickly decided to just not change anything and call the post-fusion world ‘Shen Wu world’ as well.

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to Chen Wang and Bai Hua Fairy’s explanations as he took a deep breath.

This isn’t right.

I know for a fact that I returned from dying in battle in the past life, so why do they assume that I’m a Returnee?

Lady Darksea was the one who checked and arrived at this conclusion, so could she have been wrong? She was supposedly someone even more powerful than Chen Wang and the other Lords, so she wouldn’t make a mistake.

But I clearly remember my past life.

I know for a fact that I’ve never lived in any world of the Gods!

...right.

During the qualification test, I think I heard a female voice speaking to me.

Who was that? Was it Lady Darksea?

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but touch the sword at his hip.

— the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

Shannu is immune to any Law.

Perhaps Shannu saw what happened to me earlier.

But now isn't the time for that, I'll ask Shannu when I'm alone.

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Even when Gu Qing Shan was full of doubts, he didn't express any of that on his face, only showing a slightly surprised look.

His attitude and expression matched how a person would react to being told what he was told.

"Very well" the staff member spoke, "everyone has signed the agreement of confidentiality, Gu Qing Shan's personal records will be upgraded to be a confidential file that normal people wouldn't be able to read"

He took out three tarot cards, gave one each to Gu Qing Shan, and Ning Yue Chan, then threw the last one into the void of space.

"The three novices have all received a novice card. The novice qualification test for cultivators have been officially concluded"

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The staff member told Xie Dao Ling's group.

He then turned and bowed towards Chen Wang: "Sir, if there is nothing else, I will excuse myself"

"Ah, go ahead, you've done your job well" Chen Wang grinned.

"—but how do we use this card?" Ning Yue Chan asked in confusion.

"Simply say your name, that card will bring you across billions of worlds directly to the Strife Zone's border outpost" the staff member explained.

"Just this card alone?" Ning Yue Chan spoke in disbelief.

"Indeed, the border outpost itself is a Super Dimensional world that belongs to the 900 million World Layers alliance, it is linked with these cards"

"You must report there in one hour" the staff member told her.

Yun Ji looked at Ning Yue Chan and said: "Ah— little girl, I quite like the look in your eyes, so I'll give you some advice"

"Please do, senior" Ning Yue Chan respectfully clasped her fist.

"Do not look down on cards, and definitely do not look down on card users, otherwise you will be cursing yourself and regret your contempt" Yun Ji told her.

Perhaps recalling something, Chen Wang added: "You should also take some distance from card users, they're normally always extremely narcissistic and insane"

“Furthermore, they always do things that feel right from their own perspectives without consideration for others” the mechanical arm also added.

“After they do all of that, they will also praise themselves for perfectly accounting everything for you, but trust me, you will hate them for doing what they did” Big Bear immediately followed up and concluded.

The four Lords all exchanged clear looks of empathy as they said all that.

“...” Ning Yue Chan.

“This humble one... will keep that in mind” she clasped her fist.

Seeing how the four Lords advised her at once, they all must’ve gone through something traumatizing.

For Lord-class Combatants to feel wary to this degree, Ning Yue Chan would definitely not forget their advice.

Card users.

I will definitely be on look out for any card users!

Gu Qing Shan looked at his Shifu, then at the Lords and told them: “Then, we will be going now”

Xie Dao Ling carefully advised him: “Hm, remember to look out for yourself from now on, if there are any dangers, remember to run away. Do not forget, in a danger zone like the Strife Zones, retreating isn’t anything to be ashamed of”

“Your master is right” Chen Wang patted him on the shoulder: “Even though you are a Returnee, you still haven’t regained your memories yet, so make sure to be careful, you will lose everything if you die”

The other Lords also nodded at him.

Yun Ji even added: “In the worst case scenario, just use the Void String that Kitty gave you to return to the Iron Fist Club”

“There are no deserters in our Iron Fist Club” Gu Qing Shan puffed out his chest and spoke.

“Do you not intend to run away even in the face of certain death?” Yun Ji questioned.

Gu Qing Shan spoke with a stern expression: “Of course I will not— unless the Club has something urgent that requires me to quickly deal with, in which case I will return”

Chen Wang praised: “Never mind your strength, your shamelessness is already on par with Barry”

Gu Qing Shan just smiled, then looked at Ning Yue Chan.

Ning Yue Chan nodded.

They both raised the cards in their hands.

“Ning Yue Chan” Ning Yue Chan whispered.

“Gu Qing Shan” Gu Qing Shan whispered.

The cards turned into a flash of light, covered each of them, and disappeared from the Profession Committee in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 662

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The 900 million World Layers alliance world.

In the long corridor outside the Profession Committee.

Xie Dao Ling and Leng Tian Xing both bowed to the Lords: "We will also excuse ourselves"

"Alright, farewell" Chen Wang smiled and waved.

"Please wait a moment" Yun Ji spoke.

"Is there something else?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

"What will you be doing next?" Yun Ji asked her.

"I will bring him back, then go to the cultivation alliance for some official business"

"What business specifically?" Yun Ji asked further.

"I will be having a meeting with the alliance's council to see whether or not we should form a party to scout the Demon Nation, or declare a small-scale war to probe them"

Xie Dao Ling felt a bit confused.

Why would a Lord be interested in personal matters like these.

Yun Ji reached her hand out from under her cloak.

She was holding a plush doll in her hand as she offered it to Xie Dao Ling.

This was a very life-like doll, an exact copy of Xie Dao Ling herself.

Xie Dao Ling looked at the doll, then at Yun Ji.

After Gu Qing Shan left, Yun Ji had put her hood up again, hiding inside her robe without letting anyone see her expression.

Right now, she appeared a lot more mysterious and noble, perhaps even a bit indescribably eerie.

Chen Wang glanced at Yun Ji, then at Xie Dao Ling.

"If she's giving it to you then take it, quite a few people couldn't get one even if they wanted to" Chen Wang advised her with a friendly tone.

Xie Dao Ling hesitantly accepted the doll.

She tied the doll to her waist then thanked her.

Yun Ji explained: "Your powers are currently accumulating, preparing to break through an ultimate threshold of human potential, one day, you will definitely become one of us"

"At this crucial point in time, you shouldn't go anywhere, stay home, seclude yourself and cultivate, you will soon attain a completely different life"

"Thank you for your words, but is this plush doll somehow related to your advice?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

"Of course it's related" Yun Ji answered.

Then she chanted something.

The doll stood up, climbed onto Xie Dao Ling's hand and spoke in an infantile tone: "A little girl should make sure to protect herself"

Following this voice, Xie Dao Ling's body began to change.

She slowly shrank, her skin became whiter, both her arms and legs became shorter as her originally imposing atmosphere went away.

She just transformed into an 8-9 years old little girl!

"What is this!?"

Xie Dao Ling's voice contained a bit of anxiety, but more so it had an immaturity of a little girl that sounded young and cute.

She quickly raised one hand, preparing to cast her spells and got ready for battle at any time.

Intense spirit energy erupted from her body, drifting about as she was ready to infuse it into her hand seals, but——

No matter what, she appeared so cute that she couldn't display an imposing manner no matter how hard she tried.

"It's fine, this will only turn you into your younger form temporarily, it's beneficial for you" Chen Wang explained.

Xie Dao Ling glanced at him, then at Yun Ji hidden who was under her robe.

She suddenly let go of her hand seals and helplessly sighed: "Even though I still don't understand what's going on, I can feel your goodwill"

Xie Dao Ling held the plush doll close as she spoke in a helpless but serious manner, no matter how you looked at her, you'd see a sulking angel of a loli.

Yun Ji finally spoke again: "As you break through that threshold, the disturbance at the time will surely bring the attention of countless sides, many organizations will attempt at any cost to obtain a new Combatant who has no backing like yourself"

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Big Bear also added to the explanation: "Perhaps some of the methods will be to flatter you and offer peaceful conditions, but some others will contain hidden, undetectable means. At worst, some dark

organizations would have already paid attention to you and spare no unsavory method that others spit on in order to gain your allegiance”

“This is why you should bring this plush doll with you— she will help you conceal yourself within a fog of fate, as long as she is with you, when you breakthrough, no organizations or forces will be able to find your world or you”

“But this Mystic-type magic does have a side effect. That is it will temporarily put you back into your child state”

“—alright, we’ve told you what you needed to know, return to your world and do not go anywhere until you successfully breakthrough and stabilise your cultivation”

Xie Dao Ling seriously listened to the explanation and was about to ask something else when someone tapped her on the shoulder.

It was Yun Ji.

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Yun Ji had appeared directly in front of her without notice and gave her a light tap.

Xie Dao Ling instantly disappeared from the 900 million World Layers alliance world.

Chen Wang also came forward and smiled as he patted Leng Tian Xing’s shoulder: “Don’t feel dejected, you just have to try harder”

Leng Tian Xing also disappeared.

He was also sent back to Shen Wu world.

The mechanical arm that has been staying silent all this time finally muttered: “Boring mysticism”

“Mysticism isn’t boring— not to mention, isn’t turning the maturing leader of a cultivation civilization back into an 8-9 years old girl interesting?” Chen Wang grinned and said.

But he also turned to Yun Ji and spoke seriously: “Something seems off with you today”

“Hm, I just purely want to protect her, since I can already smell the stench of death” Yun Ji answered.

“So she could die?” the mechanical arm asked, intrigued.

Yun Ji replied: “Not her, us”

“Us?” Big Bear couldn’t believe his ears.

“Yes, a certain event is currently heading towards us, one that will likely cause us to lose our lives. To prevent her not having anyone on our side to protect her as she breaks through, I’m just giving her a hand ahead of time” Yun Ji told them.

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As soon as she said that, a loud, constant noise began to ring.

The rhythmic alarm echoed across the entire 900 million World Layers alliance world.

“High alert?” Chen Wang was shocked.

“You’re kidding! A high alert means all departments must stop what they’re doing and get ready for battle— what exactly happened!?” Big Bear roared.

They all had a sudden surprised expression, then pulled out a newspaper from their pockets.

Words and pictures began to fill the empty newspaper.

The picture on the front page was an automatic machine gun.

It was unknown what the gun had gone through, but it was almost completely broken, the gun grip was shattered and broken, the gun muzzle horribly bent with various parts and components scattered all over the ground.

The headline of the front page contained only 2 lines

[The Spire’s God Institute scout team was completely wiped out!]

[Before I die, I must issue one final warning: This is the most terrifying, most dangerous creature in the 900 million World Layers, we must destroy it immediately! Immediately!]

As they read the news, they were unable to process it.

As Lord-class Combatants, they have all been through a lot, but now an invisible air of sorrow drifted around them.

“Automatic machine gun is dead” Chen Wang muttered.

“He died, this is unbelievable, even as strong as he was, he still died” the mechanical arm was stunned.

Above them, a resounding female voice echoed across the 900 million World Layers alliance world.

[Attention all personnel]

[Attention all personnel]

[War is coming]

[God Institute had dislodged from its original location, currently heading towards the direction of the 27 World Layers Southward from our location]

[All personnel prepare for battle]

[I repeat, all personnel prepare for battle!]

The 4 Lords silently listened.

“Lady Darksea herself is issuing the warning seems like the situation really is urgent”

“27 World Layers Southward from us— what was over there that’s so close?” the mechanical arm wondered.

“The Spire Keeper Association headquarters” Chen Wang replied.

Two staff members ran towards them.

“Sirs, the top brass emergency meeting is about to begin, please participate” they spoke respectfully.

“Very well, get the others, we’ll be there right away” Chen Wang spoke.

“Understood!”

The two staff members left.

Now that it was silent around them, Chen Wang turned to look at Yun Ji with a serious expression unlike anything before.

He asked with a low and broken tone: “O’ Lord of the mist, she who shelters the mystical fate, Forecaster of all World Calamity, esteemed lady Serena, I solemnly ask you and the secrets you protect, whether or not we have a hope of survival among death?”

Yun Ji’s body suddenly disappeared completely under her robe, instead replaced by a surge of sudden dark fog.

When Chen Wang uttered the words ‘solemnly ask’, two voices answered him from under the robe.

One voice was cold and indifferent, the other was Yun Ji’s original voice as they spoke in near-unison.

『 “Fate was never under our control, no one can stop the fury of its rage, the only path to survival is to stay away from it” 』

Chapter 663

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The post-fusion Shen Wu world.

Bai Hua hall.

Xie Dao Ling was sitting on her Throne of Ten thousand Flowers.

— at the moment because of the change in her height, she wasn’t able to lean comfortably on the throne as she used to do. She had to scoot in a bit more in order to lean on it comfortably.

Both her legs were now off the ground, dangling in the air.

She couldn’t do anything but leave them that way.

An immature female voice resounded inside the hall.

“This really is— very irritating”

Carefully thinking about recent events, Xie Dao Ling felt both helpless and cautious.

Considering the Lords’ words from before, she had concluded with her instincts that she should seriously think about what Yun Ji said.

“Do not... go out, huh?”

Xie Dao Ling mumbled.

She put the plush doll down next to herself and took out a turtle shell.

The 6 arts of cultivation included: Divination, Formation, Smithing, Alchemy, Talisman, Cooking. (TN: Alchemy was previously translated as Pill-making)

Among them, Divination was able to predict good and bad luck, sneaking a look into the future, the deepest and most mysterious of them all.

From when she was still a Sainted realm cultivator, Xie Dao Ling was already an expert in Divination, now that her cultivation had increased, it only deepened her understanding of the worlds Laws.

Her Divination expertise had greatly improved compared to before.

A small light appeared at the tip of her finger as she quickly wrote a few words onto the shell.

[Hidden Dragon, waiting to pounce]

When the light had formed into those words, Xie Dao Ling reached out her now-tiny arm, raising the shell upwards and uttered: "Burn!"

Intense flames emerged from her hand, burning the turtle shell.

In just a few moments, the shell began to give off sizzling sounds.

After a few more moments, when the shell was thoroughly charred without any other changes, the flames died out.

Xie Dao Ling put the shell in front of herself and began to carefully inspect it.

The shell was now cracked all over from being burnt, many places were already so loose they could break off at any time.

The only place that wasn't even charred was where she had written [Hidden Dragon, waiting to pounce]

Xie Dao Ling muttered: "Travel is not beneficial and unfortunate, only staying put is beneficial... seems like I really shouldn't go anywhere"

She put the shell away, glanced at the plush doll next to her and couldn't help but sigh.

"So they were really thinking about my safety"

"Very well, I'll stay right here and cultivate until I breakthrough"

Putting the plush doll into her chest, Bai Hua Fairy sat neatly on her throne, closed her eyes and began to cultivate.

A few moments of silence.

Hurried footsteps could be heard.

As her meditative state was interrupted, Xie Dao Ling scowled as she opened her eyes.

To see that Qin Xiao Lou had brought Xiuxiu, both standing at the gate of the hall.

Bai Hua Fairy was about to speak, but then recalled her current state.

—how should I explain this current form of mine?

While she was hesitating, Qin Xiao Lou had already loudly questioned her: “Who is this little girl? You dare to sit on the Throne of Ten thousand Flowers? Are you tired of living?”

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Bai Hua Fairy sighed and explained: “Xiao Lou, I am your Shifu”

Her expression was as stern as always, but due to her small stature, a stern appearance instead turned into one of cute false bravado.

“Ahahahaha, you claim to be Shifu?” Qin Xiao Lou loudly laughed.

He had already assumed that this little girl must be someone brought along with from a big wig of another cultivation world who came to meet Shifu.

Xiao Lou then pulled up his sleeves and acted intimidating: “Don’t you dare act cute, get down from that throne right now, otherwise, this uncle is going to show you why I’m called the tickle master!”

Bai Hua Fairy scowled as an imposing air—

—did not actually appear on her body, her appearance right now was simply too young, so besides acting cute as if she was sulking, there was absolutely nothing else she could show.

This, in turn, caused Xie Dao Ling to become even more irritated.

“Uncle? Tickle master? Why do I have an idiot of a disciple like you?”

As she spoke, her hands began to form a hand seal.

Not long after, a desperate scream could be heard from the hall.

...

On another side.

While the 4 Lords were reading the news.

Gu Qing Shan was also reading from a newspaper.

“The automatic machine gun died...”

He muttered to himself.

For the moment, he was unable to process that information.

Such a powerhouse simply died without anyone even knowing the cause.

Just what kind of creature is that ‘thing’ hiding inside God Institute?

While he was thinking, a female voice asked him.

“What are you reading? I can’t understand a single word”

Ning Yue Chan was feeling a bit helpless.

This emotion was something that she very rarely had.

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Ever since arriving here to this foreign place, she noticed that she didn't understand the words other people spoke or even the signboards of the various shops around here, not a single bit.

Thanks to her sharp observation, she noticed that the signs weren't using the same language.

Quite a few people also weren't speaking the same language as they conversed as well.

But before coming here, the sect only prepared for her the three most common languages.

Her sect had already done everything it could.

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Gu Qing Shan put the newspaper away and consoled her: "It's ok, now that we're here, we'll deal with the problem of your language barrier first"

"How did you deal with it before?" Ning Yue Chan asked.

"I was friends with a certain organization, they helped me" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Then what about me?"

"Don't worry, I'll think of something"

Saying that, Gu Qing Shan took out a map.

—this was the outpost's map, detailing the various buildings and areas of this world.

The border outpost was the Super Dimensional world closest to the Strife Zones, so it had been responsible for being a hub for transporting personnel into the Strife Zones for countless years.

Anyone who entered the Strife Zones would have to stop here for a short period of time.

Which was why, after so many years of development, this world had become unimaginably prosperous. It looked nothing like a military outpost, instead it looked more like a bustling trading port.

"Found it, we can head 2 squares in that direction, there should be a few bookstores there" Gu Qing Shan put the map away and said.

Ning Yue Chan nodded and walked together with him.

Various novices of all shapes and sizes walked the streets, a few of them had really strange appearances that took Ning Yue Chan's attention.

"Look at him, why are his teeth so long?" she silently sent her voice.

"Ah, that's a Combatant from the Mammoth clan"

"He's a monster?"

"Indeed, the reason why he took human form is because his original form was too big to conveniently move around this place, another reason was because the Old God's appearance was supposedly exactly

the same as humans, so races of the infinite worlds tacitly agree to use the human form as a common appearance to make communication easier”

“You mean—— a lot of the guys here aren’t actually human?”

“Yup, you scared?”

“How interesting” Ning Yue Chan giggled.

At this time, a man covered from head to toe in black fur walked by Gu Qing Shan and whispered to him: “I overheard your conversation, this novice lass is quite a fine one, how about you sell her to me?”

“Not for sale” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The man looked at Gu Qing Shan a bit, pulled out a small device and checked the data on it before grumbling and left.

“I’m sure that from this point onwards, as long as there’s a reasonable cause, there’s no rule against killing right?” Ning Yue Chan suddenly asked.

“You can understand what he said?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

“I don’t, but I can feel the ill will from his eyes. Just look, he’s already turned his back to us, can I pursue and take his head?” Ning Yue Chan replied.

While she was talking, she was already prepared to draw her Blade.

Gu Qing Shan wiped the cold sweat off his forehead, pulled her hand back, and quickly persuaded her.

“We still haven’t entered the Strife Zones, there’s still time for that after we go in”

“No need to pay attention to garbage like him”

“——How regretful that Leng Tian Xing isn’t here, otherwise our little stroll would’ve been a lot more fun”

“Him” Gu Qing Shan’s efforts to change the subject finally caught Ning Yue Chan’s attention as she smiled: “I think it was better that he isn’t here”

“Why not?”

“He already found a Dao companion, his child should be born soon as well”

“What!?” Gu Qing Shan exclaimed.

“You didn’t expect that huh? His Dao companion is Xia Zong sect’s Li Xiao Yu”

“Ah, one of the female cultivators in the Shenyu Luoyan duo huh” (TN: a pun from ch244, means beautiful woman)

“You know her?”

“Qin Xiao Lou was quite envious of their combo name, so much that he tried to form the Qing Lou combo with me” (TN: another pun from ch244, means brothel)

Ning Yue Chan laughed.

After laughing, she spoke: “Li Xiao Yu was a beauty famous across the land, the fact that Leng Tian Xing managed to become her Dao companion also benefited his cultivation”

“Why do you say that?”

“His natural Element was Water, growing mostly towards the frost, so he’s naturally a cold person, but with Li Xiao Yu, he couldn’t stay cold”

“I remember one time when Leng Tian Xing and I were leading troops to eliminate a group of evil beasts that remained on Shen Wu world, Li Xiao Yu suddenly sent him a communication talisman saying that she wanted to try his personal cooking skills”

“And then?”

“After a short pause, he replied with ‘alright’”

“And did he really leave?”

“At the time, the elimination was already basically done, so he asked me to take over the rest while he quickly rushed back to cook a meal”

Ning Yue Chan shook her head: “I will probably never forget his awkward expression at the time”

At this point, they reached their destination.

There were a total of four bookstores on this street.

Gu Qing Shan immediately saw an acquaintance.

Behind the counter of the Spire Keeper Association’s bookstore, a worried old man was sitting there.

The same old man who took him to Aboul.

“Ah? It’s you? Dear friend, it has been a long time”

The old man barely squeezed out a smile as he saw him.

“It has, I brought a friend here to buy a language book” Gu Qing Shan told him.

Chapter 664

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

“Have you seen the latest news?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“How could I have not? The current situation is no longer one where it’s a simple loss of personnel anymore” the old man showed a bitter expression.

“Did something else happen?” Gu Qing Shan became more cautious.

“The World Layer where God Institute was situated suddenly broke out from the restraints of space and is heading straight towards our Spire Keeper Association headquarters” the old man said.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the old man again.

The old man waved his hand helplessly and explained: "It's quite far apart, so it'll be at least a few hours until the two worlds clash, after finishing your business here, I will have to close shop and return"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "I'm sorry to hear that, unfortunately I'm still too weak to help"

"I'm grateful for your thoughts" the old man seemed a bit less tense: "Our World Layer is very close to the 900 million World Layers alliance, so various Combatants of the 900 million World Layers will surely come to help"

"Well, I'll buy what I need so that I won't leave you preoccupied"

Gu Qing Shan explained: "This is the first time my friend came into the 900 million World Layers, so please give her a spell or magic that can immediately let her learn the various languages of the infinite worlds"

"You're going into the Strife Zones correct?"

"Yes, we'll be going in 1 hour"

"Then there won't be time to slowly learn, you will have to use the most expensive one"

The old man took down a small book from the shelf.

"This book will allow you to immediately learn about 3000 common languages, but it's also quite pricey. As you are an esteemed friend of our association, I can give you a discount"

"How much?"

"Only 99%" (1)

"Can't you go a bit lower?"

"This is already the highest discount, sir, I really can't go any lower"

"An excellent discount! I'm extremely grateful! Then— please put it on my tab, the Justice Iron Fist Club, Gu Qing Shan"

"..."

The old man's expression turned sorrowful.

He waited for a bit, then suddenly spoke: "Wait! You only intend for your friend here to use it once, correct?"

"Yes"

"Then you didn't need to buy such an expensive book in the first place"

"What should I do then?"

"I remembered we once gave you a white-cover book"

"That is true, but the book was supposed to be only for one person to use"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the book.

The old man took it, stroked the book's cover as he chanted an incantation.

"There, I have given you another single-use quota, you can now give your friend this book and have her quickly learn the languages on it"

"Do I have to pay for it?"

"You are our esteemed friend, if everything needs to be paid for, then that would be too petty of us"

"How generous of you! I really don't know how to thank you"

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"There is no need to, please take a look, there are three other bookstores on this street, the best way to thank me is simply to visit their stores the next time you need something"

"Ah, understood, farewell then"

"Farewell, hope to see you— erm— again in another store"

The old man sent them off and quickly closed the door with a 'bang'.

Gu Qing Shan brought Ning Yue Chan outside.

He then gave her the white cover book.

"What should I do?" Ning Yue Chan asked.

"Simply hold it in your hand, it will teach you the languages of each world— since there are too many languages in the 900 million World Layers, you'll probably need around 100 breaths' worth of time to understand a few billion of them"

"..." Ning Yue Chan.

She held the book close to her chest.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and told her: "Don't throw the book away after you're done, I can probably use it again to help others learn languages"

"Got it, but you didn't seem to have paid for it earlier, did you?" Ning Yue Chan asked.

"My name is money" Gu Qing Shan answered her.

Ning Yue Chan stared at him with eyes wide open, a clear look of being impressed.

Gu Qing Shan walked ahead as he muttered under his breath: "Ah, yep, this is the first time I've attempted this... it really does leave a lingering taste in one's mouth"

They quickly arrived at the outpost gate.

The process was simple.

A military personnel at the registration table took their cards, stamped each of them and gave it back.

Once he was done, the man offered them a small green card and asked in a low voice: "I can arrange for novices to get a small advantage here, you want to buy it?"

"You can provide arrangement services in the Strife Zones? Does that mean a novice can immediately carry the [Order] right here?" Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

Seeing him intrigued, the man patiently explained: "The Strife Zones consist of 200 million World Layers, so of course we don't have the ability to do that, but we're very familiar with the novice's first zone. We know which zones have more Black Demon Goats and which zones would it be easiest to kill Black Demon Goats, so we can directly transport you to those zones!"

Black Demon Goats were the weakest kind of mob in the Strife Zones, one that commonly appears in the First Zone – the so-called beginner's area.

Only through killing Black Demon Goats could you get the attention of the [Order] and become one of its envoys.

——the [Order] here was one created by the Old Gods, not only did it not harm living beings, it could even help them evolve and grow.

Of course, the catch was that—— you have to get it interested in you first.

As a beginner, the easiest way to do that was killing large amounts of Black Demon Goats.

The more you kill, the easier it was to get the [Order] to notice you.

The man whispered again: "This is the best shortcut to make it through the First Zone, you want it?"

Gu Qing Shan also whispered: "I didn't bring any money, so can you put it on a tab?"

The man looked at Gu Qing Shan with eyes of admiration.

To put it on a tab...

This youngster has quite the future.

After thinking for a bit, the man nodded: "If your organization's credit score is decent, it's not impossible"

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"That's great, I'm a member of the Justice Iron Fist Club, my name is——"

Justice Iron Fist Club!

As soon as he heard that, the man couldn't help but tremble a bit.

He cut off Gu Qing Shan's words and sternly told him: "We won't accept any bribes or sell you any information here, this is an important measure to ensure fair competition"

He righteously waved his hand to urge them to quickly go through the gate.

The two of them went through and entered the waiting room.

All sorts of humanoid creatures of all shapes and sizes were sitting here, each of them with a green card in their hand.

With this green card, they ensured to be warped to areas where it was easiest to kill Black Demon Goats.

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They glanced at Gu Qing Shan and Ning Yue Chan to see that they didn't have a green card and smirked.

"A couple of poor bastards"

"How dumb, unable to take such a simple opportunity"

"Stop talking, let them slowly enjoy their stay at the First Zone"

"Ahaha, why do you care, we're going to pass through soon enough anyway"

"Don't mind them, let those hard-headed types do what they like, there's no point in paying attention to those"

These creatures of various races discussed among themselves.

Gu Qing Shan led Ning Yue Chan to sit down in a corner.

"It seems you angered that staff member just now" Ning Yue Chan commented.

"Hm, he didn't want to put me on a tab" Gu Qing Shan regretfully spoke.

"I could understand what you were saying— so we just won't get an advantage when we go in right?"

"In the beginning, yeah. The Strife Zones isn't a place that a person or group can control, so all they could do is provide a small advantage at the start" Gu Qing Shan answered her.

Across from him, a completely green man loudly scoffed: "A small advantage? You really don't know how many fools are stuck at the First Zone for 7-8 years straight without being able to get out?"

His friend quickly: "Stop, he's also one of those fools"

Laughter echoed across the whole room.

"Shut up!" a loud voice shouted.

The entire waiting room went silent.

A staff member then came forward and checked the cards in their hands.

He pointed to some of them.

"You, you, and all of you over there; follow me, your warp point is ready"

Those people stood up and followed him.

A few moments later, the staff member came back and led another group to their warp.

As Gu Qing Shan saw it, the staff member prioritized beginners who had green cards and transported them first.

The ones without the green cards could only sit there and slowly wait.

“What do we do now?” Ning Yue Chan asked.

“Just ignore it, things like these aren’t really something to worry about” Gu Qing Shan sighed and told her.

A few moments later, after everyone else had already been transported, it was finally their turn for the novices who didn’t have the green cards.

The staff member from before led them to their warp point and spoke full of implications: “I wish you all a good life in the First Zone”

“What does he mean by that?” a relatively naïve novice asked someone next to him.

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“He means that we won’t be able to get out of the First Zone” another novice angrily told him.

The screen of light flashed.

The final group of novices disappeared from the warp point.

...

The Strife Zones.

First Zone.

On the hill and plains area, the battle had already begun.

Empty fortresses were scattered all around.

Group after group of novices suddenly appeared, standing on the large walls of these fortresses.

The fortresses were a large distance apart, separated by huge energy barriers that prevented them from connecting, only allowing observation from afar.

Beneath the fortresses, several hordes of black goat-headed monsters had noticed the change in their world.

They roared in anger and charged towards the fortresses.

These goat-headed monsters were the Black Demon Goats.

They were a type of evil creature that used the power from spilt blood of creatures they kill as nutrition to evolve, these naturally cruel monsters were cold and indifferent towards any living beings that were not one of their own.

Just as the novices reached their fortresses, they already had to enter intense combat.

They had to protect these fortresses and kill as many Black Demon Goats as they could.

The more they showed their strength, the more likely they were going to be noticed by the [Order] and become its carrier.

“Kill——!!”

The novices roared, uttering a blood-curling battle cry.

The flames of battle came from every direction, the sound of killing and battle alone can cause any observer to feel excited.

Gu Qing Shan was also standing on top of a fortress.

He cupped his hand above his head to extend his gaze.

However——

The fortress he and Ning Yue Chan were on was built into the cliff of a mountain.

The Black Demon Goats were all charging like mad towards the fortresses built on the plains but didn't pay a single bit of attention to this fortress on the cliff.

With so many targets on the open plains, who would be willing to scale a high mountain to siege a fortress built on such a precarious location?

So this naturally happened.

As an experienced military General, Ning Yue Chan only needed to glance at the battle situation on the plains and their overall location to draw a conclusion.

Not just her, the rest of the novices who were transported here also appeared highly displeased.

“They purposefully put us here!” one of them called out.

He started to grow feathers all over that turned into a pair of wings, leapt to the air and flew towards the plains.

Bam!

With a dull sound, the novice crashed into the defensive barrier of the fortress and was bounced back a large distance.

This was a barrier set up by the [Order] itself, so the strength of novices wouldn't be able to break it.

Ning Yue Chan put her Blade back into its sheath and shook her head: “We can't leave and the monsters won't come here, will we really have to waste time here meaninglessly without being able to advance?”

“Of course not” Gu Qing Shan answered her.

Ning Yue Chan's eyes lit up and asked: “You've always been someone full of devious schemes and tactics, what ideas have you come up with now?”

Gu Qing Shan sighed and answered: “There is only one problem that we need to care about right now”

With those words, he caught the attention of every novice around.

“What problem is that?” Ning Yue Chan stared at him and asked.

“To conquer, or be conquered”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan selected the [War God Title] icon on his War God UI.

—very quickly, he found the title that he needed.

[Starflame War God].

Note:

(1) 99% discount: the way Chinese language describes their discount rates are a bit different, instead of saying ‘40% discount’, they’ll say ‘60% discount’, which means it’s being sold at 60% of the original price. So in this case it means he’s being given a 1% discount, not a 99% discount.

Chapter 665

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

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

[To conquer or be conquered, that is the question]

[Title: Starflame War God, equipping this title will grant you the Specialty Skill: Conquer]

[Conquer: When you use this skill, all selected enemies will be forced to attack you for a certain justified reason]

[Note: This still is a Mystic-type, Causality skill, unavoidable]

Gu Qing Shan proceeded to equip the [Starflame War God] title and selected all the Black Demon Goats as the targets.

—as Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI to select the title.

On the plains, in an area immediately between several fortresses, the hordes of Black Demon Goats had gathered.

A Black Demon Goat who appeared to be the leader stepped out and began to rouse its kins.

“Baaah, baa baa, baaahh! Baa baa baa— bah baa bah baa!”

(We can’t keep going like this, all goats! Gather— and prepare for a unified strike!)

Under its command, more and more Black Demon Goats gathered to form a huge force.

Seeing several hundred thousand Black Demon Goats gathering at once, the leading Black Demon Goat nodded.

It pointed at the nearest fortress and shouted: “Baaaaah!” (Charge!)

Right at this point, Gu Qing Shan activated [Conquer]

The rousing giant horde of Black Demon Goat suddenly stopped.

Something unexpected happened——

7-8 large Black Demon Goats suddenly dashed out with weapons in their hands and stabbed the Black Demon Goat leader all at once.

The Black Demon Goat leader looked down, slowly at the weapons that went through its body.

It then looked towards one of the Black Demon Goats and struggled to ask: “Baa ba, baa baah?” (You too, Curly?)

The Black Demon Goat coldly responded: “Ba baa baa baa, baa baah” (Justice must be served, injustice must be punished)

It pulled back its weapon, then proceeded to stab the Black Demon Goat leader’s vitals again.

And again, and again!

The Black Demon Goat leader collapsed to its knees, then completely on the ground.

It died.

The horde of goats went silent.

——their king had died.

The horde’s attacks stopped.

They gathered towards their leader’s corpse.

The novices’ attacks from the walls of the fortress also had to stop.

A single Black Demon Goat might not be very strong, but when all the Black Demon Goats on the plains gathered in one place, that was a different story entirely.

The power that could be shown by the countless gathered Black Demon Goats wasn’t something to be trifled with.

The novices also couldn’t recklessly leave their fortresses to attack the giant horde of Black Demon Goats either.

“What are the Black Demon Goats doing?”

The various races of novices all felt confused as they watched.

At this time, in the center of the horde of Black Demon Goats, the Black Demon Goat named Curly stomped on the dead leader’s corpse and shouted: “Baa ba, baa baa bahh baa, baah baa baa baa!” (He deserves to die, he is the one that led our attacks on the fortresses as he pleased, but never once succeeded!)

The horde of goats became rowdy.

One of the goats asked doubtfully: “Baa baa ba, baa bah bah baa” (But we can only attack the fortresses to gain the power of blood, there was simply no other way)

This was a realistic question, as well as the harsh truth.

To evolve, a Black Demon Goat could only attack the fortresses, there simply wasn't any other way to obtain the power to evolve.

The other Black Demon Goats nodded in agreement to this.

They looked at Curly, wanting to see what it had to say.

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Curly then took a deep breath, raised both hooves and spoke to all the Black Demon Goats: "Baa, baah bah baa ba..." (My name is Curly, and I have a dream...)

...

It performed its speech with vigor, then finally pointed its hoof upwards, pointing at the faraway fortress on the mountain.

"Bah baa bah baah baa baa..."

Curly was shouting every word.

(The mountain is easy to defend and tough to attack, it can become our new home!)

(Once we obtain that fortress, the races of other worlds will have no choice but to attack our fortress!)

(The situation will reverse itself!)

It then pointed to itself: "Baa baa ba bah, baaaa!" (Your new king now commands you, attack!)

The horde of goats boiled with excitement!

They have never even thought about the possibility of obtaining a fortress for themselves, let alone a mountainous one!

Curly is right, our race needs a powerful barrier to protect ourselves.

The horde shall construct a new Black Demon Goats nation there!

"Baa baa!"

"Baa baa!"

"Baa baa!"

"Baa baa!!!"

They roared in fury.

They began to charge towards the fortress on the mountain.

...

Their actions and the following commotion was quickly noticed by the other fortresses.

"What's going on!? Why are they leaving!?" a novice shouted in shock.

He was worried— if the horde of goats went away, how would they kill them? How would HE gain the attention of the [Order]?

He then leapt off the fortress and tried to chase after the retreating horde of goats.

“Don’t you dare ru——”

His shout was cut off.

BAM!

He crashed straight into the defensive barrier around the fortress, stuck there without being able to fall down.

...seems like that crash was quite severe.

A few other novices noticed that the horde of goats had entered the range of their fortress and quickly urged his close allies to fly out from the fortress with him.

—then they ran back with their tails between their legs.

It was impossible, there were too many Black Demon Goats here that if they couldn’t rely on the defensive capabilities of the fortresses, they weren’t a match for them.

The horde quickly ran past the area of this fortress as well.

All the fortresses on the plains could do nothing but watch as the horde went into and out of range.

——*what the fucking hell is going on here?*

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All the novices had the same dejected thought.

No one could understand the Black Demon Goats’ language, so no one knew that a coup d’etat serious enough to change the fate of Black Demon Goats had just occurred.

On the other side.

On the treacherous mountainside.

The novices of this single fortress here began to cheer.

They excitedly took out their weapons, rubbing their knuckles together and excitedly waited for the horde’s arrival.

Ning Yue Chan had already finished donning her Yong Zhen General armor.

She looked at Gu Qing Shan and smiled as she asked: “How did you do that?”

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Gu Qing Shan didn’t answer her straight and instead said: “Since this is the first time you’ve left your original world, I have an advice for you”

“Go on”

“There are billions of worlds in the 900 million World Layers, there will always be some unique skills of some races that we simply can’t figure out or anticipate, I hope you will understand this and be careful in battle from now on”

Ning Yue Chan went silent briefly and replied: “I understand what you mean”

Not too far away, the horde of demon goats had already passed through the barrier of the fortress and entered its range.

Ning Yue Chan glanced at the Black Demon Goats and put on her mask.

Her chiming voice came from behind the metallic mask.

“—-However, I also think those creatures should also understand one thing clear”

“Which is?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“They should be careful of my Blade”

Oom—-

With her Blade in hand, Ning Yue Chan leapt straight from the wall of the fortress into the horde of Black Demon Goats.

From afar, all they could see was a streak of white light that fell from above straight into the midst of the Black Demon Goats before being swallowed up by the infinite black.

A moment of silence.

Intense Blade qi filled the air.

Layers upon layers of sharp Blade slashes erupted all around, attacking the Black Demon Goat horde.

The screams and cries of the goat resounded.

The Blade was merciless, with a gleam of metal, it had continued forward towards the middle of the horde.

The rest of the Black Demon Goats reacted.

They began to charge towards this Blade, wanting to completely eliminate this reckless individual.

But her Blade was too fierce.

Anything that tried to stop her was quickly cut into pieces before being blown away.

Severed limbs flew, a rain of black blood filled the air.

Almost like a storm of death had formed in the middle of the Black Demon Goats horde.

The Blade went forward, then forward again, then continued forward!

Countless Black Demon Goats cried of fear and fury—- although everything was happening rapidly, quite a few Black Demon Goats managed to understand what was going on.

They realized the truth.

——that the enemy had immediately noticed where their King was hiding!

The Black Demon Goats quickly retreated to the middle, wanting to protect their new Goat King!

They went all-out like a tsunami, rushing towards where the storm of Blades was heading, attempting to stop her advance.

Slash!

Slash!

Slash!

Ning Yue Chan continued to advance.

But no matter how strong she was, she was only one person.

Under the constant pressure of numbers by the Black Demon Goats, the force of her Blade couldn't help but wither, slowly unable to keep up.

"Not good" Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

When he wanted to dash out, a clear chiming voice resounded in the middle of the Black Demon Goats horde.

"You shall die, or I will!"

The girl shouted her battle cry.

The shine of her Blade became more intense!

A sharp, unwavering Blade that never backs down!!!

In that single moment, all obstacles that tried to stop her Blade were destroyed and blown away.

She quickly advanced all the way to the center of the Black Demon Goats.

Sha——

Her Blade gleamed again.

The new Goat King was struck by the slash and bisected.

The horde went silent.

The King is dead.

The King is dead!!!

The novices who rushed out together with her also couldn't help themselves but stop.

That was too awesome...

What kind of ridiculous tactic was that, this woman didn't even care for her own life during that attack!

A second later, the horde of Black Demon Goats cried out in a desperate but furious tone

They all attacked at once, wanting to kill this woman with the Blade!

You dare to assassinate the king, human, you're dead!

But a flash of light came from inside the horde of Black Demon Goats.

The very next second, the girl wearing the snow-white armor within the encirclement of goats disappeared.

—she disappeared without a trace.

No matter how hard the horde of Black Demon Goats looked, they couldn't find her.

The novices were also shocked.

Someone suddenly realized what happened and exclaimed in shock: "She passed! She was selected by the [Life Order]!"

Chapter 667

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The Strife Zones.

The Holy Church of Death.

The main church.

"Good morning, sir"

"Sir"

"Honorable deity, is there anything you need?"

The believers bowed one after another.

Black Hound floated in mid-air as he nodded to the believers.

"Is Anna still not back?" he asked.

"Yes sir, she is still training her skills at the Withering Realm"

"I will go take a look"

After saying so, Black Hound disappeared from the church.

A second later, he appeared inside a gloomy dark world.

"The smell of death... over there, I see"

Black Hound quickly determined the direction he was supposed to go to and flew over at unimaginable speed, arriving in just a few minutes.

He landed on the top of a sky-scraper and gazed far away into the ruins of the world.

A gigantic figure was approaching from afar, reflecting the dim light of this place.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Every step the giant figure took caused the ground to tremble intensely.

Black Hound simply stared at the figure until they reached and stopped in front of the sky-scraper.

— the figure was of similar heights to the sky-scraper itself, their body covered by an ashen-colored armor with a protective helmet so secure that it didn't even leave a slit for the eyes to see through.

As the figure stood still, the dirt beneath their feet were slowly turning into gravel and sand, even the sky-scraper where Black Hound stood was also gradually becoming ancient and unstable.

Black Hound glared at this giant monster and asked in a stern voice: "Envoy of Wither, are you willing to pledge your allegiance to the Holy Church of Death?"

Behind the armor, a heavy breathing voice came out, as if this monster was going through some sort of intense hesitation and struggle.

At this point, a person suddenly appeared on the top of the monster's helmet.

It was Anna

The same Anna who had been busy training herself.

She didn't appear to be much different, still, the same alluring and beautiful girl as she always was, a female was at the peak of her youth.

However, her crimson red hair had changed.

Her long hair was now jet black, but not the normal shade of black, but rather the black of darkness that couldn't be grasped.

Anna raised her black scythe in irritation and tapped it on the monster's hard helmet.

"Stop giving me more trouble, or did you already forget what I just told you?" she said.

The monster stopped breathing heavily and slowly knelt down in front of Black Hound.

「 I swear my allegiance to the Holy Church of Death 」

The monster spoke with a thunderous, booming voice.

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After receiving that answer, an intense black flame began to rise from Black Hound's body.

This black flame manifested as a series of runes that went into the monster's body.

The monster trembled in pain for a while before calming down again.

Black Hound spoke: "The Divine contract is formed, come, before the end of all things, you will return to the embrace of the God of Death, this itself is unimaginable honor"

Boom—

Two large black gates suddenly opened on either side of the Envoy of Wither.

Before the Envoy could do anything, its body had already disappeared inside the gates.

Anna was unharmed.

She lightly landed on the sky-scraper, propped the scythe on her shoulder, and yawned.

“So tired, I want to go back to sleep— ah right, what are you here for?”

After a bit of silence Black Hound told her: “To be able to tame even the Envoy of Wither, I really must say, your growth has been surprisingly fast”

“Skip the chatter, get to the point”

“I’m afraid you won’t have time to sleep”

“Why not? I’ve already spent so much effort on that damn troublemaker, don’t even think of getting me to do anything else— I want my beauty sleep now!”

“...I’ll invite you to a drink”

“So generous? Don’t tell me I’m paying again?”

“No, of course I’ll be paying, if you don’t believe me, you can pick the liquor first, I’ll pay for it before we drink”

“Eh heh, so sincere— alright then, I’ll oblige and join you for a drink, then return to sleep”

“Before that, you need to represent the Holy Church of Death and greet a few guests”

“So you’re still making me work, humph! I don’t need your liquor, I can buy it for myself!”

“Anna, listen to me, this is a very simple job, just exchange a few pleasantries with those people, then you can return and I’ll treat you to a drink” Black Hound persuaded her.

“Really?” Anna was unconvinced.

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“Of course! I’ve left the other hardest jobs for everyone else, but you’re different, since we’re so close, I’m here specifically to give this easiest simple job to you” Black Hound sincerely spoke.

“...If it really is just exchanging a few pleasantries and won’t take a lot of time, then maybe” Anna mumbled.

“Of course it is! I will wait for you at the Holy Church; when you return we’ll go to the bar!” Black Hound replied.

“Fine, fine, seeing how sincere you are, I’ll take the job— but at least tell me who they are first and what I need to say to them”

“They’re from various allies of the Church, also core members of their own organizations. In fact, it would be correct to assume that they have the same status as you do”

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“What am I meeting them for?”

“To get acquainted and get to know each other, mainly to prevent any possible friendly fire in the future”

“That should be simple. Well then, let’s go! I’ll finish the job quickly and get back to drinking”

The girl and the dog quickly made their deal and disappeared from this gloomy world.

A few moments later.

Anna hurriedly came into a secret guest room of the Holy Church.

There were already about 7 or 8 people, both male, and female, waiting there.

They were all powerful members of various forces, specifically, the other Holy Churches.

“My apologies, I was a bit late”

Anna was wearing a long black dress as she gracefully greeted them.

“Cheh, so you can be late even for such a crucial matter huh” a girl fully equipped in armor with a tense expression grunted.

“Hm? I’m sure I came when I needed to, or perhaps you wish that Death would arrive earlier?” Anna smiled as she spoke.

The girl saw her relaxed expression, recalled her status in the Church of Death, and stopped herself from saying anything else.

Anna glanced at everyone standing around and asked in confusion: “Take a seat, why is everyone standing around when there are so many empty places to sit?”

A man took a look at his pocket watch and answered: “I’m afraid we don’t have time to sit down and slowly chat”

“That’s right, now that the Church of Death’s representative has also arrived, we can begin” another person spoke.

Everyone looked at a girl whose figure was illusive and faint as a fog.

As she noticed everyone looking at her, she spoke: “Then let us go, but to travel across World Layers inside the Strife Zones, we will need some protection”

“I’ll handle that” another person spoke up.

He was holding a frost orb that gave off a chilling air.

“My Ice technique can trap all of our presence to the greatest possible degree, allowing perfect concealment from any clairvoyance— of course, during this process, everyone will enter a completely frozen state for about 30 breaths, temporarily unable to act”

Someone praised: “It’s only being frozen, not having to endure any pain is already good enough”

“Indeed, we shouldn’t dawdle around any longer, let’s move” one of them urged.

Hearing everyone’s conversations, Anna was stunned.

This seems to be a lot different from what Black Hound told me.

“Excuse me, I want to ask—”

She wanted to ask something.

But it was too late.

The frost orb had already been crushed.

In the blink of an eye, everyone and everything in the room was covered in a layer of frost.

Anna couldn’t move!

No one could move at all!

At the same time, the illusion-like girl had activated her magic.

A large mouth appeared beneath everyone’s feet.

The mouth rose up and swallowed everyone whole.

Following that, a transparent monster crawled out from the ground.

This monster looked very similar to a type of giant fish from the Age of Old.

It lightly shook and dipped into the void of space at an unimaginable speed, dashing towards a certain predetermined World Layer.

On another side.

The top of the Holy Church.

A private conversation was being held.

“Are you going to be ok deceiving her like that?” Black Crow asked.

“There is no way she would agree to do such a troublesome thing willingly, I have no other choice” Black Hound answered.

“But after she returns, the Holy Church will be wrecked by her once again” Black Crow sighed.

“Let her be. That reminds me, I need to leave for some arduous missionary work for the Church, so I won’t be able to return for a while” Black Hound said.

Then it suddenly disappeared.

The only one left on top of the Church building was Black Crow.

He was speechless for a while.

“To be so scared of a mortal’s rage that you even prepared an escape route beforehand, this is... so disgraceful”

Black Crow shook his head.

Chapter 668

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The seemingly transparent giant fish quickly swam through the endless space vortex.

Despite so many strange and eerie creatures passing by the fish, nobody noticed its existence at all.

If someone were able to observe the giant fish’s route from the start, they would notice that it was actually swimming in a unique pattern as it headed for a certain direction.

At some point, the transparent giant fish arrived at the center of the Strife Zones.

In truth, the entire 200 million World Layers of the Strife Zones were all situated around this place as the center to form a complete closed spiral.

But there was actually nothing here at the center of it all.

The transparent fish lingered here for a while before its body started to glow in 7 differently colored lights.

An emerald green glow that represented Life.

A deep blue shine which represented Space and Time.

An ashen grey fog which represented Fate.

A holy yellow pillar which represented Belief.

A deep purple net that represented Secrets.

A magnificent golden glow that represented Civilization.

And—

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A lonesome dark waterfall which represents the End of all things.

The seven lights melded together and reflected into the void of space.

A cave suddenly appeared in the void.

The giant fish quickly leaped into the cave.

The very next moment, the seven lights were nowhere to be seen.

The fish and the cave were also gone.

...

A large empty hall.

Anna's expression was stern.

With a frosty expression, she stood across from her six companions.

Glancing at her black long dress originally meant to be used for making relations, then at the fully armored bunch on the other side, Anna couldn't hold back her rage.

"So you all knew what was going to happen, with me being the only fool huh?" she spoke in a cold voice.

The other six exchanged glances.

A woman cloaked in an emerald green robe spoke: "This mission isn't simple, yet your Church of Death is acting like this"

She glanced at Anna's nearly perfect face, feeling the charm and lure of her beauty and felt jealous for a brief moment.

The man cloaked in frost also spoke: "Indeed, this time's matter is extremely Divine, our Church had to host a competition to select a worthy representative, of which I was the champion, and yet your Church of Death— hah..."

The woman cloaked in green coldly smirked: "Our Church of Life was also extremely serious towards this time's matter, I obtained the right to be here by putting in all my effort, yet the supposed most excellent newcomer of 700 years for the Church of Death is a fool who doesn't even know why she's here"

Anna became silent.

She then undid her hairdo to let her long flowing hair down and chanted in her mind:

"Death is near"

A jet black scythe appeared from the void of space.

With the scythe in her hand, Anna coldly stared at the green-robed woman.

She whispered: "If you have a problem with me, how about learning the secret of death?"

She then turned to the cold, frosty man and continued: "You can also try, I can guarantee your opinion of me will also be erased"

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—-because dead people don't have opinions.

Which means this was Anna provoking these two for a battle.

The man and woman's expressions both changed.

They weren't afraid to fight, but as they looked at the sharp black scythe of darkness, they were hesitant.

This girl called Anna was a complete mystery, a dear child of the Church of Death, to the point that she had their worshipped deity accompanying her as she went out to drink.

No one knew her background.

But one thing was clear, if a single person was treated with such importance by an entire Church, she must be special in one way or another.

Combined with her Church's unique characteristics, they weren't sure to be able to win this battle.

In which case, should I make an enemy of Death?

They were both hesitant, unable to decide.

"Wait!"

A blond man stepped in between the two sides.

He smiled as he mediated between them: "We're comrades on the same side here. This might be our first meeting, but who's to say that we won't need each other's help later on? There's no need to make our relationship so tense!"

Looking at Anna, the blond man amiably explained her: "I can explain to you, we are here this time on behalf of our churches, traveling by the most discreet manner possible because the Book of Seven might be reactivated once again"

Anna instantly realized.

So that's why!

Black Hound tricked me into coming here because of this annoying matter!

Thinking that, Anna felt annoyed to the point that she didn't want to fight anymore.

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The Book of Seven, also known as the Gods' Book of Prophecy, a joint creation of seven Gods that can reveal the future once every hundred or thousand years.

At that time, followers of the seven Gods must come here together, do what they can to pass the Seven Gods' tests, and receive the prophecy.

The tests of the Gods were strange and out of the ordinary, no one could ever predict what kind of thing they would need to accomplish.

For example, the Gods could give you a test to conquer a world— which would be simple, but most of the time, the tests were much harder than this.

At the start, every Church considered this to be a divine occurrence, enough that those who come here would have to be Pope of the Church or at least an Elder in power.

But ever since a certain Pope was given a test to perform the dance of 7 million races at least once in the span of 5 years— the Popes couldn't take it anymore and kept themselves from coming.

The Elders also avoided this like the plague.

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And so, this became the ultimate test for the younger generation and novices of the Churches.

No matter what happened, as long as they succeeded, they would bring the prophecy back to their Church.

If they failed, the Churches would simply send others.

Newcomers who accomplished this task were usually rewarded by their Church.

And the rewards were quite enticing.

—perhaps others would look forward to this, but Anna felt this was nothing but troublesome.

With her current state of growth, all she needed to do was keep moving forward.

She didn't need to care about those rewards that might not even make a difference.

Anna lowered her head dejectedly and sighed: "Fine, we're already here, might as well get on with it and return as soon as possible"

The two who were tensely preparing to battle were surprised to see that her fighting spirit suddenly dissipating as she became dejected.

—didn't she want to kill us just a moment ago?

Why did she suddenly turn to that?

While hesitant, the two of them took the opportunity to leave that matter behind.

Anna, on the other hand, had already forgotten about both of them— they were simply too weak, and the matter she needed to attend to was too troublesome to waste time on them.

So neither side did anything.

"Alright, let us finish the job here as soon as we can" the blond man smiled.

He opened his hand.

A small, intricate dagger silently hovered in his palm.

Rays of golden light emerged from the dagger.

Anna just sighed helplessly and arbitrarily tapped the ground with her scythe.

Oom—

Intense black light erupted from the scythe.

The light completely enveloped Anna like a gate to some unknown bottomless abyss.

And this was only a casual release of her strength!

Such strength caused the group of people to all change their expressions.

One of the men smiled bitterly, took out a long trident and chanted his Church's Divine Words.

A deep purple net of light appeared from the trident.

The green-robed woman took out a bow.

The cold frosty man took out a gauntlet and put it on his hand.

Another woman who had been staying silent with her eyes closed all this time took off the necklace she was wearing and raised it with both palms.

The man with the biggest stature among them didn't take out anything, but a pair of holy wings slowly opened behind his back.

The lights rose upwards from their body.

All seven had gathered!

As the empty hall sensed that the followers of all seven Gods were here, it began to rumble.

A book carved from stone rose from the ground, silently standing in front of the seven people.

The book was about as tall as three people, decorated all over in majestic Divine Runes, but the book itself was closed without any signs of opening.

"The Stone Book has appeared, we can begin now" the blond man spoke.

He stepped forward, knelt on one knee and placed his hand on the outside of the Stone Book.

The others also stepped forward, knelt on one knee and placed their hands.

Anna sighed and could only follow them.

A few moments later.

Nothing.

All seven people seemed surprised.

—this can't be right, according to the records, whenever they got to this step in the past, the Stone Book would select one of the followers and grant them a specific task to accomplish.

Once this follower accomplishes their task, they would receive the prophecy.

If they can't do that, the Stone Book will simply choose another follower among the other six to accomplish another task instead.

But why did the Stone Book not react at all this time?

While everyone was still in shock, a divine majestic voice came from the Stone Book.

[Irreversible grave omens are appearing!]

[Outside the Strife Zones, unprecedented destruction had begun]

[The prophecy of the seven Gods has finally reached its end]

[Followers of the seven Gods, get ready, accept the task from your Gods and trigger the final prophecy!]

Chapter 669

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The Stone Book had given them an unprecedented warning!

The expressions on the seven follower's faces changed.

As elites of their respective churches, everyone here was able to decode the terrifying truth hidden among the Stone Book's words.

"This is serious, should we stop for now and report to our Church first?" the girl whose eyes were closed removed her hand from the Stone Book and suggested.

She was the youngest one among everyone here, so her voice contained a clear sense of unease.

"I agree!" Anna immediately replied.

The others also took their hands off the Stone Book and stopped pouring power in.

The Stone Book quickly returned to silence.

The blond man spoke seriously: "The Stone Book has appeared, which means that the power of the Gods has completely sealed off this world, we won't be able to leave"

"Indeed, this is quite troublesome; only after all seven of us have failed would the gate to leave this world manifest again" the green-robed woman added.

"Can't we just purposefully fail then?" the girl with closed eyes spoke.

Anna happily followed up: "That is indeed a solution"

—-as long as everyone here fails, I'll be able to return to the Church right away.

This will save the most amount of my time!

Anna expectantly glanced at the rest of them, hoping that they would agree with her.

But everyone shook their heads.

The blond man said: "Misses, I think you've forgotten an important key detail"

Anna asked: "What key detail?"

The blond man slowly clenched his fist together and spoke in a low voice: "The prophecy of the Gods have reached its end. If we are able to bring the final prophecy back to our Church at this crucial point in time, we will definitely be rewarded even more so than ever before"

The man with the trident added: "Please think about this carefully, this will be the very last prophecy of the Gods, if we are able to obtain it, our names will be left in the history books!"

"Not only that" the green-robed woman continued: "The final prophecy would also likely contain the deepest, most unimaginable secrets. When we return, the upper echelons of the Church will personally receive us, giving us to chance to show ourselves and form relations with those truly in power"

Saying so, everyone's expressions were filled with excitement.

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This is an unprecedented chance.

Most likely, even the people in power of the Church who sent us here didn't know about this before!

Seeing their expressions, Anna understood that she was unable to convince them and sighed in disappointment.

—why are these people still so concerned with their merits and appearance?

Don't they know that the single true deciding factor of everything is their own strength?

Instead of training themselves as much as possible, they chose to go through hoops and bounds, using various methods to gain fame and authority. They have completely lost sight of the most basic need to become stronger, they have become mediocre.

If they obtain the strength of a God, then the benefits of authority that they're so desperate to earn right now will be served to them on a platter.

Strength is the basis for everything!

Unfortunately, at this point, the opinion of a single person couldn't change the decision of many.

The girl with closed eyes turned to Anna and smiled apologetically.

Anna lightly shook her head, signaling her not to mind it.

This girl was the only person that Anna had met before this, so it could be said that they were acquainted.

The girl was a nun of the Church of Fate, an amiable and polite girl that treated everyone the same.

Anna had quite a good impression of her.

But at this point, the two of them couldn't change everyone's minds.

Under such a situation, the only thing to do was to cooperate with the other followers and hope that they would be able to complete the test a bit quicker.

The seven people once again placed their hands on the Stone Book and poured in their power.

A stern and majestic voice arrived from the Stone Book.

[Strength is the basis for everything]

Anna raised her eyebrows in surprise, as these words were exactly the same as what she had thought.

The voice continued:

[The final test of the Gods is a test of strength]

[Your average strength has been estimated, the appropriate test shall soon begin!]

[Win against the creation of the Old Gods and open the final prophecy]

Oom—

The hall trembled again.

[Challengers, enter the dark cave and accept your test] the Stone Book told them.

“Look!” the blond man exclaimed.

At another corner of the hall, a deep, dark cave entrance had manifested from nothing.

This dark cave felt like the mouth of a beast, filled with a fearsome, indescribable air.

Their vision was limited, only allowing them enough to faintly see that something huge was moving around inside the cave.

Chill ran down everyone’s spines.

This is a creation of the Old Gods!

Everyone thought at the same time.

The blond man fell into thought briefly before speaking: “Among us, the one who is most suited to go against the unknown are followers of the God of Fate, how about you try it first?”

He looked at the girl with closed eyes.

Everyone followed up with him in agreement.

“Ah? Me?” the girl hesitated a bit and mustered her courage: “Very well, then I will take a look”

Anna stopped her.

She glared at the blond man: “Her expertise is divination and clairvoyance, she’s not suited for sudden combat. As close-ranged Professionalists, it should be you lot to enter first”

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The blond man raised his eyebrow, about to refute.

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The girl with the closed eyes smiled and lightly pushed Anna’s hand down: “It’s fine, if there is any danger, I will give up right away and leave to tell everyone the situation inside”

She grasped the necklace she was wearing and lightly hovered into the dark cave.

Anna was anxious.

She then looked at the rest of them and angrily asked: “We were the ones who suggested leaving while you lot are the ones who insisted on continuing, and yet you intend to hide behind us, is that fair?”

“That’s not the case” the man with the trident answered her: “She’s only scouting, the real fighting would still be left to us”

The blond man also explained: “She’s actually the one with the strongest fighting abilities among us, so we left the scouting to her while we’re taking up other crucial tasks”

“Indeed”

“That is the case”

“Everyone has their own job to do, it’s simple”

The green-robed woman, the man with the frost gauntlets as well as the tall man with the pair of wings all agreed.

Seeing their unanimous agreement, Anna couldn’t quite find the words to refute them.

She was never a person who was good with words in the first place.

All of a sudden, a desperate scream came out from the dark cave.

“Eeeek———”

Immediately following the intense scream was an intense wind that carried a thick stench of blood.

The wind carried with it a fierce presence that blew past the group.

“This is...”

The man with the wings muttered as he couldn’t help but take a step backwards.

Everyone could tell right away with that formidable aura.

Whatever was in there right now was already more than one step stronger than they were.

Inside the dark cave, the faint sound of sobbing and struggling could be heard.

Everyone’s expressions changed.

The blond man spoke: “Not good, that monster is too strong, with my power, the most I can do is commit a double suicide”

“That’s not beneficial at all, I won’t exchange my own life for a single prophecy”

He shook his head.

The man with the trident also took a step back: “It seems the situation this time is much more dangerous than we expected, I suggest we all give up and return to ask for reinforcement!”

“This is a smart choice, I agree!” the green-robed woman quickly concurred.

Suddenly, a roar of anger and killing intent echoed across the entire hall.

“YOU—— MOTHER——— FUCKING——— PIECES OF SHIT!!!”

The shout came from Anna.

She glanced towards the Stone Book and quickly asked: “Is she alive?”

[Alive, but barely] the Stone Book replied.

Anna's expression turned pale and worriedly asked: "Which means she was already disqualified! Can I go in right away?"

[You may!]

As soon as the Stone Book said 'you may', Anna had already appeared in front of the dark cave.

While in mid-air, she had already chanted her incantation:

"Death, I am your servant! I am the judge of living beings' life and death!"

Due to the worry and anxiousness in her voice, it sounded almost like a scream.

The spell of Death had been cast!

Oom—

Her black hair fluttered wildly, intense black light that felt like a vast ocean poured out from Anna's body and filled the entire hall.

The scythe in her hand gave off a thick fog of darkness as a black flame silently burned on the tip of the scythe.

Anna had used all her powers without hesitation!

A second later, all the paranormal phenomenon disappeared—

She had gone into the dark cave!

The hall fell back into silence.

The remaining five exchanged glances without saying anything.

After a while, the green-robed woman finally couldn't take it anymore and spoke: "I suggest that we cooperate without holding anything back"

"What do you mean?" the blond man asked.

"Don't even try to say that you didn't notice. That woman from the Church of Death held killing intent towards us just now"

She shook her head: "I can tell, she isn't someone who's bound by rules and laws, and the power she showed just now was terrifying if she really did attack— I don't think any of you might have been able to stop her"

Silence.

A few moments later, the rest expressed their opinions.

"We aren't scared of her, but there is strength in numbers" the man with the trident declared.

"Indeed, let us join hands" the man with the pair of wings followed up.

The blond man thought briefly and concluded: "Then we should form a cooperative relationship, whether it is to deal with other troublesome situations, or against the betrayal of the other Holy Churches"

"That's how it should be" the green-robed woman agreed.

Chapter 670

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

Anna went into the dark cave.

As she swung her scythe and got ready to attack, she was stunned.

The girl from the Church of Fate was standing right in front of her, still with her eyes closed and in one piece.

"Big sis Anna, you were probably a bit surprised, huh?" the girl giggled.

Next to her stood a giant monster that radiated a fierce and intense aura.

It was a large bear that gave off a gloomy grey fog.

The overwhelming aura that everyone felt from outside the cave came from him.

The grey bear looked to be about 5 stories tall, even when laying flat on the ground it was still 3 stories tall.

But such a monster was obediently lying behind the girl.

As the girl stroked the bear, the giant bear squinted its eyes in pleasure.

After a while, it seemed to have fallen asleep.

"Could it be, you were behind everything? No, it can't be, no matter how strong you are, there's no way you could set up a space like this inside the hall of the seven Gods so easily" Anna fell into thought.

"I knew big sis Anna wasn't the same as those wastes of life" the girl happily spoke, "not only are you pretty and strong, you didn't even hesitate to come to save me"

She waved her hand.

A grey-back book appeared in her hand.

"This is the true Book of Prophecy" the girl said.

She then explained: "In truth, even the Gods themselves have to follow their own Fate. A prophecy from the Gods must also be made with the power of Fate, so from the very start, each time that a prophecy of the Gods was made, it was always conducted by the people of the Church of Fate from the shadows"

"Ah--- then why didn't you say that from the beginning?" Anna found that confusing.

“The Gods knew better than anyone about the minds of mortals, so if we were to stand out, it would attract the coveting and greed of the other six Churches, causing our Church of Fate to fall to ruin and be destroyed, causing discord among the alliance of the seven Gods”

“And so, the seven Gods prepared a few means to help our Church of Fate to conceal the truth”

“The reason why I’m revealing this is because today was already the final prophecy, so it’s fine even if I tell big sis Anna”

Anna glanced at her, then at the giant bear next to her and sighed.

“If I knew you were this strong, I wouldn’t have needed to feel angry or anxious just now, seriously” she complained.

“Hehe” the girl appeared a bit embarrassed.

She waved her hand to dismiss the darkness around them and show what was happening on the outside.

The other followers were currently discussing cooperation against her.

Seeing Anna once again raising her eyebrows, the girl consoled her: “Big sis Anna, you really don’t have to pay attention to them”

“Why not?”

“Big sis Anna, you have to understand, not everyone is as talented as you are, and not just anyone has the privileges you do, having a worshipped deity protecting you as soon as you arrive at the Strife Zones”

“Anna, people like you are rare, appearing only once in a lifetime. ‘Geniuses’ like those people there are what this world considers ‘normal’, they need to use various means and methods in order to survive, to help their path of becoming stronger— however, when it comes time to face the true test of Fate, the majority of ‘normal’ people will simply die”

“That’s why there is no need for big sis to feel angry”

Seeing how sincere the girl was being, Anna felt her anger slowly subsiding.

“Fine, since you are already so strong, let’s complete the test and get this over with, I want to return soon” she said.

“As you wish” the girl replied.

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She patted the giant bear, looked up, and loudly shouted: “Precious, time to eat!”

The giant bear’s ears twitched, suddenly opened its eyes, and uttered a thunderous roar.

Gao—

It suddenly leaped forward like a streak of lightning despite its large size, instantly appearing outside of the dark cave.

Since it was all so sudden, no one on the outside managed to react in time.

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The blond man was directly caught in the giant bear's maw as it chomped, crunched and swallowed him.

The giant bear raised its claws and slammed it on the ground of the hall.

The other followers were so shaken they were unable to move in retaliation.

The giant bear swiftly moved around and made short work of all five people.

It devoured all five of the corpses, turned back into fog and dissipated inside the hall, disappearing without a trace.

The girl explained to Anna: "It can't be helped, when I entered just now, I found that there wasn't much remaining power left behind by the Gods, to make sure that nothing goes wrong, I needed to replenish some Soul Points before activating the final prophecy"

"I probably only needed three fresh souls— hm, well having two extra isn't a bad thing, as long as everything that used to be 'them' have now disappeared and turned into pure power for us to use"

"But if all of them die, wouldn't that mean we failed the test of the Gods?" Anna asked.

"The test? We've already passed the test" the girl giggled: "Big sis Anna, YOU already passed the test"

Anna was stunned and confused: "Didn't the book say the final test was related to strength? I haven't done anything yet"

The girl's expression turned serious as she solemnly explained: "There are many types of strengths in this world, courage is strength, wisdom is also strength, one's power is merely the direct manifestation of one's strength"

"But to the Gods, these types of strengths are weak and insignificant"

"The will that the seven Gods left behind told me, before revealing the last prophecy, I needed to find a follower who cherishes and grieves for living beings, and had the courage to fight for this grief"

"Big sis Anna, earlier, you were the only person to step out and come save me"

"That is why you passed"

The girl lifted the Book of Prophecy in front of Anna.

"Big sis, please put your hand on the book"

Anna's eyes showed a glint of mixed feelings before deprecatingly speaking: "I only wanted to stay at the Holy Church to train myself without coming here, yet the results are like this"

The girl tilted her head a bit and replied: "When it comes to Fate, it is usually that way"

Hearing that, Anna sighed.

She silently stared at the Book of Prophecy.

She didn't detect any signs of death within her senses.

Instead, an overwhelming force of Divinity was coming out from the book.

This Divinity had locked onto her, waiting for her to activate it.

Anna placed her hand on the pages of the Book of Prophecy.

“What was your name?” Anna suddenly said.

“Big sis, my name is Ke Er” the girl smiled brightly.

“Ke Er?”

“That’s right, I am Su Ke Er”

Anna froze briefly, thinking that this name was very similar to a certain person.

Su Ke Er also placed her hand on the Book of Prophecy and appeared joyful: “I have something personal I wanted to talk about with you, but for now, let us both witness the final prophecy left behind by the seven Gods”

She chanted an incantation.

The grey Book of Prophecy dispersed into a gloomy, indistinguishable fog that enveloped the two of them.

Fwosh!

All the darkness went away.

The two of them reappeared inside the hall.

Pillar after pillar began to fall, the floor also began to collapse as the entire hall of the seven Gods slowly fell apart.

Endless Divinity filled the area.

“It’s starting!”

Su Ke Er excitedly said.

Chapter 671

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

As the entire grand hall of the seven Gods crumbled and collapsed, turning everything into tiny grains of flowing sand, scattering into a faint and blurry mist.

The large amount of mist completely covered the entire center of the Strife Zones.

No one witnessed or noticed any of this.

Only Anna and Su Ke Er stood in the mist as they silently waited.

“What kind of predictions will it be?” Anna couldn’t help but ask.

“I’m also quite interested since normal people aren’t likely able to witness something like this” the girl called Su Ke Er also muttered.

They didn't have to wait for long.

At first, there was nothing, but soon a portion of the mist slowly rose up and formed a humanoid figure.

——this figure appeared at first glance seemed to be nothing but an empty husk, or an empty mold.

The empty husk then began to absorb all the grey mist and began to glow in a blinding light.

After which, a deep, husky voice came from the figure.

「 Our predicted prophecy has occurred, the destruction of all things outside of the Strife Zones have begun 」

「 By the powers of our believers alone, it is impossible to go against it 」

The humanoid figure of light opened its palm and aimed at the air.

“What is it doing? Wasn't a prophecy supposed to come out?” Anna quickly asked.

Su Ke Er also quickly replied: “I have no idea either, perhaps the Gods are activating some sort of prearranged mechanism in response to the calamity?”

A few moments later, both of the two girls' expressions changed in fear.

The humanoid figure of light had begun to speak once more.

「 This calamity must be dealt with, otherwise the last remaining 900 million World Layers cannot possibly stop it 」

「 Executing protocols, preparing to summon the seven Gods 」

On the palm of the figure of light, a more intense light shot out, piercing through the darkness of the void towards a place endlessly far away.

This light was so divine, holy, majestic and calm, that even Anna and Su Ke Er who were experienced individuals almost couldn't help themselves bowing down in front of this light.

Anna held her breath and whispered: “You guessed correctly, the Gods really did prepare something”

Su Ke Er, on the other hand, was completely stunned: “But I didn't know that the seven Gods would return!”

“Isn't that a good thing? The Gods will be able to lead living beings on the right path and go against the calamity” Anna asked doubtfully.

“No, according to our records——” Su Ke Er instinctively replied, but then quickly noticed that she was saying too much.

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So she stopped herself.

「 Re—— turn—— to—— us 」

The figure of light uttered a long sigh.

The blinding light pierced through the endless darkness, continuing for several dozen more seconds.

But besides the appearance of this glorious pillar of light, nothing else happened.

No God came.

After a while, the figure of light lowered its hand.

The piercing pillar of light also disappeared.

For some reason, the figure of light now appeared incredibly lonely.

It descended and lightly hovered in front of Anna and Su Ke Er.

It was observing them.

The two girls both bowed.

Su Ke Er performed the bow of the Church of Fate, while Anna followed the etiquettes of the Church of Death.

These were the bows meant to be used when a mortal faces a God.

The humanoid figure of light slightly nodded.

「 It has been too long, are the only ones left qualified to stand before me are the followers of Fate and Death? 」

It waved its hand, sending two clouds of grey fog towards Anna and Su Ke Er.

「 You have attempted to awaken the Gods, opening the curtains to the final era of mortals. For this, the seven Gods have left you a gift, a blessing for those who call out to the Gods 」 the humanoid figure of light spoke.

The two clouds of fog then turned into two books.

One of the books was completely white, while the other was jet black.

The white book flew towards Su Ke Er and fell into her hands.

The black book went into Anna's hands.

The figure of light spoke: 「 They are the Book of Fate and the Book of Death. Just like how you worship your Gods, I hope you will know to respect it, worship it, protect it, and learn from it the knowledge of the Gods 」

Su Ke Er pursed her lips right and bowed once again, not saying anything.

Anna couldn't help but asked: "Where are the seven Gods? Why did they not appear?"

Su Ke Er pulled her back and whispered: "That is a manifestation of Laws, created by concentrating Divine power, it wouldn't necessarily answer your question"

The humanoid figure of light was, sure enough, stunned for a moment.

And then, it started to speak in an unprecedented tone of grief: 「 The seven Gods did not respond to the call 」

「 It is clear, the seven Gods are dead 」

「 At this bleakest moment of the Gods' glory, evil have begun its large-scaled attack 」

「 Now, I will open the final valve, the preparation for a vengeful battle left behind by the Gods in case of their deaths 」

As the humanoid figure of light said this, it once again took to the air.

It reached out towards the void.

Vast amounts of light came out from the humanoid figure.

In that brief moment, every world in the 200 million World Layers of the Strife Zones was able to sense the Divinity it gave off.

A projection of the figure of light appeared in every world, in the sky above every living being.

Being able to appear in front of hundreds of billions of living beings all at once in all of the 200 million World Layers, this was without a doubt, the power of a God.

Not to mention the seven types of Godly powers that constantly fluctuate on the projection's body.

Countless people in countless worlds knelt down and bowed.

The figure of light calmly looked towards the void of space, as if it was observing every living being in the 200 million World Layers.

It suddenly spoke: 「 Listen well, mortals of the worlds 」

「 The seven Gods are dead 」

「 The final era of mortals is approaching 」

「 From this moment onwards, the [Angel Order] and [Life Order] will both shatter! 」

...

Let's rewind time a bit.

When Anna had just arrived at the hall of the seven Gods.

At the same time, in the Strife Zones.

The First Zone.

A perilous high cliff.

Gust after gust of bone-chilling cold wind blew towards the mountain, following the cliff up towards the gates of a fortress, then continued towards the horizon.

While donning his jet black armor and a golden mask, Gu Qing Shan stood on the wall of the fortress, staring down silently.

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The Chao Yin sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword were both quickly dashing through the horde of Black Demon Goats, occasionally performing powerful Secret Arts as they do so.

In just a few moments, the two swords have already passed through the entire horde of Black Demon Goats.

Taking the opportunity when the swords have yet to return, the biggest Black Demon Goat quickly climbs up the wall of the fortress.

Gu Qing Shan raised his bow, pulled and released.

Pah!

A single arrow shot out, pierced through the Black Demon Goat's eye and deep into its brain.

Without being able to howl from the pain, the Black Demon Goat immediately lost its life.

—Archery, High Precision Shot!

This was one of the few noticeable Archery skills that Gu Qing Shan felt worthy to learn among those he saw from both Shen Wu world and the Suspended world, in which he now had first-rate mastery over.

Also taking that chance, a few more Black Demon Goats sped up and jumped high, wanting to attack the wall of the fortress.

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Gu Qing Shan quickly shot his arrows.

Pah pah pah pah pah!

Consecutive Shots!

Piercing Shot!

Quick Shot!

Arrows rapidly flew, turned into blurred shadows and accurately pierced each Black Demon Goat so that they were forced back to the ground.

In the sky, the Six Paths Great Mountain sword turned into Shannu and took the Chao Yin sword in hand.

A split second later, Shannu disappeared without a trace.

She directly reappeared on the wall of the fortress, next to Gu Qing Shan.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink]!

"Gongzi, we were a bit too excited just now so we weren't able to turn back" Shannu spoke, embarrassed.

"It's fine. The two of you haven't gotten a chance to go all out in a while, so being excited is a good thing" Gu Qing Shan didn't mind it much.

He put his bow away.

“We’re leaving” he said.

Shannu happily asked: “Really?”

“Hm, I can already feel an [Order] attaching itself to me” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

In his retina, a green UI that gave off an intense aura of vitality was slowly forming.

Lines of text appeared on the UI.

[Congratulations for catching this Order’s attention]

[This Order will now bring you across 3600 World Layers to where the Life Order originated]

[Are you willing to carry this Order and follow this Order where it directs you?]

The [Order] asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I am willing”

Following his answer, a green screen of light enveloped him and flashed.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared from the First Zone.

He was being transported through countless worlds within the space vortex by a green aura of light.

Compared to the Scattered worlds, there were a lot more strange and eerie creatures within the vortex of the Strife Zones.

All kinds of void monsters claimed random places as their own, settling themselves within the paths from one world to another.

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Gu Qing Shan even saw with his own eyes, a monster several times bigger than the sail ships of the Spire Keeper Association, slowly flying through the vortex.

While flying, the monster reached out with its six arms, arbitrarily catching other monsters or flying tools that couldn’t get away in time and threw them straight into its mouth.

As Gu Qing Shan was traveling, he sensed the presence of the monster.

—-it seems to be several times stronger than myself.

Then he saw a high-tech spaceship that was quickly flying through the vortex suddenly got bitten by another monster and swallowed whole.

The monster appeared to be glad.

From its appearance, this monster looked like it was also made completely from metal, except it still slightly resembled a spider.

It was likely that its favorite food was technological creations like that spaceship.

As Gu Qing Shan watched this, he couldn’t help but sigh.

These void monsters consider living beings traveling through the space vortex as food, and the vortex itself as their hunting ground.

—-fortunately, I have the [Life Order] protecting me, otherwise a newcomer as myself would definitely not be able to travel through the various worlds of the Strife Zones unscathed.

At some point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt his blood boiling.

This was a sense of urgency that unnaturally appeared.

The same feeling as one would have moments before their death.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but wipe his forehead.

—-to find that it was soaked in cold sweat.

Why is this happening?

I'm currently traveling to another world with the [Life Order]'s protection, so why did my spirit sense react?

Before he could think any further, a few red lines of text popped up in front of his eyes.

This was the War God UI's emergency notification.

[Attention, the Life Order is currently crumbling]

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes wide.

Before he could ask anything else, a loud shattering noise came from around him.

Poof!

The green aura that covered him before suddenly disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan was now revealed in the space vortex.

The monsters immediately took notice of him.

"Oh no!"

Gu Qing Shan cursed under his breath.

He already understood what was happening.

The first adversity of his Tribulation realm had arrived.

When he was about to react, he noticed that none of the monsters tried to attack him.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

He then noticed that a humanoid figure of light had appeared in front of every monster.

Each of them were laying flat on the ground, trembling.

A figure of light had also appeared in front of him.

This figure of light exuded the unapproachable might of Divinity.

Following that, the figure of light began to speak.

「 Hear me, mortals of the worlds 」

「 The seven Gods are dead 」

「 The final era of mortals is approaching 」

「 From this moment onwards, the [Angel Order] and [Life Order] will both shatter! 」

「 The power that created the two [Orders] of Gods and their own powers have now come back to me 」

「 With this power, the seven ancient Gods have opened a new path for all of you to fight against evil 」

「 This is the seven Gods' revenge, as well as your last chance 」

「 This is—- 」

「 The path to Godhood! 」

Chapter 672

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The Strife Zones

Within the 200 million World Layers of this area, all of the powerful Combatants looked up at the figure of light in front of themselves, unable to move their eyes away.

At their level, they could clearly see the wondrous Laws that made up the world, manifesting as the figure's body.

Just by simply watching the figure of light, they had already learned and understood so much more about the worlds.

Not to mention, the figure of light mentioned a 'path to godhood'.

A few people already couldn't hold themselves back and loudly asked: "How can I become a God?"

The figure of light opened its palm.

Two sprites of light were hovering, spiraling around each other on its hand.

One of them was of pure holy white light, while the other was a vitality-filled bright green light.

Facing all living beings of the Strife Zones, the figure of light began to speak.

「 Before the seven Gods left, they had put boundless divine power into the [Life Order] and [Angel Order] 」

「 Now, I have absorbed the original power of these two [Orders] as well what they had accumulated over the years 」

「 With this power, I will light the Tree of Divinity in the seven great Churches 」

As the figure of light said so, it slightly raised its hand.

The holy light and the vitality-filled light combined turning into seven different colored lights that went into the boundless void of space.

At the same time, the scene at seven different worlds appeared in front of their eyes.

A green emerald light fell into the Great tree of Harmony realm;

A deep blue light fell into the deep sea of Star realm;

A faint grey mist of light fell into the dead sea of Fog Isle;

A holy white light fell into the City of Angels;

A deep purple light fell into the abyss of Heavenly War realm;

A glorious golden light fell into the Spire of Civilization;

A dark waterfall of light fell into the Wilderness of Death;

The seven lights flew at unimaginable speed, quickly entering the Holy Churches within the seven worlds.

Boom—

Intense powerful wind rose from the seven Holy Churches all the way to the sky.

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What were already holy sites of each world now emitted a divine holy glow.

At this point, the voice of the figure of light came once again: 「 From today onwards, all mortals of the 200 million World Layers can directly serve a God 」

「 If a mortal truly worships a certain God, they may join one of the seven Holy Churches 」

「 Becoming a follower of a God will grant you a certain right 」

「 The followers of each Holy Church will be able to light their own Tree of Divinity within the Hall of the seven Gods 」

「 With a Tree of Divinity, every follower will slowly but surely learn the abilities of a divine being, becoming stronger in every way until they become a Demigod that eclipses mortals 」

「 When someone has fully lit their Tree of Divinity and become a Demigod, they will be told a certain secret 」

「 ——the secret of becoming a True God as a Demigod 」

「 They will finally achieve godhood! 」

The figure of light slowly spoke every sentence.

What it had declared was so incredible that no one dared make a sound in all 200 million World Layers.

The figure of light concluded: 「 Faith comes from the truest desires and devotion of the heart, Gods do not need a wavering heart, and so, mortals who have yet to become our followers, you have but three minutes to choose a God that you will follow 」

「 After three minutes, if you still haven't chosen a God to serve, you will forever lose the right to become our follower 」

「 You will no longer be able to light your Tree of Divinity 」

「 The path to godhood will forever be closed to you 」

「 Furthermore, each follower will be granted a unique gift—— all of you may ask me any one question—— but know that the seven Gods have established a certain Law within the 200 million World Layers of the Strife Zones. You may not review your question or answer to anyone else, or you will be killed by the unified curse of the seven Gods 」

「 Now, you may choose a God to serve 」

「 Remember well, you only have three minutes 」

After that, the figure of light went into silence.

The faint image of the seven Holy Churches was still hovering behind its back.

Both the figure of light and the seven Holy Churches silently hovered in front of every living being, waiting for their choice.

Lighting the Tree of Divinity.

The chance to become a Demigod.

Obtaining the secret to godhood.

Obtaining the chance to be answered any question by the manifestation of Law from the Gods.

Any one of these events was extraordinary enough to arouse the interest of every Combatant in the Strife Zones.

But now, all 4 of them were offered directly to the countless living beings in 200 million World Layers!

Every living being was nervously making their choice.

Su Ke Er and Anna stood in the void, watching as everything unfolds.

“We are already followers, will you still answer our question?” Su Ke Er asked.

The humanoid figure of light spoke: “All followers have this right, I will answer one question for each of you, but keep in mind, the curse of the seven Gods lingers throughout the entire 200 million World Layers, you must never reveal your answer, or you will succumb to death”

“I understand”

“Got it”

Both girls nodded at once.

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The humanoid figure of light continued: “If you are afraid of someone else hearing your question, simply ask in your mind, I will answer it”

The two girls quickly fell into thought.

*The manifestation of Law left by the Gods will answer one question of any followers.
What am I most concerned about that needs to be answered?*

...

The First Zone.

“This is perfect, I don’t have to be trapped here anymore, I choose the Church of Fate!” a newcomer loudly declared.

The figure of light hovering in front of him asked: 「 The Church of Fate, is this your choice? 」

“Yes, I choose the Church of Fate!” the newcomer declared again with conviction.

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The figure of light replied: “From now on, you will be a follower of Fate, you must travel by yourself from here to the world of the Fog Isle, reach the island of the Church of Fate, only then can you enter the Holy Church and borrow the power of the Church to light your Tree of Divinity”

The newcomer doubtfully asked: “That troublesome?”

The figure of light said nothing else, but its voice came from inside the man’s head: 「 Indeed, this is a necessary first step, it is called the pilgrimage 」

「 Remember, although this answer is simple, you can never reveal it to anyone else 」

Saying so, the figure of light disappeared from in front of him.

The newcomer was a bit stunned before muttering: “Something doesn’t seem right...”

A while later.

The newcomer finally realized and loudly called out: “Wait a minute, you still need to answer my question before leaving!”

Next to him, his friend silently stared, shook his head, and sighed.

—already answered your question, dumbass!

The friend ignored him, turned to the figure of light in front of him and spoke: “O’ distinguished one, I wish to serve the God of Life”

「 Is this your final choice? 」 the figure of light in front of him asked.

“Yes”

「 From now on, you will be a follower of Life, you must travel from here to the Great tree of Harmony realm, only then can you enter the Church of Life and borrow the power of the Church to light your Tree of Divinity 」

“I understood, distinguished one, may I ask my question now?”

「 You may 」

“I want to know...”

...

Three minutes.

200 million World Layers.

Billions of worlds.

Every living being was either hesitating, making their choice, or were asking their question.

Somewhere deep underground.

Countless monsters hidden in the darkness were unable to hide their ferocious appearance.

Because a figure of light had appeared in front of each of them.

These monsters were also sentient, enough that they were all considering their choices and making their decisions.

Deep inside the cave.

A single human man was standing in the middle of an empty field.

He wore a black leather jacket, black gloves, and a dagger in each hand with a black-colored card in his mouth.

From the way he looks, he seemed to have gone through a lot and endured all sorts of pain.

Next to him was a giant lizard covered in green scales.

「 Little Ying Hao, who would've thought you'd get such a chance just by coming here for a test 」 the lizard spoke emotionally.

The man put his daggers away before taking the card off his mouth and carefully putting it into his pocket.

“Ahaha, becoming a god? But I've never heard of them before, which of the Holy Churches would be most suitable for my growth?”

Zhang Ying Hao wondered.

While he was thinking, the figure of light in front of him had already covered him in a bright light.

“Oy, what are you doing! I still haven't chosen a God to serve!” Zhang Ying Hao exclaimed.

With his exclamation, the light that covered him returned.

The figure of light's voice came from his mind: 「 You are an assassin-type Card user, the two most suitable Churches for you are the Church of Death and the Church of Secrets 」

Zhang Ying Hao was briefly surprised.

So the figure of light had replied to his question.

“...I’ve already seen too much death, I’ll choose the Church of Secrets then” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

Chapter 673

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

“...I’ve already seen too much death, I’ll choose the Church of Secrets then” Zhang Ying Hao answered.

Then the figure of light informed him: 「 From now on, you will be a follower of Secrets, you must travel from here to the abyss of Heavenly War realm, only then can you enter the Church of Secrets and borrow the power of the Church to light your Tree of Divinity 」

After saying so, the figure of light disappeared.

Zhang Ying Hao excitedly spoke: “Who knew I’d run into such a great opportunity, being offered the chance to become a God just like that. I’ll have to hurry up and go awaken the thing that it called the Tree of Divinity”

“After I become a God, I’ll be the one and only true God of Assassins!”

While his fighting spirits were boiling, he suddenly felt that something wasn’t quite right.

As he turned to look, all the wild beasts and monsters inside the cave ignored the figure of light in front of them to stare at him.

Their eyes contained all sorts of emotions, like shock, confusion, doubt, and respect.

Zhang Ying Hao was stunned from being stared at so much.

He retreated a step backward and smiled: “Boss, everyone, why are you looking at me like that? I’ve always been serving you out of respect, haven’t I? Or did I make some sort of mistake?”

The green-scaled lizard kept staring at Zhang Ying Hao and spoke in a heavy tone: 「 That’s not so, it’s mainly because everyone is so shocked that they wanted to look at you a bit closer 」

「 That’s right, it’ll be quite a while before we get to see you again, after all 」 a black panther on the side commented.

“Why is that?” Zhang Ying Hao didn’t understand.

「 Because this world of ours lies at the upper Northern area of the Strife Zones, you could even say we’re at the very peak of the North 」 a hyena patiently explained.

A chameleon followed up: 「 While the abyss of Heaven War realm—— is at the bottom Southern area of the Strife Zones, the certified South-most world in the Strife Zones! 」

“Which means——”

「 You will need to pass through the entire Strife Zones, all 200 million World Layers of it, in order to reach the abyss of Heavenly War realm 」

Pass through 200 million World Layers!?

Zhang Ying Hao froze.

But the wild beasts still haven't let him off yet and continued on.

「 There are quite a few Super Dimensional worlds along the way, but we're all beasts here, we don't have any money to exchange a certificate ID for you to use the Super Dimensional paths 」

「 Ying Hao, with your current strength, you won't even make it into the space vortex just outside this world of ours 」

「 Furthermore, the void monsters that live inside the space vortex aren't herbivores, you probably won't even be enough to be a speck of meat that gets stuck in their teeth 」

「 Tsk, tsk, tsk, 200 million World Layers, looks like you're in for a long run, little Ying Hao 」

As soon as the beasts finished speaking, a 'thud' could be heard.

Zhang Ying Hao's legs became jelly as he collapsed from the shock.

The beasts all looked at Zhang Ying Hao's expression of despair and felt a bit empathetic.

So they didn't continue.

But they all began to leave.

——indeed, they had all chosen their paths and were about to head towards their own chosen Churches.

Not just this world, but the living beings of billions of worlds were all making preparations to head towards the seven Holy Churches.

Only with the help of the Church could they light their respective Tree of Divinity!

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That was the path to become a Demigod!

Without any warnings, the largest mass pilgrimage in the history of the Strife Zones had begun.

This day would later be known as the start of the Era of pilgrimage.

...

A certain World Layer.

A magnificent golden world.

This was where the crystallization of the infinite races' civilizations have gathered, the entire world prospered at an unimaginable speed, inventions were created day by day, even the toughest problem of eternal life was about to be cracked—— the only issue left was that in the current historical flow when the Apocalypse approached, no one could live forever.

This world was known as the Spire of Civilization.

Countless towers of various shapes and sizes stood on the surface of the world, each of them representing the accumulation and crystallization of a different kind of knowledge.

And in this world, lies one of the seven Holy Churches, the Church of Knowledge.

At this time, in the most luxurious restaurant in the world.

A certain young monarch was here, contemplating and hesitating.

A figure of light had also appeared before her.

“I was supposed to be here to improve my power and do business with the Church of Knowledge, why did such a random thing have to happen?” she complained.

“Your majesty, this is a perfect chance, would you like to join our Holy Church?” one of the church’s cardinals asked her.

“No, we’re here to conduct business, if I join you, what business can I do?” the young empress said.

“If you join our Church, you will have the chance to become a Demigod— perhaps even a True God!” another cardinal sincerely tried to persuade her.

This was the most sincere moment of his life, even when he was praying to his God, he wasn’t this sincere.

After all, as long as he could convince this empress to join the Church of Knowledge, he might even have a chance to become the next Pope!

“Let’s not, I already have my own path to follow. Not to mention, our race has never feared any hardship or obstacle, there is no need for us to become something like a God” the young empress replied.

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Saying so, she reached her hand into the void of space and randomly searched.

A sparkling shiny gem appeared in her hand.

“Hm... a first-rate Pure-gem, does your church want this?” the empress asked.

The two cardinals held their breaths, carefully observing the gem.

A Pure-gem contained the Origin power of Elements, a single piece as small as a fingernail was enough to supply an entire city’s requirement of energy for a whole year.

And this Pure-gem that the empress was holding was about as big as their fists, if they could buy it...

The two of them became focused and gulped out of nervousness.

But before they could speak, an armored woman had already spoken up.

The woman said: “Don’t sell it, our world migration device will need this Pure-gem, with it, we won’t need to replace the energy source for our ultra-large concealment apparatus every day”

“Wow, that’s very convenient, then I won’t sell it” the empress replied.

She threw the fist-sized Pure-gem to the woman and ordered her: “Ilya, I’ll need you to take care of the matters of our travels, I’ve already awoken the ability, but my personal strength still isn’t much. If any problem occurs during our inter-world travels, my ability will only be able to save you alone, everyone else will surely die by the void monsters”

“Understood, your majesty, I will seriously take care of everything” Ilya replied.

Laura nodded.

She looked towards the two cardinals of the Church of Knowledge and spoke apologetically: “My apologies, it seems I won’t be able to sell that”

“How about—”

She once again reached her hand into the void of space and searched.

“Ah? Is this a coincidence?”

Laura appeared to be surprised before pulling her hand back out from the void of space.

——it was another first-rate Pure-gem, but this one was twice as big as the last.

The two cardinals’ eyes were opened so wide they almost popped out from their sockets.

...

Outside of the First Zone.

The space vortex.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the figure of light in front of himself, then at the various void monsters around him.

“If I become a follower, will I be able to solve my current problem?” he asked

Around him, the void monsters were also communicating with the figure of light.

But soon enough, they would finish making their decision.

At that time, he would be in danger again.

The figure of light remained silent without answering Gu Qing Shan’s question.

“Seems like that’s a no” Gu Qing Shan scowled.

The figure of light spoke: 「 I will only answer your questions after you become a follower 」

“I know you’re a manifestation of law, but do you have to be so stiff? Can’t you even answer a small question?”

「 ... 」

“Fine then, I’ll— hmm— yeah I’ll become a follower of the Church of Life” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The figure of light then spoke up: 「 From now on, you will be a follower of Life, you must travel from here to the Great tree of Harmony realm, only then can you enter the Church of Life and borrow the power of the Church to light your Tree of Divinity 」

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “I’m a follower of God now, please tell me, as a follower of the Gods, how do I travel through the space vortex safely?”

The figure of light replied: 「 Without tools or techniques to conceal yourself, there is no safe way to travel through the space vortex of the Strife Zones, although these monsters around you aren’t particularly strong, there are always a few void monsters whose strength eclipses that of mortals. In a few extreme cases, their powers might be enough to rival that of a Demigod— or perhaps even stronger」

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan thought for a few moments: “In other words, arbitrarily exposing myself like this within the space vortex is an extremely easy way to die”

「 You understood the answer perfectly well, please make sure not to reveal your answer 」 the figure of light told him.

It turned around and was about to leave when the man in front of him sighed and muttered: “I can’t even freely move through space vortex after joining a Church, the Gods sure are weak...”

He suddenly tapped his forehead and decided: “If that’s the case, I’ll just withdraw from the Holy Church now”

He then looked up at the figure of light: “Oh right, as far as I know, there are only two punishments for leaving a Holy Church, one is never being able to join another Holy Church, and the other is that I’ll be spurned by the Gods, is that correct?”

The figure of light hesitated for a while before answering him: 「 I originally can only answer one of your questions, but since you are attempting to leave right as you join, this is a serious matter related to your faith, so I must answer. That is correct! 」

「 To withdraw from a Holy Church means you will never be able to join another Holy Church for the rest of your life. Furthermore, you will be spurned by all seven Gods, leading to your soul drifting infinitely within the void of space after death without a space to go 」

After answering that, the figure of light stared at the man.

Only to see the man happily declare: “If that’s the case, I’m withdrawing from the Church”

「 Are you not afraid of being spurned by the seven Gods? 」 the figure of light asked.

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes: “Being spurned by the seven Gods? Aren’t they already dead? Say that again after they revive”

「... 」 the figure of light.

Chapter 674

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

In the end, the figure of light was only a manifestation of Law, it could only act according to the protocol.

So it didn't respond and disappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan silently processed everything that happened just now.

———*the Gods have established a 'cannot tell the secret answer you receive' curse in the 200 million World Layers.*

Could they have left any other curse?

Going against faith isn't exactly a big deal, but it's generally part of the Church's duties, things to be dealt with by the upper echelons of the Church, it wasn't something the Gods themselves would interfere with.

So Gu Qing Shan tried it out.

Which ended with nothing happening.

It made sense as well since the Gods most likely wouldn't tell the secret to achieving Godhood to mortals if they weren't already in dire straits.

During such a crucial moment, being able to rally all living beings in the 200 million World Layers was already quite a feat, how would they have time to care about the Church's matters?

So, what should I do now?

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts moved away from the Gods.

9 billion World Layers have already been destroyed, even the Gods could only flee or die against that.

This proved one thing: Becoming a God will allow you to become stronger, but against the Apocalypse, that didn't matter at all.

Not to mention, there was no telling whether or not there were any traps hidden there.

Gu Qing Shan wouldn't step into such an open hole.

He glanced around.

More and more figures of light were disappearing.

The void monsters were beginning to move again.

According to the figure of light, these monsters weren't actually considered to be very powerful.

Deeper into the space vortex, there were other more powerful Demigod monsters!

But Gu Qing Shan couldn't win against even these monsters right here.

In just a few breaths' worth of time, one of these monsters might consider Gu Qing Shan to not be too little of a meal and come to eat him.

This isn't the time to be standing still.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and randomly grabbed a small rock that flew by.

—there were a lot of insignificant things inside the space vortex, not just random small rocks, there were all manners of things in here.

With the rock in hand, Gu Qing Shan activated [Mystery of All Beings Equal].

He disappeared without a trace.

The rock fell to the ground, once again swept away by the wind of the space vortex, flying somewhere undetermined.

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Powerful void monsters of the space vortex wouldn't pay a lick of attention to such a small, insignificant rock.

They quickly chose the Holy Church they wanted and quickly went on their ways.

At the same time, various flying transits went into the space vortex.

The endless and boundless space vortex gradually became lively.

Almost everyone had begun their journey, heading towards the various Holy Churches.

This was the first day of the era of pilgrimage!

The void monsters no longer needed to take over and camp in one place, as they could easily travel while replenishing stamina by hunting.

Some powerful void monsters did as they pleased inside the space vortex, knocking camouflaged transits out from their hiding spots and devouring them.

Of course, not all of it went swimmingly.

There would always be a lot of people on those transits who would step out and fight against the monsters with everything they had.

Sometimes, the monsters would be wounded and chased away.

Sometimes, the living beings on those transits would be unable to stop the monster's attack and be devoured.

To escape, some transits even knocked other camouflaged transits out from their hiding places.

That way, those transits would be forced to endure the void monster's attacks as well.

They would have to join in and help.

Within the established path of the space vortex, various battles quickly erupted.

And the battles were only becoming more frequent.

Monsters roared and screamed.

Spells and magic exploded.

The desperate cries and screams of living beings echoed.

From today onwards, the space vortex would thoroughly bid farewell to the peace it once had, becoming more and more lively by the day.

———because all of the living beings were madly hurrying along.

Everyone wanted to light their Tree of Divinity as soon as possible and quickly step onto the path of becoming a Demigod.

The great era of pilgrimage approached!

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Lying on the small rock that drifts through space, Gu Qing Shan watched it all unfold.

He had turned into a tiny Meltfire ant that held tightly onto the small rock as it drifted.

Meltfire ants were a kind of tiny ants that liked to eat sand and rocks.

This was the first species that Gu Qing Shan got a specimen of in the Suspended world.

Before his match against Rakshasa, he had collected samples of every species he could find on the floating island of Guang Yang sect, and he had turned into this kind of ant once during that match.

This tiny ant latched onto the rock as it drifted safely from one battlefield to the next, constantly moving along the space vortex.

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After a while, the Meltfire ant jumped and landed onto a piece of ripped cloth.

——-the rock was flying too fast, and he had no way to control it.

Compared to that, a ripped cloth would fly a lot slower.

Tightly hanging onto the cloth, the Meltfire ant glanced around.

It observed the surrounding situation seriously while considering its own circumstances.

At a certain point, the Meltfire ant's antennae twitched.

Not too far from where it was, lied a floating wreckage of a flying transit.

The battle here seemed to have been over.

From the looks of this flying transit, it was the void monster that won, devouring all of the living beings on the vehicle.

Without interference, this transit would float endlessly through the space vortex from now on.

However, in the Meltfire ant's vision, the wrecked flying transit was slowly disappearing.

Not too long after, the entire flying transit disappeared entirely from the void of space.

Seeing this, the Meltfire ant fell into thought.

The ripped cloth carried it and continued flying along the winds of the space vortex, travelling through a long distance.

At some point, another wreckage appeared.

This time, it was the wreck of a technological space shuttle.

From how beaten up this shuttle was, as well as the huge hole on its chassis, one could easily imagine what kind of attack it had gone through.

——it must have been quite a scary attacker.

Currently, the entire shuttle was broken, no living beings could be seen on the shuttle, only severed limbs and blood marks, a telltale sign of how terrible the battle went.

The ripped cloth quickly approached the wrecked shuttle.

As they passed by each other, the Meltfire ant suddenly slid down from the cloth.

It turned into a Skylark and rode the wind, flying into the wrecked shuttle as fast as possible.

The Skylark went through the hole in the chassis into the shuttle's interior, landed, then immediately turned back into a Meltfire ant and crawled inside a pipe.

The Meltfire ant crawled downwards through the pipeline and eventually made it to the machinery and engine parts of the shuttle.

It silently crawled underneath one of the metal parts before turning into an ant's egg and remained motionless

——this was the tiniest, most unnoticeable living specimen that Gu Qing Shan managed to get.

Time quickly passed.

The wreck of the shuttle continued to drift through the space vortex.

No monster was interested in the wreck.

——since they were young, these monsters had already learnt how to tell a transit that had already been eaten from one that was still intact.

One hour passed.

Two hours passed.

Five hours passed.

A voice suddenly came from inside the wrecked shuttle that was supposed to be empty.

“Boss, 5th and I have arrived”

“We’re done checking it”

“According to our standards, the ship’s life signs are at its lowest, perhaps some sort of insect or tiny creature still remains—— as it was unavoidable, but I can guarantee that there are no survivors on the ship”

“Yes, the ship’s engine was completely destroyed by the monster”

“The ship’s chassis is also broken beyond repair”

“The central processing system is still intact”

“The ship’s log is working fine as well”

“Yes, the storage is also intact”

“Boss, it’s a technological ship, we don’t really know how to”

“Tow it back? Alright, I’ll summon my camouflaged insect swarm, you can send someone here and prepare to tow it away, Boss”

“——I’m doing a lot of the work this time, when we split the pot, make sure to favor me a bit, alright Boss?”

“Right, right, I’ll do it now”

The voice stopped.

The ship went silent again.

A few moments later.

The entire wreck began to move.

It was clearly moving towards a certain direction—— but it didn’t seem to be moving by itself, and no engine sounds or thrusters could be heard working.

At the same time, the entire wreck disappeared from the space vortex.

No one could see it.

No one knew where it was going.

Meanwhile, the ant egg that had slipped onto the ship earlier was still hiding in a corner deep inside the ship’s machinery.

It remained motionless.

Chapter 675

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The space vortex.

A giant invisible ‘something’ was avoiding the large amounts of monsters that roamed everywhere by moving along on the shortest, most secluded path.

Since this path didn't lead to any of the seven Holy Churches, nor did it lead to any highly-populated trade ports or any of the few Super Dimensional worlds in the Strife Zones, during this particular time, no monster or transits could be seen here.

"Boss, the path ahead is clear"

"Boss, both sides of the route are clear"

"A void monster appeared at the back, but it was only passing through. It has already left"

A few consecutive reports came from inside the ship.

A few moments later, a thick, loud voice called out: "How long until we reach Greyhan Black Market?"

"We've entered Greyhan Black Market's secret route, it will only be one more hour until we arrive" someone answered.

The thick, loud voice ordered: "From this point onwards, keep yourselves on alert—— this damn black market has always been more dangerous than any others"

Following this order, the ship's atmosphere became tense.

The loud voice continued: "Furthermore, we towed back 5 wrecks, get the boys to search to see if any of them have anything valuable"

"Yes, Boss"

The order was quickly carried out.

Five squads were already picked out beforehand, waiting for the captain's orders. They quickly went to the back and searched through the 5 wrecked ships to find anything of value.

In the technological space shuttle that Gu Qing Shan was hiding in, two men and one woman came in.

They began their search.

—it was what they were already used to, so there shouldn't be any problems.

Gu Qing Shan also felt that there wouldn't be any problems.

Long before this, he had already used his inner sight to carefully investigate everything on the ship and their personnel.

Currently, this wrecked shuttle seemed to have been found by professional scavengers in the space vortex.

To be doing this sort of dangerous and unceremonious work, these people were probably the bottom feeders of the Strife Zones.

Their strength also showed it well.

Besides the captain with the loud voice, which Gu Qing Shan had instinctively not used his inner sight to probe, he already probed through everyone here.

These people were about the same level of strength as Gu Qing Shan.

Once he was done probing, Gu Qing Shan was assured.

——Gu Qing Shan wasn't afraid of anyone at the same power level.

As long as he was careful of the captain, there shouldn't be any trouble.

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So for now, he remained as an ant egg that hid deep inside the wrecked shuttle.

There were two reasons why he had chosen to remain still like this.

The first was that Gu Qing Shan had only just entered the Strife Zones, he didn't even know the most basic way to traverse from one world to another, so he might as well go along with these people.

The second was that since he made it through the first of his karmic adversities, his cultivation increased by a huge leap.

During Tribulation realm, he would have to face a total of three karmic adversities.

After making it through the first adversity, Gu Qing Shan's cultivation would increase to Tribulation realm middle-stage.

After the second adversity, Gu Qing Shan will become a Tribulation realm late-stage cultivator.

And after the third and final adversity, he won't even have to go through a Tribulation, he would directly enter Virtualized realm.

But the final adversity was a truly dangerous one, as its duration wasn't fixed, sometimes, you might even sense that it has already passed, but it actually hasn't.

There has been more than one example when a cultivator's adversity came back to kill them right after becoming a Virtualized realm cultivator.

After looking through countless records of the Suspended world, as well as his Shifu's own cultivation notes, in hindsight, Qi Yan's death might have been related to his final adversity.

Perhaps, at the time, Qi Yan's karmic adversity hadn't actually passed yet.

He shouldn't have gone directly to Shen Wu world after he broke through.

And so, even after he supposedly survived his first karmic adversity, Gu Qing Shan didn't intend to do anything.

He was prepared to keep hiding here.

He intended to stay until the ship landed to fully settle his realm and find an opportunity to sneak off the ship.

Only then would he try to get to know the worlds of the Strife Zones, learn its common sense and its ways of survival.

This was Gu Qing Shan's plan.

—-but the way things went, or should one say, everyone’s fate, doesn’t always go how they hoped.

Inside the shuttle’s wreck.

“Honey, come take a look” the female scavenger called out.

The fatter one of the two men stood out and asked: “What is it? This kind of ship usually wouldn’t have any treasures”

“Of course there aren’t any treasures, I just can’t open this box so I called you to help” the woman pulled his hand and acted spoiled.

The man glanced through the box and its structure, quickly determining something.

He grinned: “Well well, we’re in luck, whatever is in this box must be quite valuable”

“Why do you think so?” the woman asked.

“Because this box has a self-destruct function. If you tried to break it open without knowing the password, the thing inside will be directly destroyed with a mini-bomb” the man slowly explained.

“I’m guessing you have a solution?” the woman smiled at him.

“Of course, I’m a Devil Summoner, with my unique summoning technique, I can directly bypass the limit of space and summon the item from this box” the man proudly boasted.

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The woman looked at him in awe: “Your summoning technique is so rare, looks like you’ll be bringing home the bacon for both of us, honey”

“Don’t worry, honey, when I earn enough money, I’ll definitely get you a ticket on the best transit possible to travel to the Church of Life and light your Tree of Divinity”

Saying so, the man crouched down in front of the box.

Putting his hand on the box, he silently activated his unique summoning technique.

Several faint black shadows appeared from his hand, wiggling like tentacles of an octopus as they went through the box and reached inside.

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This was the power to summon a devil, so using it to go through a thin box wasn’t that hard.

The man scowled as he carefully checked the item inside, when suddenly— —

His mouth was muffled as a dagger pierced all the way through his chest.

The man opened his eyes wide and struggled.

The dagger was then pulled back.

Replaced by a hand that reached into his chest and crushed his heart.

The man's body froze, stopped struggling before going limp.

Thanks to his power as a Devil Summoner, he wouldn't die right away— but it won't be long before he did.

“Wang Cheng, you're finally dead”

A male voice came from behind him.

The man on the ground struggled to turn his eyes back, only to see something that caused his eyes to almost pop out from their sockets.

His wife was leaning on another man's chest, currently helping him wipe the blood off of his dagger.

The man looked down on him from above and grinned: “Only true love makes a family, brother Wang, you can rest now”

The man who was called Wang Cheng spat out some blood as he weakly spoke: “Boss won't—”

“Don't worry, I've already told the first mate about this, and bribed him enough money to cover this up for us”

Wang Cheng was crying tears of blood as he stared at the woman without saying a word.

The woman pursed her lips and spoke: “Old Wang, don't blame me, it's just that you make me so vexed, after being with you for so long, you couldn't even get me enough money to travel to a Holy Church”

The man hugged her and grinned: “Brother Wang, rest assured, your money, as well as our combined savings, are enough for the both of us to travel to the Church of Life, you can close your eyes now”

Wang Cheng looked at the man, then at the woman, and coughed bitterly.

Even as a summoner that regularly dealt with devils and fiends, he could feel his life quickly slipping away.

He will soon have to die.

But he was unwilling to accept it!

—at some point, perhaps when he was beginning to speak, Wang Cheng had already drawn an illegible pattern with his blood on the ground.

Using the final bits of power that was keeping him alive, he activated his most powerful summoning technique.

But the man and woman that stood across from him only stared at this indifferently without moving.

The man hugged the woman closer before shaking his head: “Before we got here, I've already asked the second mate to erect a holy barrier around this wrecked ship, your summoning won't be able to reach anything outside”

The woman's expression was a bit complicated as she told him: “Wang Cheng, after so many years together, we understand you well”

Wang Cheng also noticed what they were saying was true.

His summoning was being confined inside this ship by the holy power.

He felt nothing but sorrow and unwillingness.

Even if I have to die, I will give up everything I have before I die!

Wang Cheng stopped his tears from coming out and screamed his summoning incantation:

“I don’t care which devil from which world you are, as long as you can avenge me, I will offer all of my experience, knowledge, ability, and wealth to you!”

“I sacrifice my soul to the darkest abyss and eternal damnation to turn into the purest form of Soul Points and offer it all to you!”

“Please, appear before me, avenge me!”

Boom!

A giant grey shadow erupted from his body.

The man and woman couldn’t help but take a step back.

But the man shook his head and casually spoke: “It’s useless, your magic won’t do anything, your death will never be known”

While he spoke, the grey shadow had once again condensed, gathered on Wang Cheng’s body, and slowly converged into the palm of his hand.

This was the sign of a successful summoning.

“That’s impossible! Why can his magic still activate!” the woman was screaming in fear.

The man next to her also couldn’t keep his calm anymore and lunged forward to swing his dagger.

A cold gleam.

Wang Cheng’s arm was severed.

The man was still uneasy and continued to chop off Wang Cheng’s other arm as well as both his legs.

“Hoh— there, let see if you can still do anything against me” the man breathed heavily.

But Wang Cheng ignored him completely.

Because he was already at the very end of his rope, the last thing holding him together was his grudge.

His grudge that maintained the last of his consciousness, to wait—

—wait for the response of the Laws of summoning to tell him about the summoned devil or fiend.

Finally.

Finally, Wang Cheng spoke with the last of his strength.

He struggled to speak: “Huang Quan... Devil...King... I beg yo...”

His plea was cut short.

He died with bloodshot eyes.

Fortunately, his summoning did not get interrupted.

The grey shadow that was formed from him sacrificing everything, turned into a mystical rune that exploded.

Boom—--

From the dust, a single figure appeared.